

**Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association
Paddlefish and Sturgeon Committee Meeting Tentative Agenda
Miami, Oklahoma, March 4-5, 2015**

Wednesday, March 4th, 2015

8:30 am – Welcome/Introductions/Opening Remarks

Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks to Jason and Oklahoma for setting up meeting arrangements.

1. Roll call and determination of a quorum (15 delegates)
No quorum. (SD, NE, MO, KY, IA, AR, TN, OK, AL, MS).
2. Report of Chair on activities
Attended exec board meeting.

8:45 am – Old business

- a) Review/approval of minutes of Jan. 2014 Kansas City meeting
No issues with the minutes. **ACTION ITEM – Meeting minutes will be emailed out for approval.**
- b) Review/approval of the agenda and minutes of Fall 2014 Ponca meeting
- c) Sub-basin Tag Coordinators reports
 - Ohio River Basin - Kati Zipfel – Nobody in attendance.
 - Lower Mississippi River – Jason Schooley – Still has a lot of data to enter. Nothing has been entered since Ponca. Still need data from Arkansas (Jeff).
 - Upper Mississippi River – Royce Bowman – Haven't done any sampling since Ponca. Waiting on some data from Ann Runstrum (USFWS).
 - Missouri River - Dane Pauley – All SD netting data entered and $\frac{3}{4}$ was through coded wire tags from snagging seasons.
- d) Tagging protocols – Gerald Mestl
A few years ago we dropped coded wire tagging wild fish and recommended jaw tags. Coded wire tags used for all hatchery fish. Gerald presented an overview of the document. Gerald asked group if we need a genetic tags section. None of current hatchery operations conduct genetic work so this section will not be written. Fish anesthesia – Jeff said AFS has protocol, may be good to review those. Doesn't think it is required. Dennis – we haven't found that tagging causes issues with paddlefish (has citation he will share with Gerald). Temperature may be more of an issue than tagging. High and low temps. Pallid sturgeon have temperature guidelines. Look at adding guidelines to report for that. Metal used for tags varies by region. Different material holds up better depending on water chemistry (monel, stainless steel, plastic). Information that appears on each states jaw tags will be included in a table. States should send info to Gerald/Dane. PIT tags: nobody is using them at this time. Frequencies can be different and have changed over time. Pallid sturgeon group is considering a change of frequencies. **ACTION ITEM – Gerald will email out protocols after meeting for review and requesting tag script.**

9:50 am – CITES Update – Marie Maltese USFWS

10:00 am—Break

10:20 am—New Business

- a) Commercial harvest states coordination meeting update—Ganus

Met in November regarding data collection needs and data sheets. What Dennis needed and general collection information. On the cusp of starting paddlefish season during last meeting so they went with what they had. Eric asked group if they had any suggestions or issues with collections this year or suggested changes to data sheets. If checking fishers at ramps, some of the data cannot be collected. **ACTION ITEM - Eric is going to send out a draft outline for review and see where others are at on # collected.** Most people seem to be making good progress and should be on track for completion. Upper Ohio may be tough since not as many people are fishing up there.

b) Commercial states season/sampling update (**ACTION ITEM – asked people to email Jason or Kirk Updates for minutes.**)

--Kentucky—Neal Jackson

State partnership with roe processors. State would supervise the processors, buy the eggs from them, and then export them. Portion of profits would go to fund paddlefish management. Progress has stalled at this time and it is unlikely anything will move forward.

--Arkansas—Jeff Quinn

--Alabama—Steve Rider

--Mississippi—Darrin Hardesty

--Illinois—Rob Maher – no rep

--Missouri—Joe McMullen

--Indiana—Brian Schoenung – no rep

--Tennessee—Eric Ganus

--Oklahoma – Jason Schooley

c) Other state updates

--Nebraska – Gerald Mestl

--Iowa – Kirk Hansen

--North Dakota – Fred Rykman

--South Dakota – Jason Sorensen

Noon – Lunch provided courtesy of Brent Gordon

1:00 pm – discussion continued

a) Salltonstall-Kennedy proposal update—Group/Scarnecchia

Submitted and in review. Sustainable management of commercial fishery. Money will go to MICRA and be dispersed. Some money to U of Idaho for aging, the rest to states (\$13,500 per year for two years).

