

Summer 2024

Issue 69

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# Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society Newsletter



## President's Message: Brian Blackwell

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had the opportunity to get out and enjoy some fishing this summer. Based on the reports, fishing has been good across the Dakotas.

Before long, fall will be here, along with the many hunting seasons, fall fishing, and college football (Go Jacks!). The many outdoor recreational opportunities and the great people across the Dakotas are the reason I live where I do.

The 2024 annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Several Dakota Chapter members highlighted their aquatic research occurring across the Dakotas in verbal and poster presentations. Thanks to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference organizers from the Dakota Chapter (John Lott, Dave Lucchesi, BJ Schall, Liz Renner, Steve Chipps, Alison Coulter, David Coulter, and Chris Cheek) for helping organize a great conference. I heard many positive comments (with the exception of the early morning fire alarm for individuals staying at the adjoining hotel).



Chapter President - Brian Blackwell

Because South Dakota was the host state of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, the Chapter was asked to contribute funds to the Fenske (\$250) and Percid (\$300) awards. Natalie Coash received the Fenske Award, and Riley Mounsdon was awarded the Percid Award. Natalie was a graduate student at Auburn University, and Riley was a graduate student at SDSU.

Thank you to all who attended (in person or virtually) the 2024 Dakota Chapter business meeting. We were fortunate to have Sarah Thomas (President of the North Central Division) provide an update on happenings within the NCD. At the business meeting, we recognized Russell Kinzler (ND) with the Robert L. Hanten Award, and Brad Dokken (Grand Forks Herald) received the Aquatic Conservation Award. The Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award was given to Matt Maldonado (UND). Northern Pike Scholarships were given to Austin Ebach (VCSU), Brooke Gaudry (VCSU), and Ashley McKittrick (VCSU). The 2024 Schmulbach Scholarship went to William Johnson (UND), and the Sauger Scholarship was awarded to Jeston Hassler (SDSU). We elected Allison Coulter (SDSU) as president-elect, Justen Barstad (ND) as vice-president, and Bryan Sea (ND) as the next Secretary-Treasurer. Congratulations to all of our 2024 award winners and new EXCOM members!

I'm grateful to the EXCOM Team (Dylan Gravenhof, Todd Kaufman, Dave Fryda, and Paul Bailey) for their assistance in Chapter matters during the last year. Dave Fryda will assume the president's duties in September. The 2025 meeting will be in Bismarck, North Dakota, barring a blizzard or another pandemic. This will be the first time we have been able to meet in North Dakota since the 2019 meeting in Fargo.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in the Chapter, there are currently openings for Chapter representatives for the Centrarchid and Esocid Technical Committees. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a representative.

Dakota Chapter members, thank you for the opportunity to serve as president - it has been an honor!

Brian



# North Dakota Game and Fish Department

## Greg Power, Division Chief

Dakota fisheries biologists well know that successful lake-specific management must embrace the norm of peaks and valleys, driven by past and current weather patterns. Without a doubt, North and South Dakota respective fisheries are highly dynamic and always changing. While some states may consider a change in water levels of 3, 4 or 5 inches to be dramatic, for Dakota biologists it takes changes of at least a few feet to raise an eyebrow.

The contrast in weather and its impacts to our fisheries were most obvious these past two winters – from a very severe winter in 22-23 resulting in more than 60 waters with substantial winterkills ... to this past extremely mild winter (23-24) and no documented winterkills. Similarly, just in the past few months, we've again witnessed the extremes. Heavy May-June rains in portions of central and eastern North Dakota brought water levels up to record or near record highs for many waters. But more recently, very hot and dry weather, especially in western North Dakota will undoubtedly lower reservoir levels substantially this summer.

We again had a good/great spring when it came to addressing our critical work activities. Tons of pounds, and tens of thousands of fish were trapped and transported throughout the state, surplus high-quality pike and walleye eggs were collected, 500-1000+ adult walleye were tagged in four different district lakes, more than 600 adult paddlefish were tagged in the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, ~22,000 lbs of catchable, brown, tiger and cutthroat rainbow trout were stocked into more than 50 state waters, docks and piers were delivered and installed in numerous waters, work on new ramps began, fish cleaning stations were refurbished, ANS inspections at bait vendors were conducted, early ANS monitoring of lakes commenced, and watercraft inspections were initiated – all in a five week period this spring!

Hatchery output from the two federal hatcheries was once again outstanding. Walleye production at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery set a record with just short of 12 million fingerlings produced.

