AFS Tidewater
American Fisheries Society
Southern Division

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2004 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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President's Corner

I hope you are all looking forward to our next meeting which will be held in conjunction with the Southern Division meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, from February 10th to 13th, 2005. Our President-elect, Mr. Hank Brooks, has put together a fine marine symposium which we, the Tidewater Chapter, will sponsor during this meeting. If you have some exciting research you can share with us, I hope you are presenting at this event! You do not have to be a Tidewater member to present at this special symposium, so talk to your colleagues about participating. All undergraduates, graduate students and professionals alike are encouraged to present either an oral platform presentation or a poster. If you think it is too late to submit an abstract, check with Hank and he will probably be able to squeeze you into the program! If you don't have anything to present at this time, I encourage you to join us anyway for some good science and good times. This is our annual meeting and its success depends on your attendance.

The annual meeting is also a time when a new slate of officers gets elected. Volunteering for such positions as President-elect, or serving on the various committees (e.g., Nominating, Audit, and Membership) or serving as Treasurer or a Member-At-Large, is a very rewarding experience. It fosters working relationships and is a good way to make new friends too. For graduate students in particular, it is a good way to network and perhaps be invited to give seminars, be invited to a different institution to conduct a part of your research or collect samples, and increases your chances of finding a good job. For graduate students and professionals, serving is a great item to list on a CV or annual evaluation. The more leaders we have, the more we can accomplish as a chapter. I encourage you to serve and to let your students and colleagues know about the professional opportunities in our fisheries group.

My experience as President and especially in hosting the January 2004 meeting at Salisbury University was a great experience and I have formed many new associations because of it. Thank you for the opportunity, and I look forward to seeing you in about 8 weeks.

-- Ann M. Barse, 2004 Tidewater Chapter President

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Treasurers Report as of December 14, 2004:

Total Expenses	$ 100.00
Total Income	$ 110.50
Total Checking	$ 4,510.79
Total Savings	$ 5,008.10
Total	$ 9,518.89

Chapter dues - Just a reminder that this year's annual meeting cost will not include your chapter dues, therefore you need to either pay your dues via snail mail or find me at this years meeting. 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

Awards and Scholarships Committee

The Awards and Scholarships Committee is seeking nominations for awards to be presented to deserving individuals at the next annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, American Fisheries Society, which will be held in conjunction with the Southern Division Spring Meeting scheduled for 10-13 February 2005 in Virginia Beach, VA. **Nominations are due by 10 January, 2005.**

The Committee is seeking nominations for these awards:

Meritorious Service Award is given periodically to a Chapter member for their unswerving loyalty, dedication, and service to the Tidewater Chapter over a long period of time, and for their exceptional commitment to the programs, objectives, and long-term goals of the Chapter.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award is given periodically to a Chapter member who has achieved excellence in teaching and student advising in the field of fisheries science (or closely-related area) and who encourages student participation at the Tidewater Chapter meetings.

Conservation Award is given periodically to a Chapter member, resource management agency, corporation, or non-profit organization who has distinguished himself/herself/themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

Please help the Awards and Scholarships Committee and your Tidewater Chapter by nominating deserving individuals for these awards. Send the names of your nominees, plus a brief description of why you think they deserve the award, to:

Ron Klauda
Chairman, Awards and Scholarships Committee
Tidewater Chapter, AFS
c/o Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, C-2
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-260-8615
FAX: 410-260-8620
email: *rklauda@dnr.state.md.us*

Nominating Committee

Listed below are the nominations for the 2005 slate of officers. The call for nominations is still open. To nominate anyone for the offices below, please call James Morris 252-728-8782 or email **james.morris@noaa.gov**.

Below is the timeline for the 2005 officer election.

January 10	Call for nominations close.
January 15	Electronic ballots will be sent to members via the Tidewater Listserv.
January 31	Election closes.
February 10	2005 officers installed during Tidewater Chapter business meeting

2005 Slate of Officers

President	Hank Brooks (VIMS)
President Elect	Anthony Overton (ECU)
Past President	Ann Barse (SU)
Secretary/Treasurer	Wesley Patrick (ECU)
NC Member at Large	Joseph Grist (NCDMF)
VA Member at Large	Jim Gartland (VIMS)
MD Member at Large	Eric Zlokovitz (MDNDR)

Biographies for the 2005 Tidewater Chapter Officer Nominees

Hank Brooks - Current Pres-elect, will take office as President.

