NEWSLETTER

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
of the
American Fisheries Society

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER

Promotes the Conservation, Development and Wise Utilization of the Fisheries

Vol. 4 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

American Fisheries Society

Northwestern Ontario Chapter

VOLUME 4(1) NOVEMBER 1983

CONTENTS

The Newsletter of the Northwestern Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is printed periodically three times annually and sent to its members free of charge.

Membership in the Chapter may be obtained by remitting $5.00 to the Secretary-Treasurer. Chapter members are urged to consider joining the parent organization.

Editor: Rick Borecky, P.O. Box 970, Nipigon, Ontario P0T 2J0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT's REPORT

As the newly-elected president of the Northwestern Ontario Chapter of the AFS, I'd like to welcome all readers to our first newsletter of the 1983-84 season. First of all, I would like to recognize those who worked hard to keep our chapter active and running smoothly in the 1982-83 season.

Bob Walroth, Past-President, always managed to find enough time to take care of things and keep everything well-organized. Ken Cullis, Secretary-Treasurer, kept the membership list active and had the horrendous job of balancing the books. Hal Schraeder, Newsletter Editor, can't be thanked enough for producing a first-class, well-organized newsletter, with the help of all the contributors.

Our third annual conference was held both in the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) and at the North Shore Lodge, near Dryden. The conference was well-organized and enjoyable. Big thanks to Dr. Dave Schindler and Dr. Ken Mills, Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg, for hosting part of our meeting and showing us around the research area. Their staff's warm hospitality made everybody feel welcome.

The second part of the conference was devoted to the presentation of data collected in the West Patricia Land Use Plan study (W.P.L.U.P.). We thank all participants in the session for taking the time to prepare and present the data. Special thanks to Phil Ryan for his time and effort in organizing the session. The annual meeting was well-attended, and a report on it appears in this newsletter.

Next year's conference promises to be a challenging and interesting one, keeping up with our Chapter's previous efforts. The conference will deal with future management options for recreational fishing and the tourist industry in Northern Ontario.

I feel that fisheries biologists, tourist operators, and anglers have an underlying common goal, and that is, to realize maximum benefits from the resource, while maintaining some form of biological balance. In Northern Ontario we have been blessed with vast, but finite, fishery resources, therefore, the potential for socio-economic benefits is large. In keeping with the Chapter's interest in fisheries-related issues, I feel that we can and should provide a forum for discussing possible management alternatives, and their respective pros and cons.

We are planning to hold the conference at Quetico Centre, from September 18 to the 21st, 1984. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

Remember, the Chapter's success will always depend on everybody's cooperation. Although different people each year are appointed to specific tasks, it is important that all members help along anyway they can.

Dominic Baccante

Parent Society's response to the Chapter's inquiry regarding payment of AFS dues in Canadian funds.

American Fisheries Society
ORGANIZED 1870 | INCORPORATED 1910

October 14, 1983

Dominic Baccante, President
Northwestern Ontario Chapter, AFS
P.O. Box 5000
Thunder Bay, Ontario
Canada P7C 5G6

Dear Dominic:

I have not yet discussed your October 3 letter with President Janice, but I do have a partial solution to the problem you express.

In the future, to save Canadian members the cost of U.S. money orders and to save AFS the bank charges associated with depositing Canadian checks, with assistance from your Chapter, we will be opening a Canadian bank account. Henceforth, all Canadian payments may be on Canadian checks and we will simply deposit them in our Canadian bank account. Of course, under our new policy the Canadian checks must be in equivalent U.S. dollars.

Obviously, this does not relieve the problem that AFS dues will cost Canadian members more than in the past few years, but in light of the Society's critical funding problems, we have no other choice. I do hope that you understand, and that through you your members will understand the necessity for this action.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Sullivan
Executive Director

cc: Janice Hughes, AFS President
Neville Ward, Chapter President-Elect
James Mayhew, North Central Division President

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American Fisheries Society
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JANICE S. HUGHES
PRESIDENT 1983-1984

CARL R. SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBERT L. KENDALL
EDITOR

P.O. Box 4004
Monroe, LA 71211-4004
318-343-4044
October 27, 1983

Mr. Dominic Baccante
Northwestern Ontario Chapter, AFS
P.O. Box 5000
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 5G6
CANADA

Dear Dominic:

I can understand your concern about paying AFS dues with Canadian funds; however, part of the problem will be solved with us opening a Canadian bank account which will save you and AFS money.

At our last EXCOM meeting, we searched many areas to help balance our budget. Travel funds were cut as well as other operating expenses, page charges were reinstated, dues for official members were increased, etc. By accepting Canadian funds, we were losing around $4500.00 per year. It has come to my attention that other U.S. based organizations such as The Wildlife Society, The Society of American Foresters, AIBS, etc. have recognised this problem and are also requiring payment of dues in equivalent U.S. dollars.

I hope you can understand the financial problems we are facing in our Society and will encourage your members to accept this action. We surely do not want to lose any of our members "north of the border". Your assistance in helping with this financial problem will really benefit the Society.

