

Tidewater Press

Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 20 Issue 1

President's Corner



The Tidewater Chapter's 19th Annual Meeting was held during the Annual Spring Meeting of the American Fisheries Society's Southern Division (SDAFS) February 10-13, 2005 at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Virginia

Beach, Virginia. I am pleased to report the meeting was well attended as a whole (365 registered attendees) and our own Tidewater Chapter was very well represented. The division meeting had a respectable program of platform presentations (131) and poster presentations (25) on a wide range of topics. On Saturday and Sunday of the event, the Tidewater Chapter hosted a symposium focusing on marine and estuarine fisheries. Our symposium drew a particularly strong slate of platform (31) and poster (8) presentations from both the professional and student ranks. In fact, the presentations were so strong the Awards Committee had a difficult time choosing clear victors in the student competitions. Abstracts from all presentations are available online at: http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/2005_meeting_files/web%20abstracts.htm. Ron Klauda, chair of the Awards and Scholarships Committee, will have more on the winners later in this newsletter.

In addition, Tidewater held both our annual business meeting and our EXCOM meeting during the weekend's events. Despite its early Saturday morning timeslot the business meeting was fairly well attended. We had several notable individuals attending our meeting. Gus Rassam, AFS Executive Director, Pat Mazik, SDAFS president, and Bob Curry, SDAFS president-elect, all made appearances and gave us a word or two of advice. I was happy to see such support from the Division and the parent society. Our officers for 2005 were formally introduced to the chapter and are as follows:

President – Hank Brooks (VIMS)
President elect - Anthony Overton (ECU)
Secretary / Treasurer – Wes Patrick (ECU)
NC Member at Large – Joe Grist (NC DMF)

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2005 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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

President-Elect – Anthony Overton, Phone 252-328-4121; email Overtona@mail.ecu.edu

Past President – Ann Barse, Phone 410-543-6073; email ambarse@salisbury.edu.

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 – James Gartland, Phone 804-684-7546; email jgartlan@vims.edu.

NC Member-at-Large – Joe Grist, Phone 252-726-7021; email Joseph.Grist@ncmail.net.

ECU Student Subunit – Chad Smith, Phone 252-328-1765; email cms0514@mail.ecu.edu.

Newsletter Co-Editors – Roger Rulifson and James Morris, RR Phone 252-328-1757; rulifsonr@mail.ecu.edu.
JM Phone 252-728-3595 x639 james.morris@noaa.gov.

Historian and Listserv Administrator – Roger Rulifson.

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

VA Member at Large – Jim Gartland (VIMS)
MD Member at Large – Erik Zlokovitz (MD DNR)

These officers are now working in their assigned roles and anxiously await your input. As elected positions their task is serving you, the chapter members, to accomplish common goals. If you have insight, comments, or suggestions about a particular topic of interest to you or the chapter don't hesitate to contact one of these officers.

As I stated earlier, the Tidewater EXCOM meeting was also held during the SDAFS Spring meeting. During the EXCOM meeting the following committee chairs were assigned for the chapter:

Membership Committee – Ann Barse
Audit Committee – Wes Patrick
Program Committee – Anthony Overton
Nominating Committee – Ann Barse
Awards and Scholarships Committee – Ron Klauda
Communications Committee – Roger Rulifson

The committee chairs know the tasks set before them and are willing to pursue these goals. Several other positions within the chapter and the Communications Committee were accepted during the meeting (or thereafter). The positions of Newsletter Editor and LISTSERV administrator will again be tackled by Roger Rulifson. Additionally, James Morris agreed to continue as the Tidewater Chapter webmaster. Volunteers to serve on committees are encouraged. If you are in search of an opportunity for professional development, feel free to contact a committee chair and volunteer to serve on one of our committees. I am sure Anthony Overton will need a tremendous amount of help as next year's meeting draws near. The Membership Committee and Nominating Committee are also always in need of member support. Wes Patrick will present more to you about the EXCOM and Business Meetings in his Secretary Treasures Report and Meeting Minutes later in this newsletter.

On behalf of the chapter, I'd like to thank our session moderators, James Morris, Joe Grist, Ann Barse, Jack Musick, and Ron Klauda for their participation in the Marine Symposium. You did an excellent job of ensuring our sessions kept on schedule. I also owe an additional thank you to James Morris, Roger Rulifson, Ann Barse, Erik Zlokovitz, Ron Klauda, Wes Patrick and John Olney for their assistance in helping me

organize our symposium. I'm certain our turnout of presenters would have been much lower without advice given to me by those that had gone through the same task in the past. Finally, I'd like to thank Wes Patrick, as well any others, who may have helped man our Tidewater Chapter Registration Table.

I look forward to a very productive year for the Tidewater Chapter and I extend thanks to those that elected me to this office. The chapter was passed to me in very good shape and I hope at the year's end I'm able to pass it to Anthony Overton in the same excellent condition.

-- Hank Brooks, TWC president 2005



Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Chapter dues - Just a reminder that this year's annual meeting cost DID NOT include your chapter dues, therefore you need to pay your dues via snail mail. 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.

Tidewater Chapter EXCOM Meeting – February 11, 2005, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Attendees: David Secor, Chad Smith, Lisa Kerr, Erik Zlokovitz, Ron Klauda, Bob Curry, John Cooper, Neil McNeill, Joe Grist, Wes Patrick, Hank Brooks, Anne Barse, and James Morris.

