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## 2003 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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## President's Corner



### The Mission of the Tidewater Chapter

This past week the Tidewater Executive Committee met during our midyear meeting at VIMS. We discussed many items of business and took action on a variety of different items. It is my intention to focus the energy of the EXCOM in broadening our visibility to fisheries professionals throughout MD, VA, and NC. It has become apparent in this meeting and in meetings of past that one underlying question will always drive the activity of our Tidewater membership- Why should I be a member of the Tidewater Chapter?

The Tidewater Chapter was officially recognized as a subunit of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in 1986. In an effort to involve fisheries professionals the following call was extended:

“Members of the American Fisheries Society representing coastal areas of Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia are forming a new chapter of the Society that will serve the research and management communities of the coastal plain.

Our purpose is to provide a forum for discussing and presenting progress on regional estuarine and coastal fishery problems. Our objective is to encourage the information exchange by AFS members and non-members residing in, working in, or having a professional interest in the estuarine and coastal fisheries of Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia. We are committed to providing such a forum for scientist, managers, students, and interested citizens...”

The mission of the Tidewater Chapter is clear. There is a place for the Tidewater Chapter and its membership within the American Fisheries Society. Our focus therefore should be on how we communicate and direct our mission to involve our current and future membership. In trying to answer the originally proposed question, “Why should I be a member of the Tidewater Chapter, I might answer in return with a number of questions: 1) Do you have an interest in the coastal resources of MD, VA, and NC? 2) Do you enjoy networking

and discussion ongoing research with other fisheries professionals from VA, NC, and MD? 3) If you are a student, would you like to meet future employers, gain knowledge of the diverse amount of research ongoing in the coastal plains of NC, VA, and MD, and meet other students from the many universities within MD, VA, and NC? 4) Do you enjoy reading up-to-date fisheries related news from MD, VA, and NC? If you have answered yes, to any of these questions, then the Tidewater Chapter can provide you many of these services and much more. For more information on the Tidewater Chapter, its activities, and how to update your membership, please visit our website [www.sdafs.org/tidewater](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater)

-- James A. Morris, Jr., Tidewater Chapter President

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

**Checking Account:** \$4,436.90

**Savings Account:** \$ 580.20

### *Treasurer's Note*

We have a total of \$5,017.10 in our savings and checking. The checking account balance remains high, due to the expected transactions for the next annual meeting. Banking transactions this quarter were minor, with only 4 checks being written for a total of \$121.00. Two checks were written to Ron Klauda (\$83.25) and one to James Morris (\$19.59) for reimbursements of the 2003 annual meeting. Bill Rodney was reimbursed for shipping charges (\$28.16) that he incurred sending me the secretary/treasurer materials for the last six years.

### *Secretary's Note*

#### **Membership:**

To date our membership boasts 89 members. A breakdown of our membership geographic location was published in the last newsletter.

#### **EXCOM Meeting:**

The EXCOM meeting began at 12:23 pm at the VIMS Fisheries Science Laboratory on August 22, 2003. Attendees included James Morris, Anne Barse, Roger Rulifson, Erik Zlokovitz, Wes Patrick, Dave Hopler, Alan Weaver, and Ron Klauda. Overall, the EXCOM was very productive with the main points of discussion directed toward committee progress.

*The Membership Committee* -- Chair Alan Weaver noted that he had been in contact with the members at-large discussing the possibilities or techniques to increase the number of chapter members. After much discussion on brochure options,

membership quotas and newsletter distribution techniques the EXCOM decided that the best way to increase our membership is to have the members at-large contact twenty-five potential members each, encourage agency directors to have their organizations become more involved in the chapter, and to have printable brochures available on our web page. This last decision (printable brochures) was selected as the best alternative to produce up to date flyers rather than a mass production of brochures that would be expensive and quickly go out of date. Recruiters could obtain the brochure via the web and reproduce it by color printer, or at a local copier business.

*Audit Committee* -- Wes Patrick (Chair) indicated that the financial well being of the Tidewater Chapter was in good standing for the years of 1997-2002; the Audit Committee should continue its work and review the 2003-2004 books starting after the annual meeting in 2004. As a result, Wes Patrick noted that there would be a conflict of interest for him as chair since he was the secretary/treasurer for that period. Alan Weaver moved that a new Audit Committee should be formed in 2004 to review the 2003-2004 accounting records; this motion was seconded by Erik Zlokovitz and passed unanimously.

