

### Inside this Issue

- Presidents message
- Treasurer's report
- AFS Baltimore 2002 update
- Student subunit news
- Maryland news
- Virginia news
- North Carolina news
- Announcements
- List of members for 2002

## 2002 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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## President's Message

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – President's Report

I am pleased to report that the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, held at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA on February 6-7, 2002, was a great success! The Tidewater Chapter met jointly with the Virginia Chapter for the third time and this added to the diversity and success of the meeting. There were 32 registered AFS-Tidewater members and guests (14 students) and 45 Virginia Chapter members and guests (5 students) bringing the total number of participants close to 80. Fisheries professionals and students from Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia represented academia, federal and state governments and the private sector.

In addition, the group was honored by the attendance of Ken Beal, President of AFS, who shared his goals and outlook for AFS on Thursday. Laura Bird of the Parent Society also was in attendance and gave a presentation on AFS professional certification and continuing education.

The presentation agenda was diverse and covered topics ranging from inland stream to marine fisheries. There is a lot of great fisheries work and research being done across our region! There were six posters presented (three by students) and 18 platform presentations (five by students). Ron Klauda and Chas Gowan presented awards for best student posters and papers at the Thursday evening social. These were:

**Best Poster Presentation** – Olaf Jensen, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland, "Spatial Patterns and Processes in the Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Population and Fishery".

**Second Place Poster Presentation** – Mindy Ruby, Department of Biology and Environmental Studies, Randolph-Macon College (faculty advisor Dr. Charles Gowan), "Developing Stream Monitoring Methods for Citizen Volunteers in the Coastal Plain Region of Virginia".

**Best Undergraduate Platform Presentation** – Tina Miller, Salisbury University (faculty advisor, Dr. Ann Barse), "The Safety of Chloramine-T to Fingerling Lake Trout".

**Second Place Undergraduate Platform Presentation** – Tyl Taylor, Department of Biology and Environmental Studies, Randolph-Macon College (faculty advisor Dr. Charles Gowan), “Influence of a Non-native Crayfish, *Orconectes virilis*, on Predation Risk Experienced by the Virginia Native *Cambarus hongulus*”.

Three Shared First Place for the Graduate Platform Presentation Category:

**Best Graduate Platform Presentation** – Emmanis Dorval, Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology, Old Dominion University (faculty advisor Dr. Cynthia Jones), “Determining Seagrass Habitats in Chesapeake Bay for Juvenile Spotted Seatrout from the Trace Elements in Surface Waters and in Otoliths”.

**Best Graduate Platform Presentation** – Blake Price, Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources, East Carolina University (faculty advisor Dr. Roger Rulifson), “Reducing Bycatch in the Currituck Sound White Perch Gill Net Fishery Using Traditional Ecological knowledge”.

**Best Graduate Platform Presentation** – Jason Rueter, Department of Biology, Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources (faculty advisor Dr. Joseph Luczkovich), “Multivariate Approach to Establish Fish Habitat Classification on a Coral Reef Ecosystem Using Landsat Satellite Data”.

**Elected Officers of the Tidewater Chapter:**

(The newly elected officers of the Tidewater Chapter were customarily announced at the business meeting)

President: Alan Weaver (VA DGIF)  
President-elect: James Morris (NOAA/NOS)  
Past President: Jim Uphoff (MD DNR)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Rodney (UMD)  
MD Member At-Large: Erik Zlokovitz (MD DNR)  
NC Member At-Large: Wes Patrick (ECU)  
VA Member At-Large: Greg Garman (VCU)

**Other Tidewater Positions:**

Scholarship & Awards: Ron Klauda (MD DNR)  
Historian: Roger Rulifson (ECU)  
Newsletter Co-editors: Roger Rulifson (ECU) and James Morris (NOAA/NOS)  
Webmaster: James Morris (NOAA/NOS)

**East Carolina University Subunit officers at meeting time:**

President: Charlton Godwin (serves on EXCOM)  
Vice-President: Wes Patrick  
Secretary: Jason Rueter  
Treasurer: Beth Egbert  
Historian: Stephanie McNerny

**University of Maryland Subunit officers at meeting time:**

President: Olaf Jensen (serves on EXCOM)  
Vice-President: Jim Salierno  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Murphy

Of course, the meeting was not all business as the social events were very enjoyable. Old friends got reacquainted and many made new connections. We also took some time to go fishing, virtual fishing that is! Everyone who tried their hand at DGIF’s fishing simulator had a lot of fun and the spectators seemed to have a good time watching as “anglers” landed species such as marlin and tarpon. As fun as the simulator is, there is still nothing like the real thing!



