

# Tidewater Press

Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 21 Issue 3

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## 2006 Tidewater AFS EXCOM and Ex-Officio Members

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- **Historian/Listserv Administrator** – Roger Rulifson.
- **Webmaster** – James Morris.

## President's Corner



The AFS held its 136<sup>th</sup> annual meeting “Fish in the Balance” in New York's famous Adirondack Park in the legendary Olympic Village of Lake Placid, NY, September 10-14, 2006. The Lake Placid venue was spectacular both in its scenery and the

hospitality of the Lake Placid residents. Attendees of the meeting were well received. There was certainly no shortage of great presentations or symposia. The Early Life History Section also held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Parent Society. Overall the meeting was well attended where over 1900 members participated. I am pleased to say the meeting was also well attended by Tidewater Chapter (TWC) members. Many of us participated in the meeting by moderating sessions, assisting with audio-visual, and poster and oral presentations.

We had a number TWC members and organizations who received special awards at the annual meeting. **Bernice Bediako**, of University of Maryland, Eastern Shore received travel awards from the Estuaries Section and the Equal Opportunity Section, **Lonnie Gonsalves**, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Equal Opportunities Section, **Benjamin Ciotti**, University of Delaware, Estuaries Section, **William Smith**, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Estuaries Section, and **Belita Nguluwa**, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Marine Fisheries Section. Congratulations to all and I feel that the number of awards received by these student of the TWC speaks volumes about the quality of students that come from our chapter. Also the TWC's own East Carolina University Student Subunit received the Student Subunit of the Year award at the annual meeting.

Please welcome Debra Parthree, Damian Brady, and Kevin Neves as new members of the EXCOM. Debbie is from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and has stepped in to replace Jim Garland as the Virginia Member-at-Large. Damian Brady and Kevin Neves of

Delaware State University have agreed to serve as our Delaware contacts. Welcome aboard. We are approaching the end of the year and we are soliciting TWC members who are interested in serving as officers for the upcoming year. Please contact me or Hank Brooks (hbrooks@vims.edu) for more information.

-- Anthony Overton, Tidewater Chapter President 2006



## Secretary/ Treasurer's Report

At the recent EXCOM meeting, a motion was made and accepted to include Delaware State University students, involved in AFS, as Tidewater Chapter members. There was some confusion on this subject since there is not an official subunit at DSU. So with that, I would like to send my congratulations and mention by name those students from DSU that attended the 2006 TWC Annual meeting that were left off from the previous membership list.

Collette Cairns  
Kevin Neves  
Phil Simpson  
Jessi Thomas  
Naeem Willett

This puts our total membership above 100! Duke University is still in the process of starting a new subunit and those members have not yet been accounted for. Since this is still the beginning of the college fall semester, a more updated list of subunit members will be listed in the next newsletter. If you have any questions about TWC membership, please don't hesitate to contact me at 252-422-5717 or [Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov).

Treasurer's Report:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Checking:    | \$ 5,272.80 |
| Mutual Fund: | \$ 1,025.00 |
| Total:       | \$ 6,297.80 |

The CD was closed on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and the money transferred to our checking account so the money would be accessible for the annual meeting. The money

accrued \$33.73 during the 6 month time as a CD with an APR of 2.22%. Savings accounts with higher APRs are being investigated for money after the 2007 Annual meeting has passed.

The mutual funds are continuing to bounce up and down monthly but currently we are staying above stock market indexes and we are still not doing too bad. Let's hope the market rates will skyrocket and lend us a big return when we need it.

The Bylaws of the Tidewater Chapter have not been updated in years, and with the addition of student subunits we must revise the bylaws and submit them to a vote of the Tidewater membership. Once the membership has approved the changes, the revisions must be approved by the Parent Society Governing Board. The EXCOM is working on these revisions. Expect to see these revisions posted on the website in the near future (at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting).

## 2006 Tidewater Chapter Mid-Year EXCOM Meeting Minutes

President Anthony Overton began the meeting via teleconference at 2:45 pm, Tuesday, August 8, 2006 with a welcome and introductions. Attendees were Anthony Overton, Dewayne Fox, Stephanie McInerny, Bob Murphy, Jim Gartland, Charlton Godwin, Lisa Kerr, Becky Deehr, and Kelly Register. No minutes from the 2006 annual EXCOM meeting could be accounted for at this time.

## 2007 Annual Meeting Report – Dewayne Fox:

Dewayne Fox commented on the approval granted to hold this year's annual meeting as a joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter and mentioned that Rich Wong, the President-elect for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, was all for a joint meeting. Tentative dates for the 2007 annual meeting are February 1-3 including a Thursday night poster session, Friday night social, and talks on Saturday morning. Dewayne and Tim are currently drafting a contract with the Delaware Conference Center. Dogfish Head Brewery is the potential location for the meeting social on Friday night. Concern was expressed that with a joint meeting, organization may be a little more complicated but will allow for a lot more participation from other organizations such as Rutgers and Delaware Fish and Wildlife.

The suggestion was made to possibly include a Delaware member at large in the future. Bob Murphy offered his services in that position for now and with the annual meeting preparation.

### **Treasurer's Report – Stephanie McInerny:**

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Stephanie McInerny. Current account totals were as follows,

Checking: \$ 2249.07  
CD: \$ 3027.47  
Total: \$ 5266.54.

The CD will mature on August 25, 2006. Once mature, the money in the CD will be pulled out and put into the current checking account or a new savings account.

