

# TIDEWATER PRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
TIDEWATER CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Summer 2015  
Volume 30, Issue 2

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## President's Corner | *Scott Baker*

Hello Tidewater AFS Chapter members! I hope this message finds you well and that everyone is having a productive – if not hot – start to summer. This is my first President's Corner and I would like to start by acknowledging Past President Jessica Thompson for all her past (and continuing) work leading the effort of the Chapter Listserv migration and the Bylaw Revisions. By the time you get this message, the Chapter should be well on its way to completing these important tasks.



To my knowledge, I am the first Tidewater AFS Chapter president to be employed by (NC) Sea Grant. While many of you or someone you know have likely received some form of Sea Grant project support or fellowship/ assistantship funding in the past – I doubt that you are aware of what Sea Grant fisheries extension people like myself and colleague Sara Mirabilio do on a regular basis. I can say this because

as a University research associate coming to Sea Grant 12 years ago from Louisiana State University – I too had no idea!

Each of the 33 Sea Grant extension programs is designed differently with the specialties of extension personnel matched to the need of the state or territory. In North Carolina, we are fortunate to have one of the

largest “seafood” extension programs in the Sea Grant network that includes specialists with expertise in marine fisheries, marine aquaculture, seafood technology, seafood safety, and marketing. As university-based extension specialists, we provide or develop science-based information to address resource issues relevant to coastal NC and beyond. Specifically, we look for and act to develop “win-win” situations that produce measurable outcomes for both stakeholders and marine resources. Current projects include everything from novel fish

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*President's Corner, continued  
from page 1*

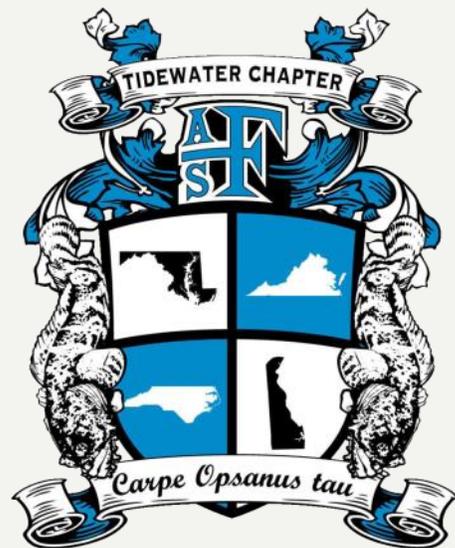
decompression gear testing to seafood marketing assistance and often all things in between. To capitalize on these projects, we have to stay aware of the opportunities at hand.

At 2015 Annual Meeting in Pine Knoll Shores, NC, students (and their professors) missed an important opportunity for recognition by the Chapter. Specifically, not a single name was submitted for consideration for the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship (Eileen Award)! This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding graduate student who is currently in school and has displayed a commitment to

excellence in their professional endeavors and in public service. The scholarship was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, a long-time member of the American Fisheries Society and fourth President (1989) of the Tidewater Chapter. Application materials are typically due by January 30 each year. My guess is that the Chapter will have more applications this year than last year...

I will conclude by offering a big thank you to all the individuals that served as Tidewater AFS Chapter members and officers during the past year. As usual, expect to see a request for nominations to serve the Chapter later in the year. I encourage anyone with an interest to consider

applying for an open position. Till then, have a good summer and talk to you in the fall!



## Introducing Tidewater's New President Elect | *Robert Aguilar*

Rob was born and raised in the great state of New Jersey where he earned an appreciation of the natural world by watching it be systematically paved over. With an interest in the aquatic realm and the love of a great mystery, Rob attended the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, graduating with a B.S. in Marine Science in 1998. After which, Rob was fortunate to work as a technician at the Rutgers Marine Field Station under Dr. Ken Able. Words cannot express the positive impact this experience had on his scientific and professional development. In the summer of 1999, Rob entered a M.S. program in Zoology at North Carolina State University, graduating in 2003. His research focused on the post-hooking mortality and movement of adult red drum in Pamlico Sound, NC. Since 2002, Rob has been a biologist at the Smithsonian Environmental



Research Center working under Dr. "Tuck" Hines. His work has focused on long-term fish and invertebrate surveys, blue crab mark-recapture, telemetry of blue crabs, blue catfish, and cownose rays, diet analysis of blue catfish, blue crab stock enhancement, spawning run estimation of river herring, herpetofauna surveys, anuran calling, and recently genetic barcoding. Rob has been an active member of both the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater AFS chapters since 1999. He currently lives in Hyattsville, MD with his amazing wife, two shedding cats, and a lazy dog. When not working Rob likes to listen to loud music and catch snakes, apparently the only one in his house that feels this way.

# Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

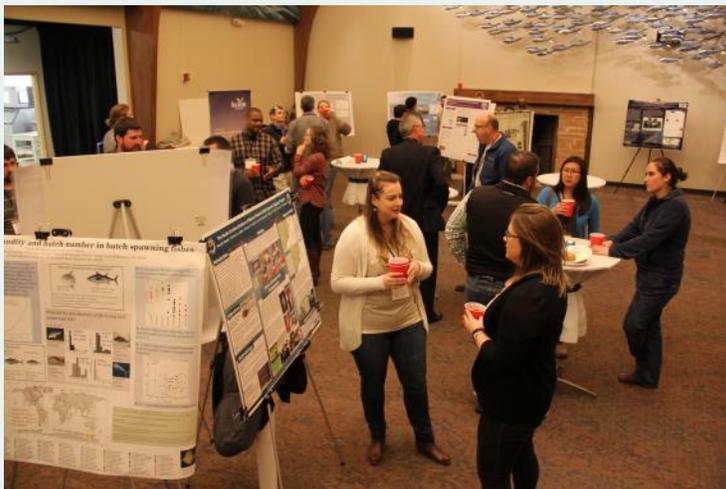
## Meeting Highlights | *Scott Baker*

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its 29th Annual Meeting in Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina on March 5-7, 2015. We had 80 meeting attendees, evenly split between students and professionals, representing 25 academic, government, non-profit, and private organizations from five states: North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and New York.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday afternoon in the Soundside Hall of the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores with Laura Lee's continuing education class on comparing and selecting growth models. After the aquarium closed, the poster social was held in the Freshwater Gallery of the Aquarium. A total of 21 posters were presented, 13 by students. White Swan Chicken and BBQ of Atlantic Beach provided a great meal.

This year 29 oral presentations (19 by students) were held on Friday and half day Saturday. This year, in place of the student-mentor lunch, a "round-the-room" ice-breaker was held first thing Friday morning by which students, and then professionals,

gave up to a one minute self-introduction to the audience. Afterward, 19 students delivered oral presentations. It was miserable weather outside, so



luckily we were able to take advantage of the gas fireplace in the back of the meeting room! Most people stayed for the entire day which is always a good indication that folks were interested in the program.

The banquet social was held Friday evening in the Saltwater Gallery of the Aquarium. The Aquarium staff did a tremendous job setting up our dining area right in front of the largest saltwater tank in the state of North Carolina! Attendees enjoyed good company, delicious food by Beaufort Grocery, and great beer from Backstreet Pub while having the opportunity to visit all of the displays in the Saltwater Gallery. The banquet social also featured the presentation of awards for the best student poster and oral presentation, as well as awarding of the door and raffle prizes. This year, we were able to secure three large donations that we used as part of our silent auction. This was a lot of fun and certainly earned the Chapter some extra cash.

Thanks to all those who attended the 2015 Annual Meeting, as well as all our meeting sponsors. We couldn't have done without you. I look forward to another great Tidewater meeting next year in Maryland hosted by President-Elect Rob Aquilar!

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## 2014 Tidewater Chapter Awards | *Ron Klauda*

### Student Presentations

Student presentations once again carried a successful TWC meeting. A total of 31 presentations were evaluated and scored by the judges (13 posters and 18 oral papers).

In the poster category, the judges selected these winners:

- **First Place:** Ethan Simpson (UNC Wilmington)
- **Second Place:** Walter Rogers (East Carolina University)
- **Third Place:** Ian Kroll (UNC Chapel Hill)

In the oral paper category, the judges selected these winners:

- **First Place:** Verena Wang (UNC Wilmington)
- **Second Place:** Brian Gallagher (University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory)
- **Third Place:** Cecilia Krahforst (East Carolina University)

### Special Awards

The **Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award** is presented periodically to one or more outstanding graduate students who are currently enrolled in a fisheries science or closely-related curriculum and who have displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional endeavors, and public education, outreach, and community. This award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, a long-time member of the American Fisheries and fourth Presi-

dent (1989) of the Tidewater Chapter.

