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Good day to all of you. I grew up in northeastern Nebraska on the family farm. It was a small dryland operation – dairy cattle, farrow to finish hogs, sheep, chickens, and corn and other row crops. My uncle started my interest in fishing focusing on bullheads and bluegill. Later, a family friend, a wildlife biologist, encouraged me to be a resource professional. My formal education includes attending the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management (emphasis on fish management) in 1973. In 1992, the American Fisheries Society named me a Certified Fisheries Scientist.

My fisheries career began in 1972 with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Twenty-years later, I moved to Devils Lake, North Dakota, and became a North Dakota Game and Fish Department District Fisheries Supervisor. During the past 35-years, my fish work has included - hatcheries (spawn take to distribution); collections (netting to explosives which was interesting/fun); management (tagging /population estimations/modeling, introductions, and long term planning), and interacting with other agencies/entities. The profession has changed – building fish hauling tanks to commercial units; typing reports to PC documents; using a slide ruler (yes – some of us still have one) to writing/using spreadsheet programs; chemical reagents to electronic water quality units. Yet, it has remained the same - the biologist using their knowledge/background to understand the problem(s), the constraints (natural or man made), managing for the resource's or recreational benefit(s), and problem solving to meet the public and private demands.

For the past few years, my focus has been on aquatic nuisance species (ANS) problems and prevention/public education efforts. We, fish managers and public, cannot allow ANS to ruin our resources. The Department has adopted a strong proactive approach rather than simply reacting to infestations. This approach demands keeping impacted parties moving toward consensus and in problem solving. I use fisheries management principles, convincing public and corporate views for prevention, education in an effective manner, and interacting with others. While ANS is a challenge, the future recreation is important to me and the Department. In addition, I continue to work on the Devils Lake carp prevention and outletting issues, Red River fisheries management, and other problems as they crop up.

If you are inclined to do so, let's go fish for cats on the Red River – you bring lunch and remember, sardines and pudding cups are welcomed.