

Tidewater Press

Newsletter Of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 21 Issue 4

Inside this Issue

- **Presidents Corner**
- **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**
- **21st Annual Meeting, Tidewater Chapter, Lewes, Delaware**
- **Tidewater Chapter Officer Elections**
- **Scholarship & Awards Committee**
- **Communications Committee**
- **Student Subunit News**
- **News from the States**
- **Announcements**



President's Corner

The Tidewater Chapter annual meeting is right around the corner. The meeting will be held in Lewes, Delaware. Dr. Dewayne Fox has put together a fine meeting at an exciting venue so you do not want to miss it. I sincerely hope that

you are making plans to attend. This is the first time the Tidewater Chapter has held its annual meeting in Delaware. This will also be a joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. The success of the meeting greatly depends on our membership's attendance. I strongly encourage all undergraduates, graduate students and professionals to present your research. I am really looking forward to the casual atmosphere that should lead to some rich and heated discussion of our science. The call for papers has been placed. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Fox.

The annual meeting is also a time when a new slate of officers gets elected. Volunteering for such positions as President-elect, or serving on the various committees is very rewarding and offers you a chance to see how an AFS chapter operates. This is also a wonderful opportunity for leadership and professional development.

Parting Words - This will be my last official column as president. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as president. I got to interact with a lot of Tidewater members as well as many folks from the Parent Society office. I was most amazed at the level of commitment from Tidewater Chapter members. Whenever something needed to be done, several members always stepped to the plate and gave it their all. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve for this has truly been a wonderful experience. I'll see all of you in a few weeks.

-- Anthony Overton, Tidewater Chapter President 2006

2006 Tidewater AFS EXCOM and Ex-Officio Members

- **President** – Anthony Overton, Phone 252-328-4121; email Overtona@ecu.edu
- **President-Elect** – Dewayne Fox, Phone 302-857-6436; email dfox@desu.edu
- **Past President** – Hank Brooks, Phone 804-684-7587; email hbrooks@vims.edu.
- **Secretary/Treasurer** – Stephanie McNerny, Phone 252-422-5717, email Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov
- **MD Member-at-Large** – Bob Murphy, Phone 410-935-099, email murphy@ecosystemsolutions.org
- **VA Member-at-Large** – Debra Parthree, Phone 804- 684-7891; email parthree@vims.edu
- **NC Member-at-Large** – Charlton Godwin, Phone 252-264-3911; email charlton.godwin@ncmail.net.
- **Delaware Representatives** – Damain Brady; Phone 302- 645-4282 email damian@udel.edu; and Kevin Neves, Phone 401-206-9811; email URIMarineBio@yahoo.com
- **ECU Student Subunit** – Becky Deehr, Phone 252-328-9405; email RAD0708@ecu.edu.
- **MD Student Subunit** - Lisa Kerr, Phone 410-326-7225; email kerr@cbl.umces.edu.
- **UNC-W** – Will Smith, email smithwe@uncw.edu
- **Duke University** – Aja Peters-Mason Phone 703-785-8597; email acpl5@duke.edu
- **Newsletter Co-Editors** – Roger Rulifson and James Morris
 - RR Phone 252-328-9400; rulifson@ecu.edu.
 - JM Phone 252-728-8782 james.morris@noaa.gov.
- **Historian/Listserv Administrator** – Roger Rulifson.
- **Webmaster** – James Morris.



Secretary/ Treasurer's Report

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

--Stephanie McNerny, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer



21st Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, February 1-3, 2007, Lewes, Delaware

We hope this update finds the holidays progressing well for everyone. Hopefully all the students had a great fall semester.

We are excited to announce the final plans for the upcoming joint Tidewater/Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting, which will be held in Lewes, Delaware, from February 1st-3rd. Following the traditional Tidewater format this meeting will start out with a poster session and welcoming social event on Thursday evening. On Friday we will start things out with our plenary speaker Dr. Steve Murawski (NMFS) and a full day of presentations. Friday evening is time to socialize at the Dogfish Head Brew Pub in Rehoboth Beach. Saturday we will hold a half day of talks and conclude by around noon.

