

2009 Annual Tidewater Chapter EXCOM Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Fred Scharf called the meeting to order at 4:48 pm on 3/12/2009.

Attendance

Jack Musick, Fred Scharf, Dewayne Fox, Bob Murphy, John Cooper, Stephanie McInerny, Michael Luisi, Mary Fabrizio, Chip Collier (UNCW), Ken Riley (ECU), Adam Peer (UMD), Sara Mirabilio, and Kevin Spanik

Welcome/2009 Annual Meeting

Fred Scharf welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated the EXCOM with the schedule of events for the 2009 Tidewater Chapter Annual meeting in Wilmington, NC. The poster social will immediately follow this meeting in the Mess Hall of the USS NC. There should be a full day of talks located at the auditorium at Cape Fear Community College located left of the Hilton. There is a map in the welcome packet if anyone gets lost. Talks will start around 8:15 am. The invited speaker is John Boreman, who is the former director of NOAA/NEFSC at Wood's Hole. There are about 21 talks, 15 of which are by students. A quick business meeting will follow the talks on Friday and then followed by an evening dinner social on the fantail of the USS NC. **Fred** mentioned that attendees of the meeting are allowed to go anywhere on the ship if interested in looking around.

There will be a water taxi to take people over to the Battleship starting at 5:45 pm on Friday at the corner of Market St. and Water St. **Fred** also mentioned the UMD sponsored student/mentor lunch. An hour and a half will be set aside for lunch and some local restaurants were suggested.

Saturday will consist of the remainder of talks (about 7-8 professional talks) and should end around noon.

Fred questioned the EXCOM on whether or not to get wine for the dinner social. Local wine was suggested. **Fred** also mentioned that the caterers will be providing snacks at breaks.

Treasurer's Report

Stephanie McInerny reported that the current checking account balance for the Tidewater Chapter was \$6,856.36 as of 3/11/2009. This balance included two donations (\$250 to the NDAFS and \$350 to EOS). It also included a \$374.41 deposit from a sales and use tax refund filed for the chapter from the NC Dept of Revenue, a \$273.00 deposit from dues from the Parent society, and an order of checks that cost \$29.00. This balance

also includes a \$2,000 deposit from sponsorships and a withdrawal of \$3,265 for meeting preparations.

Stephanie also reported that the Tidewater Chapter Mutual fund is currently valued at \$540.35 which is a 43% decline from the original investment of \$1025 made on March 27, 2006 and a 48% decline from one year ago. The economy and stock market are not doing well at the moment and it was agreed upon by the EXCOM that the money should not be pulled out of the stock market while we are at a loss.

Stephanie also reported that the 2008 taxes have been filed.

Fred mentioned that if everyone who registered for the meeting shows up, the chapter should break even because of sponsorships that went to offset room costs.

Jack moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was accepted unanimously.

Stephanie also presented the minutes from the last EXCOM meeting. **Fred** moved to accept the minutes. **Bob** seconded. Unanimous.

Scholarship and Awards Committee

-Ron Klauda (chair) reported that he sent out a request for awards including the Conservation, Meritorious Service, and Excellence in Fisheries Award. **Ron** mentioned that he received only one nomination for the Meritorious Service Award –Dr. John Olney. **Ron** then described the Meritorious Service Award and gave a quick bio on John and his service to the Chapter.

It was discussed that award solicitations need to be sent out sooner and members should start thinking now about who to nominate for next year. John Olney will be unable to make it to the meeting so Jack will be accepting the award for him.

Ron discussed that the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Award has only been given out twice and mentioned that it does take a lot of work to apply but this year the Chapter didn't receive any applicants.

Ron mentioned that there will be 6 chapter members serving as judges as opposed to 3 judges for the student awards. Three for posters and three for presentations to cut down on the workload of each judge.

It was also discussed amongst the EXCOM the need for better attendance at the Business meetings and that the student awards will be give at the Friday night social.