Anne Barse began the meeting at 2:05 PM, with recognition of Bob Curry, who was attending the meeting as a representative of the SDAFS (President Elect). Bob gave a brief introduction about him and noted that SDAFS was very pleased that the Tidewater Chapter could put together the marine symposium for this meeting. James Morris asked Bob about marine interest in the SDAFS and Bob noted that SDAFS has tried to have a marine technical committee but that it has worked out, but that it is of importance to the SDAFS.

Anne then continued the meeting and expressed how well this meeting had come together and thanked the EXCOM committee.

Wes Patrick, Secretary/Treasurer, reported on the membership and savings of the chapter. At that time there was a total of 30 members and a savings of \$9,437.89.

Reports from committees proceeded, with Wes Patrick chairman of the Audit Committee. He noted that chapter transactions were very few per year and recommended that the Audit Committee be disbanded. However, Bob Curry noted that audit committees are very important for keeping non-profit status and to reduce the chance of potential conflicts in the future regarding money management. It was decided that the Audit Committee should produce one report per year for the EXCOM to review.

Ron Klauda, Chair of the Awards and Scholarships Committee, reported on four awards being presented this year: Meritorious Service (Fred Harris), Conservation (Beth Versak and Wilson Laney), and Excellence in Fisheries Education (David Secor). No Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship was awarded this year. Student paper/poster awards will be given out after the conference because student presentations will be given on the last day. Discussion about who receives these awards was brought up, and it was decided that only Tidewater Chapter students were eligible.

James Morris discussed his efforts as chairman of the Membership Committee to raise membership in the chapter. Two efforts were made to increase membership 1) mailing dues renewal letters to 200 past members and 2) identifying 25 people per state that would benefit by joining the chapter. Results of these efforts are not fully known at this time.

James Morris also discussed his efforts as chairman of the Nomination Committee. Unfortunately, he was unable to receive multiple names for EXCOM seat and the list of nominations were:

President Elect – Anthony Overton
Secretary/Treasurer – Wes Patrick
NC Member at Large – Joe Grist
VA Member at Large – Jim Garland
MD Member at Large – Erik Zlokovitz

The membership voted on these nominations via the Tidewater ListServ.

James moved that a guide for presidents elect be constructed for future representatives. The motion was passed unanimously and an ad hoc committee was created, which included Ron Klauda, Anne Barse, James Morris, Erik Zlokovitz, and Hank Brooks.

The Communication Committee chair was not present (Roger Rulifson), but speaking for him was Chad Smith who reported that the LISTSERV is up and running and that the newspaper was running smoothly.

Student subunit reports followed with a brief overview of ECU subunit activities (more description in Business Meeting Report). No other student subunits were active at this time, but David Secor noted that the University of Maryland was getting the subunit back together and was being headed by Lisa Kerr.

The 2006 Tidewater Meeting was discussed briefly by Anthony Overton (incoming President Elect) and noted that he was in the process of finding locations for the meeting but it was still too early to know for sure. He had been in contact with James Morris about potentially using the Beaufort Laboratory again. However, others noted interest in having the meeting in Wilmington.

Anne Barse discussed a letter she had received from the Equal Opportunities Section of AFS requesting donations for \$100-\$500 to help students attend the Anchorage Meeting. James Morris motioned that we donate \$100 and was seconded by David Secor. The vote passed unanimously.

Anne Barse then opened the floor for general discussion. Wes Patrick asked about donations for the Anadromous Fish Symposium that was to be held in 2007, because Roger Rulifson at the mid-year EXCOM meeting had brought up the issue. Ron Klauda noted that the symposium was still in the development stage and that the committee could hold off on deciding whether to donate money to this program for a later time.

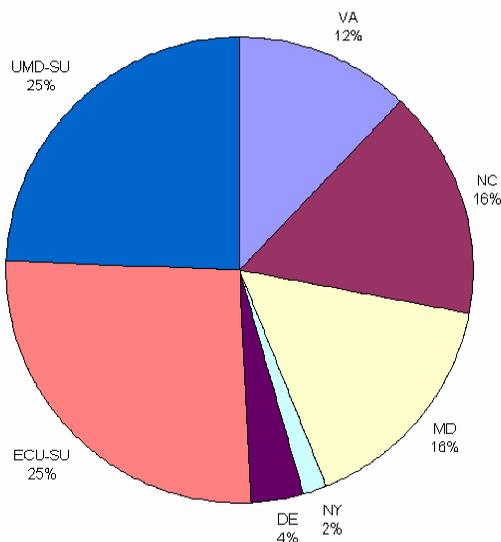
Lastly, David Secor wanted to know who could be a member of a Student Subunit. Can young professionals be members or older members? No motion was made on this issue but it was decided that members should be limited to some number of years out of school.

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 PM.

Tidewater Membership

I finally got a chance to tally up the number of members in the Tidewater Chapter; we have a total of 44 members. For the first time since I have been Secretary/Treasurer our membership appears to be equally shared among Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia members each contributing 12-16% (See Pie Chart). However the majority of our membership consists of ECU and UMD students who make up 35% of the membership. Other states include Delaware (4%), New York (2%), and the University of Maryland Student Sub-unit (2%).