We have worked with the folks at the University of Delaware's John Penrose Virden Residence and Conference Center (<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/ships&facilities/virden.html>) to pull together a package rate that is really reasonable. As a resort town, winter lodging and dining options are somewhat limited in Lewes. With this in mind, we have come up with both single and double occupancy packages that include the cost of registration, lodging, socials, and all meals. The Beacon (<http://www.lewestoday.com/beacon/main.html>), which is approximately 1 mile from the conference site, will be used as supplementary housing once we have filled the

Virden Center. For those who will be commuting to the meeting, we have developed a registration rate which includes the cost of the Thursday evening social and all meeting breaks.

Abstracts (<200 words) for oral presentations and posters will be accepted until January 19, 2007 (see call for papers for details). We will notify everyone shortly after this date as to the status of their submission.

The annual fishing tournament started by the ECU students during the 2006 TWC meeting may have to be shelved during this venture north of the Mason Dixon Line as cool temps and ice flows may preclude angling. Then again, those ECU students have a high threshold for pain.... We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



The Univ. Delaware Conference Center.

-- Dewayne Fox and Tim Targett, Co-organizers

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS -- 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater Chapters of the American Fisheries Society – Lewes, DE – February 1st – 3rd, 2007.

Abstracts for both poster and oral presentations are being accepted for the 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater Chapters of the American Fisheries Society. Please complete the following form and email it as an attachment to dfox@desu.edu.

Submission Deadline: All abstracts must be received no later than **January 19th, 2007** to be considered.

Guidelines for Abstracts: Abstracts should be no more than 200 words and should summarize your research and finding.

Poster Guidelines: Make sure posters can easily be read at 2m distance. Please use the following dimensions for posters – 32” x 44” or 81cm x 112cm. See AFS’s website for more details

http://web.fisheries.org/sf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Itemid=39

Oral Presentation Guidelines: Oral presentations will be 20 minutes – approximately 15 minute talk and 4 to 5 minutes for questions and answers. See AFS's website for more details (http://web.fisheries.org/sf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=38)

Nominations Committee

Chair Hank Brooks has the following slate of candidates for the Tidewater Chapter election of officers:

- President – Dewayne Fox (DE)
- President-Elect –
 - Jack Musik (VIMS)
- Secretary/Treasurer –
 - Stephanie McInerny (NOAA)
- Maryland At-Large Member –
 - Bob Murphy (private, incumbent)
 - John Jacobs (NOAA)
- Virginia At-Large Member –
 - Debra Parthree (VIMS, new incumbent)
- North Carolina –
 - Michael Chadwick Smith (ECU)

Biographies of Nominated Members



Dr. John A. (Jack) Musick – President-Elect

Jack Musick is the Marshall Acuff Professor of marine Science and Head of the Vertebrate Ecology and Systematics program in the Department of Fisheries Sciences at VIMS. A world-renowned researcher on long-

lived species, Jack was awarded the AFS Distinguished Service Award in 2000 for his work on long-lived species, and received the 2002 Excellence in Fisheries Education Award from AFS. He received his BA degree from Rutgers in 1962, and an MA and PhD from Harvard (1964, 1969). He has authored or co-authored over 125 primary literature articles, three books, and edited 11 volumes, not to mention numerous non-referred conference proceedings and reports. Jack has been an AFS member since 1961, and has served on

many committees for AFS but also for various state and federal agencies, and international groups.



Stephanie McInerny (incumbent) – Secretary Treasurer

At East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, I earned a Bachelor's degree (B.S.) in Biology with a Marine Biology concentration in 2002. While at ECU, I worked under Dr. Roger Rulifson at the Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources on a larval fish project funded by Weyerhaeuser, participating in extensive lab and field work. I was very active in the ECU Student Subunit of AFS and served as historian for one year.

After graduation, I moved back home to Carteret County and volunteered at the NOAA-NMFS lab in Beaufort, NC working under Jennifer Potts on age and growth of reef fish. I completed an aging project on Gulf of Mexico red drum and am the primary author on an age and growth manuscript in review. I have been employed as a biological technician under Jennifer Potts for about 3 years, aging red snapper and currently working on greater amberjack and vermilion snapper. I was accepted into graduate school at the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2004, where I am working towards a Master's Degree (M.S.) in Marine Biology as well as an Advanced Statistics Certificate. My thesis work consists of age and growth of red snapper and includes a sample of 5400 fish from the years 1977-2004, that is currently nearing completion. While in school, I continue to work full time for NMFS and also try to participate in a other research projects running at the lab.

