**Zooplankton ID workshop**

Fall 2019- Stockton CDFW labs and conference room

One day meeting ~9-5?

* Similar to the USFWS Fish ID class
* First part of the day focusing on discussion and looking at ID
  + Also discuss difficult to distinguish groups
* Second part of the day more of a lab practical set up
  + ID test?
  + Maybe add scopes with
    - New critters we’ve seen
    - Some that need to have the ID confirmed- depending on the people that attend
    - Samples that different projects might categorize differently or have no current way to classify

Early to mid-November?

* Week of the 12th
* Mid-week may be best?

Taxa to focus on, work with participants ahead of time to decide on taxa and allocation of time:

* Amphipods
  + How do each set of researchers ID these? Gammarus/ Corophium body type? Speciate? What about those that are not “Gammarus” or “Corophium”?
  + Also would be nice to get some ID confirmation according to who is there and what experience they have identifying certain species.
* Copepodids and Nauplii
  + What species are speciated in each category? Are these life stages differentiated?
* *Acanthocyclops*
  + How have these been classified? *A. vernalis*?

Ideas from Lab Folks. Need to decide which to include and what detail:

1. We see quite a variety of cladocerans that are classified as other, but could be easily identified at least to genus or family.  Some of these “others” also look very similar to taxa we do currently identify.
2. There are some calanoid copepods classified as other that we see in Longfin Smelt stomachs: *Epilabidocera, Calanus, Clausocalanus and Paracalanus.*
3. For amphipods, we could provide a collection of what we see and our identification materials.
4. Some of the early juvenile mysids can also be difficult to identify.  We could have some out, along with id tips.
5. If we are going to discuss *Acanthocyclops*, I want to include cyclopoids in general.   They are a pain to ID, but our group IDs adults when possible and I am curious to see how other groups outside of CDFW ID them.
6. I want to know how other groups treat tanaids, cumaceans, and other groups that frequently show up in samples with mysids and amphipods.  Do people ignore them, put them in a broad groups, or actually speciate them?
7. How do programs decide which critters are counted? For example, why do most programs in our office ignore insects and isopods?
8. How do programs decide what level of identification to go to? For example, the contractor DWR uses for zooplankton identifies all the Cladocera to species, but does not ID juvenile copepods further than “copepod copepidite” or “copepod nauplii”.
9. We might want to start by developing a list of the most common species/taxa in each group, and get opinions on which are hardest to identify, to guide how we want to run the workshop.

Groups to invite:

* Wim’s lab
  + Anne, Toni, Jillian, Michelle, others?
* SERC?
  + Alina, others?
* Jim’s lab
* ICF
  + Colin, others?
* John Durand’s lab
* Wayne Fields, Sarah USGS
* DWR?
* USFWS?
* John Chapman
* Jeff Cordell
* Other consulting firms?

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