This year, no applications were received for the 'Eileen Award'.

The **Conservation Award** is given periodically by the Tidewater Chapter to an individual, resource management agency, corporation, or non-profit organization that has distinguished themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

This year's Conservation Award was presented to the North Carolina Coastal Federation. NCCF is a non-profit conservation organization with more than 10,000 members and three offices located up and down the North Carolina coast. Formed in 1982, the NCCF works to protect coastal areas through programs focused of restoration, preservation, education, and advocacy. Their mission statement is "*to provide people and groups with the assistance needed to take an active role in the stewardship of North Carolina's coastal water quality and natural resources.*" Among many other accomplishments, the NCCF worked with farmers in Hyde County and North River Farms to restore more than 50,000 acres of wetlands to help protect water quality and fisheries in Pamlico and Core Sounds.

The **Excellence in Fisheries Education Award** is presented periodically to a Tidewater Chapter member who has achieved excellence in teaching and student advising in the field of fisheries science, and who also encourages student participation in Tidewater Chapter, American Fisher-

ies Society, and other fisheries-related meetings.

This year's Excellence in Fisheries Education award went to Philip (Skip) Kemp Jr. Recently retired, Skip was the Curriculum Area Coordinator of the Aquaculture Technology Program at Carteret Community College in Morehead City, NC, from 2004-2014. Skip developed aquaculture courses and recruited/advised students. Under Skip's direction, the mariculture facility integrated salt water aquaculture-focused projects with marine science programs at area universities and community colleges. Skip earned his BS degree in Fisheries and a Masters degree in Aquaculture at Auburn University. He also spent 18 years with the North Carolina Sea Grant Program, where he served as their Marine Extension Specialist. One of Skip's former students said that when Skip announced his retirement, "*We all hated to see him go and many students begged him to stay.....he loved to teach.*"

The **Meritorious Service Award** is given periodically to a Chapter member for their unswerving loyalty, dedication, and service to the Chapter over a long period of time, and for their exceptional commitment to the program, objectives, and long-term goals of the Tidewater Chapter.

This year's Meritorious Service Award was presented to Ron Klauda. Recently retired from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, he became a Tidewater Chapter member in 1988. In the early years of his tenure, Ron served as the Maryland At-

*Awards, continued*

Large member. He also served as the Chapter's President-Elect and President in 1991-1992. Since 1997, Ron has chaired the Awards & Scholarship Committee---the group that has

the satisfying job of presenting student poster and oral paper awards, and also selecting recipients for the Chapter's Special Awards. Along the way, Ron also participated in the cre-

ation of the Chapter's Coveted Oyster Toadfish Award that, since 1999, has been passed from Chapter President to President.

**Treasurer's Report** | *Stephanie McNerny*

The current checking account balance includes a profit of ~\$780 (including paid dues) from the annual meeting, a donation of \$500 to the Georgia Chapter of AFS to help the Southern Division Annual Meeting in January 2015, travel reimbursement for Tidewater President to attend SDAFS meeting, \$48 rebate check from AFS, and an order for new checks (\$23). We are also expecting a refund check from AFS for dues paid to the Parent Society when Tidewater members renew their membership. 2014 taxes have been filed.

Chapter website or you can email me at [Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov). Annual dues for 2015 are \$10.00. A lifetime membership is available for a onetime fee of \$150.00 and should be sent to:

