



TELEOGRAM



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

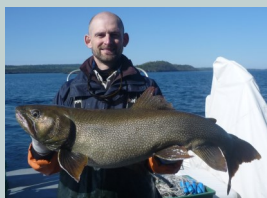
SPRING 2015

Max Wolter – Editor max.wolter@wisconsin.gov

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE– Mike Seider

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **President's message –**
Page 1
- **2014 Business Meeting minutes –** Page 3
- **2014 Budget Report -**
Page 5
- **Committee Reports –**
Page 6
- **2015 Meeting photos –**
Page 8
- **Student Subunit updates –** Page 9
- **Student Research Highlights -** Page 10
- **Back Page news -** Page 12



I hope this message finds you all doing well. Thanks again to everyone who attended the 44th Annual Meeting in Eau Claire in February. We had another great turn out this year, with over 220 students and professionals attending the meeting which featured 32 oral presentations and 19 contributed posters. I received a lot of positive feedback about the quality of the presentations this year. My work is pretty focused on Lake Superior, so it was great to see the wide variety of research and management projects going on all around Wisconsin. I would like to thank everyone who helped contribute to this year's meeting especially the Prime Minister, Justine Hasz. Justine is stepping down after many years of exceptional service to the Wisconsin Chapter and Ted Treska will reprise his role as Secretary/ Treasurer.

There were some really notable presentations at the annual meeting; however the most memorable moment, for me, was Zach Mohr's presentation on the Hutton Scholarship experience. It was refreshing to see someone so enthusiastic about fish sampling, learning new species of fish, forming professional relationships, and seeing a donkey. I just couldn't stop smiling during his presentation! Zach's passion for the daily work that we can sometimes take for granted was really inspiring. Furthermore, the generosity shown by Dean Johnson and the LTE fisheries crew from Eau Claire in taking Zach "under their wing" and sharing their knowledge and experience was just awesome! It brought back memories of my first fisheries experience as an undergraduate at Stevens Point. The UWSP student subunit was fortunate at that time to have the opportunity to sample Lake Neshonic with the local fisheries technician in La Crosse who donated her time each spring to work with us. After a weekend of working up hundreds of fish collected with fyke netting and electrofishing, I was absolutely certain fisheries biology was the right career path for me.

Continued on page 2

Pete Segerson given the Bill Threinen Outstanding Service Award

Kurt Welke presented recently retired WDNR Fisheries Operations leader out of Black River Falls. Pete worked for the department for 35 years and was a very active AFS member throughout, recently chairing the Scholarship Committee. Here are some quotes from the award dedications speech:

"It was when Pete worked in Antigo that he became 'the man' on the coldwater resources he set foot in. Trout trembled and anglers praised him."

"Pete always felt the importance of mentoring young and old Fisheries professionals. Over the years, he has taken great joy in watching youngsters grow and become important parts of not only Fisheries programs across the nation but leaders in the field. He is a true professional and one of the most respected resource managers in Wisconsin."

For the full write up on Pete Segerson getting the Threinen award visit: <http://www.wi-afs.org/Portals/0/PDF/Pete%20Segerson%20AFS%202015.pdf>



Note from the awards committee-

2015 award winners:

- **Professional Presentation– Max Wolter “Volunteer River Guides as a Source of Fisheries Data Collection**
- **Student Presentation– Zach Snobl “Using Side-scan Sonar to Assess Habitat use of Sub-adult Lake Sturgeon in the Wolf River, Wisconsin”**
- **Poster- Keith Turnquist “Use of Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction for Identification of Larval Walleye and Yellow Perch”**

Judges feedback is available for all 2015 presenters. If you did not get your feedback sheets at the meeting contact Ben Heussner (Benjamin.Heussner@wisconsin.gov). Ben is also looking for ways to improve the judging and awards process. Any past judges should contact Ben with feedback on the judging process.