Hank Brooks graduated from Frostburg State University (Maryland) in 1991 with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management after which he worked several years for a consulting firm in Drumore, Pennsylvania, conducting entrainment studies on hydroelectric power plants (Michigan and Pennsylvania). He then spent over six years working for a timber company in Arcata, California, working on habitat monitoring/assessment and population dynamics of coho salmon and steelhead. In 1999 he moved to Virginia and took a position with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point. He presently works on the VIMS Juvenile Finfish and Blue Crab trawl surveys as well as the VIMS Striped Bass Seine Surveys.

Anthony Overton - Nominated for President-elect

I was raised outside of Washington, D.C., in Hyattsville, Maryland. I attended South Carolina State University on a golf scholarship, where I earned my B.S. in Biology in 1994. In 1995, I gained my first fisheries experience working as a fisheries technician on numerous projects at the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Georgia (UGA) under Mike Van Den Avyle. I've been hooked on fish ever since then. While at Georgia, I was a member of the Georgia Chapter of AFS and also the UGA student subunit. In 1997, I earned my M.S. in Fisheries Management from the School of Forest Resources at UGA. My thesis title was "The Effects of Temperature and Salinity on Growth and Condition of Juvenile Striped Bass".

In 1997 I moved to Salisbury, Maryland, and worked as a research assistant at the University Of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) with the Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. It was here where I first joined the Tidewater Chapter of AFS. In 1998, I entered the Ph.D. Program at UMES and completed the program in 2003. While at UMES, I helped to establish the University of Maryland Student Subunit Chapter of Tidewater AFS. I served as president from 2000 to 2002. In 2002, I moved to Greenville, North Carolina, and worked as a Research Assistant at East Carolina University (ECU) under the direction of Roger Rulifson and completed a post doc with Roger upon my graduation from UMES. Currently, I hold a tenure-track position in the Department of Biology at ECU. I teach several classes including Introduction to Marine Biology, Statistical Applications in SAS, and Fisheries Management. Currently I have two graduate students working in my laboratory.

I have always been very active in AFS. The Tidewater Chapter in particular was very important to me as a student and has offered me many opportunities as a professional. I would be much honored to serve the Tidewater Chapter.

Erik R. Zlokovitz - Nominated for Maryland Member-at-Large

I was born "on the Hudson River" in Jersey City, New Jersey and raised in Fort Lee, New Jersey, and Long Island, New York. In my high school years, I worked as a landscaper and technician/tour

guide at the historic Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium on the North Shore of Long Island. I also worked as a deckhand on party fishing boats in Long Island Sound and on the Atlantic Ocean off the southern Long Island and northern New Jersey coasts during the years 1989-1994. These party boats carried anywhere from 20-100 passengers, sailed from the ports of Huntington Harbor and Captree, and targeted bluefish, striped bass, summer and winter flounder, tautog, and scup. The occasional shark or tuna was also encountered. These experiences inspired me to pursue a career in fisheries biology and management.

At Southampton College, I participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program and spent a Semester at sea onboard the school ship/schooner "Spirit of Massachusetts". I did an internship with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as a field monitor onboard hydraulic escalator clam dredge boats participating in a shellfish transplant and depuration program. During my senior year, I did an internship conducting age and growth studies on Pacific rockfishes (*Sebastes* spp.) and sardines under Dr. John Butler at the NOAA-NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California. Working on that project gave me an opportunity to go to sea on fisheries research vessels based out of Scripps Oceanographic Institute in San Diego and California Fish and Game in Los Angeles Harbor. I earned a Bachelor's degree (B.S.) in Marine Biology at Southampton College (Long Island University System-LIU) in 1994.

