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2003 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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President's Column



I would like to begin by saying that it is an honor to serve as the President of the Tidewater Chapter. I firmly believe that professional societies provide one of the best forums for information exchange, collaboration, networking, and healthy stimulation of the further advancement of scientific research. The American Fisheries Society has a long and active history of providing such a service. The

Tidewater Chapter is unique among AFS chapters with a diverse array of membership of fisheries scientist of both the freshwater and marine environments. Below are some brief examples of direction that I would like to emphasize during my term as president of the Tidewater Chapter.

Membership activation. Want to know how you can increase your activity in the Tidewater Chapter? Here's your answer, committees.. We are very much in need of more committee involvement by our membership. Given the large geographic distribution of membership, most business within the Tidewater chapter takes place via email. This can be true for committees as well. Here are a few examples of committees on which you could serve: the membership committee, audit committee, program committee, and the nominating committee.

The development of a Tidewater Chapter email list serve is currently underway. This will allow Tidewater Chapter members to exchange information to other members fast and efficiently. The list serve can be used to announce job postings, ask questions about various research topics, find experts, and announce Tidewater Chapter updates such as newsletter and website postings. The Tidewater list serve will increase our ability to communicate effectively within the Tidewater Chapter.

Recruiting new members. Critical to the success and future of the Tidewater Chapter is the recruitment of new members. During the past several executive committee meetings, much discussion has ensued about how the Tidewater Chapter can best serve its current members while continuing to attract new members. From that discussion we have reviewed our current services such as 1) newsletters 2) website and expertise

database and 3) annual meetings. I believe these services are important to our current membership and are also vital for attracting new members. Here are a couple of suggestions of how we can all help recruit new members: 1) **Tell a colleague.** You might be surprised to learn that your colleague doesn't know much about the Tidewater Chapter. A simple conversation or an email invitation to our website might spark an interests. 2) **Support student involvement.** Student involvement has always been a critical part of our membership and annual meetings. I believe student involvement should continue to be an important element of the Tidewater Chapter. Through association with the Tidewater Chapter, students can become exposed to the many different facets of research, establish local and regional contacts with colleagues with similar research interests and gain valuable experience presenting research. We should continue to support and encourage students to become involved in the Tidewater Chapter. Our ability to attract students and retain them as active Tidewater members is absolutely crucial to the mission of the Tidewater Chapter.

Increasing our presence at the division and national levels.

I believe also, that we should work to increase our presence and roles at both the division and national levels. We have made great strides in the past with the outstanding work of those that helped to execute our involvement in last years national AFS annual meeting in Baltimore. The Tidewater Chapter gained valuable exposure during this event and I plan to continue to promote the Tidewater Chapter at the division and national levels through means such as encouraging committee involvement and greater media exposure.

Recognize and reward excellence.

In conclusion, I would like to state that we should continue to recognize and reward excellence. I have learned in the past that excellence is not only a state of being but also a statement of action. Throughout the upcoming year, we should all strive for and reward excellence. Please know that I am thankful for your support and welcome your input. It is our membership, history, and diversity that make the Tidewater Chapter unique. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to a productive and challenging year as your president.

James A. Morris, Jr.
2003 Tidewater Chapter President

Website Update

17th annual meeting pictures and summary has been posted on the website. Also available are all titles and abstracts of all the presentations as well as a review of the complete program. We are still in need of more entries in our expertise database. Please send any comments or suggestions on how we can improve our website to james.morris@noaa.gov.

Treasurer's Report

There is no Treasurer's Report for the winter newsletter. We are in the process of transferring the books from Bill Rodney to me. We'll provide an update for the spring newsletter.

-- Wes Patrick, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer

17th Annual Meeting Summary



The 17th annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter was held January 15-17, 2003 at the Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, North Carolina. The three-day meeting attracted well over 60 attendees, who enjoyed 33 oral and poster presentations. The assortment of scientific presentations represented well the diversity of the Tidewater Chapter with topics ranging from migration and life history of swordfish, bluefin tuna, needlefish, and grouper, to marine invasive species, blue crabs and shellfish.

