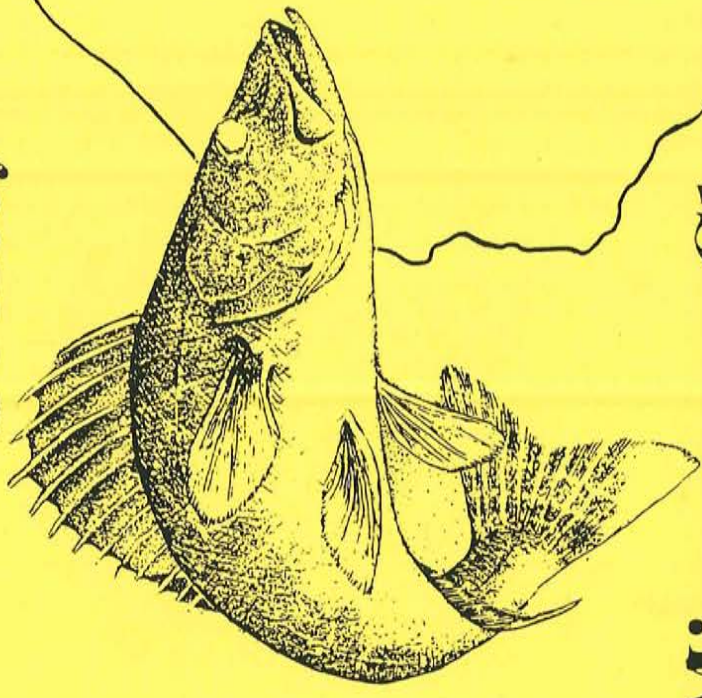


① Bony

② Instra-file

American Fisheries Society



Minnesota Chapter

AFS

SEPTEMBER 1994

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Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Thorn

### THE FUTURE FOR MNAFS MEMBERS - THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

I'm sure that recent political resource issues and budgets for aquatic resource management in Minnesota have made AFS members realize that we are in a time of change. Change began with the addition of a service (information management) to the traditional duties of producing aquatic resource-related products. This change began the entry into the "information society" for many MnAFS members. The formation of the National Biological Survey to manage resource information is a more recent example of aquatic resource personnel moving into the information society.

AFS has long recognized the need for information transfer. During the last year, AFS President Hubley in his editorials in *Fisheries* emphasized the need for members to use **science-based information** to protect and restore fisheries habitat, to effectively advocate, and to manage large inland rivers. The AFS Fisheries Action Network (FAN) communicates and facilitates the use of **science-based information**. The recent MnAFS member survey demonstrated that members want to produce **science-based information** for public education and advocacy.

In the future, information management will increase, the demand for the traditional products will not decrease, and we will be told to "do more with less." Several respected AFS members have addressed the future. Larkin (1993) concluded that in the year 2000, fisheries management will be well behind fisheries science even though we are now technically ready for the next century. The most likely reasons are that agencies need more effective science transfer within agencies (Loftus 1987), and they cannot provide mechanisms for institutional memory (Hilborn 1992). Therefore, I believe the success of resource professionals in the information society will be limited by public agency inertia.

To overcome this inertia, MnAFS members must provide the creative leadership necessary for successful fisheries science in the information society. Supervisors can write position descriptions to allot time for information assimilation (literature review) and transfer. Effective and creative writing skills will become mandatory. Administrators can encourage agencies to develop mentor programs for training

(Kennedy and Roper 1990), and improving institutional memory. For example, the California Department of Fish and Game pairs new employees for 13 weeks with experienced biologists. Managers should emphasize adaptive or experimental management (McAllister and Peterman 1992) to decrease "activity management," promote the documentation of evaluations, improve institutional memory, and reduce opportunities to "reinvent the wheel." AFS members will use classifications, habitat and population simulation models, and extensive peer review to determine probability of success for a project before committing large amounts of time and resources for traditional evaluations. All members should develop "networks" for informal information transfer. We will also develop non-traditional methods (Bernard et al., 1993) to increase efficiency, and better goals and objectives (Barber and Taylor 1990) to prepare us for the increased accountability in the future.

In the next newsletter I will report on the 1994 annual American Fisheries Society meeting.

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## **ACTION AGENDA ITEM #7: For membership review and comment**

**OBJECTIVE:** to combine the Public Awareness Committee (a special committee) and Public Education Committee (an ad hoc committee) into a single Public Education Committee (a standing committee).