After graduation from undergraduate school I worked a few odd jobs and served as a volunteer lab assistant with Dr. Eric Shultz at SUNY-Stony Brook Marine Sciences Research Center. In 1995, I took a job as a NMFS-contracted fisheries observer with the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Massachusetts. I spent time on coastal gillnetters, draggers (otter trawl), offshore longliners and pair trawlers. My "home port" was Shinnecock, New York, but I also worked trips from Montauk Point, New York, Cape May, New Jersey and Ocean City, Maryland. On these vessels I collected finfish data and samples and monitored interaction of marine mammals and sea turtles with commercial fishing gear.

In 1996, I was accepted into graduate school at the University of Maryland and worked as a research assistant under Dr. Dave Secor at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, in Solomons. My thesis title was "Effect of habitat use and migration on PCB contamination in Hudson river striped bass". Migration patterns and saltwater/freshwater habitat use in striped bass were determined using otolith chemistry. These behaviors were then linked to the amount of PCBs that striped bass accumulated. I earned my Master's degree (M.S.) in Marine, Environmental, and Estuarine Sciences in 1999.

During the years 1998-2000, I worked for Dale Weinrich at Maryland DNR-Fisheries Service MULTIFISH project, based on Kent Island at the Matapeake Field office. This program monitored populations of shad, perch, catfish, and other Bay species with creel, experimental fyke net, and fishery-dependent surveys. I also assisted with tagging of American shad at the Conowingo Dam tailrace on the Susquehanna River.

Since 2000, I have worked with the Maryland DNR-striped bass/interjurisdictional fisheries stock assessment project at Tawes headquarters in Annapolis under Harry Hornick, Beth Versak, and Eric Durell. This project monitors populations and fisheries of striped bass, bluefish, and other finfish in Chesapeake Bay. Maryland's striped bass monitoring program is a year-round, field intensive operation, and includes the SEAMAP winter tagging cruise, check station surveys of winter gillnet and spring-fall pound net and hook-and-line fisheries, the spring gillnet spawning stock survey, and the juvenile index (JI) survey. In addition to participating in multiple field studies, I coordinate and manage a dockside creel survey of Maryland's spring recreational "rockfish" season and also an electrofishing survey to target known-age coded wire tagged (CWT) striped bass for age-validation studies.

My reason for involvement in the chapter is to encourage communication and exchange of ideas with other fishery biologists in the mid-Atlantic, recruit new members, and create a networking environment for undergraduate and graduate students. My hobbies and interests include fishing, music, and maritime history.

Joseph Grist - Nominated for NC Member-at-Large

Joseph Grist, stock assessment scientist and biologist supervisor with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, received his B.S. in Biology from Christopher Newport University in 1996 and his M.S. in Fisheries Science from Virginia Tech in 2002. Joe currently serves on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Biological Assessment Sub-committee, as well as numerous SEDAR assessment and review panels annually. Joe joined AFS in 1999, where he was a member of the Virginia Tech and Virginia chapters. Currently, Joe is a member of the Tidewater and North Carolina chapters, as well numerous AFS sections including Marine Fisheries.

Wesley Patrick - Nominated for Secretary/Treasurer

Wesley (Wes) Patrick is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Coastal Resources Management at East Carolina University. He received his B.S. in Biology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1999 and a M.S. in Biology at East Carolina University in 2002. His research has centered on anadromous and catadromous fisheries, with a particular emphasis in striped bass population dynamics and genetics. He has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1999 and a Tidewater member since 2000. In 2001, he was elected vice-president of the AFS East Carolina University Student Subunit. During the years of 2001-2003, he has served as the North Carolina Member Large for the Tidewater Chapter, and in 2003-2004 he was elected secretary/treasurer.

Jim Gartland – Nominated for VA Member-at-Large

Hello Tidewater members. I hope to serve as the new Virginia member-at-large for this chapter and meet you all over the coming year. I received my BS in marine science and biology from the University of Miami in 1999. In 2002, I earned a MS in marine science from the

College of William and Mary, School of Marine Science (Virginia Institute of Marine Science – VIMS) in Gloucester Point. My masters thesis was entitled, "Diet composition of young-of-the-year bluefish, *Pomatomus saltatrix*, in the lower Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's coastal ocean." I am currently the project manager of the new Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAP) Trawl Survey at VIMS. If you would like to contact me, my telephone number is (804)684-7546, and my email address is jgartlan@vims.edu. My mailing address is, Jim Gartland, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

-- James Morris, Nominating Committee Chair

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.

