



NEON Fish Technical Working Group

2020 Annual Report



1685 38th St., Suite 100 | Boulder, CO 80301 | 720.746.4844 | www.neonscience.org

National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation and proudly operated by Battelle.

Introduction

Since its inception, NEON has relied on expertise within the science, education, and engineering communities to advise on key areas impacting the design, construction, and maintenance of the observatory with the goal to optimize its operation. Currently, two types of external advisory bodies support staff and leadership in making key decisions that guide all of NEON's activities: the Science, Technology & Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs). Both bodies are comprised of experts nominated to serve in these roles who are selected by NEON staff following a rigorous selection process.

NEON currently relies upon input from 22 TWGs. These groups play an important role by providing input to NEON's data collection and processing methods and ensuring that NEON infrastructure, data, and programs are a valuable community resource. Working groups are participatory and advisory; they are often tasked with providing input on issues that have scientific, educational, engineering, or operational implications.

This document includes a summary of activities, recommendations, and NEON's response to those recommendations for the Fish TWG during the 2020 funding year (November 2019-October 2020).

The Fish Technical Working Group provides expert knowledge and support for the development of field-based protocols and strategies for standardization of sampling across NEON aquatic sites.

Q1 – November 2019-January 2020

Summary of Activities

Kick off meeting; new members introduced, discussed possible upcoming questions, and reviewed past year's success at the BLUE (Blue River) site. The TWG had previously recommended a larger diameter net, and it appeared to work at higher flows.

TWG Recommendations

N/A

NEON Response

N/A

Q2 – February 2020-April 2020

Summary of Activities

Over email, the TWG was asked to give feedback on where to release fish caught behind potential barriers.

TWG Recommendations

The majority of the TWG suggested holding fish in extra buckets and returning them to the same location they were caught. They also suggested that if NEON does implement this method to make sure, buckets kept in shade, adequately aerated and that predators be kept in separate buckets. This will be a change to the current method.

NEON Response

Working on implementing this change, for the current protocol update

Q3 – May 2020-July 2020

Summary of Activities

NEON staff worked with a TWG member over email with expertise in crustacean by-catch requirements (Dr. Thilina Surasinghe).

TWG Recommendations

The TWG member recommended we collect and identify by-catch to the lowest common taxonomic level or weigh all crayfish.

NEON Response

That those sites that can, ID to lowest taxonomic level.

Q4 – August 2020-October 2020

Summary of Activities

No activity for Q4.

TWG Recommendations

N/A

NEON Response

N/A