**PROCEDURE:** to amend by-laws according to Section 10 (Amendments to the Bylaws) in Chapter 7 of Mn AFS Procedural Manual.

1. 30 days notice to membership
2. 2/3's majority approval at annual chapter meeting
3. approval of AFS EXCOM

**OUTCOME:** the Public Education Committee would be listed in Section 7 (Chapter Committees) as a Chapter Standing Committee, would become the 7th standing committee in Chapter 9 of Mn AFS Procedural Manual, and Special Committee 6 (Public Awareness) would be removed from Chapter 9.

### **Public Education Committee**

**Background:**

The Public Education Committee is recognized as a standing committee by the Bylaws of the Minnesota chapter of the AFS, and reports directly to the EXCOM. This committee reflects a membership priority for public education, which includes advocacy for aquatic resource issues, and communicating Chapter issues and positions to the public.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE**

A genetics workshop is being planned for March, 1995 at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. The workshop will be taught by Dr. Anne Kapuscinski and will include classroom and lab portions lasting approximately two days. More information will be available by the next AFS newsletter, but we would like to start developing a tentative list of people who want to participate. If you are interested in attending, please contact Deserae Bushong at 612-345-3365.

**Committee Purpose:**

1. To develop and prioritize programs, and present them to Chapter members.
2. To implement approved Chapter programs.

**Structure and Function:**

1. A standing committee of the MN Chapter as specified in Section 7 of the Bylaws.
2. The chairperson is appointed annually by the President.

**Duties of the Public Education Committee Chair**

1. To solicit committee members from the whole membership. No set number of committee members is required or recommended and membership is open to all who are interested.
2. To solicit input from Chapter membership.
3. To schedule and preside at meetings as required to develop and implement chapter programs.
4. To attend EXCOM meetings to present concerns and raise ideas. The chair has no formal vote at EXCOM meetings but does have the opportunity to speak.
5. To provide reports to the membership at the annual meeting, and to EXCOMM at regular meeting.

Please send comments to Bill Thorn, DNR-Fisheries, 1801 S. Oak St., Lake City, Mn., 55041, by 1 September, 1994

## **ESOCID TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

The third summer meeting of the Esocid Technical Committee (Northcentral Division AFS) was held in lacrosse, Wisconsin during June 28-29. Several reports were given about current research on reproduction, survival, energetics, and movement of muskellunge or northern pike. The highlight of the meeting was a workshop on growth and age of esocids presented by Dr. John Casselman (Ontario). Dr. Casselman showcased his system for classifying the extent of annulus formation and identifying the status of edges of calcified structures. He introduced new software (CSAS) for digitizing, storing, and retrieving growth information. The software should be available for distribution in 1995.

## NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION RIVERS AND STREAMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Henry G. Drewes

The spring meeting of the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee was held in Rock Island, Illinois on April 5-7, 1994. Approximately 35 persons from eight midwestern states attended. Eight speakers contributed technical presentations on the first day. Topics ranged from the impact analysis of bomb drops at military bases to the assessment of fish responses to the flood of 1993. The latter topic was the focus of considerable discussion. Data collected from the long term monitoring station on Pool 26 of the Mississippi River suggests that fish adapted quite well. In fact, much of the information collected supports the flood pulse concept. Many in the midwest are anxiously waiting to see the findings of the president's Floodplain Management Review initiative, hoping that future approaches to flood control will focus more on nonstructural alternatives.

The second day of our meeting was devoted to business matters. Considerable time was spent reviewing a draft policy statement concerning reauthorization of the Farm Bill. The NCD Rivers and Streams Technical Committee has prepared this policy statement for the purpose of engaging the parent society in the reauthorization effort. The connection between significant articles of land use policy and fisheries resources must be made clear to our political leadership. Of the many recommendations put forth in this policy statement we recommend greater focus on protection of riparian areas. State chapter representatives voted to approve this policy with minor changes and pass it on to the executive committee of the North Central Division. Many thanks to Paul Pajak for taking the lead on this issue.

The Rivers and Streams Technical Committee recently completed a curriculum survey of colleges and universities in the midwest. The intent of the survey was to identify the extent of coursework offered in the following areas: stream ecology and management, hydrology, hydraulics, and geomorphology. The results of this survey will be reported in the next issue of the mainstream.