Please remember that any communication through the LISTSERV is going to all members. If you want to email an individual, please do so privately. Thanks.

-- Roger Rulifson, Tidewater LISTSERV administrator

Student Subunit News

East Carolina University

Throughout the summer and fall season, members of ECU-AFS have been very active by participating in campus and community service events such as "Get-A-Clue" and "Big Sweep." Members also had the opportunity to travel along the eastern United States to attend conferences for representation of their research and to socialize with fisheries professionals and students. During the ECU-AFS monthly meetings, members welcomed guest speakers, which included Skip Kemp (September), James Morris (October), Blake Price and Jacqui Jenkins.

In November, ECU-AFS alumni, Blake Price, visited ECU campus to give a talk titled, "Fishery Management: Working with the Commercial Industry" for the monthly business meeting. The presentation topic incorporated the LMGNOP (Large Mesh Gill Net Observer Program), which involves a few ECU-AFS members. Afterwards, members ventured to a local pub to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and appetizers while having further discussion with Blake Price. Somewhere down the line, the 2004 presidential election sneaked its way into the conversation! November also brought on the 4th Annual Student Colloquium! This year's colloquium was hosted by "SURF" (Students United in the Research of Fisheries) from the University of Florida. ECU-AFS had three members attend this conference. Graduate Student, Eric Fitzpatrick, contributed a research poster for the event. ECU-AFS also obtained an application to be considered as a potential host for next year's colloquium.

Eric Fitzpatrick (yellow shirt) converses with fellow AFS students about his research poster at the 4th Annual Student Colloquium.

For the December monthly meeting, ECU-AFS secretary, Jacqui Jenkins presented an update on her research at the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory. Her presentation was titled, "Feeding Habits and Dietary Overlap of Juvenile Fishes at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, Georgia." Jacqui has previously worked as a Habitat Biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and as a fisheries technician at NC State University before coming to ECU to work on her Master's Degree. Her primary research interests are predator-prey dynamics.

Roland Griffin, guest speaker for the 6th Annual ECU-AFS Meeting and Banquet.

On December 3, 2004, ECU-AFS hosted the our 6th Annual Meeting and Banquet. This meeting is put on by ECU-AFS members and designed to bring ECU-AFS friends and ECU alumni onto campus to meet them and thank regional fisheries professionals for their

participation and assistance in our programs throughout the year. For the past two months, the planning committee has been working hard to host this annual event. A special "thanks" goes to the planning committee, which included Dee Dee Barry, Ingrid Coulson, Juan Doig, Wes Patrick and meeting chair, Chad Smith. Without their hard work and creative efforts, this meeting could have not taken place. We had a total of 66 people attend this meeting involving fisheries professionals, alumni and friends of ECU-AFS from an assortment of local universities and agencies.

Ingrid Coulson (left) and Heidi Alderman (right) sit at the registration table for the 6th Annual ECU-AFS Meeting and Banquet.

For the welcoming social, guests had the opportunity to view more than 15 research posters along with computer simulations from ECU-AFS members and the ECU Department of Biology. Lee's Country Kitchen provided guests with a delicious dinner of BBQ chicken, pork chops, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and iced tea (sweet tea for us southern folks!). ECU graduate student, Chris Brinkley, provided the musical atmosphere by playing the piano for guests with a blend of holiday, classical and contemporary music during dinner. A pictorial slideshow presentation depicting the 2004 events of ECU-AFS was also displayed during dinner.

Guests begin to sit down for dinner at the 6th Annual ECU-AFS Meeting and Banquet.

After dinner, ECU-AFS president, Chad Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided guests with a synopsis of ECU-AFS past events from 2004. Invited speakers included James Morris, Tidewater Past President, and AFS Southern Division Vice-President Bob Curry. They informed guests with updates on the Tidewater Chapter and the upcoming joint Tidewater/Southern Division Meeting, respectively. The honorary guest speaker for the annual meeting was Australia native Roland Griffin, who traveled from South Carolina to speak with us. Mr. Griffin's talk was titled, "Fisheries in Australia's Top End - An Upside Down View of the Fishy World!" ECU-AFS would like to thank everyone who attended the annual meeting and banquet. We appreciate your support and inspiration.

