

legacy of plenty that was left to us by our forefathers.

We would be foolish if we didn't admit that planning for the future is a risky venture. We will probably make mistakes, but by recognizing that our natural resources are finite—I have confidence that we can succeed by utilizing the mistakes of the past to accomplish the goals of the future.

We look forward to the benefits which West Virginia will derive from your pooled knowledge and skills.

With these thoughts, let me wish you success with your deliberations to achieve the goals of this important conference.

STRIPED BASS CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT THEME SESSION MODERATOR'S OPENING COMMENTS

by

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Our purpose today will be to trace the history of striped bass culture and management from its early beginning in the last century, through its major developmental period during the past 15 years, and to try to make realistic comments upon the current state of the art and the direction of the program in the near future. For the record, let me say that in 1966 at the 20th Annual Conference, Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, we held the Striped Bass Symposium which helped set the stage for the ensuing striped bass program in the southeast. This session, therefore, is not the first presentation of its kind and, hopefully, it will not be the last.

In-as-much as the program has primarily been devoted to the establishment of striped bass populations in reservoirs, so also will the comments made today be primarily related to reservoir stocking. It should be noted, however, that in recent years at least four estuaries have also been stocked with cultured striped bass. The present investigation on the Hudson River is especially noteworthy. This is a very sophisticated, multi-million dollar study which is generating a data bank of information which should benefit everyone concerned with aquatic resources. A major facet of this investigation is the possibility of using cultured striped bass to mitigate losses of striped bass due to the operation of power plants. The ramifications of this program, especially to the fish culturist, is very exciting. If the stocking of cultured fish proves to be a feasible method for mitigating power plant losses and the projected 1000 new power plants are indeed built by the year 2000, then a needed boost will be given to fish culture and its practitioners.

THE USE OF CIRCULAR TANKS FOR SPAWNING STRIPED BASS (*MORONE SAXATILIS*)

by

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ABSTRACT

During the 1974 spawning season in Tennessee, 17 female striped bass were injected with chorionic gonadotropin and placed in circular tanks to spawn. One or more males, also injected with gonadotropin, were placed in 13 of the tanks with each female. In four of the tanks, treated white bass males (*M. chrysops*) were added in an attempt to produce hybrids.

All 13 of the females, where there were no white bass, successfully spawned producing an estimated 19.3 million eggs. More than 11 million fry hatched.

The four females in tanks containing white bass males ripened but had to be manually stripped.

The tank spawning method requires considerably less handling and imposes much less stress on brood fish than the conventional hormone technique.