A keynote address was give by President Fred Harris, who discussed current issues within the American Fisheries Society. Carolina Franco and Christine Fletcher of the Parent Society discussed the AFS continuing education program and other unit services, with a special emphasis given to the Hutton Scholarship program.

One of the highlights of the meeting was **Charles Manooch's** (NOAA/NMFS-retired) talk on 100 years of research at the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory. During this talk attendees learned of the rich and long-standing history of federal fisheries research in Beaufort, North Carolina. Throughout the meeting attendees enjoyed an extravagantly catered poster session and dinner/social, with musical entertainment provided by the *Bogue Sounds*, a popular local folk band.

During the business meeting student awards for best poster and best oral presentations were given. The award winners for poster presentations include:

1st place - **David Gloeckner** (East Carolina University), *Tri-level trophic interactions in a North Carolina seagrass bed*;

2nd place - **Joshua. Osterberg** (Duke University), *Potential alternative blue crab baits from animal processing wastes*;

Honorable mention - **Greg Edmonds** (Virginia Commonwealth University), *Temporal and spatial*

distribution of two introduced aquatic predators in mid-Atlantic coastal rivers.

Student awards for oral presentations include:

1st place - **Richard Kraus** (University of Maryland), *Growth-dependent dispersal of white perch during settlement*;

2nd place - **Trevor Yip-Hoi**, (North Carolina State University), *Effect of dissolved oxygen level on growth rates of two species of penaeid shrimp*;

Honorable mention - **Matt Kimball** (North Carolina State University), *Using temperature tolerance to predict distribution and overwintering success of lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) on the east coast of the United States*.

The Tidewater Chapter is enjoying a productive season among its membership. Recent efforts to increase membership activity through committee involvement are underway.

-James A. Morris, Jr., Tidewater President

Minutes of the Annual EXCOM Meeting, Beaufort, NC, January 15, 2003

Attendees – Dave Hopler, Alan Weaver, James Morris, Ron Klauda, Wes Patrick, Carolina Franco, Christine Fletcher, and Jennifer Cudney.

Alan Weaver opened the meeting at 3PM

Carolina Franco from the AFS parent society and liaison for the unit officers informed the committee of what she could do for the Tidewater Chapter, which included:

- Provide membership list
- Publish the calendar of events of the chapter on the AFS website
- Contact her for information on the Continuing Education Program
- Awards program, produces \$25 award plaques for the chapters (need 2-3 weeks notice).
- Help with the unit's manual.

Christine Fletcher from the AFS parent society gave a brief overview of the Hutton Junior Fishers Program. Christine reported that program was designed to match minority and female high school students (sophomore –senior) with AFS members in an attempt to spark fisheries interest and recruitment to our field of work through mentorship and research. Students are given a \$3,000 grant for an 8-week internship. Jeff Govoni at NOAA (Beaufort) was mentor in

2002, and his student's final report indicated that the program was meeting AFS objectives.

Treasurer Report – Bill Rodney could not attend so James Morris estimated from a previous conversation with Bill that the account was approximately \$5,000.

Ron Klauda gave the committee an update on the Baltimore AFS proceeds that were to be split among the Tidewater and Potomac Chapters. Ron reported that Maryland DNR received \$14,000 and offered the Tidewater chapter \$4,000, as opposed to the original estimate of \$10,000. James Morris commented that it is very important that our chapter increased our bank account, because our chapter may not have the opportunity of hosting a large-scale meeting again for a while. The tidewater executive committee decided to reject the offer of \$4,000 and instead ask for \$5,000. Ron Klauda agreed to relay this message back to George Sackett of (MD-DNR). We also agreed that the Potomac Chapter should receive some of the proceeds from the meeting, however those negotiations were between George Sackett and the Potomac Chapter, and not the Tidewater Chapter's responsibility.

Members at Large Report

Maryland Member at Large – Erik Zlokovitz was not present but did submit a report to Alan Weaver, who reported the information. That report is attached, but here is a brief overview.

