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MANAGEMENT
ANALYSIS DIVISION

THIRD ANNUAL MINNESOTA FISHING ROUNDTABLE

DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

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THIRD ANNUAL MINNESOTA FISHING ROUNDTABLE

DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

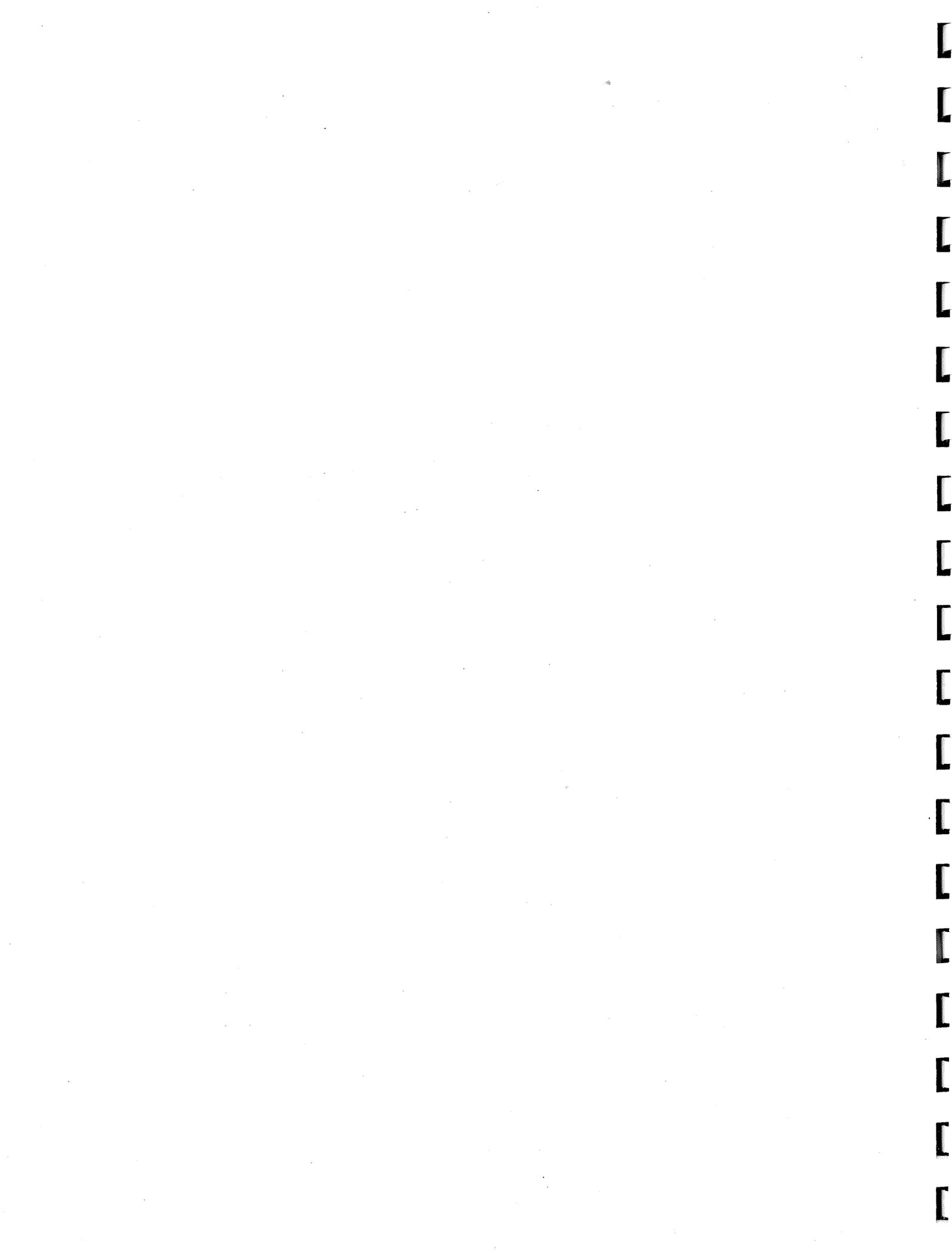
Minnesota Department of Administration
Management Analysis Division
January 1993

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW	1
PROGRESS ON FISHERIES ROUNDTABLE OBJECTIVES	3
INDIVIDUAL WATERS MANAGEMENT	7
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION	15
NEW VALUES EDUCATION	19
ROUNDTABLE ASSESSMENT	23
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROUNDTABLE'S IMPLEMENTATION ROLE	29
REFLECTIONS ON THE ROUNDTABLE	31
PARTICIPANTS	33



INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Fisheries Section of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources hosted the third annual Minnesota Fishing Roundtable in St. Cloud Jan. 9, 1993. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and develop recommendations for implementing goals developed in 1991 by the first Roundtable. The goals were developed to support the Fisheries Section in maintaining and protecting quality fishing in Minnesota.

Participants in the Roundtable are a diverse group of anglers with varying economic, political and social perspectives on quality fishing in Minnesota. In addition, representatives from the DNR Fisheries Section were included.

The Roundtable proceedings began with a report to the Roundtable by John Skrypek, section chief, reviewing the accomplishments of the past two years and acknowledging the important role of the Roundtable in their achievement.

The group then reviewed its long-term vision, and identified and developed implementation recommendations for three major areas of their long-range plan: Individual Waters Management, Habitat Improvement and Protection, and New Values Education. Specific recommendations were developed in small think tank groups and then reviewed and approved by the entire Roundtable. Following the workshops, the last part of the afternoon was focused on the role of the Roundtable. Participants assessed the current role and made suggestions for a more effective Roundtable in the future.

