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2001 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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President's Message

By the time you read this, the Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting will be less than a month away. I hope you have submitted your abstract. This will be a joint meeting with the Virginia Chapter. I'm especially fond of these joint meetings - they give me a chance to meet new folks (nothing wrong with the old ones, mind you) and new perspectives on the fisheries business. Last year's joint meeting allowed us to find out what was happening up north.

As I recall, our last meeting with the Virginia Chapter was held in Virginia Beach about six years ago. Being in the marine end of things, I don't get exposed to the freshwater side of the business as much as I'd like. This will be a great opportunity to see what's going on upstream.

Hats off to the ECU Student Chapter for handling the Tidewater Chapter's t-shirt design and sales for the 2002 national AFS meeting. We have a really nice shirt for sale based on the meeting poster. We've paid for the shirts out of our budget, so now we have to sell them. We stand to do pretty well if we can sell most of them.

Speaking of the national meeting, it's getting near crunch time. We need to gather raffle items. The Tidewater Chapter has been charged with "holding the best raffle in the history of AFS" that will go hand-in-hand with the best meeting ever. The EXCOM has asked each state's Member-at-Large to coordinate items from their respective state (since we are scattered over three states). Members can beat the bushes for raffle items. I've seen fish oriented artwork and jewelry, books, fishing gear and trips, clothes, boats, etc donated in past meetings. We need some kind of big gifts as the major items. Obtaining items for this raffle is a way that each member of the Chapter can contribute.

Its time to elect a new slate of officers. If you are contemplating serving as an officer of the Tidewater Chapter, I highly recommend you put your hat in the ring. My stint as president has been personally and professionally rewarding. I felt I owed something to my colleagues in the business for the wonderful contacts and exchange of information that this chapter provides and this was a way of paying them back.

I've thoroughly enjoyed being president (although last year at this time it was a little frantic). I'm ready to hand the Coveted Toadfish Award to Alan and become a past president. Alan will get to bask in the glory after the hard work of putting together the meeting and some new president-elect (it could be you) will start thinking about next year's meeting in North Carolina.

-Jim Uphoff, President

Treasurer's Report

Savings Account:

End of December balance: \$210.75

Checking Account:

End of December balance: \$1,485.99

Treasurer's Notes:

On January 6th a check was written to the amount of \$3,365.93 to Mojo Sportswear to finance the printing of t-shirts for the AFS 2002 National Meeting in Baltimore. The remaining funds are earmarked for the Chapter's Annual Meeting to be held in Virginia Beach in February. This meeting will be of strategic importance to the Chapter as we prepare for the 2002 meeting in Baltimore. Let's all beat the bushes to find submitters and attendees!

-Bill Rodney- Treasurer

COMMITTEE SEEKS NOMINEES FOR TIDEWATER CHAPTER AWARDS

The Awards and Scholarships Committee is seeking award nominations for deserving individuals at the next annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, American Fisheries Society, scheduled for 6-8 February 2002 in Virginia Beach, VA. The Committee is seeking nominations for the following awards:

Meritorious Service Award is given periodically to a Chapter member for their unswerving loyalty, dedication, and service to the Tidewater Chapter over a long period of time, and for their exceptional commitment to the programs, objectives, and long-term goals of the Chapter (last year's recipient was Bill Rodney).

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award is given periodically to a Chapter member who has achieved excellence in teaching and student advising in the field of fisheries science (or closely-related area) and who encourages student participation at the Tidewater Chapter meetings (the most recent recipient of this award was Eileen Setzler-Hamilton in 2000).

Conservation Award is given periodically to a Chapter member, resource management agency, corporation, or non-

profit organization that has distinguished himself/herself/themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

Please help the Awards and Scholarships Committee and your Tidewater Chapter by nominating deserving individuals for these awards. Send the names of your nominees, along with a brief description of why you think they deserve the award, to:

-Ron Klauda, Chairman, Awards and Scholarships Committee
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, C-2, Annapolis, MD 21401, Phone: 410-260-8615, FAX: 410-260-8620, email: rklauda@dnr.state.md.us

Deadline is 15 January 2002. Thanks.

