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President's Message

By: Jason Doll

Editor:

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**Deadlines for
submission of
articles:** fourth
Friday in March;
fourth Friday in July,
fourth Friday in
November (subject
to change).

For my first message to the membership I would like to reflect on what IAFS has meant to me and what I have gotten out of it. As I think back to my first IAFS meeting as a student at Ball State I recall it was a little intimidating being an undergrad. But when the social began everything loosened up and I realized it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought. However, I still didn't realize the full benefits that came with being an active chapter member. Our chapter may be a small one but I would put ours up against any in the country when it comes to quality. Our conferences, networking opportunities, outreach events, communication stream, and continuing education classes are invaluable to me and likely everyone reading this newsletter. The Spring conferences are filled with the best and brightest scientists in the State that are dedicated to their field and our Chapter. Since being an undergrad I have only missed one Spring conference, I still have not forgiven my brother for scheduling his wedding in Vegas on the same week as the Spring meeting. Nevertheless, I can hardly imagine missing another one. From the technical papers to networking opportunities each conference is more than worth the time. The dedication of our Chapter to connect with other organizations, schools, and non-professionals was epitomized by the creation of the Outreach Committee. The multiple "Best Communications Awards" from the NCD speaks for themselves. Finally, we continue to have excellent continuing education courses to advance our technical, statistical, and analytical skills. With all the good opportunities offered by IAFS I still sometimes wonder if we have advanced as a professional society to a point where the founding members had hoped or have we passed their expectations. I also wonder what we, the younger generation, will think when the table is turned and it's the chapter's 70th or 80th anniversary. One of our past-presidents, Angie Grier, touched on this same subject in her Presidents Message and I think it is a good thought to keep in mind going forward.

Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of our Chapter. To usher in the occasion the 2010 spring conference will be devoted to celebrating what the (Continued below)

President's Message (continued)

Chapter has accomplished and where we are headed. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the thoughts above with some of our founding and long time members. Dave Meuninck has more below so I won't go into details here.

I hope to see as many of you there as possible to help celebrate our Chapter.

During my time on the IAFS EXCOM I have learned to appreciate the hard work everyone puts into the Chapter behind the scenes. I would like to thank Dave Kittaka for his hard work and dedication not only during his tenure as President but also for his past and ongoing work in IAFS. I would also like to thank Angie Grier for updating the Procedures Manual. They are now posted on the website and have already come in handy for me a time or two. Michelle Cain deserves thanks for her continued work on the award winning Newsletter! Lets keep our fingers crossed for another successful nomination! One committee representative change has occurred; Jennifer Campbell-Allison has volunteered to be the Rivers and Streams Technical committee representative. With her appointment all officer and committee positions are currently filled!

Our fall meeting was held at the Lodge at Prairie Creek Reservoir in conjunction with a workshop on aging with fin rays. Mark Mylchreest did an excellent job and I have heard a couple of you have already put the knowledge you picked up to good use. If you missed the workshop or would like a refresher we have posted the Power Point presentations on the website (see homepage for link). Sandy Clark-Kolaks did a great job organizing the workshop. I hope everyone was able to submit their thoughts about the course through the survey she put together.

Activities on my agenda for 2009-2010 include:

- Continue supporting our student chapters at Ball State and Purdue as well as continue to work with Manchester as they pursue a new student chapter.
- I encourage everyone to submit their outreach events to your OCC (Outreach Committee Chair), Clint Kowalik. You can either email him or submit your outreach event online through our website. The number of outreach events that your chapter is involved in is considered for the NCD Most Active Chapter Award. Don't let your hard work and dedication at an outreach event go unnoticed!
- As mentioned above 2010 will mark the Chapters 40th anniversary and we will be celebrating the occasion at the Spring meeting. The planning committee has been hard at work planning the conference in uncertain economic times.

(Presidents message continued on next page)

Current Officers

President:

Jason Doll

President-elect:

Debbie King

Vice President:

Nate Thomas

Secretary/

Treasurer:

Mark Pranckus

Past President:

Dave Kittaka

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#### Visit IAFS on the web at:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/>

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Sustaining Members:



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President's Message (continued)

- One of the major agenda items I will be looking into of is to review how we interact with the student chapters. I would like to look at how information and IAFS news flows to them as well as how students are involved at Spring meetings. I have been in contact with the student chapter Presidents soliciting their thoughts. If anyone has ideas on this please feel free to contact me at any time.
- I also enjoyed my time at the State Fair Fishing Pond and hope someone will be willing to organize another IAFS day in 2010.
- I would like to remind everyone about website submissions. If you have anything you think would be of interest to the members submit it to me for posting. It can be as little as a few lines announcing an activity or you can write a short article. Unless it requires an entire new page I can usually get things posted the same day.

If you have any questions or want to get more involved with the Chapter please feel free to call or email me.

Happy Holidays!
Jason Doll
jdoll@msdeng.com
765-747-4896





Chapter News

Announcement for the IAFS Spring Meeting “What Have We Learned As We Continue to Migrate Upstream” Ramada Inn Elkhart, Indiana February 16 & 17, 2010

This meeting will mark the 40th anniversary of the Indiana Chapter. The first ever meeting of 31 aquatic and fisheries professionals was March 13, 1970. Plenary speakers will be founding members Dr. Thomas McComish and Gary Doxtater and long time member and IDNR Chief of Fisheries Bill James. Additionally, AFS Parent Society President Dr. Don Jackson will address the membership during the Chapter's business meeting.

Registration will be 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM February 16. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. The plenary session will be first. The Chapter business meeting will be next and followed by dinner. During the evening, there will be a social with a poster session and student sub-chapter raffle. The evening will end at 11 PM but a suite will be available for those night owls who wish to continue intellectual exchange of ideas, among other things.