Note – the following is subject to change! On the aquatic nuisance species front, all has been relatively quiet – which is exactly the way we all want it (no new infestations ... yet?). As of mid-summer, we're on pace to have conducted both a record number of watercraft inspections as well as statewide waters surveyed for ANS.

Regarding a list of ongoing challenges, I would like to share two - fishing tournaments and R3. The mindset of many within the tournament fraternity has evolved over the past 30-40 years with intense competition and commercialization becoming more commonplace. The governance of tournaments needs to continue to ensure the health of the respective fisheries while adapting to the generational shift in the thought processes of this constituency group. Without a doubt, an ongoing challenge.

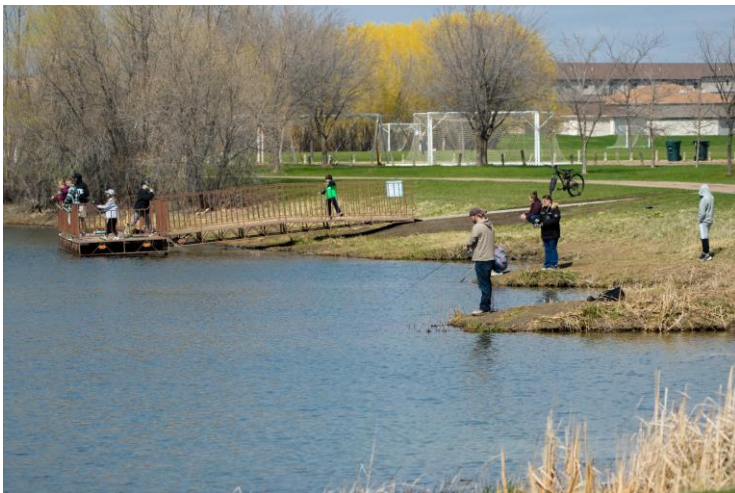
## Greg Power, continued

Developing and maintaining fishing/boating infrastructure remains a priority. The addition of two FTE positions to our development program last year has helped significantly in dealing with a backlog of statewide maintenance and new construction activities.

And as all know, there is no single ‘fix’ (silver bullet) to improve or even maintain the recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) of anglers. A deep dive and understanding into human dimensions will be needed if we (North Dakota) want to retain our base of 140,000 resident anglers (16 years of age and older). Again, a significant challenge.

Primarily due to five FTE retirements and two new positions in the past few years, it’s been a long time since our Fisheries team has been at full strength. Fortunately, with our last new hire this past spring, I’m happy to report were finally at 100%. Whether a ND Game and Fish Dept employee or a Dakota Chapter (AFS) member, maintaining a respected and professional profile is imperative. Once again, I’m thankful our small Fisheries Division team exemplifies professionalism and continues its tradition of excellence in making fishing better for all.

As noted in the past, find some time and get out and wet a line! Better yet, do your part to grow R3 efforts – take someone ‘new’ and introduce them to the fishing world!!!



# **South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Update**

## **John Lott, Section Chief**

I would like to thank those individuals who are leaving or have left SDGFP for their service and welcome the new members of our staff to the agency.

- Jerry Broughton retired in early June with over 40 years of service to the people of South Dakota. Aaron Andrews has been hired to fill the vacancy created by Jerry's retirement. Aaron has been working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at its Meade Hatchery since 2014 and attended SDSU for his undergraduate education in Wildlife and Fisheries.
- Alex Rosberg, a fisheries biologist at Cleghorn State Fish Hatchery, resigned his position to become an instructor at Western Dakota Technical College. Jackson Bertus, who had been a resource biologist at Cleghorn, was hired to fill the fisheries biologist position created with Alex's departure. Jackson will be responsible for coldwater production at Cleghorn, and his promotion has created a vacancy for a resource biologist at the hatchery.
- Kyle Danda was hired to fill a vacant resource biologist position in Ft. Pierre and came onboard just in time to spawn walleyes last spring.
- Liz Renner resigned her position as a fisheries biologist in the Ft. Pierre office to accept a position with the USFWS on the Missouri River, stationed in Yankton. Brandt Boekhout has been hired to fill the position vacated by Liz. Brandt has had several internships with SDGFP and is currently finishing-up his Master of Science Project with Dr. Mike Weber at Iowa State.
- Congratulations to Dylan Gravenhof, who completed his Master of Science degree on post-stocking mortality and dispersion of Chinook salmon in Lake Oahe, working Dr. Melissa Wuellner at University of Nebraska-Kearny. Dylan is a fisheries biologist in the Ft. Pierre office.