2005 Tidewater Membership by State and Subunit



Treasurers Report:

Checking:	\$ 960.29
Savings:	\$5,014.26
CD:	\$3,001.82
Total	\$8,976.37

Minutes from the Tidewater Business Meeting on February 12, 2005

The Tidewater Chapter Business Meeting was called to order by President Anne Barse at approximately 7:45 AM. A special recognition was made to guest Bob Curry (SDAFS President Elect). A review of the EXCOM committee meeting was highlighted for the audience noting the treasury report of (\$9,437.89), membership review by James Morris, student reports (discussed in detail elsewhere), the 2006 meeting in North Carolina, and donations made in the last year. Chad Smith, president of the ECU-AFS Student Subunit, reported on their activities of the last year, which included 8 guest speakers, funding of students to attend 4 conferences (total 27 students sent to meetings), fundraising activities, community service, and their annual banquet, which had 66 attendees from both academic and state agencies.

The floor was opened to members for discussion, however there were no comments.

Anne Barse gave her final address, expressing how much she had enjoyed working with the chapter, followed by announcement of the election results for 2005 officers. The results were:

- President Elect – Anthony Overton, ECU
- Secretary/Treasurer – Wes Patrick, ECU
- NC Member at Large – Joe Grist (NC DMF)
- VA Member at Large – Jim Garland (VA DNR)
- MD Member at Large – Erik Zlokovitz (MD DNR)

New president Hank Brooks was then installed, receiving the coveted oyster toad fish plaque presented by Anne Barse. Hank Then took over the business meeting and presented Anne Barse with a Gavel Plaque for her service as President of the Tidewater Chapter for 2004-2005.

Ron Klauda announced the four awards for:

- Meritorious Service -- Fred Harris (NCWRC).
- Conservation -- Beth Versak (MD DNR), accepted by Eric Zlokovitz.
- Conservation -- Wilson Laney (USFWS).
- Excellence in Fisheries Education -- David Secor (CBL).

Student awards were to be presented after the meeting, because presentations were on going.

Lastly Anne Barse presented a special Presidential Award for Service and Leadership in the Tidewater Chapter to Roger Rulifson.

President Hank Brooks resumed the meeting with a brief introduction about him, and emphasized that he looked forward to his year as president with the hope that he would keep the chapter in as good as shape as he had received it. He also requested that our members be more active and vocal about what they wanted from the chapter.

Anthony Overton, newly elected president elect, then addressed the audience with a brief description of next year's meeting in North Carolina. Roger Rulifson followed up with an update about the possibility of having an UNCW subunit. Lastly, Bob Curry addressed the audience about the upcoming SDAFS meeting in San Antonio, Texas and the availability of 65 student rooms.

A motion was made by Hank to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Erik Zlokovitz. The meeting ended at 8:25 AM.

Submitted by Wes Patrick, Secretary/Treasurer

Tidewater Chapter Awards Presented at the February 2005 Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA

STUDENT PAPERS

A total of 23 student papers were judged (8 posters and 15 platform presentations). In the poster category, the judges selected these three winners:

First Place: Jacqueline A. Jenkins (ECU) – *Feeding habitats and dietary overlap of juvenile fishes in the vicinity of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, Georgia, USA* (certificate and \$100)

Second Place: Joel C. Hoffman (VIMS) – *Characterizing movement of young-of-year American shad within the nursery habitat using stable isotopes* (certificate and \$50)

Third Place: Sarah C. Muffelman (VIMS) – *Sampling zooplankton and benthic prey of juvenile striped bass,*

Morone saxatilis: utilizing multiple net types to characterize prey selectivity (certificate and \$25)

In the platform category, the judges selected these six winners:

First Place (2): Susan F. Cushman (UMD) – *Differential movement of stream Cyprinids in urban and rural watersheds*, and Robert F. Murphy (UMD) – *Fish community assemblages in Maryland's (USA) coastal lagoon* (certificate and \$100)

Second Place (2): Brandon P. Puckett (UMD – *Growth and recruitment rates of juvenile blue crabs *Callinectes sapidus* in Chesapeake Bay*, and William S. Rodney (UMD) – *Comparison of benthic macrofauna assemblage structure and function on restored and unrestored eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) reefs in mesohaline Chesapeake Bay: implications for fisheries management* (certificate and \$50)

Third Place (2): Joel C. Hoffman (VIMS) – *Do American shad grow on trees?*, and Ryan W. Woodland – *Age and growth of Hudson River juvenile shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)* (Certificate and \$25)

SPECIAL AWARDS

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

The 2004 recipient is Fred Harris. Fred is Chief Deputy Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He's been with the Commission for almost 33 years. Fred joined AFS in 1970, is a life member, and a Certified Fisheries Professional. Over the years, he has chaired and served on numerous Chapter and Southern Division committees. In 1992, Fred received the Southern Division's Outstanding Achievement Award. He received a Distinguished Service Award from AFS in 1998. Fred has been active in leadership and committee member roles at the parent society level, culminating in his tenure as AFS President in 2002-2003.

