



Inside this Issue

- Presidents Corner
- Treasurer's Report
- Student Subunit News
- Maryland News
- Virginia News
- North Carolina News
- Announcements and Meetings

2004 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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Webmaster – James Morris. www.sdafs.org/tidewater.



President's Corner

The Tidewater Chapter is a unique organization of scientists with diverse areas of expertise, from open ocean to coastal, estuarine and inland fisheries science. Our annual meeting in Salisbury MD last year drew members from the three states that comprise the Tidewater Chapter (Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina) as well as members and guests from West Virginia, Delaware, and New York. I encourage the current members to seek out and invite any new or seasoned fisheries professionals to join this accomplished group of fisheries/fish/ecosystem biologists. Those currently serving on the Membership Committee are: James Morris, Neal McNeill, Dave Hopler, and Erik Zlokovitz. They would welcome any names or ideas you have to increase membership in the Tidewater Chapter. Please send names to the Member-At-Large for your state. That Member-At-Large will send the prospective members some information on the Chapter and an invitation to join.

The current members of the Nominating Committee are James Morris, Ron Klauda, Bill Rodney and Roger Rulifson. They are already discussing a slate of candidates for President-elect from North Carolina for 2006. Plans are well underway for our next annual meeting in Virginia for 2005. Our current President-elect and Program Chair for the Tidewater 2005 Annual Meeting is Chip Long. Please contact Chip if you would like to be a volunteer for this meeting. I was not successful in recruiting volunteers for the Audit Committee this year. This Committee is charged with auditing the accounts of the Secretary Treasurer and then reports to the Chapter at the Annual meeting. Please contact me if you or someone you know, including your graduate students, would be willing to serve in this capacity.

The Tidewater Executive Committee will hold a meeting later this summer at VIMS to give each committee a chance to report on progress made over the summer for

all of the committees' endeavors. If there are any agenda items you would like us to discuss, pass your ideas along! I look forward to the coming year and to seeing you at the next Annual Chapter meeting.

-- Ann M. Barse, 2004 Tidewater Chapter President

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

We have a total of 12 new members since our last newsletter. We would like to welcome or welcome back from Maryland -- John Banks, Edward Houde, Elizabeth North, and James Uphoff; Virginia -- Cynthia Jones, Jon Lucy, and Marcel Montane; North Carolina -- Robert Herrmann, Wilson Laney, Mike Street, and Thomas Thompson; and New Hampshire -- Jon Truebe. Another reminder to our membership, if you didn't register with the Tidewater Chapter through AFS headquarters, I need your addresses and phone information. Shoot me an email @ wsp0619@mail.ecu.edu.

Treasurers Report as of June 30, 2004:

Total Expenses.....	\$ 0.00
Total Income.....	\$ 84.00
Total Checking.....	\$1,264.49
Total Savings.....	\$7,000.00

Chapter Dues – if you went to the Tidewater meeting in Salisbury, you are already paid. If not, please send your \$ 7 to Wes Patrick, Department of Biology, Howell Science Complex, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. Dues and fundraising events are the major source of income for the Chapter. Our biggest cash outflow is for student and professional awards and scholarships. So please support your chapter! It's a great investment.

-- Wes Patrick, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer

Website Reminder – don't forget to update your expertise database on the Tidewater website, www.sdafs.org/tidewater. If you are a new member, please register yourself on the website so that we can continue to compile our expertise database. This information is used to answer inquiries by the public and agencies on fisheries-related problems. "Just" a graduate or undergraduate student? We know you haven't been in the field long enough to gain a wealth of expertise, but you have research interests and we want to know those

as well. Please go to the website and register today. Thanks.

-- James Morris, Website manager

Student Subunit News

East Carolina University

Hello from East Carolina University! Although the 2003-2004 academic year has come to a close, a majority of our members are continuing their work through the summer. Heidi Alderman, Brian Langston, Chris Maser and Chad Smith are continuing their research at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Pamlico Sound and Tar River while Dee Dee Barry and David Chagaris are conducting their research on the tropical islands of Belize, Central America. Several of our undergraduate members of ECU-AFS gained experience in larval fish ecology under the guidance of Drs. Roger Rulifson and Anthony Overton (Roanoke River). ECU-AFS undergraduates Stephen Hughes and Ingrid Coulson are spending their summers working outside the university. Stephen is learning about aquaculture by continuing his work at a local catfish farm, while Ingrid is working as an intern in Virginia.