## **Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery**

Walleye fingerling stocking recently wrapped up with Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery setting new record with just short of 12 million fingerlings produced. Over a two-week period, Game and Fish Department distribution trucks traveled more than 12,000 miles to complete the needed stocking, according to Jerry Weigel, Department fish production/development section supervisor. This follows up a very successful north pike production out of GDNFH that far exceeded the request.

When combined with production from Valley City National Fish Hatchery a total of 177 waters were stocked providing a great boost in developing future fishing prospects.

While producing nearly 12 million walleye fingerlings is significant for the one hatchery, Garrison Dam and Valley City National Fish Hatchery combined efforts in 2017 to produce more than 12 million fingerlings. It takes better than a 70 percent return to reach this incredible production. This year it was 73 percent. The overall average size was 1619 which was highly influenced by the remaining unlined ponds which alone averaged just under 2000. Total weight was 7,832 pounds.....that is a lot of dip nets to reach up to the transport truck.

“Traditionally, on large production years, significant numbers of walleye fingerlings would go to big systems like Lake Sakakawea, Lake Ashtabula and Stump Lake,” Weigel said. “This year, no walleyes went to those waters, given very strong survival from last year’s stockings. Just over 10 million fish went to up-and-coming smaller systems to enhance those fisheries along with taking advantage of rising lake levels at many prairie lakes due to the very wet spring.”

The two-week stocking period had temps somewhat cooler than normal and lots of rain. The receiving waters were alive with midges – shrimp and all the good stuff prairie lakes offer to enhance the survival of these fish.

Even though there was near zero runoff this spring from the dry winter, the rains started actually increasing the water levels in many waters. It was a common theme for drivers needing to jump onto the boat ramp docks as they had needed adjustment from the rising waters. In the center part of the state, waters are setting records for modern day highs. All amazing conditions for fish and future fishing in the state.

This unprecedented production is possible as a result of a very strong, decades long partnership between the ND Game and Fish and the USFWS where the agencies have worked side by side towards common goals that are to the benefit of both agencies.

Aaron Von Eschen, Project Leader  
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery Complex  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
701-654-7451

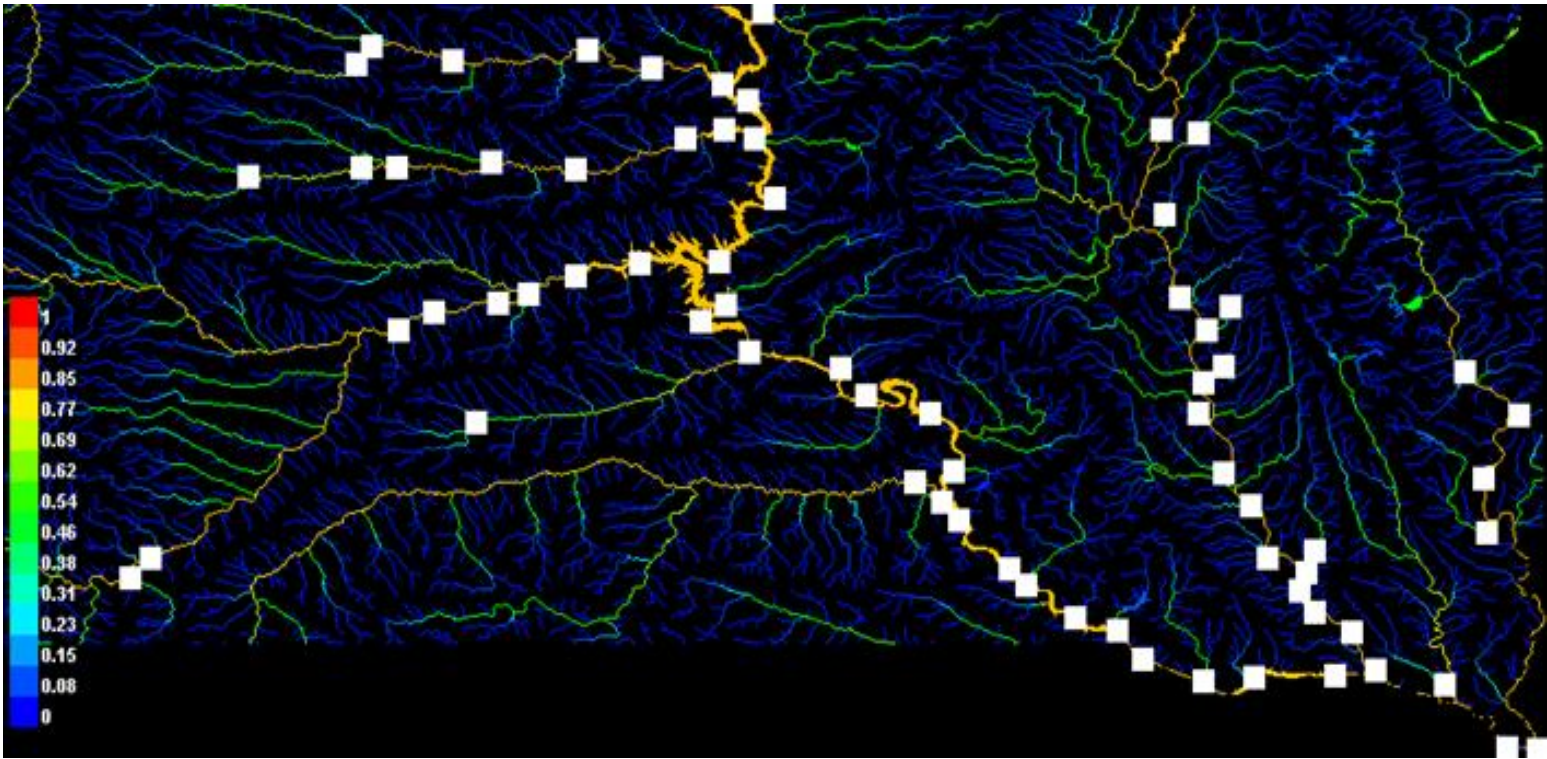
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## From The Field

