

duction. I found this section interesting, if a little thin and lacking a good conceptual integration of ecosystem management tools. The following 19 chapters form what I consider the major achievement of this book, a large number of detailed Case Studies in Governance from around the world, including many developing regions that are not well known. I enjoyed this tour de force through world fisheries, largely written by local experts.

The final 20 papers highlight a diverse set of Policy Instruments and Perspectives. This again follows the central paradigm that fisheries management has to deal first with fishers, then with fish, which is seen throughout the volume. Although this perspective certainly has merits, it does feel overstated at times.

In conclusion, I recommend this book for its wide scope and regional detail. It is mostly balanced in tone, steering clear of polarizing rhetoric that has been part of the fisheries debate in the past. Save for some glaring oversights (e.g., only one short chapter deals with marine reserves), it represents a valuable compilation.

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PADDFISH MANAGEMENT, PROPAGATION, AND CONSERVATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: BUILDING FROM 20 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT.

Partially based on the proceedings of a symposium held in Omaha, Nebraska, 5 December 2006. American Fisheries Society Symposium, Volume 66.

Edited by Craig P. Paukert and George D. Scholten. Bethesda (Maryland): American Fisheries Society. \$79.00 (paper). xii + 443 p.; ill.; no index. ISBN: 978-1-934874-12-7. 2009.

Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) are a unique, long-lived river fish that, in North America, inhabit river systems and associated reservoirs throughout the Mississippi and Missouri River drainages. This symposium proceedings provides an important comprehensive synopsis of paddlefish biology, management, and conservation that has not been updated since the mid-1980s (see J. G. Dillard, L. K. Graham, and T. R. Russell. 1986. *The Paddlefish: Status, Management, and Propagation*. Columbia (MO): North Central Division, American Fisheries Society). This volume is organized into five parts (27 articles) that cover a number of topics (e.g., life history, ecology, status, threats, and management) that will be of great interest to fisheries biologists, large river ecologists, and others curious simply about paddlefish. Part 1 (ten papers) includes information on the distribution, ecology, and life history of paddlefish. Much of this section is a synthesis of historic literature, a highly recommended read for anyone unfamiliar with the spe-

cies. Part 2 (six papers) assesses current threats to paddlefish, providing discussions on habitats that are necessary to sustain paddlefish populations, anthropogenic degradation to these habitats, and the implications of competitive invasive species (e.g., Asian carps). Part 3 (five papers) focuses on paddlefish conservation and management. Stand-out topics include population genetics and assessments of commercial harvest. Part 4 (five papers) covers paddlefish stocking and culture. This section contains a nice overview of current strategies in paddlefish propagation and includes summaries of stocking and restoration assessments, in addition to pertinent early life-history information. Part 5 consists of a single capstone paper that considers the status of the species and provides direction for continued efforts to conserve and enhance paddlefish populations.

Structurally, the editors did a fine job of organizing the diverse topics and proofing the technical aspects of this volume. The "big picture" topic sections progress nicely from broad (life history, current status) subjects to specific, current needs in conservation and research. Although this book was principally written for practicing biologists involved with paddlefish research and management, the text is very reader friendly and accommodates a broad audience. Result sections of the individual articles are frequently accompanied by simple, easy-to-read tables and interpretable figures. Many tables contain highly summarized information, which will be a valuable reference tool for biologists. The conclusions and implications presented in this volume will provide biologists with future research needs and a good foundation for making informed management and conservation decisions.

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HERPETOLOGY. Third Edition.

By Laurie Vitt and Janalee P. Caldwell. Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and Boston (Massachusetts): Elsevier (Academic Press). \$79.95. xiv + 697 p.; ill.; taxonomic and subject indexes. ISBN: 978-0-12-374346-6. 2009.

If birds are flying reptiles and mammals clearly nested within Tetrapoda, one might doubt the utility of a textbook focused explicitly on the biology of a paraphyletic assemblage such as living amphibians and "nonvolant" reptiles. Yet this third edition of a leading herpetology textbook speaks for itself. The study of amphibians and reptiles is revealed as a dynamic field serving as a portal into a diverse range of biological disciplines.

As in the previous edition, this publication is organized into six principal parts. Five concentrate