In addition to our regular meeting we had the opportunity and privilege to participate in a Stream Analysis and Habitat Design Workshop by Dr. Bob Newbury. The workshop was sponsored by the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee with financial support from the Region 5 Federal Aid

office. It was also a tribute by the instructor to the late Lew Osborne who was an extremely active participant in this technical committee. The consensus of those I spoke with after the workshop feel that this was one of the best workshops anyone has ever attended. Dr. Newbury's considerable knowledge of the subject coupled with his gift as a teacher, made for a truly outstanding course. Thanks again to Don Rooseboom for his efforts in putting this workshop together. Anyone looking for an excellent text for their stream library should consider getting a copy of Dr. Newbury's field manual titled "Stream Analysis and Fish Habitat Design - A Field Manual (1993)". The book is published by Newbury Hydraulics Ltd. Box 1173 Gibsons, British Columbia, Canada, V0N 1V0.

I would encourage those that are interested or involved in riverine issues to get involved with the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee. We meet twice each year, once in conjunction with the midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and once each spring in Rock Island. If you would like more information about the committee give me a call at (612) 297-3287, or talk to your respective chapter representative.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

At the spring EXCOM meeting, members viewed and discussed the draft Public Service Announcement (PSA) that chairman Steve Quinn and committee members had written and revised, and In-Fisherman technical staff had produced. After discussion, members voted to accept the PSA in its present form and proceed with its distribution to TV stations. The committee has acquired a list of stations within the state and in cities near our borders and has begun contacting them to make plans for duplication and distribution with the station managers.

Also at the spring EXCOM meeting, the group discussed combining the Public Awareness and Education Committees into one standing committee. The EXCOM voted to present this change to the membership. A further announcement will be made prior to the Annual Meeting and then it will be voted on at the meeting this winter. Since awareness and education have large areas of overlap this change will enlarge the committee's focus and hopefully increase the number of projects it can take on.

## **North Central Division Awards Nominations Requested**

The North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society is soliciting nominees for the three awards given annually. These awards are the Most Active Chapter Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Excellence in Fisheries Science Award. All three are fully described below. Forms to be completed for each award are available, but the nominations can also be made in a letter including information outlined in the description of each award.

### **Description of Awards:**

#### **Most Active Chapter:**

This award will be given to the North Central Division Chapter that has carried out the most active program of enhancing professionalism and fisheries science, relative to its size and the geographic distribution of its membership. Most often, members will nominate their own chapter. Nomination materials should include the number of members, names of officers, number and type of meetings, special activities, recruitment activities, and a brief (1 page) description of what makes this chapter an active and important contributor to the NCD, AFS, and fisheries profession. Additional materials of support may also be included.

#### **Excellence in Fisheries Science:**

This award will be given to a North Central Division member who has made an outstanding contribution to fisheries science. This contribution may be a single activity or a collection of achievements over the individual's career. Former Division members may be nominated if most of their work occurred while they were NCD members. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page) biographical sketch of the nominee, a brief (1 page) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application.

#### **Meritorious Service Award:**

This award will recognize extraordinary service to the AFS by a NCD member. Nominations may be based on a single outstanding achievement or a variety of service activities, and may include the Chapter, Division, Section or Parent Society level. In the nomination, evidence must be presented that this service has gone beyond the routine and that it has made a genuine and lasting contribution to the betterment of the Society. Nomination should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page) biographical sketch, a brief (1 page) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application.

All of these awards will be presented at North Central Division Annual Meeting at Indianapolis in December. Nominations must be received by September 15. You may submit nomination materials to, and receive additional information from:

Dr. Thomas Coon  
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824

## *Your Big Chance...*

### Nominations for Chapter Office

Last year, only one nomination form was returned to the committee-the nominees from that form are now chapter officers. The nomination period is your opportunity to get someone into a chapter office. Use this opportunity and send in the nomination form included with this newsletter.

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## NOMINATIONS FOR 1995 MN\AFS CHAPTER OFFICERS

To All MN/AFS Members:

Use this form to nominate candidates for the following 1995 chapter offices: *President-elect* (this year preference will be given to FEDERAL employment affiliation), *Secretary/Treasurer* (any affiliation), *Executive Committee Members-at-large* (candidates can be nominated from each of the four employment affiliation groups – Academic, Federal, DNR, and Open).

Please contact your nominees to assure that the information you provide is correct, then sign your name at the bottom of the form. Attach additional pages if needed. This form must be signed and nominations received at the address on the back of this form by Sept. 15, 1994.