At UNCW, I worked hard with Fred Scharf, Will Smith, and other UNCW students to organize an AFS Student Subunit on campus and served as the president of the subunit for their first year of business. Official status as a student organization has been completed along with funding for two undergraduates to attend the next Tidewater meeting. Official status of the subunit within the Parent Society is still in progress but should be completed by March 2007.

I have served as the Tidewater Chapter Secretary/Treasurer for 2006 and have made large

improvements to the Procedural Manual and Bylaws in order to keep these documents as up to date as possible. These documents should be in their final stages very soon. With the help of the former Sec/Treas, Wes Patrick, Tidewater funds are doing well in our investment account and a large sales tax reimbursement should be coming to the chapter in the future. I am looking forward to serving the Tidewater chapter another year and plan to make more contributions to the organization.



**John Jacobs --
Maryland Member-at-
Large**

John Jacobs is a Research Fishery Biologist with NOAA's Oxford Laboratory on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He received

his B.A. with a concentration in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 1993, M.S. in Fisheries from the University of Maryland in 1998, and anticipates completion of his Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Maryland in the Spring of 2007. John's research focuses on fish health and physiology as influenced by environmental and anthropogenic stressors. He has been an AFS member since 1993.



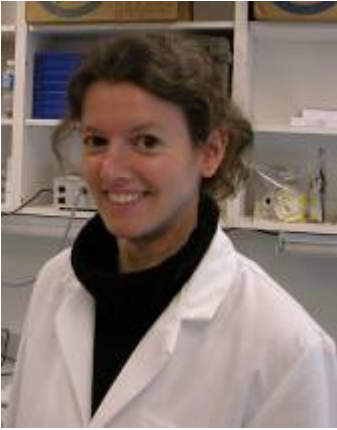
**Bob Murphy (Incumbent)
-- Maryland Member-at-
Large**

Born in Washington, DC and raised "inside the beltway" in Chevy Chase, MD, I have been a lifelong resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. My interest

in coastal ecology and all things aquatic was born out of long summers spent "chicken-necking" for blue crabs along the Atlantic coast where my family vacationed. Shortly after completing my degree at Univ. of Maryland, I landed a job at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. I was hired as a seasonal contractor for DNR to assist with sampling for the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS). I eventually left MD DNR and took a job at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, a regional nonprofit organization where I worked on habitat restoration projects throughout the Bay

watershed. This work accelerated my growing interest in the interaction of habitat and utilization by aquatic organisms, particularly fish. My focus shifted entirely to SAV and oyster restoration work in brackish waters where I undertook a long term study to evaluate how fish communities responded to SAV restoration over varying salinity regimes. This work eventually led me to return to school to pursue a graduate degree. I entered the MEES program in 2001 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (UMD) under the guidance of Dr. Dave Secor. My initial research project focused on the basic ecology of the lined seahorse (*Hippocampus erectus*) in Chesapeake Bay and how the species utilized eelgrass beds and other structures. I won a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) fellowship through VIMS to conduct this research in the York River. After two and a half years of small sample sizes (advice to prospective grad students: pick a species of relatively large population size) and lack of data, I was forced to reconsider my thesis topic. Fortunately for me, I had an alternative project that would serve as a nice thesis. I conducted a multivariate community analysis of the fish assemblages inhabiting the coastal bay complex of Maryland with an emphasis on spatial and seasonal variation. This work was of particular interest to me as it included several ecological factors including habitat availability, eutrophication, and spatial differences in relatively confined systems. In August 2005, I formed a new nonprofit organization, Ecosystem Solutions, whose focus is on habitat restoration and assessment using biological indicators (fish and invertebrate community structure) in aquatic systems. This area of work allows me to continue applied research in fish ecology and habitat restoration that can ultimately improve the condition of our living resources.

I have enjoyed my involvement as a member of the Tidewater chapter over the years as it is an excellent venue for managers, researchers, and NGO staff to share information on the state of coastal ecosystems and how this pertains to fisheries. I am especially interested in bringing an ecological perspective to fisheries science as more and more resources are allocated to multispecies management and habitat conservation. This is particularly important for students and I hope to further engage students and other potential stakeholders to become more involved with the chapter. Hobbies include fishing (like most fishery professionals), kayaking, basketball (playing), and brewing.