**SPRING
2015**

IMPORTANT LINKS:

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES: <http://www.wi-afs.org/Membership.aspx>

NEW NCD WEBSITE: <http://ncd.fisheries.org/committees/>

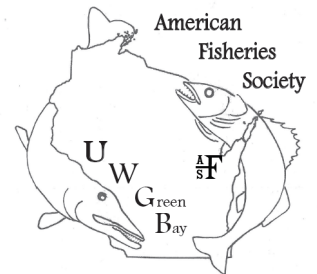
New Officer News-

Ted Treska (USFWS) ran unopposed and was elected to be the next Secretary/Treasurer of the WIAFS Chapter. Taking over for Justine Haas. Ted has served as the Secretary in the past.

Gregg Sass (WDNR) was elected as the next president of the WIAFS Chapter from a field that also included Gretchen Hansen.

Congratulations to the new officers on their positions.

The UW Green Bay Subunit recently unveiled a new logo (shown here) that was designed by president Amy Cottrell.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

The recent news of potential state budget cuts and the unsettling disregard for science-based decision making in Wisconsin lately can really make us lose sight of why we chose to work in resource management. Yet like Zach, we all started out as eager young professionals, so please don't lose that passion for the work you do! Focus on the portions of your job and career where you can make the most positive influence. I realize more and more is expected out of all of us, but continue to contribute your time toward Wisconsin Chapter's activities. Attend the annual meetings, maybe help with the planning of the next meeting or even serve as an officer in the future. The success of the Wisconsin Chapter over the years has been due to the devotion of its members and the willingness of so many people to donate a ton of their professional time. Please consider contributing your time to the Wisconsin Chapter.

Have a safe and productive spring field season!

Sincerely,

Mike Seider, President

WIAFS 2015 Winter Business Meeting

February 25, 2015, The Plaza Inn & Suites, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Call to Order - Tammie Paoli 4:20pm (attendance 170)

Recognition of Executive Committee, past presidents and special guests President Paoli recognized the past presidents in the audience and special guest Zach Mohr who was a 2014 Hutton Scholarship student working with the DNR in Eau Claire.

Review and Approval of Agenda – President Paoli went over the agenda and asked for any amendments, no amendments were requested. Motion to approve agenda as written made by John Kubisiak, second by John Lyons, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Approval of 2014 Business Meeting Minutes – President Paoli asked for comments on the minutes which were published in the newsletter, no comments were made. Motion to approve minutes as published in the newsletter made by Derek Ogle and second by John Kubisiak, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

President's Remarks – President Paoli commented on attendance at the current meeting and reviewed her year as president.

Treasurer –Yearly report – Justine Hasz summarized the 2014 finances. On 12/31/2014 WI AFS total worth was \$73,917. With a checking account balance of \$32,105, CD Scholarship \$11,049, CD Midwest \$9,540, Vanguard short term bond \$5,043 and Vanguard GNMA \$16,179. Total expense for 2014 were \$15,076 and total income was \$21,371, for a net of \$6295. It was noted that national scholarship sponsorship were not paid out in 2014 in error and would be addressed in the 2015 budget. It was also noted that both the Frie and Norden scholarships are not producing enough income to be paid out in full and were subsidized from the raffle revenue in the amount of \$1,058. Justine had reached out to National for alternate investment options from the Norden scholarship but never got a response. Tammie Paoli commented that other chapters had had similar issues and national is working to do better with this so our chapter will try again in 2015 to look at alternate investment opportunities. Justine also announced that she would be stepping down as the Secretary Treasure this year due to work conflicts. Motion to approve the treasurer report as presented was made by Steve Hogler and Seconded by Larry Damman, the motion passed with no dissenting votes. ***Full budget report can be found on page 5**

****EDITOR'S NOTE SEE PAGE 4 FOR COMMITTEE REPORTS, PAGE 6 FOR SUBUNIT REPORTS**

Old Business

Long Range plan update & vote – Tammie Paoli announced that we did not get enough online votes to pass the new long range plan and called for a vote of the membership to approve the plan as distributed in 2014. Motion to approve the new long range plan as written was made by Frank Pratt and seconded by Larry Damman, the motion passed with no dissenting votes. The new plan will be posted on our website.

