



### Inside this Issue

- Presidents Corner
- Treasurer's Report
- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Update
- Student Subunit News
- Maryland News
- Virginia News
- North Carolina News
- Announcements

## 2003 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

**President-** James A. Morris, Phone 252-728--8782; email [james.morris@noaa.gov](mailto:james.morris@noaa.gov)

**President Elect** – Ann Barse, Phone 410-543-6073; email [ambarse@salisbury.edu](mailto:ambarse@salisbury.edu).

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Wesley Patrick, Phone 252-328-1838; email [wsp0619@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:wsp0619@mail.ecu.edu).

**Past President-** L. Alan Weaver, Phone 804-752-5504; email [aweaver@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:aweaver@dgif.state.va.us).

**MD Member-at-Large** – Erik Zlokovitz, Phone 410-260-8306; email [ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:ezlokovitz@dnr.state.md.us).

**VA Member-at-Large** – Dave Hopler, email [daveandchristi@att.net](mailto:daveandchristi@att.net).

**NC Member-at-Large** – Neil McNeil, Phone 252-728-8706; email [neil\\_mcnail@noaa.gov](mailto:neil_mcnail@noaa.gov).

**Student Subunits** –Jennifer Cudney (ECU), Phone 252-328-1758, email [JLC0213@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:JLC0213@mail.ecu.edu).

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

**Historian** – Roger Rulifson, contact information as above.

## President's Corner



Things are well underway within the Tidewater Chapter. I am continually enthused with the level of dedication among our Tidewater Chapter membership. We have a hard working executive committee that is charging forward with new vision and focus. During the past month, I have installed the following committees with their respective chairs.

### Membership Committee

Alan Weaver, Chair  
Neil McNeil, NC  
Dave Hopler, VA  
Erik Zlokovitz, MD

### Audit Committee

Wesley Patrick, Chair  
Jim Uphoff  
Jennifer Cudney  
Joseph Luczkovich  
Joseph Grist

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Program Committee

Ann Barse, Chair  
Ron Klauda  
Dave Secor  
Paul Greccay

### Nominating Committee

Alan Weaver, Chair  
Charlton Godwin  
Greg Garman  
Bill Rodney  
Ron Klauda  
Roger Rulifson

### Awards and Scholarship Committee

Ron Klauda, Chair  
Linda Barker  
John Olney  
Doug Vaughn

The **Membership Committee** has been tasked with the responsibility of recruiting new members. They will be engaged in recruiting efforts in their respective states and also in collaborative efforts through media and brochure development. The **Audit Committee** will be reviewing the financial records over the past five years and will submit a full report to the membership during the business meeting of our 18<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. The **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Program Committee** is underway with plans for our next annual meeting to be held at Salisbury State University, Maryland. The **Nominating committee** has been charged with the task of nominating the right people for the right office in the

Tidewater Chapter. It is a personal goal of mine to increase the participation of our membership in chapter committees and officerships. I look forward to having a minimum of 3 nominations per office for our 2004 elections! As always, self-nominations are encouraged! We will also be providing biographical information on each nominee to assist in the election process. The **Awards and Scholarship Committee** is charged with the task of judging student papers at our annual meetings, and choosing Tidewater Chapter awards recipients for such awards as the *Meritorious Service Award*, the *Excellence in Fisheries Education Award*, and the *Conservation Award*. I look forward to seeing the Tidewater Chapter increase due to the efforts of these committees.

James A. Morris, Jr.  
President

## Treasurer's Report

I want to start off with an apology to the membership. It has been crazy this spring, as it is for most of us, and this is the first chance I have had to evaluate our accounts and membership so I apologize for the delay. It is my pleasure to inform you that the Tidewater Chapter is in fine shape for money and membership, but there is always room for improvement. Our current balance is **\$5,488.53 (Savings \$491.43 – Checking \$4,997.10)** and we have 72 members for this year (3-year average = 55.3 members). Thanks to Roger Rulifson who put together our membership list in a new format, which allowed me to provide a review of our membership demographics. As usual the state hosting the annual meeting has the highest membership for the year, except for the 2002 meeting that was equally attended by Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina residents (Figure 1). At this moment, North Carolina residents represent 68% of our membership, followed by Maryland (17%) and Virginia (13%). A three-year average spanning from 2001 to 2003 indicated that our membership was dominated by Maryland (39.3%) and North Carolina (34.7%) members, while the remaining third of the membership was split among Virginia residents (16.3%) and surrounding states like New York, New Jersey, and Delaware (Figure 2).