Habitat Suitability Assessment of Native Freshwater Mussels Across South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming Using Fish Host Distributions (240)

Kelsey Crowley, Chelsey Pasbrig, Chris Cheek, Alison Coulter

Many native freshwater mussels in the Great Plains have experienced significant declines in population and density due to land use change, pollution, anthropogenic effects, and invasive species. Freshwater mussels rely crucially on certain fish hosts to carry and grow their young into juveniles. While anthropogenic factors affect mussels, they are also likely to impact the distribution and density of host fish. The freshwater mussels to be modeled in this study are from the Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. Due to mussels' elusive and cryptic habitat usage, they are difficult to survey and find. Due to this, conventional survey methods to detect mussel presence statewide is not the most ideal method for addressing the needs of state agencies as it is labor intensive, expensive and inadequate given the elusive and cryptic nature of freshwater mussels. This is why models such as habitat suitability can be highly beneficial to identify and prioritize areas for surveys, reintroduction or broodstock management and propagation. This study aims to create habitat suitability models using observations of fish hosts for each mussel species and impactful environmental variables to identify potential habitat for native mussels or sites appropriate for future reintroduction efforts. Statewide fish occurrence data has been acquired through South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and is being used to create Maxent models within the SDMToolBox geoprocessing tool. Nebraska and Wyoming will be modeled when the South Dakota model is complete and when fish host data becomes available. Other species distributions models such as spatial stream network models may be implemented to provide additional resolution. The expected outcomes of these models will identify suitable habitat for mussel surveys that could also be sites for future reintroductions or the collection of broodstock. Additionally, the models will identify each mussel species' environmental requirements for suitable habitat. This project is funded by a Competitive State Wildlife Grant.



Example habitat suitability map for emerald shiner which are host fish for the Three-ridge mussel which is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Squares indicate presence locations of fish used to train the model. Color indicates suitability of habitat (1 = highest, 0 = lowest).





## From the Field

Can Channel Catfish Serve as a Biocontrol for Overabundant Black Bullhead?

Tyler Bennett, Alison Coulter, Paul Bailey, and Mark Kaemingk

In the Midwest, fisheries dominated by Black Bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*) are often not favored by anglers. To address this, a joint project between the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the University of North Dakota is exploring whether stocking Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) can reduce Black Bullhead populations through either consumption or competition. In April 2023, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department collected 4,180 Channel Catfish from Lake Oahe and stocked them into Sweet Briar Dam, a fishery dominated by Black Bullhead. Prior to the initial stocking of Channel Catfish in April of 2023 a population estimate was conducted on the Black Bullhead population, which revealed the population to be 252,000 adult bullhead. A follow-up population estimate in May of 2024 (one year later) revealed a population estimate of 111,000 adult bullhead, which was a 44% reduction from the previous year. Good news! While the Channel Catfish introduction appears to have impacted Black Bullhead abundance, we were surprised that Black Bullhead were not the dominate prey item for Channel Catfish during spring, summer, and fall sampling events, despite their availability and high energetic contribution to Channel Catfish growth. Instead, Channel Catfish consumed large amounts of algae. Using this diet information, we conducted a further investigation using bioenergetics modeling and our preliminary results suggest that Channel Catfish consumed approximately 104,500 individual Black Bullhead. We will continue to investigate potential consumption and competition interactions between these two ictalurids using stable isotopes, providing additional insight to how Channel Catfish may control Black Bullhead. We hope that this information will help guide decisions concerning the management of overabundant populations.