Debra Parthree (recent incumbent) -- Virginia member-at-large

I am pleased to accept the nomination of Virginia member-at-large for the American Fisheries Society Tidewater chapter. I am a Marine Scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, where I

manage the Chesapeake Bay Trophic Interactions Laboratory Services (CTILS) program. I received my MS in Fisheries Biology in 2003 at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. For my thesis entitled, "Fish and invertebrate ecology of Tillas and Islas Sloughs, Smith River Estuary, Del Norte County, California" I examined and described two tidal sloughs never before formally studied. In 1997, I received my BS in Biological Oceanography at Millersville University in Millersville, Pennsylvania. I look forward to meeting you at the AFS Tidewater chapter meetings. You may contact me by email at parthree@vims.edu, by phone at (804) 684-7891, or by mail at PO Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.



M. Chad Smith – North Carolina Member-at-Large

Hello Tidewater Chapter! My name is Chad Smith and I am a native of "Wide-Awake" Wilson, North Carolina. I am interested in serving on the Tidewater Executive Committee as NC Member-at-Large. I received a B.S. Degree in

Biology from East Carolina University in 2002. Afterwards, I continued my studies at ECU and received a M.S. Degree in Biology in July 2006 under the direction of Roger Rulifson. My thesis research focused on documenting habitat use of lower Tar River habitats by early life stages of *Alosa spp.* and striped bass. In addition, I also examined the potential impacts of physical obstructions such as dams on these anadromous species. Currently, I am serving as coordinator for the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program, which is an 18-year old program that originated from the

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (NCDENR). My job is to train citizen volunteers in water quality monitoring and to promote environmental awareness by speaking to school groups, organizations, clubs, etc. I have been on the job for five months now and I have thoroughly enjoyed the social interactions that come with the volunteers I have met. I recently worked with a Science Olympiad Team from Columbia Middle School. They will be monitoring the Scuppernong River at the start of the New Year. In February, I will be giving a talk to the Blackbeard Sailing Club in New Bern, NC about water quality and the monitoring program.

I was introduced to the American Fisheries Society during my graduate career. ECU has an outstanding (and award-winning) student subunit and becoming involved with AFS was certainly welcoming, and encouraged! My involvement with the ECU student subunit was a rewarding experience in that it helped me develop leadership skills. I served on the subunit Executive Committee for three terms. I served as Historian/Webmaster for two terms (2003-2004; 2005-2006) and President for one term (2004-2005). My involvement has also helped me develop professionally. I have had the opportunity to attend fourteen AFS meetings to give me a chance to meet with other students and professionals. I was also able to present my research and receive feedback at eight of these meetings.

Currently, I am still an active member with the American Fisheries Society. My job operates from ECU campus so I am able to continue my involvement with subunit events and activities. I am also a continued member of the parent society. I would like to extend my involvement with the American Fisheries Society by becoming more involved with the Tidewater Chapter.

I am a fresh spawn from graduate school with a long, uncharted career in front of me, and with that, I still have much to learn and experience. As NC Member-at-Large, I will have that opportunity to further enhance my leadership and professional skills. I also have a strong and determined work ethic and I know I will fulfill my duties to the best.

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 front page. Also, please consider submitting your personal or agency websites to me to be included on the 'member research' page.

-- James Morris

Changes to Tidewater LISTSERV –

Please note that the instructions have changed as the address has changed to

TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU.

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: TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU and enter SUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.
- **To send a message** -- E-mail to: TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU
- **To unsubscribe** -- E-mail to: TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.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.

Awards and Scholarship Committee

The Awards and Scholarships Committee is seeking nominations for awards to be presented to deserving individuals at the next annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter, American Fisheries Society, which will be on 1-3 February 2007 in Lewes, Delaware.