President Installation – Mike Seider was walked to the front by past presidents Steve Gilbert and John Kubisiak. Mike's first duty was presenting the past president plaque of appreciation to Tammie Paoli.

New Business:

2015 Budget – Mike Seider presented his 2015 budget which included new items one for \$320 covering the costs of the memberships to National for all voting members of the executive committee as it is a requirement that they be National members. An additional line item of event sponsorship was also added \$3,000 sponsor events that NCD, or other groups may be holding that we should be supportive of. Member Kurt Welke also requested a line item of \$1,000 be added as a onetime expense to be split between the student chapters to purchase equipment they might need such as waders to carry out the field trips they want to work on. Member Peter Segerson also requested that we add a line item for membership to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame as the Wildlife Society and other similar organizations were members and it is something that we should do, members in attendance were in agreement with both proposed amendments from the floor to the budget. With the amendments inserted into the budget a motion was made by David Rowe and seconded by Brad Eggold to approve the Budget as amended, the motion passed without dissenting votes.

Continued on Page 4



**SPRING
2015**

WIAFS 2015 Winter Business Meeting Continued



**SPRING
2015**

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference 2018 – Steve Gilbert presented information about hosting the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Wisconsin in either January or early February 2018. After attending the Midwest in early February this year Steve has gotten information from the consultant who has put together the last three and is currently working on next years. This company will do all the venue searches and set up registration and other major parts of the event. We would still need to have committees for symposia and social events. The cost to have the consultant to do the heavy lifting is around \$30,000 but payment is not due until the end of the event, when considering the amount of time it will save of members working on this event this is a bargain. We still need to get buy in from Wildlife and have Wildlife designate a DNR representative and one from the Wildlife Society. Justine Hasz will work with Tom Hauge on getting the DNR wildlife person and is already in contact with the Wildlife Society Secretary to get a name representing the society. Locations to be looked at for the event include, Madison, Milwaukee and Green Bay. **We need to move on this soon as we need to have ideas on locations by June 2015.** As a Chapter we do hold the account with \$9,450 which is seed money for getting the meeting set up. Steve Gilbert will be the WI-DNR and WI-AFS representative for the Midwest hosting Committee.

Election Results – Joe Hennessy announced in a very close race Greg Sass will be the new President Elect and Ted Treska is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Time and place 2016 meeting – Will be determined at a later date and announcement will be made through the google distribution list

Adjourn: 5:45pm Motion to adjourn made by Brad Eggold and Frank Pratt, motion passed with no dissenting votes.



2015 Meeting images.: New president Mike Seider being installed by past presidents John Kubisiak and Steve Gilbert (Left). Outgoing president Tammie Paoli receiving her commemorative plaque (Middle), Hutton Scholarship recipient Zach Mohr and the infamous “donkey selfie” (Right).

