

# Lateral Lines

## President Message:

This spring was kicked off with a great spring meeting at Turkey Run State Park. Thank you all who helped plan the meeting, those who contributed presentations, and for those who sponsored the meeting. I am always extremely impressed with the work that is accomplished by our fishery folks in Indiana. The most impressive aspect of the work that gets done is how much area we cover with such a small task force. Kudos to all our members for the great work that you do. Hoosiers can enjoy this state's great water resources because of the hard work you all do. So, whether you are chest deep wading in a stream on a 100 ° F summer day in waders, running gill nets in the baking summer sun, grinding out an in-depth analysis/writing a report in the office, getting stormed out while out in the field, or working through any other tough aspect of our jobs remember that your work matters to all Hoosiers whether they realize it or not. Thanks to all that you do!

To reiterate from the last newsletter, my biggest goal as president is to get more members excited about being involved in the chapter. Specifically, my goal at the beginning of the year was to fill all vacant positions and do so by getting some new members to step into positions. This spring meeting did not disappoint. Thanks to all the members who stepped up to fill vacant positions! I greatly appreciate it! I feel that the future of our state chapter is in good hands and look forward to seeing what is all accomplished. I look forward to seeing everyone at the fall meeting! Stay tuned for the fall meeting announcement!

Andrew Buelmann  
IAFS President



## **Current Officers**

**President:**

***Andrew Bueltmann***

**President Elect:**

***Daragh Deegan***

**Vice President:**

***Chad Menke***

**Past President:**

***Kevin Gaston***

**Secretary/**

**Treasurer:**

***Ken Wetzel***

**Newsletter Editor:**

***Andrew Bueltmann***

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## **Mission Statement**

The Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (IAFS) supports the conservation of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems in Indiana by promoting professional excellence in fisheries science, management, and education.

On March 13, 1970, a group of 31 fisheries and aquatic professionals met to establish the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Under the chairmanship of Gary Doxtater, the organizational committee of Frank Lockard, Gary Doxtater, Thomas McComish, and George Hansen had already acquired our charter from the parent society, at that time celebrating its 100th anniversary. By-laws were adopted, annual dues were established, meetings were proposed, and officers were elected at the first meeting in Indianapolis.



Patoka Lake, Orange County—Nighttime Largemouth Bass electrofishing crew heads out at sunset

## Chapter News

### **Newsletter Editor — Andrew Bueltmann**

Thank you to all who submitted information to the newsletter. As we enter into the summer/fall season this year please send your field pictures to the Facebook group. Contact Andrew (abueltmann@dnr.in.gov) if you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to assist with the newsletter.

### **Website update**

We have a new website! Thanks to Drew Holloway for taking over as chair and getting us a new site. Also thanks to Kevin Gaston for assisting Drew with edits/suggestions for the site. Please, everyone check out the new site and if you have any edits/suggestions feel free to contact us so we can once again have a great website. The website can be found at: <https://indianaafs.weebly.com/>.

### **Awards Chair—Rob Ackerson**

Hearty thanks go out to all who presented talks and posters at our recent meeting. I am sure that all those who attended our meeting feel as I do, that all of the contributions are appreciated.

I would like to point out that all Presentations and Posters were close. I have seen many notes on the judging forms about how good they were and wish I could have been there to enjoy. If any of the presenters/poster participants would like to know any of the remarks/comments (if any) they can contact me (for future improvements).

Awards will be presented at the Fall AFS meeting

#### **Best Professional Paper:**

Drew Holloway—Giving Mussels a Fighting Chance

#### **Best Student Poster:**

Noah Haas—Fish Species Population Changes in the St. Joseph River Watershed, North-Central, Indiana

#### **Best Student Poster:**

Corwyn Hall—Do US Fish Assemblages Vary by Landuse Category

A big thank you goes to all our judges:

Brant Fisher

Alysa Raleigh

Phillip Kacmar

Cameron Yeakle

Jeff Malwitz

Kyle Robertson

Wes Goldsmith

Michael Snyder

I apologize if I missed anyone who judged or misspelled their name

\*The Best Student poster will be awarded at the fall meeting and will receive a certificate. Best Professional paper will be the same as in the past.