b) SWG proposal update—Group/Scarnecchia

There are more requirements for this proposal. Has to go through AFWA, SEFWA, or one of the eight states. Greg cannot submit and MICRA cannot administer. Jeff will check to see if LMRCC can administer money. Bobby Wilson recommended waiting until next year to submit. Recent Lake Sturgeon proposal was rejected without review for math error in budget. Must be submitted by March 13. There are many money administration issues that need to be resolved. States with budget caps will not be able to bring this large of a budget in and some states are unsure if they could disperse money to other states. **ACTION ITEM - The commercial states will work over the next year to prepare the report, resolve administration issues, and contact regional FWS grant coordinators.**

Dennis – AFWA Money has come in so states can send jaw bones. They have time now and can get right on it.

c) State funding update – Group

d) Next steps—Group

If we don't get any grant money – Dennis suggest Pew Charitable Trust as one option and he is looking into a couple of others. Neal – Kentucky is still looking to the industry to assist in funding.

a. Develop plan to assist USFWS OSA: Greg added this to agenda

4:20 pm – Review Action Items / Meeting Wrap-up

4:30 pm – Adjourn

Thursday, March 5th, 2015

8:30 am – Review/wrap-up final thoughts about proposals

8:45 am – New business

a) Sustainability and trace-ability of caviar – Brandon Brown

They want a sustainability label on the end product so that consumer knows where their caviar comes from. The labels you see at Walmart or target have complex reviews and are very expensive (\$50,000 – \$250,000). People are willing to pay more for “sustainable” product. Monterey Bay seafood watch has paddlefish red listed. Brandon asked if MICRA could or would be willing to endorse Oklahoma and ND/Montana paddlefish caviar operations as “sustainable.” Marie – the CITES non-detriment finding is a sustainability measure. It however doesn't get a separate label. The separate snag fisheries could get a separate review since seafood watch review is for gill net fisheries. The efforts that commercial states have started will help to alleviate concerns in the sustainability of the fishery. Seafood Watch report on shovelnose and paddlefish caviar has several errors including about the committee.

b) Fred Rykman – Fred presented an overview of the upper Missouri fishery including juvenile transect sampling, hatchery and wild coded wire tagging/recaptures, and year class strength.

c) Jason Schooley – Oklahoma is hosting the Southern Division meeting in January 2017 in Oklahoma City. This would be an opportunity to hold a paddlefish symposium and hold the MICRA meeting at the Southern Division. Dennis has offered to co-edit a book to come from the symposium.

d) Jeff Quinn – North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society is having their North American meeting in Oshkosh, WI on Oct 19-22, 2015. The international symposium on sturgeon conference is in Vienna, Europe in September 2017. It may be a good idea to send somebody to present on paddlefish fisheries. It may help to educate EU on paddlefish work and alleviate import concerns. Maybe MICRA should send somebody to the meeting to present. Dennis – my experience is that these groups haven't had much interest with paddlefish. But they may benefit from paddlefish talks. Jeff – they have requested me to come and give paddlefish talks. They want more paddlefish talks. Jeff is going to request travel approval from his agency to attend Vienna meeting.

e) 2015-2016 winter meeting location – (discussed end of day on Wed) Nashville, Lexington, Cedar River (IA) **ACTION ITEM - Jason is going to send out a doodle poll.**

10:00 am – Break

10:20 am -- Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Snagging Season—Sorensen

11:00 am -- Fine-scale Genetic Structuring of American Paddlefish Populations in Oklahoma

--Schwemm MR, Long JM, Echelle AA, and Schooley JD

11:30 am – Oklahoma paddlefish management and research – Schooley

11:50 am – Review action items/Meeting wrap-up

12:00 pm – Adjourn

Lunch on your own

Field Trip—tour Paddlefish Research Center and view/participate in spring snag fishery

TITLE: Fine-scale Genetic Structuring of American Paddlefish Populations in Oklahoma

AUTHORS: Schwemm MR, Long JM, Echelle AA, and Schooley JD

ABSTRACT: Management of migratory species requires long-range planning that considers geographic connectivity among populations, and its effects on genetic variation. Paddlefish populations vary in population size, influence of stocking, and historical levels of connectivity. In efforts to design a genetic management plan to maintain diversity for Oklahoma paddlefish stocks, we surveyed six geographic localities for 13 microsatellite loci (Grand Lake, Hudson, Ft. Gibson, Oologah, Keystone and Red River). Preliminary results describing variation within and among populations will be presented. Additionally, these results will provide a basis to guide future stocking practices that maintain existing levels of genetic variation.