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2000 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

Term in office from March 2000 to March 2001.

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MD Member-at-Large – Erik Zlokovitz, MD Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service, 580 Taylor Ave., C-2, Annapolis, MD 21401. Phone 410-260-8306; email ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us.

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President's Message

Greetings from the Outer Banks of North Carolina. As another busy year comes to an end, I suspect many of you are looking forward to some time off during the Holidays. Whether you are in the middle of field research/sampling, feverishly writing a thesis or manuscript, or trying to beat a deadline for a proposal or final report, this time of year allows us to take a little time to "recharge our batteries" before jumping back into our busy work schedules. This is also a good time to look back at the happenings in the Tidewater Chapter and to look forward to next year's activities.

The big event for the Tidewater Chapter was the 14th annual meeting held on March 9-11 in Kill Devil Hills, NC. Approximately 90 members and their guests

attended the meeting, which is the highest attendance for a Tidewater Chapter Meeting held in North Carolina. Many of the state, federal, and academic entities from the Tidewater region were represented. In addition, Fred Harris (1st Vice President, Parent Society) and Marty Hale (President of AFS-Southern Division) also attended. The meeting agenda covered a diverse range of topics. There were 10 posters (4 submitted by students) and 25 platform presentations. Dr. Ron Klauda presented awards for best student posters and papers at the annual business meeting on Saturday afternoon. **Best Poster Presentation** was awarded to Michael Frisk, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (faculty advisor Dr. Michael Fogarty, University of Maryland). **Honorable Mention Poster Presentation** went to Christian Hager, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. **Best Platform Presentation** was given to Kristin Maki, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (faculty advisors Drs. John Hoenig and John Olney, Sr.), and **Honorable Mention Platform Presentation** went to John Bichy, North Carolina State University (faculty advisors Drs. Joe Hightower and John Miller). The highlight of the 14th annual meeting was our special symposium, "Estuarine Research in North Carolina", and the fish fry that followed. The symposium, showcasing the diverse research conducted in North Carolina's vast estuarine waters, covered topics including fisheries management, fisheries biology, life history, bycatch reduction, ecology, habitat protection, economics, and water quality. As is the custom of the Tidewater Chapter, the newly elected officers were announced during the business meeting: President -- Chris Batsavage (NC Division of Marine Fisheries); President-elect -- Jim Uphoff (MD Department of Natural Resources); Past President -- John Olney (VA Institute of Marine Science); Secretary-Treasurer -- Bill Rodney (MD Department of Natural Resources); VA Member At-Large -- Bill Connelly (VA Institute of Marine Science); MD Member At-Large -- Erik Zlokovitz (MD Department of Natural Resources); and NC Member At-Large -- Jeff Gearhart (NC Division of Marine Fisheries).

John Olney has done an excellent job with the Tidewater Chapter web site (www.vims.edu/adv/afs). It has a comprehensive member list, summaries and pictures from the last two annual meetings, links to the UMD and ECU student subunit web sites, and a new announcement board. This feature allows members to post information on upcoming meetings, job vacancies, and any other pertinent information regarding the Chapter. If you haven't visited this site lately, I encourage you to do so.

The EXCOM met at VIMS on October 20 to discuss the Chapter's role in the 2002 AFS Parent Society Meeting in Baltimore, and the Chapter's upcoming annual meeting in Maryland. George Sackett (Maryland DNR) briefed us on the preparations and arrangements already underway. He then discussed ways the Chapter

could help organize the meeting. Because the Tidewater Chapter members are spread out over 3 states, the two committees we could help coordinate are the Skinner Raffle and the student organizing committee. Jim Uphoff gave a status report on the planning for the 2001 annual meeting, which will be a joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. The meeting will be held March 1-3 in Easton, MD. The poster session will be held at the Oxford Cooperative Laboratory, the presentations will be held at the Talbot County Historical Society, and the Friday reception will take place at the Saint Michaels Maritime Museum. These meetings are a great opportunity to learn about the research by fellow members, and are also a fun event. I hope to see you there. Roger Rulifson and James Morris have taken on the task of resurrecting the Chapter Newsletter you are reading right now. In addition to the Chapter web site, the newsletter is a great way to update members on Chapter events as well as feature news from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Since we only get together as a Chapter once a year (for the annual meeting), this provides a way for all of us to stay in touch. I hope you have a happy, safe, and relaxing holiday season. See you in Easton!

