

Lateral Lines

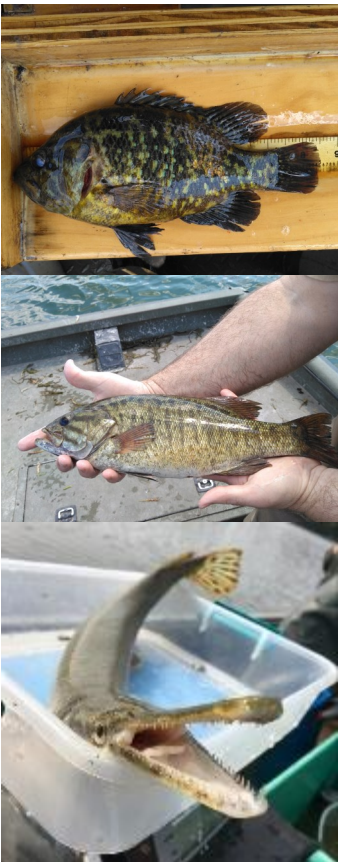
President Message:

Once again, I am sitting at my desk, this time reflecting and catching my breath after a busy last couple of months. I am going to kind of combine an “All in a Day’s Work” with my Presidents Message. In March we started stocking our fish Coho salmon and Skamania steelhead totaling almost 21,000 pounds. While doing this we were and have been short-handed for over a year and a half. Once our stocking was done, we proceeded to assist Bodine SFH with their stocking and Curtis Creek with their RBT stocking. The CWT trailer was here to clip the adipose fin on our Chinook salmon, we received Coho fingerlings from Bodine, picked up surplus Chinook from IL, and have fish started inside for next year’s production. In the next several days we will be picking up MISTT eggs from Michigan, stocking our Chinook salmon, and hopefully picking up some surplus Chinook from Michigan. I did manage to get in what is turning out to be an annual fishing trip with a college friend which was a good break and we caught fish. I also managed to take out a couple of youths turkey hunting and one of them scored a Tom, then my wife and I doubled on our birds. Would have to say it is the first time I have ever doubled with anyone. I am also prepping for a long-needed vacation and am going to Alaska to hunt Black bear and fish for Halibut, (wish me luck) leaving May 8th and returning May 16th. First time to Alaska and regardless of success I am sure the scenery will be breathtaking.

I believe the spring meeting went about as well as expected. I personally wish we could have had it in person but with all the circumstances, that was going to be all but impossible. A big thank you to the committee especially Kevin Gaston for setting most of the meeting online up. This was way to technically advanced for my skills. I would also like to thank our guest speaker Joe Schmees and all the presenters that helped make this meeting a success. I would also like to congratulate Mitch Zischke on his election to the Vice-President position and look forward to working with him along with the other EXCOM members for the fall meeting.

For anyone that is interested in volunteering to work at the hatchery feel free to contact myself or Ken Wetzel. There will be opportunities to assist with the tagging and clipping of steelhead in mid to late June. There may also be opportunities to assist with pond inventories and splitting. This is unpaid but for those that volunteer I will personally provide a lunch. If you are interested my email is rackson@dnr.in.gov and Kens is Kwetzwl@dnr.in.gov. Once we have your info we can (Ken) get it all set up. We have had a few come and help with stocking, inventory and splitting to multiple ponds from Purdue and will welcome any assistance we can get.

-Rob Ackerson
IAFS President



Current Officers

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Kevin Gaston

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Daniel Arndt

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Treasurer:

Ken Wetzel

Newsletter Editor:

Tom Bacula

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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.

Mark your Calendar

Indiana State Fair Update

Hello Fishing Pond groups! By now I'm sure many of you have seen or heard the new dates for the Great Indiana State Fair: JULY 30 - AUG 22, 2021. Mondays & Tuesdays the Fair will be closed. We will fish on Thursdays (a discount day), Saturdays, and Sundays from 10am – 1pm and 4pm – 7pm. We may also fish on Opening Day, which is a Friday. If we do, this will be 24 3-hr fishing sessions over 4 weeks needing 288 volunteers. With social distancing in mind, less kids will fish at one time so less volunteers will be needed each shift.

