



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Ken McDonald
Final action
SCP-19-01
Report

RECEIVED

APR 5 - 2002

FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

April 2, 2002

Christian Smith
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
P. O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Christian:

Please find enclosed a list of species collected under my 2001 Montana Collectors Permit (Permit No. SCP-19-01). I have also included a Microsoft Excel version on disc (MTALL2001.xls) just in case your personnel need to add the information to a statewide database. This file lists date of capture, length, weight, and capture location for each individual sampled during 2001. Recall, the collecting permit was issued primarily for sampling larval fishes, sampling potential piscivores for food habit determinations, and collecting paddlefish, blue suckers, and shovelnose sturgeon for radio/sonic telemetry. Identification of larval fishes was just completed in mid-March; therefore, completion of this report was somewhat delayed. Overall, sampling during 2001 went extremely well on this project conducted jointly by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the U. S. Geological Survey.


More than 10,400 larval fishes were sampled during 2001 (Table 1). Individuals were identified primarily to family. The majority of the larval fishes (8,820 individuals) were sampled in the Milk River. Most notably, 16 larval sturgeon (Acipenseridae) were sampled at in the Missouri River at Wolf Point and Nohly, and 13 larval paddlefish (Polyodontidae) were sampled in the Milk River, and at Wolf Point and Nohly. Two sturgeon/paddlefish eggs were also sampled at Wolf Point and Nohly. In addition, 5,530 unidentified eggs were sampled.

A total of 2,885 fishes were sampled in conjunction with efforts directed towards sampling piscivores and other native fishes for telemetry work (Table 2). Collections were dominated by emerald shiners, goldeye, shovelnose sturgeon, and river carpsuckers. Of particular interest, two hatchery-raised juvenile pallid sturgeon were sampled during 2001 at sites located near Wolf Point and Nohly. Relevant information from these individuals (e.g., PIT tag number, location, length, weight, habitat information) was forwarded to Dave Yerk.

In 2002, a similar slate of fisheries activities in the Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam will be jointly conducted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and myself. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate receiving an extension of my existing Montana Collectors Permit to include the 2002 sampling season. You currently have a detailed application on file that fully outlines the scope of the project. Enclosed is the \$50.00 application

fee. Please send the new collecting permit to my new address listed in the letterhead. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick J. Braaten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Patrick J. Braaten

cc: Bill Wiedenheft, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Glasgow
Ken McDonald, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena

Table 1. Number (N) and frequency (%) of larval fishes, and numbers of eggs sampled at five sites in the Missouri River waters of Montana during 2001. T = less than 0.1%.

Taxon	Below Fort Peck Dam		Fort Peck Spillway		Milk River		Wolf Point		Nohly	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Acipenseridae							6	0.8	10	3.6
Catastomidae	81	90.0	399	81.4	4624	52.4	546	72.2	111	40.2
Centrarchidae			15	3.1						
Cyprinidae	3	3.3	52	10.6	2240	25.4	64	8.5	40	14.5
Hiodontidae			1	0.2	879	10.0	10	1.3	40	14.5
Ictaluridae					23	0.3	1	0.1		
Percidae			16	3.3	2	T	56	7.4	41	14.9
Polyodontidae					1	T	8	1.1	4	1.4
Salmonidae	2	2.2			2	T	1	0.1	2	0.7
Sciaenidae					1029	11.7	20	2.6	7	2.5
Unknown	4	4.4	7	1.4	20	0.2	44	5.8	21	7.6
Total	90		490		8,820		756		276	
Eggs										
Sturgeon/paddlefish							1		1	
Unknown	687		13		3455		829		546	

Table 2. Number of fishes sampled in the Missouri River waters of Montana during 2001.

Species	Number	Species	Number
Bigmouth buffalo	41	Pallid sturgeon	2
Blue sucker	39	River carpsucker	252
Burbot	13	Sauger	93
Channel catfish	153	Shorthead redhorse	93
Common carp	130	Shovelnose sturgeon	307
Emerald shiner	732	Smallmouth bass	2
Fathead minnow	5	Smallmouth buffalo	25
Flathead chub	165	<i>Stizostedion</i> sp.	14
Freshwater drum	16	Stonecat	3
Goldeye	626	Walleye	39
Hybognathus sp.	49	White crappie	6
Longnose sucker	12	White sucker	6
Northern pike	58	Yellow perch	3
Pumpkinseed	1		