

Long Term Resource Monitoring Program Quarterly Activities FY11 4th Quarter (July-Sept)

Presentations:

Johnson B. L. 2011. Developing and Maintaining a Long Term Monitoring Program on the Upper Mississippi River System. American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting, September 4-8, 2011, Seattle, WA

Sauer, J. 2011. Development of a Long Term Monitoring Program from Data Collection to Information Delivery, What We Have Learned Over 22 Years of Sampling on a Large River. American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting, September 4-8, 2011, Seattle, WA

Yin, Y. 2011. Towards a Global Network of Great Rivers Partnership: How Biological Monitoring Helped Collaboration between Yangtze and Mississippi Rivers. American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting, September 4-8, 2011, Seattle, WA

Ruebush, B. 2011. In-situ tests of sound-bubble-strobe light barrier technologies to prevent ranges expansions of Asian carp. American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting, September 4-8, 2011, Seattle, WA

Blake Ruebush and Thad Cook attended the 2011 National American Fisheries Society Meeting in Seattle, WA.

Technical activities and assistance:

Rob Burdis attended the UMRBA-sponsored Nutrient Criteria Workshop in La Crosse on Aug. 24th.

Rob Burdis distributed lab results from June water sample splits for total phosphorus and chlorophyll to all agency participants (UMESC, MPCA, and Met Council Environmental Services) and coordinated a second water sample split comparison with the same agencies for Aug. 25th.

Megan Moore and Walt Popp participated in a UMRBA-sponsored Biological Assessment Implementation Guidance Project stakeholder web conference on Sept. 13th.

Rob Burdis attended a Hydrolab-sponsored workshop on Sept. 28th in Eagan, MN.

In collaboration with USACE St. Paul District and the Iowa DNR Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) program, we completed another year of zebra mussel veliger sampling at Lock & Dam 12 in Bellevue, as well as at the Wapsipinicon River and Maquoketa River in eastern Iowa (T. Kueter and seasonal employees).

Collaborated with USGS/UMESC staff (Jennifer Dieck and JC Nelson) to complete a Vegetation Accuracy Assessment (AA) on Pool 13. The purpose of this work was to “groundtruth” LTRMP land cover/land use spatial data collected recently on Pool 13. We were assigned 526 sites, and were able to assess nearly 98% of those sites. The work was conducted between August 1 and October 1. The only sites we could not assess were on private land where we could not gain access. Data sheets and photos of each site were sent up to UMESC weekly during the course of the project (J. Petersen, D. Bierman, T. Kueter).

IRBS staff provided technical assistance and Asian carp sampling support for graduate students Stephanie Liss (UIUC) Molly Spacapan (UIUC), Jim Lamer (WIU) and Justin Seibert (SEMO).

Blake Ruebush and Levi Solomon provided field sampling support for John Amberg of the USGS.

Levi Solomon and Blake Ruebush participated in annual “Goby Roundup” on the La Grange Reach of the Illinois River. No round gobies were caught despite extensive sampling over a 4 day period near Bath Chute.

Levi Solomon, Blake Ruebush and Thad Cook began preliminary experimentation with the Mini-Missouri trawl on the La Grange Reach of the Illinois River. Results to be presented at a later date.

Thad Cook assisted Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center (UMESC) staff with an Aerial Image Assessment Survey.

Levi Solomon assisted with alligator gar re-introduction program at Rice/Little Lake and Spunky Bottoms Preserve with IDNR personnel.

Blake Ruebush assisted with waterfowl brood counts on the Emiquon Nature Preserve with waterfowl biologists from Forbes Biological Station

Communicated and consulted with Geoffrey Smith, PA Fish and Boat, on past research I conducted which sought to elucidate stock dynamics of Pool 4 walleye and sauger. This work is being emulated on several eastern rivers.

B. Ickes and N. DeJager met with an academic colleague interested in modeling prospective riverine habitat based on hydraulic properties of the river.

Provided Dr. Lubinski, and his assembled floodplain connectivity research team, volumes of information on past modeling efforts, ideas and perspectives about how to most efficaciously utilize them in their research plan, and ideas about future priorities.

Outreach

In conjunction with USACE Rock Island District staff and other local Iowa DNR staff, Dave Bierman participated in the EMP 25th Anniversary Celebration held in Dubuque, IA on 29 September. Coordinated planning of the event with Marvin Hubbell and Karen Hagerty of USACE, and provided information on key talking points for the event. Participated (with other Iowa DNR Fisheries Biologists) in an electroshocking demonstration at Sunfish Lake, Pool 11 UMR. Related to those in attendance (including the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works – Jo-Ellen Darcy) the importance of aquatic habitat restoration on the UMR via the EMP. Provided examples of fisheries response indicators to completed projects and why these projects are important to sustaining and improving the overall health of the UMR (D. Bierman).

IRBS staff conducted numerous Illinois River tours and presented various media groups an opportunity to film Asian carp. These groups included Discover Magazine, Digital Design Services, Business Weekly, CNBC, CBS Morning News, Canadian PTV, Red Rock Productions, Havana High School Media Club and three foreign film crews (Ukrainian (1) and Germany (2)).

IRBS staff hosted a delegation of Chinese scientists participating in ongoing information exchange as they implement long term resource monitoring on the Yangtze River.

Planned, coordinated, and participated in a site visit by Dr. Reuben Heine (Augustana College) and nearly 30 students and faculty. (Ickes)