-Ron Klauda

Update on the Parent Society 2002 Meeting, Baltimore

Plans for the 2002 meeting are quickly falling into place. AFS has hired Anne Grist from Let's Meet, Inc. to manage the Tradeshow for the 132nd annual meeting. Anne has developed



managed and produced successful meetings, conferences and expositions for 20 years and is as committed as we are to assuring that the Baltimore meeting is a resounding success.

We are also pleased to report that AFS has now upgraded their software and hardware to allow

online registration and credit card authorization. This is great news since it will make registering for the meeting much easier as well as simplifying the organizing committees' job considerably. Online registration is expected to be available as of March 1, 2002.

The meeting website is up and running and the organizing team expect it to be an invaluable source of information on all aspects of the 2002 meeting. We are still looking for someone who is interested in the vital role of updating and maintaining the website, so if you enjoy web page work and would like to volunteer, please contact George Sackett at 410-260-8253 or gsackett@dnr.state.md.us.

Fund raising promises to be one of the most challenging aspects of the conference and members of the fund raising committee are working hard to identify potential funding partners. In addition, members of the Social Committees are in the process of locking down the details for all the terrific socials planned for the Baltimore meeting. We recently received the news that the conference will have exclusive use of the magnificent National Aquarium for the Wednesday night social and Social Committee members are meeting with staff at the Hyatt Regency and the Convention Center to finalize menu and other details.

The Tidewater AFS Chapter is helping with two major facets of the conference - the raffle and the student job fair. Tidewater Chapter member (and DNR employee), Erik Zlokovitz is heading up the raffle committee and fellow Chapter member (and DNR employee) Mike Luisi is serving as the student coordinator. Both Erik and Mike will be looking to other members of the Tidewater Chapter to help them make these events a success.

In addition to the traditional oral symposia offered at the annual meeting, plans are taking shape to offer poster symposia at the 2002 meeting. To encourage and facilitate participation in the poster symposia, submission deadlines are being slightly altered. Vital dates to remember include: deadline to submit symposia proposals - December 17, 2001; deadline for oral presentation abstracts and poster symposia proposals - January 21, 2002; deadline for poster abstracts - February 25, 2002.

The organizing committee is dedicated to making the 2002 meeting in Baltimore one of the best ever. To give you an idea of the time and energy required, the 2002 meeting is still over 7 months away and plans are already being made for the 2003 and 2004 meetings! As we plan the 2002 conference, team members are already sharing information as well as ideas with the Chairperson for the 2004 conference in Madison Wisconsin. Anyone interested in helping us make the 2002 meeting a success is encouraged to contact George Sackett, the 2002 Chairperson at 410-260-8253 or gsackett@dnr.state.md.us.

16th Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, February 6-8, 2002

Joint meeting, Virginia and Tidewater Chapters Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel – Virginia Beach

Meeting Information:

The joint annual meeting of the Virginia and Tidewater Chapters will be held February 6 - 8, 2002 at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach. There will be a poster session on Wednesday the 6th, beginning at 4 PM. Oral presentations will begin on Thursday the 7th and presentations will continue on Friday morning (the 8th), ending at noon. Presentations will be 15-minutes, followed by a 5-minute question and answer period (total of 20 minutes per presenter). Slide projectors will be provided but presenters should provide their own power point projectors.

Title Submissions:

If you have not submitted an abstract for a poster or paper, do so quickly. The deadline for submission of abstracts (250 words maximum) of presentations and posters has been extended to **January 15, 2002**. Abstracts should be mailed or

e-mailed to Alan Weaver 12104 S. Washington Hwy #1, Ashland, Va. 23005; aweaver@dgif.state.va.us. Include with the abstracts the phone number or e-mail address, FAX, and mailing address of the presenter. Students competing for the “Best Student Paper or Poster Awards” should indicate so by placing an asterisk by their name. Look for more information on our respective web sites. Slide projectors will be provided but presenters should provide their own power point projectors.

