

**2016 Joint Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical  
Committees – North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society  
July 25-28, 2016  
Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, Gretna, Nebraska**



The Tuesday afternoon workshop of the joint summer meeting will feature presentations by members of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Some of the presentations and speakers will be:

1. **The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's Nonnative Fish Management: Why Are We Here Today?**  
Kevin McAbee, Nonnative Fish Coordinator, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
2. **A Summary of the Current Ecology and Management of Smallmouth Bass in the Upper Colorado River Basin**  
Tildon Jones, Fisheries Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3. **A Summary of the Current Ecology and Management of Northern Pike in the Upper Colorado River Basin**  
Koreen Zelasko, Research Associate, Larval Fish Laboratory, Colorado State University
4. **A Summary of the Current Ecology and Management of Walleye in the Upper Colorado River Basin**  
Travis Francis, Fisheries Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5. **Empirical Research Supports Development of a Multi-Faceted Nonnative Fish Removal Program in the Upper Colorado River Basin**  
Dr. Kevin Bestgen, Senior Research Scientist, Larval Fish Laboratory, Colorado State University

### **Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program**



Established in 1988, the Recovery Program is a voluntary, cooperative partnership involving state and federal agencies, environmental groups, and water and power user organizations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to recover the endangered humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Colorado pike-minnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) while water development proceeds in accordance with federal and state laws. The Recovery Program performs recovery actions in five program elements: flow protection and delivery; habitat restoration; hatchery propagation and stocking; nonnative fish management; and research and monitoring.

### **Nonnative Predatory Fish**

The introduction, establishment, and proliferation of nonnative fishes is now considered the primary threat to the recovery of the endangered fishes. Unfortunately, in the upper Colorado River basin, despite years of significant effort, the nonnative threat remains largely uncontrolled. Although there are more than 50 nonnative fish species in the upper Colorado River basin, northern pike (*Esox lucius*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), and walleye (*Sander vitreus*) are the species considered to pose the greatest threat to the endangered fishes. These large bodied, predatory species cause substantial ecological harm to the endangered species.







Utah enlists the help of anglers by instituting a “catch and keep” policy for smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye caught in the upper Colorado River basin and for invasive burbot caught in any waters of the state. Wyoming also has a “catch and keep” for burbot, northern pike, and walleye in the Green River basin in the southwest corner of that state, which lies within the upper Colorado River basin.

The state of Colorado encourages harvest of nonnative, non-salmonid sportfishes in river and tributary segments within, and upstream of, critical habitat for endangered fishes to help protect native and endangered fish populations in the Colorado and San Juan River basins. Many reservoirs, lakes, creeks, streams, and rivers allow unlimited take of nonnative fish including channel catfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, green sunfish, bluegill, bullhead, yellow perch or crappie.



The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program is excited to conduct a collaborative session with centrarchid, esocid, and walleye Technical Committees, in order to discuss how the management of the species not native to the upper Colorado River basin can be more effective.