Chapter office:  
Candidates name:  
Affiliation:  
Telephone number:  
Number years in AFS parent society:  
Reasons for nomination:

Chapter office:  
Candidates name:  
Affiliation:  
Telephone number:  
Number years in AFS parent society:  
Reasons for nomination:

Chapter office:  
Candidates name:  
Affiliation:  
Telephone number:  
Number years in AFS parent society:  
Reasons for nomination:

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Candidates name:  
Affiliation:  
Telephone number:  
Number years in AFS parent society:  
Reasons for nomination:

Chapter office:  
Candidates name:  
Affiliation:  
Telephone number:  
Number years in AFS parent society:  
Reasons for nomination:

Chapter office:  
Candidates name:  
Affiliation:  
Telephone number:  
Number years in AFS parent society:  
Reasons for nomination:

I have contacted the nominees listed above: \_\_\_\_\_  
(your signature)

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Rod Pierce, Fisheries Research  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
1201 East Highway #2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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**MINUTES OF MINNESOTA AFS CHAPTER EXCOM**  
**May 2, 1994 St. Cloud, MN**

Members in attendance: Bill Thorn, Don Pereira, Chris Kavanaugh, Carl Richards, Steve Hirsch, Paul Pajak, Neal Mundahl, Larry Schwarzkopf, Greg Busacker, Steve Quinn, Henry Drewes, Lynn Berquist, Bruce Vondracek, Deserae Bushong, Henry VanOffelen, Dean Beck.

**Call to Order - B. Thorn** - Meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed.

**Approval of Minutes - C. Kavanaugh** - Minutes from the Annual Meeting EXCOM meeting were reviewed, motion to approve, seconded, passed.

**Treasurer's Report - C. Kavanaugh** - Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve, seconded, passed.

**Annual Chapter Meeting Plans - C. Richards** - Have made contact with the Iowa Chapter. The Iowa Chapter is interested in a joint meeting, they would like to host it on their side of the border. They will be making arrangements in Spirit Lake. Still need a theme - floods and agriculture topics were suggested. Spirit Lake is less than 10 miles from the border so it should not pose any travel problems for agency personnel.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Awards - B. Vondracek** - Awards from the annual meeting were formally presented. Best Poster, to Jim Louma, was presented at a conference in LaCrosse, and the Best Paper, to Tim Essington, was presented at a conference on the U of M campus.

**Continuing Education - D. Bushong** - The Fluvial Geomorphology Course, set of August 3-5 and 8-10, is full. Steve Gough will be in Minnesota soon to fly the Whitewater watershed in order to tailor the course to conditions typically experienced in Minnesota. The flight will be contracted with a DNR pilot, cost is estimated to be \$400. (At this point it was mentioned that the DNR Commissioner's Office had promised \$500 support for the 1993 special session yet haven't delivered, Pereira to pursue).

Working on offering a Genetics Workshop in March, 1995. Likely to be about two days long, will include lab time, and probably at the U of M.

Bushong asked EXCOM attendees to turn in the Continuing Education surveys to her at the end of

the meeting.

**Issues - D. Pereira** - Nothing new to report, still some unresolved issues.

**H. Drewes** - Clearing and Snagging: Nothing new to report, hope to set up meeting with the DNR Commissioner's Office in the next couple weeks. Anticipate that the issue will be bucked back down to the Division of Waters.

**B. Thorn** - Miller Creek: A letter and supporting information from John Spurrier was distributed. Miller Creek, a brook trout stream in Duluth, is facing tremendous pressure from development. The Isaac Walton League has pledged their support to help preserve the stream and corridor. Spurrier was looking for support from MN AFS.

**C. Richards** gave an overview of what he knew on the issue. The stream and its watershed are valuable, however, our involvement in the issue needs focus.

There was much discussion about what we should do. Below is an attempt to capture that discussion.

Could support IKE's. Could also be our own voice, while also supporting IKE's. No formal public input opportunity right now. We need to be able to stand alone with our support, not just jump on. Should target land use BMP's that we can support. Identify in principle, let others use in their arguments. There is no Miller Creek Watershed organization in place. Urban runoff and wetlands is an issue. The activities on this stream are somewhat precedent setting. Street deicers have caused fish kills at mile 1.9, DOT is working with DNR at that location. Is there some way to get the city to recognize the value of the stream as an amenity, like Rapid City has done?