Concerning our financial funds, this year's annual meeting cost \$3,313.07 and we received \$3,472.00 in registration fees, making the meeting profitable by \$158.93, which in itself is amazing considering how exceptional the meeting was this year. A total of \$24 was deposited in addition to the annual meeting proceeds, from Alosid Symposium Book sales (N = 2). We also donated \$100.00 to the Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Fund, to bring our balance to that reported above. Of the \$4,464.10 in our checking account, \$3,750.00 will be deposited in to our savings account to draw interest until it is needed for the 2004 annual meeting.

Lastly, the Audit Committee has been selected. It was decided at the last EXCOM meeting (but not noted in the minutes) that I would chair the committee. The following people have graciously agreed to volunteer their time to evaluate our accounting records for the years of 1998-2002: Jennifer Cudney (NC), Joesph Grist (NC), Joe Luczkovich (NC), and Jim Uphoff (MD). The audit report has been scheduled to be complete by the next annual (January 2004).

-- Wes Patrick, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer

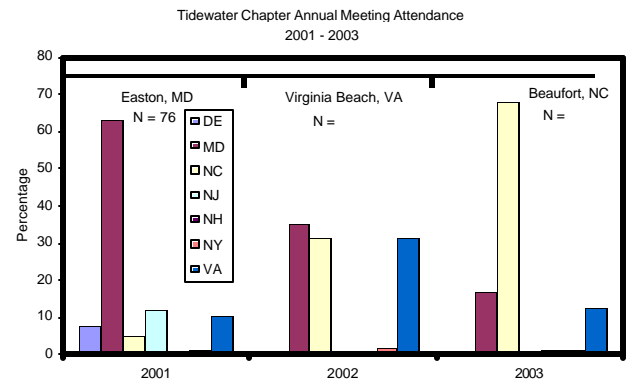


Figure 1. Membership demographics for the Tidewater Chapter, 2001-2003.

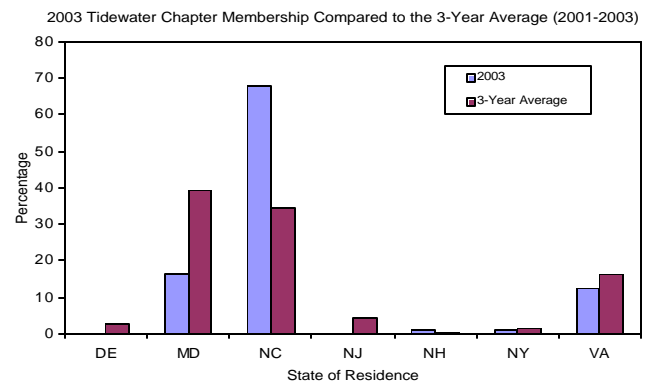


Figure 2. 2003 Tidewater membership compared to the three-year average (2001-2003).

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tidewater Meeting Update

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tidewater Chapter meeting will be held in January, 2004 at Salisbury University on the eastern shore of Maryland. Salisbury University is a four-year undergraduate and graduate university with an enrollment of over 6,000 undergraduates and over 600 graduate students; 12% of the student population is minority. There are 291 fulltime and 163

part-time faculty, making a student:faculty ratio of 17:1. The Department of Biological Sciences is one of the largest departments at SU. Its three-fold mission is: 1) To prepare students for post-graduate school or employment in the biological sciences, health fields, environmental & marine science, and environmental health sciences; 2) To help non-majors develop a better understanding of the role that biological science plays in daily life; and 3) To develop students that will apply the scientific method and critical thinking to contemporary problems addressed by the biological sciences. Students can obtain a dual degree in Biology/Environmental Science with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Learn more about SU by visiting <http://www.salisbury.edu/>.



Holloway Hall, the administrative building of Salisbury University.

The Program Committee members are Ann Barse, Chair, Paul Greccay, Ron Klauda, and Dave Secor. If anyone else is interested in serving on this committee, please let me know. Program ideas are always welcomed.