\*\* I would also like to note that I would like to see more students/professionals get involved in the judging. This can be a great way to be involved in the chapter and also provide some learning experience.

Rob Ackerson

IAFS Awards Chair

Phone: (219)369-9591

rackerson@dnr.in.gov

# North Central Division News

## The NCD shop is officially open!



It took a little longer than expected but the NCD shop is up and running. This print-on-demand digital storefront will allow the NCD and its chapters the option to sell logo merchandise without the overhead.

There are a variety of customizable items to choose from with varied profit margins.

There will be product examples available to view at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife meeting in the tradeshow hall.



If any chapter would like more information please contact Store Manager—Drew Holloway  
dholloway@msdeng.com



[NCD of AFS on Threadless](#)

COLOR



Colors and sizes may vary by product

# All in a Days Work

## Indiana DNR Fawn River State Fish Hatchery - Aaron Voirol, Hatchery Biologist

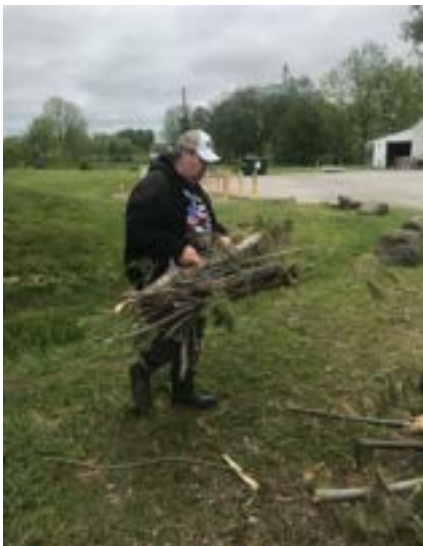
Fawn River SFH crew have been busy getting ponds ready for the advanced walleye program. The first step in pond preparation is filling up the ponds and adding minnow forage. Fathead minnows are the primary forage for walleye throughout the growing season. These minnows will spawn every 3-5 days throughout the summer when water temperatures reach 60 degrees. Fathead minnows will spawn upside down on all kinds of structures naturally in the ponds such as concrete basins, Christmas trees and rocks. However, hatchery staff has introduced more structures including wooden pallets, PVC pipe, styrofoam, brush piles and even more rocks. Hatchery staff has put these structures together to maximize fathead minnow spawning and to further the growth of the walleye as the summer progresses.



Leah and Isabella making brush piles used for minnow spawning.



PVC pallet minnow spawning structure.



Rocky loads brush piles for minnow spawning habitat.



Aaron installs a PVC pallet into a walleye pond. Notice styrofoam as additional flotation and spawning habitat.

## All in a Days Work

### Indiana DNR Fawn River State Fish Hatchery - Aaron Voirol, Hatchery Biologist (continued)



1.3in-2.0in walleye from Cikana SFH being loaded on truck to be transported to Fawn River SFH.



Fathead Minnow eggs attached to underside of rock.

## All in a Days Work

### Indiana DNR Bodine State Fish Hatchery - Julia Markovitz, Hatchery Biologist

Staff have been hard at work this spring here at Bodine State Fish Hatchery. Fish stocking began in March and ran through the second week of April. The first fish to go were 30,000 spring Coho which were stocked into the St. Joe River in March to free up pond space at the hatchery. Our Skamania Steelhead were immediately split into the newly empty ponds to gain extra growth. The remaining fish species including: 20,000 Coho, 74,000 Skamania Steelhead, and 43,000 winter-run Steelhead, were stocked into the St. Joe River over a three-day period. The total weight of fish stocked equaled 27,347.6 pounds, all lifted onto the stocking trucks by hand! We are thankful for the help from the other northern hatcheries and volunteers which made the process run smoothly.



Dave Meuninck (hatchery manager) weighs a net of Skamania Steelhead

Now that the ponds are empty, a new rearing cycle can begin. The smallest fish on site are newly hatched winter-run Steelhead, and the largest fish are Coho Salmon at just over 3 inches long. It takes 11-18 months, depending on species, to raise the fish from green egg to smolt. Our winter-run Steelhead require the least time needing 11 months, and our Coho require the most time needing 18 months. While the fish are growing, we are staying busy with various projects and repairs around the hatchery.