I would very much like you and your members to help at the Pond. This year, however, we will not set up group registrations, so you will need to let your people know where, how, and when to register. If you have a shift in mind, encourage your volunteers to register for that particular shift on their own. While volunteer registration is not yet open, please visit your profile (or create one) at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/about-us/volunteer/>. The address you provide in your profile is where your free State Fair ticket will be mailed. It's very important to make sure this mailing address is up-to-date.

Hoping to open registration in the next couple of weeks. When open, an email from Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife will be sent to all former volunteers AND volunteer group leaders.

Cheers!—clint (ckowalik@dnr.in.gov)

Fish with a Fishhead will be the afternoon shift on the last Saturday (Aug 21, 2021).

Chapter News

Secretary-treasurer Report—Ken Wetzel

Minutes will be available later.

Awards Committee—Rob Ackerson, Chair

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. 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:

Daragh Deegan—Initial Recolonization of Species and Fish Community changes Following the Removal of the Elkhart River Dam in Downtown Elkhart

Best Student Paper:

Erangi J Heenkeenda—An eDNA Evaluation of Northern River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) Diet with Respect to Fishes

Best Student Poster:

Grace Walker—Evaluating the Presence of Microplastics in Asian Clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) at Anthropogenic Locations

A big thank you goes to all our judges:

Andy Richards
Ken Wetzel

Cameron Yeakle
Dan Arndt

Phillip Kacmar
Rob Ackerson

Ali Meils
Kevin Gaston

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

*The Best Student paper and 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

Newsletter Editor—Tom Bacula

Thank you to all who submitted information to the newsletter. Please send your field pictures into the Facebook group. Contact Tom if you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to assist with the newsletter.

NCD News



North Central Division

of the American Fisheries Society

Technical Committee Update:

Good morning fellow NCD members –

It brings me some sorrow to inform you that we have decided once again to cancel/postpone plans for meeting in person during our upcoming joint summer meeting of our WTC, ETC, and CTC committees due to ongoing uncertainties surrounding Covid19. As we did last summer, however, we will plan to host the meeting virtually through Zoom.

The virtual meeting will be conducted during the third week of July, sometime between the dates of July 20-22. So mark your calendars, and I'll send out more definitive information as plans are finalized ASAP.

Presentations! WTC members, students, and others interested in Walleye – Please contact me (lawrence.eslinger@wisconsin.gov) ASAP if you are interested in presenting some of your management or research findings with our group. ETC and CTC members, please contact your respective committee leaders, and together we as committee leaders will work on putting the schedule of presentations together. As for a Continuing Education workshop, I'm not sure if we'll be able to pull that off at this point. Anyone interested in leading something please let me know.

Best regards,

Lawrence
WTC Chair

Lawrence Eslinger
Treaty Fisheries Biologist
Bureau of Fisheries Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Woodruff, WI
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Chapter News



Pond University

Since Dec 2020, Megan Gunn and I have been hosting a new podcast series called Pond University. We now have 5 or 6 episodes out and you can find there here: <https://ponduniversity.libsyn.com/>

The goal of the podcast is to bring pond and lake management topics to landowners, lake associations and aquatic science professionals. It would be great to spread the word about this via the IAFS newsletter.

Also, our podcast is part of a larger collaborative project called Natural Resources University network, which can be found here: <https://naturalresourcesuniversity.libsyn.com/>

Thanks,
Mitch

Dr. Mitchell Zischke

he/him/his

Clinical Assistant Professor of Aquatic Sciences, Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources Fisheries Specialist, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

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Latest Podcast:

April 15, 2021

Episode 07 - "Sitting Dockside" to Discuss Pond & Lake Education with Some Specifics on Aeration"

In this episode of Pond University, we talk with Matt Rayl. Matt is a co-host of another podcast called Sitting Dockside, and is also the co-founder of a non-profit agency for pond and lake management called the Private Water Natural Resources Association. Matt talks to us about his passion and inspiration for building these educational forums for pond and lake management. He also goes into depth about aeration in ponds, drawing on his more than 20 years of experience in pond management. We encourage you to check out Matt's podcast and the PWNRA Facebook page.