It is recognized that there is an opportunity to do the stream some good. We need to take a stand, bring out the values of the stream and provide recommendations on how to preserve and enhance those values in light of the development pressures. There may be some opportunity to get to the developers early in their planning stages, engage in meaningful dialogue, and affect some changes for the good of the stream.

Richards and Pereira to take the lead. Richards will investigate additional details on the issue. Pereira will check with other DNR watershed

projects to see if they have anything to offer for help. The watershed was proposed as a DNR pilot project, however it was not funded. There may be some opportunity to influence support for the project.

**Long Range Planning - T. Close** - Close was not present. Thorn reported on the Action Agenda and the need to develop priorities for the future.

**Membership - J. Reed** - Report given by Thorn. Currently 236 paid members registered. There are approximately 85 'delinquents'. The delinquents will be informed of their status in the next newsletter with a mark on their mailing label. 23 new members recruited through MNPRO, four more have been recruited for the next drawing.

**Membership Directory:** Cost should not be concern, printer in Alexandria can do it within budget. However, there are several problems; Only 26% of the members have returned survey, can't publish names, addresses without permission (Parent Society rules). Survey results are quickly becoming outdated (several members have left state). AFS has problems with their membership database, resolution is unknown at this time. Could re-run the survey, although it is doubtful the response would be any higher. Reed and Snarski to continue working on it.

**Newsletter - C. Freiberger** - Thorn reported that the newsletter is being printed in St. Paul right now. Reminder that all EXCOM members and committee chairs are encouraged to submit items for the newsletter. The next newsletter is scheduled to come out in July, Freiberger would like items by July 1.

**Nominations - R. Pierce** - Thorn reported that nominations for President-Elect should come from the Federal category.

**Procedural Manual - G. Busacker** - The Procedures Manual is available in WordPerfect format now.

**Public Awareness - S. Quinn** - Another attempt was made to view the PSA. (Steve and video machines are not a good combination.)

The PSA has been reworked based on comments received at the Annual Meeting. New visuals are present and the script has been shortened. There was some discussion about the content, specifically that fish managers were not mentioned. Consensus was that this is a 'sound-bite' and we cannot get bogged down in details. A motion was made to approve the PSA and forward it to MN tv stations, seconded, passed unanimously. Steve and the In-Fishermen staff were thanked for a job well done. Quinn will check with TV stations in several

months to gauge how often the spot was shown. We should all be on the lookout for it and report any reactions.

**Resolutions - D. Beck** - No resolutions have been submitted. Need clarification on criteria.

**Rivers and Streams - H. Drewes** - Attended the NCD Rivers and Streams Meeting in April. One and one-half days of technical presentations, followed by a day and half workshop on stream habitat analysis and design. The Fish and Wildlife Service sponsored the workshop. Drewes to prepare an article for the next newsletter.

The NCD - Rivers and Streams Technical Committee has prepared a legislative briefing statement on the re-authorization of the '90 Farm Bill. Focus is on importance of the bill to protect aquatic habitat. Paul Pajak has been the principal author and coordinator of the effort. The draft was approved with minor revisions by the Technical Committee. NCD EXCOM to see it next.

Drewes spoke briefly on the Fluvial Geomorphology course. Pajak spoke highly of Gough's workshops in the past. A summer meeting of the Chapter Rivers and Streams Committee is possible if interest is expressed.

**Students - L. Berquist** - Nothing to report.

**Finance - H. Van Offelen** - An updated report was distributed and reviewed. There was some discussion of what to do with the \$2,000 'rainy day' fund. Kavanaugh will look into investing in some sort of CD's to get a better interest rate and still maintain access to the money. There was also discussion on how much we should plan to make with CE workshops. It was agreed that the current profit margin is comfortable and provides a cushion should the workshop not fill.

In summary - we need to spend our money, we probably cannot expect to bring in as much in the future, educational activities are a priority.

#### **Additional Old Business**

**Legislative Breakfast - Pereira** - Poor attendance by legislators, only four attended. Had a very good discussion with each of them, particularly Bob Lessard. It appears that it is difficult to draw many legislators while the session is going on, there are too many other things competing against us. Pereira to look into the possibility of participating in legislative committee summer meetings in an attempt to get our message to more legislators. Another suggestion is to make personal visits to their offices.

**Sustainable Management- Pajak** - Pajak and Pereira will be reviewing tapes from the joint

session and will have something to report at the fall EXCOM meeting.