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 by 12 **January 2006** 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

Student Subunit News



University of Maryland by Lisa Kerr

The University of Maryland AFS Student Subunit has had a busy fall semester as most of us have gotten out of the field and back into the classroom. In October, we staged a successful food sales fundraiser at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) Open House, raising money to support our continued subunit activities. We also enjoyed seminars by Dr. Mark Monaco (September 29) on "Biogeographic Assessments to Support Marine Resource Management: the Integration of Ecology and GIS Technology" and Dr. Tim Targett (October 19) on "Ecophysiological and behavioral responses of young fishes to hypoxia: laboratory and field approaches examining impacts on estuarine nursery habitat quality". With the support of the CBL administration, we are organizing a graduate student workshop series focused on professional skill development. The workshop series is designed for the enrichment of graduate students and to encompass the practical skills and knowledge that are not fully covered in a classroom setting. For students just beginning or

perhaps continuing their graduate careers at the doctoral level, maintaining a competitive advantage is crucial to future successes and positioning one's self for future employment. Upon finishing graduate school, a student may face fundamental questions about how to transition from life as a graduate student/post-doctoral student to life as a research scientist or teaching/research faculty member. We hope to address many of these questions and provide useful information for furthering graduate student academic and career potential in a workshop format. Through these workshops we aim to promote the professional development of students and encourage the exchange of information among students and seasoned scientists. Distinguished speakers include Dr. Dave Secor (Writing Innovative but Effective Science Proposals: Dog Walker or Cocktail Talker?), Dr. Tom Miller (Title TBA), Dr. Elizabeth North (Principles for presenting data: from plots to presentations), and Dr. Roberta Marinelli (Proposals 101: Even if you never write one, why do you need to know?). We look forward to participating and interacting with Tidewater members at the Annual Tidewater Meeting.

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



East Carolina University by Kelly Register

The fall semester has been busy for the ECU-AFS subunit. In September we attended the national meeting in Lake Placid where two of our students gave oral presentations and one gave a poster presentation. In addition, we proudly accepted 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.

Upon returning from Lake Placid, ECU-AFS began work on two service projects. We coordinated the ECU student body participation in "Big Sweep," the annual state-wide watershed clean-up project. We've been doing this for several years now, and it is a great opportunity to protect our local waterways. This year, 55 student volunteers removed 1,900 pieces of litter from the Green Mill Run, including what looked like part of a surfboard. We've also begun a new community service project volunteering at the local food bank. Six of our members bagged 3,000 lbs of sweet potatoes in about an hour and a half; those potatoes were gone the next day!

We also sent several students to the 6th Annual Student Colloquium at Auburn University. Two students gave oral presentations, and one gave a poster presentation. We had so much fun - it was worth the long drive. In November, we had an aquarist from the recently re-opened Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium speak at our monthly meeting, and then several students visited the aquarium the next weekend.



The Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina, processing sweet potatoes: Cecilia Krahforst, Jillian Osborne, Curtis Hodges, Chad Smith, Roger Rulifson and Becky Deehr.

December 1st was our 8th annual banquet. It featured poster presentations by our student membership and a special presentation by Pete Peterson, our guest speaker. Dr. Peterson's talk was titled, "Historical baselines of estuaries: how historical overfishing set the table for today's ecosystem shifts by eutrophication." The event was well-attended and is always a nice way to end the semester.



Kelly Register and Josh Murauskas at ECU Fall 2006 graduation.

This fall we graduated two graduate students and two undergraduate students. Graduate students were Kelly Register (Rulifson) and Joshua Murauskas (Rulifson, NCDMF). Undergraduate students were Walter Curtis Hodges and Katherine Sugg.



Dr. Charles Singhas (Undergraduate Chair and Kathryn Sugg). Curtis Hodges not pictured.

After final exams five ECU-AFSers went back to the Food Bank to “candle” and pack 171 dozen fresh eggs. Participants included Becky Deehr, Chad Smith, Mark Kuderthosen, Roger Rulifson, and Anthony Overton.



Mark, Becky, and Chad pose with first batch of packed eggs at the Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina.

We’re looking forward to some of our activities planned for next semester. We will be attending the 21st Tidewater Chapter meeting in Lewes, DE (we’re also designing and selling the Tidewater T-shirts, so if you’re there, make sure to pick one up). We’re also looking forward to seeing everyone at the 15th Annual Southern Division meeting in Memphis. We hope to sponsor a “Take-A-Kid Fishing” day in the spring to get some local children involved in fishing. We look forward to participating in the Grifton Shad Festival, the ECU “Barefoot on the Mall” event, and we hope to plan some other fun activities with other student chapters.