Recurring themes

Recurring themes across all the workshops in Individual Waters Management were involving and educating local people and affected parties, communicating the purposes of special regulations and demonstrating their benefit, and a better planning process. Recurring themes in Habitat Improvement and Protection were the need to coordinate across regions and the discussion of whether an environmental review specialist might improve that coordination. In the area of New Values Education, the common discussion themes were publications as a way to get out information that is already available and a distribution scheme that gives many people access to the information.

Roundtable assessment

The participants' assessment of the Roundtable was positive. The current process, format, and representation, including DNR representation, are seen as working well. Recommended changes to increase its effectiveness included broadening the diversity of the group, returning to the two-day format to enable more in-depth discussions, increased communication with Roundtable members and regional Roundtables. Future roles for the Roundtable included equating the public, legislature and angling communities, regional Roundtables, and support and advice on specific issues.



PROGRESS ON FISHERIES ROUNDTABLE OBJECTIVES

By Jack Skrypek

The following is a report describing the progress the Fisheries Section has made in implementing recommendations of the past Roundtables and a listing of ideas which are being considered for further action. Some of these actions were already in progress before the Roundtable effort, but were strongly reinforced by the group recommendations; others are a direct result of recommendations to the Roundtable, or represent modifications and improvement of existing activities.

1. INDIVIDUAL WATERS MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

a) *Internal review policy on experimental regulations* — Criticism was received that the section's internal process on experimental regulations was not systematic and well documented. The section responded by developing a well-defined internal process that categorizes regulations, sets standards for regulation proposals, requires public input and interaction, and requires submission to the section regulation committees for consideration of biological merit, evaluation methods, contribution to long-range species management plans, and social and political impacts. If approved, the proposal is subjected to final review by regional fishery managers and central staff before holding a public input meeting. If the public approves the proposal, it is promulgated through the Commissioner's Designation Order process.

b) *Review of existing experimental regulations* — Criticism was received that the existing experimental regulations on lakes were not well documented. How long would they be experiments? What were the evaluations showing? Would they be continued indefinitely? Review showed that in some cases, evaluations were weak. The original objectives were sometimes not well defined, and some appeared to be open-ended. The section responded by beginning an evaluation of all present experimental regulations. In the future, the existing individual regulations will be either dropped, modified and repromulgated as experiments, or made long-term as special regulations.

c) *Legislation on regulation process* — Because of the new importance of experimental and special regulations in the fisheries management program, it was felt by certain constituents and legislators that there should be a well-defined regulation process in statute. The section cooperated with the Minnesota Trout Association, Trout Unlimited, and legislators to develop a new statute. It requires public notification on proposed regulations through the press and posting of waters, allows public initiation and assistance in evaluating regulations, requires a clear distinction between experimental and special regulations, and requires public input, a specific end date, and evaluation plan. The section is now using this process.

d) *Research on experimental regulations* — Several research projects are being conducted, including evaluation of slot limits on northern pike, and on bass to improve bluegill population size structure, regulations on brook trout to improve the number of large fish, and catch and release regulations on stream trout.

e) *Evaluation of lake and stream management* — Our ongoing process for management of individual lakes and streams has been improved. It consists of collection of survey information, classifying waters,

developing specific short- and long-term objectives for fish populations, carrying out specific management actions, and evaluating results. Specific improvements consist of revising our lake survey manual, developing a computerized data network of lake information, and requiring a more specific management plan.

f) Program budget adjustments — Internal adjustments in the budget have been made to allow increasing emphasis on individual waters management. This has been done by curtailing lower priority activities, using salary savings, and adjusting the intensity of other activities while retaining acceptable quality in the current work areas.

2. INDIVIDUAL WATERS MANAGEMENT IDEAS

a) Research evaluation of experimental regulations on 40-60 lakes — Planning is being done for a project which will use an integrated approach for evaluating experimental regulations on a statewide basis. Lakes selected would be groupings of several lake types from different geographical areas of the state. Pre-regulation data would be collected, an experimental regulation selected to meet management goals, and an evaluation conducted over five to eight years. This is a large project which would require additional funding from the legislature.

b) Experimental regulation implementation — The section has moved ahead and implemented experimental regulations to improve fishing quality. A catch and release regulation on walleye, sauger, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass is being adopted on Pool 2 of the Mississippi River. Three Island Lake in Itasca County is being evaluated for adoption of a quality smallmouth bass regulation in 1994. Annie Battle Lake in Otter Tail County is being evaluated for implementation of quality panfish regulations in 1995. Annie Battle Lake was recently closed to fish harvest to preserve fishing quality.

c) Stream and rivers classification — A research project is being started to develop a new statewide river and stream classification system. It is hoped that the classification will allow specific regulations for stream groups based on classification, as well as provide information which can be used for habitat and flow monitoring and protection. The State of Wisconsin has recently developed such an approach.

3. HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

a) Watershed project coordination — The section has helped fund a new position related to coordination of watershed management activities. The goal is to have various land and water management jurisdictions adopt common objectives for maintenance and improvement of water quality, and give greater consideration for fishery habitat values in receiving waters. This position is intimately involved with the DNR Pilot Watershed Projects. The section has helped fund the Leech Lake Pilot Watershed Project which has the specific goal of maintaining water quality in Leech Lake.

b) In-stream flow studies — The section has used Water Recreation Account funds to fund research on streams throughout the state to develop a data base on water velocities, depth, and bottom types used by various species and sizes of fish. The data base is necessary for use of the In-stream Flow Incremental Method which is used to evaluate the impact of various flows on habitat for fish communities

c) Better agency coordination — Steps have been taken by the section to improve coordination with other jurisdictions that impact water quality and fish habitat. Examples include participation on the MPCA-DNR Lake Management Committee, participation on the Fish and Wildlife Contaminants Com-

mittee (Health Department, Pollution Control Agency, and Department of Agriculture), and many contacts with watershed management jurisdictions.

