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2004 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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President Elect – Hank Brooks, Phone 804-684-7587; email hbrooks@vims.edu.

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

Secretary/Treasurer – Wesley Patrick, Phone 252-328-2945; email wsp0619@mail.ecu.edu.

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

VA Member-at-Large – Dave Hopler, email hoplejrda@mail1.vcu.edu.

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Historian and Listserv Administrator – Roger Rulifson.

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



President's Corner

The Tidewater Chapter Executive Committee held their Midyear meeting at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) on August 30, 2004, to discuss ongoing activities of our organization. As you all know by now, we are fortunate to have elected a replacement for Mr. Chip Long, who resigned from his position as President-elect. Our newly elected President-elect for the remainder of 2004-2005 is Mr. Hank Brooks of VIMS. Hank will be working with some volunteers to hold a marine symposium in conjunction with the 2005 Southern Division meeting in Virginia Beach, February 10-13. The Virginia Chapter of the AFS is a co-sponsor of this meeting, and the marine symposium is the Tidewater Chapter's contribution to this event. The ECU Student Subunit is designing t-shirts and selling them so be sure to buy one! I encourage our chapter members to attend this meeting, especially students, and in particular, I urge you to present at our marine symposium. This promises to be a very successful meeting, with opportunities to meet new fishery professionals. Our Business Meeting will also be held at the 2005 Southern Division Meeting.

I commend the efforts of our Historian, Dr. Roger Rulifson, for his work in getting the Tidewater List-Serve in operation. This is a great way to communicate among members. I would also like to recognize Roger's efforts in getting the newsletter out. We have a new committee, the Communications Committee, with Roger as Chair. Thanks are also due to Wes Patrick for all his research in investment opportunities.

Our Past President and now Chair of the Membership Committee, Mr. James Morris, has been very busy with the membership drive. He has some great ideas for getting new members and retaining them once they join. If you know people that can be enticed to join our fine group, please send their names to the Member-At-Large for your state. Also, please pay your membership dues

ahead of the meeting, as this small fee is no longer included in the meeting registration fee.

James is also Chair of the Nominating Committee. He will soon be putting together a slate of candidates for the change of the guard, which takes place at the February Southern Division Meeting. Please think about serving! Talk to your colleagues about serving and your students or former students. The next President-Elect should be from a North Carolina academic institution. There are numerous opportunities for service on committees: Nominating, Membership, Awards, and Audit. This is a great way to network among professionals, meet new people, and it looks great on your CV!

In closing, I look forward to my continued involvement in the Tidewater Chapter, and also to seeing you in Virginia Beach in February!

-- Ann M. Barse, 2004 Tidewater Chapter President

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Minutes of the AFS Tidewater Chapter – Midyear EXCOM Meeting

Date: August 30, 2004

Place: William and Mary – Virginia Institute of Marine Science -

Members Present: Ann Barse, James Morris, Wesley Patrick, Roger Rulifson, and Erik Zlokovitz.

The EXCOM met on August 30, 2004 to discuss the past and future activities of Tidewater Chapter. Located at the William and Mary – Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Fisheries Laboratory, Ann Barse began the meeting at 11:46 AM with a welcome to all who made it down for the meeting. Attendees included James Morris, Wesley Patrick, Roger Rulifson, and Erik Zlokovitz. Dave Hopler (Virginia Member at Large), Neil McNeil (North Carolina Member at Large), and Chad Smith (ECU-AFS President) were unable to attend. The agenda for the meeting included A) Welcome, B) Secretary/Treasurers Report, C) Committee Reports, D) Subunit Reports, E) Southern Division Meeting, F) Discussion of membership dues, G) Roger Rulifson: proposals, and H) General Discussion.

Secretary and Treasurer, Wesley Patrick, reported that we have a total of 97 members as of August 30, 2004, with 23 of these members being students. Mr. Patrick also reported that the Tidewater Chapter currently holds \$9,396.00 (Savings - \$7,002.81; Checking - \$2,393.29). The only transactions made since the 2004 annual meeting have been for the new checks, because accounts were moved from M&T bank of Maryland to Bank of America in Greenville, North Carolina. As chair of the Investment Committee, Mr. Patrick introduced options for Tidewater to invest its excess savings (\$4000) either through CD's or mutual funds. The options were not discussed until the end of the meeting, when all other agenda items that dealt with funds were settled. The final motion made (by Wesley Patrick) was to invest \$3,000 into a mutual fund of his choice, with the stipulation that the risk level be low to below average and having a morning star value of 4 or above. Another investment option was proposed by Roger Rulifson, who suggested we invest an additional \$3,000 from our saving into a 10-month CD, to increase our earnings from 0.4% to 2.0%, which passed unanimously.