**Membership Directory-** See discussion in the Membership Committee report.

**Media Interviews - Pereira** - This is part of the Long Range Plan. Letters were sent to several radio station in Duluth describing our organization and making ourselves available for interviews. KDAL - AM 610 responded. Pereira sent some background information and did a phone interview with them. In spite of the background information the radio station thought we were an angling group. Overall it went well and it may expand to include more involvement from the chapter members.

**Student Registration - Thorn** - Discussion to offer reduced registration/banquet fees to students who are registered as students with the Parent Society. Vondracek spoke in support of this and felt it would encourage more student participation. A motion was made to provide half price annual meeting registration, and a free banquet ticket, to students who are members of the Parent Society. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. L. Berquist to send out registration information to all universities in the state.

#### **New Business**

##### **1994 Action Agenda - Thorn**

**Item 4 - Exotic Species** - L. Schwarzkopf will be EXCOM rep, John Ringle to continue as chair.

##### **Item 7 - Public Awareness and Education**

Would like to combine these two into one standing committee. Process is for EXCOM to take action, 30 day notice to membership, vote at annual meeting. Thorn to check with Parent Society Constitutional Consultant. A motion was made to combine the two committees into a standing committee called Public Awareness and Education. Seconded, Passed unanimously.

**Item 6 - Finance Plan** - The newest draft will be in the spring newsletter and still looking for comments. Thorn will convene a Past Presidents Committee to develop priorities and a spending plan. Pajak suggested using various products of the Parent Society's recent strategic planning effort.

**St. Louis River Management Plan - Schwarzkopf** - A Handout was distributed for review/informational purposes on what is taking place with the St. Louis River Watershed.

**Fond du Lac Reservation "Existing Uses"** - Schwarzkopf - MPCA, DNR and a variety of other agencies have met with the reservation. This is being

explored as a new avenue for getting something done. They are looking for any help we can offer.

**Mercury Emissions - Schwarzkopf** - A handout was distributed describing predicted mercury levels in fish in 64 northeast waters over the next 20 years. There is a need to do more than monitor, need to implement strategies to mitigate mercury emissions. Would like to invite a paper at the next annual meeting to enlighten members and address concerns of the angling public. There are conflicting reports of where mercury concentrations are going. There have been some positive steps taken in modifying consumer products (e.g. batteries). Drewes reported that DNR is currently reviewing the contaminant monitoring program and there may be some preliminary results to report at the annual meeting.

#### **Information Items**

**AFS - Thorn** - Several handouts were distributed. National AFS Fishing Week - June 6-12, Thorn has a packet describing this.

The Parent Society is seeking raffle prizes for the annual meeting. The chapter has made donations in the past. Thorn will purchase a print from a Minnesota artist not to exceed \$150.00.

**Exotic Control Research - Schwarzkopf** - Going to Washington D.C. to seek funding for pheromone study of carp and river ruffe research to be conducted by Pete Sorensen.

**DNR - Hirsch** - Reported on current budget situation in the DNR. Some help was received from the legislature though not nearly enough.

There were several law changes in the legislature this year. The one over 20" walleye was repealed and replaced with a one over 24". Northern pike will remain at one over 30" on inland waters. On Lake of the Woods walleye will remain one over 19.5 inches while northern pike is one over 36 inches. Anticipated some activity in the private stocking issue, however there wasn't much at all.

**Federal - Pajak** - Highlighted several new publications available on factors related to fishing and hunting. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service has a new search service available. Several drugs used in fish production currently going through re-registration are the focus of a large cooperative study, 40 states are participating with the USFWS labs in LaCrosse, WI and Stuttgart, AR. A National Aquatic Education Coordinators Conference is being held in August. The USFWS is going to an ecosystem based approach to resource management, boundaries and field teams are somewhat fluid at this

point.

**Other New Business**

VanOffelen reported that he was asked by Mark Ebbers to seek EXCOM support to begin development of a workshop on trout management in lakes. Process would involve forming a steering committee. The steering committee would provide a recommendation to EXCOM at the fall meeting.

Workshop would be offered at the '96 annual meeting. There is no financial obligation at this point, Ebbers is looking for EXCOM support to move ahead with planning. EXCOM supports this effort.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Kavanaugh, May 10, 1994

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

In the last issue of the newsletter those members who had not renewed their memberships were notified that they were about to be dropped from the mailing and membership lists. Very few of those individuals responded with payment. Therefore, I would like to remind all members that the PRO-CLUB is still active. If you enroll a new member (and past members count as new members now!) you are eligible for a prize drawing to be held at the annual meeting. So get going, sign up some new "old" faces today!