d) Habitat research — The section has active research projects on the evaluation of stream habitat improvement techniques and the relationship of watersheds to fish communities.

e) Restoring emergent vegetation — Bulrush is a beneficial aquatic plant that has been removed extensively from fishing lakes by shoreline property owners. Restoration by planting was originally done in conjunction with the rehabilitation of Knife Lake near Mora. Since then, the effort has been expanded and tried on Cross and Pokegama lakes near Pine City. Discussions are under way to expand this program.

f) Expansion of environmental review — Additional time of area fisheries staff has been made available to review various activities which have the potential to damage fish habitat. These are primarily related to permits issued to shoreline property owners for the alteration of shorelines, but also include other activities such as road construction near lakes and streams, stream crossings, flood control impoundments, stream channelization and aquatic plant control.

g) Lake and stream management plans — Greater emphasis has been placed on habitat management, including aquatic vegetation management, in lake and stream management plans. Several thousand lakes have plans with the ultimate goal to complete them for all important waters (about 5,500 lakes, and 15,000 miles of streams).

h) Program budget adjustments — Internal budget adjustments have been made to make more resources available to field staff for habitat work. Examples include the addition of staff, equipment and funds in southeastern Minnesota for stream improvement, the funding of a Watershed Projects Coordinator with statewide responsibility, and the partial funding of the Leech Lake Watershed Pilot Project.

4. HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT IDEAS

a) Add Environmental Review Specialists — The Fisheries Section feels that the division's existing Environmental Review Specialists, stationed at the St. Paul, Bemidji and New Ulm regional headquarters, have greatly enhanced protection of fish and wildlife habitat. The section supports such positions at the other three regional headquarters — Brainerd, Grand Rapids and Rochester.

b) Develop protected in-stream flows — The in-stream flow study information collected by the division should be used in conjunction with the in-stream incremental method to establish protected flows in Minnesota rivers to protect fish communities from the impact of excessive water withdrawal.

c) Evaluate the effects of chemicals — The Section of Fisheries is cooperating with the Ecological Services Section in the development of a plan to evaluate the use of the herbicide Sonar for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil. Hopefully, this evaluation will begin in 1993. A research project is in the early stages in the Fisheries Research Unit to evaluate the impact of aquatic herbicides on fish habitat.

d) Exotic species management and control — Exotic species have the potential to seriously disrupt fish habitat. Standards are being developed for the use of nets and other gear used on lakes and streams so that section field operations do not spread exotic plants and animals. Several discussions have been held with the Fishing Tournament Committee to establish a boat and trailer inspection system to prevent the

spread of exotics. The Fisheries Section is cooperating with the Ecological Services Section in the development of a formal rule on exotic species management.

e) *Aquatic plant management* — The section's Lake Survey Manual has been revised, with greater emphasis on aquatic plant surveys and the writing of vegetation management plans. The section will be cooperating with the Ecological Services Section in developing new aquatic plant management rules.

5. EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

a) *Establish MinnAqua Program* — This program is continuing to develop and is designed to teach people about lake and stream ecology through the experience of fishing. Thousands of new anglers have been reached in the Twin Cities and Duluth areas with urban angling, classroom materials, mobile displays, teacher training, specialty fishing resource seminars, and training of volunteers for youth programs.

b) *Publications* — Fisheries Section publications have been upgraded with continuing high priority given to widespread distribution to the public. Discussions are under way with the Sport Fishing Promotion Council for increased distribution at non-state expense.

c) *New MinnAqua positions* — The section requested two new positions for the MinnAqua Program. The legislature approved these, and they were created and filled at Brainerd and the Metro regions.

d) *New fishing synopsis format* — Greater emphasis on individual waters management and special regulations requires that anglers be better informed. The annual synopsis of fishing regulations has been upgraded to make it more informative and readable.

e) *LCMR catch and release program* — The section cooperated with the Minnesota Sportfishing Congress to secure funding for the promotion of catch and release. The appropriated funds were expended on a cost-share basis with fishing clubs.

f) *News releases* — The quality of news releases on fisheries' activities has been improved. There is closer cooperation between fisheries field staff and regional information-education specialists.

g) *Border waters atlas* — Fisheries information on Ontario-Minnesota border waters has been organized and put into a report so both jurisdictions work from a common data base. Some of the information has been summarized and put into a tabloid for education of the public, resort owners, local officials and other interested parties, and given wide distribution.

h) *Attitude-economic surveys* — The section has conducted and participated in surveys on angler attitudes and the economic value of angling to the state.

i) *Environmental education planning* — The supervisor of the MinnAqua Program serves on both the State of Minnesota and Department of Natural Resources Environmental Education Committees so that aquatic education and angling are included in those plans.

j) *Strengthen partnerships* — Cooperative work agreements and projects lead to education of all concerned parties. The section is continuing to pursue partnerships through the CORE (Cooperative Opportunities for Resource Enhancement) Program and work with any jurisdiction or interest which will enhance fishery management efforts.

INDIVIDUAL WATERS MANAGEMENT

Four groups focused on the area of Individual Waters Management and developed recommendations to present to the plenary session. The focus of their discussion was the question, "What recommendations do you have for how we can implement special regulations (for example, coordination and outreach)?"

During the plenary session, Roundtable participants ranked the recommendations presented. Four areas ranked highest for Roundtable members:

1. Show benefits of special regulations: media coverage, special meetings, notes included in regulations.
2. Involve local sports clubs and lake associations early.
3. Establish proposals based on need and potential (quality angling experience). Coordinate on a statewide basis, with a sunset clause.
4. Base regulations on broad-based ecological concerns first.

In addition, evaluation and reporting are seen as important elements of implementation.

A complete listing of ideas recommended by the small groups to the Roundtable is followed by a detailed listing of the ideas generated and discussed.

