

Understanding the ecological and social constraints to achieving sustainable fisheries resource policy and management (NC1189)

Research Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 12:00-2:00pm

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting; St. Paul, MN

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

In Attendance:

Katie Bertrand (South Dakota State University)

Ingrid Biedron (Cornell University)

Dennis DeVries (Auburn University)

Kyle Hartman (West Virginia University)

Barbara Knuth (Cornell University)

Clifford Kraft (Cornell University)

Mark Pegg (University of Nebraska – Lincoln)

Carrie Simon (Cornell University)

William Taylor (Michigan State University)

Bruce Vondracek (University of Minnesota)

David Wahl (University of Illinois)

Russell (Rusty) Wright (Auburn University)

Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe (Michigan State University)

2. Sharing of AES experiences and research interests related to multistate program

- Cornell:
 - (B. Knuth)
 - Positive experience with multi-state projects; partial research support from AES.
 - Current research largely relates to the 4th project objective * .
 - Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management in Mid-Atlantic and New England Fisheries Management Councils (I. Biedron)
 - NY State's implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (C. Simon); research at an organizational-level to understand how different agencies are collaborating to accomplish EBM
 - (C. Kraft)
 - Has had AES support
 - Past research involved Brook Trout in Adirondacks
 - Current interests in pursuing work related to objective 3* and how to advocate for changes/goals that will improve management?
- South Dakota State University (K. Bertrand)

* See [Appendix](#) for list of project objectives.

- AES support, for project but funding of State related Hatch funds have been reduced.
- Seeking funding for research on yellow perch (M. Wuellner as PI, with Brian Graeb and K. Bertrand as collaborators) – Linked to objective 2*
- Auburn University (D. DeVries & R. Wright):
 - Have not had additional involvement with AES since initial proposal submission
 - Given the mandate of Cooperative Extension to be involved in multi-state efforts, it makes sense that this AES multi-state project could be a good opportunity to engage
 - Existing work fits within objectives 1 and 2 and 3*
- University of Illinois (D. Wahl):
 - Have several projects that relate to objectives 1 and 2*
 - Have not pursued previous support for these projects through AES
 - Future awareness and support of AES to fisheries projects will likely depend on incoming AES director
- West Virginia University (K. Hartman):
 - Affiliated with Northeast region
 - Upcoming meeting scheduled at U of Maryland to discuss possible development of multi-state project
 - Current objectives correspond to NC1189 objectives 1 and 2*
 - Interested in possibly joining NC1189
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Mark Pegg):
 - Fisheries research has traditionally not had high priority by AES in Nebraska
 - Research interests align with objectives 1 and 2; some upcoming project development that might align with objective 4*
 - New project focusing on tactics for promoting retirement of unused wells in an effort to conserve water
 - Possible issues with links to fisheries and interest to AES: Draught-related effects on Platte River and water quantity
- Michigan State University (W. Taylor):
 - MSU is providing administrative and financial support for multi state program
- University of Minnesota (B. Vondracek):
 - B. Vondracek is affiliated with NC1189 through Jim Perry
 - J. Perry would be the appropriate contact to approach UMN AES for any requests of support
 - Possibility that some hiring over the upcoming year will be Extension-related
 - Expects limitations in AES flexibility to fund projects given current budgets

3. Goal of meeting – to working toward focusing this project’s theme

* See [Appendix](#) for list of project objectives.

- How to take a holistic approach/project and focus it?
 - Create a more specific action plan – i.e. action oriented timeline
 - The challenge of geography is also an opportunity: what types of connections can we make?
 - The possibility of building a more cohesive project (and therefore extending the project another cycle) is a good incentive to improve focus
- Brainstorming cross-cutting project ideas & research questions:
 - Could certain species be the connecting factor? We could make predictions across geographic scales and test them at different longitudinal gradients.
 - Focus on mechanics across scales (look for quantitative patterns?)
 - How does funding for natural resource agencies vary across systems?
 - How does funding influence natural resource governance and management?
 - Example of MN DNR climate change project (re: Dave Fulton's presentation from symposium)
 - A descriptor of a system (networks, etc.) might be easier to do a collaborative project on than a single component of the system.
- Potential Themes:
 - Comparative governance
 - Water resource management and fish
 - How does connectivity change across regions? (both social/ecological implications)
 - Networks – fish; water; etc. --- importance of connectivity