ECU-AFS wrapped up another successful fundraiser with Barefoot on the Mall, a spring carnival at East Carolina University. Members sold raffle tickets two weeks prior to the event offering items such as an inkjet printer and kayak. Members also prepared and sold hot dog and sausage dog meals with chips and a drink. Proceeds from this event will help offset registration costs and other expenses to enable members to attend the highlight of the summer, which will be the 134th Annual AFS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. ECU-AFS is also participating in the "Orientation Organizational Fair," which is scheduled throughout the summer. This event focuses on incoming ECU students and helps them become acquainted with the various organizations around ECU campus. ECU-AFS representatives will present a tri-fold display showcasing the history and goals of ECU-AFS along with photos. Brochures and website cards will be passed out to visitors.

ECU-AFS will conduct its first business meeting on Wednesday, September 1st from 500-600. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. ECU-AFS plans to continue its new meeting format from last year by

arranging socials at local restaurants. Future activities for the fall semester include Get-A-Clue (campus organizational fair), Big Sweep (river cleanup) and workshops. ECU-AFS will continue to play a major role in assisting the planning of the 2005 Tidewater/Southern Division Annual Meeting in January by designing and selling t-shirts for the event. The ECU-AFS annual meeting will be targeted for a November date. Additional information for all future events will be made available once dates and times are confirmed. Please visit the ECU-AFS website (<http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>) to gain additional information regarding monthly meetings, and upcoming events. You can also take a look at our growing photo album!

Business 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 presenting your research, please contact the student subunit! For the 2004-2005 academic year, the officers are:

Chad Smith (President)
Ingrid Coulson (Vice-President)
Jacqui Jenkins (Secretary)
Heidi Alderman (Treasurer)
Stephen Hughes and Elizabeth Lockhart
(Co-Historians)

We look forward to hearing from you!

-- M. Chad Smith, President, ECU-AFS Student Subunit.

University of Maryland

Former Tidewater President Dr. Dave Secor has made a recent plea for students to get decide whether they wish to get active or whether they should retire the Maryland Student Subunit after several years of inactivity. Dr. Secor feels that their students are too diverse, distributed, and distracted to develop into tight outfit. Still, he declares "I could be wrong (my new mantra!)". Several students have replied so perhaps there is hope yet. If you can support Dave in this effort to breathe new life into the student subunit, please contact him directly.

David H. Secor, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, PO Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688. <http://www.cbl.umces.edu/~secor>; 410-326-7229

Maryland News

MDDNR Striped Bass Project (by Erik Zlokovitz)

Striped bass biologists completed the spring gillnet spawning stock survey for striped bass in mid-May. Crews deployed multi-panel experimental drift gillnets on the upper Bay and Potomac River. The main purpose of this study was to estimate spawning stock biomass and also tag as many striped bass as possible. On the Potomac River, 202 males and 90 female striped bass were tagged. Scale samples, total length, spawning condition, and CPUE data were collected on striped bass, blue catfish, channel catfish, white catfish, white perch, American shad, hickory shad, and river herring.

A survey of the recreational spring trophy striped bass fishery ran from April 17-May 15, which is the designated time period of the "Trophy Rockfish" season in Maryland's section of the Chesapeake Bay. Erik Zlokovitz, Carrie Kennedy, and Eric Pertain interviewed 180 anglers and collected biological data, otoliths, scales, and stomachs from 460 striped bass landed on 137 private and charter boat trips.

Striped bass staff initiated sampling and tagging of resident Chesapeake stock striped bass from Maryland's middle and lower Bay pound nets prior to the May 15th opening of the summer recreational fishing season. This survey is known as the MDDNR "Summer/Fall striped bass tagging project" and is part of an effort to estimate baywide fishing mortality. Biologists are also conducting fish house or "check station" sampling of commercial striped bass landings harvested with pound net and hook and line gear. The commercial hook and pound net fishing season for striped bass runs from June to November.

