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President's Message

I hope you had a good summer and fall finds you well. Baltimore turned out to be a great annual meeting. Several Tidewater Chapter and ECU Subunit members did an outstanding job co-hosting and you can read about some of those highlights in this issue. I was privileged to accept an award on behalf of our Chapter from the Parent Society for co-hosting the meeting along with Maryland DNR and the Potomac Chapter. They presented us with a nice plaque with a resolution of recognition signed by Ken Beal (current past-president) and Gus Rassam, Executive Director. I am honored to be part of such an effective chapter. Please check out the October issue of "Fisheries" for additional details about the meeting. The Chapter also stands to share 10% of the profit margin from the meeting with the other co-hosts (details are pending).

After a successful meeting I usually come away charged up and ready to go back to the "real world." Unfortunately, the real world has not been so rosy, at least here in Virginia. All we have heard about since July is major state budget cuts. Then, the first round came in mid-October. Even more budget cuts are expected to come in December. The Natural Resources Agencies were greatly affected by the cuts, but much of the work still has to get done so plans are being made to salvage portions of programs. We expect these cuts to essentially be permanent so many programs may never return to full effectiveness, including many fisheries restoration and monitoring projects. As we are all too well aware, times are tough right now and things may get worse before getting better. However, we must realize that we work for the resource and the constituents that enjoy that resource. We have to use that focus to move forward through these lean times.

Despite these trying times on several fronts, the Tidewater Chapter has managed to have a very successful year and there are some more good things on the horizon such as the upcoming chapter meeting in North Carolina. Arrangements are moving along smoothly and it is not too early to start making plans to head toward the Carolina coast for what should be another successful Tidewater meeting. Chapter meetings are an excellent forum for sharing and learning in an effort to advance fisheries programs so please join us if you can. Additional details on the meeting can be found in this issue and on our web site. I hope to see you in North Carolina!

- Alan Weaver, President

2002 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

President- L. Alan Weaver, Phone 804-752-5504; email aweaver@dgif.state.va.us.

President Elect- James A. Morris, Phone 252-728-3595 x639; email james.morris@noaa.gov

Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Rodney, 3156 Arundel on the Bay Rd., Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone 301-405-7204; email bilrodny@wam.umd.edu.

Past President- Jim Uphoff, Phone 410-260-8304; email juphoff@dnr.state.md.us.

MD Member-at-Large – Erik Zlokovitz, Phone 410-260-8306; email ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us.

VA Member-at-Large – Greg Garman, Phone 804-828-1574; e-mail ggarman@atlas.vcu.edu.

NC Member-at-Large – Wesley Patrick, Phone 252-328-1838; email wsp0619@mail.ecu.edu.

Student Subunits – Olaf Jensen (UMD), Phone 410-326-7373, email Jensen@cbl.unces.edu; and Jennifer Cudney (ECU), Phone 252-328-1758, email JLC0213@mail.ecu.edu.

Newsletter Editors – Roger Rulifson and James Morris, RR Phone 252-328-1757; rulifsonr@mail.ecu.edu
JM Phone 252-728-3595 x639 james.morris@noaa.gov

Treasurer's Report -- October 2002

Savings Account:

End of October Balance:
\$5483.70

Checking Account:

End of October Balance:
\$1,485.99

Treasurer's Notes:

Our coffers have swelled to the tune of \$4,261.93 largely due to the fine work of the East Carolina Student Subunit at the National Meeting in Baltimore this August. The Chapter received \$846.00 as a share of the profits and our initial investment of \$3,365 was paid back as well. The ECU folks also sold \$50 worth of Alosa Symposium books. On behalf of the Chapter, I would like to congratulate the ECU Student Subunit on a job well done! The Chapter also stands to receive a share of the profits of the Baltimore meeting but we are still awaiting information from AFS and DNR about what the gross meeting profits were and how they will be distributed. There is a consensus among the EXCOM that after Maryland DNR takes their cut (if any) that the larger share should go to the Chapter. I called Betsy Fritz for information on the status of this but she was out of the office until early November. I will continue to pursue this and also look into the mechanism for doing registration through headquarters.

