

Tidewater Press

Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Inside this Issue

- **Presidents Corner**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Update on Tidewater 2006**
- **Nominations Committee**
- **Awards and Scholarship Committee**
- **Communications Committee**
- **Student Subunit News**
- **Maryland News**
- **Virginia News**
- **North Carolina News**
- **Announcements**

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** – Charlton Godwin, Phone 252-264-3911; email charlton.godwin@ncmail.net.
- **ECU Student Subunit** – Deidre Barry, Phone 252-328-9405; email dbb0315@mail.ecu.edu.
- **MD Student Subunit** – Lisa Kerr, Phone 410-326-7225; email kerr@cbl.umces.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.

Volume 20 Issue 3

President's Corner



By all accounts the AFS's 135th Annual Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska, September 11-15, 2005 was a success. The meeting was well attended (approx. 2500 attendees) and from the reports I heard there was no shortage of excellent presentations. Given the

meeting's Pacific coast venue, you would have expected an abundance of presentations on subjects pertaining to Pacific fisheries and there were. But, there were plenty of presentations with subject matter more directed at those from other locales as well. All abstracts from this meeting are available on CD. I'm happy to report that the Tidewater Chapter was well represented at the meeting.

While on the subject of meetings, I'd like to again remind everyone of the upcoming Tidewater Chapter Meeting in January 2006. This year's meeting, as many of you know, will be held at the Sheraton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, January 26- 28, 2006. Anthony Overton is doing an excellent job planning this event and deserves some recognition for his efforts. Great job, Anthony! Along with all his other tasks, Anthony has set up a website (<http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/afs2006/website/home.htm>) for this year's meeting. Included on the website is the first call for papers for the meeting, an overview of the program and information on accommodations. Anthony will have more information for you later in this newsletter. Anthony may be reached through email at overtona@mail.ecu.edu. I'm sure he'd be more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

The East Carolina University (ECU) Student Subunit will host its Student Colloquium November 4-6, 2005. This annual meeting will have events on the campus of ECU as well as other nearby Greenville, NC locations. There will be additional information on this event later in the newsletter. Dee Dee Barry, president of the ECU AFS, can field any questions unanswered by the ECU AFS website:

(http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/The_Fifth_Annual_AFS_Student_Colloquium_Information_Page.html). Dee Dee's email address is DBB0315@mail.ecu.edu .

As I mentioned in the last President's Corner, North Carolina's Member-at-Large, Joe Grist, relocated to Washington DC and therefore vacated his position. Another North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries employee, Charlton Godwin, has graciously stepped forward to fill the vacancy. Charlton was born and raised in northeastern NC, and currently lives on the Chowan River at the western edge of the Albemarle Sound. He received his Bachelor's Degree ('01) and Master's Degree ('03) in Biology from East Carolina University. Charlton is currently employed with the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and is the lead biologist on striped bass for the state. Charlton and his wife Dorothy Ada are expecting their first child this December. If you need to contact Charlton in regards to passing on any Member-at-Large information or if you would just like to welcome him aboard his email address is charlton.godwin@ncmail.net. Thank you, Charlton, for filling this role for the chapter.

-- Hank Brooks, TWC president 2005



Secretary/Treasurer's Report

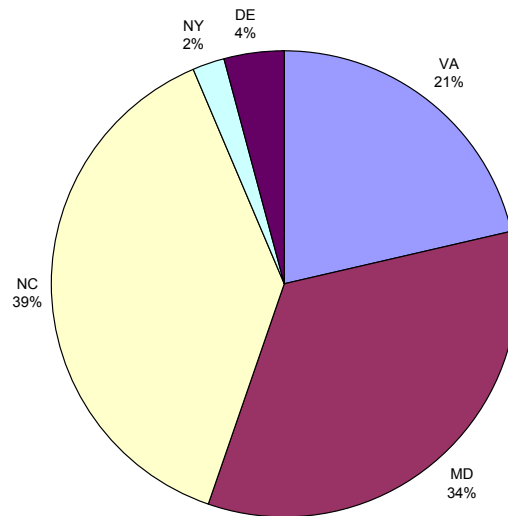
I updated our membership list, and I have only added four additional members to our list since the Spring of 2005. A total of 48 members are on my books, but I know that the number is much higher, as I used to have a list for the UMD Student subunit but my filing skills are crude and were lost in my move to New England. I also know that many of the ECU student subunit members have not registered with TWC, though all subunit members are automatically members of TWC and I still need your contact information. As for the rest of our members, you had three ways of paying your dues this year, either by mail, the registration booth at the TWC annual meeting, or through the Parent Society. I only receive membership updates from the Parent Society once or twice a year so there is a good chance that I don't have you listed. Please review the membership list and let me know if you are not listed. As you can see from the pie chart, our membership is unusually equal among NC, MD, and VA. In previous years the usual

trend is that the state in which the annual meeting is held has the most members that year. So, thanks for making the trip to our annual meeting this year, hopefully we can keep this trend up. Special thanks to those who traveled from Delaware and New York! To pay your dues, or to update our membership list contact me at 301-325-410 or Wes.Patrick@gmail.com. Thanks!