Bob Graham and John Cooper play on the fishing simulator.

I would like to thank all those who attended the meeting and helped make it a success. I especially thank all of the presenters who shared their research and job interests in the technical sessions. Thanks to Dean Fowler and Ron Southwick for loaning the fishing simulator equipment for use at the social events. I extend a special thanks to my counterpart from the Virginia Chapter, Price Smith, for his efforts in co-organizing this meeting. Thanks to Jim Uphoff, our Past President, for his service over the past year and his long-term dedication to the Tidewater Chapter. Several other members from both chapters served to organize and conduct this meeting and I would like to thank them for their efforts:

Judging and awards: Ron Klauda, Charles Gowan  
Registration: Erik Zlokovitz, Bill Rodney, Bob Greenlee, Tom Gunter and Doug Smith  
Audio/Visual/Computers: Charles Gowan  
Session Moderators: Price Smith, Larry Mohn  
Introductions: Becky Wajda, Gary Martel  
Guest Speakers: Ken Beal, Laura Bird  
Photography: John Cooper, Tom Wilcox  
Raffle MC: Tom Wilcox (and all those who donated items)  
Music: Bill Rodney  
Wednesday mixer: John Odenkirk, Price Smith

I would also like to thank our secretary in the Ashland Office, Eva Stanley, for her assistance in preparing the program and

name tags, and for helping with last-minute organization of the meeting.

Questions about this meeting or the AFS Tidewater Chapter?

Contact: Alan Weaver  
President, AFS-Tidewater Chapter  
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Tidewater Chapter – AFS

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report (April, 2002)

### Savings Account:

Current Balance: \$1211.53

### Checking Account:

End of March Balance: \$786.00

### Treasurer's Notes:

The large increase in our savings balance since the last report is because we received a \$500 donation from the Southern Division towards the raffle at the AFS 2002 Annual Meeting in Baltimore. We have also received a \$50 raffle donation from the Estuaries Section that is yet to be deposited. Perhaps the Tidewater Chapter should consider making a donation to this worthy cause as well? I would be most interested in the Chapter's opinion in this matter. A small jump in our checking balance is due to a \$62 check from Ron Klauda for overpayment of a reimbursement (oops!), and a membership renewal from Mike Street (NC Division of Marine Fisheries). Kudos to Eric Zlokovitz for his efforts with the raffle donations!

## STUDENT PAPER AWARDS -- JOINT MEETING OF TIDEWATER AND VIRGINIA CHAPTERS, AFS

Seven excellent student papers were presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting of the Tidewater and Virginia Chapters held at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA, February 6-8, 2002. They all came home winners! Undergraduate students presented three papers. Members of both chapters conducted judging and these awards were given.

In the platform paper session (graduate student category), three students tied for first place, split the prize money, and received \$60 each. The three winners were:

(a) **Emmanis Dorval**, Old Dominion University: *Determining seagrass habitats in Chesapeake Bay for juvenile spotted seatrout from the trace elements in surface water and otoliths*,

(b) **Blake Price**, East Carolina University: *Reducing bycatch in the Currituck Sound white perch gill net fishery using traditional ecological knowledge*, and

(c) **Jason Rueter**, East Carolina University: *Multivariate approach to establish fish habitat classifications on a coral reef ecosystem using Landsat satellite data*.

In the undergraduate category, platform paper session, **Tina Miller**, Salisbury University, took first place and a \$100 prize for her paper titled *The safety of Chloramine-T to fingerling lake trout*. **Tyl Taylor**, an undergraduate student at Randolph-Macon College, took second place and a \$50 prize for his paper titled *Influence of non-native crayfish, Orconectes virilis, on predation risk experienced by the Virginia native Camburus longulus*.

Two awards were presented in the student poster session. First place and a \$100 prize went to **Olaf Jensen**, University of Maryland, for his poster titled *Spatial patterns and processes in the Chesapeake Bay blue crab population and fishery*. Second place and a \$50 prize went to **Mindy Ruby**, an undergraduate student at Randolph-Macon College, for her poster titled *Developing stream monitoring methods for citizen volunteers in the coastal plain region of Virginia*.