ECU-AFS is now settling down for the holiday season and the ending of the fall semester. We are anticipating the upcoming spring semester along with the guest speakers who are planning to speak at our monthly meetings. ECU-AFS will also have strong representation at the joint Tidewater/Southern Division Meeting in February 2005. We have been given the opportunity to design and sell the official T-Shirt at the meeting. Recent graduate Charlton Godwin has provided an interesting and informative design for the shirt. Be sure to check them out at the meeting!

Again, we thank the Tidewater Chapter for their continuing support of ECU-AFS. We wish everyone a happy holiday season. For more photos and information

regarding past and upcoming events, please visit our website, http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs.

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

Maryland News

MDDNR-Fisheries Service Reorganization

First, a brief note that there has been some change in the structure of the MD DNR-Fisheries Service, due to a reorganization that began in October of 2003. The former Striped Bass Stock Assessment (SBSA) project is now part of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Stock Assessment Project. Within this project are surveys on striped bass, bluefish, drum, sea trout, American shad, and other economically and recreationally important Chesapeake Bay finfish species. This is part of the Fisheries Service mission to move towards multispecies/ecosystem management.

Striped Bass News

Interjurisdictional fisheries staff completed the summer/fall pound net tagging project in Early November, 2004. Several thousand adult striped bass were tagged with cooperating pound net fishermen during the period June-November 2004. Pound net catches of legal sized (>18 inches) striped bass were down during July and August, but increased during fall, which matches historical trends.

Interjurisdictional staff completed checkstation monitoring of commercial hook-and-line and pound net landings in Mid-November. We obtained length, weight, and scale age data on striped bass from the pound net and hook-and-line fisheries. A similar checkstation survey will begin in December, sampling fish from Maryland's winter drift gillnet fishery.

Matapeake Field Office

Staff biologists at the Matapeake, Kent Island Field Office are preparing for an upper bay winter trawl survey. This survey typically begins in mid-December or early January and uses otter trawl gear to track winter abundance and distribution of yellow perch, white perch, catfish, and striped bass in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Age structures (otoliths) will be collected from yellow and white perch.

DNR biologists completed the second year of field work on a study that investigates the impact of urbanization and impervious services on the fish communities of Chesapeake Bay. Trawls and beach seines were used in most of the upper Western Shore urban tributaries and the more rural Eastern Shore systems. Yellow perch populations are being monitored in these tributaries. Numbers of adult and young-of-the year yellow perch have been depressed in recent years in the more urban western shore tributaries.

Staff completed field work on monitoring of pound net landings and collect data on summer flounder, drum, sea trout, spot, croaker, bluefish, perch, menhaden, and other species with cooperating watermen in the Point Lookout and Hooper Island regions.

Happy Holidays!!

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-Large

Virginia News

VMRC News

Tagging Program Registration Period Announced

Recreational fishermen may register to participate in the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program for the year 2005 starting on Monday, December 6th. Registrations will be accepted through the month of January, 2005, or until 200 people have enrolled, which is the maximum number of participants that will accepted into the program.

This will be the eleventh year VGFTP volunteers will be assisting in the conservation and management of saltwater fish. Species targeted for tagging include: black drum, black sea bass, cobia, flounder, gray triggerfish, red drum, sheepshead, spadefish, speckled trout, and tautog. Participants will be eligible to earn conservation certificates and tagging awards.

Volunteers will be required to attend at least one workshop for training on proper tagging techniques, fishing handling, and the philosophy of the program. This enables the program to achieve its primary goal, which is the highest quality fish tagging possible. Workshops will be held on weekday evenings in late February and early March in Virginia Beach, Wachapreague, Newport News and Gloucester Point.

During its first ten years, VGFTP volunteers have tagged more than 76,000 fish and more than 7450 tagged fish have been recaptured.

For more information or to register, contact the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 S. Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (757) 491-5160, mrcswt@visi.net. The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program is a program of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, paid for with monies from the saltwater recreational fishing license.