Technical paper presentations will begin the second day at 8AM. The meeting will conclude by noon.

Room reservations may be made by calling 574-262-1581. Rooms are held under the group name of Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Room rate is \$70.00 for single or double occupancy plus state and occupancy taxes. Reservations must be made by February 1, 2010.

For more information on the meeting and instructions for abstract submission please go to <http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/Spring2010>. The registration fee will announced soon and the registration form will then be posted to this web site.

State DNR employees are to pay for their registration via P-Card through Debbie Bray. Needed are copies of the registration form and e-mail from your supervisor giving you permission to attend. Deadline will be the same as the early registration deadline.

First Call for Papers and Posters: IAFS Spring Meeting Elkhart, IN February 16 & 17, 2010

We are now accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Presentations will be allotted 20 minutes, 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions/answers. Poster presentations should follow the guidelines of Carline (2007).

To submit an abstract online for oral or poster presentations click the link at our website:

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/Spring2010/>

To access the abstract submission forms you must log in using your IAFS username and password. If you do not have an IAFS username and password or forget your password, instructions are supplied at the login screen on how to access your password and create a new account. Please limit your abstracts to 2,000 characters. As always if you have problems or questions regarding the online submission please contact Jason Doll, jdoll@msdeng.com

Carline R. 2007. Guidelines for Designing Posters. Fisheries 32(6):306-307.



Outreach Committee By Clint Kowalik

Don't forget to promote AFS during public appearances and to register your outreach events online at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/OC/OC.php>.

Your OC has promoted AFS at Conservation Day at the State House, the State Fair Fishing Pond, two pond workshops, a high school field day (w/ 300 students), a Butler sportfishing class (25 students), and a Go FishIN workshop (for 10 cub scout leaders).

The Ball State student subchapter promoted AFS at an Earth Day event and a student welcome event. Great job, Cardinals!

Continuing Education Committee

By: Sandy Clark-Kolaks

The fall continuing education workshop entitled “Validation of walleye ages using known-age fin rays” was held September 22, 2009 at Prairie Creek Reservoir near Muncie, IN. The instructor was Mark Mylchreest of the Michigan DNR. He shared research and techniques presented at the 2009 Michigan AFS Meeting describing methods for the collection, preparation, and reading of walleye fin rays. Approximately 25 individuals from DNR, Ball State, Purdue, Duke Energy and the private sector attended the 3 hour workshop.

Copies of the Mark’s presentations are posted on the Indiana AFS website.

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/>

A follow-up survey has been set up at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CRJRa_2f0yn0A6s3dIP3VtDw_3d_3d for attendees to leave feedback on the workshop, location, and give suggestions for next year’s continuing education workshop. If you have not completed the survey please do so.



The continuing education committee is seeking ideas for future workshops. This is your opportunity to make a suggestion. What type of training would help you fill a knowledge gap or further expand upon something you may already know something about? If you have any questions regarding continuing education or have suggestions/feedback about the workshops, please contact Sandy Clark-Kolaks at sclark-kolaks@dnr.in.gov.



Legislative Communications Committee

By: Jennifer Campbell-Allison

The IAFS Legislative Communications Committee is on a roll! At the 2009 Conservation Day, we spoke with Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, Rep. Bob Bischoff, Rep. Matt Pierce, Sen. James Lewis, and Rep. Chet Dobis.

Two of the three conservation priorities supported by IAFS at the 2009 Conservation Day have already been signed into law! Conservation Day is sponsored by the 30+ member Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA).

The 2010 Conservation Day event is just around the corner and IAFS needs your help. There are tasks for all personalities and abilities.

Top three ways to help IAFS with Conservation Day 2010

- #3 - WHAT: Booth set up and breakdown for the Legislative Reception
WHEN: January 26, 2010 (approx. 11am-12noon and 3pm-3:30pm)
- # 2 - WHAT: Mail save-the-date invites to the legislators in your district
WHEN: late December 2009
MORE: card and postage provided by IAFS
- # 1 - WHAT: Staff the IAFS booth during the Legislative Reception
WHEN: January 26, 2010 (12:30-2:30pm; briefing from approx. 9-11am).

Contact Jennifer Campbell-Allison to sign up for these or other tasks: IndianaAFS.Legislative@gmail.com

2010 Conservation Priorities: These will be posted to our website <http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/LegislativeIssues.php> after November 30, 2009.



Photo: 2009 Conservation Day at the AFS booth.

Call for Paper and Poster Judges for the Upcoming Indiana American Fisheries Society Spring Meeting

Join the ranks with your peers to serve as judges during the fast approaching 2010 Indiana American Fisheries Society's spring meeting. It's the time honored way to give back by fostering professional development among peers.

If you are interested, **directly contact Rod Edgell** by phone or e-mail.

Rod Edgell
IAFS Awards Chair
Phone: (260)244-6805
Fax: (260)244-7247
redgell@dnr.in.gov

CHAPTER AWARDS NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

The Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is soliciting nominees for four awards given annually. These awards are for ***Most Active Organization in Indiana Fisheries***, ***Excellence in Fisheries Science***, ***Outstanding Student Research***, and ***Exceptional New Member***. All four awards are fully described below. Nomination forms to be completed for each award are available on the Indiana AFS website.

Nominations must be received by **January 1**. Nomination materials should be sent to Rod Edgell; IAFS Awards Chair, Northeast Regional Office; 1353 S. Governors Drive; Columbia City, IN 46725; Tel: 260-244-6805; Fax: 260-244-7247; redgell@dnr.IN.gov. Electronic nominations are accepted as long as nominators contact information is complete. Awards will be presented at the annual Indiana American Fisheries Spring Meeting.