Conservation Award – is given periodically to an individual, resource management agency, corporation, or non-profit organization that has distinguished themselves/itself through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

The first of two 2004 recipients is Beth Versak. Beth is a Biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and has been with DNR for 11 years. She is a key member of Maryland's Striped Bass Project where she coordinates the spring spawning stock and summer-fall resident tagging surveys. Since joining the Striped Bass Project in 1994, Beth's team has tagged over 50,000 fish in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay. She also serves on the ASMFC's Striped Bass Tagging Subcommittee. Beth loves to tag fish so much that she participated in three Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruises off the North Carolina coast in 1997, 2002, and 2003.

The second 2004 recipient is Wilson Laney. Wilson is Assistant Coordinator of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's South Atlantic Fisheries Coordination Office in Raleigh, North Carolina---a position he's held since 1991. He has contributed to numerous fisheries management plans, beginning with the Report to Congress for the North Carolina Striped Bass Study in 1992. After passage of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993, Wilson began writing plans for ASMFC. He authored and co-authored management plans for striped bass, weakfish, Atlantic sturgeon, shad, river herring, and bluefish; and he also contributed to essential fish habitat plans and the Roanoke River Basin Diadromous Fish Restoration Plan. Wilson has been an AFS member for 34 years, and belongs to the North Carolina and Tidewater Chapters. He is Past-President of the North Carolina Chapter. Wilson just returned from several days at sea, on board the NOAA research vessel Oregon II, where he served as a member of the 12 midnight-6 am watch for the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise. Wilson and the crew spent many hours tagging striped bass, spiny dogfish, Atlantic sturgeon, and horseshoe crabs.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award – is given periodically to a Tidewater 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 in Chapter meetings.

The 2004 award recipient is Dave Secor. Dave is an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Since joining CBL in 1998, he has taught courses and seminars in *Fish Ecology*, *Fishes of Chesapeake Bay*, *Conservation Biology of Fishes*, *Chesapeake Bay Fisheries*, *History of Fisheries Science*, *Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management*, and *Reproductive Ecology of Fishes*. Dave has served or is serving as Thesis Adviser to 11 graduate students, including the Tidewater Chapter's At-Large Member from Maryland, Erik Zlokovitz, who received his MS degree with Dave in 1999. Many of Dave's students have presented papers at Tidewater Chapter meetings. He also served or is serving on the Advisory Committees for 19 graduate students, and has supervised 8 research interns. Dave has been an AFS member since 1988 and is a Past-President of the Tidewater Chapter. He is mentoring the re-start of a Student Subunit at the University of Maryland.

Presidential Award – is given to a Tidewater Chapter who, in the opinion of the outgoing Chapter President, should be recognized for their faithful service to the Tidewater Chapter.

The 2004 award recipient selected by outgoing President, Ann Barse, is Roger Rulifson, a Professor at East Carolina University. In addition to being a founding member of the Tidewater Chapter, he was the original Co-Editor of the Chapter's newsletter. Roger served as Chapter President in 1987, was the At-Large Member from North Carolina in 1990, and has served on the Awards and Scholarships Committee since 1997. He became newsletter Editor again in 2001 (a position he still holds), serves as the Chapter's Historian, and has been the Faculty Advisor to the East Carolina University's Student Subunit since 1999. Roger has been and continues to be active with AFS at the regional and national levels.

Report prepared and submitted by Ron Klauda, Chairman, Awards and Scholarships Committee, April 4, 2005

Student Subunit News



University of Maryland by Lisa Kerr

The University of Maryland AFS Tidewater Student Subunit has revived its membership this year and is reorganizing to promote the professional development of fisheries students at UM. Because

our student body is spread out over several campuses (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, UMCES Horn Point Laboratory, UMCES Appalachian Laboratory, University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Frostburg State University) we conduct our meetings over the Interactive Video Network available at each campus. We had our first meeting January 31, 2005 during which we elected new student officers. The newly elected officers are:

President: Lisa Kerr (UMCES, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory)

Secretary: Susan Flanders Cushman (UMCES, Appalachian Laboratory)

Treasurer: Adam Peer (UMCES, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory)

Our main goals in the upcoming academic year are to organize workshops and seminars that promote our goals of education and professional development of students. In addition, we are working toward fundraising goals that will support our student activities. The subunit was well represented at the Annual Tidewater Chapter Meeting (Feb 10-13 February 2005) in Virginia Beach, VA. UM student presentation winners included Robert Murphy and Susan Flanders Cushman (1st place), Brandon Puckett and William Rodney (2nd place), and Ryan Woodland (Honorable Mention). This summer we have planned a tour of the Smithsonian fish collection, the largest fish collection in the world and home to many type specimens. We are currently working on the development of a seminar series to be held at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Through this seminar series we hope to enhance the educational and

professional development of students and encourage the exchange of information among students and seasoned marine/aquatic scientists. If you are interested in getting involved in the subunit, please contact me at kerr@cbl.umces.edu.

Lisa Kerr, President, PO Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688, kerr@cbl.umces.edu.



East Carolina University by Chad Smith

ECU-AFS began the New Year by welcoming Dr. Frederick Scharf from the Department of Biological Sciences, UNCW to speak at our first business meeting for the spring 2005 semester. The title of his talk was, "Size-Dependent Recruitment

in Marine Fishes." During the business meeting, topics for discussion included information regarding the upcoming AFS Southern Division Meeting as well as the production logistics for ECU-AFS's handling of the official conference T-shirt. After the meeting, nineteen members journeyed to a local restaurant for the traditional post-meeting social to wish everyone a good beginning to 2005.