## From the Field

### Impact of climate driven water-level fluctuations on recreational fisheries in the Northern Glaciated Plains

Alison Coulter, Dave Coulter, Steve Chipps, Mark Kaemingk, Taufique Mahmood, Maddy Siller (MS student, SDSU), Michaela Neal (MS student, UND), Ayon Saha (MS student, UND) and Matthew Maldonado (PhD student, UND)

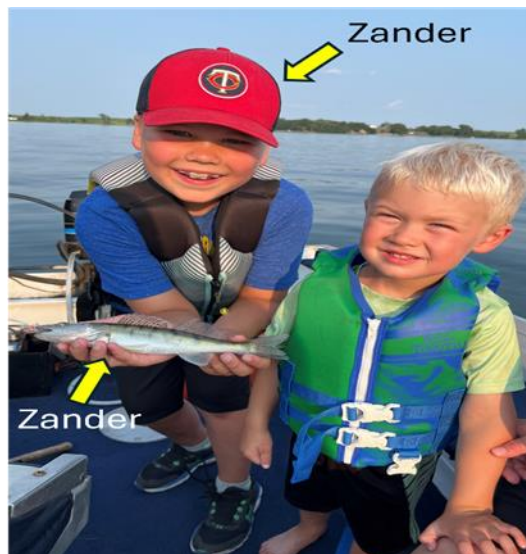
This project aims to assist South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and North Dakota Game and Fish by providing information to minimize uncertainty concerning forecasted climate change impacts on recreational fisheries. You can find more information about the project [here](#).

Thanks to everyone that has provided data for this project and met during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD this past winter. This project would not be possible without this information and input. We look forward to another meeting to discuss project updates and receive feedback at the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting in Bismarck this coming winter.

If you are attending the international American Fisheries Society annual meeting in September, please watch for two talks from students working on this project:

Matthew Maldonado Monday Sept 16 5:15 PM Quantifying Climate Effects on the Economic Value of Inland Recreational Fisheries

Maddy Siller Thursday Sept 19 1:30 PM Addressing the Data Need to Manage Future Change in Fisheries



Mark Kaemingk provided documentation of the first Zander caught Zander in North America!

## From the Field

Michael J. Lant, Cayla R. Bendel, Chad J. Parent, and Mark A. Kaemingk

User-pay-experience models, such as recreational fishing in North Dakota, are challenged by the uncertainty surrounding angler participation and license sales. A collaborative effort between the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) and the University of North Dakota aims to 1) investigate license purchasing dynamics among resident North Dakota recreational anglers to reveal potential angler license typologies, 2) compare trip-related behavior among previously identified angler license typologies, and 3) investigate angler response to landscape variation in angling quality and quantity.

For our first objective, we used a long-term 11-year dataset collected by NDGF to identify angler license purchasing heterogeneity using a sequence analysis. We identified three heterogeneous angler sub-populations (hereafter typologies) that differed among their license purchasing characteristics (i.e., frequency, license type affinity). Typology I infrequently (~1-2 yrs) purchased a recreational fishing license, and primarily purchased the annual resident fishing license type. Typology II purchased a recreational fishing license approximately 50% of the time (~5-6 yrs) and did not exhibit any affinity towards a single fishing license type. Typology III frequently (~10-11 yrs) purchased a recreational fishing license, and primarily purchased the combination hunting and fishing license type. Sequence analysis provides a robust, quantitative, and objective method for quantifying, tracking, and identifying heterogeneous groups of recreationists which may impact an organizations funding resiliency and capacity for conservation.

For our second objective, we compared trip-related behavior among the angler license typologies (identified in Objective 1). We used angler surveys distributed by NDGF for the 2017-2018 fishing seasons (i.e., open water and ice fishing). Angler surveys collected trip-related behavioral information, such as on-site behavior (e.g., effort), preferences (e.g., species seeking), and expenditures (e.g., distance traveled); this information was linked back to the angler typologies using a unique customer ID number. We observed minimal trip-related behavioral differences among angler license typologies, despite great variation observed in their participation frequency and license types. Future research should explore this apparent disconnection between license purchasing patterns and trip-related behavior.

