

UMRCC Fish Technical Session
Spring Meeting

Date: March 16, 2021

Time: 9AM-12:30PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

**Zoom Link for the FTS meeting is provided upon registration to the 76th Meeting of the UMRCC
Register here: <https://www.umrcc.org/>

Agenda:

9:00 Greetings and UMRCC Coordinator Report—Neal Jackson

9:10 Modeling to Inform Bighead and Silver Carp Management—Richie Erickson (USGS)

Dave Glover: Richie, beyond the SEACarp modeling efforts in the Illinois River, you and others have published a general modeling approach using grass carp that showed very similar results relative to attacking the source and the influence of imperfect deterrents. How generalizable are these results to other places like the UMR? How far are we from prioritizing the location of harvest? Do we know where our return on investment is worth it/not worth it?

9:30 The Ebb and Flow of Walleye and Sauger in Two Midwestern Rivers—Jason DeBoer (IL River Biological Station—IL Natural History Survey)

Andy Bartels: What is the likely mechanism of decline in the upper pools? Recruitment?

Kevin Irons: Any consideration of banner recruitment of flooding events during early 1990s that inform trend analysis?

Jennifer Sauer: You mentioned LTEF was through 2015, will it continue?

Nick Schlessler: We have seen record or near record recruitment in the last several years associated with flooding in the past several years

Sarah Peper: Just a comment, Using LTRM data, it looks like there aren't walleye in the open MS River. They are not plentiful, but we get them as bycatch in gill nets pretty regularly down there.

Jason DeBoer: Here is my email, please feel free to continue sending questions and comments.

jadeboer@illinois.edu

Nick Schlessler: Those long term declines noted by LTRM daytime EF (a gear not particularly suited to capture Walleye or Sauger) in Pool 4 in particular is counter to other data sets like long term gillnet surveys of Lake Pepin 1965-present that show overall increases in Walleye and Sauger numbers that have a slight long-term decline though changes in size structure muddle the picture on Sauger some.

9:50 Methylmercury, Bioaccumulation, and Fish in the UMR—Lewis Bruce (IA DNR)

Kevin Irons: Thanks Lewis, apologies because of distractions (dogs) here at my home office....your guidance levels are lower than FDA levels or the same?

10:10 Break

10:20 Rapid Expansion of the Banded Killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*) across Northern Illinois: Dramatic Recovery or Invasive Species?—Jeremy Tiemann (IL Natural History Survey)

Louise Mauldin: Thanks Jeremy-Very Interesting work!!

*Jeremy Tiemann: Willink et al. 2018; Our paper if anyone is interested. We are wanting killifish from the Miss if anyone is willing to keep some (10 whole individuals in ethanol). Thanks!
jtiemann@illinois.edu*

10:40 A Basin-wide Creel Survey on the UMR—Andy Bartels (WI DNR)

Neal Jackson: Great presentation Rebekah

Jordan Weeks: Yes, Great job Rebekah!

Nick Schlessler: Asking for support from state higher ups..MN offered their support.

Dave Glover: I am very supportive

Heidi Keuler: Rebekah-What about tapping our great volunteer citizen science groups WAV in WI or the MO Streams Teams? There are a lot of people willing to be trained to help in natural resources.

Rebekah Anderson: Great idea Heidi! We will look into that!

Heidi Kueler: Some of these folks are retirees (past biologists/UMRCC members) too! I'd be willing to help with OREIT if the rest of the Tech Section is interested.

Ryan Hupfeld: I think Iowa can hire seasonal employees, but the money has to funnel through a different organization (e.g., University, probably UMRCC?) Iowa just can't accept money directly if I remember correctly.

Nick Schlessler: Thanks for the lead on the creel Rebekah.

11:00 FTS Discussion Points & Updates:

- Bowfishing Letter
- NAJFM Funding Request
- Agency Routine Sampling Document

Bowfishing Letter (Rebekah Anderson):

The bowfishing letter is currently at a standstill. Jason DeBoer and I worked up a rewrite addressing the bias concerns regarding bowfishing as a disturbance factor. State reps have seen that letter and provided comments. Thank you to those who provided feedback. It seems that even with this rewrite, states have conflicting stances, some states consider this a priority to address and others mentioned bowfishing has never been a topic of concern in their state. Because our new letter emphasized the concern to our non-game fishes, some states mentioned commercial fishing as the bigger issue here. So, it seems that these bowfishing related concerns may not be resolved at the UMRCC level. I'm hoping to have a call with the state reps and WTS to plan any next steps in a couple weeks after UMRCC is over. This information has come in at the 11th hour, so we don't feel comfortable making any decisions during this meeting.

NAJFM Request (Rebekah Anderson):

Jim Lamer is requesting a small amount of funds from UMRCC to defer publication costs for a special issue of NAJFM where he is submitting ~30 publications related to Asian carp reproduction and early life history on the UMR. This has been an ongoing conversation with the state reps who all voted in favor of FTS supporting this venture. The exec board will vote on this request later this week. Before then, I'd like to give members of FTS an opportunity to weigh in and I'll open up this time for any questions or comments, if anyone is interested in sharing.

Andy Bartels: Are they getting a volume discount?

Scott Gritters: Just a comment that Jim has routinely provided updates to the UMRCC meetings and did a workshop at our Fall Fish Tech at Pepin. I think this is an easy support for us.

Jim Lamer's funding request letter included below

Routine Sampling Document (Rebekah Anderson):

I had reached out to the state reps asking for their help compiling routine annual sampling events to create a document with all the state's activities. I thought this would be helpful for new folks who are unfamiliar with each agency's activities on the water, could be an easy way help identify sampling gaps, and gives a POC to anyone who has questions about particular events. The plan is to put this up on the FTS webpage once its completed. Everyone has responded I just need to add MO and MN's events to this document. Thank you to everyone who worked to get this completed. I think it will be helpful to all.

Kris Maxon mentioned to reach out to LTEF/LTRM crew in Pool 26

11:30 Agency Updates **Representatives, please send updates to Rebekah.Anderson@illinois.gov prior to meeting

- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- Illinois
- Missouri
- UMRACT
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- USACE
 - STL
 - St. Paul
 - Rock Island
- USGS

12:30 Adjourn