

NEWSLETTER

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
of the
American Fisheries Society

6th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE FUTURE OF INLAND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 1986

QUETICO CENTRE

(Pre-registration Form enclosed)



Vol. 6 No. 2

NEWSLETTER

American Fisheries Society Northwestern Ontario Chapter



President.....	Rick Borecky, Box 970, M.N.R., Nipigon
President-Elect.....	Phil Ryan, 435 James St. S., M.N.R., T. Bay
Past-President.....	Neville Ward, P. O. Box 5003, Red Lake
Secretary-Treasurer--	Brian Krishka, Box 2089, M. N. R. T. Bay

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STATUS OF PLANNING FOR THE 1986 ANNUAL MEETING OF NWO-AFS
CHAPTER

In the last newsletter, I proposed an outline of what I thought would be topics of interest to our membership. I owe thanks to 10 chapter members who took the time to offer very detailed and helpful comments. On the basis of this response, I have drafted up a revised outline of the conference.

In keeping with our goal of establishing dialogues with the parties interested in resource use, we will invite representatives from the commercial fishermen, the processing and marketing industry, sport fishermen, the tourist outfitter association (NOTO). At this point I have contacted many of the proposed speakers and received verbal assurances that they are interested in coming to the conference but cannot definitetly confirm at this time. My plans now are to formally invite them on behalf of the Chapter.

The theme of our meeting this year is "the future of inland commercial fisheries". In glancing through the outline, the reader will not see any speakers who will address this topic directly. I am asking that each speaker make projections of the future in his area of expertise. I would also like to find: (a) a speaker who can provide a thought provoking essay about the future, which crosses the bounds of the various groups who we are inviting to attend and (b) speakers who can address the coarse fish issue. The alternative (as listed in the outline) is to ask representatives from different groups to bring resource materials to the conference and integrate them into a joint presentation.

In the structuring of what I consider to be the interactive section of this conference, I have been left to my own

devices. In the early part of the conference we hope to hear from the important user groups and in turn allow user groups and our membership to learn from a number of fisheries studies. This sets up a session on Wednesday afternoon in which we can inventory problems and opportunities. From that point on, we are on a roller coaster and gambling that we will make it through the turns. We hope that through the establishment of a dialogue between the various interested parties, some problems will evaporate and that for others, constructive solutions will be developed. We will hear the findings from the different groups on Thursday morning.

I have recommended that we have two working groups which represent different types of fishing operations - road accessible fisheries and remote fisheries. I have separated them because of the different economic factors and because of the importance of subsistence fishing as an adjunct to commercial fishing on the remote lakes. It is my understanding that most of the fish from inland lakes in this area are marketed through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, hence I have contacted a representative from the FFMC to address the conference. It would probably be worthwhile to have a representative from another group in that industry or an additional representative from the FFMC.

The other groups are self explanatory with the exception of having two groups of fisheries managers.

One of the ideas that I was trying to develop in my essay in the last issue was that, as fisheries managers, we are caught between a rock and a hard place in regards to the monitoring of many fisheries. We need to better apply available science and perhaps develop some new science which is applicable within the constraints of our operational resources. I am arranging for two speakers to give us a refresher on some aspects of fisheries science and to identify pertinent

fisheries models midway through the conference. I hope that this will be the yeast for healthy ferment which will result in a report on the last morning of the conference regarding pertinent science with which to manage commercial fisheries. Hence, we will have at least two groups of fisheries managers, of which one will be charged with a science report.

While the current outline represents a further development of the theme, it is still a long way from being engraved in stone. I welcome comments and suggestions regarding the structuring and composition of the conference. In addition, I welcome proposals for the addition of new topics and speakers.

I think that everyone is aware of how strongly I feel about "getting the most bang for our buck" out of these annual meetings. I feel that we have to spend some time examining alternatives and developing a consensus at the 1986 meeting. I would like to see some proposals submitted to the newsletter for the next issue and/or submitted to the executive at the beginning of the conference. The executive will ask some of the members to thrash these ideas around, flesh them out and present the proposals on Wednesday afternoon. (There will be additional opportunity to propose ideas at the business meeting on Tuesday evening as well). In considering themes, let's not get stuck in a rut. It may be time to have a multi-theme conference of contributed papers, or a workshop such as the one we had for parasitology.

Let's think about where the chapter is going - should the chapter be exerting influence in particular areas in keeping with the Constitution of the American Fisheries Society. Let's also think about the people that we want to nominate for the executive to work for us in achievement of the goals of the Chapter and parent society.

P. A. Ryan, President-Elect.

INITIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE NWO
CHAPTER AFS CONFERENCE

"The future of inland commercial fisheries"

September 15 - 18, 1986, Quetico Centre

Monday September 15

Late morning arrival and check-in at Quetico Centre - Lunch

1:30 Presidents welcome and introduction to the conference

The nature of commercial fisheries in northern inland waters

2:00 The history and current nature of fisheries. (OMNR speaker)

2:20 Profiles of commercial fishermen and their livelihood. (representative from fishermen's association)

2:40 The nature and operational aspects of fisheries on remote lakes.