There was one renewed membership, Dr. Elizabeth North, which resulted in an additional \$7.00 deposited into the savings account. Welcome back Elizabeth! Till next time,

- Bill Rodney, Secretary-Treasurer

Tidewater Chapter AFS EXCOM Meeting Minutes Summary August 20, 2002

The EXCOM met at the AFS National Meeting in Baltimore on August 8th, 2002. President Alan Weaver called the meeting to order. All Chapter officers were present except for the Virginia Member at Large.

Charlton Godwin, T-shirt sales coordinator (ECU Student Subunit) informed the EXCOM that t-shirt sales were brisk and that the Chapter's investment had been recouped with all remaining sales being profits.

A \$500 donation to the Estuaries Section to support an Estuarine Symposium was approved.

The Chapter's potential share of the Baltimore meeting's profits was discussed, including how to split between Maryland DNR, the Potomac Chapter, and Tidewater Chapter.

The issues surrounding dues collection were debated. The Chapter EXCOM had previously decided to go through the National AFS unlike in previous years. EXCOM members were unsure of the mechanism for funds transfer from headquarters. Roger Rulifson pointed out that questions still remained about what student subunits should do and whether

they were Chapter members in full standing. It was decided that student subunits should collect their own dues and that they would automatically become members of the Chapter, without any portion of their dues going to the Chapter. It was also decided that a membership committee should be formed of the Secretary-treasurer, Past President, and Historian, to review old membership lists and create a list of good candidates for membership renewal. It was suggested that members at large might be able to contact people in their states. Persons on the list are then to be contacted.



President-Elect James and Morris and President Alan Weaver lead EXCOM discussion during the Parent Society Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

James Morris mentioned that a current copy of the bylaws should be produced and updated if necessary.

Eric Zlokovitz (MD Member at Large) gave a report on the Chapter's successful fundraising efforts for the Skinner Raffle. A total of \$5000 cash was donated with 50% going for international travel, 25% for student subsection travel, and 25% for the P.C. Booth fish hatchery statue at the Fish Hatchery Hall of Fame in South Dakota. There was also some left over cash to help defray travel costs for raffle winners who had to travel significant distances to collect their prizes.

Jennifer Cudney (President, ECU Student Subunit) gave a detailed report on the many activities undertaken by the Subunit on their campus and in their community. Highlights included an electrofishing workshop, a "boat rodeo" in conjunction with the Boating Safety course, planning a "Take a Kid Fishing" day with local boys and girls clubs, and a bid for Best Chapter Award from the Southern Division.

Olaf Jensen (President, Maryland Student Subunit) reported on the difficulty of trying to get a subunit organized across several geographically separated campuses. Bill Rodney proposed that some seed money should be allocated to organize a promotional event to galvanize the new subunit's membership and recruit new members. No decision was reached on this proposal.

James Morris reported that the Chapter's website was up and running and was now being hosted by the Southern Division

web server. It was unclear if the expert database was functional yet. James Morris suggested that a thank you letter should be written to Fred Jansen of the Texas Chapter for significant help with the Tidewater Chapter Website.

The final item of discussion was the Chapter's upcoming Annual Meeting in Beaufort NC in mid January. James Morris presented a draft agenda. Various agenda items were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned on time.

- Bill Rodney, Secretary-Treasurer

Tidewater Annual Meeting Update

First Call for Abstracts

17th Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter

January 15-17, 2003

Location: Duke University Marine Laboratory,
Beaufort, North Carolina

Abstract Deadline: December 15, 2002

To pre-register, submit an abstract,
reserve accommodations
or learn more about the

17th Annual Tidewater Chapter
meeting please visit our website.

<http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/>

Plans are well underway with plans for the **17th Annual Meeting!** The meeting this year will be held at the Duke University Marine Laboratory in Beaufort, North Carolina on January 15-17, 2003. In keeping with past year's programs, the meeting will begin with an evening poster session/social, followed by a day and a half of platform presentations. All events will be conducted in the Duke Marine Lab auditorium. Special talks will be given by Charles Manooch (*100 years of Fisheries Research at the NOAA Beaufort Lab*) and AFS President Fred Harris (keynote address). In order to encourage student attendance, student lodging in the Duke Marine Lab dormitories is available at \$18 per night (first come, first serve). Additionally, a special guided tour of the Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve will be offered to meeting attendees prior to the poster session. This tour includes a boat ride over to the reserve located east of Beaufort and Pivers Island. For further information about this tour, the meeting program, registration, accommodations, and abstract submission instructions please visit our website <http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater>. Please hurry, register and submit your abstract as we look forward to seeing you in Beaufort!