Dr. Ann Barse, Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Biological Sciences  
Salisbury University  
1101 Camden Ave.  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410) 543-6073  
[ambarse@salisbury.edu](mailto:ambarse@salisbury.edu)

## Student Subunit News

### Maryland

No news from the MD Subunit

### East Carolina University

Greetings from the East Carolina University Student Subunit (ECU-AFS)! Even though our members were challenged throughout the semester to balance school with AFS we had great attendance and participation in all events.

Six ECU-AFS members attended the Tidewater Annual Chapter meeting in January, where three ECU students presented research. First place for the "Best Student Poster" award went to ECU student David Goeckner. Four ECU-AFS members attended the February Southern Division meeting in Wilmington, NC. Three presentations by Charlton Godwin, Beth Egbert, and Jennifer Cudney discussed current research at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County, NC. Look for strong representation of the sub-unit at the Quebec City meeting. At least five students plan on attending, and two students will be presenting (Wes Patrick and Jennifer Cudney). Dr. Roger Rulifson will present two papers on striped bass research. Drs. Joseph Luczkovich and Mark Sprague will chair a symposium on passive acoustics.

All students were partially funded by the Subunit to attend these meetings, prompting the need for more fundraising! A raffle and hot dog sale held at the ECU spring carnival "Barefoot on the Mall" earned almost \$500 for ECU-AFS. The money will be used this summer to offset registration costs at the annual meeting.



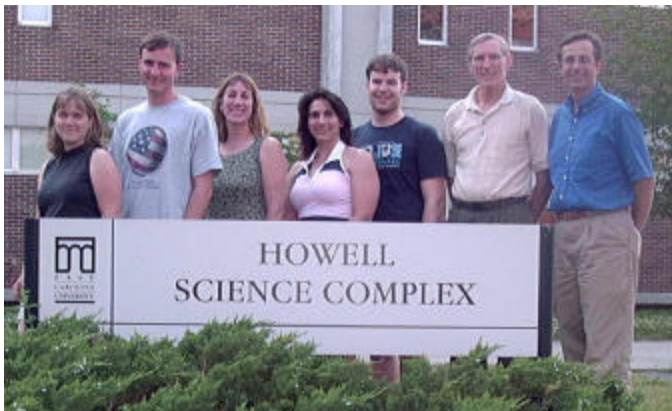
Dr. Anthony Overton and Cameron Pritchard cook hotdogs at ECU's Barefoot on the Mall, Spring 2003.

ECU-AFS provided several opportunities for members to interact with professionals closer to home. At our March business meeting guest speakers Joseph Grist (NCDMF), Ann MacelHatton (NCDMF), and Richie Clark (NCWRC) talked with students about employment success in state agencies. In April Jess Hawkins came to East Carolina University to speak about his position as the liaison between the director of the

Division of Marine Fisheries and the NC Marine Fisheries Commission. He also informed students of current fisheries issues. We are constantly looking for new people to bring to ECU, so if you are interested in expanding (or warping) our fragile little minds please contact us ([jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu)).

Subunit members, Department of Biology graduate students, and Coastal Resource Management PhD students participated in two workshops this semester taught by Dr. Anthony Overton in the use of Sigma Plot software and gut-content analysis. This summer we hope to have two more workshops: web page design and a follow-up to "GutShop '03".

To finish, I would like to introduce the new officers for the 2003-2004 school year. They are: President - Jennifer Cudney (grad), Vice-President - Chad Coggins (grad), Secretary - Ana Nelson (grad), Treasurer - Heidi Alderman (grad), co-Historians - Cameron Pritchard (sophomore) and Chad Smith (grad). We are all looking forward to a fun and productive year!



ECU-AFS officers for 2003-4 (L to R): J. Cudney, C. Coggins, A. Nelson, H. Alderman, C. Smith, D. Holbert, R. Rulifson. Not pictured: C. Pritchard.

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

## Maryland News

The Maryland DNR Striped Bass Stock Assessment (SBSA) Project completed the first tagging round on May 22. Approximately 1500 striped bass were tagged from pound nets (maintained by cooperating watermen) in the middle and lower portion of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

The spring recreational striped bass fishery ("Trophy season") opened on June 19. SBSA biologists are sampling recreational landings of charter and private boats in an ongoing creel survey of Maryland's Trophy and spring striped bass fisheries. This intercept survey includes several sites on the eastern and western shore of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, such as Deale, Chesapeake Beach, Breezy Point, Solomons,

Tilghman Island, Kent Island, and Rock Hall. To date, biologists have measured 676 striped bass landed by recreational fishermen. Stomachs, otoliths, and scales were collected from a sub-sample of the landed catch. Striped bass biologists also completed sampling of spring spawning stripers in the Potomac River and Upper Bay.