--Chris Batsavage

14th Annual Meeting Highlights

The 14th Annual Meeting of the AFS Tidewater Chapter, held at the Ramada Inn at Kill Devil Hills, NC on March 9-11, 2000, was a huge success! Approximately 90 members and their guests attended the meeting, the highest attendance for a Tidewater Chapter meeting in North Carolina. Many of the state, federal, and academic entities from the Tidewater region were represented: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, North Carolina Division of Water Quality (Pamlico River Rapid Response Team), North Carolina Sea Grant, National Marine Fisheries Service, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (College of William and Mary), East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, Duke University, University of Maryland (Chesapeake Biological Lab and Eastern Shore Campus), University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Salisbury State University, and the University of Georgia. In addition, Fred Harris (2nd Vice President of AFS), Marty Hale (President of AFS-Southern Division), and Wayne Lee (advisor for the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission) were also in attendance.

The meeting agenda covered a diverse range of topics. There were 10 posters (4 submitted by students) and 25 platform presentations (14 by students). Dr. Ron Klauda presented awards for best student posters and papers at the annual business meeting on Saturday afternoon.

The winners were:

Best Poster Presentation – Michael Frisk, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (faculty advisor Dr. Michael Fogarty, University of Maryland), “Leslie Matrix Modeling of Winter Skate (*Raja ocellata*): Population and Management Concerns”

Honorable Mention Poster Presentation – Christian Hager, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (faculty advisor Dr. Herb Austin), “Efficiency of Passive Pound Net Cull Panels: A Comparison of Size Selectivity and Relative Release for Gray Trout (*Cynoscion regalis*) and Summer Flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*)”

Best Platform Presentation – Kristin Maki, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (faculty advisors Drs. John Hoenig and John Olney, Sr.), “Estimating Proportion Mature at Age When Immature Fish are Unavailable for Study, with Application to American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) in the York River, Virginia”

Honorable Mention Platform Presentation – John Bichy, North Carolina State University (faculty advisors Drs. Joe Hightower and John Miller), “Life History Assessment on the Reproduction and Age and Growth of Striped Mullet in North Carolina”

Special Symposium “Estuarine Research in North Carolina” -- The highlight of the 14th annual meeting was our special symposium and the fish fry that followed. The symposium, showcasing the diverse research conducted in North Carolina’s vast estuarine waters, covered topics including fisheries management, fisheries biology, life history, bycatch reduction, ecology, habitat protection, economics, and water quality. Speakers for the symposium were Rick Monaghan, Jeff Gearhart, and Mike Street (NC Division of Marine Fisheries); Joe Luczkovich, John Whitehead, and Chris Pullinger (East Carolina University); John Bichy (NC State), and Garcy Ward (Pamlico River Rapid Response Team). Following the Friday afternoon session, attendees were treated to a fried flounder feast with all fixings at J.P. Hookers Restaurant in Nags Head.
-- CB

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report (December, 2000)

Checking Account: \$1,589.14
Savings Account: \$2,574.70

Bill Rodney, Secretary – Treasurer

EXCOM Mid-year Meeting

The complete minutes of this meeting are posted on the Chapter website.

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Tidewater Chapter met October 20, 2000 at 12:00 noon at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Present were Chris Batsavage (President, NCDMF), Jim Uphoff (President Elect, MD-DNR), John Olney (Past President, VIMS), Roger Rulifson (Past President, ECU), Bill Rodney (Secretary-Treasurer, MD-DNR), Eric Zlokovitz (MD Member at Large, MD-DNR), John Connelly (VA Member at Large, VIMS), James Morris (ECU Student Subunit President), and George Sackett (MD-DNR). Absent was Jeff Gearhart (NC At-Large-Member) and Anthony Overton (Univ. MD Student Subunit President).