Dave Meuninck lifts a net of Skamania Steelhead up to the stocking truck

## All in a Days Work

### Indiana DNR Driftwood State Fish Hatchery - Robin Bruegmann and Alex East, Hatchery Biologist and Assistant Hatchery Biologist

As water temperatures start to warm the activity at Driftwood starts to get into full swing; seemingly like the fish we raise. The primary goal at Driftwood is the spawning of Largemouth Bass. Even though the Largemouth Bass (LMB) don't start to spawn until around 65 degrees we here at Driftwood are getting started when it is much cooler than that to prepare the ponds for the incoming adult fish.

We start by draining any water that we have in our rubber lined ponds and sweeping out as much of the detritus that has developed during the fall and winter. This is a multi-day project cleaning out just one of the two approximately one-and-a-half-acre pond bottoms that we will use for spawning. We clean the pond bottoms to make checking the nests that we use much easier and keeping the nests cleaner in the process.

We clean the pond bottoms using push brooms and a pump that is connected to our inlet pipe that brings the water from Starve Hollow Lake. After we have the ponds swept out, we refill them, and they are ready for the adults (brood stock).

When our water temps hit around the 60 degree mark, we head to Cikana State Fish Hatchery where they have brought the brood stock into their culture facility for Robin and I to sort through. We do our best to get 50 pairs of male and females for each pond. After picking out the 3-5 year-old fish we are wanting we return to Driftwood and put them into the ponds. The nests are out and ready for them to start spawning on whenever the water temperature hits that magical mark of 65 degrees. The nests are set out in a grid like pattern with 30 nests initially placed. We then go out and check the nests everyday until we no longer find eggs on the nests.

Checking the nests is easy itself, however there is quite a bit of work needed before checking and moving the nests. We start with putting water on our transport trucks and head out to the pond that we are checking and park the truck. Then we look at each nest closely to see if there are any eggs on the nests. The eggs, for the most part, are easy to see. They have a translucent yellow color to them and

stand out pretty well against the black nest. If the nests have eggs they are then transported back to the truck. The nest mats need to stay in the water as much as possible to keep the fertilized eggs from drying out. When we get to the edge of the pond near the truck, we hand up the eggs to put them on the truck. After we load the truck with the nests (with eggs) we return to the building where we suspend the nests in our raceways with water.

The nests remain in the raceways for 7-10 days and will receive treatments of copper sulfate (CuSO<sub>4</sub>) to prevent any fungal growth. The eggs will hatch in around 5-7 days after we bring them in, and the fry will fall to the bottom of the raceway. Once the fry hatches out, they will swim up in about 5 more days, this of course depends on the water temperature. Once the fry swim up we will stock them out in the ponds at 50,000 per acre for approximately 30 days then we will harvest them again and sort out any cannibals then stock them back out at 10,000 per acre until September when we will harvest them and send them throughout the state at 3-4 inches long.



Andrew Ault and Alex East transferring Nest



# All in a Days Work

## Indiana DNR Driftwood State Fish Hatchery - Robin Bruegmann and Alex East, Hatchery Biologist and Assistant Hatchery Biologist



Broodstock Largemouth



Fall Largemouth fingerlings to be stocked



Largemouth Bass Fry



Mark Kasting transferring Bass nest with eggs



Nests hanging in Raceway

## All in a Days Work

### **IDNR Fish Management District 1: Tom Bacula**

As most of you have likely read or know much of my time involves the JC Murphey Lake renovation. So here is that update, fish renovation is scheduled for mid-August. This has been moved up from mid-September, to try to capitalize on drought conditions then have longer to capture any fall rainfall for lake refilling. Since last fall I have marked more habitat features and hosted a few build days to get more together. One volunteer build day got them constructed then brought in some great DFW help to fasten the structures and build a few others. We still have a few more to build as well as marking some channels and no hunting areas. The area of cut logs is getting low, thankfully. It has been a fun project but I await the water returning and in a couple years to go fishing.

