

UMRCC Fall Fish Tech Meeting 2010

Held at Camp Tahigwa, Dorchester, IA

Tuesday, Sept. 28 – Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010

State Reports

Minnesota – Dan Dieterman MN Dnr

- High water and SAV limiting sampling
- Discussed tax amendment in the state with 3/8% to fund programs
 - o \$1.7 million in Large river acquisitions
- Lake Pepin TMDL
- Lake City Fisheries have 3 fish guys
- Discussed new assessment on adult walleye (5 and 5A)
 - o 63 fish/hour
 - o Lock and dam 5 as an impediment to fish movement
 - o No differences between day or night ef
- Catches dominated by YOY bluegill
- Lake Pepin: water levels high-expect good fish #'s but not seen in seining
- Winona bass tournament – culling fish which is an illegal activity documented
- Increased complaints of dead paddlefish
- Built 16 acre sand burm to enhance a 16 acre backwater lake w/o veg. (Vermillion River)

Mike Davis reported mussel activity through Dan...

6000 higgins eye (pool 3-6)

500 snuff box (pool 2)

1200 mucket (pool 2)

*Evidence of recruitment

LTRMP Pool 4

Weed shiner

Missouri – Travis Moore

Mark Boone was named our Big River Specialist. I mentioned that the job was open during the spring meeting. He will be the clearinghouse for a lot of the river information occurring on the MO and MS rivers, assist with various river projects, supervises the sturgeon and big river committees, and so on. He is organizing a MO big rivers meeting for early December. Mark has worked for MDC for a long time out of the Cape Girardeau office. You may have met him at some of the combined UMRCC/LMRCC meetings.

- We continue to evaluate SOA and commercial sturgeon fishing in the pooled portion of the UMR. More details below.
- Fingerling lake sturgeon production in MO was very poor at the hatchery. We lost all but about 200 of them. Additional fish will be coming from Genoa.
- We are hosting a Big River Summit (the first we've ever done) for our Missouri Stream Team volunteers. We extended the registration from 30, up to 40, and those slots filled in a matter of minutes! The one day event will include classroom presentations, a sandbar lunch, and a variety of on-the-water activities.
- We have been working with Missouri State University to identify alternate hosts for the ebonyshell mussel. There have been a variety of issues with locating brooding females (very intermittent spawners) and we have been unsuccessful in transferring live skipjack herring to MO State. Despite the problems, we were able to successfully transform ebonyshell glochidia on goldeye! However, the juveniles died about 2 weeks after drop off. Initial tests with mooneye and shovelnose sturgeon have been negative. Work will continue in 2011.
- We attempted to follow a 58 pound black-egg lake sturgeon this spring, in hopes of identifying a spawning site. She was tagged during the winter in Pool 25, was found there in early spring, and eventually made her way almost to LD 19 by early April. However, she disappeared. Using VR2W remote receivers, we were able to track her movements. Two days after being found near Warsaw, IL, she passed a remote at Hannibal (55 miles downstream). Four days after that, she was detected on two remotes, one mile up the Ohio River! She averaged about 75 miles per day in those four days.
- Catfish has been king in MO this year. The world record blue catfish (130#) was caught on the MO River, and later in the week, the state record flathead catfish (99#) was also caught on the MO. Another 100+ pound blue was caught soon after, on the lower Mississippi River. Commercial harvest of catfish on the Missouri River was closed in the early 1990's.

Illinois

LTRMP- Illinois River - Kevin Irons

Fish numbers were down last year (2009) but 2010 numbers look good with gizzard shad numbers up relative to last year (2009 poor year class). Although Asian carp (likely silver carp) spawned earlier than seen before (Late May) those fish all but disappeared from the Illinois River. Pool 26 LTRMP reports plenty of YOY Asian carps there. Illinois River LTRMP also shows no lack of Asian carps with the 2007-2008 cohorts VERY strong, and media coverage taking up a lot of time. Centrarchids have also been doing well the past few years with extended Spring flooding.

IDNR very active with a variety of Asian carp events, mostly in Upper Illinois Waterway.

Wisconsin – Dave Heath

Creating online tournament database

La Crosse – Northern pike sampling reports average catches.