*Awards and Scholarships Committee* -- Ron Klauda (Chair) noted that several new members had agreed to serve on the committee, which now includes Doug Vaughan (NC-NMFS), Linda Barker (MDNR), John Cooper (NY), Dave Secor (CBL) and John Olney (VIMS). Ron gave an overview of the current awards, and the approximate cost of each, presented at Tidewater annual meetings (Best Student Poster/Presentation - \$350, Outgoing Presidents Gavel Plaque - \$60, Meritorious Service Award - \$60, Excellence in Fisheries - \$60, and the Conservation Award - \$60). If all were awarded it would cost the chapter approximately \$590. In addition to these awards, the committee decided to offer a best student award/scholarship, named the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Outstanding Student Scholarship, which would be presented to a deserving student that had exemplified himself or herself from other students in the Tidewater Chapter region. Alan Weaver moved that the EXCOM Committee approve this scholarship with a \$250 cash award to the student, with an accompanying plaque provided by the Awards Committee. This motion was seconded by Wes Patrick and passed unanimously. However, to fund awards and scholarships the EXCOM recognized that a funding source was needed to make available these funds each year. Thus it was discussed that a raffle should be held at each annual meeting in order to raise money for these scholarships, since the annual meeting does not attempt to make a profit.

*18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting* -- Anne Barse (Arrangements Committee Chair and President elect) has been in contact with her dean about hosting the meeting at Salisbury University. Room rentals and university catering expensive were higher than

desirable; registration fees may be higher than in past years if lower rates cannot be negotiated. The EXCOM asked the Arrangements Committee to pursue additional options but also to continue negotiations at Salisbury University. **\*See more about the annual meeting in this issue\***

*Student Subunits* -- ECU-AFS Student Subunit president Jen Cudney was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written summary of their activities since January of 2003 presented by their faculty advisor, Roger Rulifson. Among the highlights, the subunit had a membership of 25 students this past academic year. In previous years the number was only around 20. Some spring activities included Barefoot on the Mall, which was a spring celebration on campus that allowed the subunit to raise \$225.00 from hot dog and raffle sales. The subunit had two special monthly meetings, where invited guests from the NCDMF gave talks on career development and fisheries management. Three workshops were held in the spring, which included "Gut Shop 2003", "Large Format Printing and Design", and "An Introduction to Sigma Plot." Lastly, a total of five students and three professors were able to attend the Parent Society meeting in Quebec City; two students gave oral presentations.

University of Maryland: Currently the UM student subunit has been in "limbo", but looks like it will be rejuvenated by Dave Secor (CBL) as the new advisor for the unit.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington: There is not a subunit at UNCW yet, but there are hopes that there will be one soon.

*Bylaw Reviews and Discussion concerning voting EXCOM members* -- Currently, our bylaws state that voting members of the Executive Committee are the President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and the three Members-at-Large. At the last EXCOM meeting it was discussed that presidents of student sub-units should be voting members also. After much discussion among the EXCOM about a single student representative and multiple student representatives, it was moved by Wes Patrick that the voting Executive Committee should include student subunit president(s). The motion was seconded by Alan Weaver and passed unanimously.

*Baltimore Annual Meeting Proceed* -- The status of the Tidewater Chapter portion of the Baltimore Annual Meeting proceeds seems to be finalized. James Morris is waiting for the check to be cut; however, the amount is still unknown.

*Membership Dues* -- The EXCOM agreed that membership dues should stay at \$7 for the foreseeable future. However the method of dues collection was discussed. In order to keep better records it was decided that membership dues be collected separately from the annual meeting fees. In the past the membership dues were collected as part of the registration fee, but on several occasions this was not factored in to the

actual meeting cost and so revenues were not adequate. In other instances, members have paid their Tidewater dues along with AFS Parent Society dues thereby paying for a Tidewater membership twice. Thus membership dues would be noted as a separate item on the registration form this year. Now members can join in three different ways: 1) by sending the dues to the Secretary/Treasurer, 2) by renewing membership online at the Parent Society website, [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org), or 3) by paying at the Tidewater annual meeting.

The motion to end the meeting was made by Wes Patrick and 2<sup>nd</sup> unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:50PM.