This season I have two seasonal naturalist aides. Lyssa Bowers from Manchester University, she lives on Big Chapman Lake enjoying being on the water with her family. Christian Johnson, just started, from Hanover College also enjoys being in the field and is excited to enjoy the life around North Judson. I am very excited to have these two helpers for what I knew would be a busy summer that is now busier. This spring we completed one Largemouth Bass survey at Hudson Lake. Two hatchery staff live on the lake assisted with the survey and were excited to see what was off their docks. We have six general fish surveys scheduled and two check up surveys, many of these locations will be pretty fun. In addition to the usual data entry, scale pressing, equipment maintenance, all of us will view miles and miles of ditches at JC Murphey Lake to evaluate access, size, and crossings for planning on the renovation.

Have a safe and fun summer.

## All in a Days Work

### IDNR Fish Management District 5: Dave Kittaka

We started in March with a crappie survey at Monroe Lake. In two Michigan Style nets, we collected over 2000 Black and White crappie in 4 lifts. We have not aged them yet, but the size distribution is similar to past surveys with most of the fish ranging in the 7 to 8 inch range. Other fish documented were 4 bass one was 7.2 lbs and the other was 5.2 lbs. We also hit the Channel catfish run just right. It seems like rising water after a big rain event really got them moving. We estimated catching over 300 Channels in one net. It took several hours to count crappie and remove hundreds of pounds of Channel Catfish. The following weeks we ran the same traps at Starve Hollow and Dogwood Lakes for the annual VHS fish testing at these water supply lakes. We also collect broodstock Redear, Bluegill and Black Crappie for the year two stocking at JC Murphy as well as adding bullhead and Warmouth to the State Fair fish display. I was fortunate to be able to hire Joy Brown as an early aide to assist with all the equipment prep and trap netting as well as prepping the boat for the Brookville Walleye run.



Alex East, Maddy Bennet, Joy Brown, and Autumn Hall playing with a Dogwood snapper

I ran the second shift at the Brookville Lake walleye run. Walleye came early and allowed for an abbreviated net effort making for a comfortable overall run. Once again, I always appreciate the enthusiasm that comes with working with a young professional crew...(heavy lifting). We conducted a Largemouth Bass survey at West Boggs Lake in late April. We got to use our Blotchy Bass Virus test kit during this survey. Almost 10% of the bass collected during this survey had Blotchy Bass. Most of the blotchy fish looked fat and were larger older fish. It did not appear to have adverse effects on these fish. We will continue to collect more samples from other lakes throughout the season. So far, we have documented Blotchy Bass at Dogwood and Monroe Lakes. Autumn Hall started early May to fill out our

summer crew. We completed broodstock Redear and Black Crappie collections at Dogwood Lake and completed our aquatic vegetation control treatments. Once again, I appreciate the teamwork and support from all the hatchery folks to efficiently collect and delivery these fish. Both Joy and Autumn are also taking advantage of cross training opportunities with herpetology, mammalogy and ornithology, by assisting with Kirkland's water snake and Crawfish frog surveys, River otter processing and banding Barn owl chicks. We completed the fish community part of a status and trends survey at Grouse Ridge Lake, Bartholomew Co, and will be electrofishing numerous strip mine lakes in Greene and Sullivan counties.

Be Safe!

# All in a Days Work

## IDNR Fish Management District 5: Dave Kittaka (continued)



Andy Bueltmann releasing a gill net picked; Brookville Walleye



Autumn Hall cross training with bird folks learning how to band Barn Owls.



Alston Krikorian holding a Brookville Muskie during the walleye broodstock collection



Ben Erb putting a Brookville Walleye in the livewell so it may be taken back to the egg taking station for spawning.



Dave Kittaka asking a West Boggs Largemouth: "Why so blotchy?" before taking a sample to send off to the USGS.