Reimbursement for taxes paid to the Sheraton Hotel, during the 2006 annual meeting are in the process of being filed. Even though the Tidewater Chapter has federal nonprofit status, NC requires filing for separate nonprofit status in NC alone. This process involved sending a cover letter, articles of incorporation, and bylaws to NC Revenue department and then filing an E585 form. One person at NC Revenue stated that they do not think that Tidewater Chapter will qualify for NC nonprofit status so before the cover letter is sent out, it will be circulated among EXCOM members to ensure quality.

Becky Deehr motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bob Murphy seconded. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

### **Member at Large Reports:**

Maryland – Bob Murphy reported that the Maryland member at large contact list has been updated. He also mentioned that the MD subunit will be having a party that will be elaborated on by Lisa Kerr. Bob offered to help Dewayne with planning of the 2007 annual meeting.

Virginia – Jim Gartland reported that the Virginia member at large contact info has been updated. He also informed the EXCOM that he will no longer be able to serve at VA MAL due to work obligations. Jim currently has a replacement in mind but needs to know the rules for switching positions.

North Carolina – Charlton Godwin reported also that the North Carolina member at large contact info has been updated.

### **Subunit Reports:**

University of Maryland - President Lisa Kerr reported their subunit was holding a "Bring your own species" BBQ in Annapolis on August 12, 2006 in order for the subunit to interact with other fisheries agencies and organizations and to possibly recruit new members by broadening their horizons. The subunit is also currently organizing their fall seminar schedule.

East Carolina University - Co-presidents Becky Deehr and Kelly Register reported that the ECU subunit is currently working on finding guest speakers for monthly business meetings as well as organizing a Take a Kid Fishing day in Greenville. The subunit is trying to build up its undergraduate membership and working on organizing this year's Clean Sweep. Anthony Overton mentioned that the ECU subunit was the recipient of two awards this year. They received the Southern Division Student Organization of the Year award as well as the Parent Society Outstanding Student Subunit Award. Congratulations!!!

University of North Carolina Wilmington - Past President Stephanie McInerny reported that the UNCW subunit is finally official on campus and paperwork to be official with the Parent Society has been sent in. Revision of the Tidewater bylaws is all that needs to be done before the Society can vote on the issue. The UNCW subunit is also trying to schedule its monthly speakers and is working to organize an on-campus fishing tournament and River cleanup.

Duke University Subunit - Anthony Overton reported that Aja Petterson has been working on getting their petition and list of officers ready to be submitted to the Parent Society.

### **Audit Committee:**

Anthony mentioned the Audit committee. Most other EXCOM members were unaware of the presence of an audit committee. Anthony will be looking into the organization of one.

## **Procedural Manual for EXCOM Members:**

Anthony reported that Stephanie has been working on updating the current Procedural Manual but more improvements need to be done.

## **New Business:**

Anthony discussed the subject of all active subunits having a website. Stephanie reported that the UNCW subunit website was up and running but needed improvements. Lisa reported that the MD subunit website should be up soon. Anthony requested a link to the new websites to be sent to him.

The convenience of this meeting through teleconference was discussed and it was agreed upon that this meeting style was a success and that a future meeting should be scheduled before the 2007 annual meeting to include news from Hank Brooks, Aja Petterson, and more from Dewayne on the meeting preparations. The next teleconference is tentatively scheduled for late October or mid November.

## **Open Discussion:**

Dewayne and Stephanie discussed whether or not Delaware students should be automatic members of Tidewater Chapter similar to other students that are members of an official subunit. There was some confusion during registration at the 2006 meeting in Atlantic Beach to whether these students needed to pay an extra seven dollars to be considered TWC members. Stephanie made a motion to extend membership to Delaware students that attend the annual meetings. Dewayne seconded. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Becky brought up the issue of students working at the annual meeting for a reduced registration fee. It was discussed that the state holding the meeting will have the choice to grant reduced registration to students able to work at the meeting. Therefore, it's Dewayne's call whether or not to lower registration costs to a number of students at Delaware in return for helping at the meeting.

## **Adjourn:**

Charlton Godwin motioned to adjourn at 3:39 pm. The motion was seconded by Kelly Register.

--Stephanie McNerny, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer



## **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, February 1-3, 2007**

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter will be held February 1-3, 2007. The University of Delaware's John Penrose Virden Residence and Conference Center <http://www.ocean.udel.edu/ships&facilities/virden.html> will be the meeting site. This is a great central location, and the facility provides a theater-style meeting room to accommodate 100-120 people as well as a 23 room housing facility with double occupancy@\$63 per night per room.



The Univ. Delaware Conference Center.

The Beacon, which is approximately 1 mile from the conference site, also is available at the same rate (<http://www.lewestoday.com/beacon/main.html>). We are currently exploring possibilities for the Friday evening social at local establishments in hopes of maximizing foraging and grazing success at the upcoming meeting. More news and first call for papers forthcoming via the internet!

-- Dewayne Fox and Tim Targett, Co-organizers

## **Nominations Committee**

Nominations are being accepted by Chair Hank Brooks for the following offices:

- President-Elect
- Secretary/Treasurer
- At-Large members for MD, VA, and NC

Let's have a true democratic election this year with at least two candidates for each position. Feel free to nominate yourself. Get involved with your chapter. You



must be an AFS member in order to serve. Please turn in your nominations on or before **October 31, 2006**.

## Communications Committee

**Website News** – As the Tidewater Chapter website administrator, I am always looking for ideas to improve our website. If you have any ideas, please send them to me. A great way to keep the site active is to post news worthy items and pictures of members doing research on the frontpage. Also, please consider submitting your personal or agency websites to me to be included on the ‘member research’ page.