**1994 Membership application  
Minnesota Chapter  
American Fisheries Society**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Fax# \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please place a check in the space before the address to which you would like your newsletter sent.

AFS Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ (on mailing label of Fisheries)

I have been a member of the MN Chapter since \_\_\_\_\_.

(If new member, list member recruiting member here \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Students check this line.

## ETHICS OR ETIQUETTE?

Proclamations about "outdoor ethics" have crossed my desk with increasing frequency over the last year. Resource management agencies, conservation magazines, and articles in the outdoor literature promote what the authors call hunter ethics, ethical angling, wilderness ethics, or simply outdoor ethics. Many of these writings show that outdoor authorities often confuse etiquette and ethics.

Ethics, a "system of moral principles," involves deep personal commitments - difficult questions of right and wrong. Because ethics are central to human nature, philosophers predating Plato have expounded generously on the way we ought to act. Etiquette, "conventional requirements of social behavior," isn't usually a matter of morality, but is a guide for handling social situations in the dining room or in the field.

Strong majority opinions of etiquette may be imposed by society and become law: No smoking on airplanes. No wake around marinas. No throwing objects onto the football field. No discharging firearms within the city limits. Violators may be arrested. But that doesn't make them ethical matters.

In-Fisherman magazine also receives many letters from readers about "fishing ethics." They commonly deal with excessive boat speed, anglers casting under private docks, tournament anglers crowding access areas or crowding noncompetitors off spots, or violations of size or bag limits. The first four clearly are matters of etiquette. As we use our waters more heavily, crowding increases human contact and fosters social problems. Etiquette provides a code of proper conduct in these situations to minimize social problems.

Some fishing regulations are codified etiquette, designed to increase opportunity or to spread fishing success among participants. Others have a specific biological goal. Many recent press releases suggest that ethical anglers or hunters adhere to all regulations as a matter of principle. To the contrary, many regulations governing seasons, size limits, and fishing methods are based on tradition or politics and have no biological basis. Keeping a fish below a size limit or an extra one over the creel limit rarely constitutes an ethical matter. Gross violations of fish and game laws could, however, be unethical. Illegally netting rivers or machine-gunning deer herds destroys public resources and may cause serious biological damage. Motives may also be involved in determining when violations of fish and game laws become unethical.

At the 1987 International Conference on Outdoor Ethics, sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America, participants included a cross-section of

professionals involved with the outdoors - conservationists, teachers, writers, and resource managers. Speakers raised more questions than they answered but many important topics in outdoor ethics and etiquette were discussed. Dr. Gary Machlis, professor in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences at the University of Idaho noted the inconsistent way people apply morals outdoors. On the way to a lake, an angler may crush a snake but swerve to avoid a rabbit; help someone start a boat but zip past a no-wake buoy to reach a fishing spot; and release a 4-pound bass and kill 10 one-pound crappies, all in an afternoon.

Americans value their freedom to choose personal ethics and to decide how closely to follow standard etiquette. But wide variation in outdoor attitudes increases conflict among individuals with different viewpoints. Objectives of the International Conference on Outdoor Ethics included focusing attention on outdoor problems and increasing communication among user groups. Much of the information I've recently received seems to stem from this effort toward communication and education.

Participants in a workshop at the International Conference on Outdoor Ethics identified nine practices of growing concern: vandalism, alcohol abuse, landowner abuse, littering, violation of angling regulations, crowding of waters, abuse of nontarget fish species, improper handling of the catch, and waste of the catch.

Important issues. Some are matters of etiquette, social problems exacerbated by increased water use. Others may reflect moral values or be problems of ignorance. Resource specialists also have difficulty differentiating between etiquette and ethics. Matters of fishing ethics deal with the future of fishing. The most important ethical question is preservation of habitat that allows fish and fishers to survive. Toxic substances dumped decades ago are leaching into groundwater and rivers, poisoning fish and people. Despite efforts at pollution abatement, problems in many areas worsen. We continue to let major polluters ruin air and water resources because they claim it costs too much to do otherwise. That's unethical.