INDIVIDUAL WATERS MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (as ranked by Roundtable)

- Show benefits of special regulations — media coverage, special meetings, note in regulations (28)
- Involve local sports clubs and lake associations early (25)
- Process — coordinate on statewide basis with a sunset clause; plan should follow need (21)
 - establish proposals based on need and potential (quality angling experience)
 - time limit
 - evaluate
 - choose
 - use classification system
- Evaluation and reporting (10)
- Better planning approaches (6)
- DNR maintain responsibility for Individual Waters Management (5)
- Coordinate general regulations with special regulations (4)

- Education and communication to improve acceptance and compliance (3)
- Demonstration projects (2)
- Streamlined data collection and research (2)
- Obtain input: agency, Roundtable, and public (2)
 - coordinate
 - consensus among affected users
 - regional meetings
 - have people (users) as part of planning or implementing
 - inform citizens and concerned parties of need and plan
- Survey major sport groups (areas) for their ideas (2)
- Select "lab" lakes for experimental management (1)
- Formal education; integrated with curriculum (1)
- Proposal needed (0)
 - simple, clear
 - solicit input during development
 - interactive process
 - good public relations
 - consider enforcement of regulations
- Regulations based on broad-based ecological concerns first (0)
- Education through geographical meetings (0)
- Education of individual riparian property owners (0)
- Adequate funding and resources (0)

Potential role of Roundtable in implementing recommendations

- Coordination mechanism
- Develop powerful team
- Develop collective good judgment
- Provide political documentation
- Provide political support
- Encourage implementation groups and DNR
- Get representatives to regional Roundtable
- Mutual, reciprocal support — DNR Roundtable
- Get message to legislators as a Roundtable group as individuals
- Get message back to people Roundtable represents
- Get message back to implementers (i.e., schools)

TEAM 1

Implementation

- Develop sound information base
- Conduct system field trails: do not implement regulations without sufficient background information
- Have clear goals
- Special regulations — application to other like bodies of water
- Framework experimental regulations — evaluation — special regulations *or* sunset
- Have clear goals
- Process for regulations on groups

Coordination

- Survey local sports groups; ask about lakes, desire for special regulations, get back to biology
- Information user lake data; sports and lakeshore and state groups
- Utilize volunteer compliance when possible
- Lake biological potential outweighs local desire

Outreach

- Continue to list all special regulations waters in regulations alphabetically
- Sign all waters with special regulations at access points
- To sell special regulations, DNR must emphasize public good and what benefits could be to individual
- Develop local support and understanding
- Involve interest groups and public
- Communicate goals of specific special regulations

Additional ideas on regulations

- “No kill”
- Limit harvest number over “X” size
- Implement by utilizing the various special regulations, for example, limits, slot limits, cater and reference, sanstructures etc.; apply these regulations preferably on an individual lake or stream basis if not practical by a classification basis
- Different trout species — different regulations
- Expand use of limited kill regulations: catch and release (lakewide) or maximum size limits

Public — identify goal and problem

- Experimental regulations
 - still in progress
 - time limit
 - get pre-data

- Public input
- How to get new ideas
- Select “lab” lakes for experimental management
- Coordinate general with special regulations
- Survey major sports groups (area)
- How to sell public on possibilities
- Involve local sports clubs (lake association early)
- Show benefits — media coverage special meets in regulations
- Environmental review specialist
- Protect funding
- Have authority to protect (supporting legislation)
- Coordination with other divisions and agencies, Fish and Wildlife, Waters, DOT, house, etc.
- Define scope of job
- Encourage laws that are in place
- Region tells public of projects and problems

TEAM 2

Coordinating input

- Support of property owners and local community
- Multiple, simple approaches to inform public of existing special regulations
- Make people (users of resource) part of planning or implementing process

Input

- Strong local support for regulation changes (compliance)
- Implementation of social consensus among affected users
- Better public relations: cite examples, secure support of the majority of people affected
- Create an “adopt-a-lake (stream, river, etc.)” program like Minnesota roadways (adopt-a-highway)
- Inform concerned parties of need and plan
- More public relations through clubs, resorts and special interest groups
- Prepare education data on current status, regulation objectives of the Individual Waters and benefits and trade-offs for stakeholders

Compliance

- Regional meetings with key users to determine if special use is needed; where the resource is and where we want it to be X years from now
- Consider enforcement of regulations: Are the regulations easily enforced?
- *Decals* — Double-sided business cards
- A single page for leaders — participants; one sheet of information, subject on one side, how to participate on the other
- Keep regulations simple

Assess impacts

- Special regulations in one body of water transfers problem (fishery pressure) to adjacent waters

Process

- *Separate or weigh* — biological fact vs. social perception and impact
- Have defined plan with timetables for implementation, evaluation, final decision on regulations
- Coordinate proposal lakes on case studies' statewide biological aspects basis
- Variable regulations based on stream classification must go through public input process for special regulations
- Use a classification system to select lakes and streams
- Sunset clause for designated lakes
- *Implement* — biological — species and waters with reasonable chance of success
- Identify lakes that have a good chance to succeed
- Select group of lakes with similar characteristics, species composition to share in the process — not just my lakes, and to expand tricks for better data
- Local partnerships through regional offices
- Concentrate on simplified regional testing regulations instead of individual waters management
- Seek input and support of affected people for the proposal
- Establish proposals based on need and potential (quality angling experience)
- Obtain agency and Roundtable public input
- Proposal communicated
 - simple, clear
 - solicit input during development
- Interactive process

TEAM 3

Education through geographic meetings

- Regional public meetings (to explain and educate anglers)
- Regional meetings to find out what they think is best for their location
- More regional impact
- More information to public (why, how, etc.)
- Fisheries under current leadership understands importance of pre-education
- When a regulation is proposed from outside the DNR there needs to be an understanding that base data is needed