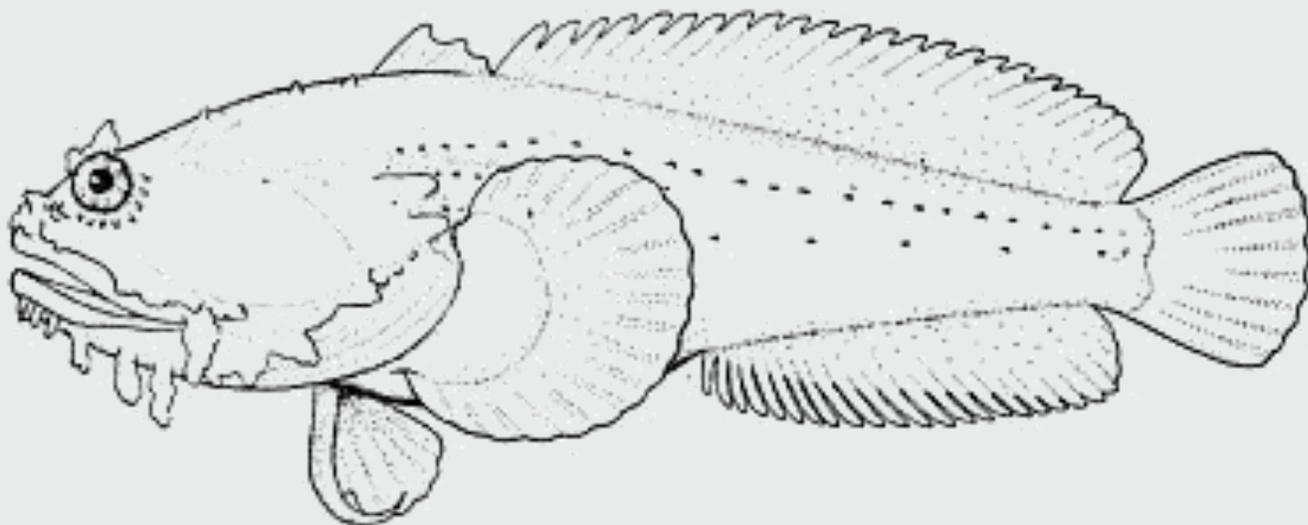
**Stephanie McNerny**  
**TWC Secretary/Treasurer**  
**209 Brigantine Ct.**  
**Cape Carteret, NC 28584**

*Please make checks payable to: "Tidewater Chapter AFS."*

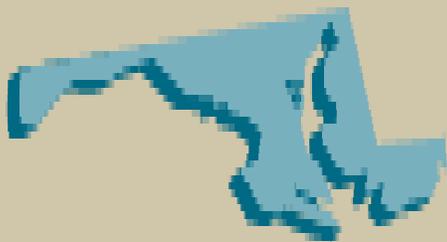
**Current Financial Report**

Checking:	\$14,329.24
Mutual Fund:	\$ 1,593.07
Total:	\$15,922.31

If you are not currently a member of the Chapter but would like to join, a membership form can be found on the



## Maryland State Update | Bob Murphy



### Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI)

Over the last two years, the DNR reef program, also known as MARI, has completed deployment of reef balls and other materials in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Foundation, MSSA, CCA and other organizations. Chesapeake Bay Foundation's R/V Patricia Campbell, working under DNR permits and oversight, deployed over 300 reef balls in the fish reefs located adjacent to the Bill Burton Fishing Piers, Choptank River. The same crew also enhanced the "Memorial Stadium" reef in the upper Chesapeake Bay, Gales Lumps area, with over 200 additional reef balls. This reef site was started with demolition rubble from the old Memorial Stadium in Baltimore in 2002. The most recent deployment of reef balls was in May 2015. In addition to the reef ball projects, MARI deployed 1000 tons of granite boulder in the southeast corner of Love Point artificial reef site in December, 2014.

There is a volunteer MARI angler survey now in its third year looking at catch rates at various reef sites. For more info on MARI and the volunteer survey, see these links:

Home page:

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/reefs/index.aspx>

MARI survey results:

[http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/MARI%20Report 2013 2014.pdf](http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/MARI%20Report%202013%202014.pdf)

### Smithsonian Fish Projects at LAB (Laboratories of Analytical Biology)—the NMNH genomics facility, Suitland, Maryland

Scientists at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and other units have several avenues of current fish genomics research ongoing at LAB:

*Philippine Fish Market:* in conjunction with the FDA, our commercial fish DNA barcoding project continues to build up the reference library of DNA from Philippine market commercial fish (currently more than 900 species) to assist Seafood Identification and Fraudulent labeling activities. Several Smithsonian scientists are part of large collaborative team from the FDA that just won an Innovation award from the Department of Health and Human Services in June of this year for their Project Fish SCALE (Seafood Compliance and Labeling Enforcement).

*Deep Reef Fish:* Smithsonian scientists continue their collaboration with Substation Curaçao to use their 5-person submersible for collection of deep reef fish and invertebrates in and around Curaçao. These data will be

added to other deep trawl fish samples from Florida and both coasts of Central America in upcoming publications.

*Caribbean Fish:* Efforts continue to expand the large dataset of Caribbean reef fish that has already been DNA barcoded and made available to the scientific community. Many papers focused on taxonomic groups are already out, as well as a large sequence data release paper, and several more of both are due to come out in the coming year.

