



TELEOGRAM



The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Spring 2016

Max Wolter— Editor

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— Greg Sass



Spring has sprung! But, before we start hauling out the fyke nets and electroshockers for our spring fish assessments or research projects, I'd like to revisit some highlights of the 45th annual meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in La Crosse. For yet another year, we had outstanding attendance by over 200 members ranging from undergraduate and graduate students to seasoned professionals all engaged in some form of fisheries science or disciplines related to applied fisheries management. We had an overwhelming number of posters and platform presentations spanning a wide variety of "fishy" topics and I'm proud to report that many meeting participants commented directly to me about the exceptional scientific quality of the talks and posters. Perhaps most importantly, the vast majority were student presentations and posters. It is very clear to me that the future of fisheries management is in great shape in the State of Wisconsin and beyond given the pride, dedication, and passion of the students and their mentors. Special thanks to all of our dedicated raffle coordinators (Gilly, Gervase, Rowe, Weeks), donors, and the WIAFS membership. Our raffle was again a major success with fun to be had by all. I am continually impressed by our WIAFS student sub-units (Northland College, UW-Green Bay, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout), and they were all very well represented at this year's annual meeting. I always appreciate learning about all of the productive fisheries activities the students are engaged in. Keep up the great work! Looking forward, it is likely that the 2017 WIAFS annual meeting will be held jointly with The Wildlife Society at a location yet to be determined, but likely Milwaukee or Madison due to preparatory work required for Wisconsin to host the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in 2018. Lastly, congratulations to Dr. Dan Isermann as our new WIAFS president-elect and to Mike Seider (past-president) for all of their upcoming and past contributions to the WIAFS. Ted Treska (treasurer) and Brad Eggold also deserve special thanks for keeping our finances in order and managing our website, respectively.

Continued on page 2

Planning for Midwest!

The Midwest F&W meeting will be held in WI in January or February of 2018. Many WIAFS members will be involved as this is a joint effort between AFS, TWS and WIDNR. We are going to need staff and volunteers to commit to a role. This year, the process will include an event planner which has been successful and economical in the past. A poll of the members indicated that Milwaukee was the preferred location (over Madison). The planners are looking for themes. We typically hold chapter meeting in conjunction with the TWS in the year leading up to the meeting so that we can look things over and make suggestions, So the next meeting will be in the locale decided by the Midwest committee. Committee chairs will be expected to travel to the 2017 Midwest, so plan for that! Expect more updates on Midwest in the near future and contact Steve Gilbert to get involved with the planning.

FROM THE AWARD COMMITTEE

Thanks to all of the 2016 poster and presentation judges. Without the help of the many volunteers, we would not be able to appropriately honor the deserving award winners. Volunteering to be an AFS judge helps increase your knowledge of fisheries management. Aspiring fisheries management professionals are encouraged to take on future opportunities to judge posters and presentations for our local AFS chapter as well as your own personal development.

Congratulations to the 2016 best presentation and poster award winners!

STEVE SERNS BEST PAPER AWARD

Max Wolter - The Up's and Down's of Water Level Management on the Chippewa Flowage

STEVE YEO STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Hadley Boehm - Identifying Recruitment Bottlenecks for Age-0 Walleye in Northern Wisconsin Lakes

BEST POSTER AWARD

Dan Dembkowski - Influence of Habitat Additions on Survival, Growth, and Condition of Extensively-reared Muskellunge



**Spring
2016**

Dr. Dan Isermann elected as next President of WIAFS

At the 2016 meeting in Lacrosse Dr. Dan Isermann ran unopposed for president and was elected by voice vote. Dan also won a majority of super delegates. Congratulations to Dan.

Other existing officers retained their positions.