3:15 The history and current nature of the fish processing and marketing industry. (representative of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation)

3:40 Commercial fisheries in Saskatchewan - economic aspects, allocation policy and licensing. (a representative from Saskatchewan DNR)

Environmental Contaminants: mercury and other metals, PCBs, dioxin, agents affecting taste and odour of fish

- 4:00 The nature and extent of contaminant problems in NW Ontario and how problems are detected. (a representative from MOE)
- 4:30 The English-Wabigoon story: history and major findings. (a representative from MOE)
- 5:00 End of formal program for Monday
- 7:00 Demonstration of calculator and computer software applications. Swap-shop for locally developed software. Discussion of sampling problems and techniques.
- "Salmon wars" - a software simulation of a fishery will be available to play. Players have to balance capital investment, harvest level and the productive capacity of the fish stock in order to remain solvent.

Tuesday, September 16

Key Studies of Major Commercial Fisheries and Case Histories

- 9:00 The South Indian Lake Study in Manitoba. (Two speakers from the Freshwater Institute, D.F.O., Winnipeg)
- 10:15 Minnesota's Red Lakes: 1930 to the present. (Denny Schupp, Minnesota DNR)

10:45 History of exploitation in northern Saskatchewan lakes, focussing on declines in walleye and whitefish in the Peter Pond system. (speaker from Saskatchewan DNR)

11:20 Lacs des Milles Lacs - history and present status of walleye, pike and whitefish. (Phil Ryan)

12:00 Lunch

1:30 The status of lake trout and whitefish in Lake Nipigon (OMNR)

2:00 Untangling a picture of status of lake herring in Lake Superior, from a fishery which has exhibited major changes in seasonality and types of gear over time. (OMNR speaker)

2:30 Sturgeon fisheries on rivers in northern Ontario. (OMNR speaker)

3:10 Coffee

3:30 "What you can do with this kind of data" - a review of pertinent techniques for the investigation, modelling and management of fish stocks in NW Ontario.

(a) Commercial harvest monitoring data

(b) fish tagging experiments - short and long term duration

(c) gear selectivity models and data adjustment

(d) rapid assessment methods

(e) integration of above into a logical strategy map, relating techniques and information to the

nature of the fishery and investment of monitoring effort.

5:00 End of formal sessions for Tuesday

7:00 NWO AFS Chapter business meeting

Wednesday, September 17

Examples of quota definition and allocation strategies

9:00 The Lake Superior management plan:

- (a) lake-wide overview
- (b) example of operational level detail
(two speakers from OMNR)

10:00 Coffee

10:20 The nature and status of major fisheries in NW Ontario, and current management strategies. (OMNR speaker)

11:00 Allocation strategies for inland lakes with examples from Lake of the Woods and lakes along the Canada: USA border. (speaker from OMNR)

Unrealized opportunities and innovation

11:30 The pulse fishing experiment in small, northern Manitoba lakes. (speaker from the Manitoba DNR)

12:00 Lunch

1:30 coarse fish - these represent a major, under-

utilized resource. Usage of the resource will depend on the economic equation. Would it be possible for a group which represents fishermen, the processing - marketing industry and fisheries managers to thrash out a feasibility analysis for increased use of this resource, in the time that they are together at the conference, and report their findings here?

Identification of problems, issues, and opportunities

2:00 A panel representing commercial fishermen, the processing industry, sport fishermen, the tourist outfitters association and fisheries managers will be asked to make five minute presentations outlining problems, issues, opportunities.

2:30 A forum to direct questions to the panel, and to identify other problems, issues and opportunities.

3:00 Sign up for working groups which are intended to discuss items arising from the forum, and report findings Thursday morning.

Coffee

3:20 AFS Business Meeting resumes to hear the report from a committee which has examined the proposals for the 1987 conference theme and considered how they could be developed.

Discussion and voting to finalize the 1987 conference theme.

4:00 Working Groups meet to discuss commercial fishing issues.

9:00 Social

Thursday, September 18

Reports from the working groups

9:00 Commercial fishermen operating on road accessible
 lakes

9:20 Commercial fishermen operating on remote lakes

9:40 The processing industry

10:00 Coffee

10:20 The sport fishermen

10:40 The tourist outfitter

11:00 Fisheries managers #1: general concerns

11:20 Fisheries managers #2: needs for science and
 technology

12:00 Lunch

Notes: MOE = Ontario Ministry of Environment
 OMNR = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 DNR = Department of Natural Resources

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
FOR
N.W.O. CHAPTER AFS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 1986

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND: (CHECK ONE)

_____ ALL FOUR DAYS

_____ PART OF THE CONFERENCE

SPECIFY: _____

PLEASE REPLY BY JULY 4, 1986 TO:

Phil Ryan

Quetico-Mille Lacs F.A.U.

Ministry of Natural Resources

435 James Street South

Thunder Bay, Ontario

P7C 5G6

Telephone (807) 475-1659