-Ron Klauda, Chair, TWC Awards and Scholarships Committee



Student Paper Award winners (L-R): E. Dorval, T. Miller, J. Rueter, T. Tyler, O. Jensen.

## Update on the Parent Society 2002 Meeting, Baltimore

Response to the call for papers for the 2002 AFS meeting has been overwhelming and "Turning the Tide: Forging Partnerships to Enhance Fisheries" is shaping up to be the best Annual Meeting ever! With the ideal location, strong program and fun-filled special events, attendees are sure to leave this year's meeting full of ideas and great memories.

The meeting will get off to a great start with a strong plenary session featuring words from a number of excellent speakers. We're especially excited that we'll have the opportunity to hear perspectives from Michael K. Orbach, Director of Duke University Biotechnology Laboratory, Dr. Emory Anderson, Fisheries Program Director at the National Sea Grant Program

Office, and Dr. William F. Hammond, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University.

This year's enormous and diverse program will feature 12 concurrent sessions, with 26 symposia and almost 800 oral presentations, all focusing on key issues in marine, freshwater and estuarine environments. We'll also have 220 posters and 4 poster symposia, the largest of which includes 21 posters on every imaginable aspect of horseshoe crab biology and management.

The Continuing Education opportunities will be another highlight, with topics including river morphology, leadership, GIS, conflict resolution, how to work with a commission, conservation and management of brook trout, fisheries economics, and infectious diseases of salmonids. There will even be a special symposia focusing on the direction and content of the AFS leadership development program.

The after hours events promise to be as spectacular as the program! Plans for the Welcome Social, the Trade Show Social and Fish Fashion Show, the Student Job Fair and Social, and Wednesday evening social at the National Aquarium are all coming together and each promises to be marvelously entertaining. Not to be outdone, our hospitality team has come up with an exciting array of trips and tours that offer something for everyone. For those with an interest in touring, we're offering a tour of Washington DC, highlighting some of our nation's most beautiful monuments. For the shoppers, there will be a trip to Arundel Mills - of course our outdoor enthusiasts might want to tag along on this one so they can take in the amazing Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World. The fishermen among us will get the chance to practice their angling skills on our two fishing trips. And we've even arranged to have tickets available for the Tuesday night Orioles/Devil Rays game at Camden Yards. And finally, for our sightseers, our hospitality team is developing an exhaustive list of attractions, complete with cost, hours, and maps, so that folks can plan their own individual tour of Baltimore.

As you may have guessed, we are going to need an army of volunteers to meet the demands of this year's meeting. We'll need help with all aspects of the meeting, so no matter what your expertise or schedule is, there will be something you can do to help make the 2002 meeting a success. Please contact Jill Stevenson at [jstevenson@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jstevenson@dnr.state.md.us) or 410-260-8254 to volunteer. For additional information, visit the AFS Annual Meeting web site at [www.fisheries.org/annual2002](http://www.fisheries.org/annual2002). See you in Baltimore!

-Karen Knotts

## News from Student Subunits

### University of Maryland –

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

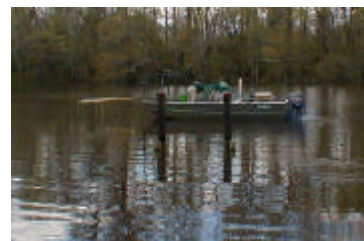
Momentum is building here at the University of Maryland student subunit. At a well attended meeting last month, plans were laid for a seminar/workshop series and an upcoming US Coast Guard boater safety class tentatively scheduled for May. The class (or an equivalent) is required for all Maryland boaters born after 1972 and should come just in time for the summer field season. The subunit is also looking forward to participating at the Baltimore meeting in August. Several of our members will be presenting their graduate research. In addition, the Baltimore natives among us will be on hand to guide conference participants to the best Fells Point bars. See you there.

--Olaf Jensen, University of Maryland Student Subunit President

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

Greetings from the ECU AFS student subunit. We are winding down a busy spring semester here at ECU and getting geared up for the Baltimore Meeting as well. As you all probably know by now, our subunit was honored with the responsibility of designing and selling this year's official 2002 Baltimore meeting t-shirt. If you don't think you will be able to attend this year's meeting, or if you want to get a sneak preview of the design, check out the AFS [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) website; there are pictures of the design and even an online ordering form for added convenience.