Membership/Nominating Committee

Dewayne Fox reported that he will tabulate a list of members and send them to the EXCOM. A question was asked about offering a lifetime membership.

Jack questioned why there was even a membership committee. **Stephanie** talked about 2008 membership within the Tidewater Chapter. **Mary Fabrizio** gave some insight on membership retention in the Parent Society. **Stephanie** read out a description of the purpose of the membership committee from the Tidewater Chapter Bylaws and Procedural Manual.

Jack mentioned he doesn't know what to do as part of the membership committee.

Ken talked about the positives of his lifetime membership to the US Aquaculture Society. He mentioned that it was easier to pay that then having to remember to pay dues every year.

Sara Mirabilio agreed with the lifetime membership and **Jack** said he thinks it should be offered as an option in the TWC.

The EXCOM then talked about collecting dues from subunits and about raising the Chapter dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00.

- **Vote to send out dues announcements to members. Accepted unanimously.**
- **Vote to raise dues to \$10.00. Accepted unanimously.**
- **Vote to offer a lifetime membership of \$150. Sara motioned. Fred and Chip seconded. Accepted unanimously.**

Fred mentioned that Michael Luisi from Maryland had accepted the nomination to be the 2010 Chapter president. All of other officers have remained the same.

Newletter

Sara reported that the current newsletter is set to be sent out twice a year, so about every 6 months. Problems with this frequency of newsletters were discussed in regards to solicitations for officers and awards nominations. It was agreed that the solicitations and nominations need to be put in the July newsletter and through the listserv so it will fall in line for the Annual meeting timeframe. **Sara** mentioned that the next issue will go out in July and she will start requesting information from EXCOM members in May. A synopsis of the Annual meeting and meeting awards will be provided in this newsletter as well as any membership information. In addition, solicitations for officers and awards will be included.

Fred mentioned he will help with the 2010 nominating committee.

The listserv was discussed and it was noted that all subunit presidents should be on the list and they should encourage their student members to enroll in the listserv as well.

Sara or Stephanie will try to send out an email to the subunit presidents with listserv instructions and an explanation of why they should be on the listserv.

It was also discussed that the listserv needs to be utilized for more than just sending out annual meeting information and newsletter.

Website

Sara reported that the website needs a full overhaul to bring it up to date and fix broken links. It looks like it will take a lot of work to overhaul the website.

Dewayne Fox suggested that maybe a graduate student could be paid hourly to help with the website.

Michael Luisi motioned to take the website down until it is fixed. **Dewayne** seconded. Accepted unanimously.

It was discussed that the chapter needs to try to get a commitment from someone to put a higher priority on fixing the website. It was mentioned that if we end up paying to get it revamped then someone could volunteer to keep it up.

Sara mentioned maybe using HTML editor; then anyone who had the password could update it. Michael mentioned that all information should be on the website and email could be sent out pertaining to cost, and bids sent to Chad Smith.

Parent Society News

The 2007-2008 president of the AFS Parent Society, **Mary Fabrizio**, provided some insight into current happenings in the Parent Society. The Midyear Meeting was held in Bethesda, MD. **Mary** mentioned that the Parent Society has taken a hit because of the economy like many other organizations. The Society finance analyst typically keeps about \$3 million in reserve for operating expenses but is now down to \$1.5 million so they have to keep a tight eye on their finances. These economics are making things tight for annual meetings and on annual meeting attendance. **Mary** questioned what this year's attendance to the Society Annual meeting would be. Typical attendance is about 1000-2000 attendees.

The Society is publishing a new journal, Marine and Fisheries Ecology, which currently has 85 manuscripts.

Mary mentioned that AFS has added 22 new subunits within the last 2-3 years. She also mentioned that AFS is thinking about a mentorship program to try and cultivate leaders for the next generation. This would involve students being mentored by members of the AFS Governing Board to see how AFS runs their business. Interested parties should talk to Mary.