All in a Days Work

Indiana Department of Environmental Management / Office of Water Quality/ Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch: Compiled by Kayla Werbianskyj

Monitoring Results from 2020

Collections for the year 2020 focused on the West Fork and Lower White River as well as other targeted watersheds throughout the state: (Eel [of the West Fork White River], Middle Wabash-Busseron, Sugar, Upper Wabash, and Wildcat). A total of 141 fish community samples were collected from 128 sites resulting in the capture of 27,438 individuals representing 107 different species.

Probabilistic Monitoring

The Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch (WAPB) collected 48 samples at 43 sites across 17 counties in waterbodies in the West Fork White River Basin. A total of 82 species were collected and 7,037 individuals identified. Two sites scored in the “Excellent” range of the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) (scores of 53-60):

Site	Waterbody	Location	County	Total IBI Score
20030	Stoney Creek	CR 130 South	Randolph	54
20046	White River	Bunch Boulevard	Delaware	54

Fifteen sites scored an IBI of less than 36, which is considered impaired for biology. The most impacted sites were 20010 on Kessinger Ditch at Burke Road in Knox County and 20045 on Lemon Creek at CR 200 West in Greene County each with a score of 16.

Reference Site Monitoring

In 2020, WAPB staff completed its 6th year of Reference Site monitoring (goal of 250 sites sampled in 10 years). Of approximately 1200 previously sampled sites, these sites were projected to have the best relative surrounding land use, QHEI score, and water chemistry parameters for supporting aquatic life. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the number of sites for this project was cut in half. Twelve samples were collected at 11 sites (across 3 counties including: Boone, Clinton, and Tippecanoe). A total of 41 species were collected and 2,434 individual fish were identified. One site scored in the “Excellent” range of the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) (scores of 53-60):

20R134.5 on Middle Fork Wildcat Creek at CR 1025 East in Tippecanoe County

One site scored an IBI of less than 36. The most impacted site was 20R136 on Lauramie Creek at CR 1000 South in Tippecanoe County with a score of 32.

Watershed Characterization

Watershed Characterization monitoring provides valuable data for the purposes of TMDL development and watershed management planning. Study areas are selected based upon Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development needs, and where there is a successful CWA 319 planning grant application. The water quality data collected through the watershed characterization monitoring provides the data needed to identify the potential sources and extent of impairment for TMDL development and for local watershed groups to designate critical areas and management decisions for their watershed management plans. Monitoring in 2020 focused on the Maria Creek watershed (HUC 0512011118) in the counties of Knox and Sullivan. There were 20 samples collected at 18 sites. There were 49 species collected and 2,035 individuals identified. Site 20T006.5 (Tilley Ditch at E Pepmeir Road in Knox County) scored the highest on the IBI at 50. Seven sites scored an IBI of less than 36. The lowest score of 16 was at site 20T004 (Maria Creek at N Perry Road in Knox County).

Performance Measures’ Monitoring

This project was cut due to COVID-19 restrictions.

All in a Days Work

Fish Tissue Contaminants Monitoring

In 2020, contaminant monitoring in fish tissue was conducted in the Great Lakes Basins and the Ohio River Basin. While COVID didn't slow down sampling, it did prevent us from staying in hotels while traveling so we spent a lot of time riding in trucks! Samples are currently at the lab for analyses and results are expected this Spring. Data will be used to support Indiana's Integrated Report, the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, and the Indiana State Department of Health's Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory. The Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory can be used by anglers to help them maximize the health benefits from eating fish, while minimizing the risks (<https://www.in.gov/isdh/23650.htm>).

