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Semester Project Topic Idea

My initial topic choice is the commercial harvest and sale of fish species in Midwest waterways because my Ph D. research aims to quantify how commercial removal of common carp and bigmouth buffalo may affect water quality in shallow, natural lakes of northwest Iowa. It’s a complex issue involving New York City markets, existing (and recently changed) legislation restricting who may obtain commercial fishing licenses in Iowa, and regulations vary by state. Commercial harvest is a tool for population management of many invasive species including asian carp, however little is known about how harvest may affect bigmouth buffalo, a native species that a recent study from South Dakota claims are the longest lived teleost freshwater fish in North America, with specimens in their sample born before the nuclear bombs tested and deployed during World War II.