Treasurers Report:

Savings: \$2,513.95
Checking: \$6,976.95
 Total: \$9,490.90

Membership List as of October, 2005



Name	State
Alan Weaver	VA
Andrea Johnson	MD
Ann Pierce	NC
Anthony Overton	NC
Bill Rodney	MD
Chad Smith	NC
Chris Hager	VA
Christine Voss	NC
Christopher Stewart	NC
Cynthia Jones	VA
Daniel Gonzales	VA
David Hewitt	VA
Deirdre Barry	NC
Dewayne Fox	DE
Edward Houde	MD
Erik Zlokovitz	MD
Fred Harris	NC

Gerald Balmert	MD
Hank Brooks	VA
Harold Slacum	MD
James Long	MD
James Morris	NC
James Uphoff	MD
Jason Romine	VA
Jessie Thomas	DE
Joel Hoffman	VA
Joesph Grist	NC
John Cooper	NY
John Schupner	NC
John Walter	VA
Lee Paramore	NC
Marcel Montane	VA
Neil McNeill	NC
Paul Greccay	MD
Paul Miller	MD
Paul Piavis	MD
Rebecca Deehr	NC
Rebecca Schroepfer	MD
Richard Takacs	MD
Robert Herrmann	NC
Roger Rulifson	NC
Ron Klauda	MD
Stephanie McNery	NC
Susan Cushman	MD
Todd Christenson	MD
Trish Murphey	NC
Wes Patrick	NC
Wilson Laney	NC

- Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-large (MD DNR)
- Dee Dee Barry (ECU Student Subunit)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Anthony Overton on behalf of the Secretary-Treasurer, Wes Patrick (ECU). The current account totals are \$4,633.13 in Checking, \$1,521.41 in Savings, and \$3014.91 in a 6 month CD at 1% interest, which adds up to a grand total of \$9168.45. The treasurer recommends that the chapter invests money in a fund that will earn more interest. The funds under consideration are "Transamerica 10X" or "IMLLX", "FAIRX" and the "SNMEX". Anthony presented graphs and figures which tracked the recent performance of these funds. The treasurer is leaning toward the FAIRX and SNMEX because they are bringing in 20-30% returns for the last 3 years compared to IMLLX 10-15%, and FAIRX has been in the top five producers for small-cap blends for the last 5 years. Suggestions were also made to check a website (Morningstar.com) to monitor recent performance of this and other funds.

The members of the EXCOM in attendance signed an approval form to invest Tidewater Chapter money.

The membership records indicate only 44 members paid, which seems to be a low number. This number will be investigated. There is a possibility that many people did not pay dues at the Virginia Beach Southern Division meeting, since dues were not included in meeting registration in the main lobby.

The last report of chapter membership from the parent society is from February, 2005. These figures indicate that ECU makes up 35% of the chapter membership, but this may not be entirely accurate. We are waiting for the June-July membership list from the parent society.

The secretary-treasurer estimates that membership was increased by 10-15% from the most recent mailing campaign. All present at the meeting agreed that this was an excellent percentage increase.

Committee Reports :

1.Awards and Scholarships Committee - Ron Klauda (MD DNR):

--Wes Patrick, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer
AFS Tidewater Chapter

Tidewater EXCOM Meeting Minutes, August 30, 2005

President Hank Brooks of VIMS began the meeting at about 12:30 PM, Thursday, August 18, 2005 after an outstanding pork BBQ lunch from a local eatery. He welcomed the various Tidewater chapter members who had driven in from MD, VA, and NC. Members at the meeting were:

- Hank Brooks, President (VIMS)
- Anthony Overton, President Elect (ECU)
- Ann Barse, Past President (Salisbury Univ.)
- Jim Gartland, VA Member-at-large (VIMS)

Ron sent a report via email prior to the meeting saying that he would not be able to attend the EXCOM mid-year meeting and also indicated that he would send an update on the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Fund.

2. Membership Committee - Ann Barse (Salisbury Univ.):

Ann Barse reports that members-at-large should continue the project of gathering 25 names from their respective states to target for membership. Erik Zlokovitz suggested updating the original contact lists from the early -90's, which were attached to the Tidewater Chapter Manual. He has a draft of an updated Maryland contact list and names of membership targets from Academic, State, Federal, and Private organizations. He also has provided spreadsheets with old and new names for membership.

Hank Brooks suggested some ways that membership letters can be updated and modified using language from the "AFS subunit survival guide". This guide contains a section called "25 reasons to join AFS". These reasons could be condensed into a smaller number of bullet points.

Jim Gartland suggested that electronic letters be sent via email to save on mailing and paper costs, but also, face to face contact is needed. The chapter should consider expanding and reaching out to other groups, such as Benthic Ecologists and Shellfish biologists. We could also target undergraduate schools such as Carteret College, Anne Arundel Community College, and St. Mary's College. High School students interested in aquatic/fisheries science may also benefit from chapter membership.

In addition to contacting new folks for membership, a reminder should be sent to long-term "inactive" members who have not paid dues in several years to get back on the "active" membership list. The chapter should also get feedback from folks on why they have not renewed membership in recent years.

Ann Barse will contact the membership chair at the Parent society office in Bethesda to see what has been working with membership mailings. A suggestion was made to use our own or other's personal experience in how chapter members can benefit from being involved with the Tidewater chapter.

3. Nominating Committee - Ann Barse (Salisbury Univ.):

Ann Barse reported that officer candidates are urgently needed for this year and the 2006-2007 period. Erik Zlokovitz will not be able to serve as president--elect for 2006-2007. Therefore we need to find someone else willing to serve as president elect and also organize the 2007 Annual meeting in either Maryland or Delaware. EXCOM members in attendance suggested that the 2007 meeting could be held in Delaware. Dwayne Fox has expressed interest in holding a meeting at either Lewes (U of Delaware Marine Station) or Delaware State. Dr. Eric May could also be a possibility for hosting a meeting on the Eastern Shore.