- The AFS-Baltimore meeting raffle was very successful, where \$4,453.63 was donated in prizes and money donations. The raffle was co-chaired by Anthony Overton and Eric Zlokovitz.
- Other news, Maryland is receiving a new governor (Robert Ehrlich, Jr.), who has had some impacts on our chapter members in the form of budget cuts and travel restrictions.

Virginia Member at Large – Dave Hopler (standing in for Greg Garman), reported that the main issue in his state now is budget problems, which have caused some projects to be cut or scaled back. Of those projects scaled back of interest to the Tidewater Chapter was the fish passage and shad projects.

North Carolina Member at Large – Wes Patrick, reported on the progress of projects such as:

- Cape Fear River Lock and Dam # 1 Bypass Project, which has is in its second phase of research and development
- Desalination permits have proliferated in last year for some Northern CAMA counties in North Carolina, which have the NCWRC curious as to the impacts of dumping brine waste in to the estuary.
- Mitigation on the re-licensing of the Roanoke and Kerr Reservoir dams has been finalized.

- The outer banks striped bass trawl was overlapping with the Tidewater meeting, and was the reason that some Tidewater Chapter members could not attend (Namely Roger Rulifson).
- Dr. Tom Lankford and his students at UNCW have been participating in a large number of projects put on by the ECU-AFS subunit, and UNCW seems to be interested in creating a UNCW student sub-unit.

ECU-AFS Student Sub-unit – Jennifer Cudney reported on the events of the ECU-AFS student subunit since last year. Please refer to her detailed report attached.

Committees

Membership committee – It was decided that the past president should be the chair of the membership committee, accompanied by the members at large and who ever else wants to join.

The need for an official **nominating committee** was suggested at the meeting, and Ron Klauda suggested that the past president chair this committee. James Morris seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Presently, there was an opening for the president elect, in which the committee hoped that Dave Secor could talk with Ann Barse to see if she was interested in becoming president-elect.

Awards and scholarships, handled by Ron Klauda had set aside \$350 for student awards this year, where platform and poster presenters received a certificate and money awards (1st - \$100, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25). However, Ron expressed disappointment that he rarely receives nominees for the meritorious service award, excellence in fisheries research, or the conservation award, in which he hoped to improve upon in the future.

Wesley Patrick suggested that an additional award be given each year at the annual meeting for the best student award, to be given to single student each year, which only awards the student with a plaque. Dave Hopler supported the idea, however he would like it to be a scholarship award. Jennifer Cudney also supported the idea, however she believed there should be a \$500 travel grant. All of these suggestions were tabled until our next EXCOM meeting.

Alan Weaver suggested that our accounting records have a 5-year audit. This motion was tabled until help forms were returned and the chairman of the committee could be chosen, which needed to be anyone but the secretary/treasurer.

Lastly, James Morris expressed his need for a complete membership list serve, which would aid in the delivery of the quarterly newsletter and other announcements. Our current

list serve is incomplete and has address entered twice or more in places.

The EXCOM meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

-- Wesley Patrick
North Carolina Member at Large, and acting Secretary/Treasurer (for Bill Rodney)

Student Subunit News

Maryland

No news from the MD Subunit

East Carolina University

Greetings from East Carolina University! Fall semester finished with a bang at the ECU-AFS 4th Annual Banquet and Meeting. Over 40 faculty, staff, students and professionals feasted on grilled chicken and pork chops provided by Lee's Country Kitchen. 22 businesses and organizations sponsored prizes for a raffle. Featured items included a hand woven rug from Capel's rug outlet, a dive trip from Pelican Divers, and an original-signature Dale Earnhardt Jr autographed t-shirt from Alan and Judy Hills of Hatteras Yachts. Other generous donors included Grady-White Boat Company, ECU Student Stores, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the American Sportfishing Association, Albemarle Eye Care, the AFS parent society, City Hotel and Bistro, Dr. Roger Rulifson, Computer Geeks, the Town of Kitty Hawk, Cliff's Seafood, North Carolina Estuarium, Trade Oil Company, Animal House pet store, Crystal Connections, PetSmart, Red Lobster, El Ranchito Restaurante Mexicano, and Szechwan Garden. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event!!!!!!