Sincerely,

Janice Hughes

Janice S. Hughes
President

cc Carl Sullivan
Neville Ward
James Mayhew

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SUMMARY OF RECENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Northwestern Ontario Chapter's third annual Conference of Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology was held September 6-9, 1983 at the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans Experimental Lakes Area (E.L.A.) near Dryden, Ontario. Chapter members and invited guests convened to observe and discuss experimentation on a whole-lake scale. Work at the E.L.A. centre has been designed primarily to resolve questions related to the eutrophication issue and to assist in the formation of nutrient control strategies for larger lakes.

Dr. David Schindler, project leader at E.L.A., and his staff led conference participants through a tour of ongoing sub-projects. The projects cover many aspects of the ecology of waterbodies. Studies aimed at elucidating fish communities, benthos, hydrology and meterology, water chemistry, primary production, and bacteria were observed first-hand. The fisheries workers at E.L.A. also investigate the impacts of such stresses as: acidification, pollution, heavy metal or radionuclide contamination, clearcut logging, nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), as well as natural windstorms and forest fires. Many of these stresses are artificially imposed on small lakes by the staff themselves so that simulations can be controlled.

A second session of the conference featured provincial fishery specialists who had been involved in the preparation of the West Patricia Land Use Plan. This Plan addresses how resource use developments and decisions will unfold in the 223,625 square kilometre planning area which contains a significant portion of northwestern Ontario. The session was chaired at the last moment by Dick Ryder, a past president of the AFS, who graciously accepted the responsibility after Ken Loftus, Ontario's Provincial Fisheries Scientist, had to return to Toronto unexpectedly. Topics addressed by the speakers included: a general limnologic survey of the West Patricia area, the relative productivity of lakes in the planning area, the lake districts and fish communities, the limnological features of smaller lakes with a consideration of fish community type and potential yield, the recreational fisheries, and a discussion of a phosphorous morphoedapic index.

The conference was punctuated by the Chapter's fifth annual business meeting during which it was resolved that the Chapter will take a more active role in Parent Society meetings by ensuring representation at the next North Central Division annual meeting.

During the past year active membership continued to grow and experienced an encouraging 45% increase to 100 members representing various government and private organizations. The Chapter Newsletter continued to attract new readership and widespread acclaim for its liaison with other fisheries oriented agencies.

Guest lecturers drew Chapter members together throughout the year and the second annual Doran's Brewery Hospitality Night was enjoyed as one of the Chapter's more popular get-togethers.

Harald Schraeder

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 1983

President-Elect Nick Baccante chaired the Annual Business Meeting in President Bob Walroth's absence. Bob was busy fighting fires and could not attend the meeting.

The quorum was waived and Ken Cullis read the Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Dick Ryder motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (seconded by Rick Borecky). Total assets as of September 9/83 were $1,579.28. Terry Marshall motioned to accept the financial statememt (seconded by Marcel Pellegrini). Current membership stands at 100 members with 37 new members and 6 members lost. Membership report accepted by Val Macins (seconded by Walter Momot).

NEW BUSINESS

Phil Ryan expressed concern with the lack of standardization in computers and software packages used by fisheries workers in the province. He proposed an inventory should be taken of hard and software currently in use. Rob Kushneriuk was nominated by Phil to compile an inventory list, and report on it in upcoming newsletters.

Nick Baccante noted the status of OMNR Fisheries Research which is presently being reviewed. Nick intended to collect and circulate relevant information on the matter to Chapter members for suggestions before drafting a letter of concern to Deputy Minister Bill Foster. The letter should support in-house research by OMNR.

Neville Ward inquired about the status of the Lake Trout Resolution submitted to the AFS Parent Society. Dick Ryder said that the Resolution is still shelved and the Chapter needs representation at the next Parent Society meeting before anything else can be done. Attendance would be discussed later during this meeting.

Nick Baccante brought up a suggestion, originally made by Hal Schraeder, regarding the possibility of the Chapter supporting a Scholarship at Lakehead University. Walter Momot suggested providing the L.U. library with money to purchase books instead of awarding student scholarships. Further input on the subject was requested before making a final decision. The subject would also be mentioned in the next newsletter.

Nick Baccante raised the topic of Chapter attendance at the next N.C. Division Annual Meeting. If important topics (i.e. Lake Trout Resolution) should be discussed, Chapter attendance at the meeting is required. Members voted in favour of sending someone to attend the next meeting. The amount of financial support for the

representative should depend on the current financial status of the Chapter.

Nick Baccante noted that Canadian members of the AFS must pay the current exchange rates for dues. Chapter members disagreed with the idea of paying more for fewer services to Canadian members. The Chapter should draft a letter expressing this concern.

Ken Cullis presented a $20 cheque to Rick Borecky for designing the winning logo for the N.W. Ontario Chapter.

No other new business was raised, therefore Nick Baccante opened elections for executive members and other committees.

The nominees for President-Elect were Neville Ward (nominated by Terry Marshall) and Jake Vander Wal (Dick Ryder). John McDonald motioned to close nominations (seconded by Rick Borecky). Neville Ward was elected President-Elect.

