

2013 Annual Fisheries Technical Committee Meeting
Doubletree Hotel – Collinsville, IL
March 18 - 20, 2013
Travis Moore – Committee Chair, Missouri Department of Conservation

There were 45 people present for this meeting.

The first presentation was by Tim Campbell from the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. He shared information on goby life history and impacts to native fishes and invertebrates. Gobies are primarily associated with warm water streams and have significant impacts.

Kyle Bales presented information on age-0 lake sturgeon prey selectivity for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The sturgeon were offered diptera, ephemeroptera, and trichoptera. Fish less than 50mm preferred diptera and avoided the other groups. Fish between 51 and 100 mm preferred diptera and ephemeroptera. Fish over 100 mm showed no preference and consumed all three groups.

The next topic was fee fishing lakes for catfish. MDC had received comments from anglers in the St. Louis area that commercial fishermen were catching and selling large catfish live to owners of fee fishing lakes in other states. An article about these lakes were shared with the group. No one was aware of it happening in their respective waters, but all agreed to keep an eye open for that activity.

At the fall, 2012 Fisheries Technical Committee meeting, there had been some discussion about the apparent loss of white bass throughout the UMR. Several biologists presented information on white bass trends. Results varied. All agreed to continue to monitor this population.

The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society has asked the UMRCC to shift its annual meeting schedule to be in Missouri in 2015. The reason being that FMCS would like to co-host a conference with UMRCC in the St. Louis area in 2015. UMRCC held a mussel symposium in St. Louis in 1995. FMCS was formed shortly after, and because of that meeting. The Fisheries Section agreed with the concept of a joint meeting in 2015.

Michelle Marron gave a brief commercial fishing report.

Scott Gritters gave a brief mussel section report.

All UMRCC states have been dealing with increased applications for hydropower or hydrokinetic projects on the UMR. These projects have varied greatly. However, many of them have been withdrawn due to low water in 2012.

Travis Moore shared information on calculating fish values and asked if the member states assessed any additional penalties when certain fish species were illegally harvested. Some states do have special penalties for certain species, typically the most popular sport fish or species of conservation concern.

State representatives gave state reports, tying activity to the approved UMRCC Fisheries Plan.

The Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge officially adopted the UMRCC Fisheries Plan as the refuge's fisheries management plan.

The meeting adjourned.