We are looking forward to a busy spring semester. Several ECU-AFS members attended the Tidewater Meeting (first place for the poster competition went to David Gloeckner, from ECU and NMFS) in Beaufort. Three members of ECU-AFS presented research conducted at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge at the AFS Southern Division meeting. Future activities include participation in Earth Day activities with other groups on campus, selling hot dogs and sausages at ECU's spring carnival (Barefoot on the Mall), volunteering with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary at a Boat Rodeo associated with a vessel operations course offered this semester, and conducting three workshops through the rest of the semester. Dr Anthony Overton will teach the first workshop on gut-content analysis techniques on March 14, 2003 at 1:00pm (anyone is welcome to attend these workshops, contact jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu for more details). Dr. Overton will also teach a Sigma Plot workshop on March 21, 2003 at 1:00pm.

A workshop on natural resource conflict resolution is tentatively scheduled for mid April.

ECU-AFS members conducting research at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge will give presentations to refuge staff and interested persons on a variety of topics: fish passage through stainless steel flapgates and fish slots (Brian Wall), operation of retrofitted flap gates and fish passage under extreme drought conditions (Charlton Godwin), American eel and the effects of water control structures on critical fish habitat (Jennifer Cudney), and Atlantic needlefish life history characteristics within the lake (Beth Egbert). Several students will also present research proposals: long term effects of dredged canal material on salt marshes (Christine Maser), blue crab growth in Lake Mattamuskeet, Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds (Chad Smith), and whether prey preference affects mercury accumulation in osprey (Heidi Alderman). Three ECU faculty will also speak at this event: Dr Roger Rulifson (Director, ECU Field Station for Coastal Studies), Dr Joe Luczkovich (applicability of a food web analysis study at Mattamuskeet NWR), and David Knowles (effects of thin layer dredge disposal on marsh habitats-short term).

Officer elections for the upcoming year will be held over the next two business meetings. We will announce the election results on our website and by email. Our next two business meetings will feature several guest speakers. On March 12, 2003 several biologists from the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission will speak with students about research and careers (Joseph Grist, NCDMF-stock assessment; Ann McelHatton, NCDMF-fish age lab; Richie Clark NCWRC-wildlife biologist). At our April 5th, 2003 meeting ECU-AFS will host Jess Hawkins as a guest speaker.

-- Jennifer Cudney, President, ECU-AFS Student Subunit

Maryland News

The striped bass stock assessment (SBSA) project is preparing for the busy spring field season. Major spring surveys include the spawning stock biomass survey (using experimental multi-panel drift gillnet gear) on the Potomac River and upper Chesapeake Bay. We will also be collecting data on the recreational charter boat fishery, which opens on April 19. The summer/fall pound net tagging survey will begin in late May or early June. The juvenile index (beach seine survey) begins after July 4th.

Commercial catches of striped bass (drift gillnet gear) were very high during the 2002-2003 winter season. The gillnet season occurs during December, January, and February with a monthly quota. Quotas were reached early, leading to mid-month closures in January and February 2003. A cold, snowy, winter and heavy icing in the upper Chesapeake did not deter the gillnet fleet. In fact, catches tend to increase during severe

winters because colder water temps force the stripers to concentrate in dense schools along deep holes and channel edges, close to the bottom, where they are more vulnerable to gillnet gear. SBSA staff monitored gillnet landings at checkstations and collected data on length, weight, and age of harvested stripers.

Beth Versak of the Maryland SBSA project was a member of the crew on the 2003 USFWS Cooperative Tagging Cruise off the North Carolina outer banks.

The MULTIFISH (Matapeake Field Office) winter trawl survey was cut short this season due to heavy icing in most of the upper Chesapeake Bay and tributary sites.