Joe Grist has started a new job with ASMFC in Washington, D.C., and has moved out of North Carolina. Therefore, he can no longer serve as NC member-at-large. Erik Zlokovitz will contact some staff from NCDMF to see if anyone would be interested in taking this post. Charlton Godwin, a recent ECU graduate, currently working for NCDMF, would be a good candidate.

Wes Patrick has accepted a new job in New England (Rhode Island) but he can continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer.

Erik Zlokovitz has been serving as MD member-at-large for at least 6 years. He is looking for a person to replace him. Several folks from MD DNR and UMD have been approached by both Erik and Ann, but no one has accepted the position at the time of this writing.

4. Communications Committee - Roger Rulifson (ECU):

The Reports on the Listserve and the Newsletter were given by Anthony Overton (ECU) for Roger Rulifson. The Webpage was designed by, and continues to be maintained by a former president, James Morris (NMFS-Beaufort, NC). Roger reports that 4 newsletters have been sent out and posted on the Tidewater website since the last EXCOM meeting. In the past, communication was done via a mass email list, and now most members are on the Tidewater listserv. There are still some "bouncebacks" coming from some email addresses.

The newsletter has been aided by contributions of articles and photos. Volume 20 has some new graphics

and a new banner created by James Morris. Most members agreed that the new banner is great. The only comment was that the website does not view well in Netscape.

Student Subunit Reports:

1. East Carolina University-report given by Dee Dee Barry (ECU):

Dee Dee Barry reports that the ECU student subunit continues to be extremely active. A lecture series continues at the subunit. Fred Scharf of UNC-Wilmington recently gave a talk which was followed by a social. Sam Hussel and Dave Bolen also gave talks recently as part of the ongoing lecture/social series.

In March, the subunit finished selling all their T-shirts from the AFS-Southern Division meeting, earning a total profit of \$654.00. These funds will be used to help support student travel to AFS meetings in Anchorage, Alaska and San Antonio, Texas. Once again, ECU Tidewater subunit members (11-12) participated in "Barefoot on the Mall" and sold Chicken Wraps for fundraising purposes. The subunit also recently celebrated the graduation of 6 undergraduates and 4 graduate students.

The ECU subunit has four more meetings coming up on the schedule, including a talk by Lee Paramore of DMF-Wanchese. The student colloquium is coming up this fall. The advertising campaign is underway via email and the Tidewater List-Serv. Hotel and restaurant arrangements have been made, including a dinner social at a restaurant featuring "dueling pianos". A kayaking trip is also planned for this event.

The annual ECU-Tidewater subunit banquet is coming up in December. The subunit will also be organizing a river cleanup near ECU campus in Greenville, known as "Get a Clue".

2. University of Maryland-UMD subunit President Lisa Kerr (CBL):

Lisa could not attend due to an ongoing experiment, but submitted a report on UMD subunit activities to Hank Brooks via email. Hank presented this report to the EXCOM.

Lisa Kerr (President of UMD subunit) has been leading a reorganization and rebuilding of the Tidewater-UMD subunit. The subunit is spread out over several campuses in the University of Maryland system, including CBL, College Park, and Horn Point. Therefore, the interactive video network (IVN) system was used to hold meetings and elections. Elections were held in January. The new UMD subunit officers are:

Susan Cushman, Secretary
Adam Peer, Treasurer
David Secor, Faculty Advisor

In June, the UMD subunit did a tour of the Smithsonian Institution fish collection in Washington, D.C. In July, the subunit hosted a "Bring Your Own Species" grill party at former Sec-Treasurer Bill Rodney's home on the South River in Annapolis. A lecture/speaking tour series of prominent fisheries scientists, including Steve Muraski of Wood's Hole, is scheduled to begin in September.

Ongoing Business :

1. Audit Committee-Hank Brooks/Wes Patrick:

The audit committee consisted of Hank Brooks, Joe Grist, and Wes Patrick. Joe and Wes have both left that committee, so new members are needed. This committee intends to audit to the accounts and money of the chapter, mostly as a formality and, in case the chapter is ever checked by outside auditors.

2. Procedural Manual for Incoming Officers-Hank Brooks and Erik Zlokovitz:

Erik Zlokovitz distributed an outline/first draft of a procedural manual to distribute to new, incoming officers in the Chapter. This document will be fleshed out with some guidance from the Subunit survival guide and manual.

Planning For 2006 Tidewater Meeting in North Carolina:

A summary of planning for the 2006 annual meeting in North Carolina was presented by Anthony Overton of ECU. Anthony presented two possible options for a meeting venue: Shell Island resort in Wrightsville Beach, NC, or the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic Beach, NC. Based on lower meeting costs, the probable meeting

location will be the Sheraton in Atlantic Beach. The meeting date will be either January 26-28, or the previous Thursday-Saturday, in order to avoid conflicts with the beginning of the spring semester in the academic schedule. Meeting budgets were based on 65 participants, comprised of ~1/3 students and ~2/3 professionals. The registration cost per person is \$60.00 for students and \$80.00 for professionals. The total cost to the chapter of hosting the meeting at the Atlantic Beach Sheraton, with tax is \$5,112.66 or \$78.66 per person (based on 65 people).