I’m also happy to report that our past president, Dee Dee Barry, had a baby girl, Abigail Grace, at the end of September. Abby is now our “ECU-AFS Princess.”



Jillian and Jenny (pictured) and Becky visit the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium in November.



Dr. Charles “Pete” Peterson was our guest speaker at the 8th Annual ECU-AFS Banquet.

-- Kelly Register, ECU-AFS Co-President, 2006-07
382 Flanagan Building, RAD0708@ECU.EDU
Office phone 252-328-9405



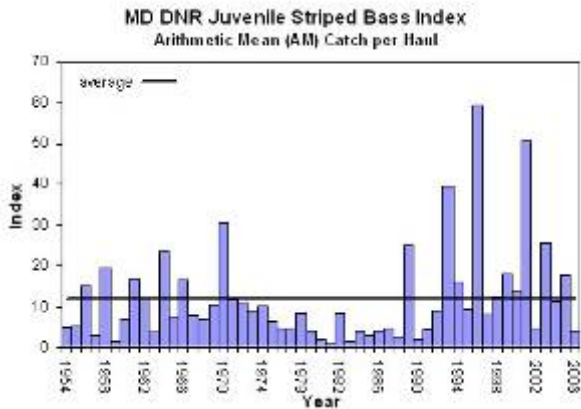
Maryland News from Bob Murphy

MDDNR Striped Bass Project:

The 2006 Juvenile Index (JI beach seine survey) was completed in mid-September. MDDNR announced that the 2006 striped bass (rockfish) juvenile index, a measure of striped bass spawning success in Chesapeake Bay, was 4.3, which was below the 53-year average of 12.0. During this year's survey, DNR biologists collected 561 young-of-year (YOY) striped bass. Overall, reproduction of anadromous fish - those species that migrate into fresh water to spawn - was low this year, likely due to spring drought conditions. Similar drought conditions and low anadromous fish reproduction were observed in 2002. One notable exception this year occurred in the Potomac River, where biologists observed healthy numbers of juvenile American shad for the seventh consecutive year. For more information on the JI survey, see the JI website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/juvindex/index.htm>

1



Striped bass staff is 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 commercial hook and line season was closed early this year (November 13), because the fishery was projected to go over quota. The winter gillnet season typically opens in December, and biologists will sample that harvest through February.

The spring trophy striped bass season may be further restricted in 2007 by more stringent length, bag, and/or season limits. Regulation proposals will be discussed during the next few months

Maryland Coastal Bays—Hard clams

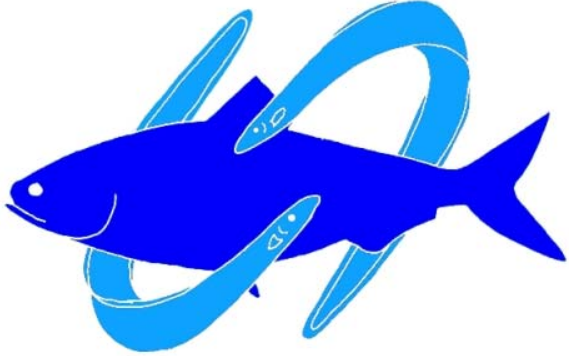
Maryland DNR recently provided an update of the stock assessment for the hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) in the Maryland coastal bays. Over the past decade or so, clam densities have remained in relative equilibrium, although at low levels. The population remains just above the level of economic viability and the fishery appears to be self-regulating. As densities reach a threshold of 0.2 clams m⁻², boats start dropping out of the fishery. Recent densities (over the past three years) have hovered in the 0.21 clams m⁻² range with the *de facto* sanctuaries of protected seagrass beds (closed to harvesting) not showing any increase in populations. The generally poor clam recruitment has been blamed on predation, mostly by blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) which may be amplified due to the sedimentation of old oyster bars which provided refuge from predation. Good recruitment years appear to occur when blue crab populations are low such as during *Hematodinium* outbreaks.

Recreational clamming statistics are uncertain with little reporting of harvests. On the other hand, commercial clambers utilize the coastal bays in a variety of methods. The biggest issue involving hard clams (from a management perspective) concerns leasing bay bottom within 300 feet of the shoreline, where water quality and sediment structure is most suitable for mariculture. Several legal proceedings have occurred to address concerns between riparian property owners opposing the lease program and the prospective clam farmers. Recent rulings and legislative efforts have left clam aquaculture in Maryland's coastal bays with an uncertain future, although economic pressure may eventually lead to more leases being issued by the state.