- James Morris, President-elect

Student Subunit News

Maryland

No report.

East Carolina University

Hectic. Busy. Frantic. All of these words describe the lives of ECU-AFS members this semester! We have provided a full schedule for budding fishery professionals over the past three months.

We welcomed back old and new members with the start of the school year in late August after the AFS Annual Meeting in Baltimore. The lucky participants at the annual meeting missed the first week of classes! I would like to take this chance to thank EVERYONE in the Tidewater Chapter for extending an invitation to our subunit to sell t-shirts. This phenomenal fundraiser netted the subunit almost \$2000.



ECU-AFS members hawking t-shirts for the Tidewater Chapter (F: Beth Egbert, Wes Patrick, Charlton Godwin; B: Jennifer Cudney, Roger Rulifson, Anthony Overton).

The first scheduled ECU-AFS speaker was Paula Clark, the Big Sweep Coordinator for Pitt County, who was invited to speak at our business meeting on September 4th. Unfortunately she was unable to come, but did provide a presentation to help members get ready for a major community service project. ECU-AFS participated in a campus organizational fair on September 18th to advertise the group and recruit members. On September 21st, ECU-AFS teamed up with several campus organizations (Biology Graduate Student Association, ECO-ECU Environmental Club, Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity) to clean up Green Mill Run, a small creek that runs through campus. We hauled over two truckloads of trash to the city dump. The last event that occurred in the month of September (24th) brought together ECU-AFS and the Department of Biology to host a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer from SCRIPPS Institute of Oceanography. Dr Richard Somerville spoke on a variety of topics ranging from SCRIPPS Institute to global climate change during a student luncheon.



ECU-AFS students and other student volunteers prepare for Big Sweep 2002 on a campus watershed.

October provided members several opportunities to strengthen professional contacts. Our guest lecturer at the business meeting on October 2, 2002 was Dr. Thomas Lankford from UNC-W. Dr. Lankford not only provided ample information on his research with bluefish, but also volunteered to be a liaison between students at UNC-W and ECU. We are looking forward to planning several events with Dr. Lankford, including a possible student colloquium, workshops, and meetings. On October 16th, Bob Hines from NC Sea Grant (FRG and Blue Crab Research Programs) spoke to members about research possibilities in fisheries management. To complete this list of distinguished visitors, Dr. Churchill Grimes, Director of the NOAA/NMFS lab in Santa Cruz, California, spoke to ECU-AFS at a special meeting designed to illustrate research at the lab, and inform students about internship and work opportunities at the Santa Cruz laboratory.

Currently, we are busy planning for our Annual ECU-AFS Banquet on December 6, 2002. We also look forward to a Stock Assessment Workshop on November 15th (anyone is welcome, please RSVP to jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu) that will be lead by John Carmichael of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. We are also looking forward to the Tidewater Annual Meeting and the Southern Division meeting in early spring.

- Jennifer Cudney, ECU-AFS President, 2002-03

Maryland News

2002 AFS RAFFLE - Tidewater Chapter of AFS sponsored the 2002 AFS raffle which was held at the recent 132nd Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. The raffle earned approximately \$4,500 for three AFS funds: The International Endowment Fund, the D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery Memorial Statue, and the Student Sub-section travel fund. Anthony Overton and Erik Zlokovitz served as co-chairs and organizers of the event.

Many members of Tidewater Chapter and Maryland DNR volunteered to work the raffle display booth, assist at the drawing, sell tickets, and transport prizes. Anthony and Erik would like to thank Jim Uphoff, Alan Weaver, James Morris of the Tidewater Chapter, and Craig Weedon, Glen and Brenda Davis, Butch Webb, Rudy Lucakovic, Kinte Thompson, Tony Jarzynski, Keith Whiteford, Paul Genovese, Dave Sien of Maryland DNR.

We gathered and distributed 61 prizes including books, wildlife art, fishing tackle, camping gear, and guided fishing trips. George Sackett, Rene Waterhouse, and Michael Grant provided much needed support in obtaining corporate donations. We would like to thank the following sponsors. Special honorable mention goes to Stan Moberty, of Northwest Marine Technologies, who purchased \$2,500 worth of raffle tickets.