-- Wes Patrick, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer



Tidewater leadership attended the EXCOM meeting at VIMS, August 22, 2003 (L to R): Alan Weaver, David Hopley, James Morris, Neil McNeil, Ann Barse, Wes Patrick, Erik Zlokovi tz, Ron Klauda, and Roger Rulifson.

## **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tidewater Meeting, January 8-10, 2004**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tidewater Chapter meeting will be held January 8-10, 2004 at Salisbury University on the eastern shore of Maryland. Please see the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Papers and registration information at the end of this newsletter. Arrangements Committee are Ann Barse, Chair, Paul Gre cay, Ron Klauda, and Dave Secor. Erik Zlokovi tz is Raffle Chair. Additional help is welcomed. Please contact Ann Barse.

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.

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## Student Subunit News

### East Carolina University

Greetings from East Carolina University! Although many of our members went home for the summer, a few remained to work at ECU. Charlton Godwin, Chad Coggins, Jennifer Cudney, Randy Pulley, Heidi Alderman, Chris Maser, Brian Langston, and Chad Smith continued research at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Pamlico Sound, and the Roanoke River. Several undergraduate members of ECU-AFS gained experience in larval fish ecology under the guidance of Drs Roger Rulifson and Anthony Overton (Roanoke River).

Highlight of the summer was the AFS Annual Meeting in Quebec City, Canada, attended by four graduate students, one undergraduate, and three professors from ECU. Dr. Joe Luczkovich organized a symposium and both he and Dr. Rulifson presented research. Wes Patrick (Ph.D, Coastal Resources Management) and Jennifer Cudney (MS, Biology) also gave oral presentations. This meeting was a wonderful opportunity not only to obtain information and contacts, but

also to explore a beautiful city! I hope that everyone at the meeting visited the New France Festival and sampled "ye olde food court"!

The student subunit's first business meeting was held on Wednesday, September 5 from 430-600. Future activities this semester include Get-A-Clue (campus organizational fair), Big Sweep (river clean-up), and workshops in webpage design and GIS. Please also mark your calendars for November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003 as the tentative date for the ECU-AFS Annual Meeting. More information will be made available in the next month about this event. Expect something a little different this year!

Future meetings will be held the first week of each month. If you are interested in attending a meeting, holding a forum with ECU students, or showing off your research please contact the student subunit! For the 2003-04 school year, the officers are:

Jennifer Cudney (President)  
Chad Coggins (Vice-President)  
Ana Nelson (Secretary)  
Heidi Alderman (Treasurer)  
Chad Smith/Cameron Pritchard (Co-Historians)

We look forward to hearing from you!

-- Jennifer Cudney, President, ECU-AFS Student Subunit,  
[jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:jlc0213@mail.ecu.edu). (252) 328-1758.

## Maryland News

### Striped Bass

Staff biologists from the Striped Bass Stock Assessment (SBSA) Project of Maryland DNR-Fisheries Service are conducting the Juvenile Index beach seine survey on young of the year striped bass, white perch, shad, and several other species. Preliminary data from the July and August rounds indicates a strong year class of striped bass. High freshwater input this spring may have led to more optimal conditions for hatching of eggs and survival of larvae, as compared to last years drought.

SBSA staff recovered 4 coded wire hatchery tags (CWTs) from adult striped bass during spring of 2003. This is a significant increase in CWT recovery when compared with recent years. On an interesting note, one of the tag codes was traced back to a Hudson River hatchery release in 1989. Hudson River recaptures are relatively rare in the Chesapeake. The fish was caught by charter boat fisherman trolling in the Tilghman Island area in mid-May.

SBSA staff tagged approximately 1600 adult striped bass with cooperating pound net fishermen in July and August. Pound net catches of legal sized (>18 inches) striped bass were down

during July and August, but landings are expected to increase this fall, based on historical data. Watermen have observed an abundance of small (10-15 inch) striped bass, which are probably fish from the large 2001 year class. SBSA staff continue checkstation monitoring of commercial hook-and-line and pound net landings.

A new striped bass diet/stomach content study was initiated in June of 2003. Samples are being collected from Solomons north to the Susquehanna flats with gillnet and hook gear.

## **MULTIFISH Project**

Staff biologists at the MULTIFISH Project of DNR-Fisheries Service have initiated a new study that investigates the impact of urbanization and impervious services on the fish communities of Chesapeake Bay. Trawls and beach seines are being used in most of the upper Western Shore urban tributaries and the more rural Eastern Shore systems. Preliminary data indicates a very high abundance of young-of-the-year striped bass in many rivers where no spawning is known to occur. Yellow perch populations are also being monitored. Numbers of adult and young-of-the year yellow perch have been depressed in recent years in the more urban western shore tributaries.