The nominiess for Secretary-Treasurer were Dave Hollinger (nominated by Rick Borecky), Brian Krishka (Ken Cullis) and Hal Schraeder (Nick Baccante). Dave Hollinger was elected but later declined the position. Hal Schraeder became Secretary-Treasurer.

Rick Borecky was appointed as Newsletter Editor and the following people were regional Newsletter representatives:

Walter Momot
Jake Vander Wal
Phil Ryan
Tom Mosindy
Chris Brousseau
Jill Entwhistle
Marcel Pellegrini

Ian MacRitchie had one other item of new business. He notified the Chapter of a symposium on large river fisheries to be held at Geneva Park in 1985. Agenda of the symposium was submitted to Nick Baccante and will be included in the next newsletter.

Rick Borecky motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dick Ryder seconded the motion.

Nick Baccante was voted in as president by acclamation.

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance of hand October 4, 1982		$ 981.37
Assets		
Chapter Dues	$ 330.00	
Parasites & Diseases Workshop	2,260.00	
Conference 1983	5,020.00	
Chapter Cap Sales	316.71	
Accumulated Interest	101.06	
	$8,027.77	8,027.77
		$9,009.14
Liabilities		
Parasites & Diseases Workshop	$2,124.84	
Conference 1983-Deposit for Accommodations	500.00	
Past-President Certificates	44.07	
History of Thunder Bay Gift Texts	119.60	
Pictures - L. Goodwin	18.75	
Secretary Gift - Nipigon	16.00	
Newsletter Postage	55.00	
Contribution to Home Fund Raffle	50.00	
Hats and Crests	699.99	
Service Charge on Chequing Account	3.61	
	$3,631.86	3,631.86
Balance on hand September 1, 1983		$5,377.28
Net pre-registration fees for 1983 Conference before expenses		4,520.00
		$ 757.28
Chapter Caps on hand - 73 @ 6.00 each		438.00
Crests on hand - 126 @ 3.00 each		384.00
	Total Assets	$1,579.28

Ontario

Note of congratulations to Chapter from M.O.E.

Ministry of the Environment
Northwestern Region

Ontario Government Building
P.O. Box 5000
435 James Street South
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7C 5G6
(807) 475—1205

November 2, 1983

Mr. Rick Borecky
Editor
American Fishery Society Newsletter
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 970
NIPIGON, Ontario
P0T 2J0

Dear Rick:

On behalf of Ministry of the Environment staff, we would like to extend our congratulations on the success of the recent chapter conference. Both the Experimental Lakes Area sessions and the presentations on the Patricia studies were interesting and informative.

The historical perspective given to the "pioneer" investigations carried out in the Patricias certainly showed that the growth rate of questions, as always, seems to outstrip the growth rate of answers.

We would also like to extend special thanks to those A.F.S. members who gave a great deal of their time in organizing the conference and in providing a balanced range of presentation topics. Thanks again.

Yours truly,

J. Vander Wal
Northwestern Region
and
N. Conroy
Northeastern Region

JVW:cc

PARENT SOCIETY NEWS

NOTES FROM THE A.F.S. DIARY

AFS HAS PRINTED ITS OWN MONEY, but before you notify the FBI, let me explain. Quite frequently your Central Office must send small refund checks to AFS members for overpayment of book orders, due to non availability of publications, etc. Many of these checks are for amounts less than $10.00 or even less than $5.00. The cost in staff time, paper and overhead of writing a check is probably close to $2.00, and in a year it mounts up. To save the Society money we have decided to return very small refunds in AFS "money" which can be used to pay dues, buy publications, join Sections, etc. Of course, if members insist, we will refund cash, but if our plan works, it will save the Society a substantial amount in accounting and overhead costs. So don't be surprised if you see a couple of AFS dollars in your mailbox. Your support will be much appreciated.

THE ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER has sent us copies of their latest newsletter. Their comprehensive report is published in English (21 pages) and in French (27 pages). Other Chapters with newsletter publishing problems please take note. Charles Ayer of Fredericton, New Brunswick is President, and Nicole Berube of Dalhousie, NB is Editor.

AFS IS OPENING A CHECKING ACCOUNT IN THE CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE in an effort to reduce international bank transaction charges and eliminate any necessity for Canadian members to purchase a money order to facilitate dues payment. It is an interest bearing account.

A FEW COPIES OF "PLANNING FOR URBAN FISHING AND WATERFRONT RECREATION" are available here for just the cost of first class postage. If you'd like a copy of the 108 page publication, let us know and send along $2.00 to cover costs.

A LETTER URGING GREATER SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONALISM was mailed earlier this year from the Presidents of AFS, The Wildlife Society, the Society of American Foresters, and the Society for Range Management. Individually typed letters went to all state wildlife agency directors, plus the principal administrators of all pertinent federal agencies. Several positive responses have been received. A copy of the letter is contained with this issue of the DIARY.

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONALISM

Dear

More often than not, professionalism is taken for granted by agency heads and others in leadership positions, and yet most will agree that professionalism is what makes their agency run so well.

For those of us who are trying to lead the societies that make up these professional ranks, the claim that membership is not supported by their agency is confusing, to say the least.

