



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
UPPER PENINSULA DISTRICT OFFICE



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

ORIGINAL

February 15, 2007

Mr. Shawn Puzen, Environmental Analyst
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
P.O. Box 19002
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54307-9002

P-10855

2007 FEB 23 P 2:49

Dear Mr. Puzen:

Subject: Dead River Fisheries Report (Doc# GB-1063b) Agency Team comments.

The Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) and the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have worked together on a strategy for a successful post flood recovery of the biological, physical and recreational functions of the Dead River system. The UPPCO has completed a 2004 riverine and 2005 reservoir fisheries survey to aid in the assessment step of this process. The resource agencies look forward to resolving outstanding issues of the recovery process. At this time, the resource agencies do not agree with all the fishery survey report conclusions and responses to agency comments including: the "primary building blocks" of the fisheries communities are present, limited intervention is needed for recovery, and the event did not impact the relative abundance of fish. We believe that these concerns can be addressed by additional monitoring to verify the recovery of the fishery.

Additional monitoring is necessary to ensure that the goal for healthy post-event fish communities in the Dead River System is met. The agencies agree that it is difficult to make definitive management decisions based on the fisheries report data. Limited data makes it difficult to support the conclusions that the "primary building blocks" of the fish community are present and intervention is not needed for recovery. Monitoring and triggers for intervention, as stated in a March 31, 2006, letter from Mr. Steve Casey to Mr. Keith Moyle, is a necessary component for concluding aspects of the recovery process. Normandeau Associates recommended additional monitoring in their response to draft report agency comments to verify the natural population recovers. Replicating targeted reaches of the 2004 and 2005 survey in 2010 is necessary to determine whether the fishery has recovered.

It is the agencies position and goal to work with UPPCO to address the presence of northern pike in Silver Lake during future recovery, mitigation, and monitoring efforts. The MDNR has managed the Silver Lake Reservoir as a cold water fishery and has not found pike in the reservoir since it was originally created. After the flood pike were caught. The potential impact of the post-event presence of pike was not discussed in the fisheries report. The UPPCO has, however, acknowledged in the January 2007 "Silver Lake Reservoir Rebuild Consultation Document section 3.4.3 Aquatic Resources: Silver Lake Reservoir" that pike have not been caught in previous surveys and the negative impact that pike may have.

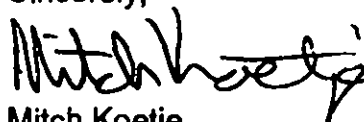
Lastly, electrofishing survey method information such as volts, amps, pulse rate, duty, etc. was requested in the agency draft report comments. This information is regularly

Mr. Shawn Puzen, Environmental Analyst 2
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

2/15/2007

documented in fishery surveys and is crucial to properly replicating the survey. Therefore, the information is also useful for making future management decisions. The resource agencies request that UPPCO distribute this information to recipients of the final fisheries survey report. To assist in compiling this information I have included an additional description of what is still needed as well as some guidance on the locations where some of the information was included in the final report.

Sincerely,



Mitch Koetje
Environmental Quality Analyst
Water Bureau
(906) 346-8519

MK:TM

cc: with Enclosure

Mr. Steve Casey, MDEQ
Mr. TJ LoVullo, FERC
Mr. George Madison, MDNR
Ms. Jessica Mistak, MDNR
Ms. Pamela Stevenson, DAG
Mr. Bill Taft, MDEQ
Ms. Nicole Zacharda, MDEQ
File: Dead River Flood, Correspondence, Marquette County

From: George Madison
To: Mitch Koetje
Date: 1/9/2007 8:57:38 AM
Subject: Re: Fish Survey Methods -

Mitch,

Every electrofishing unit (either boat or backpack) has specific settings that are used for surveys. Folks generally use higher settings for low conductivity waters and small fish, and lower settings for high conductivity waters and larger fish. To assess the validity of a survey effort, and to effectively replicate future survey efforts, survey staff customarily note the electrofishing settings used for a survey.

Electrofishing settings are denoted as exemplified in the attached Brickyard Creek survey;

AC or DC

Volts (ie., 123 Volts)

Amps, (i.e., 0.65 Amps)

Pulse rate (ie., 80 PPS...pulse per second),

Duty (i.e., 10% duty),

Quadrpulse or non quadrpulse. Quadrpulse is as its name conveys, a spiking end lapsing pulse (as opposed to a continuous pulse) with the spikes occurring at the duty rate (i.e., 100% of the time or 10% of the time).

Depth, indicates the maximum range of depths that were shocked.

>>> Mitch Koetje 01/08/2007 3:31 PM >>>

Hi George and Jess,

Below is a summary of what information was requested in the agency's 7/14/06 Fisheries Report (GB-1063a) comment 1-3.4 Fish Surveys. I have also included the corresponding information I could find in the report. There are several instances where the info is not in the report. Will you please provide me clarification of the exact info that is needed so that I can more clearly request it from UPPCO.

Thanks

Mitch

1. Type of gear used -

Riverine - Is now identified in 1-2.5

Basin - Is now identified in 2-2.2.1 page 2-3.

2. Amperage -

Riverine - Could not find this info in the report

Basin - Is identified as 2 to 3 amps of pulsed DC current in 2-2.2.1 page 2-3.

3. Voltage -

Riverine - Could not find this info in the report.

Basin - Could not find this info in the report.

4. Pulse Duration/Length -

Riverine - A table of Information was included in UPPCOs response comments. The table included the sample time in seconds. According to DNR staff this is not the information that was requested.