Members-at-Large

Maryland

Bob Murphy recruited Michael Luisi as the next president-elect. They are looking at Annapolis, MD for next year's meeting place. Other options are Ocean City or Soloman.

NC and VA

At-large members were not present.

Student Subunit News

University of Maryland

-**Adam Peer** reported that the UMD subunit is organizing the student/mentor lunch for this year's TWC Annual meeting in Wilmington. Currently, there are more mentors than students; 8 mentors, 7 students. This could be because the students are not on the listserv where the announcements for the lunch were being posted. **Sara** mentioned she could do a separate feature for the lunch in the July newsletter to give it more publicity.

Adam also mentioned their subunit was organizing a workshop to learn AD Model Builder scheduled for this summer.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

-No UMES members attended the meeting but provided a brief summary of their annual activities (see attached report).

Duke

-No Duke members attended the meeting.

East Carolina University

Ken Riley gave a description of the ECU subunit's recent activities which included participating in the Shad Festival and Big Sweep along with many others. The ECU subunit also provided a full report to the EXCOM (see attachment).

University North Carolina Wilmington

Chip Collier reported that the UNCW subunit participated in the disabled fisherman, big buddy, and little buddy fishing tournaments. The subunit also designed t-shirts for the annual meeting and is hoping to break even from selling them at the meeting.

Other business regarding student subunits

Ron Klauda made a comment that there is currently not an award for best student subunit within the Chapter and suggested possibly creating one.

Dewayne Fox commented that **Johnny Moore** (DSU student rep) had been delayed so couldn't attend the EXCOM meeting. The University of Delaware student representative position is still vacant.

Dewayne also commented that Delaware wants to be an official part of the Tidewater Chapter. For this to occur, it would require a vote and the regional boundaries would have to be redrawn. It was mentioned that some people from Delaware are opposed to this. Regardless, **Dewayne** offered his help with annual meetings.

Old Business

None

New Business

Jack Musick asked the EXCOM if the Chapter could cover some of his travel costs for the meeting since he was the current Chapter president and was also no longer able to receive travel reimbursement money from VIMS. The EXCOM agreed that if the Chapter broke even after this annual meeting that Jack's travel could probably be covered.

Fred mentioned that he would also like to cover John Boreman's room cost since he was the invited speaker.

It was discussed whether the Chapter is trying to break even from annual meeting or trying to make money. **Stephanie** mentioned that if we break even that is fine but if we make money then that money can go toward donations to other sections and causes within AFS or towards student travel to meetings. Without making money for these items, over time the budget will go back down to an uncomfortable level.

Fred and **Jack** mentioned that being somewhat conservative where you can and getting sponsorships from local businesses and organizations can help cover meeting costs while keeping registration at a manageable level. It was also noted that it would help the president-elect if the president shared his previous budget for the meeting. **Michael Luisi** suggested a \$7,000 budget for the 2010 meeting.

Mary Fabrizio also mentioned that AFS has a negotiator for organizing meetings that help get the best hotel rates, etc. She suggested the Chapter contact Gus Rassam, AFS Executive Director, if interested in using the negotiator.

Adjournment

Fred Scharf motioned to adjourn the meeting at ~ **7:00 pm**. Seconded by **Bob Murphy**.

Minutes submitted by: Stephanie McInerny

A brief report from the AFS student subunit chapter of University of Maryland Eastern Shore

The AFS student subunit at University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is approximately two years old. We were officially approved by the AFS Governing Board on March 10, 2007. As of November 2008, the UMES AFS student subunit has 21 members, including 3 Ph.D. candidates and 7 M.S. students.

Our subunit has raised money through fundraising and membership dues that support members' educational, professional, and social growth. In the fall semester (2008), we held four fundraisers that encouraged professional networking among students within and outside of the subunit.