We would appreciate knowing, from your perspective, what we might do to make professional societies contribute more to professional growth and development of your staff, and also, how we might better be able to provide timely and valuable support to professional agencies carrying out natural resource programs.

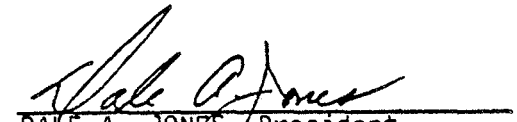
Our needs are for your personal support in two basic areas. The first one involves membership. We are shamefully short of having all professional people who make their livelihood in resource management, as members of their respective professional society.

The second area includes membership attendance at professional society meetings. We fully realize the travel restraints most agencies face. We would only hope that as a key administrator, you will consider the value of continuing education and training of your subordinates when doing a cost-effective analysis for attendance at professional society meetings.

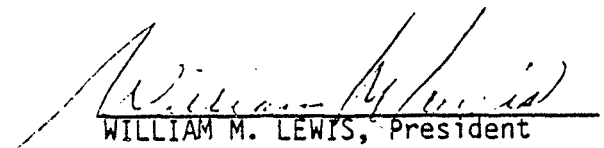
We believe it is time to work together in a joint effort to strengthen professionalism and professional societies in the field of natural resource management. Any thoughts you would have on reaching this goal would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

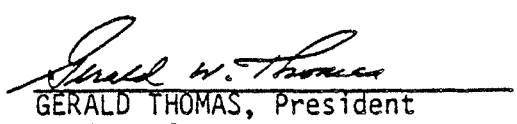
THOMAS B. BORDEN, President
Society of American Foresters
Forestry Building 219
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, CO 80523



DALE A. JONES, President
The Wildlife Society
10272 Friendship Court
Fairfax, VA 22032



WILLIAM M. LEWIS, President
American Fisheries Society
Fisheries Research Laboratory
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois 62901



GERALD THOMAS, President
Society for Range Management
P.O. Box 3Z
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHEASTERN REGION OMNR

Experimental Angler Dip Netting Program for Pink Salmon

Wawa District was again involved in the experimental dip-netting of pink salmon. The 1983 program allowed for dipnetting on the Michipicoten River only. A total effort of 4,928 dipnet hours, and catch of 3,795 pinks is estimated from permit report forms. Although the pressure is up from 1981, the last odd year spawning run, the estimated catch is down considerably from 12,671 in 1981. In conjunction with the dipnetting program a creel census was carried out during the dipnetting season. A report of the entire program should be available in the new year.

Chinook Salmon Sport Fishery - Michipicoten Bay

The chinook salmon fishery in Michipicoten Bay of Lake Superior saw tremendous growth this summer. Many local anglers have equipped their boats with downriggers and depth sounders in order to capitalize on the fishery, as have residents of Sault Ste. Marie and northern Michigan. A fishing derby held in mid-August produced a winning entry of 10 kg (22 lbs.), which appears to approach the maximum size for eastern Lake Superior waters. Up to 50 boats a day were observed fishing in the Bay during late August.

Brook Trout Stocking Assessment

Wawa District was again involved in brook trout stocking assessment. This year's program was concentrated on one lake only in an effort to compare two methods of assessment i.e. mark and recapture versus removal methods. Two small trapnets were employed initially, followed by five nights of intensive gillnetting. Early indications are that spring planted yearlings are not susceptible to standard gears, and that previous District studies using gillnetting only may have resulted in underestimates of survival.

Spring Spawning of Chinook Salmon Documented

Dr. T. Kwain of the Lake Superior Research Unit documented spawning chinook salmon in the Michipicoten River this past May. This is the first documentation of spring spawning chinooks in the world. The implications for sport angling and rainbow trout management are significant.

Marcel Pellegrini

NORTHERN REGION OMNR

Cochrane District Experiments With Slot-limits on Walleye

North of Cochrane, Ontario, there are several small (less than 500 ha.) walleye-pike-whitefish-perch lakes that are presently being accessed by the development of the Detour Lake Mine Road. Fishing pressure has increased dramatically in these lakes that were at one time available only to fly-in operators. These lakes, situated in Division 25, presently have no closed season. It is expected that exploitation will significantly reduce walleye population levels in these lakes within a very short time. Traditional regulations, such as season closures, are not appropriate due to the short operating season of the tourist outfitters and late ice-out conditions.

As part of an experimental management program, three lakes will be open to walleye fishing next year under a slot-size limit. The intent is to increase yield in the lakes and at the same time protect the brood stock. Anglers would be allowed to keep walleye less than 43 cm total length, primarily for eating purposes, and any fish that they capture greater than 60 cm as trophy fish. Intermediate sized fish would be protected as it is this size range that contributes the most number of eggs. This type of size-limit allows anglers fishing mainly for food to harvest the smaller fish. Protecting fish in the medium size ranges should provide greater numbers of large fish for the trophy angler.

Based on index-netting to date, it appears that we will be protecting between 20-25% of the walleye population and over 90% of the eggs that are laid annually. Two other lakes will act as controls and the yields of all five lakes will be monitored over time.

This concept is expected to have applicability to similar lakes in the province for increasing walleye yields. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Cochrane Regional Office.