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) has been an emerging contaminant of concern over the last decade and in 2020 IDEM, in partnership with the Indiana State Health Department, received a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant to study the extent and magnitude of PFAS in the Great Lakes Basins. The grant allowed IDEM to collect samples from 46 sites, in addition to the routinely scheduled sampling for the year (96 sites total). The additional coverage will allow IDEM to get contaminant profiles for mercury, PCBs, PFAS, metals and pesticides on many of the major tributaries in the Great Lakes basins and many locations that have never been sampled. For more information on IDEM's contaminants monitoring program or to inquire about fish tissue contaminants data, contact IDEM Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch staff member Ali Meils, at ameils@idem.IN.gov or (317) 308-3204.

Additional projects

The White River Mainstem project was a collaborative effort between the IDEM, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IN DNR), and the Muncie Sanitary District's Bureau of Water Quality (BWQ) to sample the West Fork White River and White River mainstem from the headwaters to the confluence with the Wabash River.

Sixty-two sites were sampled during the summer of 2020 – All sites were sampled for fish community; 59 sites were sampled for water chemistry; and 11 sites were sampled for benthic macroinvertebrate community. Habitat evaluations (QHEI) were conducted with each biological sampling event. There were 94 species and 17,230 individual fish collected throughout the mainstem West Fork White River/White River.

Monitoring efforts in 2021

Probabilistic Monitoring: Sampling will be focused on waterbodies in the Patoka River Basin in Southwest Indiana. The goal is to sample 38 sites in the basin. Data to be collected at these randomly generated sites includes water chemistry, bacteriological, algal, macroinvertebrate communities, fish communities and habitat quality.

Reference Site Monitoring: Sampling will occur at 19 sites in the following 8-digit hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) 05120105, 05120106, 05120108, 05120110, 05120111, and 05120203, 05120206, 05120207; counties of Carroll, Clay, Decatur, Fountain, Jefferson, Jennings, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Ripley, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Warren

Watershed Characterization: Sampling will occur at 24 targeted sites in the Vernon Fork Muscatatuck River Watershed (HUC 0512020707); counties of Jackson and Jennings as part of a watershed characterization study and Total Maximum Daily Load project.

Performance Measures' Monitoring: 8 sites will be located in the following counties: Benton, Clinton, Clay, Sullivan, Ripley. The 2020 sites will be sampled in reference to a historical impairment and could include biological, chemical, and/or bacteriological sampling.

Fish Tissue Contaminants Monitoring: Sampling will occur at targeted sites in lakes and rivers/streams in the Patoka River Basin and West Fork White River Basin.

Coolwater IBI Project: Water chemistry, macroinvertebrate community, and fish community sampling will occur at 90 sites between 2021 and 2022 (45 sites sampled each year). Temperature loggers will be deployed at each site for the entire two years. Reconnaissance work is still in progress to secure landowner permission – sites to be sampled are to be determined following the completion of reconnaissance.

All in a Days Work

IDNR Big Rivers Unit: Sam Peterson, Sarah Molinaro, Craig Jansen

The Big Rivers Unit has a particularly interesting field season coming up. With an assortment of nets, sampling equipment, and serviced vehicles, we'll be able to tackle our 2021 summer work schedule efficiently and effectively. Specifically, much of our attention will be focused on Asian carp until an anticipated Asian carp work unit takes over those duties. Cooler spring water temperatures allow adults to remain more lethargic and easily susceptible to active (electrofishing) and passive (gill nets) removal efforts, so we've already been out on the Ohio River throughout April conducting our annual standardized Asian carp sampling. As water and temperature levels increase, so do our efforts to collect larval Asian carp throughout the Ohio River's mainstem and tributaries



via ichthyoplankton tows. Determining the extent of spawning up the Ohio River and locating spawning locations allows us to monitor range expansion and better allocate future resources throughout this border water. As the summer continues, we'll be sampling for young of year Asian carp in Ohio River tributaries via surface trawling throughout several pools. This work will help us identify potential nursery habitats that allow recruitment of Asian carp into the Ohio River basin. We will also be assisting in various projects studying Hovey Lake's contributions to Asian carp populations, tracking