# All in a Days Work

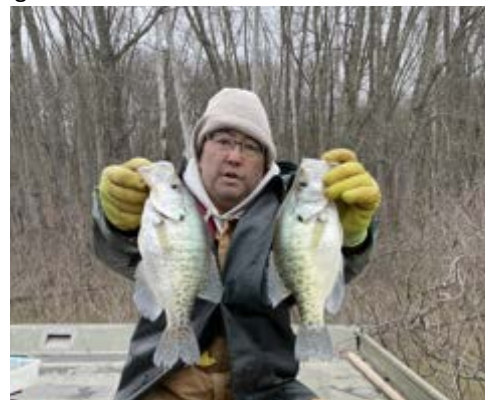
## IDNR Fish Management District 5: Dave Kittaka (continued)



Lake Monroe—"The Back Breaking Channel Catfish Trap Net Haul" brought to you by THE D5 fisheries crew.



Dave Kittaka holding a Brookville Muskie with the iconic dam and tower background.



Dave Kittaka with a couple Lake Monroe Slabs.



"The Few. The Proud. The night shockers". Beautifully calm; buggy night out on West Boggs.



Joy Brown (left), and Nathan Klein (right) with some big West Boggs Largemouth.

## All in a Days Work

### IDNR Fish Management District 6: Andrew Bueltmann

Since fall, District 6 fisheries has been extremely busy. We started the spring off with a Crappie trap net survey at Patoka Lake during which a high percentage of large White Crappie were collected. Specifically, 46%, 30%, 20%, and 9% of the sample were greater than 9 inches, 10 inches, 11 inches, and 12 inches respectively. Also during the survey we collected a very large Flathead that maxed out our 40 pound scale. Following the Patoka Crappie survey Andy worked the second shift for the annual Brookville Walleye broodstock collection operation which went smoothly. Right after Brookville we began our bass sampling on Patoka Lake.



Cody Linxwiler (Left) and Tanner Carlson (Right) with 4 Patoka Lake Crappie all over 13 inches

In 2020, 3,278 Largemouth Bass averaging over 7 inches were stocked by the Indiana Bass Federation in an effort to increase bass abundance. All fish were PIT tagged and since then we have been monitoring annually using night time electrofishing. In 2021 we collected 4 of the



Nathan Klein (Left) and Cody Linxwiler (right) with 4 big Patoka bass all over 3.5 lbs. The farthest to the left was 6.7 lbs

stocked bass, in 2022 we only collected 1 of the stocked bass, and this year we did not collect any stocked bass. During this monitoring we have not detected and noticeable increase in our catch rates indicated that there has not been any noticeable increase in the overall abundance. We plan to continue this monitoring the next couple years. Following Patoka Bass sampling we started conducting night time electrofishing surveys on Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Area.

The strip pits on Sugar Ridge have not been surveyed since 1994 and we have the year off from "Status and Trends" sampling (standardized statewide lake surveying program) so it was a good opportunity to check up on Sugar Ridge. The plan is to survey all pits/ponds with boat ramps for a total of 17. To this point we have sampled 16 of them. Results from these surveys have shown that Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife area has fisheries to satisfy just about any type of angler. Most notably there are a good number of fisheries that support large panfish (i.e., Bluegill and Redear Sunfish) and a few big bass fisheries.



Nathan Klein with a 6.7 lb Patoka Bign'

# All in a Days Work

## IDNR Fish Management District 6: Andrew Bueltmann (Continued)



Andy Bueltmann with two Sugar Ridge—Whitney Pit 5+ lb Largemouth



Cody Linxwiler with 2 Patoka Lake Largemouth over 5 lbs each.



Tanner Carlson (Left) and Cody Linxwiler (Right) with a Patoka Lake 48" (maxed our 40 lb capacity scale out) ~50-60 lbs Flathead. "Not many Crappie in that trap net; wonder why?"

# All in a Days Work

## IDNR Fish Management District 6: Andrew Bueltmann (Continued)



Tanner Carlson with a Sugar Ridge dinosaur. Near Record breaking 6.3 lb Spotted Gar collected in Whitney Pit.



Ryan Maynard with a Sugar Ridge— Big Pigeon Pit 21.3 inch; 3.90 lb Gizzard Shad. "Never thought I'd take a trophy Gizzard Shad picture"



~36 inches of 'gills from Sugar Ridge's Barrett Pit



## All in a Days Work

### IDNR North Region Fisheries Research: Matthew Linn & Ethan Binkowski

The North Region Fisheries Research unit would like to introduce Ethan Binkowski, who started as the Assistant Research Biologist in February 2023. Ethan is originally from Michigan and attended Lake Superior



Ethan Binkowski with a big northern Indiana Muskie

State University, but comes to us from Ohio where he was employed by the Ohio DNR/Ohio State University to assist with fisheries research on Lake Erie. Ethan is an avid angler and has already started exploring the many lakes and streams of northern Indiana. He also enjoys bird watching and wolverine football. Ethan is stationed out of the North-east Regional Office (NERO) in Columbia City.