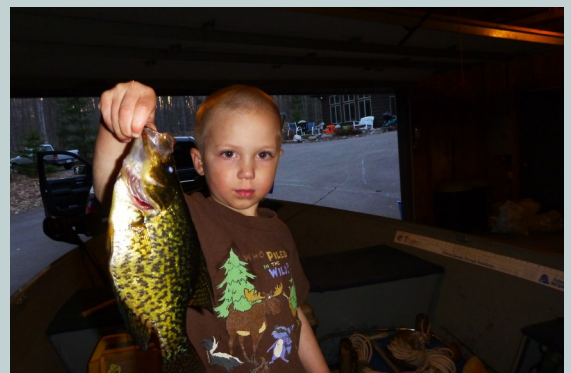


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Back to the arrival of Spring. For many of us, spring and ice out marks the beginning of a lot of hard work and long days to manage the fisheries of Wisconsin as some of, if not the, best in the world for our residents, visitors, ourselves, and our families. Spring is my favorite time of the year as we watch the world come alive again after a long winter and most of our fishes go through their annual spawning progression. From pre-spawn movements to shallow, mucky bays to thaw out their bodies and boost their metabolism, to spawning, to post-spawn feeding binges to restore lost energy due to the spawn, take a break to get out fishing when you can with friends, family, and children (see photograph of Sean Sass (3) with a pre-spawn 2015 spring black crappie) to observe this annual progression and enjoy the fisheries that you work so hard to restore, sustain, and enhance. Use your knowledge of the fisheries you manage or study to improve your catches and pass that information along to others to share how important fisheries are and the lifelong passion that this recreational activity can bring. I know I will!

Greg G. Sass, Ph.D.

WIAFS President



**Scenes
from
the 2016
meeting**



Student/Mentor Lunch



**Spring
2016**

Student Resume workshop



**Michael Vaske, winner
of the coveted Menard's
shirt**



**New president
Greg Sass is
installed**



**Outgoing president
Seider recognized**



BUDGET REPORT

		<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2016 Proposed Budget</u>
Expense					
State Raffle expenses - State Meeting		\$ 600	\$ 435	\$ 165	\$ 600
MTG Chapter Meeting		\$ 12,500	\$ 15,988.00	\$ (3,488)	\$ 15,500
Duffy Award		\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Awards, Plaques, Best Papers		\$ 200	\$ 285	\$ (85)	\$ 200
Hutton Program		\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
International membership challenge		\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 800
Skinner memorial		\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
EOS		\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
AFS Memberships for Norden winner			\$ -	\$ -	
Norden Student Scholarship		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Student sub unit AFS membership		\$ 160	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ 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		\$	\$ 100
Continuing education		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Web Fees		\$ 150	\$ 242	\$ (92)	\$ 150
Miscellaneous PO Box		\$ 65	\$ 66	\$ (1)	\$ 66
Discretionary		\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ 150
President travel		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,284	\$ 716	\$ 2,000
T-Shirts		\$ 1,350	\$ -	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350
National Chapter Insurance		\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
Event sponsorship		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
Executive Committee AFS Membership		\$ 320	\$ 40	\$ 280	\$ 320
Frie Scholarship Funding		\$ 447	\$ 447	\$ 0	\$ 500
Equipment Donation to SubUnits		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Centrarchid				\$ -	\$ 600
Boot Camp funding				\$ -	\$ 2,000
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
EXPENSE TOTAL		\$ 28,692	\$ 23,037		\$ 34,746

Income Budget Review - 2015 & Recommendations - 2016

Income	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2016 Proposed</u>
Annual Meeting registration	\$ 12,500	\$ 16,781	\$ 4,281	\$ 15,500
Membership dues & AFS Mem. Rebates	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,087	\$ (63)	\$ 2,100
Continuing education			\$ -	
T-shirt sales		\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120
State Meeting Raffle Income	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,657	\$ 657	\$ 2,000
Norden Scholarship Fund interest	\$ 1,000	\$ 463	\$ (537)	\$ 465
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 17,650	\$ 22,108		\$ 20,185

COMMITTEE REPORTS



EDITORS NOTE: Committee and budget reports in this issue of the newsletter are from the 2016 Winter Business Meeting Thursday February 18th 2016. Ramada – La Crosse, Wisconsin

Call to Order – President Mike Seider 4:20 pm (108 members present)

Recognition of Executive Committee, past presidents and special guests President Seider recognized the past presidents in the audience.

Review and Approval of Agenda - President Seider outlined the agenda and asked for any amendments, though none were requested. Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Jordan Weeks and seconded by Joe Hennessy, and was passed with no dissenting votes.

Approval of 2015 Business Meeting Minutes - President Seider 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 Justine Haze and second by Gretchen Hansen, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

President's Remarks – President Seider indicated that we had another strong year of attendance, with over 200 people at the meeting. He also remarked on the high quality of the presentations, and again iterated the need for more involvement from the new people in the organization, as a lot of work has been done by a few folks in the chapter and it is time for new blood to step in.