VCU/VDCR News

INteractive STream Assessment Resource - INSTAR

Challenges associated with stream restoration include: 1) development and application of appropriate stream assessment protocols and; 2) defining a set of measurable and diagnostic stream conditions as target endpoints for restoration. Both challenges are dependent on comparisons to relevant reference conditions that accurately describe the ecological potential of streams within a specific region. Due to widespread development, many regions no longer support appropriate reference streams. In addition, stream restoration goals have traditionally been based on hydromorphological criteria alone, or a narrowly defined set of stream attributes. The primary objective of this project is development of regional, *virtual* reference stream models including over 45 ecologically-relevant metrics. The integration of new and existing data has resulted in a database containing over 12,000 records from samples including fish, macroinvertebrates, habitat, water quality, and geomorphology collected from approximately 500 sites within Virginia's Coastal Zone. This database is the foundation for the INteractive STream Assessment Resource (INSTAR) application; an online, interactive mapping and database application. Built on ArcIMS software and supported by three new, dedicated servers at VCU, the current version of INSTAR (http://gaia.vcu.edu) allows users to interact with the extensive georeferenced database of aquatic resources and to quantitatively assess stream conditions based on comparisons of a suite of multi-metric indices and 'virtual' stream models. 'Virtual' stream models are developed using multi-variate techniques to ordinate study sites based on physical and biological data, followed by multiple linear regression analyses to identify which statistically significant variables to include in the model. Models developed are then used by INSTAR to classify hydrologic-units (modified index of biotic integrity, mIBI) and stream reaches (percentage comparable to appropriate virtual reference conditions) based on biotic integrity and overall stream ecosystem health.

G. Garman[1], L. Smock[1], S. McIninch[1], W. Shuart[1], C. Viverette[1], D. Hopler[1], E. Franks[1, 2], R. Hill[2] (1 – Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Environmental Studies, 2 – Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation)

-- David Hopler, VA Member-at-Large

North Carolina News

From the Division of Marine Fisheries:

Options Selected for the Draft Southern Flounder Management Plan

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission has selected their preferred management options for the Draft North Carolina Management Plan. The following measures were selected:

1. A closed recreational and commercial fishing season from December 1-March 31.
2. A 14-inch size limit and 8 fish harvest limit for recreational fishermen.
3. A 13 inch size limit for commercial fishermen.
4. Recreational gig users must have a Recreational Commercial Gear license.
5. Persons using large mesh gill nets recreationally must attend their gear at all times.
6. Gill nets used to catch flounder must have a minimum 5.5 inch stretched mesh size.
7. Flounder nets must an escape panel 5.75 inches or greater to let small flounder escape.
8. Commercial fishermen cannot use more than 1000 yards of flounder net.
9. There must be a minimum distance of 1000 yards between old and new pound nets and a minimum distance of 500 yards between pound nets and gill nets in Albemarle Sound from August 15 – December 1.
10. Minimum crab trawl tailbag mesh size of three inches in eastern Pamlico Sound and four inches in Western Pamlico Sound.

11. Numerous research and habitat / water quality recommendations to address Southern flounder.

The commission also voted to reexamine the status of Southern flounder in three rather than five years as is allowed by law. This is the first fishery management plan developed for Southern flounder in North Carolina. A 15 member advisory committee composed of fishermen and scientists helped develop the plan. Southern Flounder is North Carolina's most economically valuable fish species bringing in over $7,000,000 annually. It is also a popular recreational fish. Southern flounder inhabit brackish waters in North Carolina as well as the ocean in the southern portion of the state.

From the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission:

Wildlife Commission Announces New Fisheries Chief

Bob Curry of Raleigh has been named chief of inland fisheries for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Curry will be responsible for all statewide programs in habitat and fish management, biological research regulations, fish production and stocking, and budgets. Curry has served for 10 years as fisheries program manager where he developed and administered the division's budget, oversaw the state's six fish hatcheries, and managed outreach, research and survey, and development programs statewide.

Curry began his career with the Wildlife Resources Commission in 1984 as an assistant fisheries biologist, conducting research and management projects in Piedmont lakes and reservoirs. In 1987 he advanced to development coordinator and provided direction for the Striped Bass production programs in the Weldon and Fayetteville state fish hatcheries. Bob holds a masters degree in fisheries science from the University of Tennessee. He is currently vice president of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.