adult Asian carp movement throughout the Ohio River Basin, using microchemistry to determine adult fish origins, and assisting with hydroacoustic work on the Wabash River. Outside of the Asian carp realm, we will also be completing several weeks of targeted catfish sampling, which will include hoop netting and electrofishing on the White River and trotlining on the Ohio River. With work to be done and seasonal aides to help, we'll be sure to have a safe and exciting summer. Best of luck to all as field seasons begin to ramp up across the state.



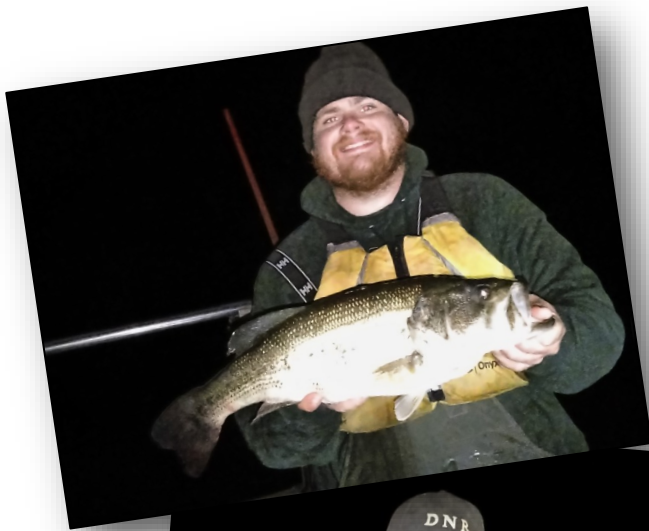
All in a Days Work

IDNR Fish Management District 1: Tom Bacula

Well, 2020 was certainly interesting, but 2021 didn't start off as I would have hoped. I had high hopes of lots of ice fishing, spring Coho Salmon trolling, and some exciting field work, but that came to an abrupt halt. While perfecting a fancy ice skating move of trying to go straight and not fall, I fell and damaged my shoulder and had surgery to fix it. Thus plans changed, it did allow me to start to get caught up on delinquent reports and a few other tasks for a few months. I unfortunately missed my second favorite sampling collecting Northern Pike and Walleyes with large trap nets, hopefully I can make my favorite sampling, fall Wall-eye electrofishing.

In anticipation of getting into the field I was able to hire an aide who assisted other northern districts until I was released back to work. He got into many fun and exciting field surveys and thanks to Tyler was able to come to me with a good understanding of what we do and how it needs to be done. I was released to drive the boat for bass surveys in early May and took a few pictures so I had something to share. A few other surveys I am looking forward to this year include a lake that The Nature Conservancy owns all the property around that has never had a fish survey conducted. There is considerable interest in this water on what's in there. Also, continued survey and planning for the J.C. Murphey Lake renovation starting in under a year. Hope all have great year and if you are going to fall try not to catch yourself with your arm.

A few nice fish from Worster Lake collected during a spring Largemouth Bass survey. Carp was 24 lbs. (I wish I could have held it for a picture)



All in a Days Work

IDNR Fish Management District 5: Dave Kittaka and Paul Stockebrand

We are Back! We started an angler Creel Survey at Dogwood Lake beginning of March with a goal of capturing crappie angler harvest and opinion data for the evaluation of the crappie size limit at Dogwood Lake. We are also looking at overall angler effort, preference, harvest and release as well as use data on 9 property ponds. Crappie and Largemouth Bass fishing has been the most popular to date. The clerk has measured hundreds of crappie and they appear to be averaging around 10.5 inches. Bluegill and redear fishing is just starting to pick up.