Registration – Preregistration is \$50 (student discount rate of \$25). Please contact Alan Weaver by email or phone to receive this rate (this really helps, please consider preregistration). At the meeting, registration is \$55 and \$30 for students. The registration fee will cover all breaks and the social during the meeting. Please consider donating a raffle item to the meeting. Proceeds will be split with the Virginia Chapter if we get enough participation from Tidewater members. Please drop off donation items at the registration table. Examples of donation items include hats, fishing tackle, art prints, etc... Just bring to them with you to the meeting.

Meeting Activities –

Wednesday, February 6 – Tidewater EXCOM meeting early afternoon. Early registration and a poster session will begin at 4 PM, followed by a light social at 6 PM.

Thursday, February 7th – Presentations, with each chapter conducting separate business meetings at 4 PM. Social from 6 to 8 PM.

Friday, February 8th -- Presentations continue in the morning, with the meeting ending at noon.

Room Reservations -- Attendees will need to make their own room reservations. Please contact the hotel at: Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Atlantic Ave. & 36th Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451; Tel. # (800) 521-5635. Please specify that you will be attending the AFS conference. Rooms are \$55 per night (single or double) for ocean view or land view rooms, and a limited number of ocean front rooms are available for a little extra. **January 14** is the deadline to guarantee the discounted room price of \$55/night.

Student Rooms-- Two student rooms (3 per room) will be available at no charge on first come first serve basis. Email Alan Weaver with your request aweaver@dgif.state.va.us.

Other information is available on the Virginia Chapter website: <http://faculty.virginia.edu/afsva-newsletter/>

TIDEWATER SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2002 –
Please vote for the following slate of officers for the 2002 year:

President – Alan Weaver (VA)
President-Elect – James Morris (NC)
Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Rodney (U-MD)

MD At-Large member – Eric Zlokovitz (MD DNR)
VA At-Large member – Greg Garman (VCU)
NC At-Large member – Wes Patrick (ECU)

Send an email to Jim Uphoff indicating your vote for this slate. Thanks! juphoff@dnr.state.md.us.

News from Student Subunits

Maryland – (<http://tortoise.hpl.umces.edu/~AFSST/>).

The University of Maryland student subunit is undergoing reconstruction. We have been tossing around new ideas to promote increased participation from members despite the distance factor between the campuses that consist of the subunit. For the upcoming year, we are hoping to host more meetings at central locations and increase undergraduate participation in the subunit. As of now, there are no undergraduate members. New officers have been elected for 2002. Olaf Jensen-President ;Jim Salierno-Vice president; Bob Murphy-Secretary/Treasurer. We are planning to hold an organizational meeting during the upcoming Tidewater meeting in Virginia. Members of the student subunit have also expressed interest to actively participate in the upcoming 2002 annual American Fisheries Society meeting in Baltimore. Members will assist "Wild Bill" Rodney with audio-visual setup for the Baltimore meeting
-Anthony S. Overton, UM-AFS Subunit President

East Carolina University – (<http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>)

Greetings from everyone at ECU-AFS; we hope you had a safe and happy holiday break. We are getting back into the swing of things and getting geared up for the spring semester. First, a quick update on the ECU-AFS 3rd Annual Meeting. We had another great turnout for this year's meeting, with over 50 fishery professionals, friends of ECU-AFS and students in attendance. Due to new regulations on campus about serving seafood, we decided to have a traditional North Carolina "pig-pickin", with all the fixins! Everyone filled up on pig, Brunswick stew, hushpuppies, and cole slaw. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the sponsors that helped make this year's meeting a success. Items donated to our annual raffle included a diving trip, a guided fishing trip, hats, t-shirts, books, and a limited edition Bob Timberlake original design rug. We were honored to have Gilbert Radonski as our guest speaker. Mr. Radonski is the former director of the Sport Fishing Institute and is a longtime AFS member. His talk addressed the transitions taking place from the traditional fishery biologist to the new fishery biologist of the 21st century.