*Fish of French Polynesia:* another geographic focus has been centered around French Polynesia; some data has been published already from Moorea and other locations, but recent collections in the Austral Islands, the Marquesas, the Leeward Islands, and the Gambier Islands have been processed and are in the data analysis pipeline for submission this year.

*1000 Fish Transcriptomes:* Smithsonian and GWU scientists have teamed with the Beijing Genome Institute on a project to sequence 1000 fish transcriptomes. The Smithsonian will be involved as a gatekeeper in preparing the high-quality RNAs, vouchering the specimens, housing the tissues in their new Biorepository, databasing the informatics, and shipping the materials to China for genomic/transcriptomic sequencing.

*Fish Phylogenetics:* finally, much work is ongoing utilizing

## Maryland, continued

genomics, transcriptomics and multi-gene phylogenetics to better understand the evolution of several groups of fishes.

These highlight just a few of SI's researchers' activities, among many others that include permanent staff, visiting researchers, postdocs and students working on a wide variety of questions in both freshwater and marine systems, including a biodiversity survey of the Chesapeake Bay.

## Shakeup at DNR

Four veteran top officials in Maryland's Department of Natural Resources have been let go, marking the first major shakeup since the administration of new Gov. Larry Hogan took office. Deputy natural resources secretary Frank Dawson, assistant secretary Kristin Saunders, communications director Darlene Pisani and fisheries director Tom O'Connell all have left. The shakeup follows the recent transfer of another veteran DNR manager. Mike Naylor, who

had overseen the state's shellfish programs was replaced. Both O'Connell and Naylor have been the target of complaints from watermen, who objected to catch restrictions and other fisheries polices carried out under the O'Malley administration (Mike Naylor was the Tidewater Chapter's Conservation Award winner in 2006). Dave Goshorn, assistant secretary for aquatic resources, will assume the job of directing the fisheries service for now.

## Virginia State Update | Willy Goldsmith



### VIMS Graduate Student Explores Factors Affecting Juvenile Summer Flounder Growth

Summer flounder, one of the most popular and valuable finfish species in the mid-Atlantic, was declared rebuilt by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council in 2012. Despite its healthy population status, establishing a relationship between spawning stock biomass and recruitment of young-of-year (YOY) summer

flounder remains elusive. Further masking projections of future stock production are growth estimates of YOY summer flounder, which can reach sexual maturity during their first year of life and immediately begin contributing to the robustness of the stock. In major nursery areas such as Chesapeake Bay, summer flounder growth during the first year of life can vary dramatically among individuals, but factors affecting first-year growth have not been examined for this estuary.

To tackle this question, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Master's student Lauren Nys, along with Drs. Mary Fabrizio and Troy Tuckey, also of VIMS, fit a generalized additive model (GAM) to 25 years (1988-2012) of YOY summer flounder catch data from

the VIMS Juvenile Fish Trawl Survey, which samples in the Chesapeake Bay mainstem as well as in the James, York, and Rappahannock rivers. Factors in the model included region, time, and a suite of environmental factors, including salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, summer flounder density (catch per tow), depth, and prey availability (using chlorophyll a as a proxy). The research team, the first to use GAMs to examine changes in length of wild juvenile fish, found that a model that included all factors was the best fit, accounting for about 69% of the variation in summer flounder lengths. Results were published in the *Journal of Sea Research* in May.

Summer flounder in the Chesapeake Bay mainstem were

*Continued on next page* 

## *Virginia, continued*

significantly larger than fish in the sub-estuaries, perhaps indicative of an ontogenetic movement from the sub-estuaries to the mainstem. In addition, fish captured in areas with lower summer flounder densities were significantly larger than those in high-density areas. This demonstration of density-dependent size may offer an explanation as to why the link between spawning stock biomass and recruitment is poorly established—in years with large influxes of YOY summer flounder into Chesapeake Bay, possible resource limitation can impede growth, and slow growth can make fish more vulnerable to predation. In years with few YOY fish, meanwhile, a larger proportion of those individuals are likely to grow rapidly and avoid predation, achieve sexual maturity, and migrate offshore to spawn.