## From the Field

Angler license typologies (identified in Objective 1) were further used to investigate angler response (i.e., license sales) to changes in angling quality and quantity at the landscape (i.e. state) level. We used a myriad of landscape-level variables (e.g., number of active waterbodies, stocking biomass, precipitation) collected from NDGF as well as open sources (e.g., Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc., North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network) for 4 years (2016-2019) to explain spatial (ZIP code) and temporal (annual) patterns in license sales. We constructed general linear models and evaluated model support using Akaike Information Criterion. Landscape variables were limited in their ability to explain license sale patterns (among all typologies). However, we observed minimal spatial and temporal variation in angler license sales. We hypothesize that angler license sales may be hyperstable, despite large spatial and temporal variation in angling quality and opportunity.



## From the Field

### Evaluating consequences of an introductory fish stocking to an existing fish population

*William Johnson, Tyler Bennett, Paul Bailey, Alison Coulter, and Mark Kaemingk*

Novel introductions of predatory fish species are often used to control overabundant and undesirable species or to enhance a waterbody for recreational angling. Much uncertainty remains regarding how these introductions affect existing predatory fish populations and behaviors in addition to the ecology of the system. North Dakota Game and Fish Department, in collaboration with the University of North Dakota, introduced Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) to Sweetbriar Dam in the spring of 2023 to control an overabundant Black Bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*) population. In addition to controlling Black Bullhead, it is unclear whether these introduced Channel Catfish may also influence Walleye (*Sander vitreus*) populations. Walleye were collected in the spring of 2023 before the Channel Catfish introduction and again one year after the Channel Catfish stocking in the spring of 2024. Diets and tissue samples for stable isotope analysis were collected from 58 Walleye in the spring of 2023 and 32 Walleye in the spring of 2024. We will assess whether there was a shift in Walleye diet, habitat use ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ), or trophic position ( $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ) that coincided with the Channel Catfish stocking. We expect that competition for resources between these two predators may cause a niche shift in the existing Walleye population. However, the Channel Catfish generalist foraging behavior may result in minimal impact on the Walleye population. Information gathered from this study will help fisheries biologists gain a better understanding of potential indirect effects of a novel introductory stocking on an existing predatory species. The results will also help with future decisions for introducing predatory fish to control overabundant fish populations or to enhance a fishery for anglers.

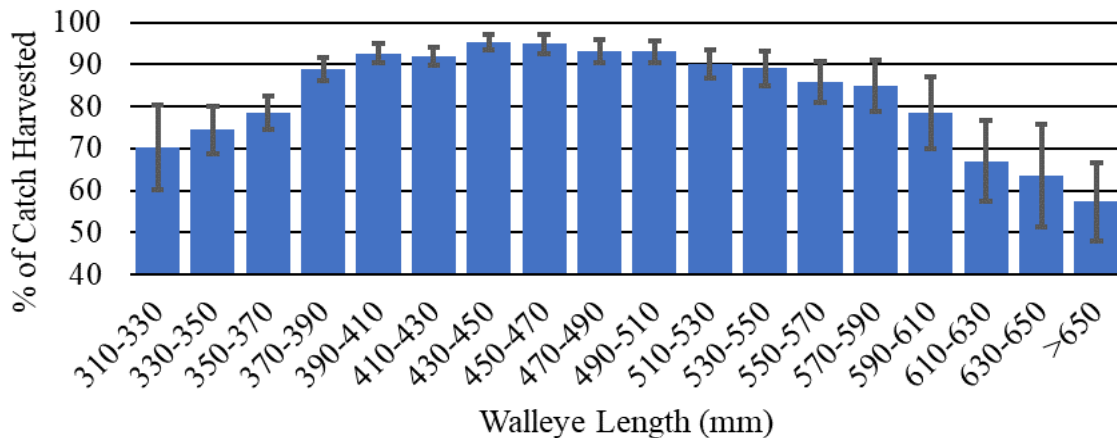


# From the Field

## Harvest Release Decisions by North Dakota Walleye Anglers - Paul Bailey

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has conducted numerous walleye tagging projects in the south-central portion of the state in recent years. Anglers have reported catching 6,386 of these tagged walleye which allowed us to assess how anglers treat (harvest v. release) the different sizes of walleye that they encounter. All of these fisheries are/were managed with North Dakota’s statewide walleye harvest regulations (5 walleye daily limit, 10 walleye possession limit, no length restrictions)

**Percent of Catch Harvested Among Length Categories of Walleye from Recent NDGF Tagging Studies (n = 6,386 tagged walleye reported by anglers; error bars represent 95% confidence intervals)**



Despite the lack of length restrictions imposed by NDGF, walleye anglers generally self-imposed their own length restrictions. Harvest likelihood increased with increasing length up to approximately 15” (370-390 mm). Harvest likelihood then plateaued from 15-22”, conforming to what many walleye anglers term “eaters” before declining with increasing length beyond 22” (530-550 mm).