The Membership Committee, chaired by James Morris, noted their efforts to boost membership in the chapter. James has been working with the members-at-large since January to create a list of potential Tidewater members, which consists of important persons and past members. Currently only a list of Maryland potential members has been created (by Erik Zlokovitz). James requested that a current and historical membership list be created so that this task of increasing membership would be more expedient; these duties were given to Wesley Patrick and Roger Rulifson. Other objectives of the membership committee included a mass mailing of membership renewal forms to our historic and present members, to boost membership numbers since the majority of our membership is from annual meeting attendees.

The Nominating Committee, also chaired by James Morris, reported that a special election was needed to fill the vacancy of 2004 President Elect. Unfortunately Chip Long, the former president elect, could not fulfill his obligation of performing the duties of this seat due to personal reasons. A call for president elect nominations will be scheduled for September 1st ending September 13th, with a voting period beginning the following day and ending September 20th, 2004. The new president elect will coordinate with the Virginia Chapter Annual Meeting Officers to discuss our joint Annual Meeting this year in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Similarly, a call

for the 2005 elections will be filed on September 13th and end September 20th. The nominees will be listed in the Winter Newsletter (mid December) and polls are expected to end January 31st, 2005.

No student sub-unit representatives were present to give the committee an update on their activities (will be noted in sub-unit section of this newsletter). However, the committee did discuss the prospects of UNC-Wilmington creating a student subunit.

Lastly, the Communication Committee (created at this meeting) and chaired by Roger Rulifson, will report on the ListServ, Newsletter, and web page. Dr. Rulifson is working with a computer technician at East Carolina University, and hopes to have the ListServ up and running here in the near future. However, for the ListServ to be successful, members MUST register with the ListServ.

The annual meeting this year, as noted above, will be a joint meeting with the Virginia Chapter this year where we are co-hosting the Southern Division Meeting in Virginia Beach. The Virginia Chapter has handled the majority of this planning and the Tidewater Chapter has been allotted one conference room for Tidewater interest, in which members should plan on submitting presentations for the section.

Discussion of membership dues has been an agenda item since 2002. Fortunately, the EXCOM voted unanimously that 1) membership dues will no longer be included in the annual meeting registration fee, and 2) these membership dues will be collected separately by the Tidewater Chapter and the AFS parent society.

Roger Rulifson had two proposals concerning financial involvement. The first was a joint social of the Marine Fisheries Section, the Estuarine Section, and the Tidewater Chapter at the 2005 AFS Annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. After much discussion among the EXCOM members, James Morris motioned that \$250 be donated for this social event, which passed unanimously. The second proposal was a revisiting of the Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes Symposium at Anchorage, Alaska. It has been twenty years since the last CSACF symposium was held, at next years National meeting, the symposium will be held again however publication cost need to be covered in part by donations. Other sections like the Estuarine and Marine Fisheries, have donated \$500. It was moved by

Erik Zlokovitz that the Tidewater Chapter donate \$500 also, which passed unanimously.

There were no general discussions, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Patrick, Secretary/Treasurer of the AFS Tidewater Chapter.

Treasurers Report as of September 30, 2004:

Total Expenses	\$26.00
Total Income	\$105.21
Total Checking	\$4,500.29
Total Savings	\$5,004.02
Total	9,504.31

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

Elections Committee

President-Elect Election Results - The votes have been tallied and Mr. Hank Brooks of VIMS, Fisheries Science is the new Tidewater Chapter President-Elect for the remainder of the 2004-2005 term. He is replacing Chip Long and will begin his duties immediately. Mr. Brooks is currently planning a marine symposium, which will be held in conjunction with the 2005 Southern Division Spring Meeting in Virginia Beach, Feb 10-11, 2005. Mr. Brooks will be announcing instructions for submitting abstracts for this symposium in the upcoming weeks.