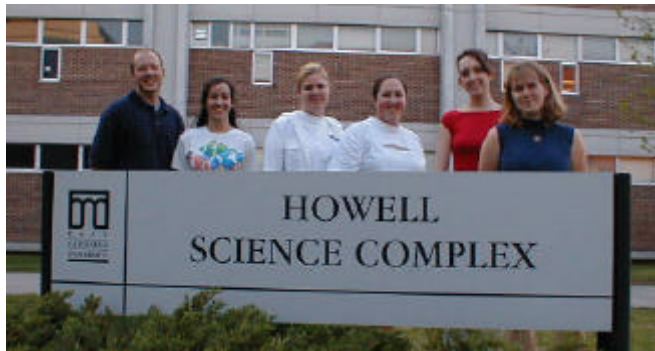
Some of the activities we have organized this semester include another large format poster workshop, detailing the use of Microsoft PowerPoint software in creating uniprint posters. Also included in the workshop were some of the criteria used in judging posters. We will also be participating in ECU's annual "Barefoot On The Mall" extravaganza, in which we sell hot dogs and hamburgers to generate additional revenue for our Student Leadership Development fund. A couple of our members will also be helping the New Bern Coast Guard Auxiliary in their yearly "Boat Rodeo", which is designed to give ECU's boater safety students hands-on experience in boat handling skills, trailering skills, radio operations, and many other activities involved in the safe operation of research and pleasure vessels.



Without question, the highlight of our semester was the "Electrofishing" workshop. Over 20 undergraduates, graduate students, and professors came out to learn more about the theory behind

electrofishing and safe electrofishing practices. After a morning spent in the classroom participants were taken to a local creek and given short tours in which they were exposed to actual electrofishing on an electrofishing boat. Thanks go out to the UNC Wilmington students and professors that were able to make the trip and participate in the workshop. Many thanks go to Kent Nelson and Christian Waters, both with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, for taking a Saturday out of their busy schedule to come put this workshop on and take us out in their boat. Thanks also to AFS parent society for giving participants continuing education credits. It was really a terrific workshop and hopefully we can make this an annual or bi-annual event. Thanks also to Vice President Wes Patrick for organizing the whole thing.

Last on the list for semester activities is our yearly election of officers. We experienced a major shift this year in our parliamentary make-up, with all of our officers for the 2002-2003 year being female. I was the lone exception, as I agreed to take over Historian responsibilities with our former Treasurer, Beth Egbert. We are really excited about having so



many women involved in fisheries this year; this looks like a growing trend which will hopefully continue and increase in the new millennium. It will be very interesting to see how different viewpoints, attitudes, and backgrounds will shape our organization in the upcoming year! Congratulations to Jennifer Cudney-President; Sara McKenzie-Vice-President; Sarah McGuire-Secretary; Maxine Harrelson-Treasurer; Beth Egbert and Charlton Godwin-Co-Historians. Check out our website [www.ecu.edu/org/afs](http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs) for biographies and emails for all of our new officers.

-- Charlton Godwin, ECU-AFS Student Subunit President

New ECU-AFS officers for 2002-03, L-R: C. Godwin and B. Egbert (Historians), M. Harrelson (Treas), Sarah McGuire (Sec), Sara McKenzie (VP), and Jen Cudney (President).

## News from Maryland

### Lower Susquehanna River

An experimental fyke-net was deployed in the lower Susquehanna River to gain information on the walleye

population that lives below Conowingo Dam. Only yellow perch were collected in the first sample, however sampling will continue in March. Walleye have always been present in the river, but little is known about their numbers, growth rates and reproductive success.

### Tidal Largemouth Bass

A conference on LMBV (largemouth bass virus) was attended at the annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Researchers and managers from all of the southeastern states and as far west as Texas and as far north as Michigan were present. Every state that sampled for the virus found it present in at least a few water bodies. Annual sampling programs performed by some states show the virus spreading to new areas in recent years. Relatively few fish kills have resulted. However, kills usually involve the larger fish in the population with subsequent impact to the recreational fishery. This virus is believed to be fairly young (10 – 15 years) and the long term implications are unknown. It can be carried by other sunfish species and was recently found in chain pickerel. A series of recommendations is being formulated from points of consensus of the group. LMBV is found in Virginia tributaries of the Potomac River. Virginia intends to issue a press release in the next few weeks and we intend to coordinate our press release with them.