This spring in coordination with IDNR fisheries management staff the North Region Fisheries Research unit assisted with multiple sampling efforts. Over 700,000 muskie eggs were collected from Webster Lake (Kosciusko County) in late-March and early-April. A survey tar-

geting walleye at Winona Lake (Kosciusko County) was also completed in early-April. The research unit was also fortunate enough to have an intern from Columbia City High School this spring who had the opportunity to assist with several spring netting and large-mouth bass electrofishing surveys.

Our field schedule for the summer of 2023 begins with Status & Trends fish community surveys, hydroacoustic bathymetry mapping, and submersed aquatic vegetation surveys at four northern Indiana glacial lakes. After which, we will begin a series of cisco assessments at the seven remaining lakes in Indiana with cisco populations.



Tom Bacula (left) and Ethan Binkowski (right) with some big northern Indiana walleyes.

## All in a Days Work

### IDNR South Region Fisheries Research: Sandy Clark-Kolaks & Nathan Klein

I had some exciting news this winter, I was to refill my assistant position. I was able to welcome aboard my new assistant Nathan Klein in early April and he has already jumped with assisting with sampling and report writing. Nathan comes to us from southern Wisconsin and received his undergraduate degree from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, where he double majored in Natural Resources (Fisheries and Wildlife ecology emphasis) and Biology. During his time at Northland, he had internships with USFWS and USGS assisting with various Lake Superior fisheries projects. After graduating he worked for the Wisconsin DNR as a Fisheries Technician working on inland fisheries management projects in northwest Wisconsin. More recently, Nathan completed his master's degree at Murray State University while studying Gizzard Shad and Threadfin Shad populations in Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.

We are also assisting our DNR Wildlife Health staff on a national project dealing with research of Blotchy Bass Syndrome. The project is being led by the U.S. Geological Survey, who are trying to pull together information on "blotchy bass syndrome", a recently identified condition that is associated with an emerging family of viruses of black basses. This is a two-part project with one part being biologist taking sampling of blotchy bass for analysis of the virus. It should be noted that even though the name of the virus is blotchy bass other species can be infected including channel catfish. The other part is a citizen science part where anglers can snap photos of fish they catch with blotchy bass and upload them to the Angler Atlas app or website so researchers can get a better sense of distribution. To learn more or report a blotchy bass check out:



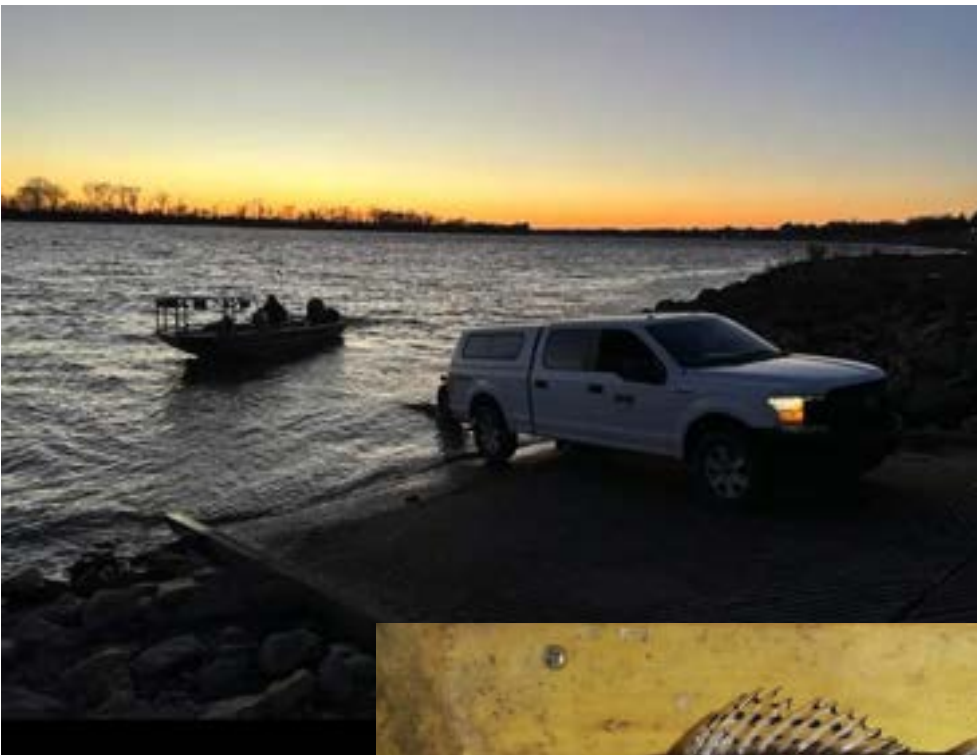
Blotchy Bass syndrome symptom on Largemouth Bass