Formal education

- Introduce special regulations in high schools through Office of Environmental Education
- Teach teachers

Education of individual riparian property owners

- Do a better job of getting the individual lake's shore owners to accept special regulations to improve fishing quality
- Work with local landowners
- Work with legislators

Better planning approaches

- By region (geographical area — prioritize use (management) by lakes within lake class (i.e., not all class 24 lakes same use)
- Set up trophy lakes in each region for different species
- Weight factors focus on most important (define factors)
- Link fish management to other lake management (water qualification, land use, etc.)
- Roundtable must assist when an individual water is proposed for experimental and special regulation

Evaluation and report

- Seminars and articles; what, so what, what non constituents to be
- Report results
- Add one or two people from regular Roundtable to central Roundtable
- Increase diversity representing broader
- Act as a group for implement
- Provide support as a group

TEAM 4

Education and communication to improve acceptance and compliance

- Expand education procedures
- PR and education — be sure public understands
- More open public meetings to facilitate better communication
- Get public support for DNR's special regulations for each lake — through community newspapers, etc.; we can help DNR pinpoint best news channels
- Increase enforcement — voluntary compliance
- DNR publicity state that many waters have been hurt badly by existing regulations and they could often be improved by reduced-kill regulations
- Publicize catch-and-release regulation successes in other states
- Maintain DNR Fisheries Section's credibility among anglers, in the face of DNR bashings over Mille Lacs treaty
- Increase catch -and- release emphasis as recycling resource
- Public involvement and ownership
- Published results of special regulations; get them to public
- Public relations mailings to organizations with publications
- View regulations as education tools in themselves
- TV show to educate about special regulations
- Publish success stories

Demonstration projects

- Implement "floating" or "sliding" slot limits — walleye (in suitable lakes — based on DNR assessment)
- Slot limits to promote trophy potential
- Implement several no-kill regulations on a few model waters to demonstrate how good fishing could be with better management

Regulations based on broad-based ecological concerns first

- Avoid social regulations — re: fly fishing only — basis for special regulations should be resource
- Elements based on ecological lake class
- Special regulations to protect, enhance or rejuvenate resource
- Program should consider a wide range of fish species

Adequate funding and resources

- Limited DNR resources requires priorities — 400 lakes suggested to fill 40 to 60 slots for management plan
- Funding programs through public and private vehicles

DNR maintain responsibility for IWM; Individual Waters Management to remain with DNR and not be transferred to local, county or lake associations

- Management problems in DNR jurisdiction; the autonomy of DNR is important
- (Physical) public access maintained during specific regulation process
- Allow process to work and realize that DNR cannot satisfy all groups
 - must consider all user groups, but must make a decision and stick to it
- Emergency authority to control until right special regulation can be developed
- Regulation time frame and published results
- Increased enforcement

Streamlined data collection research

- Adaptive management must push system to learn something; can't measure small changes
- Data base development

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION

Two groups considered the area of habitat improvement and protection and developed recommendations to present in the plenary session. Habitat improvement is an area that requires coordination and cooperation with other divisions of DNR and other agencies. The DNR strategy has been to reprogram the budget along new lines and move toward having environmental review specialists at each regional headquarters to accomplish these goals. The focus of their discussion was the question, "What would make the environmental review specialists' positions as effective as possible, and in addition, what other activities should be considered"?

During the plenary session, recommendations were ranked by the Roundtable. Four areas were considered high-ranking recommendations:

1. Encourage enforcement of laws that are in place.
2. Protect and repair riparian zones.
3. Increase awareness of habitat problems and solutions.
4. Five environmental review specialists with authority and capability related to fisheries.

In addition, the group recommended that the environmental review specialist document and prioritize where protection problems are, and coordinate within DNR and with other agencies.

A complete listing of ideas recommended from the small groups to the Roundtable is followed by a detailed listing of the ideas generated and discussed.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS (as ranked by the Roundtable)

- Encourage enforcement of laws that are in place (29)
- Protect and repair riparian zones and watersheds (24)
- Environment review specialists have authority, capability related to fisheries (22)
- Increase awareness of habitat problems and solutions (22)
- Document and prioritize where protection problems are (9)
- Coordination with other divisions and agencies — overlap in other departments (4)
- Region tells public of projects and problems (1)

Other habitat activities

- Coordinate within DNR and with other agencies (6)
- Provide economic incentives for developers and industry (3)
- Determine who is responsible and hold accountable (3)
- Mobilize and educate riparian owners (2)
- Promote volunteer group participation (1)
- Determine what's happening (0)
- Determine what needs to be done (0)

Public — other activities (for habitat improvement)

- Prioritize habitat goals
- Prioritize protection
- Document prioritize “where are the problems and protection”
- Focus more on watershed protection
- Educate and enforcement “shoreline”
- Identify bodies of water with high-value recreation
- Educate, mobilize riparian owners
- Coordination with DNR and other agencies
- Mobilize and educate riparian owners; protect and repair riparian zones and watersheds
- Thorough protection is more efficient through cost-effective habitat improvement

Potential role of Roundtable in implementing recommendations

- Write-up
 - review existing legislation
 - consolidate
- Take more time to review specialist position
- Develop consensus among conflicting users on what is happening now
- Be involved in prioritizing activities
- Roundtable newsletter
- More involved with legislators, legislative and regulatory
- Set priorities
- Promote, popularize, publicize information about habitat improvement
- Insist on good definition of our vision on this
- Roundtable participants bring wish list for habitat improvement (other issues as well)