Batsavage called the meeting to order; minutes of the last EXCOM meeting were approved. The two main action items were: the Chapter’s role in the 2002 AFS National Meeting in Baltimore, and the Chapter’s upcoming [15th] annual meeting in Maryland.

George Sackett of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources addressed the group, providing a brief history of how Baltimore was selected as the site for the 132nd AFS Annual Meeting in 2002. At his point it appears that the 2002 meeting will held August 17-22, based at the Hyatt hotel with the Sheraton as backup. An affordable student hotel option is still being sought. The meeting will feature an opening ceremony at the Hyatt, and a trade show at the Convention Center. Also, an event is being planned at the National Aquarium. An attendance of around 2,000 people is expected. Maryland DNR is responsible for setting up the infrastructure for the meeting. The various committees are fundraising, accommodations, home office, tradeshow, transportation social, spawning run, student organizing, spousal events, and the Skinner raffle. Sackett stated that by assuming responsibility for one or more of these committees, the Tidewater Chapter could possibly make some money. The pros and cons of fundraising were discussed. George concluded his talk by suggesting various ways the Chapter could contribute to the effort.

Olney opened the discussion about the Chapter’s potential role in the meeting. Rulifson pointed out that Maryland members would be available to provide onsite help in the days prior to the meeting, but some things could be done out of state. Discussion ended by a suggestion that two Chapter officers (Jim Uphoff and the VA 2001 president) should be co-chairs of a Chapter 2002 committee. Other potential candidates included Past Presidents Dave Secor and Eileen Hamilton. Jim Uphoff suggested that other organizations could also lend a hand such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation or

the Potomac Chapter. Sackett agreed but pointed out that he came to Tidewater first so we get first pick. Rulifson suggested that the Raffle Committee and the Student Coordinating Committee could be good roles for a tri-state chapter such as ours. A motion for the Chapter to form an *ad hoc* committee to coordinate with MD DNR to help with the Skinner raffle and the student organizing committee passed unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Rodney stated that the Chapter currently has 73 active members, about half of which are based in North Carolina. The remaining half is split between Maryland and Virginia. The checking account balance was \$ 1,589.14 and the savings account balance was \$2,574.70. Also, the chapter incurred a net loss of \$ 131.73 from the last annual meeting. Rodney did not think the loss was a serious concern since the **previous** three meetings were profitable.

Jim Uphoff then delivered a status report on the planning for this year's meeting. Uphoff had contacted the Mid-Atlantic Chapter to explore the possibility of holding a joint meeting. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter liked the idea of an Ocean City, MD meeting location. However, the MD DNR is currently experiencing a budget crisis and thus most MD DNR people would not be able to get funding for hotels and meals. This development made Jim shift his location search towards Easton, MD. Easton is on Maryland's Eastern Shore, making it accessible to Mid-Atlantic Chapter folks, but it is also within commuting distance from Annapolis, Baltimore and other Maryland Western Shore locations. Uphoff mentioned the Tidewater Inn and Harbortown as two possible meeting sites. Several possible meeting themes were suggested including multi-jurisdictional fisheries, watersheds and fisheries, and essential fish habitat. This concluded the discussion of the annual meeting.

The discussion then shifted to membership issues. Rulifson pointed out that we would need a stronger membership base in order to take on our responsibilities for the 2002 AFS Annual Meeting. He offered that there are three types of members:

1. AFS Parent Society members who check off the Tidewater box on the Society membership form.
2. AFS Parent Society members who don't check off any box and get assigned to another chapter.
3. Chapter annual meeting attendees, who fall into three categories:
 - a. Chapter members who are AFS Parent Society members.
 - b. Chapter members who are not AFS Parent Society members.
 - c. Student sub-unit members (who may or may not become chapter members after graduation). Rulifson stated that we don't have a good grasp on who is or is not a member, and proposed that the newsletter should be revived in order to bring the membership together.

Roger then volunteered to help revive the Chapter newsletter. The three Members-at-Large agreed to send him material from their respective states for publication in the newsletter. The meeting was then adjourned.