MOST ACTIVE ORGANIZATION IN INDIANA FISHERIES

Purpose: To recognize an organization that makes an outstanding contribution to any Indiana fishery.

Eligibility criteria: Candidates for the award shall be any Indiana based organization or state chapter of any national organization. The candidates shall have made outstanding contributions to any Indiana fishery within the last two years.

Selection criteria: Candidates for the award may be nominated by any Indiana chapter member.

EXCELLENCE IN FISHERIES SCIENCE

Purpose: To recognize an Indiana AFS chapter member who has made an outstanding contribution to fisheries science in Indiana. This contribution may be a single activity or a collection of achievements over the individual's career. Former Indiana AFS chapter members may be nominated if most of their work occurred while they were chapter members.

Eligibility criteria: Candidates for the award shall be (or shall have been) employed as a professional (ie. Teacher, researcher, administrator, etc.) in the field of fisheries science in Indiana during the period of accomplishment for which he or she is being considered for the award. The candidates shall be (or shall have been) chapter members and may be retired but must be living when nominated.

Selection criteria: Candidates for the award shall be nominated by any two Indiana chapter members.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT RESEARCH

Purpose: To recognize outstanding student research in fisheries science or aquatic biology at any Indiana college or university.

Eligibility criteria: Candidates for the award must be graduate or undergraduate students at any Indiana college or university, or have satisfactorily completed requirements for graduation at such an institution within the calendar year preceding the annual spring meeting. The major focus of their research should be in fisheries science or aquatic biology. Each candidate's document may be a typed report, thesis, or published paper. Each candidate must also be sole author or senior author when no other student is a junior author.

Selection criteria: Candidates for the award may be nominated by any Indiana chapter member.

EXCEPTIONAL NEW MEMBER

Purpose: To recognize any new Indiana chapter member who has gone beyond the call of duty to better the chapter or the fisheries profession in Indiana.

Eligibility criteria: Candidates for the award shall be Indiana AFS chapter members who have joined the chapter within the last three years. The candidates shall have gone beyond the call of duty to better the chapter or fisheries profession in Indiana.

Selection criteria: Candidates for the award may be nominated by any Indiana chapter member.

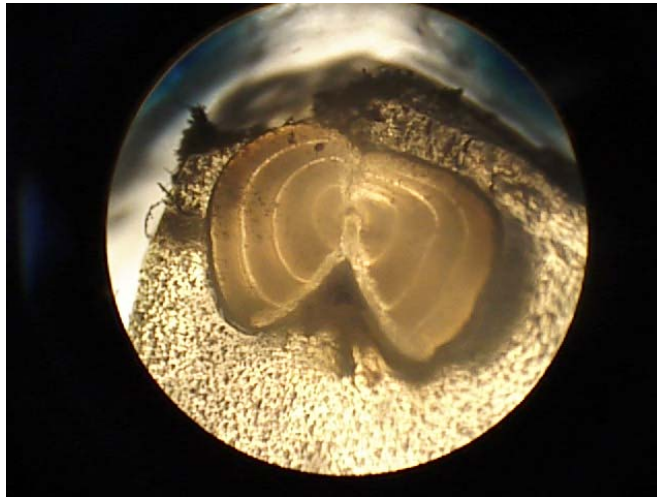
Walleye Technical Committee

By: Sandy Clark-Kolaks

The winter meeting of Walleye Technical Committee is planned for **Sunday, December 6th** at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Springfield, Illinois. WTC will be in **Conference 4 from 1-2:30pm**.

The fall continuing education workshop featured a presentation by Mark Mylchreest of the Michigan DNR, who shared research and techniques presented at the 2009 Michigan AFS Meeting. The hands on workshop described methods for the collection, preparation, and reading of walleye fin rays. Previous work conducted by Michigan DNR on known-age walleye fin rays was used to determine aging accuracy between readers. The purpose of this effort were to investigate growth patterns that may occur in natural settings, create a catalog of known-age fish aging structures to use as a staff tutorial and support the use of walleye fin rays as a method to determine ages of wild fish. The workshop was informative and helpful and DNR fisheries biologists are already putting the new techniques into use. Hopefully this will lead to fewer walleye being sacrificed.

Presentations from the workshop are posted on the Indiana AFS website.



Can you guess how old this walleye is?



Upcoming Events

~70th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference~

“Limited resources, Unlimited Potential”

Springfield, IL

December 6-9, 2009

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/midwest/>

~2010 Cool Water Fish Culture Workshop~

Rend Lake Resort

Whittington, IL

January 24-26, 2010

Contact: Kburton@siu.edu

~ 40th Anniversary of Indiana AFS (Spring Meeting) ~

‘What Have We Learned as We Continue to Migrate Upstream’

Ramada Inn,

Elkhart, IN

February 16-17, 2010

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/indiana/Spring2010/>

~22nd Annual Indiana Lake Management Society Conference~

“All Lakes Great and Small”

Radison Star Plaza

Merrillville, IN

March 26-27, 2010

www.indianalakes.org

In the News



Indiana News

DNR NEWS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. W255 B
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748
Phone: (317) 232-4200

For immediate release: Nov. 12, 2009

School partners with DNR to promote outdoor education



In these days of video games and computers, getting outside is still important. That's why Columbia City High School zoology students have partnered with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the second straight year to better appreciate their natural world.

Teacher Jim Sittler's 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-graders combined to create a nature center-quality display showing native Indiana aquatic species found in glacial lakes. Each student group collected various aquatic plants, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates, then built the display and created informational posters that described some of the species in the aquarium.