Best regards,
James Morris
AFS Tidewater Past-president
Nominations Committee Chair

Hank Brooks is the New Tidewater President-Elect –

Greetings Tidewater members. I am happy to be serving as your new President-Elect, and hope all of you can come to the Southern Division meeting in Virginia Beach in February 2005. I graduated from Frostburg State University (Maryland) in 1991 with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. I worked several years for a consulting firm in Drumore, PA conducting entrainment studies on hydroelectric power plants (mostly in Michigan and Pennsylvania). I then spent six and a half years working for a timber company in Arcata, CA doing habitat monitoring/assessment work and population estimates of Coho Salmon and Steelhead. In 1999 I moved to Virginia and took a position with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point. I presently work on the VIMS Juvenile Finfish and Blue Crab Trawl Survey as well as the VIMS Striped Bass Seine Surveys. If you would like to contact me, my email address and telephone are listed on Page 1 of the newsletter, or you can write to the following address: Hank Brooks, Room 138, Fisheries Science Laboratory, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point , Virginia 2306.

Communications Committee

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

Tidewater Chapter ListServ - The Tidewater Chapter ListServ is up and running through East Carolina University. Roger Rulifson is the ListServ manager. All professionals currently listed in our membership list are subscribed, and the list has been active. Here is the brief set of controls needed to subscribe or modify your subscription to TAFS ListServ:

To subscribe

E-mail to: listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu and enter SUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.

To send a message, E-mail to:

tidewafs@ecumail7.ecu.edu.

To unsubscribe, E-mail to:

listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu and enter UNSUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.

Student Subunit News

East Carolina University

Greetings from East Carolina University. The Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society closed the academic year with a business meeting followed by inducting the new officers for the upcoming academic year. The end of the academic year also saw the commencement of ECU-AFS members, Jennifer Cudney and Charlton Godwin, who graduated with a Master's Degree in biology. Congratulations to them both and the best of luck to them in their future careers. A majority of our members remained on campus during the summer to continue their research while some ventured elsewhere to prolong their interest in fisheries biology. Vice President Ingrid Coulson completed an internship in Virginia, while Co-Historian Stephen Hughes continued his work at Carolina Catfish Farm. ECU-AFS members Deirdre "Dee Dee" Barry and David Chagaris traveled to Belize, Central America, to continue their research in tropical marine ecology. Past Vice President Chad Coggins, along with other ECU-AFS members, continued their work with LMGNOP (Large Mesh Gill Net Observer Program).

Throughout the summer, ECU-AFS participated in multiple ECU Orientation Organizational Fairs. The objective of this event was to present incoming ECU students with information on a variety of campus organizations. ECU-AFS representatives presented a tri-fold display depicting a pictorial five-year history along with listed goals and activities of our organization. Brochures and website cards were presented in addition to active conversation between students. ECU-AFS also participated in a similar event, Get-A-Clue, which was held on September 22, 2004, in central campus plaza. Both events were successful and provided an excellent opportunity for ECU-AFS to spread its name throughout ECU campus.



Treasurer Heidi Alderman works the Get-A-Clue booth for ECU-AFS.

The highlight of the summer was the 134th Annual AFS Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. ECU-AFS had five students and three faculty members attend this meeting. Recent graduate (and a former subunit president) Charlton Godwin gave an oral presentation on his master's thesis while Drs. Luczkovich and Rulifson served as session moderators. The meeting offered an immense variety of presentations, posters, side tours and entertaining evening socials.



Five of the ECU attendees at the AFS Madison meeting (L-R): Chad Smith, Dee Dee Barry, Jen Cudney, Dr. Luczkovich, and Nick Jones.

ECU-AFS conducted its first business meeting for the 2004-2005 academic year on September 1, 2004. Twenty-five people attended this meeting and we welcomed many new faces. Skip Kemp, who works with the Aquaculture Technology Program from Carteret Community College in Morehead City, North Carolina,

was the guest speaker. Skip spoke about his experiences in the field of aquaculture. Following the meeting, ECU-AFS continued its new tradition of hosting socials at local restaurants to encourage further conversation with the guest speaker and members.