The UMES sub-unit was the first of all student sub-units to donate funds to the equal opportunity section of AFS, and we have done so two years in a row. We also hold annual competitions for book awards (\$100) and travel awards to regional meetings. In our first year, we organized and implemented a graduate student symposium that was attended by students from several universities in the Mid-Atlantic region. The second symposium is currently being planned, and will be held in April 2009.

The UMES AFS student subunit has conducted several outreach projects. Members currently maintain a 100 gallon aquarium display housed within Carver Hall, the location of the Department of Natural Sciences. Members have also participated in Earth Day, and collaborated with Upward Bound, Eastern Shore Restoration and Education Partnership (ESREP) program, Maryland Coastal Bays, National Park Service, and the Pocomoke Discovery Center. Earth Day was a campus wide event where students learned tips on how to "be green," participated in campus and community clean ups, and planted flowers around campus. Upward Bound, ESREP, and Maryland Coastal Bays offered programs for students from K-12 to learn basic research skills and conduct fisheries research. We have also partnered with nearby Washington High School to teach students about nature in their backyard. Our subunit members trained students in measuring water quality, identifying and dissecting fish, and sampling macroinvertebrates.

Annual Report to AFS Tidewater Chapter EXCOM

TO: Jack Musik, President, Tidewater Chapter American Fisheries Society
FROM: Kenneth Riley and Ryan Spidel, Co-Presidents, East Carolina University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society (ECU AFS)
DATE: **March 11, 2009**

I. Activity Report

A. Charge or Annual Program of Work:

The activities of ECU AFS follow the mission of the parent society to improve fishery resources, advance fishery science and promote professional development. As a student subunit, we facilitate the education of students involved in fisheries science through research, service projects, and interactions with fisheries scientists, professionals, and fellow students.

B. Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area detailed in *The Strategic Plan of the American Fisheries Society, 2005-2009*: http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/about_sp.pdf

Focus Area 1, Aquatic Stewardship: AFS and its members will be leaders in promoting the sustainability and sound stewardship of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Goal AS 1: Local and Global Leadership

ECU AFS attended the 38th annual Grifton Shad Festival held on April 19th and 20th. The Shad Fest is a family oriented event with food, entertainment, and shad themed activities for children and adults. We worked an information booth and displayed field-sampling gear that we use in our aquatic research. We also set up the popular “kiddie fishing pools” where children could catch plastic fish with magnets to win prizes. In January, we volunteered at the local food bank labeling canned food to serve the local community.

Goal AS 2: Stewardship Education

Big Sweep is an annual event conducted state-wide to clean up North Carolina watersheds. ECU AFS is responsible for organizing the clean up of Green Mill Run, a small stream that flows adjacent to campus. This year we had 68 volunteers including ECU college students and local high school students who came out to help pick up trash along Green Mill Run. We provided donuts and coffee for volunteers and managed to collect 1835 items and covered approximately 1.5 miles of water.

In July, ECU AFS hosted two groups of Ocean Adventure Campers aged 9-11 in the fishery science and ecology labs of Dr. Roger Rulifson and Dr. Joe Luczkovich for a hands-on experience. Campers learned how to identify some common coastal NC species and take weight/length measurements and examined fish scales and otoliths under dissecting microscopes.

Goal AS 3: Promotion of Stewardship

This summer, ECU AFS will partner up with NC Wildlife Commission to organize “Take a Kid Fishing Day” at River Park North in Greenville. At this event, children are taught the basics of recreational fishing tackle and techniques and the importance of catch and release to create sustainable fish populations.