MDDNR Multifish Project (by Erik Zlokovitz)

Multifish staff are currently engaged in fishery-dependent sampling of lower Maryland Bay pound nets. These nets are used to collect biological data and age structures on a variety of marine and brackish species, including croaker, spot, summer flounder, bluefish, red drum, black drum, and striped bass. A new study that quantifies the effect of impervious surfaces on Chesapeake Bay fish habitat is underway. Crews led by Jim Uphoff are deploying beach seines and trawls in "urban" and "rural" tributaries on the western and eastern shores.

MDDNR Fish Passage Program (contributed by Jim Thompson)

The Chesapeake Bay Program is wrapping up a successful 10 year fish passage goal in which the Bay States have reopened over 1,357 miles of historic anadromous fish habitat. As we formulate a new 10 year goal, the Fish Passage Program is beginning to shift its efforts from constructing fishways to removing dams.

The Fish Passage Program has just received a permit from MDE for the removal of Octoraro Dam in Cecil County, which will restore over 14 miles of premium anadromous fish spawning habitat. With over 90% of all historic anadromous fish habitat now reopened, the Bay States are also beginning to restore resident fish habitat as well. In an effort to prioritize fish blockages in Maryland, the Fish Passage Program is revisiting its database of nearly 1,000 fish blockages to collect new information and take photographs which will be linked to GIS ArcView maps.

Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference (by Ron Klauda)

Ron Klauda co-organized (with Paola Ferreri of Penn State University) and moderated a day-long symposium on April 27 titled "New Directions in the Use of Multimetric Indicators to Assess Biological and Habitat Conditions in Streams and Rivers" at the 60th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference held in Ocean City, MD. The symposium discussed current and future uses of multimetric biological and habitat indicators in the assessment of stream and river health. Speakers from U.S. EAP; state resource management agencies in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and Massachusetts; academia; and environmental consulting groups discussed a range of topics that included a historical perspective on bioassessment and biocriteria development in the U.S., application of multimetric indices to large rivers, a revised physical habitat index for Maryland streams, use of fish and benthic macroinvertebrate community indicators to identify sediment-related impairments, and challenges/opportunities for future development and use of multimetric indicators to protect and restore the Nation's waters. Ron co-authored a paper presented by Scott Stranko (Maryland DNR) titled "Comparison of Two Multimetric Stream Indicators of Fish Community

Condition. Drs. Paul Angermeier (Virginia Tech) and James Karr (University of Washington) gave the keynote presentations for this very well-attended symposium. Jay Kilian (Maryland DNR) received a first place award for his student poster titled "Spatial Variability of Stream Fish Assemblages: Implications for the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)".

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD At-Large Member

Virginia News

Snakeheads Found in Virginia

The Northern Snakehead (*Channa argus*), the same species that made headlines in Crofton, Maryland in 2002, was caught by an angler in Wheaton, Maryland on April 26, 2004. Two weeks later another specimen was caught by an angler in Little Hunting Creek, Virginia, a Potomac River tributary. Five more snakeheads have been caught within an eight mile stretch of the Potomac as of this writing. The two most recent collections, unlike the previous five, were sexually mature individuals.

Virginia Department of Fish and Game (VDGIF), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, (MDNR) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists have searched the area looking for specimens and nests for several weeks. However, anglers and a commercial waterman had collected all the snakeheads until June 23, when a VDGIF biologist collected the most recent specimen. The source of these fish is unknown. Possibilities include aquarium escapes or individuals released from local fish markets.



Northern Snakeheads are voracious predators indigenous to Asia. They can survive out of water for up to three

days. An established population in the Potomac River could wreak havoc on native fishes and amphibians. VDGIF has set up a snakehead hotline and urges all anglers to kill and report snakehead catches. For more information check the VDGIF website: <http://www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing/snakeheads.html>.