Later in March we conducted a crappie survey at Lake Lemon, Monroe Co. Setting 2 Michigan style trap nets we were able to exceed the minimum target number in 4 lifts. At Lake Lemon, Paul Stockebrand, Seth Bogue, and guest trap runner and new Deer biologist, Mariah Boggess, processed over 189 White Crappie ranging in length from 6.2 to 11.7 and 111 Black Crappie with a length range of 6.0 to 9.7 inches.



Top: Super moon over Dogwood Lake.

Right: A 21.0" Largemouth Bass collected during a targeted survey at Dogwood Lake.

Below: Brian Schoenung with a Duck Lake Muskie.



Duck Lake is the newest of the Muskie stockings in the District at 13 years old. We collected 9 MUE ranging from 30.1 to 36.5 inches. At Bass Lake which was initially stocked in 1997 we collected 36 MUE. The size distribution was disappointing with the length range of 26.6 to 38.0 inches. These fish have not been aged but initial evaluation is that these fish looked thin and the reduction in stocking numbers at Bass Lake was the right decision.

At Monroe Lake, we conducted a stocking evaluation looking for the fry stocked Walleye 5 years ago. We collected 26 Walleye ranging in length from 19.4 to 26.1 inches. We have not aged the fish to determine if they are from a fry stocking year.

All in a Days Work

We pulled a 7-day shift netting and spawning walleye at Brookville Reservoir. This was Paul's first walleye run, and he got plenty of experience gillnet picking Walleye. Since it was near the end of the run, other species began to show up in the nets; Muskie, Striped Bass, White Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Silver Redhorse and Channel Catfish were some of the more interesting species.

At Dogwood Lake, we conducted a Largemouth Bass spot check survey. We collected 151 Largemouth Bass ranging from 4.6 to 19.1 inches. Topped out Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil made it nearly impossible to collect fish near shore. Now I remember why in past surveys we collected bass at the beginning of April.

In May, we will begin our Status a Trends lake surveys at Lake Lemon, Spurgeon Hollow, Starve Hollow, and Spring Mill Lake.

Clockwise left:

-Setting a gill net Brookville Lake Walleye spawning.

-Walleye collected during a stocking evaluation at Monroe Lake.

-Kyle Robertson and Paul Stockebrand spawning Walleyes.

-Dave with a Brookville Lake Striped Bass.



All in a Days Work

IDNR Fish Management District 5: Andy Bueltmann

Since last October, D6 has got back on track with some field work since the 2020 COVID shutdown season. We PIT tagged and stocked another batch of Largemouth into Patoka Lake during the fall. A total of 2,364 fish were tagged and stocked bringing the overall total from last year to 3,278. All fish stocked averaged about 7.5 inches and ranged from 6 to 10 inches. The fish were purchased by the Indiana Bass Federation and we plan to evaluate stocking success by conducting electrofishing surveys for the next three years to see if the stocked fish are contributing to overall abundance. Once the stocked fish reach legal size (15 inches at Patoka), we plan to check fish at tournament weigh ins to see if the stocked fish are being caught by anglers. In addition to stocking bass our habitat enhancement project at Patoka is still ongoing.



Andy's Fish Farm handing an angler a net of PIT tagged Largemouth Bass to stock into Patoka Lake.



Couple of nice Patoka Lake Largemouth Bass.

Patoka Lake PIT tagged Largemouth recapture. The little red dot on the stomach is where the tag was inserted.



Tri County Bass Club members assisting with dropping their artificial fish structure they purchased and built into Patoka Lake.

All in a Days Work

Over winter the Tri County Bass Club (Chapter of the Indiana Bass Federation) purchased and built 18 mossback style artificial structures. Two of their members also came out with us to help drop them in the lake. We held a volunteer build day in March where volunteers built 45 pallet structures. We had 17 volunteers show up and they were finished in about an hours' time. Since 2019 we have dropped a total of 261 artificial structures including pallet structures, Hoosier Cubes (PVC structures), mossback style structures, and concrete block reefs. In addition to artificial structure the State Parks staff have felled 253 shoreline trees. We plan to put out more structure this fall/winter and possibly fell some more trees. If interested in helping out with the project feel free to contact me (Abueltmann@dnr.in.gov).