BUDGET REPORT

		<u>2014 Budg-</u> <u>et</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>	<u>Diff.</u>	<u>2015 Pro-</u> <u>posed Budg-</u> <u>et</u>
Expense					
State	Raffle expenses - State Meeting	\$ 600	\$ 519	\$ 81	\$ 600
MTG	Chapter Meeting	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,934.98	\$ (935)	\$ 12,500
Awards, Dona- tions	Duffy Award	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
	Awards, Plaques, Best Papers	\$ 150	\$ 125	\$ 25	\$ 200
	Hutton Program AFS	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
	International membership challenge AFS	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 400
	Skinner memorial AFS	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 500
	EOS AFS	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 500
	AFS Memberships for Norden winner	\$ 76	\$ -	\$ 76	
	Norden Student Scholarship	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	Student sub unit AFS membership	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ 225	\$ 160
	UWSP Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Northland Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Green Bay Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
	UW-Stout Student Unit	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Wisconsin Conservation HOF				\$ 100
Miscella- neous Fees	Continuing education	\$ 1,000	\$ 608	\$ 393	\$ 1,000
	Web Fees	\$ 150	\$ 147	\$ 3	\$ 150
	PO Box	\$ 60	\$ 62	\$ (2)	\$ 65
	Discretionary	\$ 150	\$ 14	\$ 136	\$ 150
	President travel	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,083	\$ 917	\$ 2,000
	T-Shirts	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 350	\$ 1,350
	National Chapter Insurance	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150
	Event sponsorship				\$ 3,000
One- Time Ex- penses	Executive Committee AFS Membership			\$ -	\$ 320
	Frie Scholarship Funding		\$ 583	\$ (583)	\$ 447
	Equipment Donation to SubUnits			\$ -	\$ 1,000
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
EXPENSE TOTAL		\$ 18,711	\$ 15,076		\$ 28,692

Income Budget Review - 2014 & Recommendations - 2015

	<u>2014 Budg-</u> <u>et</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>	<u>Diff.</u>	<u>2015 Pro-</u> <u>posed</u>
Income				
Annual Meeting registration	\$ 10,500	\$ 15,117	\$ 4,617	\$ 12,500
Membership dues & AFS Mem. Rebates	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,299	\$ 299	\$ 2,150
Continuing education	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,296	\$ 296	
T-shirt sales	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ 75	
State Meeting Raffle Income	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,060	\$ 60	\$ 2,000
Norden Scholarship Fund interest	\$ 1,000	\$ 525	\$ (475)	\$ 1,000
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 16,500	\$ 21,371		\$ 17,650

COMMITTEE REPORTS



**SPRING
2015**

EDITORS NOTE: Committee and budget reports in this issue of the newsletter are from the 2015 Winter Business Meeting in Eau Claire

Committee reports:

Awards: 2014 Best Student Paper will be mailed to Zach Beard, 2014 Best Professional Paper was presented to Jeff Janvrin and 2014 Best Poster was presented to Craig Kelling. Ben thanked all of the judges for participating and is always looking for fresh faces and ideas.

Continuing Education: Justine Hasz noted that we only sponsored one class in January 2014 which was a fish aging class. Justine is stepping down as the chair and this position will be taken over by Allen Lane and Justine will stay on as a committee member.

Scholarships: Presented the Carroll Norden Scholarship to Amanda Smith of UW-Stout, Jon also announced that the Joan Duffy Student Travel Award recipient was Hadley Boehm. Jon noted that we had 4 applications for the Norden and 2 for the Duffy which were up from the previous couple of years and all applicants were well worthy making the awards committee's job a difficult one. UWSP chose Ben Breaker as the Richard Frie Memorial scholarship recipient.

Membership: Chapter had 310 members in 2014 of which 147 were students. This is above the average of 288 but below the high of 387 members in 2013. We still have trouble getting the names from national for those members that pay with their national dues, we do get the money.

Raffle & Revenue: Thanked Gervase Thompson, David Rowe and Jeff Blonski for their efforts as well as the local folks in Eau Claire and others who donated items to the raffle. In 2014 the raffle took in \$2,060 and had expenses of \$519 for a revenue of \$1,541 which helped support the shortfall in both the Frie and Norden scholarship accounts. The old electrofishing shirts are still available and Gilbert will make a concerted effort to get a new shirt in the works in 2015 to be ready for the 2016 meeting.

Resolutions & Environmental Issues: reported that following a letter of support from national AFS our chapter will write a resolution regarding the importance of science in management decisions for the WI-DNR. This resolution will go out via the google distribution list. For those DNR staff who this goes to the DNR email they are advised to forward to a home email to go online and vote on the resolution. Students were also informed they have voting rights too and should play a role in the voting.