"This project was designed to get the students

outdoors and looking for the species they were assigned to collect,” says Sittler. “How else can you teach students an appreciation of the natural world unless you put them in it?”

Students collected their assigned species with DNR biologists and members of the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (IN-AFS). The IN-AFS promotes outdoor aquatic education and encourages its members to take every opportunity to interact with students and teach them about aquatic resources.

“This is our second year of working collaboratively on projects with Jim Sittler’s classes,” said Angela Grier, a DNR fisheries biologist and past president of the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Last year, students designed creative ways that would allow biologists to sample fish populations in the winter under the ice.

“Working with high school students has been a great experience for us and we hope that we have inspired them to better appreciate natural resources,” Grier said.

Media Contact: Angela Grier, DNR north region fisheries research biologist, (260) 244-6805, agrier@dnr.IN.gov.



Education fund to honor Bayou Bill

The Indiana conservation movement recently lost one of its outspoken supporters, “Bayou” Bill Scifres.

A former IWF Conservationist of the Year, Bayou Bill made important contributions to Indiana’s wildlife through his writing. In addition to editing the *Indianapolis Star’s* outdoor section and writing his “Lines and Shots” column for 37 years, Bayou Bill published two books—*Indiana Outdoors* and *Bayou Bill’s Best Stories*.

His writing and work to educate Hoosiers about conservation issues earned him several awards including Hanover University’s Lifetime Achievement Award, National Wildlife Federation’s Conservation Communications Award, and the Sagamore of the Wabash from Purdue University.

Bill’s family has generously asked that memorial contributions be made to IWF, and we have established the Bayou Bill Education Fund in honor of his legacy. Contact the IWF at 317-875-9453 to learn how to contribute.

For immediate release: Nov 24, 2009

Posted by: [DNR]

Contact: Nate Thomas

Phone: (260) 244-6805

Email: dnrnews@dnr.in.gov

Bass fingerlings to boost Fort Wayne fishing

FORT WAYNE - The Indiana Department of Natural Resources continued efforts to improve fishing opportunities in Fort Wayne by recently stocking 780 largemouth bass into the ponds at Lakeside Park.

The stocking is part of the "Fishin' in the Fort" program initiated in 2008 with the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department. The program aims to evaluate local fish populations, improve fishing around the city, and encourage youth to participate in outdoor activities.

The bass, approximately one to three inches long, were surplus fingerlings from this year's state hatchery production and were stocked to prey on small sunfish.

"A fish population survey in 2008 showed that bluegill and pumpkinseed sunfish were very abundant and exhibited slow growth rates," said DNR fisheries biologist Nate Thomas. "Similarly, few bass were captured in the survey, indicating there were not enough predators to control the sunfish population."

Thomas expects the largemouth bass to have noticeable effects in the next three to four years. Bass stocked this fall may limit sunfish reproduction in the spring by feeding on their fry. With a couple of years, he said the bass will be large enough to prey on adult sunfish. He said the stocking will provide potentially more and bigger bass for anglers and with less sunfish, bluegill fishing also should improve.

"It's all an effort to create balance among predators and their prey," Thomas said. "This will help provide better fishing in the future."

The DNR also stocked surplus largemouth bass in Cemetery Pond near J. Edward Roush Lake, Hominy Ridge pond near Salamonie Reservoir, and Bostwick's Pond near Missisnewa Reservoir.

The IDNR would like to remind anglers that they may only keep up to five (5) largemouth bass per day and that each must be at least 14" long. Additionally, state fishing regulations are enforced at all waters historically stocked with state-reared or state-purchased fish, including the requirement of anglers 17 years and older to carry a valid annual state fishing license.



Area prof acclaimed state's best for 2009

Devon Haynie
The Journal Gazette

The head of Manchester College's environmental studies program will accept an award as Indiana professor of the year in Washington, D.C., today.

Jerry Sweeten, who took his students on research trips to Alaska and Florida, was one of 38 teachers across the country to receive the national awards.

The honor was granted by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a research and policy organization, and by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, a group that assists colleges with marketing and development. The organizations received about 300 applications for the awards.



Sweeten, 56, guides Manchester students in their studies of lake and stream ecology, endangered fish DNA, owl migration patterns, bird populations, honeybees and the RNA/DNA ratios of freshwater mussels.

"Dr. Sweeten links scholarship to active student research in a way that seems completely natural, even though it is a rare phenomenon," Manchester President Jo Young Switzer said in a statement. "He exemplifies all that is good in United States undergraduate education."

Before becoming a professor, Sweeten spent 27 years as director of the 160-acre Asherwood Environmental Center in Wabash County, according to the statement. He's a passionate environmentalist and has raised more than \$1 million in grants focused on the local environment, including funds for an effort to clean up a 30-mile stretch of Eel River.

Full story at: <http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009311199983>

Voracious Asian carp poised to upset Great Lakes

Ecologists ponder how to stop elusive Asian carp and preserve local fish populations

By James Janega Tribune reporter

November 22, 2009

Conservationists and government biologists, stunned by new indications of the advance of Asian carp toward Lake Michigan, are trading ideas for poisoning Chicago-area rivers, conducting emergency electrofishing or chemically neutering the wily fish.

On Friday, sophisticated genetic testing near Chicago found evidence of the carp within 7 miles of Lake Michigan after apparently leaping an electrical barrier once called the last line of defense for the Great Lakes.

The prospect of the voracious, prolific Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes -- a fragile ecosystem reeling from other invasive species -- has been the greatest fear of the lakes coalition.

Tests for Asian carp [DNA](#) have been conducted since August. The findings, available only in recent days, indicate that the pernicious plankton eaters are only one lock and dam away from the Great Lakes, said Army Corps of Engineers Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody, commander of the corps' Great Lakes and [Ohio River](#) Division.