INDIVIDUAL TEAM INPUT

TEAM 1

Determine who is responsible and hold accountable

- Shift burden of proof to developer
- Polluters — need to be fired and held responsible (long-term and short-term)
- Shoreline management as part of lake management plan
- Sort out (clarify) jurisdiction and accountability questions for more efficient problem solving

Increase awareness of habitat problems and solutions

- Use of models (good and bad) and clear vision statements
- Fisheries can have impact on land use practices by informing public of existing programs that would be of benefit to fisheries SIP, from program
- Education of agriculture and housing on alternate means of growth
- Manuals to build reefs, do plantings — material sources
- Publicize status of reversal stream in agricultural section of state and what is needed to improve situation

Determine what's happening

- Improve ability to determine and analyze trends

Promote volunteer group participation

- Increased volunteer efforts to improve habitat
- Better coordinated and organized local volunteer projects

Determine what needs to be done

- Identify DNR projects they are looking for help with
- Fund-raising programs for specific projects — matching funds
- Interaction of lakeshore groups and sports groups on mutual benefit projects
- How to balance interests with common sense (state plan and national plan)
- National policy to guide state decisions
- More emphasis on water quality — can't have good habitat without it

Environmental review specialists have authority and capability related to fisheries

- Specialist — overall, not just weed control

- Focus environmental review on maintaining total resource and integrity (avoid turf battles and politics)
- Give them adequate status, enforcement tools
- Specialists should have background in land use regulations and all government programs available as resource management tools
- Environmental review specialists . . . enough funding, support staff, past data, and community support to make that job successful
- Ensure that the specialist is shielded from compromise or corporate influence

Environmental review specialists coordinate activities and unify community

- Environmental review specialist identify problems, diminish adversary relationships
- Specialist should have management capability and mandate to coordinate federal, state and local agencies — assigned as “project manager”

TEAM 2

Environmental review specialist

- Protect funding
- Have authority to protect (supporting legislation)
- Coordination with other divisions and agencies — Fish and Wildlife, Waters, Transportation, etc.
- Define scope of job
- Encourage and enforce laws that are in place
- Region tells public of projects and problems

Other activities for habitat improvement

- Prioritize habitat goals
- Prioritize protectivity
- Document — prioritize “where are the problems and protection”
- Focus more on watershed protection
- Educate and enforcement “shoreline”
- Identify bodies of water with high recreation value
- Educate and mobilize riparian owners
- Coordination within DNR and other agencies
- Mobilize and educate riparian owners; protect and repair riparian zones and watersheds though protection is more efficient and cost-effective than habitat improvement

NEW VALUES EDUCATION

Two groups developed recommendations in this area. The focus of the discussion was the question, "What are some possible goals for a fishing publication from the DNR? What might a publication do for Minnesota fishing?"

Goals of a publication were discussed and the pros and cons of such a publication were identified. A dozen recommendations were presented at the afternoon plenary session and participants ranked four as having high importance:

1. Provide information on current management practices.
2. Distribute the publication to broad age groups and broad constituencies.
3. A simple publication with practical information with permission to reprint.
4. Revise other DNR publications and include this type of information in other DNR publications.

Other content suggestions included a publication on specific topics, such as experimental lakes for the public and for conservation officers to use; promotion of integrated resource management; and providing a forum for raising issues.

A complete listing of ideas recommended by the small groups to the Roundtable is followed by a detailed listing of the ideas generated and discussed.

NEW VALUES EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS (as ranked by the Roundtable)

- Information on current management practices (36)
- Distribution to broad age groups and broad constituencies (28)
- Simple, inexpensive, repetitious, back-page, self-mailer, consumer-friendly, "OK" to reprint and measurements in U.S. system and metric (19)
- Revamp present publications; include this in other DNR-discipline publications (16)
- Provide a forum for raising issues (8)
- Promote integrated resource management (8)
- Publication (8)
 - specific topics, for example, experimental lakes
 - or public and conservation officers
- Pursue this in some form without reinventing the wheel (1)
- Get DNR's information and education unit to incorporate this (0)

- Get funding to hire or contract to do the publication (0)
- Give basic, factual information, create even playing field (0)
- Newspaper column at local level by conservation officers (0)

Potential role of Roundtable in implementing recommendations

- Serve as editorial board
- Provide ideas for stories
- Contribute written articles
- Support: defend it with critics
- Distribution — hand out public mailing lists
- Assist in spreading the message; gathering the message (teams)
- Work in partnership
- Support publication
- Help develop a communication plan
- Discuss funding for public relations efforts

INDIVIDUAL TEAM INPUT

TEAM 1

Goals for a publication

- Information on current management
- Promote fishing as *we* see fishing “*should*” be
- Basic factual information so everyone has same playing field
- Distribution to broad age groups and broad constituencies
- Communicate hopes for good program results — if these programs are case studies and include failures
- Provide a forum for raising issues
- Reader becomes more enlightened, angler more respectful of resource (protect)
- To provide reasons why we are doing what we do
- To get the *non-user* to be empathetic with user (content: broader issues than just fishing) (multiple water users) to promote integrated resource management
- Don't call it a “fisheries” publication
- Call it a fisheries publication *and* include topics beyond fishing
- To promote a diversity of views

Publication: content ideas

- "Kids" section
- Regional activity
- Human interest: personal story, add experience
- Legislative report
- Recipes
- Interest in other species
- Things for you to do
- Partnerships: business, club, public-private

Pros

- Gets information to right people
- Promotes our good ideas
- Educates
- Provides a forum for a plan to protect resource
- Opportunity for DNR to get correct facts out
- Dispel myths and rumors
- Expand support from non-users

Cons

- Costs
- It takes time
- Distribution nightmare
- Diverts resources from other things
- Overlaps unnecessarily with private sector
- Keep current
- It could be viewed as trying to sell DNR propaganda
- Do we need it?
- Too many publications already
- Duplication of effort
- Make it a Roundtable publication rather than DNR, or both DNR and Roundtable

