



*DiCosimo  
continued from 15 (last page)*

# TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

Volume 2, Number 2

September 1987

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter will be held on 15-17 November, 1987 at the North Carolina Aquarium (formerly the Marine Resources Center) in Atlantic Beach, NC. The meeting will start Sunday night with registration and a social; Monday will be devoted to invited speakers and accepted papers; and Tuesday will start with a business meeting followed by a general paper session. The meeting will adjourn around noon on the 17th. The theme for the meeting is "Coastal Development and Fisheries" and will address four topics: 1) coastal mining (primarily peat and phosphate); 2) waterway maintenance (dredging, jetties); 3) shoreline development (riparian rights, "dockominiums", critical areas); and 4) mitigation banking (set asides for habitat loss replacement).

## CALL FOR PAPERS

You are encouraged to submit abstracts for these topics or for the general session on Tuesday. Accepted papers not selected for Monday's session may be presented on Tuesday. Abstracts should be sent to: John Cooper, ICMR, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, 27858 before 12 October 1987. Presentations should be limited to 15 minutes.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Tidewater Chapter Executive Committee met on 31 July at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. In attendance were Roger Rulifson, John Cooper, Jane DiCosimo, Brenda Morcross, Jay O'Dell, and George Lapointe. The topics of discussion were membership the annual meeting, treasurer's report, bylaws changes, and at-large members reports.

## BYLAWS CHANGES

The following changes to the bylaws were suggested by the Executive Committee. These changes will be reviewed by the AFS Constitutional Consultant and voted on by Tidewater Chapter members at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6 - Executive Committee. EXCOM is presently defined as elected officers and the immediate past president. The proposed change would read "The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president, an elected at-large member from each member state, and the chairpersons of each standing committee.

Section 7 - Chapter Committees. This section does not presently define any standing committees. The proposed change will define several committees required by AFS and their functions. This section will read "Committees and the Chairperson of the Committee, except as described in sections 5 and 6 of these bylaws, shall be appointed by the President in accordance with section 2. These committees include: A) Nominating Committee, who shall recommend a slate of candidates for specific offices of the chapter; B) Membership Committee to be comprised of one member from each state, who shall undertake to maintain current membership and recruit new members. The Chairman will also serve on the Membership Committee of the Division; and C) Auditing Committee, who shall audit the accounts of the Secretary/Treasurer and report to the Chapter at the Annual Meeting.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

George Lapointe reported that the Chapter has \$359.98 in the checking account and no outstanding bills.

## MEMBERSHIP

Jane DiCosimo reported sending out about 200 newsletters with sign-up forms. This effort was successful with 149 current members. Jane said that Walt Pollard (NC) and Tom Sminkey (MD) assisted her in recruiting new members. Roger Rulifson said that he would like to have members telephone numbers available in the future.

## AT-LARGE MEMBER REPORTS

Jay O'Dell (MD) reported that only 23 Chapter members are from Maryland; most are from MD-DNR with few from Horn Point, UMD, or CBL. He also said that the USFWS office in Annapolis contains many potential members. Sean McKenna (NC) sent word that North Carolina members would like to see the newsletter more often (Any volunteers for newsletter editor from North Carolina?, GDL)

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

New Chapter officers will be elected at our Annual Meeting. Nominations are now being accepted for Chapter officers. The offices to be filled are President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Maryland At-large Member, North Carolina At-large Member, and Virginia At-large Member. The membership will be informed of the slate of officers prior to the annual meeting in November. Allyn Powell, Nominations Committee Chair, suggested the following for nominating and electing new officers: 1) potential candidates should be contacted to

determine willingness to serve; 2) the slate of candidates will appear in the newsletter that will precede the Annual Meeting; 3) nominations from the floor will be accepted at the business meeting; and 4) election of officers by ballot at the business meeting. If you wish to serve as an officer, or know someone who would, please contact Allyn Powell at (919) 728-3595. Please note that officers must be members of the American Fisheries Society.

#### CHAPTER RESOLUTIONS

A memo from the AFS Environmental Concerns Committee asked that the Chapter review the AFS stance on potential oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). After lengthy debate, the EXCOM decided that the AFS Parent Society position could not be supported for several reasons: 1) the wording was too open-ended; 2) reclamation of tundra damaged by vehicles and man's activities is exceedingly difficult; 3) a national energy policy does not exist; and 4) much of the oil would be exported overseas because of lack of refining capacity on the West Coast. Roger Rulifson sent a letter to AFS stating our position.