During the month of September, ECU-AFS offered two additional meetings with ECU Volunteer Services and the Peace Corps. A representative from ECU Volunteer Services spoke to members on September 15th, 2004, about how to become actively involved in community service projects whether through an organization or on an individual basis. This ECU service has the potential and likelihood to promote good citizenship and to heighten résumés and scholarship applications as well as other positive advantages. On September 28, 2004, Peace Corps representative, Angela Moore provided students with information about the program, which involves everyday people traveling overseas to influence the lives of others. Both meetings were open to all students in the ECU Department of Biology and were planned to provide students with opportunities that would benefit their overall life experience.

Big Sweep 2004 was held on October 2, 2004. ECU-AFS continued its annual tradition by assisting in the cleanup of Green Mill Run, which is the watershed running through the ECU campus. Eighteen volunteers collected over 2000 items in a three-hour period. Pitt County Recycling provided lunch at the Town Commons for all 180 volunteers cleaning the Tar River watershed. The best feel-good item found was a woman's purse, which was stolen from an ECU geology professor two years ago! Members Leah Brinson, Elisa Livengood, and Jenny Woodroffe presented it to the faculty member, who was thrilled to say the least.





Some of the trash and participants in this year's Big Sweep service project (L-R): Ben Jensen, Melissa Benson, Dr. Rulifson, Alyssa Ben, Curtis Hodges, Leah Brinson, Jenny Woodroffe, Dr. Overton, and Elisa Livengood.

ECU-AFS is looking forward to the upcoming months! The next business meeting will be on October 6, 2004 and Tidewater Chapter Past-President, James Morris will serve as our guest speaker and will talk to members about his recent research on the reproductive biology of the invasive lionfish in the Western Atlantic. ECU-AFS will also be migrating South this fall to Gainesville, Florida to attend the 4th Annual Student Colloquium. Five students are registered to attend this student conference. Three students will be contributing to the poster session, which includes ECU-AFS Secretary, Jacqui Jenkins, who will also be giving an oral presentation on her master's thesis.

If you are interested in attending a meeting, holding a forum with ECU students, or presenting your research, please contact ECU-AFS! We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information about ECU-AFS, and more photos from this summer and fall, please visit our website <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>.

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

University of Maryland

If interested in reviving the Maryland Student Subunit, please contact former Tidewater president Dr. David H. Secor, Associate Professor, Chesapeake Biological

Laboratory, PO Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688. 410-326-7229.

Maryland News

MDDNR Striped Bass Project (by Erik Zlokovitz):

The 2004 Juvenile Index (beach seine survey) was completed in mid-September. Preliminary data indicates an average striped bass year class and a very strong year class for American shad in the Potomac River. The shad year class may be a record; final numbers should be available by Christmas. The 50-year Maryland baywide average for striped bass is approximately 12 fish per haul.

Striped bass staff are currently sampling and tagging resident Chesapeake stock striped bass from Maryland's middle and lower Bay pound nets. This survey is known as the MDDNR "Summer/Fall striped bass tagging project" and is part of an effort to estimate baywide fishing mortality. This survey will continue into November. 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. The winter gillnet season opens in December, and biologists will sample that harvest through February.

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 which 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 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.

The Fish Passage GIS database (linking photo-documented fish blockages to GIS software) will help the program identify priority projects and coordinate projects with locate watershed associations. Plans are being finalized for a study to use underwater video camera equipment to study a new fish ladder in spring of 2005. Fish Passage secured \$35,000 which is being used in part to fund the engineering and design for a dam in western Maryland. The program is also gathering info for several low-head dams which may be candidates for removal in the future.

DNR WITHDRAWS PROPOSED SNAKEHEAD REGULATIONS: New and modified regulations will be submitted in October (news release).

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will withdraw and re-propose the snakehead regulation scheduled to be effective Sept. 13. Snakehead regulations were proposed to prohibit the possession of all species of live snakehead fish (family: Channidae) in the State. The Department received many comments during the public involvement and review process and will consider all of the comments in the future construction of the regulations for public review. The new regulation should be available for public review in October 2004 and submitted later this year as an emergency regulation.

Regulations to restrict possession of snakeheads in Maryland will complement the Federal Lacey Act, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopted to declare snakehead fish injurious to the wildlife and wildlife resources of the United States in October 2002.

This action prohibited the importation or interstate transport of live snakehead fish without a permit. To date, at least 20 states have possession restrictions on snakehead fish.

