BLACK BASS DIVERSITY: MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION. *Proceedings of a symposium held in Nashville, Tennessee, 8-10 February 2013. American Fisheries Society Symposium, Volume 82.*

Edited by Michael D. Tringali, James M. Long, Timothy W. Birdsong, and Michael S. Allen. Bethesda (Maryland): American Fisheries Society. $79.00. xvi + 685 p.; ill.; no index. ISBN: 978-1-934874-40-0. 2015.

These proceedings are from the third symposium dedicated to management and conservation of black basses in the genus *Micropterus*. The first symposium was held in 1975 (R. H. Stroud and H. Clepper. *Black Bass Biology and Management*. Washington (DC): Sport Fishing Institute) followed 25 years later by Black Bass 2000 (D. P. Philipp and M. S. Ridgway. 2002. *Black Bass: Ecology, Conservation, and Management*. Bethesda (MD): American Fisheries Society). Although the previous books discussed conservation of genetic variation and distinct strains of basses, the bulk of the papers in those tomes emphasized management of largemouth and smallmouth bass. In contrast, this third symposium is focused on the rarer bass species and challenges for their successful management.

The first section of the volume has species accounts for the nine described basses: smallmouth (*M. dolomieu*), largemouth (*M. salmoides*), spotted (*M. punctulatus*), Florida (*M. floridanus*), Guadalupe (*M. treculii*), redeye (*M. coosae*), Suwannee (*M. notius*), shoal (*M. cataractae*), and Alabama (*M. henshalli*). Accounts cover taxonomy, distribution, habitat, reproduction, diets, pathogens, population dynamics, sport fisheries, conservation status, future research needs, and also feature vivid color plates by Joseph Tomelleri.

There is an insightful paper on the history of black bass management from the early years of unregulated recreational and commercial harvest for food to stocking of basses outside their native range by private and government agencies. The consequential emphasis of bass management in the many reservoirs created by the era of river impoundments contributed to the increased popularity of sport fisheries and tournaments. Currently there is growing awareness and appreciation of unique basses that are endemic to single or even just portions of river systems.

There are two chapters that recognize and provide morphological and genetic evidence (but do not formally describe) the Choctaw bass of the Choctawhatchee River and two redeye basses endemic to the Altamaha and Savannah River systems. These three putative species, combined with the recently described Cahaba, Chattahoochee, Tallapoosa, and Warrior basses, increase the genus to 16 known species. If the genetically distinct largemouth bass in Cuatro Ciénegas is described, yet another *Micropterus* species will be added. Along with the species-level diversity, there are several articles that describe the conservation challenges to protect unique lineages of Neosho and Ouachita smallmouth Bass, estuarine largemouth bass near Mobile Bay, and locally adapted smallmouth bass in Virginia.

A group of local, state, federal, and nongovernmental groups formed the Native Black Bass Initiative to conserve endemic basses in their native range by maintaining the processes that sustain healthy populations. Several of the papers in the book detail these conservation efforts. Hybridization is recognized as a major threat to bass diversity. Several papers document where endemic bass populations are threatened by introgression because of stocking of nonnative basses. Some authors advocate restocking of endemic bass to strengthen genetic integrity of their populations.

Other important areas covered in this volume include angler effects on largemouth bass, diseases, habitat restoration and improvement, novel predators, and population dynamics. If this book is a fair representation of black bass management, a paradigm shift has occurred from focusing on maximizing bass production and angler harvest to preservation of the diversity of basses in their native ranges by maintaining natural processes and habitats.

HOWARD JELKS, *Southeast Ecological Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Gainesville, Florida*