***Focus Area 2, Information Transfer and Outreach:* AFS and its members will be recognized by decision makers and natural resource professionals as an important source of science-based information about fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and their conservation, management, and sustainable development.**

Goal ITO 1: Visibility

Within the ECU campus community, ECU AFS makes itself visible through two main events held in the spring semester: “Barefoot on the Mall” and “Get-a-Clue.” “Barefoot on the Mall” is a school fair offering recruitment and fundraising opportunities for student organizations. ECU AFS prepared and sold frozen chocolate banana sticks along with drinks, baked items, and organic homemade dog treats. We also held a “Pie Your Professor” event, where folks donated money to see their professor (or colleague) pied! The professor with the most donations received a whipped pie to the face at the end of “Barefoot.” This event was very successful for ECU AFS and all those who participated had a good time. “Get-a-Clue” is the other campus-wide information fair in which ECU AFS participated. It was a great opportunity to interact with students who have interests in fisheries and have them join our mailing list.

In the past year, ECU AFS has exhibited strong representation at local and national meetings and conferences. The 138th annual AFS meeting was held in Ottawa Canada and two graduate students and Dr. Rulifson attended. We would like to recognize Dr. Rulifson for receiving the Meritorious Service Award from the AFS Parent Society. Dr. Rulifson and Jen Cudney Birch, a Ph.D student, coordinated and hosted a symposium on sharks entitled: “Global management of squaloid sharks - protection and enhancement of regional fisheries in light of global conservation initiatives.”

Eight ECU AFS members attended the annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter AFS held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester, VA from March 6-8, 2008. Two recently graduated M.S. students, Kevin Hart and Jason Clermont, gave oral presentations on their thesis research and posters were presented by M.S. student Cecelia Krahforst and our past president and Ph.D. student Becky Deehr.

Eleven ECU AFS members attended the annual meeting of the Southern Division AFS held in New Orleans, Louisiana from January 15-18, 2009. Three graduate students and one undergraduate student gave oral presentations on their research, and a poster was presented by a graduate student.

Goal ITO 2: Collaboration

ECU AFS has collaborated with Paula Clark, the Pitt County Recycling Coordinator in organizing “Big Sweep.” Paula provides trash bags and trash collection data sheets and also recruits volunteers, adding to the success of the event.

In October, ECU AFS co-sponsored a campus-wide screening and panel discussion of the film “Sizzle” by filmmaker/scientist Randy Olson. “Sizzle” is a comedy documentary (mockumentary) about global warming and presented interviews with climate experts and global warming skeptics. After the screening there was a panel discussion involving scientists from ECU where the audience asked heated questions.

In June, we coordinated a boat-mounted electrofishing workshop through collaboration with the NC Wildlife Commission Biologists Bob Barwick and Justin Homan. The workshop included a classroom session on physical principles and fundamentals of electrofishing and safety considerations. We then went out on the Tar River on an electrofishing boat for practical experience and managed to shock up some huge catfish. After the workshop, a written examination was given and all those who participated received certification.

Goal ITO 3: Professional Stature

ECU AFS strives to maintain a professional stature by following the rules and procedures set forth by the AFS Constitution and ECU AFS Bylaws, available on our website: <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/>.

Goal ITO 4: Information Network

The ECU AFS website <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/> is a valuable resource for obtaining information about our student organization and the parent society and past, present, and future activities. The website is updated monthly with event announcements and photos. ECU AFS also maintains a ListServ where all members can be notified instantly through email of upcoming events, conferences, and job listings related to fisheries.

This past January, ECU AFS celebrated its 10th annual banquet. The annual banquet provides a great opportunity for students to network with fishery professionals, professors, alumni, and students and is open to the public. The banquet featured a poster session where both undergraduate and graduate students presented their research. The poster session was followed by a catered meal and presentation from a guest speaker. This year we were privileged to have Dr. Steven Cooke, an expert in conservation physiology from Carleton University as our speaker.

Goal ITO 5: Public Policy

ECU AFS interacts with the public through our activities such as the Shad Festival and volunteering at the local food bank. This enables us to increase our visibility and inform the public of our mission to improve fishery resources. Take-a-kid-Fishing Day, scheduled for this summer, will provide a chance to inform both the children and parents

our position on recreational fishing. We hope to explain the importance of following the rules and regulations of the fish commission to protect fishery resources for future generations and encourage catch and release.