On February 2, 2005, Sam Uzzell from the NCSU Department of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Pitt County Cooperative Extension was invited to give members insight into environmental issues around Pitt County such as habitat restoration and dam removal. On February 10, 2005, eleven ECU-AFS members attended the AFS Southern Division Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA. Deirdre (Dee Dee) Barry, Jacqui Jenkins, and Chad Smith authored posters. Congratulations to Jacqui Jenkins for winning first place in the Tidewater Chapter Poster Judging. Faculty adviser, Roger Rulifson, was also recognized by Tidewater President, Ann Barse, during the Tidewater business meeting for his continuing dedication to the Tidewater Chapter. Throughout the meeting, ECU-AFS members worked to sell the official conference T-Shirt in order to raise money to offset student registration costs for future meetings. A total of 100 T-shirts were produced and members were excited when we sold out on the last day of the meeting, earning a profit of 654 dollars. ECU-AFS was also approached and asked by a couple of Southern Division EXCOM

members to host the 5th Annual Colloquium in November 2005. Of course, we accepted it! Planning for this event will begin this summer and ECU-AFS is thankful for the support offered by the West Virginia University and NC State AFS student subunits. This will certainly be an exquisite accomplishment for ECU-AFS.



ECU-AFS members and alumni at the 2005 AFS Southern Division Meeting, Virginia Beach, VA.



Roger Rulifson receives an award from Tidewater President, Ann Barse for his continuing dedication to the AFS Tidewater Chapter.

In March, members began preparation for the ECU spring carnival, “Barefoot on the Mall,” by establishing a planning committee to furnish original and innovative ideas to help raise funds. ECU-AFS faculty members also advertised and discussed the initiation of a new fishery management course for undergraduates in fall 2005. The guest speaker was Dr. David Evans from the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory. His presentation topic dealt with mercury in fisheries, which is a hot topic in the fisheries world and health sciences.

In April, ECU-AFS presented its fourth and final meeting for spring 2005. Important topics for discussion were the establishment of new officers through an online voting system and the 2005-2006 SGA funding application, which is currently being reviewed by the

ECU Student Government for approval. ECU-AFS was extremely grateful for receiving a total of 2400 dollars from SGA for the 2004-2005 academic year, which was allocated for travel. ECU-AFS was also pleased to announce its nominations for the “Outstanding Student Organization” and “Outstanding Student Leadership” awards through the ECU Student Leadership Development Program. The guest speakers for this month were Summer Burdick and Jenny Vander Pluym from the NC State AFS Student Subunit. Jenny informed ECU-AFS members of NC State AFS activities in compliance to planning future cohesive activities involving both subunits. Summer Burdick presented her newly defended master's research, titled "Anadromous Fish Restoration through Dam Removal in North Carolina." Afterwards, members entertained the NC State folks at a local pub for some good conversation and food!



NCSU AFS Subunit members Summer Burdick (third from right) and Jenny Vander Pluym (second from right) visit ECU campus to share research and subunit ideas during the April Business Meeting.

Future activities and events for ECU-AFS will be “Barefoot on the Mall,” the announcement of officers for the 2005-2006 academic year, Commencement Exercises, and the “Farewell Social.” Afterwards, ECU-AFS will settle down for the summer to begin preparations for the new academic year.

Please visit the ECU-AFS website for current news, history, extensive photos, and upcoming events. <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs>.

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

Carteret Community College, Morehead City, NC by Skip Kemp

The Carteret Community College Aquaculture technology program building renovation was completed

late January with occupancy mid-February. Outside infrastructure construction continues for dock, pump and filter stations and water holding reservoirs. We now have set up quite an impressive array of algae cultures demonstrating different culture techniques and algae species. Broodstock holding and conditioning systems are running. Oysters are in the spawning tank today.



First test strip spawn during a lab practicum produced viable larvae on Monday. Our *Donax* (Coquina) aquaculture enhancement project is progressing well, developed the harvesting techniques and mesh tests, strip spawned to produce viable larvae, obtained other larvae from previously fertilized females and culturing larvae in the lab. Other projects are finally on GO after waiting for the construction. We will offer independent studies lab practicums this summer for hands-on experience with "Applied Marine Biology" techniques and experiences. Full curriculum starts back up Fall semester and we are ready to recruit a new crop of students. We have also found that college graduates enroll in the program to get a lot of practical hands-on experience, which is not usually available with most four-year degrees. Looking forward to seeing you and giving a tour. Welcome!

Philip S. Kemp Jr., Aquaculture Technology Program, Carteret Community College, 301 College Circle, Morehead City, NC 28557. Phone 252-222-6114; FAX 252-222-6311. kemps@carteret.edu
<http://main2.carteret.edu/~kemps>

Check out our new website for the COGP Citizens' Oyster Gardening Project Website:
<http://www.carteret.edu/aqu/cogp/>

Maryland News from Erik Zlokovitz



The spring recreational striped bass fishery ("Trophy season") opened on April 16. Striped bass biologists from MD DNR are sampling recreational landings of charter and private boats in an ongoing creel survey of

Maryland's Trophy and spring striped bass fisheries. This intercept survey includes several sites on the eastern and western shore of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, such as Deale, Chesapeake Beach, Breezy Point, Solomons, Tilghman Island, Kent Island, and Rock Hall. To date, biologists have measured over 100 striped bass landed by recreational fishermen. Stomachs, otoliths, and scales were collected from a sub-sample of the landed catch. Striped bass biologists are also sampling spring spawning stripers in the Potomac River and Upper Bay with experimental gillnet gear.