Full story at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-asian-carp-22-nov22,0,1309617.story>

Fish Food Fight: Fish Don't Eat Trees After All, Says New Study

ScienceDaily (Nov. 23, 2009) — What constitutes fish food is a matter of debate. A high-profile study a few years ago suggested that fish get almost 50 percent of their carbon from trees and leaves, evidence for a very close link between the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Full story at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/11/091124093548.htm>



New species found: Deep-Sea Organisms

Found at depths of up to 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers), this bizarre orange [fish](#), called *Neocyema*, is only the fifth specimen of the species ever captured--and the first seen on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, scientists said in November 2009.

During their ongoing survey of deep-sea oddities, CoML scientists have employed deep-towed cameras, sonar, and other technologies to detect 17,650 species and counting--from crabs to shrimps to worms--that live without sunlight.

Full story at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/11/photogalleries/new-deep-sea-creatures-dumbo-pictures/photo2.html>

Fishing quota will lead to extinction of bluefin tuna, warn conservationists

Conservationists have accused the organisation charged with ensuring the survival of the bluefin tuna of pushing the fish to extinction.

Members of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) voted to allow 13,500 tonnes of tuna to be caught next year, which scientists say will lead to the disappearance of the fish from the Mediterranean within two years.

The European Union was blamed for having blocked plans at the Brazil conference for a moratorium on catching the fish in the Mediterranean.

According to members of the Pew Environment Group, the EU had been protecting the interests of the Spanish fishing fleet.

Full story at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6919249.ece>



All in a day's work

Indiana Department of Natural Resources GoFishin Program

By: Clint Kowalik

It has been an interesting year for me. I turned 30 in March. My whole house got new carpet. I helped Jason Doll design the Outreach page on the IAFS website. I spent four lovely weeks at Brookville chasing one-armed bass. Then my boss Larry Lehman retired, leaving me “in charge” of Fish Management District 8.

Instead of following his footsteps, I accepted the position as the Go FishIN Coordinator in June. It was a difficult decision (partly due to my love for the DuPont Enviro-shield carpet), but I received much support and advice from fellow fishheads, including BJ, BS, and JCA. So instead of long cool nights of shocking shad, hot August days spraying dam cattails and tree saplings, and hours and hours of reading scales and writing reports, I entered the field of Aquatic Resource Education...and the State Fair Fishing Pond.

My summer aide at District 8, Kevin Gaston (Ball State student) held down the hatchery with Jim Luttrell and also helped me immensely in the weeks before the Fair as we got ready for hundreds of fish and thousands of little anglers. During my 17-straight days at the Fair, I fished with 4,500 kids (many who have never fished before) and a couple hundred wonderful volunteers, including a fishy crew wearing AFS hats. Thanks again guys and gals! After Fair clean-up and wrap-up, I fished with hundreds of families at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience (HOE). I even taught a French-speaking family how to fish and they taught me a few French words like *poisson*.

Since the HOE, I have been promoting Go FishIN at four workshops around the state conducted by the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. I attended the Environmental Education Association of Indiana Conference at Camp Mack where I enjoyed the workshops and networking with new people. I presented at a Butler Sport fishing class, promoting AFS and opportunities in fisheries. I had two AFSers in my final Go FishIN workshop of the year, which was a real treat. Meanwhile, I have been selling my house in Brownstown and buying a house in Greenwood. This winter, I will be updating the Go FishIN Crew Captain manual, ordering fishing equipment, planning Free Fishing Weekend events, and getting a head start on the Fishing Pond at the Indiana State Fair. To learn more about the Go FishIN program and the next workshop, check out: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/nrec/3053.htm>

Indiana Department of Natural Resources District 5 (formerly known as District 6) Fish Management

By: Dave Kittaka and Debbie King

The 2009 survey season has come to an end and most of the equipment has been winterized and stored. With the retirement of Larry Lehman and the promotion of Clint Kowalik the south region fisheries has absorbed the old District 8 and split it up among the three remaining south region fisheries districts. We are now, or will be shortly, the new District 5.

In August, we participated in the IAFS day at the State Fair Fishing Pond. Later in September we developed and participated with the fish sampling and fish processing display at the inaugural Hoosier Outdoor Experience. We attended the fall business meeting and Spine Aging workshop at Prairie Creek Reservoir, Muncie. Applying what we learned, we collected spines from walleye and hybrid striped bass during the fall survey of Monroe Reservoir. Currently we are comparing hybrid striped bass otoliths to cross sectioned anal rays. We finished up the Kickapoo Lake angler creel survey and are compiling the data in Access and prepping the query data.

The first week in October we began a 2-week fall evaluation of Monroe Reservoir walleye, hybrid stripers, and catfish. Preliminary data indicates similar catches from 2007. We collected 81 hybrid striped bass 5.2 to 26 inches. The PSD₁₂ was 88 and RSD₂₀ was 65. The YOY electrofishing catches were down this year (1.6/hr) even though we received a full stocking this year. The one difference this year is that we received surplus fingerlings from OH that were a reciprocal cross (white bass female x male striped bass). It will be interesting to see how well they recruit to adults during hand line sample in the years to come. We also collected 134 walleye 5.9 to 28.4 inches. The YOY catch was 12.8/hr. The PSD₁₅ was 78 and RSD₂₅ was 15. There were 90 channel catfish collected in 15 gillnet lifts at a length range of 10.2 to 31.5 inches. PSD₁₆ was 70 and RSD₂₄ was 27.