Matapeake field office staff (MULTIFISH project) participated in a cooperative black sea bass tagging project off Ocean City, Maryland. Approximately 700 sea bass were tagged on a headboat fishing wrecks off the OC coast in mid-May. MULTIFISH staff are also tagging American shad at the Conowingo Dam.

Hatchery staff worked throughout the spring collecting American and Hickory shad brood stock and transporting them via tank truck to the Cedarville facility.

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD At Large Member

## Virginia News

### VIMS/VMRC News

In May 2003, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission denied a permit to withdraw raw water from a pristine freshwater system in coastal Virginia, the Mattaponi River. The controversial action thwarted a 15-year, multi-million dollar plan to establish the King William Reservoir, a water source considered essential to future growth and development in the region. The facility was designed to serve a projected 600,000 people in 2040 but the Mattaponi Indian tribal government, environmentalists, local citizens and commercial fishers opposed the plan. A central issue in the decision was the conservation of American shad. An in-river moratorium on fishing for shad was imposed in 1994 and is currently maintained in the ASMFC fisheries management plan for shad and river herring. In the reservoir debate, VIMS scientists advised the panel that the project would withdraw water in the center of the larval nursery area for this species and in a river that accounted for the highest statewide production of juveniles. VIMS advised against the project since losses of larvae to withdrawal could be counter to restoration goals of the moratorium. Using quantitative models of adult equivalency, municipal authorities argued that only six American shad would be lost as a result of impingement or entrainment. These estimates were based largely on assumptions of high efficiency by state-of-the art intake screens and equilibrium population dynamics. It is unknown if the decision will be appealed.

## VDGIF News

### Abutment Dam Fishway Completed

A Denil fishway is now completed at the Abutment Dam on the Appomattox River near Petersburg, VA. High water has eliminated any opportunity to monitor the fishway since it went into operation on April 23. An additional 1.3 miles of the Appomattox River are now reopened to migratory and resident fishes. This action will lead to the completion of the fish elevator on Brasfield Dam (FERC; currently 90% complete) within two years. Total mileage reopened on the Appomattox above the Abutment Dam will be 121.4. There is a Denil fishway at Harvell Dam, the first dam on the Appomattox, in Petersburg. Harvell is a FERC operation that built and operates the fishway. Other dams on the Appomattox between Harvell and Abutment are either significantly breached or mostly non-existent. Diadromous fish species that are expected to benefit from this project are American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring, alewife and American eels. This project was funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia (VDGIF), the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, the USFWS and NOAA/NMFS. For more information contact Alan Weaver (VDGIF) at (804) 752-5504.

### Record CPUE for American Shad at Boshers Dam

American shad electrofishing CPUE in the James River below Boshers Dam hit a record high this year. On May 7, 2003 we collected 96 American shad on three routine runs at Boshers Dam for a CPUE of 2.5 shad/minute that far exceeds any other maximum CPUE at this location. Shad were generally plentiful, compared to other years, from mid April through mid May at Boshers. Recent flooding has prevented sampling during the latter half of May. It is anticipated that the overall seasonal shad CPUE at Boshers will be higher this year than in previous sampling years. Boshers vertical slot fishway video data has not yet been reviewed, but decent shad passage rates are anticipated based on the "availability" of shad in the vicinity of the dam. For more information contact Alan Weaver (VDGIF) at (804) 752-5504.

### American Shad Restoration Project

American shad egg taking, fry rearing, and shad stocking operations recently came to an end for the spring of 2003. In total, 12,984,790 OTC tagged American shad fry were released in three river systems. The James River received the bulk of the fish, with 8.7 million fry being reintroduced into the river above Boshers Dam. The Rappahannock River received 1.3 million fry and the Pamunkey River was stocked with 2.8 million. Shad fry production and stockings exceeded production goals for each of these river systems. For more information contact Tom Gunter (VDGIF) at (804) 752-5503.