Web Site: No major updates needed, if people have new pictures please forward to Brad. In addition, if anyone has information, updates, etc. for the website send them to Brad, he wants to make sure the website stays up to date. Google distribution list appears to be working well. If you are not signed up, send an email to Brad-ley.eggold@wisconsin.gov and request to be added to the list. This is the main way we communicate throughout the year with our membership, we have seen a higher use in the past couple of months and it has become a good vector for getting job announcements out, again students this is a good resource for you.

Committee Chairs:

Awards– Ben Heussner

Continuing Ed.– Justine Hasz

Scholarship– Tim Kroeff, Jon Hansen, Jordan Weeks

Membership– Tim Simonson

Raffle/Revenue– Gervase Thompson

Env. Issues– Tom Slawski

Resolutions– Vacant

Web Site– Brad Eggold

Newsletter– Max Wolter

Nominations– Joe Hennessy

FAN– Joe Hennessy

Tech. Committee Reps:

Walleye– Steve Gilbert

Centrarchid– Jon Hansen

Esocid– Jordan Weeks

Ictalurid– Randy Piette

Rivers and Streams– Tim Parks

Reservoir– Vacant

EDITORS NOTE: Several committees were recently eliminated by NCD.

Continued on page 7

COMMITTEE REPORTS— Cont.



EDITORS NOTE: Committee and budget reports in this issue of the newsletter are from the 2015 Winter Business Meeting in Eau Claire

**SPRING
2015**

Newsletter: Would like suggestions on content, the editor email link from the wi-afs.org web site is linked to Max so you can make submissions there at any time. We are now only doing two newsletters a year one in the spring following the annual meeting and one in the fall to announce the upcoming meeting.. Ideas to include in the newsletter are to continue the Ask Gilly column and add a section highlighting student research going on around the state as well as Student Chapter updates. The newsletter is published on the website and announced through the google distribution list. Max is always looking for some good pictures to put into the newsletter.

Student Sub-units: Hadley Boehm is the coordinator for the student chapters and set up the mentor lunch which was held on Wednesday lunch with professionals paired with a student. On Tuesday afternoon prior to the social another student event was held as an open session regarding becoming a fisheries professional. Thank you to all the professionals and students who participated. The Executive Committee has committed that at least one member of the Executive Committee will present at each of the student Chapter meetings annually and encourages the subunits to reach out to the an Executive Committee member(s) to schedule a date.

Technical Committee Reports

Walleye / Centrarchid / Muskellunge – Steve Gilbert represented Wisconsin both at the summer meeting as well as the Midwest meeting. The 2015 meeting will be joint and is being held at Dakota Nature Park Brookings, SD July 20-24, 2015.

Centrarchid – see above report

Esocid – see above report and additionally Muskies Inc. will be sponsoring the 2016 Hugh C. Becker International Muskie Symposium in March 2016 in Minneapolis, they will be looking for sponsors for this event.

Rivers and Streams – 2014's meeting theme (Resource Economics) was a hit and this year's meeting theme (Small Rivers and Stream Work) should be good. This years meeting will be on April 1st and that all talks pertaining to rivers and streams were welcome, not just talks related to the meeting theme. Students who are considering presenting at the meeting should get in touch with Matt Matheney (Matt.Matheney@mdc.mo.gov) to ask for the travel scholarship, which is a free hotel room.

Genetics and Biodiversity – Committee has been removed

Ictalurid – Randy Piette – no report

Salmonid – Committee has been removed

Propagation – Committee has been removed

Committee Chairs:

Awards– Ben Heussner

Continuing Ed.– Justine Hasz

Scholarship– Tim Kroeff, Jon Hansen, Jordan Weeks

Membership– Tim Simonson

Raffle/Revenue– Gervase Thomspon

Env. Issues– Tom Slawski

Resolutions– Vacant

Web Site– Brad Eggold

Newsletter– Max Wolter

Nominations– Joe Hennessy

FAN– Joe Hennessy

Tech. Committee Reps:

Walleye– Steve Gilbert

Centrarchid– Jon Hansen

Esocid– Jordan Weeks

Ictalurid– Randy Piette

Rivers and Streams– Tim Parks

Reservoir– Vacant

EDITORS NOTE: Several committees were recently eliminated by NCD.