MULTIFISH staff continue to monitor pound net landings and collect data on summer flounder, spot, croaker, bluefish, perch, menhaden, and other species with cooperating watermen in the Point Lookout and Hooper Island regions.

MULTIFISH and Resource Assessment Service (RAS) staff from Maryland DNR have been working with biologists from Maryland Dept. of the Environment (MDE) biologists on investigation of low dissolved oxygen fish kills in Chesapeake Bay. Fortunately, there have been no evil outbreaks of *Pfisteria* or Snakeheads.

## **Shellfish**

Recent studies have warned the State of Maryland to use caution in the introduction of Asian oysters to the Bay. More research has been recommended. The state has cut back on the native oyster hatchery programs at Deale and Piney Point.

## **Virginia News**

### **VCU News**

Recently completed thesis abstract:

AGE, GROWTH, AND FECUNDITY OF HICKORY SHAD (*ALOSA MEDIOCRIS*) IN VIRGINIA COASTAL RIVERS  
By Emily Rountrey Watkinson -- Little is known about the life history of hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*), and there is a lack

of information on the species in Virginia. Dramatic declines of hickory shad occurred in the late 1970s; however, there has been an increase in the spawning population in Virginia since the late 1990s. The goal of this study was to clarify differences in the life history characteristics between hickory shad and American shad to better explain recovery and aid management of the species. Fish examined in this study were collected in 2001 from the Rappahannock, and James River drainages, Virginia, and males and females were separated for analysis. A nested analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare fork length, total mass, somatic mass, age, gonadosomatic index, individual fecundity, and relative fecundity between drainages. There was no significant difference between drainages for all parameters except total and somatic mass. Otolith and scale ageing techniques were evaluated for accuracy and compared to those of hickory shad in other studies as well as other Alosine species. Whole otoliths provided the best structure for analysis of hickory shad. Age agreement between whole otoliths and scales was 59.9% with an average percent error of 7.3%. Scales tended to overestimate ages of younger hickory shad and underestimate ages of older hickory shad. A chi-square test of independence showed genders were independent by otolith age. Only ages where otoliths and scales agreed were used for maturity analyses. Most females were mature at age 3 years, and most males were mature at age 2 years; all fish collected were mature by age 4 years. All fish spawned annually after the first spawning event. Maximum age collected for both genders was 7 years; however there was no agreement between age 7 otoliths and scales. Ovary analysis included gonadosomatic index, individual fecundity, and relative fecundity. Individual fecundity ranged from 46,600 to 847,300. Hickory shad in Virginia were found to mature earlier than American shad, and individual hickory shad fecundity was similar to that of American shad. Earlier maturity and fecundity similar to that of American shad could allow hickory shad to increase in numbers more quickly than American shad populations under similar conditions. Therefore, recent increases in hickory shad spawning populations may be attributed to life history characteristics that have not previously been documented in Virginia. However, there is still a lack of information on juvenile nursery grounds, juvenile diet, predation, environmental interactions, and outward migrations that may also have a large impact on population dynamics and recovery.

Matthew Fisher, a second year graduate student working in Dr. Greg Garman's lab, is researching fish passage at Boshers Dam fishway on the James River in Richmond. Temporal and spatial trends of anadromous migrants and resident populations from 2001-2003 will be analyzed against physical parameters typically associated with fish passage. Fish counts will be made in 2003 by use of video surveillance software aided by low level lighting to monitor night passage. The data is being provided by VDGIF's Fish Passage monitoring program headed by Alan Weaver.

## VDGIF News

### Push netting for juvenile alosines

In June and into July, high water prevented us from sampling for juvenile American shad on the James River above Boshers Dam fishway and on the tidal Rappahannock River below Fredericksburg. Both rivers were stocked with tagged fry in the spring and some adults made it through the fishway at Boshers and hopefully spawned. Push netting has come up empty on the James so far during a time of year when we normally do really well. We did collect two juveniles with the electrofishing boat and they were both hatchery fish (read by Hopler of VCU). The continued high water may have pushed the young shad downriver below the dam. We have collected over 30 American shad juveniles with the push net boat on the tidal Rappahannock and so far about 75% of those fish collected were wild (Hopler-VCU). We have also collected thousands of blueback herring juveniles on the Rappahannock and hundreds of alewives. For more information contact Alan Weaver at VDGIF at (804) 752-5557 or email at [aweaver@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:aweaver@dgif.state.va.us)