Donors: AFS Parent Office, Arkansas Chapter-AFS, Baltimore Sun, Joe Evans (Bass Pro Shops-Outdoor World), Bob Carline, Cabela's, Captain Brian Elder, Captain Jim Sharpe (Sea Boots Outfitters), Captain Sullie Culpepper, Carey Chen (Marlin Arts), Chris White, Dr. Jim, Dr. Ray Morgan, Florida Chapter-AFS, Floy Tags, Flyfishinggifts.com/Quickbyte Productions, Steve Quinn (In-Fisherman), Jack Musick, Jim Martin (Pure Fishing) Ken Beal, Capt. Tom Ellis, and Kay Ellis (Schooner Thomas E. Lannon), Ken Pavol, L.L. Bean, NMFS NE Fisheries Science Center-Wood's Hole, North Carolina Chapter-AFS, Northeastern Division-AFS, Plano, Sarah Houde, Smith-Root, Southern New England Chapter-AFS, Tetra-Tech, Tidewater Chapter-AFS, ECU student sub-unit, USFWS-Spearfish, SD, Zebco.

Preliminary Report on Raffle Proceeds:

Pre-meeting ticket sales: \$6,640.00
 On-site ticket sales: \$4,465.00

GROSS PROCEEDS: \$11,105.00

AFS-Bethesda expenses:
 Postage for the mailing: \$2,614.79
 Printing of tickets: \$2,657.37
 Bulk mailing cost: \$637.19

Total AFS-Bethesda expenses: \$5,909.35

MDDNR/Tidewater Chapter/Zlokovitz expenses:
 Shipping prizes: \$424.87
 Poster tubes, poster board, misc art supplies: \$91.14
 Gaming permit: \$10.00

Total MDDNR/ Tidewater Chapter/ Zlokovitz expenses: \$526.01

Gross Proceeds: \$11,105

Total Expenses: \$ 6435.36

NET PROCEEDS (preliminary): \$4669.64

Please note, about 10 more prizes still need to be shipped and Anthony Overton's expenses not included.

If you have any more questions on the raffle, please contact Erik Zlokovitz at (410)-260-8306, ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us

FISHERIES NEWS FROM MARYLAND DNR:

The summer of the snakehead is finally behind us. Here are some fall news tidbits (Compiled by Darlene Pasani of MDDNR):

International Overfishing - Last week Governor Glendening of Maryland, along with several other eastern seaboard governors and environmental leaders, asked the federal government - via a petition to the Commerce Secretary - to use the threat of trade sanctions to stop overfishing of white marlin and bluefin tuna by European countries.

The Memorial Stadium Oyster Reef Sanctuary - Last week, one million baby oysters were moved into a new home: a 6 acre oyster reef three miles in the Kent County waters of the Chesapeake Bay, created with 10,000 cubic yards of crushed concrete from the demolished stadium. The man-made sanctuary is one of 26 established by DNR in an effort to restore populations devastated by disease, loss of habitat, overharvesting and pollution.

Eyes on the Bay website:

This innovative new website -- <http://www.eyesonthebay.net> - from DNR's tidewater assessment team, allows the public easy access to water quality information on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries as well as the Coastal Bays.

SEAFWA:

This year's Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference is being hosted by DNR, at the Hunt Valley Marriott Hotel (just north of Baltimore) from Oct 26-30. For information contact gsackett@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8253.

Virginia News

Bonnie Brown (VCU) and John Epifanio (U of Ill) recently completed a genetic assessment of blackbanded sunfish, *Eneacanthus chaetodon*, an endangered species in Virginia. The survey included analysis of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and microsatellite genetic variation in the six known populations in Virginia, four comparative populations in New Jersey, and one in North Carolina. Both genetic characters exhibited significant geographic structuring across the range sampled. The total sample exhibited lower levels of mtDNA variation than generally observed for other centrarchids and the Virginia populations were devoid of detectable mtDNA variation, suggesting that Virginia populations likely had undergone one or more severe population bottlenecks. The data indicated a high degree of microsatellite variation in all populations, including those sampled in Virginia, suggesting that the past bottleneck(s) did not render Virginia populations genetically depauperate. The primary implications for sunfish

restoration plans in Virginia were that inbreeding should be avoided in any artificially-reared populations destined for release.

- Submitted by Bonnie Brown.