Other News (Compiled by Darlene Pisani):

New Leadership

DNR Secretary Ron Franks --braved single-digit wind chills to greet staff arriving at Tawes. In the meantime, DNR Deputy Secretary W.P. Jensen was welcomed back by colleagues as he led a senior staff meeting. After a 2-year absence, Pete has returned to the department for a second time, bringing more than 40 years of state and federal natural resources and public policy experience to our new leadership team.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to budget and legislation:

Budget: With five months left in fiscal year 2003, Pete asked unit directors to submit spending plans that achieve our budget target -- a zero deficit -- to FAS Director Steve Powell ASAP.

Legislative Notes:

On February 5, executive staff briefed the General Assembly on DNR priorities. Later this week, we will be monitoring MDE and Ag hearings as environmental issues are heard in both houses.

Power Dredging

An emergency regulation has been approved, to open (at least temporarily) parts of Fishing Bay, Pocomoke Sound and the Choptank, St. Mary's and Honga rivers to power dredging. DNR will monitor the areas to prevent overfishing.

Crab Revisions

Pete Jensen and Eric Schwaab met with Eastern Shore legislators to discuss the possibility of revising crab regulations for this year.

Bear Hunt?

The state Black Bear Task Force voted last week to recommend to DNR hunting as a management tool. If authorized, it would be the state's first bear season since 1953.

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD At Large Member

Virginia News

VCU News

Greg Edmonds (VCU-CES) is currently using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to compare the rates of dispersal documented for blue catfish and flathead catfish in their native range with their rates of dispersal (km/yr) calculated from distributions in mid-Atlantic coastal rivers (Potomac, Rappahannock, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and James) ($n = > 40,000$ records). Findings indicate that blue catfish dispersed less rapidly in mid-Atlantic rivers than predicted, while flathead catfish dispersed at faster rates in mid-Atlantic rivers than predicted. Differences between the rates of catfish movement in their native and introduced ranges are being explained using data on salinity, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, chlorophyll *a*, depth ($n = > 74,000$ records), and physical impediments. Ideally, opportunities for or limitations to catfish expansion into adjacent mid-Atlantic water bodies will be identified through spatial analysis. The results will assist future management of blue catfish and flathead catfish within Chesapeake Bay tributaries, and may increase our overall understanding of the factors influencing the establishment and dispersal of invasive species.

Virginia Commonwealth University will conduct a comprehensive stream survey of the Virginia Coastal Plain beginning in Spring, 2003, with funding provided by Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Coastal Program of the Department of Environmental Quality. The study will develop an interactive, GIS database using ArcIMS (ESRI) technology for representative stream reaches, including both tidal and nontidal systems, in over 70 hydrologic units that drain into Chesapeake Bay. Synoptic data on macroinvertebrates, instream habitat and geomorphology, and fish assemblages will be collected throughout 2003 and will be combined with archived data from an earlier pilot study on several coastal watersheds, including Dragon Run and Polecat Creek. The goal of the project is to incorporate these high-quality data into model (i.e. 'virtual') coastal streams that will assist state and local government agencies with environmental planning and management activities within the highly developed Tidewater and Fall Zone regions of Virginia. Other project partners include the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Natural Heritage. contact: Dr. Steve McIninch phone 804.827.0090.

-- David Christ, VA At-large Member

North Carolina News

From the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory-

Black Seabass and Vermilion Snapper Assessments Conducted and Reviewed

A SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment and Review) assessment workshop was held at the NOAA Center for Coastal Habitat and Fisheries Research in Beaufort, NC, in January 2003. Participants, including state, federal, and university scientists and representatives of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), conducted assessments of black seabass, *Centropomus striata*, and vermilion snapper, *Rhomboplites aurorubens*, stocks off the southeastern U.S. A data workshop, held in Charleston, SC, in October 2002, had determined and assembled necessary data, including fishery-dependent and fishery-independent indices of abundance, catch records, and relevant biological observations. The assessment period ran through the end of 2001. Assessment results indicate that the black seabass stock was overfished and that overfishing was occurring. Status estimates for vermilion snapper are highly uncertain, and it is not clear whether the stock was overfished; however, it seems likely that overfishing was occurring. A subsequent SEDAR review workshop was held in Raleigh in late February. In the review workshop, a panel of independent experts found that both assessments were appropriately conducted and based on best available data. The review panel's findings, along with the assessment workshop report, will be transmitted to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, whose responsibility it is to manage the stocks.