Chris Brousseau

Symposium on the Production and Management of Large Rivers

Purpose

Fisheries Management Practices on warmwater rivers have remained basically unchanged for several years. At the same time, however, increasing utilization of our rivers for water supplies, flood control, transportation, irrigation, food production, energy production, dilution, assimilation of waste products and numerous other uses have adversely affected

the water quality and physical environment that support fish and other aquatic life. In addition to this, the 1980 Ontario Angler Survey indicated that over 7.5 million man days or approximately 25% of all the fishing done in the province is carried out on streams and rivers. This demand cannot be put into perspective in view of the lack of reliable productivity estimators on large rivers. This is important for the planning of fisheries management programs since new fisheries initiatives based on supply and demand may not be realistic without more accurate productivity (supply) information. Increasing demands for fishing opportunities are forcing fishery managers into managing warmwater rivers, but very little effort has been applied to solving warmwater river problems even though these systems offer great potential for meeting future fishery demands.

Until recently, little was known about river inventory, fisheries productivity or the adjacent shoreline development potential of large warmwater rivers. Requests for cottages, commercial fishing, hydro facilities and so on cannot be properly addressed with respect to their effect on river fish resources. Solving these problems requires unique approaches. For example, a new standardized method for fisheries inventory and assessment of Ontario rivers is currently being developed. This represents the refinement of standard methods as well as development of new methods to meet the challenges posed by inventorying large rivers. In addition to this, population and biomass estimates for fish in large rivers of Ontario are being obtained for the first time. These estimates combined with variables measured in the inventory, may eventually lead to a river productivity estimator, similar to that which has been developed for lakes in Ontario.

In recognition of the needs and problems associated with the development of techniques for the management of our lotic resources, the large river inventory committee has proposed a symposium on the production and management of the fisheries in large rivers. The intent is to focus the attention of fishery resource managers, fisheries planners and developers, of the opportunities and need for rational management of our large rivers and thereby promote the planned development of inventory and assessment techniques and productivity models.

Objectives

1. To summarize the current state of the art of river inventory and assessment techniques and review existing fish biomass and productivity estimates in large warmwater rivers for the purpose of producing estimators of fish production and biomass.

2. To publish the information from the presentation of case studies and synthesis papers.

3. To improve communications and liaison amongst fish managers with large river interests and to identify areas needing further study to improve the rational management of our river resources.

Program and Scope

The symposium should address the fisheries management of large warmwater rivers with the emphasis on inventory, assessment, productivity and biomass estimates. Case histories from various parts of the world would be presented, followed by synthesis sessions. The case histories would be literature reviews on the management of fisheries in large rivers which would include the following items:

Methods and techniques for inventory, production and biomass and indices of productivity and biomass, population dynamics, harvest estimates, sustainable yield, physical and chemical characteristics related to productivity, a critique of current information and an outline of needs for future research. The symposium should follow the Great Lakes Fishery Committee Symposium on lake productivity which would place it in June of 1985 at Geneva Park, Ontario. Attendance would be restricted to 40-50 people who are directly involved as authors, editors, etc. The followup publications and possibly workshop would be used to transfer the knowledge to the rest of our staff.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION OMNR

Recent Course on The Statistical Design of Fisheries Surveys

In October, Dr. George Bazigos (F.A.O., Rome) gave a week-long course on The Statistical Design of Fisheries Surveys, to OMNR biologists at Geneva Park on Lake Couchiching. Dr. Brian Shuter of the Fisheries Research Section coordinated the arrangements and made a videotape record of the course. Bazigos' work includes the design of fisheries surveys on most of Africa's large lakes (i.e. Volta, Kainji, Victoria, Malawi,...), and the design of "acoustical" surveys of fish stocks. He expressed an interest in becoming involved with the design of creel surveys, and made informal arrangements to do this with several of the people who attended the course. It was a pleasure to listen to someone who is outstanding in his field who can also "teach". Arrangements for borrowing the videotapes can be made with Brian Shuter.

Wayne MacCallum

DECLINING PRICES FOR LAKE SUPERIOR HERRING

The Lake Superior commercial fish industry is experiencing a difficult year in 1983 as a result of high inventories, rising operating costs and markets that are still reflecting the effects of unemployment and recession.

Lake herring (*Coregonus artedii*) has been the species hardest hit by decreased demands, as is evident by the drastic reduction in prices paid to the fishermen by the major fish buyers. Average price paid per pound of round herring at the peak of the season (November) was 40¢ in 1980, 30¢ in 1981, 21¢ in 1982 and a proposed 15¢ in 1983. Price paid for herring spawn shipped separately has also dropped from $1.00 per pound in 1980 to 65¢ per pound in 1983. To make matters worse for the fishermen, the major buyers of Superior fish have only agreed to purchase less than half of the 2,800,000 pounds of herring that may be caught in Thunder Bay and Black Bay under existing quotas.

The abundance of inexpensive freshwater fish on the market in the past few years is one of the major reasons for the industry's problems. Great Lakes harvest of lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) has doubled in the past five years. Lake Huron and Lake Michigan fisheries have been largely responsible for this increase in harvest; as a result, large quantities of a preferred species to the lake herring are being harvested closer to the major fish markets.

