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SOFTWARE REVIEW (DRAFT)

Reviewed By: M. F. Braeuer and Gary Ash

Date: 10-Aug-04

Program Title: 1) Estimating Fish Age From Otoliths -
Techniques For Largemouth Bass & Channel Catfish (DVD)
2) Known-Age Otolith Database – Largemouth Bass and
Catfish (DVD)

Version: 1.0

Program Date: December 2003

Program Description: DVD set developed to aid in ensuring that fish ages estimated from otolith from largemouth bass & channel catfish are accurate. The first of the DVDs contains an instructional video that demonstrates otolith removal and processing as well as annulus interpretation for largemouth bass and channel catfish. This video was developed to ensure that validated age estimation techniques are correctly applied. The second DVD contains a database of video clips of prepared otoliths from known-age largemouth bass (ages 0-17), channel catfish (ages 1-6), and blue catfish (ages 1-2). These 300 otolith video clips can be used for training and testing.

Developers: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division (Fish Age Committee).
Contact/Author(s): Dave Buckmeier, Todd Driscoll, Fred Janssen, Galen Jons,
Danny Lewis and John Tibbs.
Web Site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Program Strengths: Excellent step by step procedures for the removal of otoliths and ageing techniques for largemouth bass and channel catfish.

Program Weaknesses: Limited to only two species groups - largemouth bass and catfish.

Program Technical Support:

Contact: Texas parks and Wildlife Department
Attn: Inland Fisheries, 4200Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744
(512) 389-8110 www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Computer OS Compatibility: Windows or Mac

Program Requirements: DVD Video Program (e.g., WinDVD™ or Windows Media Player™), Quicktime™ and Web Browser (i.e., ability to read html files); home DVD video player will play Techniques DVD.

Hardware Compatibility: (✓) IBM Compatible (✓) Macintosh () Apple () Other ____

Hardware Requirements (RAM, HDD, CD-ROM, etc): Computer with DVD-ROM (Home DVD player will work for Techniques DVD); computer DVD reader required for Known-Age Otolith Database DVD.

Configuration Used by Reviewer: Win XP, 256 MB, DVD reader; Tested Techniques disk in home DVD player.

Documentation: check with Printed (pgs) pdf DVD On-Line

Subject Area: check with <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Population Dynamics	<input type="checkbox"/> Modeling
	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age and Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematics	<input type="checkbox"/> Population Estimation	<input type="checkbox"/> Administration
	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Availability: Public Domain Proprietary/Commercial

Accuracy of Calculations: Good Bad Untested Not Applicable

Review Scores:

CATEGORY	SCORE	COMMENTS
Ease of Installation	9	Provided a media program and Quicktime are available on the computer
Operating System Environment	9	Any computer that can play DVDs, or any DVD player for the Techniques disk.
User Interface	10	Video with menu for one disk, and HTML links to Quicktime clips for the other
Help Facility	8	Contact number (512) 389-8110 www.tpwd.state.tx.us but probably not needed, as the DVD use is quite straight forward
Documentation	NA	DVD so no additional documentation included
Learning Curve	8	Ageing techniques shown are proven for fish species selected, as well as being transferable to other fish species.
Ease of Use	9	Very easy to set up and use
Calculation Accuracy	NA	Video clips, so no calculations required
Education Value	10	Very useful for anyone learning to age bass or catfish, some applicability to ageing of other species
Productivity Potential	9	The instructional DVD will assist in technique application as well as increase confidence of the otolith reader. Primary use is restricted to bass and catfish ageing.
Examples	10	Known-Age Otolith database DVD shows clips of otoliths from various known-age fish
Usefulness to Fisheries Scientists	10	Very useful
OVERALL RATING	9	

* Use 1 to 10 rating scales: 1 = bad; 5 = average or acceptable; 10 = great.

Incorporate into AFSCUS Library: Yes No

General Comments:

Clear concise commentary. Excellent examples of otolith extraction, from largemouth bass and channel catfish, which may be applied to other fish species. This DVD set will help to reduce individual variability while reading otoliths from these species. The data base is also an excellent teaching tool. One could apply the age determination principles to otoliths of other fish species

Selling Price (if applicable): \$12