More info on the 2006 Annual meeting: A poster social is scheduled for the evening of January 26, 2006, followed by a 2 hour fishing contest on the Atlantic Beach pier. Technical sessions begin on Friday morning, January 27. Possible "kick-off"/plenary speakers include Roland Griffith from Australia, John Nay (gave an outstanding opening talk at the 2005 Southern Division Meeting in VA Beach), or the head of the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee. A dinner/buffet social is planned for Friday evening. Entertainment will be provided by Constance Mason, performer of sea shanties and other interesting music/dancing.

New Business:

1. Recent discussions with Potomac Chapter-Hank Brooks:

Hank Brooks noted that Gene Fritz, president of the Potomac Chapter, would like to have some discussions with our Chapter. The Potomac Chapter is trying to rebuild after being close to ending in January. They had a meeting in which they decided to keep the Chapter going. Erik Zlokovitz suggested that perhaps we could have a joint meeting with the Potomac chapter in the future.

2. Notes in Fisheries Magazine:

In a recent issue of Fisheries, it was noted that the Tidewater chapter one of only four chapters nationwide to contribute to the annual funds drive. The chapter donated \$100 to the international fund that supports foreign AFS members to attend the national meeting. Last year we donated \$100 to the Eileen Seltzer Fund, not to be confused with our Scholarship.

3. 2007 Meeting Location: either Maryland or Delaware. Erik Zlokovitz can not serve as president in

2007. Maryland DNR-Fisheries Service will not be hosting meeting. Erik Zlokovitz suggested that Dwayne Fox of Delaware State may be interested in hosting a meeting at Lewes, or Del State. He expressed interest in a Delmarva meeting at the VA Beach Southern Division meeting in Virginia Beach. Other possibilities for hosts may include Dr. Eric May at UMES.

4. SDAFS Report-Forms were sent out regarding "Information Transfer and Outreach", "Member Services", and Aquatic Stewardship.

Hank Brooks noted that we were asked by leadership of the AFS-Southern Division to provide summaries of what our chapter does in the areas of "Information Transfer and Outreach", "Member Services", and "Aquatic Stewardship". This information was needed ASAP, and will be presented at a business meeting at the AFS annual meeting in Anchorage, AK. EXCOM members suggested the following:

- a. Information and Outreach: Newsletter, listserv, meetings/conferences, networking for students.
- b. Member Services: Newsletter, networking, "areas of expertise database".
- c. Aquatic Stewardship: ECU Subunit river cleanup, or on a broader scale, "monitoring, research, and management of mid-Atlantic fishery resources in marine and estuarine environments."

General Discussion:

Adjourn:

Hank Brooks made motion to adjourn meeting at about 3:15 PM. Motion seconded by Erik Zlokovitz and Jim Gartland.

Update on Tidewater 2006

This year's annual meeting will be held at the **Sheraton Hotel and Resort in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina on 26-28, 2006**. The meeting's theme is "Ebbing Tides and Shifting Sands: The Changing Fisheries Mosaic" As always, we warmly welcome contributed papers and poster presentations from all areas of aquatic research and management. We also strongly encourage student participation/involvement with this meeting. Authors should refer to the "Call for Papers" article and the meeting [website](#) to learn how to submit their work for presentation at this meeting.

Other highlights of our meeting will include a Thursday evening **Poster Session** and **Student/Professional Mixer**. Thursday night a **Fishing Tournament** hosted by the East Carolina University Student Subunit at the Sheratons private beach and pier. Our **Annual Banquet** will be held on Friday night at the hotel. There will be **Contributed Paper Sessions** all day Friday and Saturday morning. Our meeting will conclude by noon on Saturday.

Our conference hotel, the **Sheraton Atlantic Beach Ocean front hotel**, offers first class accommodations, including great rooms, an indoor heated swimming pool, and a fully-equipped exercise room. For more information, please visit their web site at www.sheratonatlanticbeach.com.

The Sheraton Hotel and TWC-AFS have negotiated very special room rates for our conference:

Oceanview	\$59.75
Oceanfront	\$89.00
Oceanfront Suite	\$129.00

Please call 800-214-0258 or 252-222-4032 Direct Line and make your room reservations today! Be sure to tell them that you are with the "Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society". Room availability at these special rates can only be guaranteed until January 5th. Act now! For more information visit the meeting website:

<http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/afs2006/website/>

-- Anthony Overton, President-Elect

Nominations Committee

The Tidewater Chapter Nominating Committee is actively seeking nominations for the 2006 slate of officers, including President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and the Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina Members at Large. Nominees must be members of the American Fisheries Society and the Tidewater Chapter. To nominate anyone for these offices, please contact Ann Barse by phone (410-543-6073) or email (ambarse@salisbury.edu). Please put TWC NOMINATION in the subject line. We would like to have 2 or more names per position on the ballot this year, so do not hesitate to nominate anyone for any position.

We are very much in need of nominees for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. We are sorry to lose Wes Patrick who has done such an excellent job in this capacity for several years now, but he has accepted a job in Rhode Island.

The call for nominations for any officer position will remain open until December 17, 2005. Electronic ballots will be sent to members via the Tidewater Listserv the week of December 19th. The election will close on January 14th, 2006. The elected 2006 officers will be installed during the Tidewater Chapter Business meeting on January 28, 2006.

-- Ann M. Barse, Past-President, Tidewater Chapter AFS Chair, Nominating Committee

A&S Committee Seeks Nominees for 2005 Tidewater chapter Awards

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, that will be on 26-28 January 2006 in Atlantic Beach, NC.