Embrey Breach Monitoring Update

Fish Passage Coordinator, Alan Weaver, reports that Fish Passage Technicians Robert (Chip) Augustine and Andrew Skelton conducted boat electrofishing sampling about a half-mile upstream of the recently breached Embrey Dam on Friday, April 9, 2004 in the middle of what used to be the Embrey pool (just below I95). This area is now a nice series of reaches, runs and riffles - and very challenging to sample. Hickory shad, *Alosa mediocris*, were collected in good numbers (catch per effort = 10 fish/min) marking the first official documentation of target anadromous species using the breached section of Embrey Dam. Subsequent sampling trips yielded blueback herring (*A. aestivalis*) immediately above Embrey and 5 miles upstream, a gravid American shad (*A. sapidissima*) 5 miles upstream and several juvenile stripers (*Morone saxatilis*) 5 miles upstream. These findings document the first stages of success of this removal project. Getting the female American upstream was the "icing on the cake!"



Chip Augustine holds a gravid American shad at the breached Embrey Dam section of the James River, VA (photo credit: Andrew Skelton).

For more information contact Alan Weaver at 804-367-6795; aweaver@dgif.state.va.us

-- David Hopley, VA At-Large Member

North Carolina News

NOAA researcher studies Atlantic lionfish propagation potential.

With the recent discovery of Indo-Pacific lionfish in the western Atlantic, questions regarding the rate of population expansion, predicted distribution, and ecological impacts are of valid concern. NOAA Beaufort Lab researchers are working modeling efforts to predict the rate of lionfish population growth. Reproductive parameters such as fecundity and seasonality of spawning are being determined by rearing experiments and by analysis of field collected specimens. To date lionfish have successfully spawned in the laboratory and rearing techniques are being developed to provide egg and larval survival and growth rate estimates.



Lionfish with floating eggs mass.
Photo credit: James Morris

Efforts are also underway to determine to thermal effects on larvae survival, as lionfish native habitat is significantly warmer than the western Atlantic. This information will provide forecasting capabilities regarding range expansion and more importantly the rate of population growth in the western Atlantic.



Ecosystem effects? As lionfish are venomous and voracious predators, we are conducting laboratory test to determine potential lionfish prey, and thus estimate predation effects on local reef fish communities. We are also working to determine if

lionfish are vulnerable to predation in their new habitat. This research will provide early analysis of lionfish population growth accounting for both reproductive biology, critical thermal limits during the larval life stage, and predation pressure. The results of this research will provide increased knowledge of issues associated with marine finfish invasions and will provide further methodology to assess the impacts of future invasions. For more information regarding lionfish reproduction and propagation contact James Morris at 252-728-8782 james.morris@noaa.gov

NOAA Scientists at Beaufort Lab Hunt for “Lions” in the Atlantic (NOAA news release)

Divers and deep-water fishermen along the Atlantic Coast may encounter lionfish, venomous coral reef fishes that have found their way into east coast waters. Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will conduct field studies this summer supported by NOAA's Undersea Research Center in Wilmington, N.C., to examine the status of the lionfish population and examine life history characteristics to determine the risk of lionfish to Atlantic coast ecosystems. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"We are learning of more encounters with these venomous fish," said Paula Whitfield of NOAA's Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research in Beaufort, N.C., and co-author of a recently published assessment of lionfish (web link follows). "In March, the first known capture of a lionfish by hook and line occurred off the coast of North Carolina. The fish was 17 inches long and weighed 2.5 lbs. It's the largest specimen to date in the Atlantic."

Lionfish *Pterois volitans* is a venomous coral reef fish from the Indian and western Pacific oceans that have invaded East Coast waters. Lionfish were likely first introduced off the Florida coast in the early to mid 1990s and by the summer of 2000 were found along the Atlantic coast of the United States from Florida to Cape Hatteras, N.C.

"Dispersal of the lionfish population along the Atlantic coast was likely helped by Gulf Stream transport of lionfish eggs and larvae," said Jonathan Hare, co-author of the assessment report. "Adult lionfish have been

found primarily in water depths of 85 to 300 feet and juvenile lionfish have been observed in North Carolina, Bermuda, and as far north as New York in shallow coastal waters."

Lionfish are very popular in the aquarium trade and are commonly kept as aquarium pets. It is likely that the introduction of lionfish is from either intentional or unintentional releases related to the aquarium trade including amateur home aquarists.

NOAA scientists conclude that the large number of adults observed and the occurrence of juveniles indicate that lionfish are established and reproducing along the southeast United States coast. There is further evidence that lionfish numbers are increasing.