Being a planning year, we are revisiting the fisheries section strategic plans. We have been reviewing sub-programs of the Impoundments and Rivers and Streams strategic plans and will most likely be spending considerable time this winter rewriting these programs along with all of our survey reports.



Have a great holiday season,
Dave and Deb

Photo above, right: New fin ray cutting set up at Avoca.

Photo to left: If you were ever wondering about the durability of carp, this is a picture of a large healthy carp collected at Monroe Reservoir that might be considered visually impaired

Indiana Department of Natural Resources District 6 (formerly District 7) Fish Management

By: Michelle Cain

I'm sure most of you have noticed (from the previous article) that there have been some changes to the DNR fish management districts. We are now District 6 and cover 18 counties. We've acquired many new lakes including Hardy and Deam Lakes. Needless to say we've been very busy since August. The Hoosier Outdoor Expo took a lot of preparation including making several posters about fishing opportunities in Indiana. The Expo had a great turnout and it was great to see so many people interested in our natural resources. We also attended the IAFS fall meeting and continuing education workshop. We've already put together our spine sectioning apparatus and are ready to start slicing some rays any day now.

As I mentioned before, Hardy Lake is now one of our lakes and we've spent a good amount of time over there this fall. It started with a vegetation survey (no plants found), then striped bass and wiper netting, and finally wiper shocking for young of the year. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of wipers and striper we caught in our nets. We also discovered a significant amount of yellow bass while shocking.

We also set striper nets on Patoka Lake this year. We set a total of 18 nets and caught one striped bass. Yes I said ONE! Did I mention that most of this netting was done in the rain and wind? It looks like the report we had of a striped bass die off a few years back may have been accurate.

Walleye fry were stocked in Patoka again this year and we conducted night shocking to determine if the stocking was successful. We collected about 20 walleye.

We also collected carp for the resident bald eagle at Patoka Lake. Unfortunately, he died shortly after his last delivery of fish. I have to say I was upset that he passed, but at least I got to see him enjoy a nice piece of carp. It was a very enjoyable and unforgettable experience.

The rest of our time since August has consisted of meetings, reviewing strategic plans, report writing, organizing all our new files, aging scales, answering countless phone calls, and deer hunting. (I shot my first deer this year on opening day!)

As I write this, thoughts of turkey and stuffing cross my mind. Before we know it, it'll be sugar cookies and pine trees. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and a happy new year!

Indiana Department of Natural Resources District 5 Fish Management

By Jamie Smyth

District 5 had a rather lengthy spring campaign in 2009. The season started with the annual walleye broodstock collection at Brookville Reservoir. During broodstock collection, we also gathered additional data from walleye to assess future management options at the reservoir. This project involved modeling information gathered from a seven month creel survey and a comprehensive age-length key of fish caught during the broodstock operations and other spring sampling.

The fun didn't stop there as we also conducted a bass population estimate at Brookville Reservoir in '09. Many thanks to D6, the artists formerly known as D8, and Southern Fisheries Research for their participation in the population estimate...we couldn't have done it without you! Preliminary results indicate that Brookville has a good number of largemouth and smallmouth bass.

The season continued with a standard survey at Middle Fork, where we discovered gizzard shad in the reservoir for the first time. Unfortunately, Middle Fork is used for water supply so our options for controlling the shad population are limited. Targeted sampling was conducted at Waveland and Pisgah as part of the shad work plan. Our annual July survey at Brookville Tailwater went well as we picked up several brown trout that were fin-clipped prior to being stocked in the spring. The field season ended with a fall walleye evaluation at Eagle Creek Reservoir. We found walleye from several year classes, indicating that our fingerling stockings have created a successful walleye fishery at Eagle Creek.

All of our equipment is cleaned and winterized, minus the shock boat that will join me over in Illinois for a fun week of Asian carp eradication in early December....stay tuned for results!

Indiana Department of Natural Resources District 3 (a.k.a. District 34, a.k.a. the Districts Formerly known as 3 and 4)

By: Rod Edgell and Nate Thomas

District 3 has had quite the eventful late-summer and fall, as expected. August wound down with a general survey at Prairie Creek Reservoir, a 1,252-acre impoundment just south of Muncie. The survey yielded good numbers of bass and bluegill, but the reservoir is better known for its crappie and walleye (see photo below). The crappie population consists of both black and white crappie and includes a lot of 8 to 10



inch fish. The walleye population is also doing very well, with the largest individual collected measuring 25.8 inches and weighing nearly 6 pounds.

Aside from the typical meetings held intermittently throughout the fall, the District has also been busy in actual fisheries tasks. We have been completing General Survey Reports, compiling and comparing data on the six lakes in the Upper Tippecanoe Watershed that were sampled this summer, and *attempting to* model potential effects of an increased size limit for muskies on Lake Webster.

In early November, we were notified of surplus largemouth bass fingerlings that could be stocked throughout the state where needed. One of these sites was Lakeside Park Pond, which was included in the Fishin' in the Fort Program (see photo below). The

Program, initiated in 2008, aims to improve fishing in Fort Wayne and encourage youth participation in outdoor activities. As such, the ponds at Lakeside Park were stocked with 780 bass fingerlings (100/acre).

As a district, we look forward to the upcoming winter, where we will be finishing our reports and daydreaming about ice fishing.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Fisheries Research Station

By: Randy Brindza

What a difference from last year! At this time, I was sitting in my office and working on our AFS submission. You may ask, "What's the difference?!?" Last year at this time, we were in the middle of our 2nd major lake-effect snowstorm of the season here in northwest Indiana. We were knee-deep in snow. Heck, we haven't even attached our plow to the truck yet. I shouldn't jinx myself...It's going on this week.