Treasurer –Yearly report – Ted Treska summarized the 2015 finances. On 12/31/2015, WIAFS had total worth of \$71,572. With a checking account balance of \$19,976, CD Scholarship \$11,049, CD Midwest \$9,588, Vanguard short term bond \$5,019 and Vanguard GNMA \$15,940. Total expenses for 2015 were \$24,237 and total income was \$22,108, for a net loss of \$2,129. During FY 2015, the chapter also invested \$10,000 in a Vanguard investment managed by AFS for the purpose of generating income for the scholarships. It was noted that national AFS donations (Hutton, Skinner memorial, etc) were not paid out in 2015 in error and would be addressed in the 2016 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 chapter coffers in the amount of \$447 for the Frie and \$537 for the Norden.. Motion to approve the treasurer report as presented was made by Jordan Weeks and Seconded by Allen Lane, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

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

Old Business There was no old business to be discussed.

President Installation – Justine Hasz and Joe Hennessy install Greg Sass as president, who gives thanks to Mike Seider, and thanks to Ted Treska and Tammie Paoli. Also a big hand to Brad Eggold for helping with all the meeting communication. He also indicated that any help we can get on the committees would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Hadley Boehm over the last couple of years for bringing the professionals and students together. Everything has gone very well, and we hope the students get as much as the professionals. Thanks to the Sub units, and the volunteers that help them get experience.

Voting for Officers – Joe Hennessy announced that Dan Isermann (UWSP CRU) accepted the offer to run for president of WIAFS in the upcoming year. Joe then asked for other nominations, Dan was installed by acclamation after a Motion by Jordan Weeks and a second by John Kubisiak.

New Business

- 2016 Budget – Greg Sass presented his 2016 budget which included two new items; one for \$600 covering a donation to the skinner challenge for student travel to the upcoming Centrarchid symposium at AFS annual meeting, and another for \$2000 to cover costs of a Fisheries Bootcamp that Sass and staff will be putting on this spring to to give a number of students from each of the subunits experience with performing fisheries survey work at the Escanaba Station. The line item of \$1,000 be carried forward to purchase equipment the student subunits need such as waders to carry out the field trips they want to work on and this will be coordinated by the new student liaison working with the treasurer. With the amendments inserted into the budget a motion was made by Joe Hennessy and seconded by Max Wolter to approve the Budget as amended, the motion passed without dissenting votes.

- President Sass asked for members to consider volunteering for being a point of contact between the student subunits and the Executive Committee, coordinating activities, helping with equipment purchases, etc.

- Newsletter editor Max Wolter encouraged members to participate in the new WIAFS Photo Fishing Challenge, details of which can be found in this newsletter.

EDITOR'S NOTE: remarks that occurred at this point in the meeting from Steve Gilbert about planning for the Midwest Meeting appear standalone on page 1.

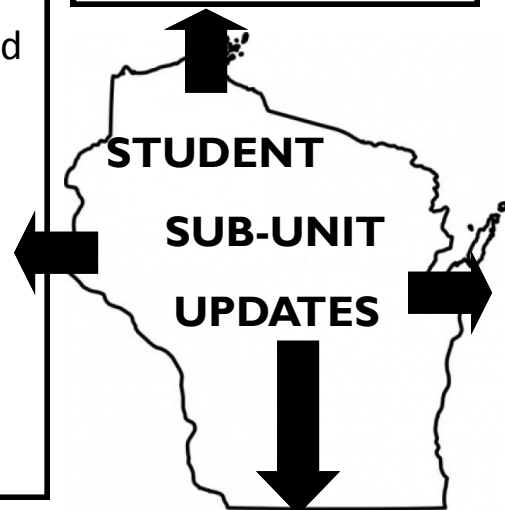
Time and Place – will be decided by Midwest location and Gilbert will work with Isermann to help with logistics/arrangements.

Adjourn

The UW-Stout Subunit participated in the following activities:

- Last May Sturgeon tagging at Jim Falls with WDNR Biologist Joseph Gerbyshak
- Shovelnose sturgeon research on the Lower Chippewa and Red Cedar River
- Housing of foreign exchange students from Shanghai Ocean
- Volunteering with Ice Fishing contest with the Dunn County Fish and Game
- Volunteering with UW - Stout Ichthyology class

No updates in this edition
from UW Green Bay or
Northland College



The spring semester is always busy for the student sub-unit at UWSP! Even though field opportunities die down during the winter months, we are fortunate to have other opportunities to keep members active. By the first week of class, the sub-unit was in full swing planning for the annual WI AFS meeting in La Crosse, distributing apparel orders, and bringing in guest speakers. We also set up a booth at the UWSP involvement fair and a local junior high school for their Science Extravaganza Day. In early March, we had fun competing in our bi-annual broomball game with The Wildlife Society against the Fire Crew and the Forestry Society.