Significantly, summer flounder in areas of low (<13° C) or high (>26 °C) temperature and/or low salinity were smaller than those in more moderate environments. The finding of smaller fish in low-temperature environments may be due to the earlier departure of larger, perhaps sexually-mature YOY fish from Chesapeake Bay to offshore environments to spawn, leaving only smaller fish in the Bay by late fall. The negative impact of high temperatures on fish size is cause for concern given projected increases in Chesapeake Bay water temperatures in the next several decades. High temperatures could limit YOY growth and thus reduce

the proportion of summer flounder that reach sexual maturity in their first year of life, potentially negatively affecting the future productivity of the stock.

### **Maryland and Virginia Researchers Team Up to Standardize Striped Bass Recruitment Survey**

Long-term recruitment indices for commercially and recreationally valuable species like striped bass are critical for informing stock assessments and quota adjustments. Equally important is that the methods and gear used to conduct recruitment surveys are consistent both temporally and spatially in order to properly assess trends.

This year, Drs. Mary Fabrizio and Troy Tuckey from VIMS, and Eric Durell from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) will work together to establish calibration factors for different net materials that have been and will be used to conduct striped bass juvenile abundance surveys in the Virginia and Maryland portions of Chesapeake Bay. Both surveys utilize a beach-seine method, but changes in the market availability of netting requires that a new netting type be employed, and thus that appropriate conversion factors for catchability are defined.

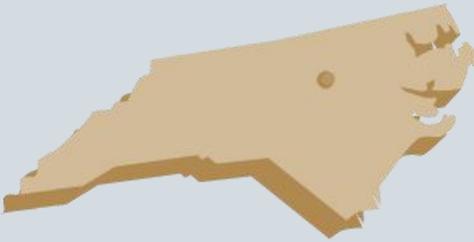
Virginia's seine survey, conducted by VIMS since 1967, used a ¼" knotted mesh until 1999, when that netting became unavailable and VIMS switched to

a knotless mesh, which it has used to this day. Maryland's survey has been in place since 1954, and has used the knotted ¼" mesh since the 1960s—due to supply limitations MD DNR will only be able to use this mesh for several more years. Both states, meanwhile, are considering switching to a new type of knotless mesh net that is currently available, which is thinner in diameter and lighter in color than those used previously.

The objective of the study, funded by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, is to compare the catch efficiency among the three different net types. After determining catch efficiency through calibration experiments, the research team will be able to calculate conversion factors between the different types of netting to ensure continuity of the striped bass recruitment index from both a geographic and temporal standpoint. In other words, scientists will be able to compare recruitment indices from catches using different types of nets, across both space and time. Researchers will conduct paired experiments, deploying two net types simultaneously and adjacent to one another on uniform stretches of beach in both Virginia and Maryland.

Once this study has been in completed, fisheries scientists will be in a favorable position to provide stock assessment scientists and managers with standardized data that can be incorporated into management practices.

## North Carolina State Update | *Jacob Boyd*



### Shark Attacks off North Carolina

This summer has been a very active year for shark attacks in North Carolina waters, and the summer has just started. To date, there have been six separate shark attacks along our coastal beaches. Due to the rarity of these types of events, having such an active beginning to the summer prompts us to ask, what is different about 2015? As scientists ponder this and collect data, I have been thinking along the same lines (I am no shark expert by far!). North Carolina has had record breaking temperatures during the month of June creating water temperatures as high as 85° F off the beaches. Could this be a plausible cause for the recent attacks? There is also a considerable amount of bait swimming off the beaches this summer, creating a smorgasbord for any piscivore or all carnivores for that matter. Are the sharks being drawn in by an influx of food? Dr. Roger Rulifson, a founding member of the Tidewater Chapter, explains in a story he did for a local news affiliate that for this many shark attacks to occur in a such a short period of time is very uncommon (WNCT 9). Bull sharks, tiger sharks, black tip sharks, and Atlantic sharpnose sharks are commonly found in North

Carolina's waters. Some researchers are speculating that the cause is the fact that the human population has almost doubled over the last 40 or so years, with much of those folks flocking to the coast for a good time. So are there that many more sharks, are there that many more people in the water, or is it poor coincidence?