When I began my angling career in the 1980s, walleye angler harvest/release decisions were much different. Walleye harvest likelihood generally increased with increasing fish length, much as it still does in our perch and crappie fisheries today. So, what has led walleye anglers to change their harvest/release decisions over the last four decades and self-impose their own length restrictions? Persistent messaging from popular fishing magazines and shows? Social pressure? Fish health advisories? Something else?

## SDSU Student Subunit Updates

Written by: Sarah Hayden

The South Dakota State University American Fisheries Society Student Subunit had an incredible presence in campus activity over the past year. In January, 4 undergraduate members had the opportunity to present research at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (left). At the conference, the subunit raised over \$4,000 through a raffle and silent auction, and are planning to use this money to fund an educational field activity workshop in Missouri next fall!



The subunit has also organized some other very fun activities in the past year! Field experience opportunities were always a hit, and club members had the opportunity to get experience working seines, backpack electrofishing, smallbodied fish identification, and working fyke nets. The club also has many outdoor recreational activities, including cookouts, fishing days, and field trips! The last field trip of the year was to Gavin's Point Fish Hatchery, where we toured the behind-the-scenes of the hatchery and aquarium. (right)



During the winter months, when it is too cold for a field activity, the club spends time learning from guest speakers about a variety of topics like research to boat repair. We also do indoor-labs, such as fish tagging (left), otolith removal and aging, and invertebrate ID.



## 2024 Dakota Chapter Award Winners



Russ Kinzler. Robert L. Hanten  
Professional Service Award.



Matt Maldonado. Robert A. Klumb  
Memorial Scholarship.



William Johnson. Dr. James C.  
Schmulbach Memorial Scholarship.



Brad Dokken. Aquatic Resource Conservation  
Award.



## 2024 Dakota Chapter Award Winners



Jeston Hassler. Sauger Scholarship.



Paul Bailey. Past President.



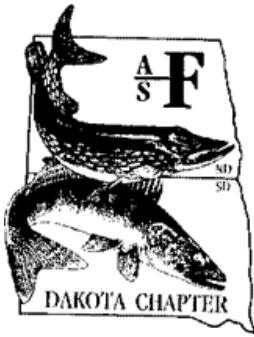
Northern Pike Scholarship. Ashley McKittrick, Austin Ebach and Brooke Gaudry.



**2024 Dakota Chapter Business Meeting Agenda**

**5 pm, January 29, 2024**

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**



**Call to Order**

**Speakers**

Gary Whelan? (have not heard back)

Sara Thomas/Dan Isermann

**Additions to Agenda**

**Approval of the 2023 Business Meeting Minutes**

**Officer's Reports**

President Report

Vice President Report

President-Elect Report

Secretary/Treasurer Report

SDSU Student Subunit Report

VCSU Student Subunit Report

**Committee Reports**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

2025 Meeting

**Election of Officers**

President elect

Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer

**Awards**

**Adjournment**

**Dakota Chapter  
American Fisheries Society  
Est. 1987**

*Business Meeting Minutes*

1/29/2024

**Call to Order** – Brian Blackwell at 17:06; enough membership present to reach a quorum

**Opening Remarks from Sarah Thomas – current NCD president**

- Hoping to have division leadership attend more chapter meetings
- This year's Midwest they awarded 15 student and 4 ECP travel awards
- Provided report on attendance at National AFS in Grand Rapids (1433 attendees)
- 2024 annual meeting to be held in Honolulu, HI; Symposium dealing coming up in Feb.
- NCD booth at Midwest has examples of shirts for on demand printing for chapters
- Looking to form a new non-game native fish technical committee
- Overall membership for parent society is still declining

**No new Additions to the Agenda**

**Approval of the 2023 Business Meeting Minutes**

- Motion was made (P. Bailey) to approve the 2023 business meeting minutes, motion seconded (T. Kaufman), and a vote in favor of the motion was accepted

**Officer's Reports**

President Report – Brian Blackwell

- Updated membership on the changes to requirements to reach a quorum
- Also updated on changes to allow 'transition' folks to be eligible for student registration rates
- Chapter was involved in selecting Fenske award recipient; chapter also matched award
- Chapter also matched the NCD Percid Award

Vice President Report – Todd Kaufman

- Nothing to report

President-Elect Report – Dave Fryda

- Thanked Brian B. for assistance with the fall newsletter
- 2025 meeting to be held in Bismarck or Mandan, ND
- Exploring options for venues (higher vs. lower cost)