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

by **16 December 2005**. Thanks.

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.

Student Subunit News



University of Maryland by Lisa Kerr

The University of Maryland AFS Student Subunit has started off the fall with some ambitious goals. We are coordinating a student-run Fisheries Seminar Series hosted at UMCES-Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. We have enjoyed interesting presentations by Dr. John Graves (VIMS) and Dr. Lee Weigt (Smithsonian Institute Laboratory of Analytical Biology). This past month a large contingent of students and faculty attended, and presented at the AFS 135th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AK, where we hosted a University of Maryland alumni get-together. We recently had our biannual business meeting and discussed future plans for fund raising, seminar speakers, and workshops focused on professional development of students.



University of Maryland alumni get-together at the AFS Anchorage meeting, September 2005.

If you are interested in getting involved in the subunit, please contact me.

-- Lisa A. Kerr
President, UM-AFS Student Subunit
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688. 410-326-7225.



East Carolina University by Dee Dee Barry.

The ECU-AFS Student Subunit is carrying a full load this semester!

We sent three student members to the 135th Annual AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, September 11-15.

Drs. Overton and Rulifson also attended, and Terry and Melinda Reynolds from the Coastal Resources Management PhD program gave a poster on their work in northern Alaska. ECU-AFS Past President Chad Smith spoke about hickory shad spawning in the Tar River, and Josh Murauskas presented his research on the anadromous behavior of hickory shad. Members also saw the Alaskan sights on a train tour to the Kenai Fjords National Park Wildlife and Glacier, Portage Sightseeing Tour and Eagle River Nature Center and panned for gold at Crow Creek Mine.



Chad Smith presenting his research in Anchorage.

The campus organizational fair, Get-A-Clue, was September 21. This event provides campus and local organizations the opportunity to promote their goods and services to the students of ECU. Several members hosted our table with a tri-fold poster display offering pictures from past events and fliers about the subunit. While they spoke to several students, we were unable to convert any to members.



Eric Fitzpatrick and Katie Kleber at Get-A-Clue.

We had our largest turnout ever for Big Sweep on October 1 with 73 volunteers to clean up Green Mill Run. This is a Tar River stream across from the university that many Biology labs use as an introduction to ecology. Volunteers collected approximately 21,000 items (who counted the 18,000 cigarettes?) and the odd items included a toilet, 2 walkers, air mattress and 8 boxes of golf balls.



Big Sweep 2005 volunteers – 54 of the 73 registered volunteers are pictured.

Bruce Freske, Refuge Manager for Mattamuskeet, Swan Quarter and Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuges, spoke at our October 5 meeting about the National Refuge System and opportunities for students. ECU-AFS alumnus and current UNCW grad student Stephanie McInerny attended our meeting to gain information and ideas about forming a student subunit at UNCW. We hope to see them at the colloquium in November!

Speaking of...registrations and abstracts are pouring in for the 5th Annual Student Colloquium that we are hosting from November 4-November 6. Remember that early registration of \$15 ends October 20! Registration will continue up to the event, but will increase to \$25 after October 20. Colloquium and registration

information is available on our website, www.ecu.edu/org/afs. There are colloquium links on the Southern Division and Tidewater Chapter homepages.

The ECU-AFS 7th Annual Meeting will be held on December 2. The guest speaker and other details are being finalized, so be on the look out for invitations this month.

The subunit will host a fishing tournament at the 2006 Tidewater Annual Meeting in Atlantic Beach in January. We will also accept registrations for the meeting as our own Wes Patrick, the Tidewater Treasurer, headed north for a fulltime position with NOAA. Meeting information is available on the Tidewater homepage.

Please visit the ECU-AFS website, www.ecu.edu/org/afs, to gain additional information regarding monthly meetings, and upcoming events. You can also take a look at our growing photo album!

If you are interested in attending a meeting, holding a forum with ECU students, or presenting your research, please contact the student subunit!

We look forward to hearing from you!

-- Dee Dee Barry, President, ECU-AFS



**UNC-Wilmington
By Stephanie
McInerny**

Fisheries students at UNCW are planning a new subunit for the Wilmington campus. At least 12 graduate and undergraduate students working in labs under Fred

Scharf and Tom Lankford are committed to attending and filling officer roles, and a large turnout is expected at a university with a strong marine biology program. An executive meeting is planned for September in order to discuss objectives and plans for the new subunit. Proposed goals include creating a network of students in fisheries-related fields, raising money to send members to professional meetings, providing experience for research volunteers, offering workshops, and providing

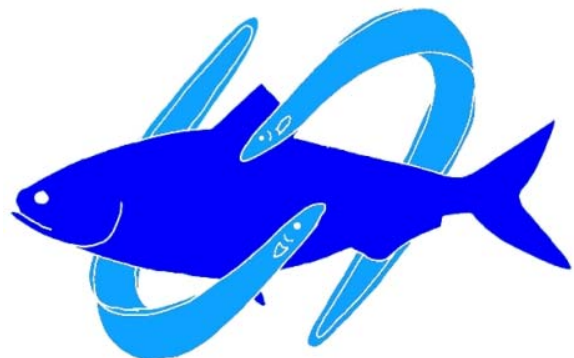
opportunities to attend fisheries seminars at the monthly meetings. The first general meeting is planned for the first week of October to assess student interest and to inform students of the goals of the subunit.