While we let the experts research and collect data to try and answer some of these questions, let's take a look at some of the things we, as Homo sapiens, can do to avoid being a victim of an unwanted taste test by these toothy creatures of the ocean. North Carolina Sea Grant published a great brochure offering tips on safe swimming and how to avoid sharks titled, "Shark Sense: Atlantic and Gulf Regions." This document explains that while the risk of a shark attack is small, there are ways to avoid them:

- Stay in groups while swimming
- Do not enter the water if bleeding
- Avoid wearing shiny jewelry
- Avoid areas where people are fishing or using bait

For other tips on avoiding sharks, and useful information on what species are present in North Carolina waters, please visit North Carolina

Sea Grant's website for the full brochure:

[http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant\\_docs/products/2000s/shark\\_sense.pdf](http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant_docs/products/2000s/shark_sense.pdf)

Hopefully, this will be an anomalous year and we will not have to revisit this next summer, but until then, follow the guidelines provided and have a great time at the beach!

### The 2014 Fishing Year in Review

The 2014 fishing year for North Carolina saw a slight decrease in recreational harvest with a slight increase in commercial landings according to the Division of Marine Fisheries harvest statistics (<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/marine-fisheries-catch-statistics>). North Carolina's commercial landings have increased by 23% due to increases in landings of blue crabs, spiny dogfish, and summer flounder. Recreational fishing harvest on the other hand had a 25% decrease from 2013. The top recreationally harvested fish in 2014 were dolphin, bluefish, yellowfin tuna, spot, and red drum. For more information, please visit the NCDMF division's website <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/marine-fisheries-catch-statistics>.



## University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Student Subunit Update | *Brian Gallagher*

We've had quite a bit going on at the University of Maryland Student subunit the past few months. First of all, we need to give a shout out to our two most recent graduates, Andrea Sylvia and Matt Siskey, who successfully defended their MS theses in April and June, respectively. Andrea performed a detailed management strategy evaluation to test how stock assessment frequency and data lag affect fishery management outcomes, while Matt evaluated how age structure, growth and stock mixing in Atlantic Bluefin tuna have changed over the past four decades. We also had some recent changes in



Left: Subunit secretary Emily Liljestrand talks about CBL's watershed model to some kids at the Bernie Fowler Wade-In on June 14th. Right: A few subunit members having fun at the reception for the AFS Tidewater Meeting in March, which was graciously hosted by the North Carolina Aquarium.

administrative duties in the subunit, with Brian Gallagher (President), Emily Liljestrand (Secretary), and Gray Redding (Treasurer) taking the reins. In addition, we must congratulate our former president, Alex Atkinson, who was awarded the prestigious Knauss Fellowship, and will start her new job early in 2016.

This year's AFS Tidewater meeting in Pine Knoll Shores, NC in March was a fun and successful meeting for the subunit, with members Mike O'Brien, Matt Siskey, Brian Gallagher, Alex Atkinson, Gray Redding, and Cara Simpson all giving oral presentations. Brian's talk on partial migration in Hudson River white perch saw him earn second place in the awards for Best Student Presentation at the meeting. Five students were given GEC travel awards to attend the meeting: Matt

Siskey, Brian Gallagher, Alex Atkinson, Gray Redding, and Cara Simpson.

More recently, a few subunit members helped out at the St. Mary's Crab Festival on June 13th and the Bernie Fowler Wade-In on June 14th. These local events gave us a great

opportunity to interact with the public, talk a little bit about our own research, and discuss some larger environmental issues in the Chesapeake Bay region. At the Wade-In, we used a watershed model to demonstrate how land use influences runoff, while pointing out how wetlands can provide a natural buffer against increases in runoff.

Last but not least, many subunit members attended a local networking event on June 18th in Silver Spring, organized by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists and the Potomac Chapter of the American Fishery Society. At the event, we got to talk with experienced professionals in our field, with federal agencies such as NOAA and NMFS being particularly well

-represented. This was an excellent way for students to get a handle on the breadth of job opportunities that exist in the government agency realm, and we hope to help organize more events like this in the future!



## Duke University Student Subunit News | Zoie Diana

Duke University's Chapter of the American Fisheries Society had a busy spring semester. From hosting critically acclaimed author Paul Greenberg to fishing trips and other events, the DukeFish team had an active semester full of community outreach about sustainable seafood and fisheries.

DukeFish hosted bestselling author Paul Greenberg this March through a Book Reading and Discussion and Community Speaking Engagement. Paul Greenberg examines and writes about seafood in the United States through his bestselling books, including *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food* and *American Catch: The Fight For Our Local Seafood*. Greenberg writes frequently for the New York Times and has also contributed to National Geographic, Vogue, GQ, The Times of London, and many other publications.