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Dylan Gravenhof

- Edward Jones - \$5923.15
- Klumb - \$6861.50
- Schmulbach - \$12573.96
- Will Saylor Memorial Fund - \$1,600.00
- Checking - \$3560.80

SDSU Student Subunit Report – Jeston Hassler

- Took a trip to visit Gavins Fish Hatchery
- Hosted a couple guest speakers and did some in-field training
- Collected donations for a raffle at Midwest

VCSU Student Subunit Report – Brooke Gaudry

- Fundraised for apparel for the students
- Doing a raffle at Midwest to raise funds
- Did some boat electrofishing training with NDGF
- Took a fishing/camping trip with a cookout
- Did some otolith removal training
- Planning to take a spearing trip to Devils Lake
- Planning to start a collaborative WAE biotelemetry study with BJ Kratz

**Committee Reports**

- Committee reports were included in the fall newsletter; not discussed here

**Old Business**

- No old business

**New Business**

- Liz Renner is seeking someone to replace her as the new Centrachid committee rep.

**Election of Officers**

- President-elect: Alison Coulter (SDSU)
- Vice-president: Justin Barstad
- Secretary/Treasurer: Bryan Sea
- A motion was made (P. Bailey) for unanimous ballot, motion seconded by B. Schall, and a vote in favor of the motion was accepted



**Chapter Awards Presentations – Paul Bailey**

- NOP scholarships – Provided lodging to Midwest for Austin Ebach, Ashley McKittrick, and Brooke Gaudry
- SAR Scholarship – Paid student registration for Jeston Hassler
- Schmulbach Award – Presented to William Johnson from UND
- Klumb Award – Presented to Matt Maldonado
- Aquatic Resource Conservation Award – Presented to Brad Dokken
- Robert Hanten Distinguished Profession Award – Presented to Russ Kinzler
- Past- President Award – Presented to Paul Bailey

**Adjournment** at 17:42

## 2025 Annual Meeting

### Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

- February 25-27, 2025
- Bismarck ND
- Quality Inn
- Further details and registration will be available this fall.



## 2024-2025 Chapter Officers

### President

Dave Fryda  
North Dakota Game and Fish Department.  
406 Dakota Ave.  
Riverdale, ND 58565  
701.220.4139  
[dfryda@nd.gov](mailto:dfryda@nd.gov)

### Vice President

Justin Barstad  
North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
3001 East Main Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701.527.4741  
[jkbarsad@nd.gov](mailto:jkbarsad@nd.gov)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bryan Sea  
North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
7928 45<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
701.739.7144  
[bsea@nd.gov](mailto:bsea@nd.gov)

### Past President

Brian Blackwell  
South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks 603 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Webster, SD 57274  
605.626.3343  
[brian.blackwell@state.sd.us](mailto:brian.blackwell@state.sd.us)

### President Elect – Newsletter

Allison Coulter  
McFadden Biostress Lab. 141B  
NRM-Box 2140B  
Brookings, SD 57007

[Allison.coulter@sdstate.edu](mailto:Allison.coulter@sdstate.edu)



## Standing Committees

### *Planning*

Brian Blackwell (Chair, SD)  
Paul Bailey (ND)  
BJ Schall (SD)  
Dave Fryda (ND)

### *Continuing Education*

Dan James (co-chair, SD)  
Greg Power (co-chair, ND)  
John Lott (SD)  
Dave Lucchesi (SD)

### *Environmental Concerns*

Jake Davis (co-chair, SD)  
Michael Johnson (co-chair, ND)

### *Student Affairs*

Brooke Gaudry (VCSU)  
Jeston Hassler (SDSU)

### *Information and Web Support*

Elizabeth Renner (SD)

### *Membership*

Matt Ward (chair, SD)  
Casey Williams (ND)  
Jake Davis (SD)

### *Awards and Nominations*

Paul Bailey (chair, ND)  
BJ Schall (SD)  
Scott Gangl (ND)  
Jeremy Kientz (SD)

### *Resolutions*

Chelsey Pasbrig (SD)  
Gene Galinat (SD)

## Technical Committee Representatives

### *NCD Walleye Tech Committee*

Dylan Gravenhof (SD)  
Todd Caspers (ND)

### *NCD Centrarchid Tech Committee*

(SD)

### **NCD Community and Urban Fishery Technical Committee**

Jef Merchant (ND)

### **NCD Salmonid Technical Committee**

Bob Hanten (SD)  
Zach Kjos (ND)

### *NCD Escocid Tech Committee*

Paul Bailey (ND)

### *NCD Ictalurid Tech Committee*

Christopher Cheek (SD)

### *NCD Rivers and Streams Tech Committee*

Joshua Wert (ND)