Lake Superior herring is also experiencing competition from a restored abundance of saltwater herring in the North and Baltic Seas. Markets for freshwater herring have virtually dried up in Northern Europe for both the fish and the roe, because of a local preference for saltwater herring and transportation costs.

The outlook for the Lake Superior herring industry is rather bleak for the near future, and long-term recovery will depend upon an active search for new markets. It seems improbable, that in times of rising food prices, there is no need for an inexpensive source of quality protein of this nature. Time alone will tell as to the fate of the industry; but in the meantime, would anyone like to buy some excellent fish, "real cheap"?

Ken Cullis

High Angler Returns of Tagged Lake Nipigon Brook Trout

This past spring a total of 10 tagged brook trout were reported caught by anglers in Lake Nipigon. A total of 47 fish had been tagged by the Lake Nipigon Fisheries Assessment Unit on a spawning site in October 1982. Most of the tagged fish reported were caught some 30-50 km from the tagging site. This information raises questions of concern regarding their homing behaviour and the status of the brook trout population in Lake Nipigon. Further study is planned to assess the situation.

NORTHWESTERN REGION OMNR

Lake of the Woods F.A.U. Update

May 26, 1983 proved to be an eventful day for the Kenora District. This marked the end of a hard fought battle to close the walleye fishery on Shoal Lake. Since future stocks were dependent on the survival of one remaining strong year class (1979), closure of both commercial and sport fisheries for walleye was essential.

Only 25 ripe females out of a total of 1378 walleye were encountered during spring trap netting in 1983. In contrast, a large population of potential spawners is anticipated in the spring of 1984 since assessment during the past summer has indicated that up to 80% of females in the 1979 year class will be mature at this time.

In order to improve conditions on the major spawning site at the mouth of the Falcon River, approximately 200 cubic metres of small cobble have been spread. With a little cooperation from the weather and Ontario Hydro, in maintaining adequate water levels, walleye stocks in Shoal Lake may soon be on the way to recovery .

John Roos

The following newspaper article appeared recently in the Kenora "Daily Miner and News" regarding the stocking of rainbow trout in Lake of the Woods.

U.S. camp owners stocking LOTW

By THOMAS PERRY
Staff Writer

BAUDETTE, Minn. - Camp owners in northern Minnesota are determined to stay in business despite Ontario MNR regulations which force non-resident anglers and hunters to operate from an Ontario base.

Stocking 100,000 Kamloops trout, a fast growing strain of rainbow trout, in Lake of the Woods is an attempt by the Border Lakes Coalition to provide sport fishing for their guests in the Big Traverse area of the lake.

"The camps in this area have been in business for a hundred years and we have always fished in Canadian waters," John Beckel, Sportsman's Lodge owner, said Tuesday.

"If they are going to stop us from fishing on the Ontario side of Lake of the Woods then we are going to have to take steps to produce good fishing in the Big Traverse."

The MNR's new regulations do not sit well with Beckel or other camp owners in the area.

"They have told us the reason they are preventing U.S. lodge guests from fishing in Ontario waters is the walleye are becoming depleted," Beckel said.

"It seems to me however, we are taking steps on our side to help preserve the fishery in the lake by stocking it with trout while they are refusing to do so on the Ontario side and are allowing commercial fishing."

The stocking program to date has involved 20,000 of the trout being placed in Rainy River near Wheeler's Point, 70,000 off Long Point and 10,000 off Warroad.

When they were stocked in April the fish were just eight to 11 inches long and it took three of them to make a pound.

"Some of these fish have weighed as much as 1 lb. 14 oz. when they have been caught this summer," Beckel said.

"By next summer we should be catching them in the 7 to 9 lb. range."

The Border Lake Coalition has not received any funding from either the Minnesota or United States governments and when they approached the MNR all they received was their blessings.

"We are going to stock another 300,000 of the fish this fall and 400,000 more in the spring," Beckel said.

The fish are thriving and Beckel hopes the fish will act on their natural instincts to head for fast water in rivers feeding into Lake of the Woods to spawn.

While the main aim of the stocking program is to provide sport fishing for guests from lodges in Minnesota it should also be noted the trout are spreading throughout the lake and will benefit the fishery on both sides of the border.

"Some of the fish have been caught by commercial fishermen on the Ontario side of the border and there have also been some of the trout landed by sport fishermen near Morson," Beckel said.

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Acid Precipitation in Ontario Studies
Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Lakehead University

Background

Scientists and international representatives from both Canada and the United States have raised concerns over the long-term effects of acid rain on sensitive areas of North America. The problem begins with the atmospheric transformation of sulphur and nitrogen compounds, emitted from industrial and transportation activities, into sulphuric and nitric acids. These compounds and acids present an international problem since they can be transported great distances by prevailing winds before falling to the surface of lakes and forests. If acid rain falls on sensitive areas, the lakes and streams may be adversely affected and there may be serious, long-term effects on the forest ecosystem.

Ontario has had a major study underway since 1979 to investigate many aspects of acid precipitation and its effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Emission inventories have been prepared and long-range transport models are being developed, tested, and refined.