The Book Reading and Discussion at Duke focused on his book *American Catch: The Fight For Our Local Seafood*. This event drew thoughtful conversation about sustainable seafood from undergraduates, graduates, professors, and local community members. The Community Speaking Engagement drew about 260 individuals who were eager to

learn about the importance of local, sustainable seafood today from Greenberg. A light reception and book signing followed this event. DukeFish drew support for this event from Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment's Ferguson Lecture, NC Sea Grant, NC State Fisheries Society, and Locals Seafood.

Oceans Awareness Week prompted DukeFish members to communicate concerns about the



Duke University's Chapter of the American Fisheries Society at a sustainable seafood dinner with author Paul Greenberg.

effects of mining on the salmon industry in Bristol Bay, Alaska through the film *Red Gold*. This event attracted DukeFish members and other students alike, spurring conversation about the effects of human activity like mining on fisheries.

DukeFish continued to conduct outreach about local, sustainable fisheries and seafood through Earth

Day. Through a fun fisheries-inspired game and selling DukeFish paraphernalia, the team was able to engage undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and prospective students in learning about our cause. Earth Day was a fun event for all!

DukeFish ended the semester with a fishing trip and elections. DukeFish members headed out to the Atlantic with Captain Jess Hawkins, on his 20-ft center

console, the *Lucky Dog*. Target species included bluefish, black drum, speckled trout, and Spanish mackerel. The team enjoyed their sustainable, recreational fishing experience with Captain Hawkins and hope to return soon!

Elections brought on new, enthusiastic DukeFish officers for the 2015-2016 school year. Officers include: President Joe Chambers, Vice President Marianne

Ferguson, Secretary Alyssa Dykman, Treasurer Erin Tomaras, Communications Officer Ashleigh McCord, and American Fisheries Society Liason Zoie Diana. These DukeFish officers are excited and ready for another year of promoting sustainable American Fisheries!

Please contact Zoie Diana at [ztd@duke.edu](mailto:ztd@duke.edu) for any questions or concerns.

## *AFS Tidewater Chapter Executive Committee*

**President:** Scott Baker

**President-Elect/ Program Committee**

**Chair:** Rob Aguilar

**Past President/ Nominating Committee**

**Chair:** Jessica Thompson

**Treasurer/ Secretary:** Stephanie McInerny

**At-Large Members**

**North Carolina:** Jacob Boyd

**Virginia:** Willy Goldsmith

**Maryland:** Bob Murphy

**Student Subunit Presidents**

**Duke:** Joe Chambers

**ECU:** Nick Tolopka & Zach Gillum

**UMCES CBL:** Brian Gallagher

**UMES:** Stephanie Martinez

**UNCW:** inactive

**Awards & Scholarship Committee Chair:**

Ron Klauda

**Webmaster:** Chad Smith

**Newsletter Editor:** Laura Lee

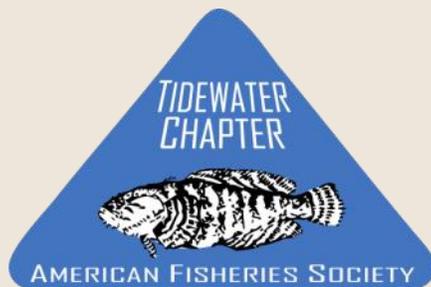
## **2015 AFS Annual Meeting Heads to Portland!**

The Oregon Chapter and Western Division of the American Fisheries Society cordially invite you to attend the 145th Annual Meeting that will be convened in Portland from 16 to 20 August 2015. A diverse program, unconstrained by a single theme, will feature the latest scientific knowledge, management applications, policy implications, and educational pursuits related to freshwater and marine resources.

The city of Portland is blessed with an abundance of diversity and an appealing laid back and relaxed pace. The downtown area of Portland offers unique experiences and endless activities from wine bars in historic buildings to art galleries housed in modern buildings. The city is repeatedly ranked as one of the best walking cities in the United States. It is this walkability that will allow you to easily visit the countless restaurants, food carts, microbreweries, distilleries, and coffee shops that have led to Portland being recognized for its outstanding culinary and beverage scene. Portland and the surrounding Pacific Coast-Wine Country-Cascades-Columbia River Gorge landscapes provide endless opportunities for sightseeing, outdoor adventure, and fishing. The city of Portland and surrounding areas have something for everyone to enjoy in August 2015!

Visit <http://2015.fisheries.org> for more information.

## *Get updates via the Chapter **LISTSERV***



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