-- James Morris

**Tidewater Chapter ListServ** - 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](mailto: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](mailto:tidewafs@ecumail7.ecu.edu).
- **To unsubscribe** -- E-mail to: [listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu](mailto:listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu) and enter UNSUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.

If you are having difficulty with getting on the listserv, please contact me. Evidently some folks have requested but are still not on the list. [Rulifsonr@ecu.edu](mailto:Rulifsonr@ecu.edu).

## Student Subunit News



### University of Maryland by Lisa Kerr

The University of Maryland AFS Student Subunit has had a busy summer with many of our members active in field work. However, we were glad to see that several members put down the seines and docked their boats to come together for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bring Your Own Species BBQ. This event was again a big success, with several old and new faces turning out to enjoy good company, share good fish stories, and partake in an assortment of smoked, grilled, and raw fish dishes. On other fronts, the subunit is proud to announce the launch of our newly constructed website at <http://www.umdafs.com>. Many thanks to Ryan Woodland for his hard work on the construction of the

site. Please visit and send us feedback as the website is a work in progress.

With the Fall academic semester in full stride, we are looking forward to kicking off our Fall seminar series with Dr. Mark Monaco scheduled to talk on September 29 on “Biogeographic Assessments to Support Marine Resource Management: the Integration of Ecology and GIS Technology”. Dr. Monaco is the head of the Biogeography Team at NOAA, his research focus is in biogeography and habitat mapping and the use of this information in defining marine protected area boundaries and essential fish habitat. On October 19, Dr. Tim Targett will present a seminar on “Ecophysiological and behavioral responses of young fishes to hypoxia: laboratory and field approaches examining impacts on estuarine nursery habitat quality”. Dr. Targett is a Professor of Marine Biology-Biochemistry at the University of Delaware with a research focus in estuarine fish ecology and the study of nursery habitat quality and its impact on the physiology and dynamics of juvenile fish populations.

If you are interested in getting involved in the UM AFS student 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; [kerr@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:kerr@cbl.umces.edu)



### East Carolina University by Becky Deehr

Greetings from ECU-AFS! We just came back from a great meeting in Lake Placid, and we were happy to see so many Tidewater faces there! We had four student members and two faculty members attend the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. ECU-AFS had a great showing with two student oral presentations, one student poster presentation and two faculty presentations. In addition to sharing our research with the greater AFS community, we were also present to receive a fantastic honor – the national award for Student Subunit of the Year! Many thanks to Southern Division President, Bob

Curry, for submitting our application, and to our great 2005-06 leadership for all its hard work.

Prior to the Lake Placid meeting, we hosted our first meeting of the year. We were happy to have great attendance, including at least five new faces (many of them freshmen). Our officers introduced themselves and their research, and we discussed upcoming projects, especially “Big Sweep,” an annual watershed clean-up project that we have spearheaded for several years now. Last year we had around 75 volunteers, and we are expecting an even greater turn-out this year. If you happen to be in the Greenville area on October 7<sup>th</sup>, please join us!

On Saturday, September 9, Kelly and I were asked to speak to the leadership of all ECU student organizations at the Student Organization Welcome Back Event. We were asked to discuss the challenges and successes of becoming the 2005-06 ECU “Student Organization of the Year.” I tried to keep everyone awake at 9:30am on a Saturday, and I think I succeeded by giving a quick 5-minute summary about ECU-AFS. Who knows, maybe we will have attracted members from some fraternity, sorority or even the Girl Scouts of America club to join our ranks.

In other news, we recently participated in the “Get a Clue” campus organization fair. We had great weather and a lot of interest in ECU-AFS. In addition, we are working on some new community service projects, including volunteering at the local soup kitchen and hosting a “Take a Kid Fishing Day.” The initial interest in “Take a Kid Fishing Day” has been fantastic, so we’re looking forward to that event, probably in the spring.



Co-Presidents Kelly and Becky hold down the ECU-AFS booth at Get-A-Clue fair on the ECU Mall.

We’re happy to report that our recent grads are doing well – most of them are even employed! We’ve got folks working at: North Carolina Division of Marine

Fisheries (Biologist I, Technician II), Citizens Monitoring Network Sponsored by the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. We even have an undergrad turned grad at Louisiana State University. In addition, we’re waiting word of a new addition: our past president Dee Dee Barry and husband are due with their first child even as this goes to print! If she can keep ECU-AFS in line, surely she will be a great mom!

Flash – Mom Dee Dee, husband Alex, and baby Abigail are doing great! Dee Dee writes that “Mom and Dad are exhausted and trying to figure out what to do.” I guess they don’t teach parenthood in graduate school!



Past president Dee Dee Barry and little Abby.

Happy fishing,

-- Becky Deehr, ECU-AFS Co-President, 2006-07  
382 Flanagan Building, [RAD0708@ECU.EDU](mailto:RAD0708@ECU.EDU)  
Office phone 252-328-9405



ECU-AFS members Kelly Register, Becky Deehr, Jenny Woodroffe and Katie Kleber, ECU-AFS faculty advisor Roger Rulifson and Southern Division President Bob Curry were on hand to receive the “Outstanding Student Subunit Award” from out-going AFS President Chris Kohler at the Lake Placid Meeting.