On the behalf of some fishermen who were concerned about the impact of numerous tournaments held on the Potomac River, our leading tidal bass biologist gave a brief presentation to Potomac River Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee on the status of Potomac River bass. Through the eyes of our studies, which include electrofishing, young-of-year, and tournament fishing data, we do not see a significant impact on the resource. An innovative study-design that divides river habitat into three categories is now in its third year of use. Future years will improve our knowledge on the status of the bass population. We do not see a need to register tournaments and charge them a user impact fee.

### Striped Bass

Striped Bass Stock Assessment (SBSA) biologists completed sampling of the commercial striped bass drift gill net fishery in February. A total of 1482 striped bass were randomly sampled from the fishery through check station monitoring. Striped bass were measured for total length (TL) and weight, scanned for Coded Wired Tags (indicate striped bass of hatchery origin), and scale samples were taken each day. The average total length of striped bass sampled was 20.1" TL with a range of 18" to 35.8" TL. The weight of striped bass sampled ranged from 2.1 pounds to 17.4 pounds.

SBSA staff attended the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Striped Bass Advisory Panel, and Striped Bass Management Board meetings on February 20 - 21, 2002 in Washington, D.C. At these meetings, the

Amendment 6 Draft, and the estimation of reference points for the coastal VPA model for striped bass were discussed.

Work continues on the compilation and analysis of tag recovery data to estimate the instantaneous rate of fishing mortality (F) for Maryland and Virginia jurisdictions during the 2001 recreational season in Chesapeake Bay. Staff also continue to work with scientists from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) to plan the 2002 Baywide mark-recapture study.

The February Chesapeake Bay striped bass gill net quota was 250,000 pounds. For the month of February, striped bass check stations reported a harvest of 333,976 pounds, which is over quota by 83,976 pounds. The overage will be taken from the December quota.

The Commercial Striped Bass Waiting List has 569 watermen. One individual was added to the Charter Boat Striped Bass Waiting List for a total of 80 people.

Twenty new pound net sites were approved for two watermen. Twelve pound nets were certified for striped bass allocations. Mike Luisi mediated and resolved conflict between waterman and landowners in Baltimore County.

### **Multifish Project-Tidal Perch**

Staff participated in yellow and white perch sampling on the Patuxent and Severn Rivers.

### **Recreational Fisheries/Summer Flounder**

Staff coordinated with Resource Management and National Marine Fisheries Service staff to conduct a Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) workshop at the Ocean City Convention Center. The workshop was conducted to help educate recreational stakeholders on the MRFSS survey, the major tool by which recreational sportfish landings are estimated. There has been a great deal of criticism regarding the accuracy of the survey in the wake of cutbacks in summer flounder. Approximately 35 people attended the workshop, including several outdoor writers. Based upon feedback from attendees, the vast majority emerged from the meeting a great deal more knowledgeable of how the survey works and with a better trust of the data it produces. A few concerns emerged in the wake of the meeting, and those concerns were addressed at a summer flounder Ad Hoc meeting the week after the workshop.

Staff spoke to the Atlantic Coast Chapter of the MSSA on Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass. Much of the discussion focused on the upcoming summer flounder volunteer angler survey, which will allow recreational anglers the opportunity to collect valuable data on summer flounder catches and submit that information to our biologists. The survey will also be web enabled, following the lead of the very successful striped bass survey.

### **Ecopath and Ecosim**

Staff attended a training workshop on model requirements and development of the ecosystem model Ecopath with Ecosim, created in October of 2001. The model was designed to examine and adopt methods of exploring ecosystem modeling concepts and managing fisheries in the Chesapeake Bay. The 2000 Bay Agreement has three commitments on multispecies management and ecosystem management that can be addressed by application of the Ecopath model.

### **Shellfish Division**

MDE and the Corps of Engineers have approved permits for the Buried Shell Excavation and Alternate Material Projects. Scheduling for the 2002 County Oyster Committee Meetings have been set and notices mailed to the committees. One hundred twelve oyster power dredge permits were issued by January 31, 2001. A permit is required in order to participate in this fishery, which opened November 1, 2001.

### **SAV**

The Cooperative SAV Restoration Project at the Piney Point Facility has received an expanded grant, part of this will include two new chiller/heat pump units that will interphase with the hatcheries broodstock conditioning system and expand the production of several new SAV species.

-Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-Large

## **News from North Carolina**

### **Doug Sawyer Obituary**

Captain J. Douglas "Doug" Sawyer, Marine Patrol, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries passed away April 5, 2002. Capt. Sawyer had been with the Division since 1985 and was named Officer of Year by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in 1995. Prior to that time he was a former chief deputy in Tyrrell County and a former EMT. Capt. Sawyer was a member of Soundside Free Will Baptist Church, Lodge #678 and an honorary member of Fairfield Lodge #520, and served as chairman of the Tyrrell County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. He is survived by two daughters, Samantha and Cassie Sawyer, of Columbia, NC and a sister, Robin S. Swain of Plymouth, NC. Memorial gifts may be made to Soundside Free Will Baptist Church, c/o Royce Reynolds, P. O. Box 22, Columbia, NC 27925.

### **2002 Spring Field Sampling**

North Carolina fishery agencies have begun or are preparing for the spring sampling season. In the following months, North Carolina biologist will spend many hours on the water collecting abundance data on a variety of species. Currently, electrofishing surveys are being conducted on the Roanoke, Tar, Cape Fear and Neuse Rivers for an annual survey of Alosids and striped bass. The independent gillnet survey on

the Albemarle Sound has also been underway. These surveys are the backbone to anadromous stock assessments, but are also a valuable data set for academic studies. Being that a majority of my research is on striped bass, my knowledge of other studies is a little biased, but in the last two years, data from these surveys were included in four master's degree studies that investigated striped bass stock identification, one study on the food habits of striped bass in Albemarle Sound, and an American Shad stock identification project of North Carolina's coastal rivers, and that's just at East Carolina University. I wanted to highlight these surveys for two reasons 1) to thank all of the biologist out there who contribute on these spring surveys, who are very willing to share their data to help students and other professionals and 2) as awareness for those readers not aware of these surveys, so that these data sets can be put to further use.

### **Water Treatment**

In other news, a proliferation of applications for the use of reverse osmosis as a water treatment process has occurred over the last year, has caught the eye of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) officials. Small municipalities in Camden, Pasquotank, Tyrell, Washington, and Currituck counties have requested the use of reverse osmosis for water treatment. These types of treatment plants pump up slightly saline water from deep aquifer wells, and through reverse osmosis and membrane technology the water is purified, leaving behind a concentrated brine waste. This left over brine waste is what concerns NCWRC officials, where the waste is then pumped into the neighboring water body (i.e. river) where it supposedly becomes diluted to insignificant levels. Currently, Camden County has been permitted and NCWRC will be monitoring the discharge of brine waste for impacts of fish populations.

### **Shellfish Leasing Debate**

And lastly, a series of advisory committee and public meetings have been held to discuss issues relating to shellfish leasing in Core Sound. In 1996, a moratorium was imposed on shellfish leases due conflicts among users, and a human use mapping study was implemented to evaluate the concerns of recreational and commercial fishermen, and current and future leaseholders. The current shellfish lease moratorium ends in October 2002. A 10-member stakeholder committee made recommendations to the NC Shellfish Advisory Committee. These recommendations are currently under review by the Shellfish Advisory Committee. The highlights of these recommendations include slowing the growth of leased bottom and capping the total amount of acreage for individual leases. For the latest update on Core Sound Shellfish leases visit: <http://www.ncfisheries.net/news/releases.htm> That's about it, next issue I hope to have updates on students research from NC State, ECU, and UNCW.

--Wes Patrick, NC Member At-Large

## **Announcements/Workshops**

### **56th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources invites you to the 56th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-30, 2002. To make this conference a success, we need your help! We are setting up a great meeting site, lots of fun socials with live music, an evening trip to BASS Pro Shops newest megastore (with free food and merchandise discounts), and a closing banquet buffet featuring blue crab picking with instructions! What we need from you is not just attendance but participation! Take advantage of this opportunity to share your research and work by publishing in a peer reviewed publication or through a poster presentation. We are again encouraging the submission of case history manuscripts, focusing on the interplay of science and human dimensions in the fisheries management process. In keeping with our conference theme "From the Chesapeake Bay to the Gulf- Keeping it Wild: Managing Our Resources in the Face of Increasing Development we would like to extend a special invitation for papers, posters, and workshops that discuss fishery management issues in relation to the loss of aquatic habitat and declining water quality brought about by increasing development and urbanization.