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

Announcements

Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment



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

For more information, contact Alex Haro email: Alex_Haro@usgs.gov or visit the website at www.anacat.ca.

-- Roger Rulifson

Sixth Annual AFS Student Colloquium a Tremendous Success



The Auburn University Chapter hosted the 6th Annual AFS Student Colloquium at the beautiful Auburn University campus in October. Over 70 students from 12 universities converged to hear 23 student oral presentations and view 5 posters. The meeting kicked off with a welcome by Dr. David Rouse, chair of Auburn

University's Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, followed by an excellent motivational presentation by Dr. Dennis DeVries, Editor, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. Following a full day of presentations, Dr. Brian Czech delivered a rousing keynote presentation titled: "***The Role of the American Fisheries Society in Addressing the Conflict Between Economic Growth and Fish Conservation***". Following Dr. Czech's presentation, the Chapter hosted a Halloween banquet; several ghouls and goblins showed up in the buffet line. Rounding out the event, the Chapter sponsored a fishing tournament on Sunday at the research ponds.



What is the largest bony fish? by the Education Section, AFS

If you are like me, you probably waited until the last minute to renew your AFS Membership for 2007. When you renew, please consider this invitation. The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join our Section. Education Section activities, including preparation and revision of textbooks, support of student travel to meetings, and compilation of brochures on academic programs and fisheries career opportunities. One focus of the section is undergraduate and graduate education. However, the Education Section also supports lifelong learning of all fisheries professionals. We encourage all fisheries professionals to expand their minds through the pursuit of new knowledge. To that end, we are sponsoring a "Largest Fish" contest.

What is the largest bony fish known to science? If you think you know the answer, email your response to slochmann@uaex.edu. We will provide a small incentive to some lucky individual, randomly chosen from among the respondents with the correct answer. Take some time, explore the possibilities, and see what there is to learn about really big fish. You must be a member of the Education Section to be eligible for the "small incentive."

Steve Lochmann, Education Section - Membership Committee



**SDAFS
President's
Address by Bob
Curry**

Greetings! I trust everyone had a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. As we begin preparing for the Christmas holiday season, I am confident that you are finalizing your preparations to attend the upcoming annual spring meeting. The Tennessee Chapter has been diligently preparing for the 15th Annual Spring Meeting in Memphis, TN, February 8-11, 2007. Registration forms and other meeting details are available at their website <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2007/>. I look forward to seeing you there.

The recent SEAFWA conference in Norfolk was an excellent meeting; the fisheries technical sessions were among the best I've seen. However, the student/mentor luncheon and other student activities were poorly represented by fisheries students. I was discouraged by the AFS student participation although I can understand the meager turnout in light of the recent student colloquium in Auburn. As the SEAFWA Director's consider programmatic changes to enhance the conference, the Division will be working closely with them to craft a meaningful meeting format that will be valuable for all our members. Hopefully the new format will encourage more student participation. The Division, primarily Past-President Pat Mazik, collaborated with the Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society and the host state to sponsor a special session on invasive species. While there was only modest attendance, the organizers were very pleased with the presentations and discussions.

The recent 136th Annual Meeting in Lake Placid was the second largest meeting in AFS history and the largest in the lower 48 states. The Governing board meeting was very productive. At the Governing Board retreat, we dedicated the day to brainstorming ideas for the AFS to enhance its services to our membership. A host of excellent ideas were discussed, however, the primary charge given to Gus was to expedite completion of the AFS membership directory and improve the website so units can readily access their membership database. The website has been rejuvenated and continues to improve. AFS will now assist units with establishing and maintaining unit listservs at no charge. The Governing

Board approved a new AFS marine and coastal electronic journal. Details will be developed this year to initiate this new electronic access *only* journal. There is interest among the Caribbean states to establish a Caribbean Chapter. The Division EXCOM will discuss our role to facilitate this new Chapter at the upcoming EXCOM meeting in Memphis. The Tennessee Chapter received the 2006 best small unit award and the East Carolina University student sub-unit received the 2006 best student subunit award. Congratulations to both units! I am confident that the Division could have swept the entire best unit awards had we had nominations from every chapter. Dr. Joe Hightower (NCSU) received the prestigious AFS Excellence in Fisheries Education Award for his outstanding contributions to educating our fisheries students. Dr. Tom Kwak (NCSU) was selected by President Jennifer Nielsen to chair the Society's Nominating Committee.