In May, 1982, Environment Ontario awarded a contract to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay to continue acid rain research and a one-year contract extension has recently been announced. The University's Centre for Regional Development is conducting studies of the potential effects of acid precipitation on northwestern Ontario's lakes, streams, forests and soils. The Ministry's Air Resources Branch is continuing precipitation monitoring in the northwestern Ontario, as well as the rest of the province.

Precipitation Sampling

Under the direction of the Air Resources Branch, a province-wide network of monthly (cumulative) sampling instruments has been established at more than 30 sites, nine of which are now operating in northwestern Ontario and adjacent Minnesota.

Terrestrial Effects

A biogeochemical study site has been established on a 100-hectare watershed near Hawkeye Lake, 40 km northwest of Thunder Bay. An inventory of this mixed-forest site has been completed, an access road and power line constructed, and a weir installed in the stream draining the study area. Additional equipment to measure rain chemistry above and below the trees is presently being installed. Instruments to monitor air quality (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ozone) and wind speed and direction are now operating.

Lichens and mosses, which are highly sensitive to many atmospheric contaminants, will be studied throughout the province. Several soil testing sites, eight of which are located in the Pukaskwa National Park area, have been established. Baseline sampling will be repeated in about five years to document any changes which may have occurred.

Laboratory studies will focus on the accelerated leaching of soil columns with simulated acid rain. These experiments will help establish changes in soil chemistry which might occur after long-term acid deposition.

Aquatic Effects

Since 1979, data on 420 lakes from the Ontario-Manitoba border to the Marathon-White River area have been collected. Approximately 150 of these lakes were sampled through cooperative surveys involving the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources. These lakes were selected chiefly on the basis of suspected sensitivity according to the geology of the watersheds. Aquatic studies during the last two years have focused on sensitive lakes in the Atikokan area and in Pukaskwa National Park. Monitoring of 10 large lakes, 25 small lakes and 10 streams is continuing in the Atikokan area. An evaluation of the physical and biological characteristics of nine of the park lakes has been completed. Results to date show that northwestern Ontario lakes exhibit a wide-range of sensitivity to acid precipitation. Many lakes are insensitive, but some are among the most sensitive in all of Ontario. In fact, three Pukaskwa National Parks Lakes were found to be acidified during studies in 1982-83. Although there is some evidence that the acidification is a recent phenomenon, long-term lake monitoring in the area will be required to substantiate this observation.

LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Marshes - Beneath the Surface

Marshes are primarily thought of as production areas for waterfowl and most studies are directed towards this visible resource. It is not new to biologists that marshes are also important as fish spawning and nursery areas but few studies are directed to this subject, in part because of surveying difficulties, and the low profile given marshes in the past. This is changing gradually and studies on marshes are receiving more attention.

The opportunity to study the Thunder Bay Harbour Marshes has been given, addressing their significance to this area. Two of the subjects being studied are the fish populations present and the recreational fishing opportunities available in the marshes.

Identification of fish species present and their distribution in the marshes was attempted this past summer using seine nets, Fyke (hoop) nets, minnow traps and observation. Sampling was repeated as often as possible and was done in varied habitats. Seining proved to be the most effective method and Fyke nets had good success.

Verification of species identity is still in progress; to date we have tentative identification of 21 species in the immediate marsh areas only. Walleye (0+ and 1+), Northern Pike (0+, 1+ and older), Yellow Perch (0+, 1+ and older), Rainbow Smelt (0+ and 1+) and Carp (0+, 1+ and older) were identified. The Neebing Marsh in particular had good catches of YOY Walleye in late July and early August. Carp were distributed throughout the harbour marshes. More quantitative work on the sport fish species especially, would be interesting. The marshes may be important pockets of shelter and relatively high productivity in Lake Superior.

Recreational opportunities at the marshes include angling for Pike, Perch and Carp. The Neebing Marsh receives the highest use by anglers; on 18 of 29 visits to the site, anglers were present and were interviewed. A range of age groups was represented and anglers came from varied locations in the Thunder Bay area. The most often expressed comment was that the site provided reasonably good fishing, with no expense or need of transportation. Northern Pike was the object of most anglers attention although "no preference" was also expressed by many. Carp fishing has not yet become popular in Thunder Bay but may at some time if the population increases, and the presence of this species becomes known to more anglers.

Jill Entwistle

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

PROJECTS

David Reid continues research on the effects of the experimental removal of walleye in Henderson Lake under a pulse fishing management scheme. Bev. Ritchie is completing her thesis on the ecology of the yellow perch in Henderson and Savanne Lake. After a year's sabbatical studying aquaculture at Louisiana State University, Dr. Momot continues his research on crayfish exploitation. Alan Dextrase continues his thesis work on Speciation of the bladderworm Cystodecola in Lake Whitefish and Kim Armstrong is evaluating the effects of Proteocephalus pleurocercoid infections in walleye in Lake of the Woods co-operating with Val Macins. The last two projects are supervised by Dr. Murray Lankester. Dorothy Lindeman is now studying for the Ph.D. under Dr. Bousefield at Carleton University, Christopher Nunan is now studying for the Ph.D. degree at Guelph University under Dr. Noakes.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Momot, W. & H. Gowing. 1983. Some factors regulating cohort production of the crayfish, Orconectis virilis. Freshwater Biology 13: 1-13.