The fisheries session will include posters and oral presentations of peer reviewed manuscripts on marine, estuarine, and freshwater fisheries topics, including but not limited to, management, research, and culture. Case histories are particularly encouraged, guidelines for writing a case history are described below. Poster abstract submissions are limited to one typewritten page, and poster size cannot exceed 4' x 8'. A styrofoam backboard and easel will be provided. Written manuscripts are peer-reviewed and if accepted will be orally presented at the annual meeting and published in the annual SEAFWA peer-reviewed proceedings.

The deadline for manuscript and poster abstract submission is May 10, 2002. Manuscripts must follow SEAFWA instructions to authors guidelines, available in past issues of the annual proceedings, at the Maryland SEAFWA 2002 website ([www.seafwa2002.org](http://www.seafwa2002.org), click on "Call for Papers" icon), or by contacting the Fisheries Associate Editor (Dr. John Galvez, new e-mail address: [galveji@juno.com](mailto:galveji@juno.com)) or Fisheries Program Chair (Alan A. Heft). Please submit four hard copies of your manuscript or one hard copy of your poster abstract to the Fisheries Associate Editor. Submissions must include the title, author(s) names, work address and telephone number, and e-mail address of the contact author. Come join us at the 56th Annual Conference for great technical sessions, lots of Maryland hospitality, good food (crabs!), and a special social event at the newest BASS Pro Shops megastore!



AFS President Ken Beal (left with the 2002-3 Tidewater EXCOM (L-R): Olaf Jensen, Erik Zlokovitz, Bill Rodney, Alan Weaver, James Morris, Charlton Godwin, Wes Patrick (missing -- Jim Uphoff and Greg Garman).

### Tidewater Chapter Online Directory and Expertise Database

In an effort to increase connectivity within the Tidewater Chapter, an online directory and expertise database has been constructed and is ready for use. The Tidewater Chapter directory and database are accessible on the Chapter's website <http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater>. Imperative to the success of this directory, is the participation of current Tidewater Chapter members. Please visit the directory page and fill out the contact information and expertise database form. You or other chapter members who are seeking information regarding a given species, research interest, and/or geographical areas of study will use the directory. This directory will only be accessible by current Tidewater Chapter members. If you have not paid dues for this year, please contact Bill Rodney ([billrod@hotmail.com](mailto:billrod@hotmail.com)) for instructions.

### Tidewater Membership

At the last Annual meeting in Virginia Beach, the Tidewater membership voted to reinstitute the annual \$7 Tidewater membership fee. Also, it was decided that students paying their Student Subunit fees at the respective institution UMD or ECU) would be full members of the Tidewater Chapter. For the last several years, the annual membership fee was included in the annual meeting conference fee. However, this year attendance was lower than that of past years, and the result has left our Chapter coffers at a low ebb. We thank the following Chapter members for renewing their membership. If your name does not appear in this list, please contact Bill Rodney with your membership renewal.

Bill Rodney, 3156 Arundel on the Bay Rd., Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone 301-405-7204; email [billrod@hotmail.com](mailto:billrod@hotmail.com)

<p><b><u>Maryland</u></b>  Ann Barse  Laura Bird  Edward Houde  Olaf Jensen  Ron Klauda  Chris Millard  Tina Miller  Laurence Pieper  Bill Rodney  Eileen Setzler-Hamilton  Scott Stranko  Robert Wood  Erik Zlokovitz</p> <p><b><u>New York</u></b>  John Cooper</p> <p><b><u>Virginia</u></b>  William Connelly  Emmanis Dorval  Greg Edmonds  Patrick Geer  Robert Greenlee  Dave Hopler  Mark King  Andrew Lacatell  Chip Long  Emily Rountrey  Cory Routh  Susan Schaeffer  Warren Smigo  John Walter  Alan Weaver</p>	<p><b><u>Massachusetts</u></b>  Ken Beal</p> <p><b><u>North Carolina</u></b>  Amy Burke  Chad Coggins  Jennifer Cudney  Gina Daw  Beth Egbert  Anthony Futrell  Charlton Godwin  Maxine Harrelson  Don Holbert  Joe Luczkovich  Christine Maser  Sarah McGuire  Stephanie McNerny  Sara McKenzie  Neill McNeill  James Morris  Anthony Overton  Kerry Pate  Wes Patrick  Blake Price  Randy Pulley  Jason Reuter  Roger Rulifson  Daniel Russell  Mike Street  Brian Tyson</p>
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Tidewater EXCOM hard at work, 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.