Matapeake field office staff (MULTIFISH project) are tagging American shad at the Conowingo Dam tailrace and are completing fyke net monitoring of yellow and white perch spring spawning populations in the Choptank, Nanticoke, and Severn Rivers. Hatchery staff have been working throughout the spring collecting American and Hickory shad brood stock and transporting them via tank truck to the Cedarville facility.

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-Large



Virginia News from Jim Gartland

Multispecies Fisheries Research at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science News

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Fisheries Department recently developed a multispecies fisheries research program composed of three

interconnected projects: the Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAP), Chesapeake Bay Trophic Interaction Laboratory Services (CTILS), and the Fisheries Ecosystem Modeling and Assessment Project (FEMAP). ChesMMAP was initiated in 2002 and uses a bottom trawl to sample late juvenile and adult finfishes and blue crab in the mainstem Chesapeake Bay, from Pooles Island, Maryland to Cape Henry, Virginia. Research cruises are conducted bimonthly from March to November each year. All specimens collected are enumerated and measured, while a subsample of each species is weighed and processed for sex, maturity, diet, and age determination. As of spring 2005, this survey had generated relative abundance, distribution, length- and age-frequency, sex ratio, maturity, and diet data for approximately 15 species of fish. Some of these data, along with additional project information and news, can be found at <http://www.fisheries.vims.edu/chesmmap>.

In an effort to expand the spatial and temporal coverage of ChesMMAP's diet database, CTILS established a regional gut processing program in 2004. Specifically, CTILS collaborates with existing field surveys to collect finfish stomach samples from locations, seasons, and age-classes (i.e., age-0) not adequately sampled by ChesMMAP. These data, when coupled with those collected by ChesMMAP, form one of the most comprehensive finfish diet composition databases in the region. To date, CTILS has obtained approximately 4,000 samples through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Striped Bass Creel and Seine Surveys, the VIMS Juvenile Fish and Blue Crab Trawl, Juvenile Striped Bass Seine, and Trammel Net Surveys, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Winter Tagging Survey. For additional information or to participate in the CTILS collaborative sampling program, contact Debra Parthree at (804) 684-7891.

FEMAP incorporates the diet composition data generated by ChesMMAP and CTILS into a series of tropho-dynamic models in an effort to understand finfish community dynamics in Chesapeake Bay and assist in the development of ecosystem-based management plans. Three viable modeling approaches have been identified and are currently in the development stage. Additional information about this program can be found at <http://www.fisheries.vims.edu/femap>.

--Jim Gartland, VA Member-At-Large

North Carolina News from Joe Grist



New Flounder Rules Went into Effect April 1

MOREHEAD CITY – Both recreational and commercial fishermen need to be aware that new catch and gear limits for southern flounder are going into effect April 1. The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission approved the conservation measures as part of the Southern Flounder Fishery Management

Plan – a plan designed to protect declining stocks of the state's inshore flounder population. The current flounder stock is comprised primarily of very young fish, with few older, more productive spawners. A healthy stock generally has fish of all ages. The new restrictions include:

- 14-inch size limit, eight fish possession limit for recreational fishermen in internal waters, including gilled fish; and
- 14-inch size limit for commercial fishermen in internal waters.

Additional flounder restrictions will be forthcoming in future months.

For more information on these new management measures, contact Chris Batsavage by e-mail at chris.batsavage@ncmail.net or by calling 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021.

STATE OFFICIALS SIGN HISTORIC HABITAT PROTECTION DOCUMENT

MOREHEAD CITY – N. C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Bill Ross, joined representatives from three environmental commissions in a signing ceremony celebrating the completion of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan.

In the 1997 Fisheries Reform Act, the N.C. General Assembly directed the department to prepare a plan for protecting critical fisheries habitat as a way to help in the recovery of slumping fish stocks. The CHPP describes critical habitats where marine fish and shellfish feed, spawn and grow. The CHPP also identifies threats to

those habitats and makes recommendations for addressing those threats.

“Today is a celebration of all the work that has been put into this effort designed to protect and restore critical fisheries habitats,” said Ross. “ But more importantly, it is a starting point for the work that needs to be done to follow through on the plan’s recommendations.”

Joining Ross was Jimmy Johnson, chairman of the Marine Fisheries Commission, Gene Tomlinson, chairman of the Coastal Resources Commission, and Pete Peterson, representing the Environmental Management Commission. DMF, DCM and DMF are all preparing detailed implementation plans for their respective commissions to be approved by July 1, 2005.

DENR is already taking action by enhancing enforcement of existing rules protecting fish habitat, developing a set of indicators to gauge the on-going health of the estuaries and habitats and reporting on those trends, expanding oyster restoration efforts and educating the public about the importance of these habitats.

For more information about the plan, visit <http://www.ncdmf.net/habitat/index.html> and for information about the event, please contact Nancy Fish, Division of Marine Fisheries, at 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.