Atlantic Menhaden Season

The fishery for Atlantic menhaden, *Brevoortia tyrannus*, ended on January 31st when Beaufort Fisheries, the only remaining menhaden processing plant in North Carolina, tied up their 2 vessels for the 2002 season. Beaufort Fisheries, located in Beaufort, NC is one of only two plants left on the US East coast that process Atlantic menhaden into fish meal and oil. The other plant, located in Reedville, VA has 10 vessels that offload menhaden. Final landings of Atlantic menhaden for the 2002 season were 174,068 metric tons or 769,229 "standard fish". This is a 25.5% reduction in catch compared to 2001. The large difference in catch between the two years is due in part to a higher than average catch in 2001 (thanks to an exceptional 1999 year class) and weather conditions that kept many vessels in port when they could have been fishing during 2002. Age compositions for the total catch were 4% age-0, 24% age-1, 43% age-2, and 29% age-3+. These data are from the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory, which monitors the Atlantic and Gulf menhaden fisheries.

From the NC Division of Marine Fisheries –

State Lauds Tuna Decision

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced the transfer of 60 metric tons, or about 132,000 pounds, into the tuna general category and reopened the season Dec. 1, giving North Carolina fishermen the opportunity to catch the valuable fish in Tar Heel waters. "We are extremely pleased NMFS is willing to give North Carolina fishermen the opportunity to harvest bluefin tuna when they are off our coast," said state Division of Marine Fisheries Director Pres Pate. "This is a great prospect for our fishermen and local businesses."

Tuna management is extremely complicated and complex. The International Council for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna sets the amount countries can harvest each year and in the United States, the NMFS determines how to divide that allotment among user groups/categories and sets fishing seasons to regulate the harvest. The agency can transfer unused quota among categories. The general category season runs from June 1 - Dec. 31 and includes commercial hand-held fishing gear. NMFS closed the general category on Oct. 25, 2002 after the 777 metric ton quota was met.

Usually, tuna are caught off the New England and Mid-Atlantic coast earlier in the season and quota is rarely left by the time the fish migrate down the coast to North Carolina waters in late November and December. However, in the last few years, there has been late season quota available so North Carolina fishermen have been able to harvest some of these valuable ocean giants. In 2000, there were 129,737 pounds of bluefin tuna landed at North Carolina ports, valued at \$1.2 million. Last year, fishermen hauled in 106,025 pounds of bluefin tuna, worth \$382,495 - the value was lower due to decreased demand from Japanese markets.

As interest in the tuna fishery has grown, North Carolina began pursuing a commitment from NMFS for Tar Heel fishermen to be guaranteed some of the general category tuna each year. The state has worked collaboratively with the Winter Bluefin Tuna Association, a group of coastal Carolina fishermen, and state and national legislative leaders, to send a clear message to NMFS about North Carolina's needs for this fishery.

The state continues to pursue long-term management options that will improve predictability of fish for North Carolina and has filed a petition for rulemaking with NMFS to extend the general category season until Jan. 31 of each year and allocate 150 metric tons to be harvested from Dec. 1 -Jan 31, annually.

Flounder Size Limit Drops in the Ocean

Beginning March 3, the recreational size limit for flounder in the ocean will drop from 15.5 inches to 15 inches. The bag

limit will remain the same at 8 fish per day. There will be no closed season, as in previous years. The decreased restrictions in the ocean are directly linked to the increase in size limit from 13 to 14 inches in North Carolina's sounds and rivers that went into effect last September. "By increasing the size limit in inside waters, we were able to slow the harvest rate of summer flounder so we would not exceed the 2002 harvest target set by the intrastate plan for this species" said NCDMF director, Pres Pate.

Flounder management in North Carolina is complex because the state is in the southern most range for summer flounder and the northernmost range for southern flounder. NC is the only East coast state that must develop management strategies for two separate and distinct flounder populations that co-exist in the same waters. This is further complicated by the fact that the two species look very similar making true identification difficult.