News from Student Subunits

Maryland -- The Maryland Student Subunit now has 21 active members. Officers are: President -- Anthony Overton; Vice-President -- David O'Brien; Secretary -- Leigh Vogel; Treasurer -- Pilantana Anderson; and Sergeant at Arms -- Richard Kraus. Last year the Maryland Subunit had 5 members to graduate: Leigh Vogel -- New York Environmental Associates; Lisa Moss, Sheila Eyler, and Julie Thompson -- USFWS; and Pilantana Anderson -- Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Congratulations! New Members of the Maryland Subunit are Peter Sakaris, John Hebel, Angela Hebel, Devin Ray, Michelle Levesque, Kimberly Harris, Taconya Piper, Lynn Takata, Mary Chenery, Toby Auth, Patrick Campfield, Bryce Brylawski, and Veronic Caceres. Welcome to the Tidewater Chapter! They have planned 2 seminars to date. The first will be Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Jacques van Montfrans in February, 2001. He will be discussing the feeding habits of fish in grass beds in the Chesapeake Bay. In March, John Harshbarger from the Department of Pathology, George Washington University Medical Center, will speak on the incidences of tumors in catfish from Washington D.C. Rivers. Please check out the Maryland Subunit website (<http://tortoise.hpl.umces.edu/~AFSST/>).

--AO



East Carolina University -- The East Carolina University Student Subunit has enjoyed another wonderful and productive year. With an increasing membership and activity among members, ECU-AFS is among the top student organizations at East Carolina University. ECU-AFS strives to increase professionalism and leadership development among its members by providing professional development workshops and increasing student interactions with researchers and professionals in fisheries and related disciplines.

ECU-AFS currently has an active membership of 25 members consisting of both undergraduate and graduate students. Recent graduated members include Eden

Garcia (MS in Biology), "Age and Growth of Yellowtail Snappers, *Ocyurus chrysurus*, in the Southeastern United States", Joshua Olinick (MS in Economics) "Risk Perceptions, Food Quality, and the Demand for Seafood: A Study from Eastern North Carolina", Lauren Bergey (MS in Biology) "Variability of Striped Bass Egg Density in Populations Along the East Coast of North America: Implications for Aquaculture and Stock Enhancement", and David McHenry (MS in Biology) "Health of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) in the Lower Roanoke River, North Carolina: Evaluation of the Autopsy-Based Fish Health Assessment Index (FHA)". Undergraduates finishing this year included Christopher Stewart (BS in Biology), Daniela Rogers (BS in Biology) and Jennifer Paramore (BS in Biology).

The calendar year 2000 began with an ECU-AFS sponsored and hosted USCG Boater Safety Course. Approximately 20 members and nonmembers completed the course and received their "USCG Boater Safety Certification". The course was supervised and taught by the USCG Auxiliary of the New Bern, NC, flotilla.

Our major service event this year was participating in North Carolina Big Sweep. Twenty-one people worked with the Pitt County coordinators to clean Green Mill Run, a stream flowing through the ECU campus. Hundreds of trash items were collected, including such oddities as a plastic container with "poison do not touch" label, a chewed toothbrush, a couch cushion with plant growing through it, car stereo, bicycle handlebar, gasoline siphon hose, backpack, and snorkel hose. For a complete list of items, and photos, please visit our website <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/bigswEEP00.htm>.

On November 10th, 2000, ECU-AFS hosted a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop. This professional workshop provided attendees with an overview of GIS applications and additional hands on experience with simulated data. Participants could manipulate the data and draw scientific conclusions. ECU graduate student Jon Sellars was the instructor.

On December 1st, 2000, ECU-AFS hosted its 2nd Annual Meeting, with an attendance of over 60 people. Professionals from most state and federal natural resource management agencies were in attendance. The meeting started with a social hour, where attendees browsed the lobby of the Howell Science Complex viewing posters of member research and registering for the Student Leadership Development Fund drawing. Local sponsors contributed over \$750 worth of materials and services toward the fund-raising effort. A southern style fried catfish dinner complete with all the trimmings followed the social hour. After dinner was the program consisting of award presentations and four invited speakers. The first speaker was Chris Batsavage, Tidewater Chapter President, who spoke on current

events in Tidewater Chapter and the upcoming national meeting in Baltimore, MD. The second speaker was Michael Meador, AFS Southern Division President, who spoke on the role of Subunits in AFS, the importance of mentoring and leadership, and the Feb 23rd Southern Division Mid-year meeting. The third speaker was Fred Harris, AFS 1st Vice President, who spoke on the benefits of lifelong AFS membership, and the new directives of AFS to retain of student members after they graduate from college and enter the workforce.