Scheduled events coming up for this semester include our increasingly popular poster workshop, an electrofishing workshop put on by Kent Nelson and Christian Waters from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and our annual Spring fund-raiser, "Barefoot on the Mall". The poster workshop was such a success the last time we put it on, we

decided to have it again for all those that missed it. We are also very excited about the electrofishing workshop, which will be held in April, once the waters have warmed up a little! As usual, all proceeds from our spring fund-raiser go towards the Student Leadership Development Fund. We will also be unveiling the design for the Annual Meeting t-shirts at the joint Tidewater/Virginia Chapter AFS meeting in Va. Beach, February 6-8. Please check out our website @ www.ecu.edu/org/afs for more information about our subunit and pictures from recent events.

-Charlton H. Godwin, ECU-AFS President

News from Maryland

RIVERS PROJECT

The Potomac River below Great Falls was electrofished for smallmouth bass. The catch rate was historically low; the CPUE was 8 for stock size bass. This was in direct contrast to sampling upriver, which showed average abundance of smallmouth bass.

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

The striped bass pound net - haul seine quota for 2001 was 587,000. For the month of November 166,247 pounds were harvested for a total of 652,236 pounds. This fishery over harvested by 64,736 pounds, which will be deducted from the hook and line quota. This fishery is closed for the year.

The November hook and line quota was 89,210 pounds. Of that quota 64,419 pounds were landed leaving 24,791 pounds unused. The June through November hook and line striped bass quota totaled 811,000 pounds of which 398,115 pounds were harvested leaving 412,885 pounds not harvested. This fishery is closed for the year.

A monthly quota is now used to manage the Atlantic striped bass fishery. The monthly quota for November was 35,616 pounds. Of that quota 44,975 pounds were landed, which is 9,359 pounds over the monthly quota. The overage will be deducted from the next allocation. Two individuals were added to the Commercial Striped Bass Waiting List for a total of 565 watermen. No one was added to the Charter Boat Striped Bass Waiting List. There are currently 80 people on the list. Two individuals were added to the Apprenticeship Program waiting list to receive permits. Twelve permits and 13 refunds were issued.

Seventy-nine oyster power dredge permits were issued by November 30, 2001. A permit is required in order to participate in this fishery, which opened November 1, 2001. Twelve new pound net sites were approved for three watermen. Staff worked on re-organizing and re-formatting the pound net database.

Staff prepared an article on wintertime fishing opportunities at Chesapeake area power plants for the Natural Resource Magazine. Team members continue to work on a fisheries information kiosk for the Arundel Mill's Bass Pro Shop. The kiosk will ultimately take shape as an Internet terminal locked in to the DNR website incorporating touch screen technology for maximum ease of use.

Work continues on the WRCP federal grant for promotion of underutilized fisheries. Inventories for three focus (Head of the Bay/Havre De Grace, Tangier Sound, and Lower Eastern Shore tidal bass rivers) areas have nearly been assimilated and a formal scope of the project should be established before year-end.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Biological Monitoring and Analysis:

Striped Bass Stock Assessment Project

Striped Bass Stock Assessment (SBSA) personnel completed the Baywide striped bass tagging study conducted during the 2001 recreational fishery. This project was a cooperative effort between the Biological Monitoring and Analysis Program, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Chesapeake Bay pound net fishermen. Approximately 3675 striped bass were tagged in Maryland during this study, which will provide fishery-specific mortality estimates for Chesapeake Bay stripers. Approximately 750 striped bass were also randomly weighed to provide additional fishery independent information on striped bass stock health. SBSA staff also initiated the annual fishery-dependent commercial drift gill net fishery monitoring within this specialized survey

SBSA staff continue to work with scientists from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) to produce a Chesapeake Bay-wide estimate of the instantaneous rate of fishing mortality (F) for the recreational and charter and commercial components of the 2001 Chesapeake Bay striped bass fishery. Striped bass were tagged and released in pre-set release periods utilizing a multiple-release design throughout the Chesapeake Bay prior to and during the recreational fishing seasons for Maryland and Virginia.