UNCW students Jason Lanier (right) and Brad Tayloe pulling in a trawl.

Last spring, UNCW had four students attend the joint annual meeting of the Southern Division and the Tidewater Chapter in Virginia Beach, three of them either submitting a poster or a talk. This spring, several more will be expected to attend the Tidewater annual meeting in Morehead City, NC, both to present posters and talks and one student is expected to present at the Southern Division meeting in San Antonio, TX as well. Research topics to be presented include population demographics of red drum, population demographics and reproductive ecology of southern flounder, and age and growth of red snapper, among others. All in all, UNCW fisheries students are very excited to be developing their own subunit and hope to be very active in the chapter in the future.

-- Stephanie McInerny, UNCW



ANACAT II is coming.....



Maryland News from Erik Zlokovitz

Announcement:

Bob Murphy will be a candidate for Maryland Member-at-Large during the next Tidewater election. This election will be held prior to the 2006 Annual

Meeting in North Carolina. Bob recently completed his masters degree at CBL under Dr. Dave Secor. He has recently assumed the position of director of a new NGO, Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.

MDDNR Striped Bass Project

The 2005 Juvenile Index (beach seine survey) was completed in mid-September. The data are being analyzed, and the official press release will be out later this month.

Striped bass staff are currently sampling resident Chesapeake stock striped bass from Maryland's middle and lower Bay pound nets. Lengths, weights, and scales are being collected in order to characterize the size and age structure of legal (> 18 inches, TL) and sub-legal (<18 inches, TL) striped bass. This survey will continue into November.

Biologists are also conducting fish house or "check station" sampling of commercial striped bass landings harvested with pound net and hook and line gear. The commercial hook and pound net fishing season for striped bass runs from June to November. The winter gillnet season opens in December, and biologists will sample that harvest through February.

MDDNR Matapeake Field Office

Matapeake staff are currently engaged in fishery-dependent sampling of lower Maryland Bay pound nets. These nets are used to collect biological data and age structures on a variety of marine and brackish species, including croaker, spot, summer flounder, bluefish, red drum, black drum, and striped bass. A study that quantifies the effect of impervious surfaces on Chesapeake Bay fish habitat is in a second year of operation. Crews led by Jim Uphoff are deploying beach

seines and trawls in "urban" and "rural" tributaries on the western and eastern shores.

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-Large



Virginia News from Jim Gartland

VIMS Shark Monitoring Survey Completes Unique Research Cruise

In 1961, world-renown shark expert Dr. Jack Musick participated in a research survey as an undergraduate in which a longline was set at 19 sampling sites from Cape May to Sandy Hook Bay, New Jersey in an effort to monitor shark abundance. That survey was conducted 14 years before the rapid growth of the recreational shark fishery began. This July, 12 years after federal efforts were first initiated to manage this fishery, the VIMS Shark Monitoring Survey headed by Dr. Musick, sailed from VIMS to the waters of New Jersey aboard the *R/V Bay Eagle* to sample these same 19 sampling sites again. Although previous studies have attempted to compare shark abundance in the 1950s and 1960s with current population sizes using longline catch data, almost all have relied on observer data from the commercial fishery. Changes in commercial gear and fishing methods between these two periods make catch comparisons difficult, and potentially invalid. What sets Dr. Musick's study apart from the rest is that his crew is using the exact same type of gear (main line, gangions, hooks, and bait have all remained the same) today as it was in 1961. This allows for statistically valid data comparisons. One of Dr. Musick's main interests is comparing the response of the sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) and the dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) to management regulations. Complete results from this study are expected soon.

For more information, contact Jason Romine, jromine@vims.edu, the head of Dr. Musick's field program. This survey is currently funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) through the National Research Consortium.

Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) Near Shore Trawl Program Comes to VIMS

The NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) has conducted bottom trawl surveys from the Gulf of Maine to Cape Hatteras since 1963. Cruises are currently conducted in the spring and fall of each year; however, few stations are sampled in waters shallower than 15 fathoms. It is expected that even fewer shallow-water stations will be sampled after NMFS takes delivery on its new, larger vessel in 2006. While several states north of New York conduct coastal finfish monitoring trawl surveys, New Jersey is currently the only state between New York to North Carolina that operates a coastal trawl survey in its waters. This gap in sampling coverage represents a potential major “unknown” for stock assessments.

The Multispecies Research Group at VIMS is currently in the process of obtaining funding from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to conduct a pilot study for the new NEAMAP Nearshore Trawl Program in September 2006. The purpose of this new survey is to fill the aforementioned sampling gap. The NEAMAP survey plans to contract the *F/V Darana R* (owned and operated by Mr. James Rhule) to serve as the sampling platform. While all of the details related to the sampling protocol are in the process of being determined, approximately 200 stations will be sampled between Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and Montauk, New York (between 0 and 15 fathoms) using trawl gear similar to that employed by the NEFSC bottom trawl survey. Cruise legs will be one week in duration, and the entire pilot survey is planned to last 26 days. The catch at each sampling site will be sorted by species, and total count and biomass, along with individual lengths, will be recorded for each. In addition, fishes currently managed by the ASMFC will be processed for diet analysis and age determination.

For additional information, visit <http://www.neamap.net> or contact Chris Bonzek or Jim Gartland at cfb@vims.edu and jgartlan@vims.edu, respectively. For information as to how to participate in one or more legs of this pilot cruise, contact Jim Gartland at the aforementioned email address.