Although there have been no known fatalities caused by lionfish stings, they are reportedly extremely painful. Researchers urge caution to anyone who encounters these fish. With most observations of lionfish occurring in waters more than 100 feet deep, divers and those fishing in deep waters are most likely to have encounters with the fish.

Lionfish also are believed to pose particular risks to the local environment. They are voracious predators that feed not only on small shrimps but also on large fishes, perhaps including the young of important commercial fish species such as snapper and grouper, many of which use the region's "live bottom" reefs as nursery grounds. The invasive lionfish have few if any natural predators in their new Atlantic environment.

The public is encouraged to report all lionfish sightings and collections to Paula Whitfield at the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory, (252) 728-8714 or by email at: paula.whitfield@noaa.gov.



Lionfish in the Atlantic. Photo credit NOAA Ocean Explorer

Draft Plan of CHPPS at Public Hearings –

Last year North Carolina officials sponsored public meetings on the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, or CHPPS. At meetings in Manteo and Edenton, officials from the Division of Coastal Management heard public comments on what is needed to protect our fragile coastal habitats. A draft of the plan was finished over the winter. **Come to one of two public meetings to take a look at the plan and give feedback on it.** The plan is in draft form, so there's still time to make changes.

The first meeting will be held in Manteo at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 13. The second will be Wednesday, July 14, in Edenton at Town Council Headquarters, 500 S. Broad Street, at 7p.m.

The Coastal Habitat Protection Plan will serve as a kind of operating manual for the various state agencies that oversee coastal resources. Its goal is to get all the agencies working together as a team.

You can find out more about the draft plan at www.ncfisheries.net or by calling (800) 682-2632. Email comments may be sent to chpps@ncmail.net.

Fishy Interest Story (by Josh Murauskas, NC) –

These photos were taken in Kansas by my cousin's friend. His neighbor saw a ball bouncing around kind of strange like and then he went to investigate, it was a flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) with a child's basketball stuck in its mouth. The pictures tell the rest of the story. His wife did have to cut the ball in order to deflate the ball and release the catfish.



Photo credit Pam Driver

Tidewater 19th Annual Meeting and Southern Division Meeting Update

The Virginia Beach Hotel and Conference Center (VBHCC) has been selected for the 2005 SDAFS Midyear meeting from February 9th through February 13th, 2005. Committee chairs / volunteers are meeting at the VBHCC on April 6, 2004 to discuss and plan meeting activities.

Vic Dicenzo has requested one Tidewater Chapter member to participate on the Program Committee. We would like to include at least 2 technical sessions (5 -7 papers each) related to marine fisheries. Vic's counterpart would be responsible for helping to organize these sessions. Additionally, we wanted to solicit ideas for a continuing education workshop related to marine fisheries; all ideas for technical sessions and workshops are welcome.

General Meeting Chairs - John Odenkirk (president-elect VAAFS) jodenkirk@dgif.state.va.us & Steve Reeser (president VAAFS) sreeser@dgif.state.va.us.

Local Arrangements Committee Chair - Chip Long (president-elect Tidewater Chapter AFS). clong@dgif.state.va.us.

Program Committee Chair - Vic Dicenzo (VAAFS member; SDAFS secretary / treasurer) Office: 434-392-9645 or vdicenzo@dgif.state.va.us.

The SDAFS is notorious for its commitment to students and their involvement in AFS. Therefore, I am requesting at least 2 students from the ECU Student Subunit to assist me in planning the student social on Friday evening. Students volunteers will also be needed to help organize a student / mentor luncheon and judge papers. It is also our intent to organize a student workshop as was done last year in Wilmington, North Carolina. Ideas for a student workshop should be directed to me as soon as possible (clong@dgif.state.va.us).

Please help us make this meeting a success!!!

Chip Long, Fisheries Biologist, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, 3909 Airline Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23321. Office: (757)-465-6812; Cell: (757)-409-5070.

Announcements

3rd International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application, Townsville, Queensland, Australia, July 11-16, 2004.

<http://www.otolith2004.com>.

134th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Madison, WI, August 21-26, 2004.

<http://www.fisheries.org>.