Heather Drucker-Attending LSU for graduate school.  
Leigh Barnett-Veterinary Technician  
David Gentry – NC Gillnet Observer Program

Heidi Alderman – middle school science teacher  
(Michael) Chad Smith – Citizen's Water Quality  
Monitoring Project



### UNC-Wilmington by Will Smith

ENCW-Student Subunit officers for 2007-07 are Will Smith, President; Chip Collier, Vice-President, Jacob Frady, Secretary-Treasurer, and Adam Branson, Historian.



Vice President: Chip Collier and Past-President, Stephanie McInerny.



Secretary-Treasurer: Jacob Frady

### UNC-W Graduate Students and Their Research

- Chris Bentley: The effects of dietary lipid on reproductive performance and egg quality of black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*)
- Adam Branson: Recruitment and habitat utilization by YOY bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) in the estuary versus the surf zone

- Joe Carrier: The effects of dietary arachidonic acid on growth, survival and Na, K, ATPase expression in larval black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*)
- Chip Collier: Fisheries biology of *Menticirrhus* species
- Johanna Imhoff: Evaluation of lemon shark movement patterns and foraging behavior near Bimini Island
- Cassie Martin: Factors determining early juvenile mortality of red drum
- Stephanie McInerny: Age and growth of red snapper from the southeastern United States
- Will Smith: Harvest mortality and population demographics of southern flounder based on a tag-return study in the New River, North Carolina

### UNCW Subunit of the American Fisheries Society Quarterly Report

The students at UNCW have been working hard in the field this summer, and many are either still afield or crunching numbers back in their labs. The executive committee met in July to discuss plans for the fall, and three events were decided upon: a fishing trip/social, a community service event, and a fundraiser. The specific details will be up for a vote at the first meeting in September. At the Fall Involvement Carnival, an outdoor event for UNCW freshmen to learn about different student organizations, thirty-eight freshmen signed up for our email distribution list and ten attended a brief informational meeting. Such strong undergraduate interest in our young Subunit makes us optimistic about the future of the organization. Monthly meetings with a brief seminar are scheduled for the fall, with former NCSU-AFS president, Warren Mitchell speaking in September, UNCW graduate student, Ted Wiligis speaking in October, and James Morris from NOAA speaking in November.

Several students from the UNCW Subunit have recently obtained jobs in fisheries (finally, real pay!). Chris Stewart accepted a fish house sampling position with the Division of Marine Fisheries, Wilmington, and Andy Ostrowsky accepted a position studying red porgy growth at NOAA, Beaufort. Congratulations are also in order for Cassie Martin, who was recently awarded a graduate research assistantship in Dr. Fred Scharf's fisheries lab. She will be studying factors influencing juvenile red drum mortality in the New River, NC.



Students from the Subunit have been active in recent meetings, including the Ichthyology and Herpetology meeting in New Orleans and the national American Fisheries Society meeting in Lake Placid. Two students from Dr. Tom Lankford's lab, Chip Collier and Adam Branson, presented their work in New Orleans, and two of Dr. Fred Scharf's students, Andy Ostrowsky and Will Smith, presented in Lake Placid. Will Smith received a travel award from the Estuaries Section and an Honorable Mention for the Skinner Travel Award to attend the national AFS meeting.

-- Will Smith, *UNCW-AFS president*



Rondek (left) and Herbert (right) pose with Dr. Dewayne Fox and a juvenile sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*)



**Delaware News from Damian Brady (University of Delaware) and Kevin Neves (Delaware State University)**

The summer months mean many things in the Delaware area: barbecues, trips to the beach, and of course, long days in the field. This summer has been no exception with students logging an exceptional number of field hours towards their projects. From Delaware State University, students such as Phil Simpson, Naeem Willett, and Colette Cairns continued projects from last year, while Kevin Neves began his field work this spring and continued straight through to summer. We were fortunate this summer to have with us two high school interns, Herbert Rapley, of Dover High School and Rondek Boyer-Spikes from Polytech High School. They participated in DSU's Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program funded by grants provided by the US Army Research Office and the Academy of Applied Science. Herbert and Rondek worked closely with Aquatic Sciences students both in the field and in the lab. After 5 weeks of working, students were required to present their individual experiences. In addition to providing much needed assistance, it is also an invaluable learning experience for these budding young scientists of tomorrow.

This year, the College of Marine Studies at the University of Delaware became the College of Marine and Earth Studies by absorbing the Department of Geology into the college. Coincidentally, this year also marked the beginning of a collaborative effort between Dr. Timothy E. Targett of the Marine Biology/Biochemistry program and Dr. Arthur Trembanis of the Geology Department to use an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), the Delaware Oceanographic and Environmental Research Remote Instrument (DOERRI), to assess the impact of diel-cycling hypoxia on nursery habitat quality. AUVs offer high spatio-temporal resolution sampling of a suite of physico-chemical parameters. In this case, DOERRI has been used this summer in Delaware's Coastal Bays tributaries to determine the spatial extent of hypoxic zones that occur in the early morning. Dr. Targett's laboratory hopes to use this information to determine how spatial hypoxic extent compares with fish avoidance thresholds and ability. Another unanswered question is how diel-cycling hypoxia affects the food base in tidal tributaries. DOERRI's side-scan sonar and multi-beam, in concert with cores, grabs and epibenthic sledging, are increasing our knowledge of how the benthos is affected by hypoxia. Finally, DOERRI also measures temperature, conductivity and water current speeds. In the future, we hope to extend DOERRI's capabilities to include tracking acoustically tagged weakfish, measure photosynthetically active radiation and chlorophyll to eventually get a holistic perspective on fish/habitat interactions from a Lagrangian sampling platform.