Charlton Godwin: New NCDMF Striped Bass Biologist

Charlton is a native of Bertie County in North Eastern North Carolina. After graduating from Ridgcroft School in 1990 Charlton worked in various fields, including restaurant management, machinist at

Gregory Manufacturing Co., feed mill operator with Perdue Farms, and carpentry. He entered East Carolina University in 1997 and completed his Bachelor’s of Science degree in biology in 2001. He continued his education at ECU and completed his M.S. degree in biology under the mentorship of Roger A. Rulifson in 2004. For his thesis research, Charlton investigated fish passage through passive water control structures at Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde

County, NC. His thesis is titled “Performance Assessment of Retrofitted Water Control Structures at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, NC.” Charlton became involved with AFS early in his academic career and served as Vice President, President, and Co-Historian of the East Carolina University Student Subunit of AFS. Charlton is currently employed with North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as the striped bass *Morone saxatilis* biologist in the Northern District, and is based in Elizabeth City. Charlton contributes much of the success in his new career (a.k.a. finding a job out of college!) to his involvement in the ECU Student Subunit of AFS, and is currently an active member in the Tidewater Chapter. Charlton can be reached at charlton.godwin@ncmail.net.



Kara Schenk: new NCDMF Sportfishing Specialist

Kara grew up in Maryland and attended Salisbury State University and

the University of Maryland Eastern Shore earning a dual degree in environmental science and biology. After graduating in 1999, she worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a Natural Resource Biologist for the Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment Division. Her primary job responsibilities while there were to collect data on estuarine fish communities that would be used for an Index of Biotic Integrity. Additionally, while at the DNR, she was a member of a rapid response team trained to respond to outbreaks of *Pfiesteria*, and assisted with several intensive marcoalgae sampling projects in the Maryland Coastal Bays. In 2002, she moved to North Carolina to begin graduate school at North Carolina State University under the mentorship of Dr. Jeff Buckel. Her thesis research was based out of Morehead City, North Carolina and the title of her thesis is “Age, growth and reproduction of dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*) caught off the coast of North Carolina.” Life history data currently available for dolphin off the coast of North Carolina are very outdated and limited, so her research provided a much needed age-length function for dolphin, as well as some of the first comprehensive data on North Carolina dolphin reproduction. Kara was a member of the North Carolina State University Student Subunit of AFS, and

presented results of her research at both the 2004 Tidewater Chapter AFS meeting, and the 2004 AFS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Kara is currently employed with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as a sportfishing specialist, and can be reached at Kara.Schwenke@ncmail.net.

-- Joe Grist, NC Member-at-Large

18th Annual Cooperative SEAMAP Winter Tagging Cruise January-February 2005

by Erik Zlokovitz, Fisheries Biologist, Maryland DNR-Fisheries Service

Once again, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) participated in the annual winter Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) tagging cruise off the coast of North Carolina. Striped bass biologists from DNR have participated in this effort since the first cruise in 1988. For 18 years this cruise has provided a wealth of fishery-independent data for many species that inhabit the Mid-Atlantic coast. This year's cruise took place on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) vessel *OREGON II* during the period January 23 – February 3, 2005. The *OREGON II* has been used on 12 of 18 tagging cruises, dating back to 1988. Other ships that have participated in past years were the *CHAPMAN*, *ALBATROSS IV*, and *R/V CAPE HATTERAS*.

Participants on this year's cruise were from several state, federal and academic agencies, including Erik Zlokovitz from MD DNR, and eleven other fishery biologists from NOAA, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF), and East Carolina University (ECU).



This year's cruise proved to be a success, with biologists tagging the third highest number of striped bass (4,266) in the survey's 18 year history. This number is notable because it exceeded the existing long-term 17 year average catch of 1,961 striped bass, using only one net for many of the tows. In most past cruises, two nets were deployed with a side trawl or "Yankee" rig for the duration of the trip. However, 2 entire net rigs were lost when the port winch cable parted. The trip was finished using only the starboard net, giving the ship the nickname "one-armed fisherman".

Crews worked around the clock on six hour shifts, hauling the nets on deck for a total of 149 tows, in search of large schools of striped bass. The highest concentrations of stripers were encountered offshore of Kitty Hawk, NC in 40-50 feet of water. Almost 1,500 spiny dogfish were also tagged, in the seventh year of a cooperative effort between the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, ECU and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Overall, the Scientific Party and crew of the *OREGON II* processed over 6000 fish of 21 different species.

The *OREGON II* employed 65 foot long bottom trawls for 10 to 30 minute tows, and worked along the North Carolina Outer Banks in water depths ranging from 30-80 feet (1-9 miles offshore). The captain and crew focused on the zone between Nag's Head, NC and Kitty Hawk, NC in search of overwintering schools of striped bass. Strong north winds, freezing temperatures, ice on deck, and swells of 10-15 feet forced the ship to move south, under the lee side of Cape Hatteras for one full day.

The main purpose of the cruise when it was originally developed was to capture and tag as many striped bass as possible. The Outer Banks is an important overwintering and feeding area for Chesapeake stock striped bass and other stocks of Atlantic striped bass. In early spring, typically in late February and March, the striped bass off the North Carolina coast will start migrating back north and inland to their native spawning grounds. The majority of these fish will swim into the spawning reaches of the Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Other fish will head to Albemarle Sound and the Roanoke River, or further north, to the Delaware and Hudson Rivers.