The stiff and sharp pectoral spines of the catfish have long been thought to deter predation via gape limitation resulting from binding and locking in an extended position. Catfishes also use their spines to produce stridulatory sounds, and these sounds may serve as an aposomatic warning to potential predators. Despite observations on the spines since the 1800s experimental evidence substantiating their role as a predator deterrent is lacking and observations have been merely anecdotal. Bishop Boshers, a graduate student in Dr. Michael Fine's lab, will be conducting a predation study using largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) in an attempt to determine the role of the pectoral spine in warding off predators. We will also attempt to record sounds generated by channel catfish when threatened by aquatic predators.

-- David Hopler, VA At-large Member

## North Carolina News

### From the NC Division of Marine Fisheries-

#### Recreational Harvest Statistics Enhanced

North Carolina has added a new component to its data collection program for coastal fisheries allowing managers to gauge the impact of recreational fishermen who use small amounts of commercial gear to catch fish for their personal consumption. The Division of Marine Fisheries revamped their licensing system in 1999 and created the Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL). Previously, the Division

had no way to determine how much seafood was being harvested by RCGL holders but a grant from the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program allowed the Division to design and implement a survey that estimates the RCGL catch.

Surveys were conducted gathering baseline data on the social and economic characteristics of the RCGL community as well as target species, water bodies fished and gear type. These data will be combined with similar data on hook and line and commercial fishing to help develop fishery management plans. North Carolina's harvest data collection program will serve as a model for other states developing landing statistics programs.

The top five RCGL seafoods harvested in 2002 were spot (339,007 lbs), blue crab (133,421 lbs), shrimp (101,325 lbs), flounder (98,396 lbs), and striped mullet (62,990 lbs). Total RCGL landings for 2002 were 1 million pounds compared to hook and line landings of 18 million pounds and commercial landings of 160 million pounds.

#### Money Available for Boating Facilities

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has announced a round of grants to help improve docking facilities for recreational transient non-trailerable boats along the waterways of the United States for 2004. The grants are part of the Boating Infrastructure Grant program authorized by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Act of 1998 that is funded by excise tax on motorboat fuel.

This program provides states with funding for things such as mooring buoys, day-docks, transient slips, safe harbor facilities, floating and fixed piers, dingy docks, restrooms, recycling facilities, marine fueling stations, etc. The funds are distributed each year over a four-year period. Each state gets at least \$100,000 per grant cycle as long as their proposals meet the guidelines.

#### Other DMF News

- Beginning July 1, guide boats, charter boats, head boats and dive boats that take fish must obtain a free permit from the DMF. This is part of a nation-wide initiative by the National Marine Fisheries Service to improve the accuracy of the current recreational data collection program.
- A Pamlico Sound cruise survey will begin in September. This is a long-term survey that will provide data to various state and federal stock assessments.
- DMF personnel are in the process of preparing for gill net fisheries management in Pamlico Sound. This effort is aimed at reducing interactions with threatened and endangered sea turtles from September 1 through December 15, 2003.

- Public hearings are finished addressing Coastal Habitat Management Plans.
- A mullet Fishery Management Plan and a shrimp Fishery Management Plan are under way.
- The DMF is conducting a survey on migratory behavior of female blue crabs in Tar Heel waters. About 7,500 mature female crabs will be tagged through November 2003 to better understand staging areas, migration routes, and timing and habitat of the female blue crab stock. Fishermen will receive \$5 or a hat for turning in information on any tagged crabs they find.

#### **From The NOAA Beaufort Lab --**

**The Raymond J. H. Beverton Lectures at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Three Lectures on Fisheries Science Given May 2-3, 1994. (2002) Edited by E. D. Anderson. Hard bound in dark blue imitation leather with gold-colored lettering (161 p).**

In May 1994, Ray Beverton presented a series of lectures at facilities of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Woods Hole, MA; Seattle, WA; Auke Bay and Juneau, AK; La Jolla, CA; Beaufort, NC; and Silver Spring, MD. The three lectures he gave in Woods Hole were videotaped, and have been transcribed and edited in this volume. These lectures are as follows: 1) Man or nature in fisheries dynamics: who calls the tune?, 2) fish population biology and fisheries research, and 3) reflections on 100 years of fisheries research.