The featured speaker was Preston P. Pate, Jr., Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, who addressed the topic "*Challenges of Fisheries and Politics in Fisheries Management*". Mr. Pate prefaced his remarks by recognizing several of his ECU-alumni staff members present at the meeting (Jeff Gearhart, Chris Batsavage, Lee Paramore, Lance Winslow, and Jenny Paramore) and their recent involvement with contentious fishery issues, and fishery management decisions. Mr. Pate then contrasted the natural resources management decision-making process of the past, present and future. Mr. Pate emphasized the need for incorporating fisherman experience along with science based research in the development of resource plans. In conclusion, Mr. Pate charged those in attendance to "be flexible and not to be proud" and "to be aware of the perspective and responsibilities of the [decision making] power you may have in the future".

ECU-AFS is looking toward the year 2001 with great anticipation. Scheduled events include hosting a second USCG Boater Safety Course, more professional workshops, and invited speakers. To learn more of ECU-AFS and to view pictures of the 2nd Annual Meeting, please visit our website (www.ecu.edu/org/afs). --JAM

News from Maryland

Maryland Tidewater members have been busy this past year. Here is an update for a number of them:

Jennifer Griffin -- Phone: 410-677-4804; email: jenngriff@yahoo.com.

Thesis work: I'm analyzing diet data of a historical population of Chesapeake Bay striped bass based on unpublished MDNR records from the 1950s. The data will be compared with previous and current striped bass diet studies to determine if a change in prey selection has occurred over time.

Wendy Morrison -- Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
Phone 410-326-7357.

The title of my thesis is "Population dynamics of American eels in the Hudson River, New York" Following is the abstract I submitted to AFS for their eel symposium last summer. "High PCB contamination resulted in a ban on Hudson River eels harvested for human consumption since 1976. The closure, while unfortunate, provides a unique opportunity to study stock dynamics in the absence of significant exploitation. Age and size structure, growth, local abundance, short term, and long term dispersal were evaluated using mark-recapture experiments inside 144 ha grids each composed of 36 baited pots. Grids were arrayed over six sites encompassing the entire tidal portion of the river from mesohaline habitats near Manhattan to freshwater habitats at Albany, 230 kilometers upriver. During 1997-1999, over 30,000 freeze brands and 1200 PIT tags were applied. Local abundance was highest at mid-river freshwater sites. Older and larger eels tended to occur at upriver freshwater sites; younger eels were almost exclusively captured at brackish water sites. Summer growth was significantly greater at brackish water sites (1.5 cm mo⁻¹) than at freshwater sites (0.5 cm mo⁻¹). The exotic nematode *Anguillicola crassus* infected eels at every site, although prevalence varied widely. Recaptured eels showed very little dispersal during the 2- and 12-month experimental periods. Home range was estimated to be less than 5 km. Limited dispersal suggested a strong link between local habitat condition and yellow eel production.

Anthony Overton -- Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Phone 410-651-7293; asoverton@mail.umes.edu.

Current Project: Examining the effects of the increased striped bass population on feeding habits and overall health in the Chesapeake Bay. Big News: Expecting a new addition to the family in May of 2001. I hope it's a boy.

William Rodney -- Maryland DNR Resource Assessment Service; Phone 410-260-8617; brodney@dnr.state.md.us.

Current Project: Writing Reports on Maryland Biological Stream Survey sampling in various MD watersheds. Recent Events: 1.) Got married to fiancé Kristin Wye in Hilton Head, SC on Sept. 30, 2000. 2.) Accepted into University of Maryland's Marine Estuarine Environmental Science Program as a graduate student for the Spring 2001 semester.

