

# Missouri River FWCO

## Bismarck, ND

### March, 2020 MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

#### Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Program summary

Ryan and Steve attended the Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup meeting in Billings, MT. This meeting involves several Federal, State and NGO individuals that share information on the previous year's research on pallid sturgeon in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

#### Native Species Restoration

Ice fishing ended in March due to warmer than normal conditions. Some staff were able to take advantage of the last few weekends to capture the abundant native species available to anglers.



#### Sikes Act

In March, camera trapping surveys continued on Minot AFB. Cameras were relocated in February to new areas as part of an effort to maximize species detectability across the base. In preparation of the upcoming field season, applications were reviewed and tentative offers were sent out by HR for additional technicians to complete this year's activities on Minot and Grand Forks AFB. Project supplies were inventoried and tested for

readiness. Pesticide use proposals were developed and safety information pertaining to chemical use for noxious weed control was compiled for emergency response preparedness. A terrestrial HACCP plan was developed for Sikes Act activities and is pending further review.

Beth and Amanda attended the National Military Fish and Wildlife Workshop in Omaha, Nebraska. It was a great opportunity to connect with Regional Sikes Act partners, as well as learn new about methods and projects currently implemented on military installations throughout the Nation.

## **Aquatic Invasive Species**

Discussions continue to develop strategies to implement the Asian Carp Management Plan within the Missouri River watershed during FY20. Possible strategies to be implemented this year include tributary mouth sampling utilizing a dozer trawl, eDNA sampling, capacity building, and mapping efforts to focus management strategies.

Tait created distribution and occurrence maps for the Missouri River watershed states in collaboration with the Columbia FWCO staff. These results will help design monitoring efforts and modeling population parameters.

## **Fish Passage**

Participated in the proposed fish passage project on the Minnesota River near Brown's Valley, MN. The COE is working with the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe to reconnect river segments to improve fishing opportunities. Initial plans have been developed and further discussions are needed with the local water district and downstream communities.

## **Tribal**

Fish requests for 2020 were coordinated with staff at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band's natural resource staff. In addition, a new lake was added to the stocking request for this year.

## **Staffing**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak; all staff have gone into telework status.

Bethany Davies – Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Amanda Goldstein – Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Stephanie Hauge – Administrative Assistant (ES/FAC)

Wade King – Fish Biologist

Steven Krentz – Supervisory Fish Biologist

Melissa Martin – Biological Technician

Tait Ronningen – Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Robert Weiland – Biological Technician

Ryan Wilson – Biological Technician