Well, another sampling season is behind us at the Lake Michigan Fisheries Research Station. It started on the St. Joe River in Mishawaka where the crew performed a fish community survey along a stretch of river where the city constructed a river walk. A section of prime habitat in the form of fallen trees was removed from the banks to make way for the trail. Our objective is to compare fish community data collected before and after construction and to see what impacts, if any, has occurred in this section. We also performed a stream survey at Dunes Creek and an unnamed tributary just east of Michigan City.

We completed Reach 3 of the Salt Creek Restoration Project this summer at the Chustak Public Fishing Site. With the completion of the final area, anglers now have access to over 1,700 feet of prime salmon and steelhead water. Anglers have given us many positive comments on this project and I'm happy to say that the Chustak PAS is now one of the most popular fishing areas on Salt Creek.

Speaking of stream restoration, funding may become available through the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership for the Trail Creek Public Access Site, a state owned fishing area which is underutilized by anglers due to lack of fish habitat. The goal of the project is to restore the waterway and floodplain by improving instream habitat and riparian floodplain habitat. We will keep you updated about this exciting new project.

The fall salmon season started off with a bang during the last week of August. Extremely cool temperatures dominated the region which brought in a bunch of early returning king salmon. By mid September, the creeks were full of these feisty brutes willing to take whatever was thrown in their direction. Angler turnout was extremely heavy during the months of September and October with most public access sites filled to capacity. The Lake Michigan fishing hotline recorded 236 hits in just one week. This past fall salmon season will be remembered not only for sheer numbers, but overall size of the salmon was bigger than years past.

In mid October, the crew started fall lake trout spawning reef assessments outside Michigan City and the Port of Indiana (Burns Harbor). Fish collection effort consisted of 4,000 feet of gillnet (3,200 feet at Michigan City and 800 feet at the Port of Indiana). A total of 84 lake trout were captured during the survey. Other species collected included channel catfish, walleye, freshwater drum and various sucker species.

Another year of lakefront creel surveys has been completed. A big thanks goes out to Paul Sindell, Annie Dyczko (who is still performing surveys along the creeks), Brian Terry (naturalist aide) and Sally Rhoda. Without their dedication and sacrifice, this important program would not be realized.

I'm sure most of you heard that Asian carp have been detected using environmental DNA testing within a mile of the electric barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. With a planned shutdown of one of the barriers for routine maintenance and concerns that the other barrier may not be effective in repelling juvenile Asian carp, rotenone will be applied between the barrier and the Lockport Lock and Dam. Personnel with the Indiana DNR will be assisting the Illinois DNR and other agencies applying rotenone and subsequently, removal of fish from the canal. These electric barriers are the last line of defense to Lake Michigan.

Well, that's all for now. See you out on the water next year.



Ben Rhoda with a nice walleye caught during fall lake trout assessments just outside Michigan City.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management Biological Studies Section/Office of Water Quality

By: Stacey Sobat

The Fish Tissue Contaminants Monitoring Program provides the bulk of the data used to support Indiana's Fish Consumption Advisory issued by the Indiana State Department of Health. This program also supports aquatic life use status reporting of impaired waters for the 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report. For the 2009 field season we focused on the lower Wabash and Kankakee River basins. IDEM collected fish tissue samples from eleven sites on the lower main stem Wabash from Lafayette down to New Harmony, IN. This makes a total of 17 sites sampled on the entire Indiana portion of the Wabash River over the last two years. We also collected samples from the upper and lower Kankakee and the upper and lower Iroquois rivers. A number of sites were planned for the Sugar/Little Sugar Creek basins however budget uncertainties compelled us to suspend sample collection activities before all of these target sites could be completed. We also received a huge amount of assistance from the folks at IDNR in obtaining tissue samples from a number of Indiana lakes including Lake Michigan. Lakes included Brookville Reservoir; Old, Loon, and Goose in Whitley County; Crane, Big, and Crooked in Noble County; Appleman, Wall, and Cedar in Lagrange County; Loon and West Otter in Steuben County; and Worster in St Joseph County. IDNR staffs also collected 27 chinook salmon of different sizes from Lake Michigan for contaminants analysis. The Chinook and coho salmon monitoring efforts in Lake Michigan were discontinued by U.S. EPA GLNPO beginning in 2009. However, IDNR requested that we as a State continue monitoring efforts on these two species for now. No samples have been analyzed as of this newsletter. For now we are in a holding pattern until laboratory service funds become available to us. At that point all samples will be analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls, mercury, cadmium, lead and selenium. In addition a proportion will be analyzed for legacy organochlorine pesticides.

For the 2009 Probabilistic Sampling Program, a total of 76 sites were sampled from the Kankakee and Lower Wabash River basins including the Iroquois, Vermilion, Sugar, and Busseron watersheds. Macroinvertebrate and fish communities were collected to characterize the overall biological integrity of the river basins for aquatic life use. A total of 84 macroinvertebrate multi-habitat samples were collected from the two basins. A total of 85 fish community samples were collected from the two basins resulting in the capture of 18,124 individuals representing 104 different species. In 2010, we will be sampling tributaries to the Great Lakes and Ohio River.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has created a Watershed Initiative Project to focus resources on targeted watersheds on an annual basis. Several staff from all program areas in the Office of Water Quality have been selected to serve on the workgroup to coordinate decisions and return these efforts in a unified manner back to the management and section level staff. In 2009, the watershed initiative workgroup selected the White Lick Creek watershed, which includes all tributaries to White Lick Creek above the confluence with White River in West Central Indiana. Sampling efforts are coordinated with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff as well as Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) staff of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Sampling is scheduled to begin in 2010 at targeted bridge locations for macroinvertebrate and fish assemblages, habitat, water chemistry, flow, and nutrients. In addition, 19 sites were sampled for E. coli in September and October of 2009.