Wetland ecosystems are critical habitat for production of many fish species. But we allow them to be blacktopped for condos and malls, bartering fishing opportunities of future generations for present-day profit. Worse, some pollution problems are so serious that future generations may be too occupied with purifying water or freshening air to worry about catching fish. That's unethical.

We often react to small things that affect us obviously. We don't like to be left bobbing in a boat

wake and see an angler toss an 8-inch bass in a bucket. We're indignant when cans float on "our" lake, or we step on a hook or a bird is strangled in discarded fishing line. These are etiquette problems that may, of course, involve personal moral or ethical standards. They're important, increasingly so as recreational use of water increases.

But problems of etiquette are overshadowed by ethical questions of overwhelming long-term

significance, questions that involve fishing, the environment, and life. It's a matter of priorities. Ethical concerns deserve immediate, concerted, and continuous attention. Etiquette problems deserve attention, too, but are less pressing. When we educate about behavior in the outdoors, let's keep our priorities straight. Teaching outdoor experiences more. But the most important lesson is how to maintain natural systems in the face of a growing and increasingly avaricious human society. Steve Quinn

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## Minnesota's Jewels

Pick up any article of fact sheet discussing Minnesota's lakes and it's a safe bet that in the first paragraph there will be a sentence talking about the state's 10,000 sparkling jewels.

What do we know about this wealth of wetness? First of all, we don't possess 10,000 lakes, we have 15,291. The largest is Lake of the Woods, in Lake of the Woods County at 307,010 acres; the smallest are only a few acres. The deepest is Lake Saganaga in Cook County, at 280 feet; the shallowest are less than a few feet deep. Otter Tail County holds honors for the most lakes located inside its borders-1,048; Houston, Pennington and Pipestone have the fewest with only 1 lake.

Developers have changed the names of many of our lakes to make them "more civilized", switching names like Bullhead for names like Silver or Crystal. There 192 Mud Lakes and 156 Long Lakes, however many of our smaller lakes have not been named. When it comes to lakes, Minnesota seems to have a generous assortment.

There is one type of lake for which our state's allotment is meager. Only a small fraction of Minnesota's lakes can be considered "wild lakes". A wild lake is defined as a lake having undeveloped shoreline where wildlife and natural processes can proceed with little disturbance from human activities. These lakes are true jewels in this state's hoard of natural riches.

The dilemma stems from people buying up property on these remote lakes... to get away from people! These remaining lakes or stretches of wild shore can bring top dollar and are prone candidates for realtors and developers. This trend has caused growing concern among the folks who respect the need for wild lakes. The state has recognized that need and has created a classification of public lands called aquatic management areas to protect "significant" riparian and littoral zones of lakes. However, Minnesota still needs to consider the consequences of development on the remainder of the lake outside of these areas. Many of our smaller wild water bodies (10-700 acres) are rapidly being subdivided and developed, or closed off to public use.

Examples of these occurrences are routine

throughout the state. These once-wild lakes are being subdivided for development. Riparian vegetation and aquatic plants are negatively impacted by this development. Habitat manipulation from development is impacting fish and wildlife populations.

This same story is rapidly unfolding throughout Northern Minnesota where the last of the state's wild lakes and shorelines are located. St. Louis County has seen dramatic increases in lake front residences in the past ten years, and according to the most recent county records there are over 13,000 lake homes.

The most recent shoreland development study completed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 1984 was conducted to quantify the rate of shoreline development in Minnesota. The study compared development on 1,923 lakes greater than 145 acres from 1967 to 1982. The percentage increase in development ranged from 13.8% for lakes of 300-499 acres, to 30.6% for lakes 1000-4999 acres in size. Number of lake homes have increased 74% with many of these homes being year round. The rate in development over the past 10 to 30 years projects a near total loss of wild lakes early in the next century. A substantial number of wild lakes have been sheltered in portions of the various State and National Forest, but the bulk of those lakes are 50 acres or less.

Less than two hundred years ago all the lakes in this great state were natural and unaffected by human endeavors. Lake by lake we have changed that. We must accept the reality that as long as there are people here, there will be changes. We need to make wise decisions on the future of these exceptional waters. If we had an "endangered habitat" list, wild lakes and shorelines would surely be near the top of the list. We need to weigh the importance of these uncommon lakes to our fisheries, wildlife and endangered resources. There is also an intangible factor...these lakes have the ability to dispense that magical experience that only wild places can.

Original ideas for this article were taken from the Wisconsin Extension. Editor...Chris Freiburger.

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