GEORGE & JESSICA - PLEASE IDENTIFY WHAT IS MEANT BY PULSE DURATION/LENGTH SO THE PROPER INFORMATION CAN BE REQUESTED.

Basin - Section 2-2.2.1 on page 2-3 identified the sample time in seconds for each site. According to DNR staff this is not the Information that was requested.

GEORGE & JESSICA - PLEASE IDENTIFY WHAT IS MEANT BY PULSE DURATION/LENGTH SO THE PROPER INFORMATION CAN BE REQUESTED.

Appendix B1 Table B1-1 Supplementary Information on Methods of Data Collection also has the shock time in seconds.

5. Conductivity - Info is located in Table 1-3 on Page 1-34.

6. Depth Range - I did not find any information that relates to the depth range of the electrofishing equipment. Figures 1-3 to 1-16 contains depths and velocities for different portions of the reach. Table 1-1 has the velocity/Depth Regime information as a metric for the Habitat Assessment Ratings.

GEORGE & JESSICA - PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT IS MEANT BY "DEPTH RANGE" AND WHAT IS STILL NEEDED.

7. Fish species length/frequency data for stream survey efforts - UPPCOs response to the agency comments state this Information is in Table 1-7 on page 1-40.

CC: Jessica Mistak

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL Fisheries Division

Water Brickyard Creek FISH COLLECTION
 County Marquette T. 48N R. 25W Sec. 18 Date 5/17/2005
 Acres _____ I.D. _____ Sheet 1 of 1
 Summary of: All sites Coll. site No. 1 Index site No. _____ All gear Gear DC backpack shocker

Sample site(s): Number of 1 Depth Range 0.3 - 1.6 ft Temperature _____
 Location(s) (describe or map below): North of Hwy US-41 at a powerline road. Electrofished from a point 140 ft. downstream of the powerline road back to the roadway.
 Cover (abundance, type): Logs, pools, undercut banks

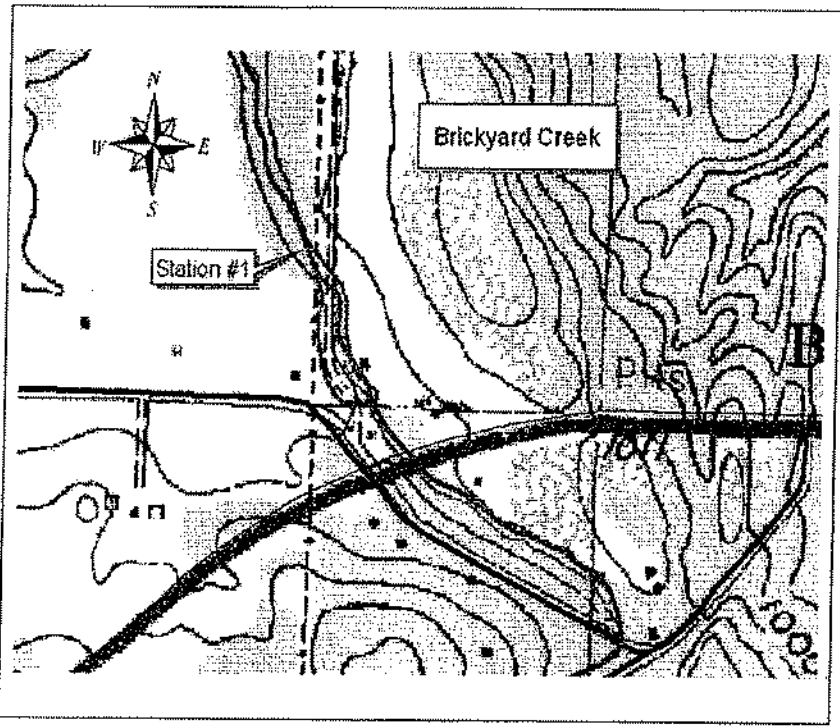
Fish Foods: Aquatic and terrestrial insects
 Water clarity, level, etc.: Clear, colorless, level normal Cond.: _____ Electro. eff.: Good
 Weather: Present Overcast, dry Preceding Same
 Temperature: Air 52°F Water surface 43°F Time of day 10:30 AM
 Stream: Length 140 ft Avg. width 5.8 ft Avg. depth .61 ft
 Velocity: Avg. Swift Surface Same Discharge 0.65 ft./sec.
 Bottom type: 31.4% gravel, 57.0% sand, 0.7% muck, 11.4% woody debris.
 Gear Description: DC backpack shocker, 123 Volts, 0.65 AMPS, 80 PPS rate, 10% duty, non quadrapulse

Effort: Net lifts _____ Net nights _____ Area covered _____ Hours shocked 0.5
 Purpose of collection: General survey

Data collected (X) CATCH SUMMARY LENGTH FREQUENCY LENGTH-BIOMASS LENGTH-WEIGHT REGRESSION
 GROWTH MARK & RECAPTURE ESTIMATES AGE-FREQUENCY & SURVIVAL

Analysis, map, remarks, fishing reports:

Inches	BKT*	MUD**
1		
2	4	
3	2	1
4	1	
5	1	
6	1	
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		



Analysis by George Madison Sec. Fisheries Mgmt. - DNR
 Collection by Joan Duncan, George Madison Sec. DEQ/DNR Identified by George Madison Sec. DNR

LANSING REGION DISTRICT I.F.R.

*BKT = Brook Trout **MUD = Central Mudminnow