Southern Region Freshwater Fisheries

Largemouth bass sampling was completed on the tidal portion of the Potomac River. Preliminary inspection of sample data indicates fish are in excellent condition. There is a wide distribution of size groups in the population and reproduction appears to have been very good. A random sample of fish is being aged and data are being entered. Four hundred and twenty-two largemouth were tagged during the population assessment. To date, sixteen returns have been reported by anglers. Most of these were in the vicinity of the Woodrow

Wilson Bridge, indicating the intense fishing pressure, which occurs in that area of the river.

Multifish (Matapeake Field Office)

The Fish Lesion Monitoring Project sampled a total of 278,138 fish and examined them for external anomalies during the 2001 season (May-October). Less than one percent of all fish captured displayed anomalies. Similar to data collected since 1998, Atlantic menhaden was the species with the greatest percent of anomalies (3.2% of 40,068). Menhaden with ulcers were found in most of the eastern shore rivers sampled. Samples of fish from many of these rivers are currently being examined histologically by the Sarbanes Cooperative Oxford Lab.

Fisheries personnel attempted to trawl the Severn River to collect adult yellow perch. Almost every major tributary and the river main stem were sampled. However, no yellow perch were collected in these trawl samples. We hoped to tag yellow perch for our mark and recapture study that will commence in February 2002.

Staff attended the Atlantic croaker technical committee meeting (ASMFC) to review the latest stock assessment and Fisheries Management Plan update. Atlantic croaker stock biomass increased greatly during the early 1990's, but levels declined during 1997-1998. Stocks were determined to be strongly driven by recruitment, so further gains in stock size will come from strong year-classes. Happy holidays!
-Erik Zlokovitz, Maryland Member-at-Large

News from Virginia

Virginia's outgoing governor, Jim Gilmore, has proposed in his biennial budget severe cuts that essentially would gut the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries over the next 2 fiscal years. The current administration poses to move nearly \$9 million from the department to other state agencies. According to the Friday, January 11 edition of the Richmond Time-Dispatch, these are the proposed cuts for the worst case scenario: eliminate 48 game warden positions and 94 full time jobs out of 448 positions; stop development of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail; stop shad restoration; cut trout stocking by 250,000, or 23%; close the fish hatcheries at Front Royal, Buller, and Wytheville; close 3 field offices; close 33 wildlife management areas to vehicles; eliminate saltwater and boating enforcement and new boat access in boating areas; and close 90 boat ramps statewide many of which provide saltwater access. Also, the administration proposes to eliminate nearly all the part-time positions, which will stop most field-related work and activities for the year. For more information contact Mr. Garvey Winegar, Richmond Time-Dispatch correspondent, at gwinegar@timesdispatch.com. You can find additional information by going to the following website: www.legis.state.va.us or calling this Constituent

information number -- Richmond: (804) 698-1990; outside Richmond (800) 889-0229. A timely effort for comments may make a difference.

News from North Carolina

The NCDMF-Wilmington Office is continuing talks for constructing a natural bypass around the Lock and Dam #1 on the Cape Fear River. Construction designs are being developed, and NCWRC and NCDMF will be meeting in the next month or so to discuss further options. Mitigation for the renewal of the Roanoke Rapids Lake Dam and Kerr Reservoir Dams relicensing are still in progress. As mentioned earlier in past NC News, the relicensing committee is now in debate as to what type of funds may be set aside for the development of fish passage devices and stocking programs to replenish migratory fish populations, particularly for American shad and American eels. They are also debating the re-watering of the bypass stream below Roanoke Rapids Dam on the Roanoke River that had in the past been suitable spawning habitat for anadromous fish.