As you can clearly see, the Division hosts an assemblage of the most outstanding fisheries scientists and managers in the world. Please take the time to nominate someone so they can be recognized by their peers for their exceptional contributions to our Society. ***Please note in this newsletter that the awards committee is currently soliciting nominations for all the Division awards.*** Award nominations are due to Bruce Saul by January 5, 2007.

The election results are complete. Please join me in congratulating Cecil Jennings (Vice-President), Dave Coughlan (Secretary/Treasurer) and John Odenkirk (AFS Nominating Committee) on their selections. Also I encourage you to thank each of the candidates for their willingness to serve our Division.

The Division completed its review of our procedures guidelines and By-Laws. The revised By-Laws are published in the newsletter for your review and consideration. Please review them thoroughly; we will consider their adoption at the business meeting in Memphis.

Students should remember that there are scholarship opportunities available through the Division. The Warmwater Streams Technical Committee is soliciting applications for the ***Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement*** award and the Reservoir Technical Committee is soliciting applications for the ***Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship***. Applications for these financial awards are

available on the Division website at www.sdafs.org. AFS Student Membership is still the best deal in the Society. Student membership is only \$19 per year and includes monthly issues of *Fisheries*, electronic access to *InfoBase* and electronic access to **all four** AFS publications.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President this past year. It truly has been a rewarding experience for me. I wish each of you a very joyous Holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in Memphis.

-- Bob Curry, SDAFS President

Southern Division Leadership Workshop

The Division will host an AFS leadership workshop at the annual spring meeting in Memphis, Tennessee on Thursday, February 8. The 2-hour workshop will begin at 5:00 PM immediately following the technical committee meetings. We plan to have pizza and “refreshments” available, however, there is only room for 50 people so be sure and sign up early! Please RSVP Bob Curry at Robert.curry@ncwildlife.org no later than Friday, January 26.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a brief overview and orientation to the AFS and its governance with special emphasis on relationships of local units, committees and the division. We also want to help unit leaders to better understand their responsibilities and identify mechanisms available to help their leadership tenure be productive and enjoyable. While the workshop is specifically designed for incoming officers and committee chairs, it is open to anyone considering a leadership position or simply interested in becoming more involved with the Society.

I hope to see you there!

**The 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater Chapters of the
American Fisheries Society
February 1st – 3rd, 2007**

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
(After January 24th – Please Register On-site)**

Name:					
Affiliation:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Telephone:					
Email:					

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

		Before 24th / On-site	Subtotal
Student Registration	Includes meeting registration, snacks/drinks at breaks, and poster social	\$40 / \$50	
Professional Registration	Includes meeting registration, snacks/drinks at breaks, and poster social	\$65 / \$80	
All Inclusive Registration (single occupancy)	Includes meeting registration, snacks/drinks at breaks, Thursday and Friday evening socials, and room	\$269 Before 24th only	
All Inclusive Registration (double occupancy)*	Includes meeting registration, snacks/drinks at breaks, Thursday and Friday evening socials, and room Please designate roommate _____	\$189 Before 24th only	
Thursday Night Poster Social	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Guest(s) # _____	\$18	
Friday Night Social at Dogfishhead Brewing and Eats	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Guest(s) # _____	\$20 student \$40 professional	
Chapter Dues	Chapter dues have not been included in the registration costs	\$7 - TWC \$5 - MAC	
Total Enclosed			

Please make checks payable to Tidewater Chapter of AFS.

Send completed form with payments to:

**Lori Brown
Delaware State University
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
1200 North DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901
lmbrown@desu.edu**

Meeting questions – contact Dewayne Fox – dfox@desu.edu or (302) 857-6436

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a non-profit organization (501(c) (3)).

80% refunds will be given through January 26th. No refunds will be given after January 26th.

* All Inclusive Registration - double occupancy cost is per person. Please designate roommate on registration form and if possible, send registrations together.