AFS Annual Meeting photos



Raffle grand prize winner Abraham Wittenwyler



Lakemaid ice fishing contest winner Chris Merkes



Menard's shirt raffle winners Glenn Miller & Kurt Welke



Lakemaid ice fishing contest runners up

Northland College: Kaitlyn Windschitl— President

The Northland subunit intended to hold it's annual ice fishing tournament in March, which unfortunately was cancelled due to the weather. April 11th we will be touring the Les Voigt hatchery, and we are very excited to be working with them to start up some volunteer work for the remainder of the term! We are also eagerly awaiting ice-out on Chequamegon Bay so that we can get out for a night of smelting!

UW Green Bay: Amy Cotrell—President

Our subunit logo has been created and we had t shirts made last month. We continue to hold weekly meetings with local guest speakers at each — all providing great depths of information we are so grateful for! Some events we have in the works are as follows: We are planning an early summer clean-up on the Peshtigo or Menominee River with the Peshtigo DNR. We will be participating in the Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program Symposium on the UWGB campus April 14th. This highlights local high schools' data collection results from multiple Fox River watersheds. Visiting the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery for a tour and information session April 11th. Helping Steve Hogler of WIDNR electroshock for walleye and muskellunge on the Fox River. Some of us are also going to volunteer for the Sturgeon Guard Program on the Wolf River. Lastly, we will be helping the Green Bay Trout Unlimited group with their summer restoration projects. Our long term goal of creating a fundraiser 'spawning run' event in the fall is currently in the works. Any information about what our subunit is currently up to can be found at: blog.uwgb.edu/afs

UW Stout: Amanda Smith— President

This was the second year that the UW-Stout student subunit attended the annual meeting. Student president, Amanda Smith, was honored with the Carroll Norden Memorial Scholarship. As we look forward to ice off, our members will stay busy repairing our fish sampling equipment and volunteering with local organizations like the Dunn County Fish and Game Club and Trout Unlimited. We are also collaborating with the UW-River Falls Natural Resource Club to organize a fly fishing workshop with Trout Unlimited. In the spring, we plan on helping out the DNR staff from Eau Claire with their annual sturgeon sampling. We are also beginning to plan activities for next year like a trip to the Spooner fish hatchery and drawing up blue prints to build our own wader stand.



UW Stout Subunit members Ryan Veith (top left-center), Jordan Bauer (top right center) and Abby Bauer (bottom) with DNR staff during sturgeon tagging at the Jim Falls dam.

**STUDENT
SUBUNIT
UPDATES**



UW Stevens Point: Sam Schaick— PR Officer

Our UW-Stevens Point student subunit has been busy, although we've done a lot more planning recently than actual activities, and are itching to get back out in the field! This winter, we partnered with another student organization to host the screening of DamNation, a documentary that depicts the effects that dams can have on rivers and the fish that rely on migrating up these rivers. So far this spring we helped the DNR fin clip lake trout before being stocked into Big Green Lake. This was done as part of a study being done to evaluate the possibility of stocking Atlantic salmon.

Coming up this spring, we will be assisting the DNR with netting, sexing, and PIT tagging lake sturgeon during the spawn on the Wolf River. Also, we will be spending a weekend at the Lake Escanaba Research Station to help out with fyke netting. One of the last things we'll do before the semester ends is host a kids fishing day. Thanks to Tom Meronek and the WDNR, we are able to provide fishing equipment for all the kids to use and learn about fishing.