For all you striped bass biologists, NCDMF with the cooperation of the US Fish and Wildlife released 37,000 Phase II striped bass into the Pamlico River, of which 3,000 were tagged. A compilation of past tagging data by Rulifson and Laney indicates that over 2 million striped bass have been stocked in the Pamlico Sound since 1973, while over 2.7 million striped bass have been stocked in the Albemarle Sound since 1975. The Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan committees finally have been appointed. The committees have been divided into two sections – one addressing the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Management Area and the other handling the Pamlico and Cape Fear River drainages.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I want to highlight some of the research that is going on in state. This quarter I have chosen to highlight Dr. Tom Lankford's lab at UNCW-Center for Marine Science.

Tom Lankford (UNCW) and Jeff Buckel (CMAST, NCSU) have begun the project "Winter distribution, ecology and energetics of young-of-the-year bluefish in the U.S. South Atlantic Bight". Their NMFS-funded research will examine the role of winter processes in the population dynamics of bluefish. Trawl cruises aboard the R/V Cape Fear are expected to document the distribution, abundance and physiological condition of YOY bluefish in Onslow Bay, North Carolina during winter. Mesocosm experiments will be performed to identify vulnerability to starvation, rates of energy depletion and survival of YOY under simulated winter conditions. Graduate students Josh Slater (UNCW) and James Morley (NCSU) are developing theses associated with the project.

Graduate student research-Dr. Tom Lankford, UNCW. Susie Holst is examining compensatory growth capacity in

juvenile black sea bass and southern flounder. Her thesis is focused on developing strategic feeding regimes to maximize the growth rate and yield of these species in a mariculture setting. She is attempting to exploit the intriguing physiological phenomenon termed 'compensatory growth', which refers to the tendency for individual fishes and other organisms to accelerate their growth rate following periods of food deprivation. By manipulating ration, she hopes to elicit compensatory responses that can be sustained for extended periods, thereby minimizing the time required to raise individuals to marketable size.

Andrea Quattrini is completing her thesis research on recruitment of larval reef fishes to Onslow Bay. Andrea has been examining the ichthyoplankton assemblages associated with continental shelf and gulf stream water masses. Through monthly sampling with bongo nets and neuston nets, she is characterizing the diversity and abundance of larval fishes in particular water masses (identified using AVHRR/SST imagery and CTD casts). She is currently examining the role of the Gulf Stream as a source of larval recruits to adult populations in Onslow Bay.

We also welcome William Collier, who has recently joined the lab and will be conducting thesis research on the life history and ecology of three species of kingfishes (*Menticirrhus* spp.) in southeastern North Carolina (This section submitted by Dr. Lankford).

--Wesley Patrick, NC Member at Large

LIONFISH OBSERVED OFF NORTH CAROLINA

Divers and fishers alert: Non-native Lionfish are beautiful but have venomous spines. Research efforts have begun by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and



photo by Paula Whitfield (NOAA Beaufort Laboratory)

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to determine the number and range of a venomous Pacific Ocean fish that was recently discovered in the waters off the southern Atlantic coast. Research divers from NOAA's Laboratory in Beaufort, N.C., have observed an Indo-Pacific species of lionfish near two shipwrecks off the coast of North Carolina. Local divers were the first to spot the species and have observed lionfish at additional sites. Officials are concerned because the lionfish is not a native species to the southeastern United States, and its venomous spines are dangerous to humans and other fish. One lionfish was collected by a recreational scuba diver, and scientists at the Beaufort Laboratory sent the specimen to a lionfish expert for positive identification. The species is *Pterois volitans*, a popular salt water aquarium fish. The number of observations and distance between sightings suggest that more lionfish may be found off the coast and that

lionfish may have been able to survive the winter water temperatures. A fact sheet containing more information and a photo of a lionfish visit:
http://shrimp.bea.nmfs.gov/research/lionfish_factsheet.pdf

Fisheries Management News

NOAA FISHERIES ANNOUNCES 2002 CATCH LIMITS FOR ATLANTIC SUMMER FLOUNDER

Coast-Wide Quota Increases by Thirty-six Percent as Fishery Rebounds

When the fishing season for summer flounder opened Jan. 1, 2002, a 24.3 million pound quota went into effect on the Atlantic coast, announced the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The new quota, with 60 percent (14.58 million pounds) allocated to the commercial industry and 40 percent (9.72 million pounds) allocated to anglers, represents a 36 percent increase over the 2001 quota of 17.9 million pounds.