In the mid to late 1990's increasing minimum size limits were required to try to help rebuild overfished summer flounder stocks. Because N.C. has two major flounder species, managing summer flounder as an ocean fishery and southern flounder as an inside fishery was the most equitable solution.

Since 1999, overfished summer flounder stocks have been managed based on conservation equivalencies. This means individual states are assigned a quota or target, and then it is up to each individual state to determine the best method to achieve their harvest goal. Daily limits, size limits, seasons and closures are all methods used to manage a fishery, and landings are closely scrutinized.

During the last few years, the state has increased the size limit and implemented closed seasons for the ocean, trying to stay within the summer flounder harvest limit. But the task grew increasingly difficult as the amount of summer flounder landed in inside waters grew and the number of saltwater anglers increased by 46 percent - 1.3 million in 1997 to 2 million in 2001. Last September, North Carolina finally was able to slow the harvest rate of recreational summer flounder by raising the size limit for most of the states' inside waters from 13 inches to 14 inches.

-- Neil McNeil, NC At-large Member

Announcements

OBITUARY – Eileen Setzler-Hamilton

Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton passed away March 12, 2003, at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick, Maryland at age 59 after a short bout with cancer. Dr. Setzler-Hamilton was a Research Associate Professor at Chesapeake Biological

Laboratory, Center for Environmental Science, University System of Maryland at Solomons.

Eileen Marie Setzler was born in Fremont, Ohio, on April 28, 1943. Eileen graduated cum laude from College of St. Mary of the Spring (now Ohio Dominican College) with a B.A. degree in 1965. In 1969 she graduated with a M.S. degree in biological sciences from the University of Delaware, and in 1997 with a Ph.D. degree in zoology from University of Georgia. Her first professional job was that of fisheries technician at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, California, in 1974. From there, she began a long career at CBL in 1975 as a senior faculty research assistant eventually rising to her current position of Research Associate Professor.

At CBL, Dr. Setzler-Hamilton's position was 50% research, and 50% environmental education and outreach. Eileen thrived on outreach to school children as well as fisheries professionals. She served on numerous workgroups, boards, and committees. Several examples are the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), and the Patuxent River Commission. She served as the PRFC representative to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) technical committees on striped bass, shad and river herring, and Atlantic croaker in addition to serving as member of the Management and Science Committee. Eileen was also a member of the Calvert County Environmental Commission, and on the executive board of the Maryland Coastal and Watershed Resources Advisory Committee. At CBL, Dr. Setzler-Hamilton served on the Environmental Education Council, and coordinated the University of Maryland Graduate Fellows Program and the Maryland Collaboration for Teacher Preparation, the Minorities in Life Sciences Program, and the CBL Environmental Education initiative. Eileen also organized and coordinated the Solomons Environmental and Archeological Research Consortium (SEARCH) involving six institutions.

Eileen had a number of research interests, particularly those involving fish and larval fish ecology, striped bass biology, anadromous fish populations, estuarine ecology, and management of Chesapeake Bay resources. Perhaps her most notable and enduring work was the 1980 NOAA publication, "Synopsis of Biological Data on Striped Bass, *Morone saxatilis* (Walbaum)*, still considered by many to be the primary reference text for striped bass biology.

Dr. Setzler-Hamilton was a devoted long-time member of the American Fisheries Society, and a founding member of the Tidewater Chapter. Eileen served as the 4th President of the Tidewater Chapter in 1989, received the Teaching Excellence in Fisheries award from the chapter in 2000, and was an active member of the chapter's Awards and Scholarship Committee. Often Eileen would come to a Tidewater meeting armed with

fishing tackle, husband Joe, and high optimism for catching those local fish.

Eileen's bubbly personality and enthusiasm for life will truly be missed. Her husband, Joe Hamilton, and two brothers survive her. Burial was within walking distance from CBL, at Our Lady Star of the Sea cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Maryland Foundation, Inc., c/o The Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Fund, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688.