Focus Area 3, Member Services: AFS will provide excellent, cost-efficient services, operations, and support for its members.

Goal MS 1: Professional Development and Recognition

Members of ECU AFS have many opportunities for professional development. This primarily includes attending professional meetings and conferences throughout North America. ECU AFS has provided funding for travel, lodging, and registration costs to send students to meetings to present original research and gain experience in the professional setting.

We also bring experts to ECU and offer workshops to gain professional skills, such as the electrofishing workshop held this past summer, where participants earned professional certification. We intend to coordinate an otolith aging workshop in the upcoming spring semester.

In the past ECU AFS has received recognition through many awards including the Outstanding Student Subunit Award from Southern Division in 2007. Our major faculty advisor, Dr. Rulifson, has been recognized this past year with the 2008 Meritorious Service Award and Outstanding Achievement Award for the Southern Division.

Goal MS 2: Science Based Information

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month during the school year. The monthly gathering consists of a business meeting followed by a guest speaker presentation and informal social at a local pub. Beginning this year we started provided pizza and refreshments for our members during the meeting.

The 2008-2009 speakers and presentation topics include:

February - Dr. David Griffin; ECU Institute for Coastal Science and Policy; *“Management and Commercial Fishing”*

March - Chad Thomas; NC Division on Inland Fisheries; *“Creels, Volts, and Compromise: an inside look at striped bass management on the Roanoke River”*

April - Chad Smith; ECU Institute for Coastal Science and Policy; *“Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program – Celebrating 20 Years”*

September - Dr. David Kimmel, ECU Professor, Biology Department; *“Size Spectra in Marine Zooplankton Communities”*

October – Dr. Pat Harris, ECU Professor, Biology Department; *“MARMAP (Marine Resource Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction) Reef fish Assessment from North Carolina to Florida”*

November – Dr. Jeffery McKinnion; ECU Professor, Chair of Biology Department; *"Speciation, Color Polymorphism and Sexual Dimorphism in Fish"*

March – Jim Hardin; President-elect, NC Coastal Conservation Association; *"Coastal Conservation Association's Role in North Carolina Fisheries Management"*

Goal MS 3: Online and Web Services

Online services include the ECU AFS website <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/> which provides worldwide access to information on bylaws, officers, a calendar of events (past and present), members and their research, a great photo album, and links to related websites. Our website also provides instructions for joining our ListServ to receive the most up to date information on events and job listings. The website is maintained by our webmaster/historian Jen Cudney Birch and past president Chad Smith.

Goal MS 4: Diversity

ECU AFS promotes diversity through membership and research. Our members include undergraduate students, masters and doctoral graduate students, and ECU faculty members who display a wide range of ages and ethnic backgrounds. Our research interests are very diverse and include studies on larval, juvenile, and adult fish that live in habitats ranging from freshwater, to estuarine, to marine waters. This diversity of interests allows us to expand our scope of knowledge and promotes communication between members.

Goal MS 5: Strategic Plan Development

A strategic plan for 2008 has not been developed, but may be on the agenda for 2009.

Goal MS 6: Financial Security

ECU AFS membership dues are \$10 per year, which includes a free t-shirt and access to funds to support travel to professional meetings. Funds to support student travel come from the ECU Graduate Professional Student Senate, which awarded ECU AFS the a funding package of approximately \$10,000 – the largest funding package awarded a student organization on campus this year. We encourage ECU AFS members to join the AFS parent society by making it a stipulation to receive travel funds from our subunit.

We were very successful raising money at "Barefoot on the Mall" last spring with the "Pie your Professor" drawing and would like to repeat it again this year, as well as selling baked goods. We may be conducting a silent auction fundraiser at our annual banquet this January 9th.

II. Financial Status

ECU AFS is a non-profit organization that is affiliated with East Carolina University.