Student Research Highlights

EDITORS NOTE: Welcome to a new section of the Teleogram dedicated to highlighting exceptional research done by student members of the WIAFS. In each issue we plan to highlight at least one exceptional student, nominated by their advisor or another faculty member, from each of the four universities with an AFS subunit. Featured research can be undergraduate or graduate, and can include work done outside of WI during internships or through previous jobs. Professors and faculty members can nominate students to the Teleogram editor: max.wolter@wisconsin.gov

Marian Shaffer– UW Green Bay



The overall health of a fish population is contingent upon successful recruitment and subsequent survival of larval fish to the adult life stage. The larval stage is a very critical life stage, and the likelihood of survival is influenced by numerous environmental abiotic (e.g. temperature and dissolved oxygen levels) and biotic factors (e.g. predation and food availability). The ecology of larval fishes is not well understood in Green Bay, and because degradation of spawning and nursery habitats due to human activities and other stressors continues to be a problem, the study of larval fishes is warranted. Larval fish surveys are being conducted in Green Bay and Lake Michigan as a monitoring tool to detect the presence of invasive species and for locating remnant populations of native fishes. Our objectives also include obtaining baseline assemblage metrics (density, richness, and diversity) and taxonomic distribution of larval fishes and eggs, while assessing the effects of water quality variables on assemblage composition.

During the 2014 ichthyoplankton field season, a grand total of 119 bongo net tows and 145 light traps collected 68,654 larval fish and 59,453 eggs. Sampling efforts began immediately after ice-out in various locations across the entirety of Green Bay. Early collections targeted cool water Coregonid species (specifically larval Lake Whitefish, *Coregonus clupeaformis*, and Lake Herring, *Coregonus artedii*) in known historical spawning locations. At each location, samples were collected during daytime hours using a paired conical bongo net towed at the surface of the water (Figure 1). Sampling areas included sites around Peshtigo, Oconto, Marinette/Menominee, Escanaba, Big Bay de Noc, Rock and Washington Islands, Ellison Bay, Fish Creek, Egg Harbor, and Big and Little Sturgeon Bays.

Sampling of Lower Green Bay and the Fox River began in late May and continued on a biweekly basis until the end of August. Field collections took place between dusk and dawn using both the paired bongo net and quatrefoil light trapping methods (Figure 2). A total of 36 tows and 145 light traps yielded a total of 67,822 larval fish and 59,453 eggs. Bongo nets alone collected 64,970 larval fish and 59,073 eggs, and light traps alone collected 3,033 larval fish and 397 eggs. Water quality parameters were also collected at each site during each sampling event using YSI sonde devices (variables included temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and chlorophyll a). Larval fishes were measured in the lab, digitally imaged using Nikon NIS-Elements software, and then identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible (Figures 3 and 4). Samples were recently sent out for genetic analysis and next-generation sequencing, and results are expected soon. We are now gearing up for the 2015 field season and will repeat the process using the same sampling methodology, however this year we plan to sample an additional 19 sites in Green Bay and four areas in Lake Michigan proper.

Right: the author and crew retrieving a Bongo net in Egg Harbor



Taylor Lepak– Northland College



Taylor Lepak processing a trawl sample aboard the United States Geological Survey – Lake Superior Biological Station's R/V Kiyi – June 2014

Kiyi (*Coregonous kiyi*) is a rare fish species found only in the great depths of Lake Superior. This small, unique fish belongs to the deepwater Coregonid group, related to the Cisco (*Coregonous artedi*) and Bloater (*Coregonous hoyi*). Little is known about Kiyi and only scale-derived ages have been published in the recent literature. Because of this, we first assessed scale and otolith ages from 335 individuals. We examined comparisons between the two aging structures and also looked at the precision and bias between agers for otoliths. We then assessed population characteristics across regions of Lake Superior by examining age distributions.

We have found that otolith ages, on average, provide older ages than scales. The maximum scale age in our sample was 8, whereas the maximum otolith age was 16. In addition, otolith age estimates showed high precision between the two agers with 72% perfect agreement and a 97% agreement within one year. When examining population characteristics, our age frequencies showed a many age-6 and age-11 fish, which was consistent across all regions of the lake. An examination of length frequencies of all Kiyi captured between 2003 and 2014 showed evidence for only the 2003 and 2008 year classes, which correspond to the age-6 and age-11 fish in our sample.