--Jim Gartland, VA Member-At-Large



North Carolina News from Charlton H. Godwin

The Northern District of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) begins another segment of striped bass monitoring in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries. NCDMF independent gill net survey utilizes monofilament gill net in mesh sizes ranging from 2.5 inch stretch mesh (ISM) to 10 ISM. Two crews randomly set a compliment of floating and sinking nets throughout the Albemarle Sound from November through May. Nets are fished every 24hr and all fish captured are enumerated by species and measured for fork length and/or total length. Several species in addition to striped bass are brought back to the lab for removal of ageing structures (including scales, otoliths, and/or spines), and/or gonads. Striped mullet, summer flounder, southern flounder, American shad, hickory shad, alewife, blueback herring, white perch, yellow perch, spot, croaker, blue catfish, white catfish, channel catfish, brown bullhead, and yellow bullhead are subsampled and brought back to the lab for further examination. Length, weight, age, and sex composition are all used in stock assessments and Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). Sturgeon, striped bass, and red drum are also tagged and released. Between one and two thousand stripers are tagged in any given gill net season.

During the spring, an electroshocking spawning ground survey is conducted jointly with NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) on the Roanoke River spawning grounds at Roanoke Rapids, NC. Once a week from the first of April until the end of May, DMF and WRC personnel meet on the river to shock and tag stripers. WRC personnel do the shocking and DMF personnel do the tagging. This year was a relatively good year, with water temperatures rising steadily but slowly through the 18°C-22°C spawning range, allowing the big female stripers to stay around on the spawning grounds a little longer than in recent years. Just over 4000 stripers were tagged and released this past spring. Fish are sexed, weighed, and measured for total length. Scales are also removed from a sub-sample for ageing analysis.



NC Division of Marine Fisheries and Wildlife Resources Commission personnel tag striped bass on the Roanoke River, spring 2005.

Striped bass juvenile abundance is assessed utilizing nine beach seines and 17 trawl sites throughout the Albemarle Sound, from June through October. Included in the trawl sites are the Hassler trawls, which have been continuously sampled since 1955, making it one of the longest, ongoing data sets on the East Coast. As with the independent gill net survey, all organisms captured are enumerated by species and measured, providing an estimate of juvenile abundance for a host of fishes, including spot, croaker, alosines, white perch, yellow perch, and catfishes. If the remainder of the juvenile sampling remains steady for the last couple of weeks in October, this year will be one of the highest striped bass JAIs on record!

In addition to some of our long-standing independent sampling programs, 2004 began a revival of some juvenile trawl and beach seine sampling that fell by the wayside in the late seventies due to loss of funding. Some larval sampling was initiated as well. The impetus for the additional sampling is NC's FMP process; the current FMP schedule for catfish, white perch, and yellow perch is 2008, 2009, and 2010 respectively. Michael Loeffler, the species lead for the above-mentioned fishes, is busy collecting and analyzing data for the upcoming stock assessments and FMPs. To assess critical spawning and nursery habitats, as well as to reestablish a baseline for JAIs, 76 trawl sites and 29 beach seine sites are being sampled, with the majority of sites located in the numerous tributaries feeding the Albemarle Sound. Sampling is conducted at all sites

monthly, June through October. Larval tows for yellow perch and white perch are conducted January through May. Some larval tow sites are as far up the Chowan River as the Virginia line. One of our most interesting larval finds was of an Atlantic needlefish; possibly the first collection of a larval Atlantic needlefish in freshwater in our state, bringing validity to its long-suspected anadromous life history. The first year of ageing is complete for all species and 2005 ageing is under way.



Larval Atlantic needlefish collected by NCDMF collected in fresh waters of the Chowan River, NC.

One of the most contentious and politically charged issues the Division is currently dealing with is that of river herring stocks. River herring stocks in NC have declined precipitously since the late 1970s, when commercial river herring landings in our state were reaching 10 million pounds annually. The landings have dropped in recent years to less than 250,000 lbs, with the last stock assessment estimating Spawning Stock Biomass of river herring in the Chowan River at around 200,000 lbs. NCDMF has had a TAC in place since the adoption of the 2000 river herring FMP. That FMP is currently in the final stages of the review process. The 1997 Fisheries Reform Act (FRA) passed by the NC legislature requires FMPs to end overfishing and recover stocks within 10 years. The status of the stock is currently overfished and overfishing is occurring. Because of mandates in the FRA, NC Marine Fisheries has recommended a complete moratorium on river herring harvest in North Carolina until stocks have a chance to rebuild. Possible causes in the decline of the stocks include water quality degradation, loss of critical spawning and nursery area habitat, and local and regional climate change. Unfortunately, North Carolina is not alone in its dilemma; river herring stocks have declined to dangerously low levels all along the East Coast. Hopefully, with local and regional efforts and much needed funding dollars, river herring stocks can be rebuilt to their former glory. If anyone would like more information on any of the news from NC, please contact

our offices at 252-264-3911 (Northern District) or 252-726-7021 (DMF Headquarters, Morehead City).

-- Charlton H. Godwin, NC Member-at-Large

Announcements

5th Annual AFS Student Colloquium, November 4-November 6, 2005, Greenville, NC

Hosted by the East Carolina University Student Subunit, Greenville, NC

Get your reservations in ASAP – time is running out! The Pre-registration deadline has past but there is still space available.

Abstract deadline has been extended to October 31.