Over the years, data and samples have been collected on an increasing number of species that are routinely

encountered on the cruise, and the operation has evolved into a true multispecies program. In addition to striped bass, data is now collected on Atlantic sturgeon, spiny and smooth dogfish, summer and southern flounder, red drum, monkfish, weakfish, spotted sea trout, hickory shad, American shad, Atlantic Mackerel, skates, and horseshoe crabs. A major effort is also underway to tag as many spiny dogfish as possible. There are frequently requests from graduate students or universities for data on other species including bluefish, spot, and Atlantic croaker.

Scientists were divided into two watch groups, the "6-12" watch, and the dreaded "12-6" watch. The 12-6 watch is unpopular with many crew members because it includes the "graveyard shift" of 12 midnight to 6 AM, often in cold and miserable conditions on deck. Each watch group or tagging team had a "Watch Leader" who served as deck boss and foreman and maintained the steady flow of work on deck. Within each group was a first and second tagger (the second tagger was used when a large number of striped bass was captured), data recorder, and others who served as "fish wranglers" and sample collectors. Fish wranglers are in charge of lifting heavy and often vigorous striped bass off the deck or out of the holding tanks and feeding them in a steady stream to the taggers. The taggers then measure the fish, use a metal detector to scan the cheek area for hatchery-implanted Coded Wire Tags (CWTs), remove a scale sample for ageing purposes, insert tags into the striped bass, and finally, release them over the side of the ship.

Bill Cole of USFWS served as the chief scientist and coordinator of the cruise from its inception in 1988 to 2004. He was often seen discussing fishing strategy and charts with the captain and first mate in the wheelhouse or "bridge" and pacing around the wet lab and working deck. He was famous for his "Ahab-like" intensity in pursuing schools of striped bass. Bill was on assignment at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, MD and could not go to sea on this year's cruise. He assisted with the logistics and packing of gear, and wished the crew well. This year, (2005), Dr. Wilson Laney of USFWS, a long time cruise participant and second in command for many years, took over as chief scientist. His positive attitude under difficult conditions and outstanding knowledge of marine fishes, seabirds, mammals, crustaceans, and shellfish are a great asset to the cruise operation and will continue to be invaluable to the success of future cruises.

Most hauls contained many small members of the drum family: croaker, spot, kingfish, spotted seatrout, and weakfish. Commonly encountered bottom fish included spotted hake and summer flounder. Baitfish such as menhaden, bay anchovies, Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, and hickory shad were abundant, which, no doubt, helped to attract and hold striped bass in the area. Various species of skates, starfish, crabs, whelks and other small bottom-dwelling species were also encountered. Numbers of loligo squid were down significantly (This was a major disappointment to the cook and other fans of calamari onboard the vessel ☺). Smooth dogfish have also been conspicuously absent during the last two cruises. Bluefish were encountered on a single tow in the more southern zone near Cape Lookout.

Unfortunately, we did not encounter large numbers of more "exotic" species. Only one Atlantic sturgeon was captured and tagged this year, a major drop from some previous cruises. (The record number of sturgeon captured and tagged was 22, during the 2002 cruise). There were no encounters with Thresher sharks or giant bluefin tuna, as has occurred in the past. One exciting occurrence was the sighting of humpback and fin whales surfacing and spouting near the ship, feeding on schools of herring and peanut menhaden. These schools of baitfish and scattered whales could be visually located by the sight of gannet seabirds diving into the prey from above.

The striped bass tagging data from the cruise is used in a variety of ways. Recapture data provided by fishermen gives managers important information on migration patterns, growth rates, and survival estimates. The data is also used to determine general abundance, size and age distributions, length-at-age, weight-at-age and contribution of hatchery fish. Recently, the data has been entered into a geographic information system (GIS) database which will give a better view of travel patterns and habitat use off the coast of North Carolina. All of the data are important monitoring tools in the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Plan for the entire Atlantic coast. The tags applied to striped bass during the North Carolina survey are the same pink tags that you might encounter here in the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland coastal bays, or along the Ocean City coastline. If you do catch a tagged fish, please call the USFWS at 1-800-448-8322 and let them know the date you caught the fish, the location, if you kept or released it, and the method of capture.

Communications Committee

Website Reminder – don't forget to update your expertise database on the Tidewater website, www.sdafs.org/tidewater.

Tidewater Chapter ListServ - The Tidewater Chapter ListServ is up and running through East Carolina University. 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.

Update on the 20th Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, Winter 2006 by Anthony Overton



Greetings to all. Spring is here and that means much to do including sampling and final exams. Good Luck! The annual meeting committee is very excited and enthusiastic about the upcoming annual meeting to be held in January 2006 in North Carolina. **Make plans to attend.** This meeting

marks its 20th anniversary and I am very eager to celebrate our 20th year. The planning has begun and we are considering two sites for the meeting and they are the Eastern Carolina 4-H Center on the shores of Albemarle Sound (www.eastern4hcenter.org) and the Shell Island Resort (www.shellisland.com) in Wrightsville Beach, NC. The meeting committee members include Roger Rulifson, James Morris, and Fred Scharf. We are looking for two more volunteers to serve on the committee. If you are interested or have any suggestions, please contact me directly (overtona@mail.ecu.edu 252-328-4121). Have a wonderful summer!

-- Your Humble Servant, Anthony Overton-President Elect.