Publication recommendations (to overcome "cons")

- Revamp present publications to cover this topic(s)
- Get Information and Education Division to do a better job to incorporate this
- Use "Volunteer" magazine as vehicle for this

- Get advisers to pay
- Set up review committee to insert information in existing popular non-DNR publications
- Get the funding to hire staff or contract
- Achieve good editorial policy, staff, board
- Include this topic in other disciplines' publications

Education

Keep it:

- simple
- inexpensive
- repetitious
- back-page self-mailer
- consumer-friendly
- OK to reprint
- measurements in U.S. system and metric

Publication recommendations

- Pursue this in some form
- Don't be redundant
- Don't reinvent the wheel
- Give both sides of major issues

TEAM 2

Goals for a publication

- Publication on experimental lakes, what is done — case studies, results, like catch and release
- Publication for conservation officers, legislators, DNR, for public-specific subjects and simple reflecting public questions to field
- Newspaper column — local level by conservation officers

Issues

- Cost accounting
- People don't like to read
- Selling tool — information

Pros

- Gets information out
- Reach some, gets spread
- Repetition — simplicity

Cons

- People don't read

ROUNDTABLE ASSESSMENT

Each small group discussed the accomplishments of the Roundtable to date, and which aspects of it they prefer to maintain and what changes might make it more effective. Each small group identified recommendations to present during the Roundtable workshop. During the workshop these recommendations were distilled.

1. Better interface between users and management
Verified common roles
Helped dispel stereotypes
Partnership development
Increased communication and esprit de corps among groups and between groups and the agency
Increased support for each other and the agency
2. Provided guidance for the Fisheries Section
Helped in budget decisions and setting priorities
Helped change DNR response from reactive to "preactive"
3. Provided education on the value of the successful special regulations results
Education for the public and DNR
Source of information for the legislature
4. Established direction within a timeframe
Generates a checklist of priorities

Elements of the Roundtable success that members want to maintain are:

- Annual meetings
- The written report
- The process and format
- The improved level of communication and esprit de corps
- The broad representation of fishing interests
- DNR involvement

Elements of the Roundtable that members want to change are:

- Increase diversity of the group (broader representation, add regional Roundtable representatives to the central Roundtable)
- Diverse participation (beyond older white males)
- Include fisheries tribal representatives
- Return to the two-day format
- Explain why some ideas are implemented and some are not
- Regional Roundtables like this
- Information updates (quarterly)
- Meetings with a specific subject
- Three-ring binders

In addition, participants suggested many ways to expand their role in ensuring the success of their priority strategies in cooperation with the Fisheries Section and made recommendations. These recommendations were distilled to five priority areas.

1. The Roundtable can be instrumental in getting messages out in a variety of ways and can be a vehicle for others hearing about legislative issues.
2. The Roundtable can make known to legislators its agenda and members' support for it.
3. The Roundtable can take a leadership role in habitat improvement and protection projects.
4. The Roundtable can promote issues beyond itself through and with DNR.
5. The Roundtable can provide support to pursue environmental review specialists' role concerns within the department.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM INPUT

TEAM 1

Accomplishments

- Better interface between user and management
- Help in budget decisions — set priorities
- Verified common goals
- Gave and supported DNR direction
- Educated participants
- Got DNR busy
- Help dispel stereotypes

Maintain

- Good process

Change

- More meetings
- Subject specific
- Not enough time
- Regional meeting

- Document from DNR regarding Fisheries — who does what, budget, etc.
- Add regional Roundtables
- Quarterly update, both directions
- Explain why ideas were implemented or not
- Add players: PCA, general public, ethnic minorities, Native Americans

TEAM 2

Accomplishments

- Pool 2 (1)
- Raised issues
- Cooperation between disciplines of DNR (1)
- Focused issues (8)
- Building trust (5)
- Understanding between different users (5)
- Emphasis on watershed (5)
- Effect on lake management (3)
- Fish synopsis (1)

Role of Roundtable

- Bring issues forward
- Give public's direction to DNR, focus
- Establish consensus

Maintain

- Keep Roundtable going
- Know what we're thinking
- Direction to DNR
- Keep format

Change

- Add regional Roundtables

TEAM 3

Accomplishments

- Development of partnership

- Interaction of diverse user groups
- Direction within a time frame
- Checklist
- Education for public and DNR
- Information for legislative body
- Provided guidelines for Fisheries Section

Role of Roundtable

- Cooperation
- Informative
- Cross-fertilization of ideas
- Representative
- Consensus-building
- Team-building

Maintain

- Annual meetings
- Broad representation
- Interaction of ideas

Change

- Include tribal representation (fisheries)
- More regional Roundtables like annual meeting representation
- Updates — three-ring binder — introduce category of staff and attendees, arrange material chronologically

Recommendations

- Assist in team-building to *do* the job
- Contact citizens
- Press release that each member passes out

TEAM 4

Accomplishments

- Increase communication between DNR and sports groups
- DNR opportunity to pre-act rather than react
- Public meetings have reinforced sense that sporting organizations are intertwined with each other
- Establishing esprit de corps

- One time a year we get to talk with each other — effect spreads beyond here
- Diminishing “two-headed” image of each other
- Increased commitment within the agency that you need more than emphasis on limits — diversified response
- Established support for the agency
- Educational value of special regulations
- Ability to provide examples of successful special regulation results, programs for use in public education programs

Role of Roundtable

- Big picture
- Think tank
- Dynamic
- Evolving
- Team-oriented
- Consensus-building