George Sackett -- General Chair - AFS 2002. 580 Taylor Ave., B-2; Annapolis, MD 21401-2352; Phone: 410-260-8253; Fax: 603-754-9381; gsackett@dnr.state.md.us.

As General Chair of the AFS 2002 Conference responsible for organizing all the details of putting on the annual meeting for AFS. Always looking for volunteers to help with this.

David H. Secor, Ph.D. -- Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, <http://www.cbl.umces.edu/~secor/welcome.html>.

Info on my current research, etc. can be found on my web page, which I am in process of updating.

Jim Uphoff -- Contact information given elsewhere in the newsletter. juphoff@dnr.state.md.us;

Interests: Marine and estuarine fishes of Maryland, stock assessment, habitat.

Erik Zlokovitz -- Contact information elsewhere; ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us;

Recently transferred from the Matapeake Field Office to the main DNR Fisheries office in Annapolis, where he is working for the Striped Bass Stock Assessment Project. He is serving as the Maryland Member-at-large for 2000-2001. --EZ

News from Virginia

Earlier this month, funding for the American Shad Restoration Project was discontinued. Under the American Shad Restoration Project, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries stripped spawned American Shad during the spring runs on the James and York River systems. The eggs were then transported hatcheries near the James and York systems, reared to fry, given a year-specific tetracycline mark, then released back into the river system from which they were collected. Over the past few years, hatchery-reared fish constituted up to approximately 5% of the total juvenile American Shad caught in the James and York River systems by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science *Alosa* Pushnet Survey. --BC

News from North Carolina

The NC Division of Marine Fisheries has had a productive and busy year for developing fishery management plans. Several of those activities were:

- Completed and had approved the Albemarle Area River Herring FMP and implemented management restrictions called for in it.

- Completed the Oyster and Hard Clam FMP and submitted them to the Secretary of DENR and the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture for review and comment.
- Completed the Red Drum FMP and obtained approval of the management options from the Marine Fisheries Commission.
- Began the Southern Flounder FMP and initiated a federally funded project on flounder gigging to characterize the commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Developed Rules, eligibility criteria, and administrative procedures for a legislative Hurricane Relief Fund, which has given ~\$6.1 million to fishermen who experienced loss from the 1999 hurricanes.
- Created a state permit for large mesh gill net flounder fishermen in Pamlico Sound this fall and secured a NMFS Section 10 Permit to enable fishermen to work among the sea turtles. Permit and database development, at sea observers, daily flounder landings and turtle interaction reporting, and constant communication with NMFS took much time, cooperation, and patience. However, this portion of Pamlico Sound had to be closed to large mesh gill nets after reaching the threshold for turtle interactions and strandings.
--CB

Update on 15th Annual Meeting and 1st Call for Papers

What: Joint meeting of the Tidewater and Mid-Atlantic Chapters. Come meet exciting people from exotic locations such as New Jersey and Delaware!

When: March 1 – 3, 2000.

Where: Golden Triangle of Easton, Oxford, and St. Michaels = Maryland Mid-Eastern Shore.

Registration: Preregistration, \$40 due by the February 16th. After the deadline, registration is \$50. Student preregistration is \$25, jumping to \$35 after. Guest registration is \$30 before the deadline, and \$35 after. Make checks payable to "Tidewater AFS". Send Name, organization, address, telephone, email, and registration category. Registration covers dues, coffee breaks, and banquet. Student registration covers dues, coffee breaks, and banquet. Guest registration covers coffee breaks and banquet.

Send registration information to Jim Uphoff, Maryland Fisheries Service, MD Department of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Bldg C-2, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Cheap Lodging: Econolodge in Easton, Md. If you mention the AFS Fisheries meeting or Tidewater meeting, you can get a room (single or double) for \$49.95 plus tax. Phone: 410-820-5555. You can go to the Econolodge website to find the location. It is along Route 50, the major artery bleeding into this region.

Other Lodging on Route 50: Days Inn, 410-822-4600. Comfort Inn, 410-820-8333; Holiday Inn Express, 410-819-6500.