North Carolina News

The North Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) released its annual report on stock status this quarter. Of greatest importance is the recovery of gag grouper, which went from an overfished species to a viable population as a result of spawning season closures and bag limit regulations. The news release from NCDMF noted that it is pleased to move another stock into the viable category, but note that they still have their work cut out on restoring southern flounder, bluefish, black sea bass, striped mullet, Atlantic croaker, white and yellow perch, American shad, blue crabs, and shellfish, all of which are still in need of recovery.

Concerning southern flounder stock viability, the NCDMF decided this quarter to increase the size limit for flounder in state waters. Beginning on October 1st, NCDMF increased the size limit of flounder from 13 inches to 14 inches with no bag limit. This management option was undertaken to comply with the interstate fishery management plan, which limits flounder harvest to 246,000 fish in 2002. Despite the increase in size limits coupled with extended ocean closures, Preston Pate (NCDMF Director) expects the number of summer flounder landed in 2002 to still surpass the 246,000 limit. Causes for the overfishing are thought to be related to a 46% increase in flounder fishing since 1997, currently there are 2 million recreational flounder fishers.

In other NCDMF news, four record breaking fish were landed in 2002 making North Carolina the place to be to catch large fish in 2002. Record breaking fish included a 39 lb. blackfin tuna (prior 34 lb. and 2.5 ounce) captured out of Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, a 2 lb 11 ounce pinfish (prior 2 lb and 4 ounces) captured at Atlantic Beach, a 105 lb. cobia (prior 103 lb.) captured at Hatteras Village, and a 61 lb. Albacore (prior 57 lb.) out of Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. NCDMF reports that the last time four records were broken in one year was in 1979.

The AFS North Carolina Chapter will be hosting the Southern Division Spring Meeting this year in Wilmington, NC. Kent Nelson (NCWRC, Committee Chair) wanted to encourage Tidewater members to submit abstracts for the meeting this year. He commented that in the past the Southern Division meeting tended to overlook marine issues and concentrated on freshwater systems. He hopes to fix that this year and looks forward to some Tidewater related presentations. The meeting is February 12- 16th, 2003. Preregistration ends January 18th and is \$69.00, afterwards it is \$89.00. Abstract submission deadlines are November 15th, and any student wishing to get free room and board (4 male and 4 females beds are available), apply with Dr. Stewart Welsh (Swelsh@wvu.edu) by January 10th, 2003. Kent noted that information packets would be sent to Southern Division members in the next few weeks.

Announcements

Parent Society: Hello AFS Members! Need a good read for the holidays? Check out the AFS Book Sale starting November 1 at www.fisheries.org! Selected titles are on sale for only \$10.00. Sale starts today and goes through **December 15, 2002**. So, hurry and save on selected AFS titles!

11th AFS Southern Division Spring Meeting, Wilmington, North Carolina, 12-16 February 2003

The North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join us on the riverfront of historic Wilmington, North Carolina, at the Hilton Riverside Hotel for the 11th Annual Spring Meeting (formerly Midyear Meeting) of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.

Highlights

Feb 13 - Technical Committee meetings

Feb 14 - EXCOM and Continuing Education Workshops; Student Social Friday Evening!

Feb 15 - Technical sessions, symposia, and posters continuing through noon Sunday, 16 Feb. Saturday Evening Dinner Aboard the Battleship North Carolina!

Submission Procedures for Contributed Papers and Posters

— **ABSTRACTS ARE DUE BY 15 November 2002** —

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-min presentation and 5 min for questions), which will be strictly enforced. Media for presentations may include 35-mm slides or Microsoft PowerPoint™. Abstracts should be a 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions and must include (in order) title; author names, addresses, phone, and e-mail; abstract text; and format (poster, slides, or PowerPoint). The first author will be assumed to be the presenter and principal contact person unless otherwise noted. Students competing for the “Best Student Paper/Poster Awards” should so indicate by placing an asterisk after their name.

Please send abstracts by e-mail or diskette using WordPerfect, MS Word (preferred), or ASCII text to:

Tom Kwak, NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Box 7617, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7617 tkwak@ncsu.edu. Please phone 919-513-2696 if you do not receive receipt acknowledgment of your abstract within 14 days of submission. Authors will be notified regarding presentation acceptance in early December 2002. *Reserve your room early:* rates start at \$79 per night for single or double