In October and November, staff gave several electrofishing demonstrations to students enrolled at Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Purdue University, and Indiana University School of Public Environmental Affairs (IUSPEA). Staff discusses and demonstrates to students the use of electricity as an effective sampling tool for fish collections to support a variety of project objectives including fish community assessments for determining status of aquatic life use support (ALUS) and fish tissue contaminant studies. After collecting representative fish from the stream, taxonomic features of each species is discussed along with their functionalities in the aquatic environment. We also discuss how the species presence or absence determines the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) score and final assessment of aquatic life use support.

The demonstration for IUPUI took place Friday October 2 on Williams Creek at 73rd street near Broad Ripple, Indiana. The class captured 19 species of fish, more than 50% individuals insectivores, and estimated the IBI score = 50/60 or good.



IDEM Demonstration for IUPUI, October 2, 2009

The demonstration for Purdue University took place Thursday October 15 on South Fork Wildcat Creek at SR 38 near Dayton, Indiana. The class captured 23 species of fish, 14 sensitive species, and estimated the IBI =50/60 or good.



IDEM Demonstration for Purdue University, October 15, 2009

November 20th marked the 21st out of the last 22 years that staff have participated in the Indiana University SPEA Limnology class electrofishing exercise on White Lick Creek near Brooklyn, Indiana. The class captured 26 species of fish with less than 25% tolerant individuals and estimated the IBI = 50/60 or good.

Starting in December 2009, IDEM will once again be looking for Governor's Summer Interns to help out in the office, laboratory, and with fieldwork for the summer of 2010 (tributaries to the Great Lakes and Ohio River). These summer intern positions will appear on the website <http://www.in.gov/spd/2335.htm> . Follow the instructions on the website to apply! Happy Holidays Everyone ☺ Submitted by Stacey Sobat

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Driftwood State Fish Hatchery

By: Jim Luttrell

Gosh it's quiet! Ponds are harvested and fish are all stocked. Larry is retired, Clint is off on his new career path and District 8 is no more. Gosh it's quiet; I think I may be suffering from empty nest syndrome.

All in all, we have had a pretty good production season. Sauger production was respectable. Bass short and fingerling production was decent. Channel catfish grow-out was a bit disappointing. Forage production was good. The crown jewel however, was intensive walleye production. We habituated and shipped approximately 2,900 five inch advanced fingerlings to East Fork in late August when water quality and temperature became critical. They took over from there and stocked approximately 1,800 fingerlings averaging 6.7 inches in mid-October.

A couple of hatchery improvements were made over the summer. A 20 K stand-by generator was transferred from Fawn River, converted to 3-Phase, and installed to power the water supply strainer during power outages. And, five hundred tons of crushed limestone was purchased and applied hatchery roads, drives, and parking areas.

Now is the time for equipment maintenance and performance evaluations, production reports, and other forays into battle with the dreaded paper monster. Gosh it's quiet!

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Southern Fisheries Research

By: Bob Ball

We are busy writing reports and doing strategic plan reviews at this time. Sandy Clark-Kolaks completed the draft of the walleye tracking project on Monroe. The results from tracking 37 walleye for 18 months, including several 24-h tracking events and some daily tracking for periods of 5 days, revealed habitat preferences in the lake, and some serious hunting forays of individual fish. The need walleye have for cover was emphasized in some individuals staying in trees or snags through the day. Spawning site fidelity was documented in some individuals between the two years. Daytime site fidelity was also frequently observed in summer and fall. The movements during the spawning periods easily exceeded those at other times of the year. Individual walleye used the entire lake during all periods of the year. Possibly the moderate summer temperatures of 2008 and 2009 played a part in midsummer habitat choice, but many walleye stayed close to shore in shallow water where there was cover during the daytime through the summers. The project has received state and national attention with articles appearing in Indiana Game and Fish and Walleye Insider magazines. A portion of the tracking results is available at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3280.htm>.

Bob Ball is completing the draft of the Wabash River recreational and commercial fisher survey from 2005-06. This survey covers from the mouth of the Wabash R. to Logansport, a distance of 360 river miles. The survey utilized roving clerks to assess pressure over most of the distance. However, for the upper 11 miles in Cass County, a bus route method was used, since this reach was basically non-boatable. At least, moving up the river using our standard boats and outboard motors is not normally possible. The bus route portion of the survey involved a schedule for driving and stopping at timed intervals along the route, each stop being located where public access was available.

A 64-mile section of the Wabash (Terre Haute to Covington) was surveyed in both years to get a look at variability between years. This revealed a 53% decline in angler hours from 2005 to 2006, but a 145% increase in recreational boater hours over the same time frame. Angler hours in 2006 were affected in part by an increase in the price in fishing licenses from 2005 (the first increase in several years), the switch to online purchasing of licenses by vendors and the public, and floods in May 2006. Other factors, like the economy may have also played a part. The drought in 2005, which made portions of this reach of the Wabash unboatable in midsummer that year, helps to explain the higher recreational boater hours in 2006.

Catch of the day



Who: Romey Bell, age 8, daughter of Robert Bell

What: 8 lb and 4 lb Steelhead trout

Where: St. Joesph River

When: Spring 2009





Who: Danielle Kittaka, age 7+, daughter of Dave Kittaka

What: first catch of the year

Where: Farm pond

When: June 2009

Who: Jimmy Doll, age 3, nephew of Jason Doll

What: first fish ever caught

Where: Summit Lake

When: August 2009





Who: Marissa Brindza (daughter of Randy Brindza)

What: Chinook Salmon

Where: Salt Creek, Porter County, Indiana

When: October 2009