In Town Itself: Within easy walking distance of the plenary session, is the Tidewater Inn, 410-822-1300.

Thursday -- EXCOM Meeting (4 pm) and Evening Poster Session (6-9 pm), Oxford Laboratory in Oxford, MD. About 10-15 minute drive out of Easton. The usual favorite beverages and munchies.

Friday – Talbot County Historical Society, in downtown Easton, (8:30 am – 5 pm). Lunch on your own. Lots of great places to eat, from pretty cheap to pretty \$. Feeding of the parking meters is required, bring quarters! (8 should get you 8 hours worth of parking). Special Symposium on "Mid-Atlantic Fish, Shellfish, and Fisheries: Life History, Habitat, and Other Important Aspects." Also a contributed paper session of freshwater, estuarine, and marine topics.

Friday Evening Reception – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michael's (10-15 minutes from Easton). Food, drink and music provided by fellow fish squeezers. led by Bill Rodney.

Saturday – Contributed papers from 8:30-11:30 am, followed by the 15th Annual Business meeting. All takes place at the Talbot County Historical Society building. Free parking on Saturday.

Oral presentations should be 12 minutes in length, with 3 minutes for questions. Bring your own laptop for LCD projection; 35 mm slides and overheads are welcomed! The LCD projector, slide carousel, and overhead projector will be provided. Poster criteria will be forthcoming in January.

Submit your abstract with the following information: Title, Author(s), address(es), and abstract with 250 words or less.. Student or Professional? Poster or Oral? Projection needs?

ABSTRACTS ARE DUE February 16, 2001.

Email the abstract to Erik Zlokovitz --

ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us. If you prefer, send a floppy disk with the file to Erik at MD DNR, Fisheries Service, Tawes State Office Bldg., C-2, Annapolis, MD 21401. Or, send handwritten abstract on the back of a \$100 bill. --JU

Laboratory Spotlight

We'd like to resurrect an aspect of the old Tidewater newsletters, which highlighted a Tidewater Chapter member's research. We'll call it "Laboratory Spotlight", and call on you sometime in the future to provide a paragraph on your research, your students, and opportunities for student members to become involved. We'll provide links to your website and other things more or less appropriate.

Nominations for 2001 Officers

The Tidewater Chapter organization is run by active AFS members, who volunteer their time because they believe it is an important activity and service to the fisheries community. Would you like to serve for a year? Do you know someone who would be a good candidate to run for an office? Please email Chris Batsavage or Dr. Ron Klauda. Voting for the slate of officers will take place prior to the March annual meeting.

Newsletter Deadline, Volume 15, Number 2

The next newsletter will contain all details of the March Tidewater 15th Annual Meeting, and offer a slate of officers for the 2001 Chapter year. Please submit information for the newsletter to Roger Rulifson, rulifsonr@mail.ecu.edu by **January 31, 2001**.

Announcements

● **February 21-25, 2001: Southern Division AFS Midyear Meeting.** Jacksonville Hilton Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact Larry Connor, 352/742-6438 (voice); 352/742-6461 (Fax); connorl@gfc.state.fl.us.

● **March 1-3, 2001: Tidewater Chapter 15th Annual Meeting.** Easton, Maryland. Contact Jim Uphoff, 410-260-8304; juphoff@dnr.state.md.us.

● **August 19-23, 2001: 131st AFS Annual Meeting.** Crowne Plaza Hotel and Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Contact Betsy Fritz, 301/897-8616, ext. 212; bfritz@fisheries.org.

● **November 4-8, 2001: 16th Biannual Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation.** St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Preregistration Form for 15th Tidewater Chapter Meeting, Easton, MD, March 1-3, 2001. Preregistration Deadline : February 16, 2001.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

| Registration Status: | Member | Student | Guest | |
|----------------------|--------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| Preregistration: | \$40 | \$25 | \$30 | Total: \$ _____ |
| Late registration: | \$50 | \$35 | \$35 | Total: \$ _____ |

Mail to: Jim Uphoff, MD Fisheries Service, MD Department of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Bldg C-2, Annapolis, MD 21404.