Volunteer built pallet structures waiting at Jackson boat ramp while Public Access South loads them onto the pontoon.



To kick off the field season we conducted a Crappie and Muskie survey at Blue Grass Pit on Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area. We collected a total of 656 crappies which averaged 9.4 inches and ranged in length from 6.8 to 13.6 inches. Of those, 65% were greater than 9 inches, 30% were greater than 10, and 9% were greater than 11 inches. We collected a total of 5 Muskie which ranged in length from 32.9 to 37.0 inches. The largest Muskie weighed 16.5 pounds. Following the Crappie survey we conducted a Bass survey at Patoka Lake. During the survey we collected a total 171 Largemouth and two Smallmouth. The largemouth ranged in length from 5 to 20.5 inches with the largest weighing 5.5 pounds. We collected a total of 4 largemouth from last year's stockings. The recaptured fish from stocking looked healthy and tag incision wounds looked like they were healing well.

All in a Days Work



Hillary Bulcher (property manager at Sugar Ridge FWA) holding a couple nice Blue Grass Pit Crappie and a muskie. Mitch Anderson (assistant property manager at Sugar Ridge FWA) holding a couple nice Blue Grass Pit Largemouth Bass.

All in a Days Work

IDNR South Region Fisheries Research: Sandy Clark-Kolaks and Seth Bogue

Spring is a great time for anglers to fish for crappie and it's also a great time for biologists to conduct targeted fisheries surveys for them. In mid-March, we conducted our annual crappie survey at Dogwood Lake to monitor the efficacy of the 9-inch minimum limit. We set two Lake Michigan style trap nets for two nights, resulting in a total effort of 4 overnight lifts. Our efforts resulted in 355 Black Crappie and a CPUE of nearly 89 fish per lift. Sizes of fish sampled ranged from 5.9 – 14.1 inches with 60% of fish over 9 inches. Size structure, growth, and condition of Dogwood crappie remains good, suggesting the minimum length limit is not having adverse effects.

In mid-April, we conducted a night electrofishing survey at Sullivan Lake to assess the utilization of artificial habitat structures by Largemouth Bass. Fifteen minutes of electrofishing was performed at 4 stations with artificial habitat structures and 4 stations without. A total of 132 Largemouth Bass were sampled, with 51% of them at artificial habitat stations. Length of bass sampled ranged from 5.7 – 21.5 inches and the average length of bass was slightly higher at stations with habitat. In addition to bass, three Saugeye were also sampled ranging in size from 16.4 – 19 inches and several more were observed but not collected. Overall catch rates were lower than previous years and the percentage of bass sampled at habitat stations was lower than previous years as well.



Dogwood Lake Crappie.
Sullivan Lake Largemouth Bass and saugeye.



Catch of the Day



"If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago."

Zane Grey



www.zs.madison.or



Larry Lehman caught this Rainbow Trout on his 2 wt fly rod in the Little Elkhart River below Middlebury on April 27, 2021.

Catch of the Day



Left: Northland College buddies, Brian Schoenung and Rob Ackerson catch from Lake Michigan this spring.

Below: Dave Kittaka's "catch" his first "snow" bird, opening day of turkey season 2021.



Andy Bueltmann's first Patoka Lake Walleye.



Catch of the Day



From Scott Shuler:

Bienville Plantation – If you are a fan of bass fishing then you have probably heard of Bienville Plantation. I had the opportunity to visit the property in late February and help them assess their water quality to keep those 10+ pound bass growing. Of course I had to take a picture next to Scott's Bay!

Daily Wetland Visit – My daughter Gabby and I stop by this wetland several days a week on the way to school! We have taken pictures in the same spots for a few years now and plan to continue into the future. I can't wait to make one of those videos showing how the wetland and Gabby grow over 5 or 10 years!



Big Bass – My son Sam caught this nice 6.2 pound bass last fall in a small private lake in central Indiana!