Maintain

- Increased communication
- Increased esprit de corps

Change

- Use Roundtable forum to address specific issues, sort out benefits and problems
- Bring Roundtable participants in as advisors
- Increase participation
- TV show to promote *facts* on issues
- More women and young people
- From the MinnAqua program
- Change emphasis on sports groups — emphasize “angling public”
- More regional meetings to support one statewide meeting a year
- Flyer or newsletter to publicize Roundtable regular activities
- More input solicited from public

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROUNDTABLE'S IMPLEMENTATION ROLE

- Get the message and information to the constituents (legislators, users, kids, teachers — non-users (everyone))
- Develop powerful team
- Roundtable participants bring wish lists to meetings
- Promote, popularize, publicize habitat improvement information
- Set priorities for habitat improvement
- Roundtable newsletter
- Mutual support between DNR and Roundtable
- Coordination mechanism
- Take more time to review specialist position
- Develop collective good judgment
- Write up and support model legislation
 - review existing legislation
 - consolidate
- Assist in team building to do the job
- Pass out generic but local press releases
- Continue
- More involvement with legislators — legislative and regulatory
- Tie to action teams
- Insist on good definition of vision
- Act as communicator
- TV show to promote facts on issues
- Distribute by hand, through mailing lists
- Contact citizens
- Write stories, contribute ideas for articles
- Serve as editorial board
- Support and defend it among critics



REFLECTIONS ON THE ROUNDTABLE

NEXT ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

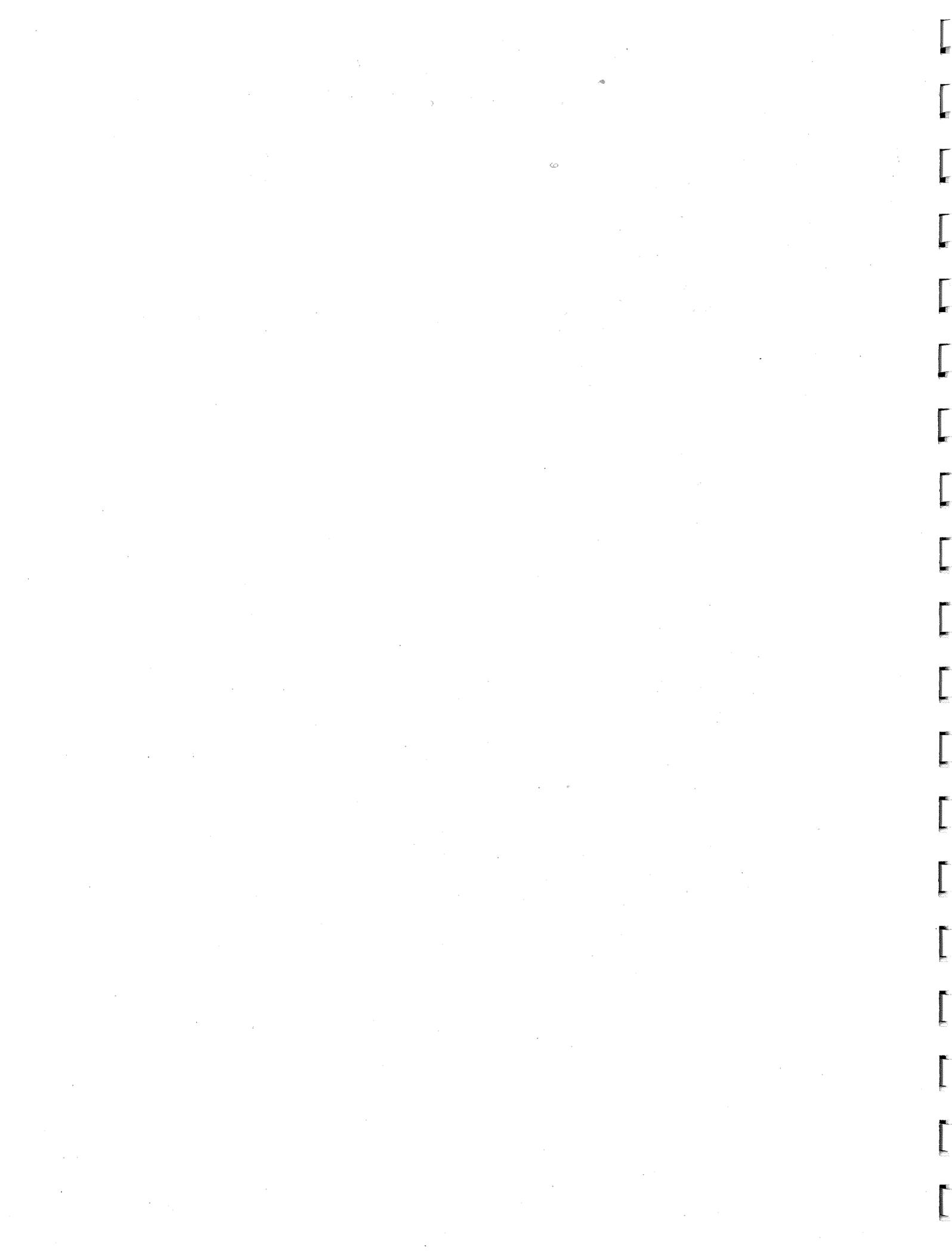
- Fish stocking
- Exotic needs and species of fish
- Funding
 - how to achieve goals given limited funding
 - where do funds come from, go?
 - cost accounting of various programs
- Water management mess
- Angling demographics — future trends
- Riparian zones — destruction
- Laws affecting watershed management — where are loopholes; seminar
- How much research is needed before special regulations can be made
- Format for responding to legislative issues

WHAT WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS ROUNDTABLE?

- More specific discussion
- Got to see accomplishments
- No animosity
- Futility: Indian issue, funding

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discussion about treaty
- Commonality of goals
- Emphasis on moving forward
- Not a rubber-stamp organization; pleased with acceptance of our direction



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