The 58th annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) will be held in Hilton Head, SC, October 30 – November 3, 2004. The second call for papers is out.

www.dnr.state/sc/us/seafwa.

The Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) Fall Meeting for 2004 has been set for October 14-16th! The meeting will be held at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Featured topic is Challenges and Successes in Estuarine Habitat Restoration: the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. Abstract and pre-registration deadline: September 1, 2004. Visit the NEW website (www.AERS.info).

Marine Fisheries Section ELECTION – The Marine Fisheries Section announces the arrival of our very special ELECTION Newsletter edition. Please view it online ... <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/mfs>. Candidates for President-Elect include Roger Rulifson (Tidewater Chapter), Jeff Isley (Clemson) and Debra Murie (University of Florida). If you are a member, don't forget to vote. On the far left-hand side scroll down to "Newsletters." It is second from the bottom, in-between "Membership" and "Publication." Then go over to right side under Newsletters and select the latest version "Vol20_No1_Spr04.pdf". Since this is extremely Time-Sensitive we would like to ask each one of you to review the candidates and vote as quickly as possible. All votes must be tallied by August 1st. When you vote please be sure to include your name. FLEX YOUR TIDEWATER MUSCLE AND VOTE!

-- D. Johnson, NOAA/NMFS/NEFSC, James J. Howard Laboratory at Sandy Hook

AFS Southern Division ELECTION -- If you are an AFS member of the Tidewater chapter, then you are a member of the AFS Southern Division. You should have received your election ballot by snail mail. Candidates

for Vice-president are J. Fred Heitman (TN) and Gene R. Wilde (TX). Secretary-Treasurer candidates are Dennis Riecke (MS) and Greg Summers (OK). Division representative candidates to the AFS Nominating Committee are Dick Luebke (TX) and Hal Schramm (MS). FLEX THE TIDEWATER MUSCLE AND VOTE! (If you did not receive a ballot, write to "AFS Southern Division newsletter, 100 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321".

Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Sixth Edition, by Joseph S. Nelson, Edwin J. Crossman, Héctor Espinosa-Pérez, Lloyd T. Findley, Carter R. Gilbert, Robert N. Lea, and James D. Williams -- This long-awaited authoritative reference provides an accurate, up-to-date checklist of common and scientific names for all described and taxonomically valid fish species living in fresh and marine waters of North America. This is a must for all new fisheries students, and for those of us who can't remember the newest name changes. Book and CD: 395 pages, hardbound. July 2004. List price: \$60. AFS member price: \$42. Stock number: 510.29C. American Fisheries Society, Attn: Orders Department, 1650 Bluegrass Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30004. phone: 678-366-1411. fax: 770-442-9742 online: www.fisheries.org (click on "Bookstore").

Next Tidewater Chapter Newsletter

The fall newsletter will be coming out in September, so please send any newsworthy items to the editor at rulifson@mail.ecu.edu.

- Are your graduate students graduating? Let us abstract his/her thesis and assist with the job search.
- 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.

**Fourth Annual Fisheries Student Colloquium
Students United in the Research of Fisheries (SURF).
November 5-7, 2004.**



The University of Florida is hosting the 2004 American Fisheries Society Student Colloquium for the Southern Division. This meeting is designed to allow students to present their research, in any stage of completion, to their peers. It also facilitates the development of professional relationships between students that will last their entire careers. These goals will be accomplished through presentations, a poster session, and socials. This is the fourth annual student meeting; the prior three were each a great success and we expect nothing less this year.

The Colloquium will be held at The University of Florida's Whitney Marine Laboratory, November 5-7. We welcome both graduate and undergraduate students in fisheries related majors. Registration begins August 2nd and is only \$15 per student (\$35 late registration after September 17th). Meals will be provided. Lodging is the only other expense and we have rooms reserved at a reduced rate of \$53-\$66 per night at Beacher's Lodge, located on nearby South St. Augustine Beach. Information is also available on our website <http://surf.ifas.ufl.edu/>. In the near future we will be sending out posters and information packets to each school.

Stephen Larsen, Public Relations Coordinator
Fourth Annual Fisheries Student Colloquium Committee
E-mail: laxkid@ufl.edu; Phone: 352.392.9617 x241;
Fax: 352.392.3672.