Fish/Mussel/Wildlife Technical Section Meeting Agenda
September 24-26, 2024
Camp Little Cloud
21700 Girl Scout Rd, Epworth, IA 52045

Tuesday, September 24 (Concurrent Tech Section Meetings)

Fish Tech Section Meeting (in Lodge):
Welcome and Introductions

Review meeting minutes/highlights from Spring Meeting

Lake Sturgeon Committee Update/Work Session- Ryan Hupfeld and Rebecca Krogman

- Walked through a survey as a group to gauge importance on certain management actions/objectives/success criteria
    - menti.com demo (code 56995455)
- A lot of discussion was had on data needs, what steps we can take right away, and what information we need first
    - Such as: stocking, genetics, and variables that play into those topics/actions (dams, habitat available, population that is already there), habitat restoration actions, and sampling types
- Next Steps-
- *Rebecca and Ryan Resend out survey for everyone to fill out regarding the consensus statements and priorities
    - See what you had to say from survey
    - Draft an outline of a regional plan, guided by consensus statements for headers, actions or priorities will reflect what we said today

Sustainable Rivers Program update on evaluation of lock and dams for Lake Sturgeon spawning- Travis Moore (get presentation from Travis Moore)

- L&D 2 @ Hastings, MN is a major barrier, fewest days of percentage of time open for fish to pass through dam gates. Joel has a ton of info for tagged and telemetered fish there, we know they are there for spawning, there are some areas you could manipulate flows, where there's a lot of rock, lower left bank, spot they have most linear rock distance of all locks and dams (700-800yds), haven't looked at size or angle of repose. Have fish from multiple locations there. Good candidate for adding rock.
- L&D 12 @ Bellevue, IA – Rock Island District – if there was more money available, additional work could be done – a lot of room for manipulation to change that flow depending on what side of dam. A lot of opportunity, get a lot of reports from anglers, and a lot of bycatch from paddlefish fishery.
    - Travis; imp to share with ACE operational folks, recognize that you aren't going to have ideal conditions every year. We've watched what's been happening at Mel Price, can play out well if you are patient and flexible.
- L&D 15 @ Rock Island, IL – riffles have been "closed"- have electrofished, L&D itself may not have a lot of manipulation, but there are hydro dams that do.
- L&D 25 @ Winnfield, MO, St. Louis district – under right conditions, could make it happen, just moved to next dam u/s to see what we can find out, started to put telemetry tags in lake sturgeon up there. Ryan at ACE is doing some substrate and flow modeling w bits of budget available. Get some more robust modeling done if they get a grant.

- Next Steps-

Low Pulse Electrofishing Discussion- Kristina P. and Evan S.

- Discussion was had on low pulse electrofishing- What settings others use, is it effective, can we get protocols somewhat standardized, are others using different gears altogether?
- A lot of different settings and methodologies are/have been used in the past. Would be nice to work together with states to get consistent.
- MN seems to have a methodology that is working well for them.
    - Neil – done pools 3-9, good data since 2007. Entire stretch of mainstem, do 20-25% of available sites, ½ mi sites (on MN and WI). Randomly select 20% of total. Do take time to do wing dams. Side channels, selected based on what were "viable flathead sites", had habitat, not just a sand channel, random sample of those on a 3-year rotation. Since 2020 taken over 500 spines and aged them all. Jeff took LTRM bathymetry data and figured out all the side channel habitats (validation). Secondary and tertiary channels according to LTRM database. Smith Root box, 25 duty cycle (they are internally set to that), sample June 15-July 15. Some years you have higher water. Ryan: Don't see oversampling of small fish? Neil: randomizing of sample sites and habitat samples seems to account for that.
- Next Steps

Agency updates and open discussion (2 topics/studies of their choosing)

Wednesday, September 25

Joint Session (in Lodge):

Vital Rates Project Update - Kristen Bouska

- Have initial population dynamics results on Bluegill and Freshwater Drum. Next steps include: Deeper dive into hypothesized drivers of species-specific vital rates – habitat, temperature, disturbance, stock density, and continue to quantify vital rates as ages become available
- Likely products: Several species-specific manuscripts, one cross-species manuscript, final report to document additional species

Pool 12 Acoustic Telemetry - Seth Fopma

- Preliminary results for acoustic telemetry array compared to radio telemetry array in completed HREPs in Pool 12 appear to be providing us with excellent data and may be a good way to evaluate use of HREP created habitat in the future. A larger tagging effort will take place this fall/winter.

Fishing Tournament Impacts Discussion - Kristina P. and Evan S.

- Discussions were had on communication and permitting between and with multiple states (i.e., what has happened in past, changes to regulations, how to move forward into the future, etc.), trends in fishing tournaments, and how to deal with potential disturbances to wildlife from fishing tournaments.
- Next Steps

Recent Trends in Red Shoulder Hawks and Cerulean Warblers - Jon Stravers

- Red Shoulder Hawks and Cerulean Warblers are declining in floodplain forests on the river, but are expanding statewide in Iowa.

Conservation from Iowa to Africa - Jason Denlinger

***White Pine Hollow WMA/State Preserve Site Visit - History, Challenges & Opportunities of Management of a Unique Forest Resource**

Thursday, September 26- (Concurrent Tech Section Meetings)

Fish & Mussel Tech Section Meeting (in Lodge):

Anonymous Location Data Update/Work Session - Travis Moore and Rebecca Krogman

- Pools 4, 13, and 26 have been selected.
- Rebecca, Travis, and Nick S. will work on drawing polygons to send to Cobalt by early November

Regulation Inconsistencies Among States Discussion - Ryan H.

- Discussed potential changes that could be made or discussed in the future
- Developed initial list of ideas- law enforcement tech section may already have a list started
- *Ryan- Send out spreadsheet and reach out to law enforcement tech section for discussion at the spring meeting
- *Everyone- Please review spreadsheet and send any additions you have to Ryan. Or add to the GoogleSheets document.
- Link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MfH1mrJao0_0AHfwKp7jPZ2AoE13jUnZ1G-XhWNYsT0/edit?usp=sharing

Revisit 2004 Conservation Plan for Freshwater Mussels of the UMR; Discuss U.S. Geological Survey Science Vision for Native Freshwater Mussel Research in the United States; Updating UMRCC Priority Mussel Conservation Activities discussion- Sarah Douglass

- Reviewed Conservation Plan and discussed a future update of the plan along with a status report update on what has been accomplished.
- Discussed future priority mussel conservation activities.
- *Everyone- Send any future priority mussel conservation activities to Sarah Douglass