A picture of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV)

The summer was capped off not only with the start of classes, but also of preparations for this year's AFS meeting held in Lake Placid, NY. Graduate students attending the conference from DSU were Naeem Willett, Colette Cairns, Phil Simpson and Patrick Erbland. Also from DSU were Matt Jones, an undergraduate in the Fisheries Management Program, Lori Brown, a technician in the department, and of course, Dr. Dewayne Fox. From CMES, Ben Ciotti and Brian Boutin also presented papers at the meeting. Aside from some unexpected chilly weather, the attendees had a good time and all presentations were successfully defended.

We'd also like to take a moment to welcome two new additions to the DSU family. The first is Jonathan McKenzie, our newest graduate student to the Aquatic Sciences Department. Jon comes to us from UNC-Wilmington, where he double majored in Marine Biology and History. Jon will be working with Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay on a project focusing on filtration rates of freshwater mussels and their practicality as a potential biofilter for aquaculture ponds. Jon is currently in the process of setting up his systems and will make a great addition to the department. For our second new arrival, we'd like to welcome Aleiyah Dinisha Willett to the world. She is the daughter of Naeem Willett and Drue Bailey and she was born on September 17th. Best of luck to the new parents!

It has definitely been an exciting summer for those students who call Delaware their home. As the weather turns chilly, we prepare for the upcoming Coast Day Celebration in Lewes, and the leaves change their colors, we here in the First State are gearing up for the upcoming Annual Tidewater Chapter Meeting! Until next time, stay warm and take care.

-- Kevin Neves (Delaware State University)



## Maryland News from Bob Murphy

**Chinese mitten crab found-** A mature male Chinese Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) was collected June 9, 2006 at the

mouth of the Patapsco River, Maryland by a commercial waterman, Captain John Delp, fishing crab pots. This is the first confirmed record for the Chesapeake Bay. The species is native to East Asia, and is a potential invasive that could have negative ecological impacts. The Chinese mitten crab occurs in both freshwater and saltwater. It is catadromous, migrating from freshwater rivers and tributaries to reproduce in salt water. Young crabs spend 2-5 years in freshwater tributaries and can extend over 50 miles inland, potentially above fall lines. Mature male and female crabs migrate downstream to mate and spawn in salt water estuaries.

Only a single animal has been captured in the Chesapeake Bay, and this may be an isolated occurrence. There are several possible transfer mechanisms that could result in the delivery of a crab to local waters, without the species becoming established. However, due to the documented ability of this species to invade and to establish itself in new areas, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have established a joint effort to investigate the status of this species. There are several possible ways the crab could have arrived in Bay waters, including imported seafood trade or commercial shipping in near-by Baltimore Harbor.

MD DNR is networking with commercial watermen, fish passage monitoring programs, and with power companies that monitor species captured on cooling water intake screens. This broad based monitoring is the first step to assessing if additional mitten crabs are

present in the Bay habitat. The Chinese Mitten Crab is listed under the Federal Lacey Act which makes it illegal in the United States to import, export, or conduct interstate commerce of this species without a permit.

**Impervious Surface and fisheries-** Jim Uphoff and colleagues at Maryland DNR (The Impervious Serfs) have recently been examining the potential effects of increased impervious surface (surfaces with no rainwater infiltration due to parking lots, roads, buildings, etc) within watersheds and the impact on fish. They evaluated impervious surface (IS) reference points (ISRPs) for fish management applications in brackish Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Development of ISRPs involved determining functional relationships between impervious cover and bottom dissolved oxygen (DO), and bottom DO and white perch, blue crab, and juvenile striped bass relative abundance in eight mesohaline tributaries. Bottom DO was the response variable because benthic species require it and DO provided insight into pollution status. The team evaluated 5.0 mg/L target and 3.0 mg/L DO threshold criteria. There was a significant negative relationship between mean bottom DO during 2003-2005 and percent IS in the watershed. This relationship indicated that target bottom DO, 5 mg/L, would occur at 2% IS and the 3 mg/L threshold was met at 11% IS. Relative abundance in mesohaline bottom trawls strongly increased as DO rose to 4.0 mg/ and then leveled off while seine catches did not change as bottom DO diminished. The research could not explicitly quantify the effect of diminished bottom habitat on abundance, but a great deal more habitat is potentially lost when bottom waters become unsuitable, compared to what is preserved inshore. These findings have greater implications to management strategies as the link between land use and fish abundance becomes clearer and ecosystem-based management becomes more widely implemented.

-- Bob Murphy, MD Member --at-Large



**Virginia News  
from Debra  
Parthree**

## **MENHADEN HARVEST**

**First Landing State  
Park, VA**—On July

31, Virginia Governor, Tim Kaine proposed a management strategy for Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) in Chesapeake Bay. Despite efforts of the Virginia General Assembly in its 2006 legislative session to kill a harvest cap adopted by a 2005 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) addendum, Governor Kaine announced his intentions to institute the cap. The proposal calls for an annual cap of commercial harvest in the Chesapeake Bay at 109,020 metric tons, the average annual catch from 2001-2005. The strategy allows for a credit for the following year, up to 122,740 metric tons, if the catch falls below the cap in any given year. The Governor intends to not only help sustain the menhaden fishery, but also encourage more research and protect the jobs of commercial fishermen. The proposal is supported by Omega Protein, the world's largest manufacturer of menhaden-derived fish oil and meal, and by Menhaden Matter, an environmental organization representing the interests of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Coastal Conservation Association, Environmental Defense and the National Coalition for Marine Conservation.

Contact Delacey Skinner (804) 225-4806 or Henry Fawell (410) 974-2316 for more information.