*Setzler, E.M., and eight co-authors. 1980. Synopsis of biological data on striped bass, *Morone saxatilis* (Walbaum). NOAA Technical Report NMFS Circular 433, 69 p.



USGS Announces Online Access to Nationwide Fish Community Data

Data on fish communities are now available for 960 stream sites in more than 50 major river basins across the Nation. More than 1,900 fish community samples, collected from 1993 through 2002 by the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, can be downloaded from <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/data>. USGS fish community samples document the presence of all fish species and their relative abundances within designated stream reaches.

These fish data are part of the NAWQA Data Warehouse, which also provides online access to 8 million records of water-quality information, enabling water-resource managers, scientists, and the public to find data about the quality of water or chemical concentrations in aquatic tissue at 4,100 stream sites and 6,500 wells across the United States.

For more information on fish sampling protocols, please refer to, "Revised protocols for sampling algal, invertebrate, and fish communities as part of the National Water-Quality Assessment Program" at <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/protocols/OFR02-150/index.html>.

Online access to macroinvertebrate and algae data is anticipated this spring and summer, respectively. For questions regarding online data retrievals, please contact

gs.nawqa.data@usgs.gov or Mr. Sandy Williamson, 253-428-3600, ext. 2683. For technical questions, such as regarding biological collection methods and taxonomy, please contact Dr. Steve Moulton, smoulto@usgs.gov, 703-648-6874. Additional information about NAWQA ecological studies also is available at <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/ecology>.

18th Annual Tidewater Meeting

Ann Barse, new President-Elect of the Tidewater meeting, is the general chair of the 18th Annual Tidewater Meeting, which will take place in the brand new Henson Science Hall at Salisbury University in January 2004 (exact days yet to be decided). Check the Tidewater website for updates about the meeting. Additional information will be forthcoming in Tidewater newsletters.

New Book Release from AFS:

Sustaining North American Salmon: Perspectives Across Regions and Disciplines

U.S. and Canadian fisheries professionals from multiple disciplines examine the history, current knowledge, and research needs of fisheries stakeholders, managers, and policy makers regarding salmon ecology, policy, and management in North America. This book offers a greater understanding of the complexity and repercussions of salmon management, currently a controversial issue between Canada and the United States. Information needs from biological, social, and economic perspectives are identified, enabling managers and policy makers to develop an action agenda to acquire and utilize this information.

This excellent reference for the management of salmon presents a synthesis of the history, ecology, sociology, economics, politics/institutions, and the future of one of the most economically and culturally significant fishes in America.

413 pp., paper, November 2002

Stock #: 550.39

List price: \$69

AFS member price: \$48

ISBN# 1-888569-40-9

To order:

Online: www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi

Phone: (678) 366-1411, or Fax: (770) 442-9742

Email: afspubs@pbd.com

AFS 133rd Annual Meeting - Quebec City in August 2003.

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) will convene its 133rd Annual Meeting at the Québec City Convention Center in downtown Québec, 10-14 August 2003. The meeting's theme is Worldwide Decline of Wild Fish Populations. The theme addresses the identification and explanations of potential factors that may be contributing to the decline of marine and inland fish populations.

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

The Hutton is an educational program for high school students designed to develop interest in a career in fisheries among groups underrepresented in the fisheries profession, including minorities and women. AFS encourages its members to consider mentoring a student during the summer of 2003.

For information on how you can get involved, go to <http://www.fisheries.org/Hutton.shtml>, or contact Christine Fletcher at cletcher@fisheries.org, phone: 301-897-8616, ext. 213.

What's new at AFS?

Read all about it at <http://www.fisheries.org/WhatsNew.shtml>.

The AFS Online Bookstore is a valuable resource for all fisheries and aquaculture related books: <http://www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi>.

AFS Job Center Online (and other employment resources): <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.html>.

Renew your AFS Membership online at <http://www.fisheries.org/forms.shtml>.

Don't forget to browse featured articles from the latest issue of FISHERIES magazine at: <http://www.fisheries.org/fisheries/fishery.shtml>.