#### PROPOSAL REVIEWS

In May of this year, the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC), represented by Dr. James Thomas, requested that the Chapter assist the CBSAC in reviewing seven proposals for work on Chesapeake Bay. The proposals were sent to Chapter members for review, and their comments were forwarded to Dr. Thomas in early June. Those who were involved felt that this was a worthwhile venture and would like the Chapter to continue this type of activity. In addition, Dr. Thomas responded favorably to the reviews. Roger sends his thanks to everyone that participated.

#### NEWS FROM THE TIDEWATER AREA

##### DISEASED BLUE CRABS IN N.C.

On July 2, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries was notified that blue crabs were being caught with holes in the carapace, primarily affecting females, and causing death within several hours after capture. The disease causing agent has not been identified; DMF, in conjunction with the Division of Environmental Management, is conducting a disease-water quality study in August. Trawl sampling within a 60-grid area between Maul's Point and Indian Point indicated that most diseased crabs were found between Durham's Creek and Hickory Point on the south shore. A "sentinel" system has been established at four sites, and healthy crabs have been placed in compartmented cages at each site. One half of the crabs at each site serve as controls, the other half were scored in the chitin layer. Crabs and water quality are checked daily at each site (Sean McKenna)

##### LAKE GASTON PIPELINE LITIGATION

The City of Virginia Beach's application to build a pipeline for water withdrawal from Lake Gaston, on the Roanoke River, is worrying ecologists. Virginia Beach needs a source of freshwater and plans to withdraw 60 million gallons daily.

The water intake would be in Pea Hill Creek, a Lake Gaston tributary, and would pipe water to Virginia Beach via the Norfolk public water system. In the latest U.S. District Court decision, Judge Earl Britt ordered that the U.S. Corps of Engineers must determine: 1) the effects of a 60MGD withdrawal on Roanoke/Albemarle striped bass stocks; and 2) whether the need for water can be met by sources closer to Virginia Beach. Of particular concern is how striped bass spawning would be affected, especially in low-flow years when demand would be highest on the reservoir. The court case is pending the Corps of Engineer reassessment (Roger Rulifson)

#### RIVER HERRING OCEAN MIGRATION

Recent interest in developing a strong interjurisdictional management plan and increasing concern about possible effects of Canadian hydropower development on river herring prompted an ocean migration study by East Carolina University's Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources with the following objectives: 1) to determine rivers of origin of river herring in the Bay of Fundy, Canada; 2) to determine the relative contribution of U.S. river herring stocks to the Canadian river herring fishery; and 3) to estimate potential effects of tidal power development on stocks by determining local and long-distance migration patterns. During the summers of 1985 and 1986, 18,958 river herring were marked with Floy FD-688 anchor tags and released in upper Bay of Fundy. To date, the tag return rate has been low, perhaps due to the (mass harvest) fishing and processing methods of the river herring fisheries of the Atlantic seaboard. Results indicate that river herring are capable of migrating long distances (> 2,000 km) on the Atlantic coast. Blueback herring have been recaptured south to the Roanoke River during the spawning runs in 1986 and 1987. River herring migration patterns may be similar to those of American shad. U.S. river herring stocks, primarily blueback herring, contribute to the Canadian river herring ocean fishery but probably are not contributing to the river fishery. Alewives in the upper Bay of Fundy are mostly of northern stock origin, perhaps an artifact of reduced abundance in the U.S. Apparently the upper Bay of Fundy is a nursery and feeding area for the species during the summer months. Proposed tidal power development in this area will no doubt alter water circulation patterns and affect fish migration. River herring stocks as far south as North Carolina will be affected but the impact on U.S. stocks is unknown. (Roger Rulifson)

#### APES UPDATE

Doug Rader's office has received 99 proposals for research under the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study (APES). In less than three weeks, 600 reviews of the proposals were returned for further review by the peer review and technical committee. Selected for funding were 17 studies ranging from the effects of environmental contaminants on oyster bed success to the importance of coastal fringe swamps. Three additional studies are scheduled for funding in December; wetland protection strategies, heavy metals in bottom sediments, and a review of current resource management programs.

There will be three APES workshops this fall, they are: 1) hydraulic water quality monitoring, 2) remote sensing applications for land use/land cover and hydrologic applications, and 3) fish diseases.

Four APES working groups will meet this fall, the topics are: 1) striped bass decline, 2) natural area/wetland inventories and endangered species, 3) recruitment processes and their effects on nursery function, and 4) toxicants and pesticides.

#### UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES, RECREATIONAL FISHING

Researchers at East Carolina University's Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources have been developing a research and public education program to increase the use of less desirable ocean and estuarine finfish species (Blackened Bunker - move over Paul Prudhomme !!!). Funded by the NMFS, the program involved a series of interviews with recreational fishermen to determine perceptions about the desirability of all species caught in the ocean. Information from the research was used to develop educational materials promoting the use of underutilized species. Brochures, slide tape presentations, and posters that dispel myths about the species, describe the species, cleaning, and preparation, and basic life history information were distributed throughout the southeastern U.S. over the past two years. The information was published by UNC-Sea Grant and distributed through the Southeast Marine Advisory Network. The effectiveness of these materials was evaluated by random subsampling and interviewing the people who requested materials. In many cases, individuals indicated that they were now trying, and would continue to use, such species as amberjack, crevalle jack, shark, sheepshead, sand skates, and rays. Materials and brochures are available free of charge from: UNC-Sea Grant Program, 105 1911 Bldg, Box 8605, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 27695-8605 (Roger Rulifson)

#### NMFS BEAUFORT LABORATORY

The National Marine Fisheries Service Beaufort Laboratory, established in 1899, is divided into the Division of Estuarine and Coastal Ecology and the Division of Fisheries.

The Division of Estuarine and Coastal Ecology conducts research on the ecology of larval and juvenile fishes in estuarine and coastal waters, and conducts research to determine the feasibility of using seagrasses to stabilize dredge spoil. Additionally, the effects of metal contaminants on plankton and the processes controlling trace metal availability to plankton are being studied.

The Division of Fisheries has been engaged in menhaden research since 1952. Current research efforts are juvenile menhaden ecology and stock assessment. This Division participates in reef fishery evaluation and assessment off South Atlantic states. A more detailed description of research activities at the Beaufort Laboratory will be included in future newsletters. (Allyn Powell)

#### ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION (ASMFC)

The ASMFC is currently reviewing all its fisheries management plans (FMPs) to update the data and management objectives of each plan. FMPs for summer flounder, northern lobster, shad and river herring, and weakfish are currently being reviewed. A draft Atlantic croaker FMP will be presented to the ASMFC in October. A joint ASMFC - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Bluefish FMP is under development. Recent stock assessments indicate the fishery is near Fmax. The FMP will try to reduce waste in both the recreational and commercial fisheries, will maintain the traditional 80% recreational : 20% commercial breakdown of the fishery, and will contain trigger mechanisms to institute management measures in response to changes in stock dynamics. (George Lapointe)

#### VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission amended Regulation 34, Pertaining to the Taking of Striped Bass, to allow aquaculture of striped bass and hybrid striped bass. Permits will set standards for water supply, acquisition of fish, fingerlings, fry, and eggs, inspection of facilities, sale of fish, record keeping, revocation and nonrenewal of permit, importation of striped bass for the consumer market and release of live fish.

A request to use a specialized clam hand rake (bull rake) in Virginia for commercial harvesting was denied. The bull rake is allowed for taking clams for personal use. A regulation defining a conventional clam rake is currently under review.

A proposal to extend the season for relaying shellfish taken from condemned public ground was denied. Another proposal to extend the clam relaying season within boundaries set by VMRC of the area east and west of the proposed I-64 bridge construction on the James River prior to dredging activity was approved.

Public hearings will be held on a proposed regulation for a 2 1/2 inch minimum size limit on market oysters taken from the James River seed area. This size restriction was imposed during the 1986/87 season to prevent waste at the shucking houses and conserve some brood stock.

The Commission was briefed on the need for closures of certain public oyster ground in the Rappahannock River and Pocomoke and Tangier Sounds because of oyster mortalities from MSX and Dermo. No action was taken as harvesting in these areas had stopped due to scarcity of the oyster resource.

The effects of using escape or "cull" rings on the blue crab pot commercial catch was investigated this summer in the James, York and Rappahannock Rivers, Mobjack Bay and Bayside and Seaside of the Eastern Shore. Results will be available shortly. Contact Jane DiCosimo (804) 247-2245.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

APES wants to hire a full-time public involvement coordinator. This position will be to disseminate technical information from APES for public use and information. It requires an advanced degree and a technical background in water quality or living resources. For additional information call Doug Rader, APES Coordinator at (919) 733-0314

JOINT MEETING WITH POTOMAC CHAPTER

Paul Perra, President of the AFS Potomac Chapter, has invited the Tidewater Chapter to participate in a joint meeting next spring. He suggested that we could also arrange a fishing tournament between the Chapters. Is anyone interested?

NEWSLETTER NEWS

There will be one more newsletter before the November Annual Meeting. It would be great to have news from members throughout the Tidewater Region to make the newsletter interesting. Please send any news items to:

George Lapointe, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1717 Massachusetts Ave, N.W. - #703, Washington, DC, 20036



Dr. Roger Rulifson  
ICMR  
East Carolina University  
Greenville NC 27834