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-Large

Virginia News

James and Rappahannock Juvenile Alosine Survey

The VDGIF Fish Passage program is conducting a push net survey of the James River (upstream of Boshers Dam) and the Rappahannock River (tidal at Fredericksburg) to evaluate American shad stocking success and natural reproduction of shad and herring. So far, we have collected 270 American shad juveniles upstream of Boshers Dam (within 8 miles). Our new Age and Growth technicians are reading the otoliths and some of the early summer results indicate that the vast majority of shad above Boshers are of hatchery origin with a few wild fish mixed in. On the tidal Rappahannock we have collected 287 American shad juveniles. Hatchery and wild fish have been identified but the majority of samples have not been read yet for otc markings so the wild:hatchery ratio is not yet predictable for 2004. For more information contact Alan Weaver at (804) 367-6795.

-- David Hopley, VA Member-at-Large

North Carolina News

From The Division of Marine Fisheries:

NC Fisheries Health Report

North Carolina's fisheries continue to show signs of improvement as two more stocks, Atlantic croaker and monkfish are upgraded by the Division of Marine Fisheries. Atlantic croaker was moved from concerned to viable and monkfish advanced from overfished to recovering. According to Dr. Lewis Daniel, DMF scientist, eighteen out of 40 stocks, or 45 percent are already in recovering classifications and several more stocks are on track to be moved into recovering. The DMF's annual stock status report evaluates the health of NC's coastal fisheries, spotlighting successes and failures.

Fish and shellfish stocks considered viable are: Atlantic croaker, black seabass north of Cape Hatteras, striped bass in the ocean, dolphin/wahoo, summer flounder, gag grouper, Spanish Mackerel, Atlantic menhaden, spot, spotted sea trout, shrimp, and weakfish.

Recovering stocks include bluefish, monkfish, red drum, and scup. Stocks listed as concerned include: striped mullet, white and yellow perch, reef fish, American shad, bay scallops, oysters and blue crabs.

Overfished stocks include: black seabass south of Cape Hatteras, striped bass in Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, southern flounder, river herring in the Albemarle Sound, sharks, spiny dogfish, Atlantic sturgeon, and tautog. In North Carolina, all overfished stocks either have regulations in place or regulations being developed to stop over fishing and allow the population to rebuild. Some stocks have insufficient data to allow appropriate assessments to be done. These include catfishes, American eel, river herring, outside of Albemarle Sound, kingfishes, sea mullet, hickory shad and hard clams. The DMF is moving to collect the needed data to evaluate these stocks over the next few years and move them to appropriate categories.

North Carolina Adopts Saltwater Fishing License

Beginning January 1, 2006 NC will require all saltwater anglers to have a recreational fishing license. This license will be required for any type of saltwater recreational fishing activity not included under the NC Recreational Commercial Gear License. This includes spears, hook-and-line, bait-and-line, seines, less than 30 feet, dip nets, landing nets, cast nets, and recreational shellfish activities including crab pots. Cost for the license will be \$15.00 per year. The only exclusions presently allowed will be individuals 18 years or younger who are actively engaged in school. Holders of the new license will be accountable to the states laws regarding size and catch limits and shall comply with all sampling and survey programs of the DMF.

Proceeds from the sale of the licenses will go into the NC Saltwater Fishing Fund and will be used for habitat and resource enhancement, research, land acquisition to enhance fishery habitat or public access, construction of public beach access and public marinas, emergency dredging to restore public fishing access, marine science scholarships, and administrative expenses for the fund. The fund is specifically designed for enhancement of the

state's fishery resources for commercial and recreational fishing and no funds will be used for law enforcement. State and local agencies and non profit conservation organizations may apply for grants from the fund.

The fund will be administered by an 11-member board of trustees. The trustees will include the Marine Fisheries Director and Chairman of the Marine Fisheries Commission along with three members appointed by the governor, three appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three appointed by the Senate Pro Tempore.

From the Beaufort NOAA Laboratory-

NOAA Beaufort lab gets new Seawater System

The NOAA lab located on Pivers Island in Beaufort, NC is getting a new seawater system. The old system, which relied on large head tanks, is being replaced with a new pressure driven system equipped with a rotary drum filter capable of filtering down to 90 microns. The old system was prone to frequent problems with clogged lines and inconsistent water supply. The new system will require less maintenance and thus more time for actual science.