## VCU News

Dave Hopler (VCU Fish Ecology Lab) recently compiled preliminary results of a smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) diet study. The purpose of this study is to examine the importance of re-introduced American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) to smallmouth bass diet and growth during juvenile shad residency in the James River. Smallmouth were collected during May-November 2002 in the James River above Boshers Dam. This area has been the target of Virginia's American Shad Restoration Program stocking efforts since 1993. Shad fry are stocked March-May each spring and many remain above Boshers Dam through November. Biologists and anglers have speculated that juvenile shad could become an important forage for smallmouth bass. Preliminary diet analysis showed American shad were the second most common fish prey species consumed by smallmouth bass. Redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*) were the most common prey species by a wide margin. Smallmouth bass consumed the greatest percentage of fish prey (and shad) during the fall, the same time juvenile shad are outmigrating to the ocean. The second phase of this research will compare smallmouth bass growth rates of the 2002 specimens to smallmouth bass collected in the same area from 1987-1990. These specimens were collected prior to American shad reintroduction and did not have juvenile shad available as forage.

Virginia Commonwealth University is working with MDNR and Salisbury University on several *Anguilla rostrata* related projects. The catadromous species has declined since the valuable eel export fishery became established during the 1970's. Mark King and Catherine Lim at VCU worked with Julie Weeder and Tony Jarzynski at MDNR and recently completed an agreement to prepare and analyze otolith sections from samples taken from several Maryland waters. Growth rates and timing of annulus formation will be determined. In addition, Dr. Ann Barse at Salisbury University currently works to describe the geographic distribution and severity of swim bladder nematode parasitism in Chesapeake Bay eels. The nematode, *Anguillicola crassus*, is an introduced species from Asia. VCU aquatic biologists, Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries biologist Larry Mohn and Julie Weeder (MDNR) have helped to supply samples of eels. Dr. Barse presented at the International Congress of Parasitology Conference in Vancouver B. C. in August, 2002. Contact Ann at [ambarse@salisbury.edu](mailto:ambarse@salisbury.edu).

-- David Hopler, VA At-large Member

# North Carolina News

## From the NC Division of Marine Fisheries-

### Landings 2002

Fishermen brought more seafood to the docks in 2002 but made fewer trips to catch finfish, crabs, shrimp and shellfish, according to harvest statistics released by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. Commercial fishermen landed 160 million pounds of fish and shellfish at Tar Heel docks, with the catch valued at \$94.6 million. Total landings were up 22.9 million pounds from 2001, but fell slightly below the previous five-year average of 170 million pounds. The value of the 2002 harvest was up \$6.6 million from 2001, but below the previous five-year average of \$101 million.

The top-five species commercially harvested were (by Value\*)

Blue Crabs (Hard)	\$29.3 million
Shrimp	\$18.3 million
Summer Flounder	\$6 million
Atlantic Menhaden	\$5 million
Hard Clams	\$3.5 million

\*Values are ex-vessel, which is the amount fishermen are paid for their catch.

By Pounds Landed –

Atlantic Menhaden	69 million
Blue Crabs (Hard)	36.4 million
Atlantic Croaker	10 million
Shrimp	9.9 million
Summer Flounder	4 million

Blue crab landings increased by 6 million pounds from 2001, but continue to be well below the 47.8 million pound average for the previous five years. The increase was most apparent in the Albemarle Sound area, while crab landings for the remainder of the state remained unchanged from previous years. Shrimp landings were the fourth highest since 1972, at just under 10 million pounds, with a total value of \$18.3 million. The average price per pound was down significantly at \$1.84 - the lowest price in 12 years. Reduced prices are attributed to the surge in foreign imports.

While the catch increased in 2002, effort dropped by 31,024 fishing trips. The bulk of the decline came from the blue crabs fishery, which fell by 15,000 trips from the previous year.

### Commercial Effort Summary

Year	Active Fishermen	Pounds Harvested	Fishing Trips
1998	4,990	180,223,675	272,973
1999	5,242	153,739,425	252,873
2000	4,880	154,236,995	252,676
2001	4,909	137,145,867	255,289
2002	4,523	160,061,584	224,265

### Pot Roundup Nets Big Rewards

The North Carolina Marine Patrol located 4,121 abandoned crab pots and 953 ghost crab pots during the recent clean-up period for fishing pots in Tar Heel coastal waters. Crabbing is one of the state's most important commercial activities, bringing in approximately \$25 million in 2001, and it is also an important recreational pastime. There are an estimated 1.3 million crab pots fished in state waters each year.