Looking back, the annual WI AFS meeting in La Crosse was a huge highlight for us this year. We had 30 members attend the conference, which is the largest number we have sent to date. Among them, three presented posters. Five graduate students also attended the conference with four of them giving oral presentations and two having posters. Our Most Active Member award was also announced and awarded at the WI AFS meeting to Zach Mohr, who you might remember from last year's Hutton presentation.

Coming up in the next few weeks, we look forward to our annual Age and Growth Workshop, officer elections, and the Lake Sturgeon spawn. Because of the early spring the spawn seems to be just around the corner! We are excited to head over to the Shawano Dam to assist the WI-DNR, which is always a favorite event for members.

Later in the semester, we will be providing a new experience – backpack electrofishing trout “ditches” in Portage County. A trailer-backing workshop will be offered as well, where members can practice and get comfortable with the procedure. Then, a Minnow ID workshop will be offered by Ichthyology professor, Dr. Sipiorski. In May, we will put on a Kid's Fishing Day for youngsters in the local community. To cap off the semester, we will enjoy an evening social.

We would like to thank all of our guest speakers who have taken the time out of their busy schedules to speak with us this year! This semester our guest speakers are as follows: Dan Dembkowski, Andrew Rypel, David Boyarski, and Nick Legler. We look forward to more guest speakers as the semester progresses: Andre Virden, Titus Seilheimer, Joshua Lallaman, and some of our graduate students. If you are interested in speaking, we still have a few open meetings. Contact Brandon Maahs at bmaah654@uwsp.edu for open dates.

Best advice I ever got...

With Northland College's Dr. Derek Ogle

What was the best advice you got during your career?

I was at a professional meeting during the middle stages of my doctoral work, a time when nothing in my research seemed to pan out. I crossed paths with Mike Hansen in the hallway and his simply asking “how it was going” opened a flurry of comments of self-doubt from me. Mike listened, offered advice, and encouraged me to persevere. I don’t remember exactly what Mike said to me that day, but I vividly remember that he took the time to

care, help, and encourage me. The implicit advice I took from that interaction is to listen, have compassion, and be helpful to others. I am grateful to Mike to this day and I try to heed this advice.

Looking back on your career as a fisheries professional what is one thing you know now that you wish you’d known on day 1?

My fisheries profession is as a professor at Northland College. For me, this primarily means helping students learn fisheries population dynamics and statistics. Northland students are passionate and interesting, with each student having a different story and dreams. My job is challenging, but the reward of seeing the impact that “my former students” are making for our natural resources is amazing. This job is not what I intended to do with my life and, early in my career when I was learning how to teach, I questioned my decision to do this. I wish that I would have known, from day 1, how important and rewarding this career would be.

Can you identify any one experience or moment in your life that you would consider a professional turning point that set you on the path to where you are today?

That moment was when my doctoral advisor in Minnesota, Dr. George Spangler, put an HTML book on my desk and suggested that “this will be the way of the future.” I had always been interested in data (I still have a dBase database of fish I caught during high school!) and computer programming, but I largely put those interests aside as I chased fish around. However, because I trusted George’s vision, I dived into the HTML coding which ultimately made me feel comfortable coding in R, which has largely defined my professional career. I feel fortunate to have been able to combine two of my interests – fish and programming – and it was that moment created by George that pushed me in that direction.



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



My name is Michael Vaske, and I am currently a graduate research assistant in the Fish Propagation Science Center in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, working on my Masters of Science (M.S.) in Natural Resources (Fisheries).

My thesis research is focused on improving Wisconsin's Walleye *Sander vitreus* propagation program. The overall goal of this research is to develop a genetic broodstock management plan which includes standardized collection techniques, including both numbers and sex ratios for the broodfish, spawning and rearing techniques, fish distribution protocols, and broodlake selection. Additionally, I am performing an analysis to determine appropriate levels of effort (spatial and temporal) needed to sample the genetic diversity within the broodstock populations. Ultimately, I want to ensure the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is operating using the best possible management practices.

In the process of developing the broodstock management plan, several specific research objectives will be addressed including, (1) compare the genetic diversity within Wisconsin's feral Walleye broodstock with genetic diversity levels in other naturally recruiting, Wisconsin Walleye populations; and (2) determine if varying levels of sampling effort influence measured genetic diversity levels.