## **FLOUNDER TAGGING**

**Gloucester Point, VA, July**—Furnished with funds from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) researchers are investigating the movements of summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) associated with underwater structure. Lead by Dr. Mary Fabrizio, the research group caught and released 120 flounder at three study sites in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Before release, the fish were implanted with acoustical tags and marked with an identifying yellow streamer tag near the base of its tail. Recreational anglers are asked to participate in the study by releasing alive any tagged fish as close as

possible to site of capture. The following instructions are from the VIMS website:

- Handle the fish carefully when removing it from the hook.
- Record the tag number, found on the end of the yellow tag, and release the fish alive with the yellow tag intact.
- Call the VIMS phone number (804-684-7588) on the tag, sharing any information on the fish's appearance and condition (e.g., slight bleeding). A reward (flounder cap) is offered for reporting the catch and release of the tagged fish.
- If no one is able to directly answer your call, please leave a detailed voice message. This should include the flounder's tag number and overall condition, the date and location of capture, your name, mailing address, and a phone number where you can be reached at a time convenient to you. The researchers will get back in touch with you to verify your information.
- If you capture, but seriously injure (gut-hook, much bleeding, etc.), a specially tagged flounder, please keep it, even if undersize, and call VIMS at 804-684-7588. Marine Police Officers are aware of such special situations. But to avoid violation of flounder regulations, the retained fish must have the special yellow tag in place. If you are checked by a MPO, the officer may take control of the fish for the study.

## RECREATIONAL LANDINGS

**Statewide, August 8**—The Suffolk News-Herald posted the following leaders in recreational saltwater landings:

| <i>Species</i>   | <i>Weight</i> | <i>Angler</i>          | <i>Hometown</i> |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Atlantic croaker | 4 lb          | David W. West          | Deltaville      |
| black drum       | 83 lb 13 oz   | Charles Porter         | Birdsnest       |
| cobia            | 109 lb        | Joseph F. Berberich II | Hayes           |
| dolphin          | 56.6 lb       | Richard W. Koch        | Virginia Beach  |
| gray trout       | 12.25 lb      | Marvin L. Williams III | Virginia Beach  |
| king mackerel    | 33 lb         | Patrick J. Beattie     | Foster          |
| kingfish         | 2 lb 2 oz     | Andy Backowski         | Chesapeake      |
| sea bass         | 7 lb 2 oz     | Steve Harding          | Norfolk         |
| sheepshead       | 16 lb         | Walter E. Scott        | Smithfield      |
| spadefish        | 14 lb         | Austin Edwards         | Powhatan        |
| Spanish mackerel | 5.5 lb        | Michael G. Mayhugh     | Nokesville      |
| speckled trout   | 12 lb 1 oz    | Barclay M. Shepard     | Poquoson        |
| spot             | 1.25 lb       | Michael Mihalcoe       | Gloucester      |
| striped bass     | 68.1 lb       | Clay T. Armstrong      | Mechanicsville  |
| summer flounder  | 13 lb 13 oz   | Lewis W. Graves, Sr.   | Fredericksburg  |
| triggerfish      | 4 lb 15 oz    | Phillip E. Gaskins     | Chesapeake      |
| wahoo            | 83 lb 13 oz   | William C. Cooke II    | Virginia Beach  |

--Debra J. Parthree, VA Member-At-Large

## COWNOSE RAYS

**Gloucester Point, VA**—The Virginia Sea Grant College Program at VIMS, spearheaded by Bob Fisher, is collaborating with marine scientists, resource managers, watermen, and the seafood industry to manage cownose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) in the Chesapeake Bay. Recently, large-scale efforts to restore Piankatank River native oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) have been impeded by decimation by the rays. This spring, cownose rays consumed more than 90% of the 775,000 native oysters planted in the Chesapeake Bay tributary. Focus on managing the Chesapeake Bay ray population date back to the 1970's; however, the current effort emphasizes factors such as disease-resistant oysters and utilizing ray meat as a new niche in the seafood market.



## North Carolina News from Charlton H. Godwin

Starting in January 2007, you will need a license to fish in the ocean and sounds of North Carolina. The new license will be called the Coastal Recreational Fishing License, or CRFL for short. North Carolina has long had an inland fishing license requirement, but has had no requirement for a coastal fishing license. With a few exceptions, the new license will be required by anyone 16 years or older fishing in coastal waters of North Carolina. Annual license costs range from \$15/resident to \$30/nonresident, and \$5/resident to \$10/nonresident for a ten-day license.



Charter boat and pier operators will be able to purchase a blanket license to cover their guests.

The main reason behind the new law is to allow the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) to gather more accurate data on the number of people recreationally harvesting finfish in the state. Some studies estimate up to 2 million people per year enjoy recreational fishing in NC. One of the many benefits that the new CRFL will provide is much needed funding to help manage, protect, restore, develop, cultivate, conserve and/or enhance North Carolina's marine resources. Revenues from the license will be distributed to two funds, the NC Marine Resources Fund and NC Marine Resources Endowment Fund. The Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) and Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) will jointly disburse these funds. All proposals to the MFC and WRC for these funds shall be made through the Fisheries Director of the NCDMF.

The overall goal for the use of CRFL funds is to manage and enhance the marine resources of NC based on sound science and strategies with participation from an informed public. Three essential programmatic areas have been identified to achieve this goal: 1) Fish, 2) Habitat, and 3) People. Once funding cycles are set, requests for proposals will be sent out and projects will be funded based on priorities identified from the CRFL Strategic Plan. These research priorities are currently being developed from research needs identified in MFC approved Fishery Management Plans (FMP), the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP), and similar sources. Funding cycles will likely start sometime in 2008. Stay tuned for more information concerning the CRFL and funding opportunities.