On behalf of the American Fisheries Society's Marine Fisheries Section, copies are available for \$35 postpaid (in US funds) from Douglas Vaughan, NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516-9722. Checks should be payable to: **Marine Fisheries Section AFS**. For orders from Hawaii, Alaska, and outside the US please include an additional \$5 for shipping.

For an additional \$10, copies of the softbound volume, Notes on the Use of Theoretical Models in the Study of Exploited Fish Populations@, by R. J. H. Beverton, will be provided with the above volume. This latter book was developed from a series of lectures from a course taught by Professor Beverton in Beaufort, NC, in 1951, and was published by the AFS Marine Fisheries Section in association with his tour of NMFS laboratories in May 1994.

#### **Atlantic Menhaden**

NOAA Fisheries Population Dynamics Team at the Beaufort Lab produces annual stock assessments for the Atlantic menhaden population. This year's assessment is nearly

complete and will undergo the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission peer review process this fall.

So far this year, Atlantic menhaden commercial landings are 21.6% higher than last year at this time or about 52,927 metric tons. Age compositions from 2003 Atlantic menhaden samples collected so far are 87% age-2, 8% age-1, and 5% age-3+.

#### **Mutton Snapper Aggregations Observed on Riley's Hump in the South Tortugas Ecological Reserve**

Researchers from NOAA Fisheries- Beaufort Reef Fish Life History Team conducted visual census surveys on Riley's Hump, in the South Tortugas Ecological Reserve, during the week of the full moon in July. An aggregation of mutton snapper consisted of approximately 200 fish observed at one location. The fish were milling about the ocean floor and swimming up into the water column unconcerned by nearby divers on open-circuit SCUBA. This is significant behavior for a species that is typically solitary and wary. These fish could have been gathering prior to spawning at or after dusk. A second research team also found another group of mutton snapper, numbering around 100 fish, swimming in a widely dispersed manner. Additionally, a site has been located that seems to be habitat for large numbers of black and yellowfin groupers. Conventional wisdom recently has been that Riley's Hump is not important as grouper habitat, but our finding of 24 black grouper at one site seems to contradict this view. Further cruises are planned to study both the mutton snapper and grouper sites. For additional information contact Michael Burton at 252-728-8756.

-- Neil McNeil, NC At-large Member

#### **Next Tidewater Chapter Newsletter**

The fall newsletter will be coming out in December, 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.

## **18th Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of the**

### **American Fisheries Society**

**January 8-10, 2004**

**Location: Salisbury University,  
Salisbury, Maryland**

**1st Call for Papers**

**Deadline for Registration and for Submitting Abstracts: December 8, 2003**

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held January 8-10, 2004 in the new Henson Science Hall <http://www.salisbury.edu/schools/henson/sciencehall/> of Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland <http://www.salisbury.edu/>. Click here to see a campus map: <http://www.salisbury.edu/admin/CampusMap/>. Henson Science Hall is located along Rt. 13 across the parking lot from the University Police Station. There will be a poster session the evening of Thursday January 8, in the Worcester Room of the Commons Building which is located along Camden Ave. Parking lots are located off of both Rt. 13 and Camden Ave. Invited and contributed oral presentations will take place all day Friday and on Saturday morning until noon. A dinner social is planned for Friday evening, along with the raffle. A block of rooms have been reserved at the nearby Ramada Inn and Conference Center (details below) at reduced rates.

Start thinking about your poster or oral presentation now! Please bring your graduate and undergraduate students! This is a great meeting for budding fisheries biologists to present their research and network among those already working in the field! Student papers (poster and oral presentations) will be judged and cash prizes will be awarded at the Friday business meeting for 1st and 2nd place plus honorable mention. Any work you are doing in fisheries (either finfish or shellfish) will be accepted for presentation. This year we especially encourage those working in these areas:

- Any aspect of fish/shellfish health
- Management of top predators
- Fish kills related to low dissolved oxygen
- Ecosystem health
- Mycobacterium* infections
- Fish parasites

## **Registration and Abstract Submission Procedures for Contributed Papers and Posters**

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-min presentation and 5-min for questions). You can use Microsoft PowerPoint™, 35-mm slides, or overheads. (Please specify). Submitted abstracts should be 200-words (or less) and should follow the example below.