- Retirements are nearing for many staff
- Need for clerical support
- IBI sampling in rivers not completed in 2010 (high water)
- Smallmouth bass sampling (Pat and Dave pilot project)
- Fall lake sampling being completed.
- Summary of Wi channel catfish from 1982-2010 was given
 - o Lack of fish < 11 inches
 - o Mean total length sig. longer in 2010-10-22
 - o Pool 8 normal catches, pool 9 lower catch rates but large

Janvrin – very busy year

- o Watershed assessment
- o Habit and habitats
- o Pool 8 Island phase III
- o Stream restoration conference
 - Island process
 - Fetch
 - Roughness
 - Which is more natural?
- o Pool 8 projects
 - Sediment transport and deposition/scouring

Iowa

Kevin Hanson

- Pike success was high
- Assisted with stinkpot turtles at old hatchery ponds with transmitters
- Turtle regulations
 - o Buyer report and seller report
 - o Scott Gritters reviewing permits
- Sand mining operations ongoing
- Train derailment settlement
 - o Likely to be directed toward mussel study
- Iowa Fish History
 - o Very interesting, sitting down with researchers and gathering factoids about past

Kirk Hansen

- High water – lots of gizzard shad
- A few reports of Asian carps coming from pool 12 (BHCP and SVCP), yet none from Pool 13 LTRMP.
- Iowa online tournament application system
- Pool 12 Corps project
 - o Crappie tracking
 - 2/3 of telemetered fish eaten by otter.
 - Tracking habitat use
 - Tracking river otter feeding habits!
- Working with Arkansas on sturgeon genetics
 - o Cedar river – shovelnose
 - o Less confident in fin rays when aging sturgeon.

Adam Thiese

- Reported highwater
- Random ef sampling in 17-19
- Huron island 2014-2015 preproject monitoring
- Active in educational programs
- Trammel netting tough w/ high water
- Sampling TWZ for sauger and walleye
- Observations of silver carp in Pool 19

Bernie Schonhoff

- Busy with permitting issues
- Iowa Director left
- DIDSON sonar of L&D 17

Mike Steuck

- Fed. Aid project tagging Bluegill/crappie with 6 mo. Transmitters
- FHCF completion report
 - o Growth highly variable
 - 8 year old fish from 20 in. to 36 inches
 - Pop. Est approximates commercial harvest (work to do)
- WLYE/SGER hooking mortality study
 - o SGER mort. Rates are down harvest rates and avg. size stayed the same.
 - o Removed regulations for 2011
- Paddlefish
 - o Iowa only allows for sportfish harvest, no commercial harvest
 - 33 in (eye to fork) max. size limit
 - Hook regulation = none > 5/0
- Iowa tax being voted on this fall
 - o If passed then the next tax increase would enact.
- Staff changes: Caleb to the hatchery; Royce now on research

Scott Gritters

- Report from International turtles and turtle trade:
 - o Scott represented a subgroup: Science
 - o Massive trade of turtles noted
 - o Demand from SE Asian and China
 - o 35 states represented at meeting with 50% allowing turtle harvest
 - o Question: What is a harvestable population? For food? For pets?
- Higgins eye project
- Issues in Iowa involve transporting of invasive fish
 - o Illegal to transport water and fish
 - o However; there is a practice of spreading water from river for dust control
 - o Shafer fisheries reportedly has live fish in Illinois fish market from Iowa

USFWS

Fishers and Farmers – Heidi Kueler

- Powerpoint presentation given on National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Pam Thiel

- Asian carp in the Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS)
- Fish health – new virus in 2 different LMBS
- Mark Steingraber is working on winged mapleleaf
- USFWS has a 1 year appointment position in Lacrosse, and a term position available in Columbia

USACOE

- Barrier IIB should be operational this fall
- Barrier IIA will need maintenance
- Tagging bighead carp in Dresden Reach, IL river
- Tagging surrogates (common carp) circa barrier (Lockport Reach)
- Experimenting with DIDSON camera and can see fish and size, yet cannot identify species
- Tennessee biologist, Reginald Wiggins, reports using AC electrofishing with low pulse rates and high amps to successfully stun silver carp

Karen Hagerty LTRMP/USACOE

- Bathymetry underway (2010) LTRMP
- LiDAR acquisition for pools 8-14; 20-24; and 2-7 flown. 15-19 is contracted.
- A-Team
 - o Ad hoc indicators
 - Terry Duckershein – macroinvertebrates
 - Brian Ickes – Fish
- UMRBA – WQ task force: bioindicators for clean water act would like to use EMAP.LTRMP methodologies

Brian Ickes – USGS

- Busy with papers and reports
- LTRMP has highwater challenges to sampling
- LTRMP is putting new data tools online
- Yao is 50% TNC
- UMESC undergoing Stimulus package construction.
- Evaluating immediate release sedatives (benzocaine/eugenol) w/ FDA
- Report to Congress is in DRAFT format
- Brian working on modeling with hydraulics.