Fred Harris, former Fisheries Chief, was appointed Assistant Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and Dick Hamilton has replaced Charles Fullwood as Director. Fred Harris has just completed his service to AFS as an officer, serving as President in 2003 and Past President in 2004.

Interesting Striped Bass Deformity from Albemarle Sound

Pete Kornegay (WRC Anadromous Fish Coordinator) sent this picture to various folks looking for information as to the possible cause of the anomaly shown below.

The fish was angled from the Albemarle Sound and filleted. The angler reported that the flesh underneath the anomaly looked normal. The general consensus was that this may have been an old wound, but if you have other ideas please email Pete at kornegayjw@mchsi.com.

From The National Marine Fisheries Service:

Atlantic Menhaden Status

Preliminary landings for the 2004 Atlantic menhaden fishing season through November 30, 2004 are as follows:

Total standard fish	514,723
Total Metric Tons	156,424

Age composition of Atlantic Menhaden sampled through November 30: Age-0 1%, Age-1 10%, Age-2 79%, Age-3+ 10%. The season will run through January 15th in North Carolina. If fish are still plentiful and the weather is still good, Menhaden captains may continue to fish after January 15th but they must stay out at least 1 mile from shore. This is to protect the majority of "peanut" or age-0 menhaden which generally are found within 1 mile from shore.

Blue Fin Tuna Season Opens

NOAA Fisheries has transferred the Atlantic Bluefin tuna quota from the general, harpoon and incidental longline categories to the angling and reserve categories in the amount of 223.1 metric tons and 191.9 metric tons respectively. This allows the coast wide general category to open from December 8 – December 20, 2004. The angling category is open from December 8 –

May 31, 2005. The retention of school size bluefin tuna is prohibited however. Large fleets of tuna anglers were observed going out early on December 8 and landings were going well as of this writing.

From Carteret Community College:

Aquaculture Program at CCC gets new facility

Skip Kemp, Curriculum Area Coordinator for the Aquaculture Technology Program at CCC, reports the following news.

I have heard that there is an inspection date of December 30th for our new aquaculture/mariculture education and training facility in the renovated Howard Building. August and October came and went as previous occupancy dates so we're hoping that this one is a little more certain. After ten months on the lawn needless to say we're looking forward to getting out of the rain and having a place to get the program up and running and "notched up". First thing on the agenda for that facility will be to get our ongoing educational projects moved in and cranked up. We have educational projects to look at the aquaculture aspects of *Donax variabilis* as it relates to beach nourishment, to support, educate and encourage citizens' oyster gardening projects, to educate restaurants about recycling the oyster shells from their solid waste and to look at several types of aquatic plants as to their ability to remove nutrients from secondary treated wastewater. And we've got a curriculum to keep going. Spring semester I'll be teaching Aquaculture 2, Hatchery Management 2, Aquaculture facilities and three lab practicums. Currently the program is collaborative with Brunswick Community College and one of the directions we're looking at is examining ways to diversify our program to concentrate on primarily saltwater aspects of aquaculture as we develop our unique curriculum. Any ideas or comments are welcome and drop by for a tour next year if you're in Morehead.

-Neil McNeil, NC Member-at-Large

Tidewater 19th Annual Meeting, Virginia Beach, VA, February 10-13, 2005

The Tidewater Chapter invites you to attend our 19th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will be held in Virginia Beach, VA at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center during 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.

The title of our symposium is “Marine and Estuarine Fisheries Science: A Symposium Sponsored by the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society”. Hank Brooks, our VP in charge of the symposium, reports that we are at 26 oral presentations and 4 posters but that is only counting what was submitted prior to early last week. The deadline for abstract submission was extended to December 22nd, so we won’t have a total count until after the 22nd. It looks as though we’ll have to have at least one full day and potentially 1½ days if they don’t start too early on the first day. Watch for more information through the Tidewater LISTSERV.

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, TIDEWATER BUSINESS MEETING. 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.

Announcements

AFS Annual Book Sale in Full Swing!

Hello Book Buyers! Need a good read for the holidays? Or how about a belated Christmas present? Check out the AFS Book Sale at www.fisheries.org! Selected titles are on sale for only $15.00. Sale goes through January 15, 2005. So, hurry and save on selected AFS titles!