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

### **North Carolina FRG and Blue Crab Research Programs Accepting Proposals for 2007**

North Carolina Sea Grant invites members of the fishing and crabbing communities, and those in related industries and research, to submit proposals for funding by the N.C. Fishery Resource Grant Program (FRG) and the Blue Crab Research Program (BCRP) for 2007.

The FRG program and BCRP encourage innovative proposals that will improve, protect and restore North Carolina's marine fishery resources. Both programs are

funded by the N.C. General Assembly and administered by North Carolina Sea Grant.

Priority funding areas for FRG include fisheries equipment and gear; environmental pilot studies; aquaculture and mariculture; and seafood technology. Priority funding areas for BCRP include stock enhancement; population assessment; blue crab biology; shedding technology; and social and economic impacts of the blue crab fishery. Where appropriate, FRG and BCRP seek to partner commercial and recreational fishers, and persons in the seafood industry with academic researchers to ensure useful, well-documented results.

A list of potential research topics and a list of Sea Grant and N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries contacts, as well as downloadable application forms, are available at [www.ncseagrant.org](http://www.ncseagrant.org). Under "Funding Opportunities," select the FRG or BCRP link. Applications are also available from North Carolina Sea Grant offices in Raleigh, Manteo, Morehead City and Wilmington.

All principal investigators must participate in a pre-submission conference with a Sea Grant representative. These pre-submission workshops are scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Oct. 2, 2006 – Manteo:** College of the Albemarle-Dare Campus, 132 Russell Twiford Road, Manteo, NC 27954. Contact: Sara Mirabilio, 252/475-3663.
- **Oct. 3, 2006 – Morehead City:** North Carolina State University, Center for Marine Sciences and Technology (CMAST), 303 College Circle, Morehead City, NC 28557. Contact: Vanda Lewis, 252/222-6307 or Bob Hines, 252/222-6312.
- **Oct. 5, 2006 – Wilmington:** N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, 127 Cardinal Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405. Contact: Scott Baker, 910/962-2492.

Principal investigators who are unable to attend any of the workshops can hold a pre-submission conference by telephone, e-mail or a one-on-one meeting. A guide on how to write a successful application is available at [www.ncseagrant.org](http://www.ncseagrant.org). Search for "Fishing for Good Ideas."

Signed hand-delivered or mailed applications must be received at: **North Carolina Sea Grant, NC State University, Box 8605, Room 100C, 1911 Building, Raleigh, NC 27965-8605.**

Applications may also be submitted via e-mail. All support letters and attachments must be included either in electronic form or by mail. Send electronic FRG applications to [srebach@ncsu.edu](mailto:srebach@ncsu.edu). Send electronic BCRP applications to [marc\\_turano@ncsu.edu](mailto:marc_turano@ncsu.edu).

Complete hand-delivered, mailed or e-mailed applications, including all support letters, must be received by 5 p.m., Nov. 20, 2006.

Faxed, incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Final decisions will be made no later than April 30, 2007.

-- Sara Marabilio, NC Sea Grant



An "AFS pumpkin" from the Wednesday night banquet/party in Lake Placid – "Fishtoberfest". Ooh, scary!

## Announcements

### 6th Annual AFS Student Colloquium



Greetings from the Auburn University Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AUAFS). I trust that everyone is having a productive summer. I am contacting the membership on behalf of the AUAFS to invite you to join us here at Auburn University for the **6th Annual AFS Student Colloquium** to be held on October 27th – 29th, 2006. This year's meeting will continue the tradition of bringing students together to share their research and experiences, as well as an opportunity to interact with their peers from across the nation. The goal of this conference is to give students an opportunity to present research to fellow students and to receive constructive criticism from professionals in fisheries and related

disciplines. So, please check out our website and join us! <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/fish/amerfishsoc/>

Sincerely,

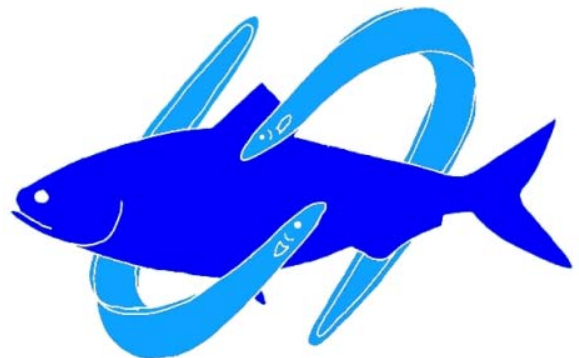
Harvey J. Pine, President Auburn University AFS  
Auburn University  
203 Swingle Hall  
Auburn, Alabama 36849  
[pinehar@auburn.edu](mailto:pinehar@auburn.edu)

**60th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Marriott Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia, November 5-8, 2006**



More information at [SEAFWA2006.org](http://SEAFWA2006.org)

*Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment*



**June 17-24, 2007, Halifax, Nova Scotia**

**Deadline for oral and poster presentations January 1, 2007**

[www.anacat.ca](http://www.anacat.ca)

*This second international symposium on diadromy will review the current state of scientific knowledge with respect to biology, ecology, and conservation of*

diadromous fishes (including anadromous, catadromous, 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.