"Summer Flounder is a fishery management success story, as the fishery continues to thrive while stock abundance is growing. This outcome is what we strive for in every fishery and is what can be accomplished with sound management rebuilding programs," said William Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries. "The commercial and recreational fishermen, in partnership with state and federal fishery managers and environmental groups, should be applauded for their efforts in helping the summer flounder fishery rebound. The hard work by all involved has allowed us to increase catch limits for the coming year."

While the recreational allocation is coast-wide, each coastal state is given a percentage of the commercial quota. During 2001, commercial fishermen in both Maine and Delaware harvested more summer flounder than their share of the commercial quota. Therefore, commercial vessels may not land the species in these states during the 2002 calendar year.

The summer flounder stock has been managed since 1989 and has been rebuilding under a quota system since 1993. Though fishery managers have been steadily rebuilding the fishery, it has encountered a bumpy road along the way. Lawsuits were filed right from the outset of quota management that challenged quota accuracy, late season adjustments and stock management targets.

One of the most important steps NOAA Fisheries has taken to reduce lawsuits is to improve its relationship with stakeholders in the fishery. During roundtable workshops last year, Hogarth listened to the concerns of stakeholders in the summer flounder fishery and began taking steps to improve

the process of implementing regulations and communicating with fishermen, law enforcement and the environmental community. As part of Hogarth's initiative to improve constituent relations, NOAA Fisheries is publishing quotas for upcoming fishing seasons earlier than previous years and is working to improve summer flounder stock assessments so that everyone will have more faith in the status of the stock.

The breakdown by state of the 2002 summer flounder commercial quota (in pounds) is as follows: ME, 0; NH, 67; MA, 938,765; RI, 2,286,310; CT, 329,044; NY, 1,114,800; NJ, 2,438,217; DE, 0; MD, 297,266; VA, 3,107,619; NC, 4,001,133. The new regulations were developed cooperatively with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

- NOAA News Release 2002-R103

(<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2002/jan02/noaa02r103.html>)

Announcements/Workshops –

16th Annual Tidewater Chapter Meeting The Tidewater and Virginia chapters of the AFS will co-host the upcoming annual meeting on February 6-8, 2002 in Virginia Beach at a site to be determined. For more information, please contact President-Elect Alan Weaver at the phone or email listed at the front of the newsletter.

Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Presents two Continuing Education Workshops

Reservoir Management Seminar: Predator, Prey Stocking and Trophic Economics by John Ney

John will provide a review of techniques and models to estimate the trophic support capacity of waterbodies for piscivorous fishes. He will include methods to calculate: 1) food consumption by predator populations 2) total prey biomass and 3) factors limiting prey availability. Emphasis will be on Q&D approaches. Calculators instead of computers are requested. Thursday, March 21, 2002 at Donaldson Brown Center

Introduction to GIS Workshop by Scott Klopfer (Attendance limited to first 20 registrants)

Scott will cover the basics of ESRI Arc View geographic information systems. He will briefly discuss data models, creating and using spatial data in a GIS. He will also touch on spatial theory, applications and integration of GIS with GPS systems. This course will be directed at fisheries biologists and utilize examples from field situations. The course will be conducted in a GIS lab on the VT campus, so each participant should have the use of his or her own workstation. Friday, March 22, 2002 at Cheatham Hall. Location: Blacksburg, VA (VPI&SU) Registration: Seminar \$30, GIS Workshop \$50

Submit check payable to VA Chapter by Jan 15 to: John Odenkirk, VDGIF, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 For more information, call John at 540-899-4169

Information Exchange:

Sediment and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
From Top to Bottom!

Sponsored by

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Department of
Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
and U.S. Geological Survey.

January 22 & 23, 2002

Maritime Institute of Technology and Conference Center

See <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/workshop.htm> for
registration information.