Present projects being conducted in the seawater facility include, red porgy culture and age validation, lionfish reproduction studies, and seagrass culture projects. The new seawater system will make these and future projects much easier and will allow better control of water quality. In addition to the seawater system upgrade, the laboratory as a whole will be getting a much-needed electrical system upgrade.

Turtle Rodeo

According to Joanne McNeill, NMFS sea turtle researcher, the 2nd 'turtle rodeo' of the season will be held the week of Oct 3. The 'turtle rodeo' is held for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive health assessment of juvenile loggerhead sea turtles inhabiting NC's Sounds. In addition, Joanne and other researchers will be determining the sex ratio of these turtles. "We bring turtles back to the lab so that we can conduct laparoscopies (a surgical procedure to view their gonads) and collect fat biopsies from them". Laparoscopies are the only method of positively identifying the sex of immature sea turtles. In addition to a variety of health assessment parameters, blood samples from these turtles are analyzed for testosterone levels, a less invasive and

labor intensive method of classifying sex. "We hope to continue establishing what the testosterone level ranges are for males and females by determining known sex and comparing it to each individual's testosterone level". Sea turtle research can be logistically difficult at times, but well worth the effort considering the data that will be collected.

Sedar Review

The Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) recently completed stock assessments of tilefish and snowy grouper. These species are managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council as part of the deepwater snapper-grouper complex. The assessments indicate that snowy grouper are over fished and both species are experiencing overfishing.

New Grad Student

The National Marine Fisheries Service at the Beaufort Lab continues to encourage up-and-coming scientists through graduate degree support. Stephanie McInerny has joined the Beaufort staff in the fish aging lab. She is working on aging of red snapper from the U.S. South Atlantic while also attending graduate courses at UNC-Wilmington. The data her study will generate will be an essential part of a stock assessment as well as provide a thesis for her degree.

-Neil McNeil, NC Member-at-Large

Announcements

The 58th annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) will be held in Hilton Head, SC, October 30 – November 3, 2004. 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. Visit the NEW website (www.AERS.info).

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").

**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 Fourth Annual Fisheries Student Colloquium is just around the corner! Here's what the Colloquium has in store for you:

- The opportunity to meet and network with fellow fisheries science graduate students from all over the Southeastern United States.
- "Words of Wisdom" from **Dr. Larry Olmsted**, a scientist who dedicated his life to fisheries in his industrial career at Duke Energy.
- "The Insider's Scoop" on what it's like to do fisheries science from leading representatives in

academia, industry, government, and NGO's.
[Click here to meet them!](#)

- Lavish social functions at [Whitney Laboratory](#) and [historical gardens](#) in [downtown St. Augustine](#).
- An optional trip to the [St. Augustine Alligator Farm](#).
- Free Food and Beer!!!

We welcome both graduate and undergraduate students in fisheries related majors. Registration is only \$35 per student. 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. Mention source code "AFS" to get these special rates!

[Registration Forms](#): If you still need to register, please fill out a registration form and mail it in today!
Registration Deadline: October 15th!!!

[Call for Abstract Forms](#): Poster presentations are still being accepted!

We encourage you to pass this information along to students at your school. Additional information is also available on our website <http://surf.ifas.ufl.edu>. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding the event. Thanks!!

-- 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.

2ND CALL FOR PAPERS, Southern Division Spring Meeting-2005

The Virginia Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Virginia Beach, VA at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center for the 2005 Southern Division Spring Meeting, 10-13 February 2005.

Hotel and Registration Information -- Room rates are \$55 per night for single and double occupancy, \$65 for triple occupancy and \$75 for quad occupancy. Rooms must be reserved by 14 January 2005 to receive this rate and guarantee availability. Contact the hotel at 757-481-9000 or 800-468-2722 for registration information. State

you are with the American Fisheries Society. For more information on the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center, visit their website at <http://virginiabeachresort.com>.

Meeting registration forms can be downloaded off the meeting website (<http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs>). Meeting registration is \$85 for students and professionals prior to 20 January 2005 and \$105 thereafter. Students seeking free accommodations should download the form off the meeting website.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday 10 February - Technical Committee Meetings, Welcome to Virginia social, VA Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center.

Friday 11 February - Southern Division EXCOM Meeting; Southern Division Business Meeting; Continuing Education Workshops, Student Social at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center.