<https://goldstreampublishinginc.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/y/C1F0656B5398215D2540EF23F30FEDED?alternativeLink=True&fbclid=IwAR2EksHxiLgRIgwKgSUDbEH6FSPg-cloZYInfdnvhM1YLCOVcxYuOOi6RrA> and <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eesc/science/investigating-blotchy-bass-syndrome-black-basses?fbclid=IwAR3Bq0awwDoqCxo6XsryjmUaNuJZYQL1jkiWYZXUp1okTBZO8Rbdsark8qE>.

## All in a Days Work

### IDNR Big Rivers: Phillip Kacmar, Tanner Carlson

We capped off last fall with a Sauger survey on the Ohio River below Newburg Dam on the last day of November. Our Sauger sampling resulted in 198 Sauger being collected in an hour of electrofishing. Only one Sauger was over the 14 inch minimum size limit at 14.4 inches long, and 17% of the Sauger were in the 10–13-inch range, hopefully resulting in some good-sized Sauger next year. We were able to hire the Big Rivers Assistant Biologist, Tanner Carlson (pictured below with a blue sucker), in February, whos' graduate school project was on blue suckers, making him a good fit for the Big Rivers program. This spring we helped the Invasive Carp Unit with carp removals on the White River, removing literal tons of carp in only a few outings. In mid-May we sampled Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Lafayette area collecting 291 individual Shovelnose Sturgeon with the longest fish being 31 inches. We collected 22 Shovelnose Sturgeon recaptures and of those 22 recaptures, seven of those were recaptures from that sampling trip. The most time spent at large was two Shovelnose Sturgeon from 2009; one grew 0.75 inches and the other showed no growth since 2009.



To the Left: Ohio River at Sunset prior to night shocking for Sauger. THE HOOSIER STATE Big Rivers Biologist Phillip Kacmar at the wheel.



Above: Keeper Ohio River Sauger

## Catch of the Day



Left: Sally Pagorek with her nice pike she pulled from Winona Lake

Below: Stanley Pagorek with a nice Bowfin



# Catch of the Day



Above: Larry Lehman with a Blue River Rock Bass



Above: Sandy Clark-Kolaks with a nice Martin State Forest Bluegill



Above: Andy Buelmann with a quality Huntingburg Redear Sunfish



Above: Andy Buelmann with a 15.5" Huntingburg White Crappie

# Catch of the Day



Above: Tom Buelmann (Andy's Dad) with a quality Huntingburg White Crappie



Above: Andy Buelmann quality Dogwood Lake Redear



Above: Andy with a nice mixed bag from Huntingburg

## Catch of the Day



Above: Allison (age 11) Bacula with her first fish on her new blue spinning rod and reel



Above: Valerie (age 8) Bacula with her first fish on her new purple/pink spinning rod and reel



Above: The Big Hoosier State Pond, Lake Michigan. Coho anglers (Rod Edgell and Matt Horsley) on a beautiful March 1st

## Catch of the Day



Above: Allison Bacula with a beautiful Rainbow Trout



Above: Valeri Bacula without a trout, but very excited with the small fish of the day—a Creek Chub