Topical Reports:

Standardized fisheries monitoring for restoration – Jeff Janvrin

Sturgeon management, policy, and future regulation – Travis Moore (could not attend but sent information)

At this point in time, MO is not pursuing any emergency actions for the 2010-2011 commercial sturgeon season. We will continue to collect information on harvest and mortality and will monitor pressure in the pooled portion of the river. A draft report on shovelnose sturgeon mortality is currently under review by our administration. After sharing this information, my intent was to simply conduct an open meeting to see how the other states were likely to respond to the SOA going into effect.

UMRCC Fisheries Strategic Plan – Tom Boland

- Plan has already been released to Russia, China, Germany, and France

10-15 years of CRP and what it means to the river - Bill Kalishek



Asian carp management in Illinois – Dan Sallee

A History of Fisheries in Photos – Kevin Hanson

Each of the states along the Upper Mississippi River has a rich history of fisheries work that is often connected strongly with the river. The state of Iowa is one of those stories. Through a series of historical photos dating back to the late 1800's we can take a look into one state's connection to the Mississippi River and how the fisheries profession as a whole has changed and developed over time.

MICRA Report – Ron Benjamin

- Reported on Large Rivers meeting in Memphis, TN
- Paddlefish database was costing too much money
 - o Mike Steuck (Iowa) now Paddlefish contact in UMR
- Noted dead paddlefish in Lake Pepin, keep the rostrum if you find these

Habitat in UMR – Dr. Chuck Theiling

Committee and Ad hoc Update

“Habits and Habitats of UMR Fish” revision – Jeff Janvrin

- **Final comments within 2 weeks**
- **Do we want full color?**
- **Color images?**

Mussel – Scott Gritters

- **Mussels are separate committee; yet will still report voluntarily to fish tech.**
- **Sampling issues with high water 2010**
 - o **No Cordova sampled in 2010**
- **A lot of work done on the Chippewa**
- **Scott is going to Freshwater Mussel Symposium in October for UMRCC sponsored ID and sampling**
- **Need to ask Kevin Cummings to see if he will bring a mussel message to Spring meeting**
 - o **And offer / sell books for ID at the Spring meeting**
 - o **Scott G. will also bring booklets (iowa?) to share with among the group**

Vegetation – Gritters?

- **Pool 10 – 220 sites; pool 5A – 300 sites (overall 25-30 crews)**
- **Presented info at Wildlife Section**

Commercial fishing- Michelle Marron

- **Blue catfish in database (QA/QC)**
 - o **Generalized (with best common knowledge)**
 - **Pool 14 upstream – reclassified to all channel**
 - **Pool 16 downstream – blues possible**
- **March 2011 – current through 2006**
- **A table with regulations is available on website**

Commercial Turtles – Scott Gritters

- **The National Association of fish and Wildlife Agencies may publish a summary of the 50 states regulations**

UMRCC Annual Meeting – Travis Moore

To be held in Hannibal MO on March 15 – 17. That is a Tuesday through Thursday. The hosting hotel will be the Quality Inn, the same facility used five years ago.

We are planning for the variety of committee meetings that are normal. However, if someone needs space for another side meeting, please notify me ASAP. Also, in the past, the mussel committee has met on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. If you would like to do the same, please get with Travis. That space has not yet been assigned, but is available if needed.

The social will be off-site. Golden Eagle Distributing, the local Budweiser distributor, has a farm a few minutes from Hannibal. It has a meeting hall and other facilities. They have graciously donated the use of the facility, and some evening beverages. A light meal will also be served there.

Annual Meeting Swap meet

One other thing I wanted to suggest for the spring fish tech meeting was a voucher specimen “swap-meet.” There are a number of species that we currently do not have vouchers of for general reference. For example, we do not have a round goby. Other folks may want some white river crayfish. And still yet, there are a variety of mussel shells that it would be nice to have (I don’t have a Higgin’s eye either). So, what I am proposing as part of the meeting, is that everyone bring “extra” specimens that they would be willing to share with other fish tech committee members. While I haven’t worked out all of the details, I may ask for some funds from the UMRCC to purchase jars and alcohol for this venture. We may be able to just include it in the registration cost. Will have to wait and see on that one. So, if you like this idea and support it, please let me know and we’ll get it together. If you don’t think it will fly, let me know that too, and I’ll work on other aspects of the event.