Saturday 12 February - Plenary Session, Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session, Social at the Virginia Marine Science Museum.

Sunday 13 February (ending at noon) - Symposia and Technical Sessions, Poster Session.

Workshops:

- Catfish aging – Dr. Elise Irwin and Dave Buckmeier
- Mussel ID - Steve Rider
- Striper Parasitic Copepods - Dan Wilson and Dr. Tom Shahady
- Student workshop (2-hour workshop; details not yet available) Stuart Welsh
- Leadership in state agencies – Dr. Steve McMullin

More information on these and other workshops will be available on the meeting website and in the December SDAFS newsletter.

Symposia:

- Defining A Catch and Release Research and Education Model (Drs. Gene Wilde and Jon Lucy).
- Striped Bass Management (Dan Wilson, SDAFS Striped Bass technical committee and Dr. Tom Shahady).
- Asian Carp (Anita Kelly, AFS Fish Culture Section).

Submission Procedures for Presentations and Posters

-- Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes (15-min presentation and 5 min for questions, which will be strictly enforced. Media for presentations is Microsoft PowerPoint only. Abstracts should be a 200-word (or less) statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. All abstracts must be submitted on-line at <http://www.sdafs.org/abstracts/>. Abstracts for symposia and contributed presentations, as well as posters are due by 1 December 2004. If your presentation is part of a symposium be sure to acknowledge on the abstract submission form. For additional information contact Vic DiCenzo, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1700 South Main St., Farmville, VA 23901; (434) 392-9645; vdicenzo@dgif.state.va.us.

Don't forget that the Tidewater Chapter will have a special marine symposium at the meeting, and we encourage all Tidewater members to submit an abstract or poster to our session. Hank Brooks, our new President-Elect, is coordinating this session.

Go to meeting home page for more information. This site will be updated as more information becomes available.

Jobs

Fisheries Research Assistant- Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences is seeking a fisheries research assistant to join Manomet's Marine Conservation team.

Location: Position will be based in Manomet, Massachusetts, but some travel within the northeast region will be necessary to carry out field work.

Responsibilities: The applicant will participate in at-sea data collection, using experimental gear and following scientific protocols on a variety of projects. Field work will mainly consist of day trips on commercial fishing vessels, with occasional trips up to five days. When not participating field work, the applicant will conduct office duties including data entry, data analysis and report preparation.

Qualifications: A BS in marine science or related field of biology is desirable. Applicant must have knowledge of Microsoft Office with a background in statistical analysis and good organizational skills. Individuals must also be willing to work at sea under variable conditions. Although previous experience is desirable, we will provide training as long as the candidate is a

willing team member and an enthusiastic learner.
Contact: Dr. Chris Glass, Director, Marine Conservation Division, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Post Office Box 1770, Manomet, Mass 02345.

The Maryland Water Monitoring Council

The Maryland Water Monitoring Council (MWMC) seeks to foster cooperation among groups involved in all types of water monitoring activities. The MWMC is interested in physical, chemical, and biological monitoring, as well as the evaluation of those land use factors that affect changes in aquatic habitat quality and quantity. MWMC intends to work closely with the National Water Quality Monitoring Council as it develops a strategy for improving water quality monitoring in the United States.

These items below organized by the MWMC provide information that may be of interest to you or provide an opportunity for you to become involved in the activities of the Council.

Volume 12 of MWMC's Programmatic Coordination Newsletter is Available on the Internet

- This issue of the PCC Newsletter includes articles on water monitoring networks in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, milestones of the Maryland Biological Stream Survey and a report on increasing trends in sodium in Baltimore City's drinking water. More information is available at http://www.mgs.md.gov/mwmc/newsletter/nl07_04.html

MWMC's 10th Annual Conference

- The date for the 10th Annual MWMC Conference is Thursday, November 18, 2004. This one-day conference will be held at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Conference Center in Linthicum, Maryland and will have a morning plenary session, concurrent technical sessions in the afternoon and an all-day poster session. The \$45 registration fee includes all conference materials and a buffet lunch. Program information and registration forms are available at <http://www.mgs.md.gov/mwmc/>.

-- Paul E. Miller, Executive Secretary of the MWMC Board of Directors, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Monitoring and Non-tidal Assessment, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401. Phone: 410-260-8616; Fax: 410-260-8620.