Genetic tissue samples were collected from all Walleye broodstock used at the Art Oehmcke (AOH) and Governor Thompson (GTH) State Fish Hatcheries during 2015. Shoreline boat electrofishing was also conducted to sample spawning Walleye after the hatchery crews had completed their broodstock collection to determine the genetic diversity present after broodstock collection. Genetic tissue samples were collected from all sexable fish collected during electrofishing runs. Samples were then analyzed at the Molecular Conservation Genetics Laboratory at UWSP and compared to genetic diversity levels observed in other naturally recruiting Wisconsin Walleye populations.

Genetic diversity within the broodfish was comparable to other northern Wisconsin populations (Table 1). The genetic origins of the broodfish collected from Teal Lake consisted of a mixed stock, while the broodfish collected from Tomahawk Lake fell into the East management unit or the upper Wisconsin management unit. Since the broodfish collected from Teal Lake were not genetically representative of the regional genetic stock and Tomahawk Lake has seen a decline in natural recruitment it is suggested that alternative broodstock populations should be used. Results also suggest that increased spatial and temporal sampling should be conducted to obtain larger numbers of broodfish and increase genetic diversity within progeny.



THE GREAT WIAFS PHOTO FISHING CHALLENGE

Spring 2016 Update

The WIAFS Photo Fishing Contest is now underway and will be running all through the year and up to the next AFS annual meeting. See following page for full information and rules. The first entries came in on February 22 from John Kubisiak who jumped out to an early lead with a mix of panfish species and a nice pike. But his lead would last only a few weeks as Scott Braden (aka Bobby Rainbow) snatched several of the panfish titles away from John and also picked up a mix of species from Lake Superior to take the overall points lead. WDNR biologist Steve Gilbert is also on the board with a 21st Century Walleye (Largemouth bass). Thus far, the entries have been dominated by WDNR staff from the north taking advantage of good late ice. We look forward to receiving more submissions from around the state as the contest heats up during open water season.

Species Leaders as of 3-16-16

Species	Points	Size	Location	Angler
Northern Pike	3	28.25	Bearskin Lake, Oneida County	John Kubisiak
Burbot	1	26	Chequamegon Bay	Scott Braden
Whitefish	1	22	Chequamegon Bay	Scott Braden
Coho	1	18	Saxon Harbor	Scott Braden
Largemouth Bass	3	17	Little Saint Germain, Vilas County	Steven Gilbert
Splake	1	15.5	Saxon Harbor	Scott Braden
Black Crappie	3	11	Lake Namekagon	Scott Braden
Yellow Perch	3	9	Chequamegon Bay	Scott Braden
Bluegill	3	8.3	Chippewa Flowage	Scott Braden
Rainbow Smelt	1	7.8	Chequamegon Bay	Scott Braden
Pumpkinseed	1	5.5	Pickerel Lake, Oneida County	John Kubisiak

Still many species
that have not
been claimed!

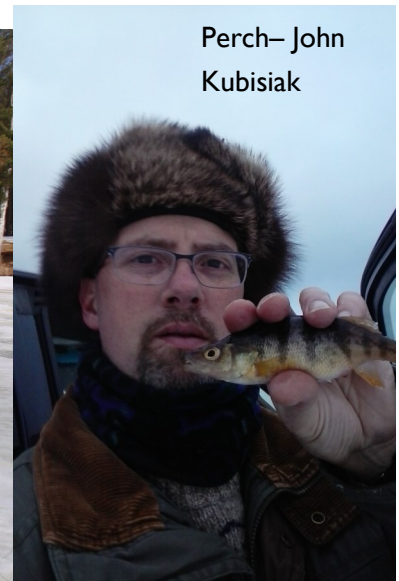
See following page
for rules!

Burbot— Scott
Braden

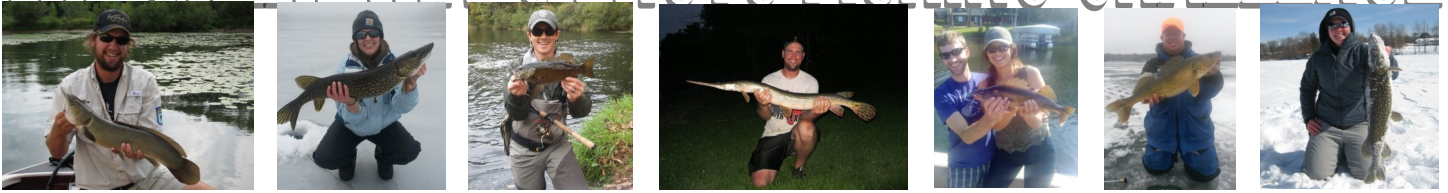


LMB— Steve
Gilbert

Perch— John
Kubisiak



THE GREAT WIAFS PHOTO FISHING CHALLENGE



If you're in AFS, odds are you like to fish. So let's have some fun with that in the first annual year-long photo fishing contest. Contest details and rules are as follows:

Who can participate?: All WI AFS members. Note: You must pay have **paid your dues** for that year to submit entries.