Colloquium Schedule

Friday, November 4

- 4:00 pm -- hotel and colloquium check-in at Best Western
- 7:00 pm -- Welcoming social at Howell Science Complex B-103. Poster and presentation set-up.

Saturday, November 5

- 8:00am-5:00 pm Presentations
- Panel discussion
- 7:00 pm - Dinner at Café Caribe. Dueling pianos start at 9:00pm

Sunday, November 6

- Optional Goose Creek State Park kayaking tour, \$30. Bring a bag lunch

Poster maximum size = 36"x 48"

Presentation duration = 15 min (12 min talk, 3 min questions)

Travel

Raleigh-Durham Airport (RDU) – 2 hours
Pitt-Greenville Airport (PGV) – 15 minutes
Trailways bus station – 10 minutes

Accommodations

Best Western Suites of Greenville
2310 Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC 27858
252-752-2378
800-723-0344

special rate: \$70/night + 13% tax, 2 queen beds w/ queen sofa or 1 king bed w/ queen sofa

- must reserve by October 20
- must mention ECU-AFS to obtain special rate
- must call hotel directly – do not use website or call main 800#
- free continental breakfast from 6:00am-9:00am
- check-in: 4:00pm, check out: 11:00am
- directions, hotel and room amenities available at www.bestwestern.com

For more information, visit the ECU-AFS website at <http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/> or contact Deidre Barry, Phone 252-328-9405; email dbb0315@mail.ecu.edu.

Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement for the Undersea Warfare Training Range and Notice of Public Hearings.

The Department of the Navy (Navy) would like to announce that it has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft OEIS/EIS) to evaluate the construction and operation of a proposed Undersea Warfare Training Range. The Navy requires an instrumented undersea warfare training range to support worldwide deployment and current and future mission requirements in fulfillment of the US world role and the Global War on Terror, and to counter the threat of modern diesel submarines. The proposed USWTR provides an environment that is consistent with real-world threat situations where training exercises can be conducted under safe and controlled conditions, as well as providing critically-important real-time training feedback.

The proposed action is to instrument a 1,713-square-kilometer (500-square-nautical-mile) area of the ocean with undersea cables and sensor nodes, creating an undersea warfare training range (USWTR), and to use the area for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training. The Navy is requesting a Letter of Authorization for potential effects on marine mammals. The location alternatives considered are Alternative/Site A in the Cherry Point OPAREA, Alternative/Site B in the Virginia Capes OPAREA, and Alternative/Site C in the Jacksonville OPAREA. These three potential sites, along with the No Action Alternative, are evaluated in the Draft OEIS/EIS.

Site A in the Cherry Point OPAREA is the Navy's preferred alternative.

The Draft OEIS/EIS is available at <http://projects.earthtech.com/USWTR/>. Alternatively, single copies of the DEIS are available upon request by contacting Mr. Keith Jenkins at (757) 322-4046.

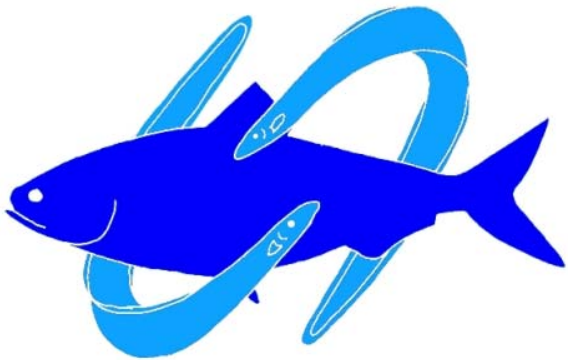
Public hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. November 15, 2005 at the Chincoteague Community Center, Chincoteague Island, VA
2. November 17, 2005 at the Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City, NC
3. November 21, 2005 at the Wilson Center for the Arts Florida Community College, Jacksonville South Campus, Jacksonville, FL

At each location, the information session is scheduled from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm and from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm, followed by the public hearing from 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Keith Jenkins at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic; 6506 Hampton Blvd; Attn: Keith Jenkins, Code EV21KJ; Norfolk, VA 23508-1278, or Fax (757) 322-4894.

Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment



June 17-24, 2007, Halifax, Nova Scotia

The ANACAT II Symposium will review the current state of scientific knowledge with respect to biology, ecology, and conservation of diadromous fishes (including anadromous, catadromous, potamodromous, and amphidromous species). The symposium theme will build upon that of the very successful 1986 American Fisheries Society symposium, **Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes** (*Dadswell et al. 1987. Am. Fish. Soc. Symp. 1*). However, emphasis will be shifted to address how recent alterations to the environment and human activity has affected diadromous fishes with respect to their sustainability and role in aquatic ecosystems.

The meeting will be organized as a 4½ day formal scientific symposium with 6 plenary presentations, ~40 invited/contributed papers, and a poster session.

Papers will be organized into 6 general topic areas:

- ***Climate Change & Anthropogenic Influences***
- ***Population and Habitat Restoration***
- ***Dynamic Nature of Diadromy***
- ***Contribution of Diadromy to Ecosystem Energetics***
- ***Ocean Environment & Migration***
- ***Social Ecology of Diadromous Fish Management***

A symposium Proceedings will be published through the American Fisheries Society, including full papers of the presentations and abstracts of the posters.

For more information, contact:

Alex Haro
S. O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center
U. S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources
1 Migratory Way, P.O. Box 796
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Phone: (413) 863-3806
email: Alex_Haro@usgs.gov