Abandoned pots still have the fisherman's identification on either the buoy or the pot, while ghost pots have no identification or buoy. If left in the water, these pots continue to catch crabs and other marine life, presenting a conservation problem. In order to locate abandoned and ghost pots, fishermen are required to remove all their pots from the water Jan. 24 - Feb. 7.

Locating and then removing such a large number of pots from the water is both labor intensive and time consuming. Marine Patrol is in the final stages of pulling the pots from the water and arranging disposal, and, so far, has issued 34 citations.

The state Division of Marine Fisheries is in the process of looking for solutions in dealing with the large number of abandoned and ghost pots. Options being considered during the revision of the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan are shorter attendance periods, biodegradable panels and additional clean-up weeks.

Fishermen are required to fish their pots a minimum of every seven days and it is the fisherman's responsibility to keep track of their pots and remove them from coastal waters when pots are not tended regularly.

To learn more about the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan, please contact Lynn Henry, by e-mail at [lynn.henry@ncmail.net](mailto:lynn.henry@ncmail.net) or by calling 252-796-1322 or 800-405-7774.

### Charter Boat & Guide Workshop

With an increased number of charter boats in mid-Atlantic waters comes an increased quest for information - from state and federal management issues to safety regulations. To address the industry's hot topics, North Carolina Sea Grant and Virginia Sea Grant are held a free, day-long workshop, "Chartering in a Changing Environment," on April 8 at the Sheraton Grand, New Bern.

The workshop targeted charter and head boat operators as well as fishing guides who seek updated information to stay competitive in a rapidly growing industry, according to Jack Thigpen, North Carolina Sea Grant extension director and tourism specialist.

Sport fishing has become an important factor in the coastal economy, Thigpen notes. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Coast Guard-licensed charter boat operators - those who take no more than six passengers for hire - jumped from 71 to 203. Thigpen says the workshop underscores Sea Grant's role in providing a forum for individuals whose goal is to promote the stewardship of coastal and ocean resources.

Participants also learned about a new recreational fishing survey that has been designed specifically to collect catch and effort information from the for-hire fleet. The survey, which will be implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the state partners of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, will produce much more reliable catch and effort statistics than current data collection programs. "The new survey methodology will greatly improve how estimates of for-hire fishing catch and effort are obtained," says Doug Mumford, recreational statistics coordinator, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Other topics included new snapper and grouper regulations, boating insurance, highly migratory species: tuna and billfish, and the relationship of recreational anglers and the Coast Guard in the context of Homeland Security.

-- Neil McNeil, NC At-large Member

## Announcements

### OBITUARY – Dr. Charles W. O’Rear, Jr.



Dr. Charles W. “Charlie” O’Rear, Jr., 68, passed away at his home in Greenville, NC, on Sunday, May 25, 2003 after a brief illness with aggressive lymphoma. Charlie was a native of Commerce, Georgia, and received his undergraduate degree at Georgia Tech. He then joined the United States Marine Corps during the Korean conflict. His first professional job was teaching at Tallulah Falls School, Inc. in Tallulah Falls, Georgia. After three

years Charlie came to East Carolina University, where in 1964 he earned his MS degree in Biology. From ECU Charlie went to the University of Georgia and then Virginia Polytechnic University, where he earned his PhD in 1971. Dr. O’Rear joined the ECU faculty in the Department of Biology in 1969, where he remained until his retirement in 2000 with 30 years of service. He was a member of Xi Sigma Pi, Phi Sigma Society, and Phi Delta Kappa, as well as the American Fisheries Society. He was active in Habitat for Humanity and an avid ham radio operator, routinely involved in local and state emergency management drills.