How long does the contest run?: The contest will be **open year round** and will start at AFS 2016 in La Crosse and officially end at the AFS annual meeting in 2017 (date TBD, but likely February).

What fish qualify?: Any fish caught legally (within an open season, not in refuges) with hook and line methods and from **public waters of Wisconsin** will be eligible for entry. This includes WI portions of Lake Michigan and Superior and border rivers such as the Mississippi, St. Croix, St. Louis, and Menomonie in stretches where they border WI. Any species of fish can be entered (point system discussed below).

How do I enter a fish?: All submissions must consist of a photograph of the angler and the fish ("fish selfies" are acceptable). For very small fish, a second close-up photo that does not include the angler is suggested for species verification. **Each submitted fish must include a measured length** (down to the half or quarter inch OR mm) and the location of catch (this can be as simple as "Vilas County Lake" if you don't want to give up a honey-hole). This will predominantly be an honor system, but a photograph of the fish on a measuring board may be submitted if the angler chooses and these photos may be used in tie-breaker situations. The contest administrator reserves the right to call B.S. or the right to convene a panel of B.S. experts to review submissions.

ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO: **maxwolter3@gmail.com**

Scoring: ANY species of fish can be submitted. The angler possessing the largest specimen of any species will be awarded a minimum of 1 point. The angler who holds the largest specimen for the following high-profile species will receive 3 points: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, brown trout, brook trout, black crappie, bluegill, and yellow perch. Once a bigger specimen is caught by another angler, the points for that species transfer to the new angler. Identifiable hybrids including tiger musky, tiger trout, saugeye, and splake will count as a unique species (panfish or minnow hybrids will not). In the case of a legitimate tie, points will be awarded to both anglers for that species. The angler with the most points at the end of the contest will be declared the winner. Bragging rights are guaranteed, other prizes may be worked out as well.

Side competitions: To make things more interesting we can also do competitions between subunits (cumulative points for all members with entries, faculty included!) and within WDNR (Region v Region v CO).

Fisheries Biologist Speculates About Life on Mars

Cape Canaveral- FL

New images from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) provide strong evidence that liquid water flows intermittently on present-day Mars, leading fisheries biologists to conclude that Mars is likely inhabited by creek chubs.

Using an imaging spectrometer on MRO, researchers detected signatures of hydrated minerals on slopes on the Hale Crater that indicate flowing water when temperatures exceed 10F. When reached for comment with this latest information, Fisheries Biologist Jordan Weeks offered his opinion on the likelihood of life on Mars:

“If there’s flowing water on Mars, there are creek chubs on Mars.” remarked Weeks.

When pressed as to whether conditions on Mars (including only intermittent flow, high salinity, and no indication of other biota that might serve as a food source) were realistically favorable to support a relatively advanced life form like a teleost fish species, Weeks continued:



Jordan Weeks—NASA consultant

“Oh yeah, that’s no problem. They are probably loving it there. I bet if you strapped an electrode to that rover thing you’d find 1,000 creek chubs per mile in that salty crater trench and they’d have a relative weight of 130. I wouldn’t rule out Hornyheads either.”

NASA scientists continued to inquire with Weeks as to how a lifeform known only to exist on earth might have come to inhabit on a planet 33.9 million miles away from the historical and known range of creek chubs.

“Who knows how these things get anywhere?! But they do! If there are any culverts on Mars that would be the best place to begin to look for them, that’s their natural habitat. They’ll be loaded in that thing like sardines in a can.”

In general, NASA seems to be dismissive of claims by Weeks and released a statement today that makes no mention of the possibility of fish on the Red Planet.

“Our quest on Mars has been to ‘follow the water,’ in our search for life in the universe, and now we have convincing science that validates what we’ve long suspected,” said John Grunsfeld, astronaut and associate administrator of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

In his own press release Weeks stated “You guys are going to spend a lot of money to go up there just to find chubs. Might as well stay here and make robots that do cool stuff with all that money.”



Weeks speculates that chubs on Mars could reach even bigger sizes than those on earth, based on the heavily degraded habitat of Mars.