4. Next steps

- Need for symposium summary and how that might impact the multi-state project (B. Vondracek provided a summary of symposium, which is located in Appendix II)
- How do we want to proceed in the future?
 - Have another symposium that is more focused)? E.g., could join forces with the Habitat group to put together symposium; could focus on importance of connectivity in networks (**Action item:** Bruce Vondracek volunteered to work on this)
- Would Doug Buhler be willing to help support/advise the group at SDSU in pursuing USDA support? (**Action item:** W. Taylor will follow up and notify K. Bertrand)
- Send project newcomers instructions about how to join NC1189 (**Action item** – C. Zuccarino-Crowe)
- Distribution of meeting notes (**Action item** – C. Zuccarino-Crowe)
- Reporting requirements:
 - Annual report – A single report is due for the group by November 19th, 2012. C. Zuccarino-Crowe will oversee compilation of this report, but it will require input from all team members.
 - Each year's report will require a list of accomplishments under the different objectives. Participants are expected to supply this

information to the committee chair and research assistant (W. Taylor & C. Zuccarino-Crowe). (**Action item** – ALL research team members)

- PIs engaged in activities relevant to NC1189 objectives will prepare and submit impact statements to committee chair and research assistant (W. Taylor & C. Zuccarino-Crowe). (**Action item** – active research team members)
- Instructions regarding development of accomplishments and examples of impact statements will be distributed to the group (**Action item** – C. Zuccarino-Crowe)
- Reminder: individuals should follow-up with their individual state's AES to secure the support for travel to annual meeting
- **Next meeting:** To coincide with the American Fisheries Society annual meeting in 2013 (September 8-12, Little Rock, AR)

5. Review of action items:

- B. Vondracek – Work with NC1189 members and others on ideas for next year's AFS symposium
- W. Taylor – connect Doug Buhler with SDSU regarding pursuit of USDA support
- C. Zuccarino-Crowe – Distribute instructions for joining NC1189 as participant; prepare and distribute meeting notes; distribute instructions for reporting requirements (i.e., impact statements); and prepare annual report
- All project collaborators – submit requested reports of accomplishments and impact statements to committee chair and research assistant (W. Taylor at: taylorw@msu.edu)

Appendix

APPENDIX I

NC1189 Project Objectives

- 1) Improve understanding of the causes underlying the changes in habitat, such as climate change, invasive species, and land use, and the associated effects on the production and resilience of fisheries and aquatic communities.
- 2) Determine factors driving fish populations' growth, survival and reproduction.
- 3) Improve understanding of the factors underlying public awareness, engagement and public support for fisheries resources, aquatic ecosystems, and fisheries sustainability.
- 4) Compare and evaluate governance systems and management tools regarding their potential to adaptively link ecological, social and political systems for enhanced fisheries sustainability and prosperity.

APPENDIX II

Summary of AFS Sustainability Symposium related to NC1189

The NC1189 project hosted a symposium at the 142nd annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in St. Paul, Minnesota on 20-21 August. The symposium included 25 presentations and introductory statements for the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning sessions that covered a broad range of topics that addressed one, or more often, two or three of the NC1189 project objectives:

1. Improve understanding of the causes underlying the changes in habitat, such as climate change, invasive species, and land use, and the associated effects on the production and resilience of fisheries and aquatic communities,
2. Determine factors driving the growth, survival and reproduction of fish populations,
3. Improve understanding of the factors underlying public awareness, engagement and public support for fisheries resources, aquatic ecosystems, and fisheries sustainability, and
4. Evaluate management tools regarding their potential to adaptively link ecological, social and political systems for enhanced fisheries sustainability and prosperity
- 5.

Approximately half of the presentations were given by members of the NC1189 or their colleagues that provided a broad overview of the research initiatives included in the approved project proposal.

Early in the process of organizing the symposium the representatives of the NC1189 were approached by a group of scientists, agency biologists, and agency administrators to include a number of presentations to address VHS in the Great Lakes. The inclusion of presentations about VHS fit well with the objectives of NC1189, especially related to objectives 1, 2, and 4. Specifically, the presentation on VHS provided a forum to discuss the activities related to VHS, first discovered in the Great Lakes in 2005. The presentations addressed the current state of knowledge and procedures to control the virus, but most importantly, the future of VHS management in the Great Lakes region.

The AFS meeting attracted more than 1600 attendees and the symposium was well attended and often only standing room was available. On a least one occasion interested attendees overflowed into the hallway.