During his life-long association with East Carolina University, Dr. O’Rear had over 20 graduate students complete the MS degree under his direction. Many of them went on for advanced degrees and/or employment as coastal fisheries biologists. Gene Smith, a 1992 graduate, remembered “Doc” as a fair but demanding taskmaster. One day Gene and Dr. O’Rear were in a large coastal bay lake within the Croatan National Forest installing a hydrograph. O’Rear was leading the charge with Gene dragging along behind. Finally Gene called out in desperation, “Doc, you better slow down and watch out for snakes.” O’Rear replied, “Gene, I am not afraid of any [bleeping] snakes because I survived the Korean War!” Mike Street of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries remembers Charlie well. “Charlie and I were graduate students together at the University of Georgia in the mid-1960s. He was working on his doctorate, while I was a masters student. We took a Linnology and Oceanography class together in the fall of 1965. The class included a number of field trips. As I recall, Charlie and I were among the very few students who had actually been in a boat before that class, so we ended up handling a lot of the field gear while most of the class watched. Charlie ran a couple of projects for the Division of Marine Fisheries on the Chowan River in the late 1970s-early 1980s. He looked at larval river herring and possible feeding problems related to the population decline. This was during the period when folks finally admitted there were real water quality problems on the Chowan. His project results, along with work by a lot of other people, finally convinced the department and the Environmental Management Commission to initiate restoration of the Chowan, establishing the first Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification in North Carolina”. Pete Kornegay, with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, remembers this about his mentor: “The thing that really sticks in my mind about being Charlie’s graduate student was the fact that you either sank or swam with Charlie, and it was your choice. If you decided to work hard on a project and produce a good result, he was right behind you all the way. If someone decided to loaf around on a project, he was quite willing to allow them to sink and suffer the consequences - Charlie made it a learning experience for the ‘sinkee’. Charlie had a famous saying while I was in graduate school at ECU....’When in doubt, do something and see what the hell happens.’ To this day, I think about that saying and abide by it nearly on a daily basis.”

Dr. O’Rear’s primary research interests have involved work with striped bass and river herring ecology, channelization in coastal plain streams, coastal plain stream fish community ecology, and pocosin lake ecology. Funding from a number of state and federal agencies including Sea Grant, the US Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service supported this work. Respected as a demanding but fair teacher, Charlie’s courses included areas of water chemistry, biostatistics, ichthyology, and human physiology and anatomy. Dr. O’Rear’s foresight in water quality research was the kernel for

what became the Central Environmental Laboratory in ECU's Biology Department, and Charlie was the first director. Whether it was cooking pigs for department picnics or giving advice on the latest computer technology, Charlie was both liked and respected by his colleagues.

### **VIMS Professor Wins AFS Award**



Dr. John A. "Jack" Musick has been selected as the recipient of the 2002 AFS Excellence in Fisheries Education award in recognition of his outstanding dedication to graduate education. Dr. Musick is Professor and Marshall Acuff Chair of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. During his 34 years at VIMS Jack has been the major advisor for 38 PhD and 32 MA students and has taught several

graduate level courses. This is not Jack's first teaching award: in 1997, the College of William and Mary awarded him the Thomas Ashley Graves Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching. In 2001, the Virginia State Council on Higher Education awarded Jack the Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Musick's vertebrate ecology and systematics programs deal with aspects of the ecology, conservation, systematics, and morphology of marine vertebrates. Jack serves as head of the Virginia Sea Turtle Stranding Network, and Co-chair of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Shark Specialist group. To learn more about Dr. Musick and his program, please visit the VIMS website at [http://www.vims.edu/fish/faculty/musick\\_ja.html](http://www.vims.edu/fish/faculty/musick_ja.html).

The Tidewater Chapter thanks Jack for his many years of support for the Chapter, and we send our best wishes to you on your recent accomplishments.

### **Tidewater EXCOM Meeting in August 2003.**

The Tidewater Chapter EXCOM meeting will be held August 29, 2003 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Luncheon for EXCOM members at 12:00 pm with the EXCOM meeting immediately following. Agenda items should be sent to James Morris at [james.morris@noaa.gov](mailto:james.morris@noaa.gov).

### **Next Tidewater Chapter Newsletter**

The summer newsletter will be coming out in August, so please send any newsworthy items to the editor at [rulifsonr@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:rulifsonr@mail.ecu.edu). Any graduate students graduating? New position title? Change of address? Sampling stories? Interesting pictures? Things new at your lab? Send us your news and make this a membership-based newsletter.

### **AFS 133<sup>rd</sup> 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. Don't forget to make your hotel reservations soon! The block of rooms at the Hilton is full, but the Radisson and Chateau are still available. To register please go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org).