Three major conclusions result from our work. First, Kiyi undergo sporadic recruitment, with only two major year classes since 2003. Second, the 2003 and 2008 year-classes were evident in our otolith ages, which suggest otoliths can be used to provide a valid age for Kiyi. Third, ages derived from scales were consistently lower than ages derived from otoliths which indicates that scales do not provide valid ages for Kiyi. Future work includes refining our otolith processing procedures and comparing growth dynamics of Kiyi among regions in Lake Superior.

Josh Shulze– UW Stevens Point



Several segments of the Menominee River (border water between WI-MI) support exceptional fisheries for smallmouth bass. Despite the popularity of this fishery, very little is known regarding the movements and population characteristics of these fish. Do smallmouth bass stay in discrete groups or move throughout the entire impoundment? Is the current 14" minimum length limit sufficient to maintain the quality of this fishery if fishing pressure increases? Our primary objectives are to address these questions for the smallmouth bass in the portion of the Menominee River below Grand Rapids Dam.

We are using acoustic telemetry to describe smallmouth bass movements. In 2014 we surgically implanted 30 smallmouth bass with acoustic tags (Figure 1). We then monitored their movements with an array of acoustic receivers as well as tracked them manually with a portable receiver. Early results indicate movement patterns vary widely among individual fish. Several smallmouth bass stayed within relatively small areas, while others moved throughout all 21 miles of the impoundment.

We also recorded total lengths, removed dorsal spines for age estimation, and Floy tagged 334 smallmouth bass in 2014 (Figure 2). Using this information, we employed age-structured population models to evaluate the 14" minimum length limit in comparison to an 18" minimum length limit. By varying the amount of fishing mortality in the simulations, we predicted that the 14" minimum length limit is effective at producing quite a few smallmouth bass greater than 18" under current low levels of fishing mortality. However, if fishing mortality were to increase dramatically, the 18" minimum length limit would be necessary for this fishery to continue to produce relatively high numbers of smallmouth bass greater than 18".



Smallmouth bass being sutured after acoustic tag implantation on the Menomonie River, 2014.

WISCONSIN MEN WIN HISTORIC RAFFLE

Eau Claire WI-

It was a day that Wisconsin men Kurt Welke and Glenn Miller had been waiting on for a long time. The big moment, of finally hearing their names called and proudly walking down the aisle together after years of waiting, appeared to almost overwhelm the pair. Tears welled up in Welke's eyes "you don't know how long I've been waiting for this".

This historic moment marked the first time in the State of Wisconsin that two men were legally allowed to win a raffle together.

While many in the audience were happy for the pair, that feeling was not universal. The non-traditional raffle union was immediately challenged. Welke and Miller waited impatiently as the Wisconsin

Supreme Raffle Committee (Fisheries Division) briefly deliberated and rendered a decision. In the end the men's raffle win was upheld. In his majority decision Chief Justice Dave Rowe stated "This is dumb, I really don't care. Can you guys please just go sit down. We have like, 14 more shirts to raffle off and this is taking forever".

In the days following the raffle others have voiced opposition as well. Steven Gilbert from the Center For Raffle Values held a press conference the following week. "This is an abomination and an extremely dangerous precedent. Allowing two men to raffle together threatens the very fabric of the raffle institution. What's next? Are we going to let people start buying raffle tickets for themselves and their dog? Will society descend into a poly-amorous raffling free-for-all?"

Welke and Miller remain defiant in the face of criticism. "We believe that what two men choose to do in the privacy of a raffle bucket is nobody else's business.", said Welke. "We just want to be afforded the same rights as anyone else who has ever entered into a raffle for a novelty Menard's t-shirt".



Welke and Miller on their special day (above). The ticket that started it all (right)