New York State Entry-Level Biologist Exam to be offered

New York State will be offering the examination for entry-level biologists (aquatic, ecology, marine and wildlife). The test date is January 22, 2005 and applications must be postmarked by December 20, 2004. Please see for more complete information: http://www.cs.state.ny.us/announ/sched-announcements/Dec20-2004/24-422.cfm

Exam 24-422: Biologist 1 (Aquatic)
Exam 24-423: Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Exam 24-424: Biologist 1 (Marine)
Exam 24-425: Biologist 1 (Wildlife)

TEST CENTERS: The written test(s) will be administered at the following out-of-state locations in addition to the test center locations within New York State: **North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC); Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, VA)**; Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI); University of Wisconsin (Stevens Point, WI); South Dakota State University (Brookings, SD); University of Maine (Orono, ME); Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA); Rutgers University Career Services (New Brunswick, NJ); University of Rhode Island (Kingston, RI). If you wish to be tested at one of these out-of-state centers, indicate the name of the university where you wish to be tested on the front of the application form in the section where you indicated the Exam No(s). and Title(s).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: On or before January 22, 2005, you must have a bachelor's or higher level degree including or supplemented by 30 semester credit hours in the biological sciences. For Biologist Trainee 1 (Marine), the 30 semester credit hours can include coursework in oceanography and marine technology in addition to coursework in the biological sciences. For the purposes of these examinations, courses that focus on the study of domesticated or farm animals or humans are NOT qualifying. These 30 semester credit hours must include 18 specialized semester credit hours, as defined below.

Note: You must submit a list of qualifying courses, or a copy of your transcript(s), with your application. Include the course title, number of semester credit hours per course, and the date (or expected date) of completion. Applications submitted without a course listing will be disapproved.

Important: If you expect to meet the education requirements by June 30, 2005, you can be admitted to the written test, but you cannot be considered for appointment until you submit proof of successful completion of the education requirements to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the time of the employment interview.

Definitions of the 18 specialized semester credit hours course requirements:

Biologist 1 (Aquatic): You must have 18 semester credit hours in fish or aquatic courses such as fishery resource management, limnology, fish diseases, aquaculture, ichthyology, aquatic ecology, fishery science, or fish population dynamics.

Examples of non-qualifying specialized coursework: introductory or survey courses, such as general biology, general oceanography, physical oceanography, entomology (unless aquatic is specified), invertebrate zoology (unless aquatic is specified), animal ecology, or animal behavior.

For Biologist 1 (Ecology): You must have 18 semester credit hours in field biology or ecology courses such as fishery or wildlife science, fishery or wildlife management, environmental impact analysis, limnology, toxicology, plant or animal taxonomy, wetland resources, wildlife population dynamics, zoology or botany or any of their subspecialties.

Examples of non-qualifying specialized coursework: introductory or survey courses, such as general biology or human population dynamics.

For Biologist 1 (Marine): You must have 18 semester credit hours in marine courses such as fisheries biology, fisheries management, mariculture, marine biology, marine ecology, marine resources management, or biological oceanography. Examples of non-qualifying specialized coursework: introductory or survey courses, such as general biology, botany, freshwater aquatic biology, genetics, hydrology, limnology, microbiology, physiology, or zoology.

For Biologist 1 (Wildlife): You must have 18 semester credit hours in wildlife courses that address the study, monitoring, modeling, management, interrelationships or characteristics of wild animals and their habitats.

Examples of non-qualifying specialized coursework: introductory or survey courses, such as general biology; courses that focus on agricultural husbandry techniques; human population dynamics; or the design and manipulation of landscapes, such as landscape architecture.

Up to 3 semester credit hours in natural resource policy or environmental policy can be used to meet the 18 semester credit hours specialized course requirement for all four of the examinations.

HOW TO APPLY: Download examination application www.cs.state.ny.us/announ/applications/downloadourapps.htm; or email examinfo@cs.state.ny.us to request OCAPP forms; or obtain OCAPP form at State agency or facility personnel/business offices by calling Albany (518) 4576216 or New York City (212) 9614326 or Buffalo(716) 8588473.