Riklik, L. and W. T. Momot. 1982. Production ecology of Hexagenia limbat. in Savanne Lake, Ontario. Can. J. Zool. 60(10): 2317-2323.

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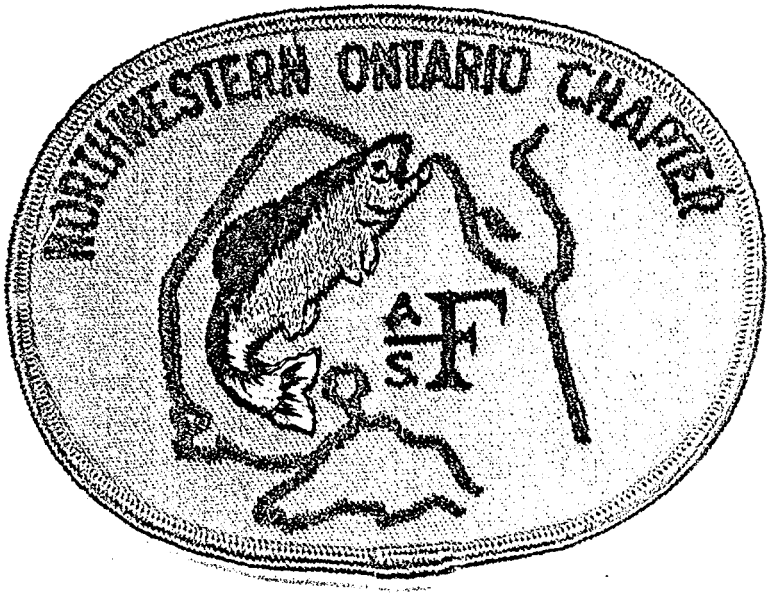
Momot, W. T. 1983. Crayfish production: a reflection of community energetics. Journal of Crustacean Biology 4 (1): (in press).

Jones, P. D. and W. T. Momot. 1983. The bioenergetics of Orconectes virilis in two Michigan pot hole lakes. In: Goldman, C. R. Ed. Papers from the 5th International Crayfish Symposium. Freshwater Crayfish Volume 5. Davis, California. AVi Publishers.

Momot, W. T. and R. Romaire. 1983. Use of a seine to detect stunted crayfish in ponds - a preliminary report. Proceedings of the World Mariculture Society Vol. 12.



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The Northwestern Ontario Chapter of the A.F.S. has been active for over four years promoting the transfer of fisheries science among fisheries workers throughout Northwestern Ontario. It is the first entirely Canadian chapter of this international organization whose main objective is the promotion of scientific research and enlightened management of aquatic resources.

The Chapter publishes three Newsletters annually. It also hosts several lectures on various fisheries-related topics and conducts an annual business meeting and conference.

Inquiries about the chapter and its activities should be directed to Dominic Baccante, President, c/o the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 435 James Street South, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 5G6, or telephone (807)435-1635.

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COMPUTER QUESTIONNAIRE

The proliferation of computer technology is destined to revamp fisheries management and research techniques. This questionnaire addresses the current and projected use of computer systems within the North - Western Chapter area, documenting the current baseline of installed systems, local expertise, software in use and future requirements. Completed forms may be dropped off at the Quetico-Mille Lacs F.A.U. office on James Street, or mailed to me at the following address. Hopefully this data, when compiled, will illustrate a more cohesive strategy for local computer use within the chapter and fishery studies in general.

Space is allotted for two systems, for example two office systems or an office and home system.

		System 1	System 2
Computer	manufacturer & model		
	RAM-size		
	# floppy disks		
	winchester drive (y/n)		
	cassette		
	Pseudo (virtual) disk ..		
	Languages		
	Operating system		
	colour monitor (y/n)		
Printer	manufacturer & model		
	dot matrix, daisy, thermal ink jet or other		
	is it - draft quality		
	correspondence ..		
	letter ..		
	print speed (char/sec)		
Print buffer (hardware y/n)			
Print buffer (software y/n)			
Digitizing Pad (y/n)			
Plotter (make and # of pens)			
A/D or D/A converter (y/n)			
Mouse ..			
Light pen ..			
Modem (plus baud rate) ..			

Hours/week of use (computer system)

games
word processing
data archival system
data analysis

Software	System 1	System 2
Data management (archival) eg DB master, Dbase11		
Statistical Analysis eg. Statpro, ELF		
Graphics Portrayal eg. Ampergraph, Statpro		
Spreadsheet eg. Visicalc		
Word Processing eg. Applewriter		
Communications eg. VT100 emulation		
Notable Software developed in-house		
Other		

Location of computer

Programming Do you consider yourself an excellent, good, novice or illiterate programmer

Do you program in Basic, Pascal, PLI, C, Fortran, Cobol Assembler, Forth, Logo, APL

How many hours a week do you spent on the computer? ____

Comment on the sufficiency of available hardware and software on hand to effectively carry out required tasks.

Thanx for your time .....

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