**ABSTRACT EXAMPLE** (Please follow this format for abstract submission)

*Title:* Investigation of habitat preference of juvenile sea bass

*Authors:* J.M. McDougal-Presenter, Southeastern University, PO Box 710, Bivens Creek, NC, 28589, 958-477-2552(W), 565-475-2701(F), McDougalm@se.edu; T. Seahat, NCMF, Game and Fish Department, 2234 Herring Road, Clupeid, Va, 85023, 604-709-9916(W), 692-009-8876(F), [seahat@va.state.us](mailto:seahat@va.state.us).

*Abstract:* Problem statement, issue significance, objectives, findings, and conclusions should be relayed in 200 words or less.

*Preference:* Oral presentation preferred with slides/poster session acceptable.

*Student:* Yes/No

Abstracts should be submitted online (directions below). You will receive an acknowledgment that your abstract was received within 14 days of submission. Call or email Ann Barse if you do not get this notification, or if you have any questions regarding submitted abstracts or meeting details: (410) 543-6073 (office); [ambarse@salisbury.edu](mailto:ambarse@salisbury.edu).

If you must send your abstract via a diskette, please send it to:

Ann M. Barse  
Dept. of Biological Sciences  
Salisbury University  
1101 Camden Ave.  
Salisbury, MD 21801

Clearly indicate whether this is a student presentation or not.

## **Online Registration and Abstract Submission**

**Important:** Please register even if you are not presenting!

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

Click on **Annual Meetings** and follow the instructions.

## Highlights of Meeting

<p><b>Registration Information</b></p>	<p><b>Registration fee: Non-students \$65. Students \$45</b>          Fees will be collected during registration at the Poster Session and Welcoming Reception (see below). Registration/abstract deadline: <b>December 8, 2003</b></p>
<p><b>Guide for Presenters</b></p>	<p><b>Poster presentations</b> should be no larger than 60"x60". During the poster session, posters will be pinned to standing room dividers in the Worcester Room in the Commons Building of Salisbury University. Posters should be on display by 1700 hours on Thurs. Jan 8. They must be removed at the end of the poster session (after 2100 hours). The room dividers will be moved so that posters can be set up again in the Henson Science Hall lobby on Friday morning and left throughout the meeting.</p> <p><b>Oral presentations</b> can be presented using Microsoft PowerPoint™, 35 mm slides or overheads. In the case of PowerPoint™ presentations, each presenter must check in his/her laptop during the break prior to his/her presentation. A backup copy of the presentation on CD or zip disc is highly recommended in case technical difficulties are experienced.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Overview</b></p>	<p><b>Thurs. Jan 8</b>          Check-in at the Ramada Inn starts at 1500          Tidewater ExComm Meeting 1500-1700, Calvert Room (212), Commons Bldg., Salisbury Univ.          Poster Setup Worcester Room, Commons Bldg, Salisbury Univ., 1500-1700          Registration outside the Worcester Room, Commons Bldg, Salisbury Univ., 1700-1800 Welcoming Reception and Poster Session          Worcester Room, Commons Bldg, Salisbury Univ., 1800-2100          Campus Map: <a href="http://www.salisbury.edu/admin/CampusMap/">http://www.salisbury.edu/admin/CampusMap/</a></p> <p><b>Fri. Jan 9</b>          Scientific platform presentations begin and continue through Sat. Jan 10 at 1200 hours, Henson Science Hall, Rm 243 Tidewater Chapter Business Meeting and Presentation of Student Awards, Henson Science Hall, Rm 243          Dinner Social at the Brew River Restaurant <a href="http://www.brewriverusa.com/">http://www.brewriverusa.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Lodging</b></p>	<p>A block of rooms has been reserved at:          The Ramada Inn and Conference Center          300 S. Salisbury Blvd.          Salisbury, MD, 21801 US          410-546-4400          This is less than 2 miles from the university. Go to <a href="http://www.ramada.com/">http://www.ramada.com/</a> for more information.          Rooms (specify smoking or non-smoking) are available at a reduced rate: \$48</p>

	<p>per night + 10% hotel tax (\$4.80) for a room with 1 king or 2 queen sized beds. <b>Make your reservations by calling the hotel, provide them with a credit card number, and tell them you are with the Tidewater AFS group <u>on or before December 8</u> to reserve a room at this price! Otherwise you will have to pay the normal rate of \$85 per night.</b></p>
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