Papers will be organized into the following topic areas:

- **Dynamic Nature of Diadromy**
- **Climate Change & Anthropogenic Influences**
- **Ocean Environment & Migration**
- **Contribution of Diadromy to Ecosystem Energetics**
- **Population and Habitat Restoration**
- **Socio-Economic and Bio-Political Linkages in Management**
- **Ecosystem Management Approaches for the Future**

For more information, contact Alex Haro email: [Alex.Haro@usgs.gov](mailto:Alex.Haro@usgs.gov) or visit the website at [www.anacat.ca](http://www.anacat.ca).



Diadromous Fisheries Symposium Steering Committee on a bobsled at Lake Placid (L-R): Ken Beal, Katherine Smith, Mike Dadswell, Ron Klauda, Roger Rulifson. Back- John Cooper and ???. Not pictured: Chris Moffitt, Alex Haro, Trevor Avery, and Tom Bigford.

## Lake Placid Meeting Great for Tidewater Members

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society was held this year in the Olympic venue at Lake Placid, New York. Sponsored by the NY DEC and New York Chapter, it was extremely well done and everyone had a great time. I believe everyone appreciated all of the extraordinary efforts by the organizers, especially considering that the promised new convention center never materialized, which forced some pretty creative thinking on places to hold talks and posters. Congratulations to the organizers!

Sunday night was a wonderful but chilly social gathering, which was held in the outdoor speed skating rink where Eric Heiden won his gold medals. A series of tents held different New York food specialties, from pizza and calzones to seafood. Several tents had wine tasting from small local NY wineries. Sweatshirt booths did a brisk business as well. The highlight was the parade of flags representing the countries of attendees at the AFS meeting, and the lighting of the Olympic torch. Many Tidewater members were seen wandering among the food tents trying all the different delicacies, balancing food on top of glasses of cold beer, great wine, or hot chocolate.



The parade of flags representing the countries of attendees at the AFS meeting in Lake Placid, NY.

Monday's plenary session was jam-packed and many folks, including me, couldn't get into the room. But it must have been good. You'll have to read the summary in the next issue of Fisheries.

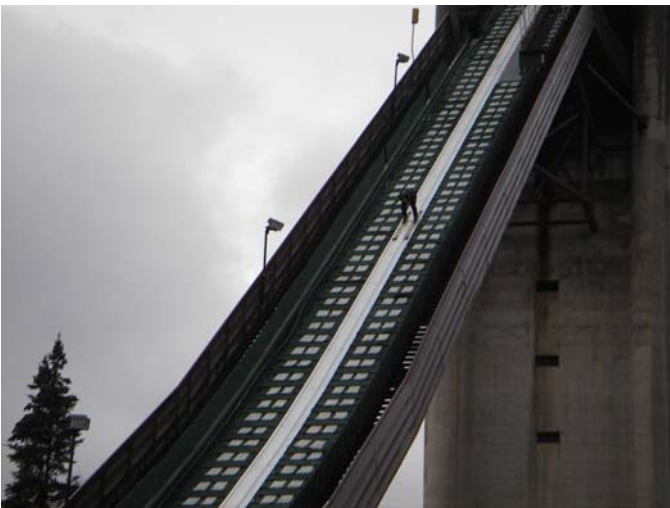
Wednesday's late afternoon activity was watching the Russian trick ski-jumping team performing. One of the skiers was the bronze medalist from Torino, and he was very good. They'd zip down the short hill, fly into the air while performing somersaults and flips to land in a swimming pool.





The high-flying Russian ski team performs for AFS meeting attendees Wednesday afternoon.

Just down the mountain were the large ski jumps, and teenage boys from Lake Placid were practicing for a meet in Chicago. A number of Tidewater members climbed to the top (stopping several times) to get a better view, and believe me, you couldn't pay me enough money to get on to a couple of wooden slats, zoom down a long steep incline with those slats between two plastic groves, and then fly into the air through the rain and land on a slope so steep you'd have to be a mountain goat with two short legs in order to stand up straight.



A Lake Placid skier zooms down the 100-m ski jump for AFS attendees.

Some Tidewater members tried their sports prowess at one of several Olympic events. 'The Fearless Fish Fondlers', a fun team composed of Ron Klauda (TWC member), Tom Hoff and Jessica Coakley placed third and took home bronze medals in the AFS Olympic Bobsled Challenge held at Lake Placid, NY, on

September 13. The team had a respectable run time of 43.69 seconds over the half mile course. Tom and Jessica work for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in Dover, DE, and Ron Klauda works for MD DNR.



Bronze medalists "The Fearless Fish Fondlers" (L to R): the trusty pusher/brakeman, the three Fearless Fish Fondlers (Jessica Coakley, Tom Hoff, Ron Klauda), and our driver with dreadlocks-----next to our time of 43.69 seconds.

After these great acts of feat, we adjourned to an area across the road for the "Fishtoberfest", wonderful food and entertainment. An Oom-Paa band with super musicians provided entertainment from German beer drinking songs to the Beach Boys. Hundreds of AFSer's gathered on the dance floor in celebration while others watched attentively. A number of contests highlighted the evening. My favorite was the attempt by 10 women AFSers to put wet frozen t-shirts onto AFS men. Only one team was able to break apart the crushed frozen t-shirt enough to slip it on. The remaining contestants were left banging the frozen t-shirts on the dance floor.



Tidewater President-elect Dwayne Fox chooses a different sporting event and watches the dancing from the sidelines.



Dancing and bratwurst were common at the Wednesday night festivities in Lake Placid.

My understanding was that the Lake Placid meeting was the second largest attendance ever, after Anchorage last year. Next year is San Francisco, so start writing those abstracts!

-- Roger Rulifson