

## Inside this Issue

- **Presidents Corner**
- **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**
- **EXCOM Minutes, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**
- **Scholarship & Awards Committee**
- **2007 Membership Listing**
- **Communications Committee**
- **Student Subunit News**
- **News from the States**
- **Announcements**

## 2007 Tidewater AFS EXCOM and Ex-Officio Members

- **President** – Dewayne Fox, Phone 302-857-6436; email [dfox@desu.edu](mailto:dfox@desu.edu)
- **President-Elect** – John Musick, Phone 804-684-7317; email [jmusick@vims.edu](mailto:jmusick@vims.edu).
- **Past President** – Anthony Overton, Phone 252-328-4121; email [Overtona@ecu.edu](mailto:Overtona@ecu.edu)
- **Secretary/Treasurer** – Stephanie McInerny, Phone 252-422-5717; email [Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov)
- **MD Member-at-Large** – Bob Murphy, Phone 410-935-099; email [murphy@ecosystemsolutions.org](mailto:murphy@ecosystemsolutions.org)
- **VA Member-at-Large** – Debra Parthree, Phone 804-684-7891; email [parthree@vims.edu](mailto:parthree@vims.edu)
- **NC Member-at-Large** – Fred Sharf. Phone (910)962-7796; email [scharff@uncw.edu](mailto:scharff@uncw.edu)
- **Delaware Representatives** –Kevin Neves, Phone 401-206-9811; email [URIMarineBio@yahoo.com](mailto:URIMarineBio@yahoo.com); and Brian Boutin, email [boutin@udel.edu](mailto:boutin@udel.edu)
- **ECU Student Subunit** – Becky Deehr, Phone 252-328-9405; email [RAD0708@ecu.edu](mailto:RAD0708@ecu.edu).
- **MD Student Subunit** – Ryan Woodland, Phone 410-326-7216; email [woodland@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:woodland@cbl.umces.edu)
- **UNC-W** – Will Smith, Phone (910)962-3407; email [wes2316@uncw.edu](mailto:wes2316@uncw.edu)
- **Duke University** – Elia Herman, Phone 808-391-4534; email [Elia.Herman@duke.edu](mailto:Elia.Herman@duke.edu).
- **Newsletter Co-Editors** – R. Rulifson and J. Morris
  - RR Phone 252-328-9400; [rulifsonr@ecu.edu](mailto:rulifsonr@ecu.edu).
  - JM Phone 252-728-3595 x639; [james.morris@noaa.gov](mailto:james.morris@noaa.gov).
- **Historian/Listserv Administrator** – Roger Rulifson.
- **Webmaster** – James Morris.

## President's Corner



The Tidewater Chapter held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter from February 1-3, 2007 in Lewes, DE, at the University of Delaware's John Penrose Virden Residence and Conference Center. Overall the meeting was

quite a success drawing a total of 100 participants from North Carolina to New York. The meeting started on Thursday evening with a catered poster social comprised of 26 posters. During the poster social, faculty and students gathered informally over an open buffet and bar. Later in the evening, attendees retired to the Virden Center's Hospitality Suite, where discussions continued over Dogfish Head Craft Beers provided by the brewery in support of the meeting. Dogfish Head is a Delaware owned and operated craft brewery that is always eager to support local organizations (especially when fish are involved). Dr. Steven Murawski, Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries Service got things started off with the plenary presentation focused on the current status of US fisheries and the emerging role of ecosystem based management at NMFS. This topic provided a great start to the joint meeting and Dr. Murawski's presence provided a great opportunity for casual interactions with students. A total of 27 oral presentations were over the course of the next day and a half. Fortunately, the meeting was not "all work and no play." On Friday evening, a social was held at Dogfish Head Brewing & Eats, the brewery's restaurant. The evening social proved to be a great success with 99 folks attending. In addition to an open bar and wonderful buffet, the Brew Pub offered the opportunity for students and professionals from diverse

backgrounds to interact on an informal basis. A live band featuring an incredible harmonica player and singer entertained the festive crowd until midnight, and beyond..... In a show of true dedication, the meeting was well attended on Saturday AM following Friday evenings social event. It proves that one can successfully mix work and play.

In keeping with the tradition of the Tidewater Chapter, the presentations were dominated by students which represented 22/26 posters and 17/27 talks. Congratulations to the University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratories' Lisa Kerr and Ryan Woodland who won the best student poster and oral presentation respectively. It is important to note that Ryan Woodland is now the two-time defending champion for best student oral presentation. It is also my understanding that Ryan may be going for a "three peat" next year. This should provide plenty of incentive for others students to knock the reigning champ of his throne.

--Dewayne Fox, Tidewater Chapter President 2007



Anthony Overton and Dewayne Fox engaged in bestowing 2007 presidential honors.



## Secretary/ Treasurer's Report

### Treasurer's Report

Minutes from the recent EXCOM meeting are provided in Appendix A. Finances and billing from the annual meeting are still in progress, therefore, current bank account totals will be reported as soon as financial transactions cease. Previous account totals before the meeting were as follows,

**Checking:** \$ 5022.80  
**Mutual Fund:** \$ 1196.65  
**Total:** \$ 6219.45.

The TWC began investing a portion of its funds into a diversified portfolio consisting of both domestic (55%) and international funds (45%) on March 28, 2006. This investment was for the purpose of gaining money that could be used to fund extras throughout the year, such as student awards, chapter awards, and donations without dipping into the budget for the annual meeting. The initial investment of \$1036.05 has been gradually increasing over the last 10 months, and the current balance as of January 26, 2007 is \$1,196.65 (Figure 1). Overall, our diversified portfolio has produced an earning of 15.5%, outperforming the S&P 500 index by 5.5 and the MSCI EAFE Index by 3.3 percentage points (Figure 2).

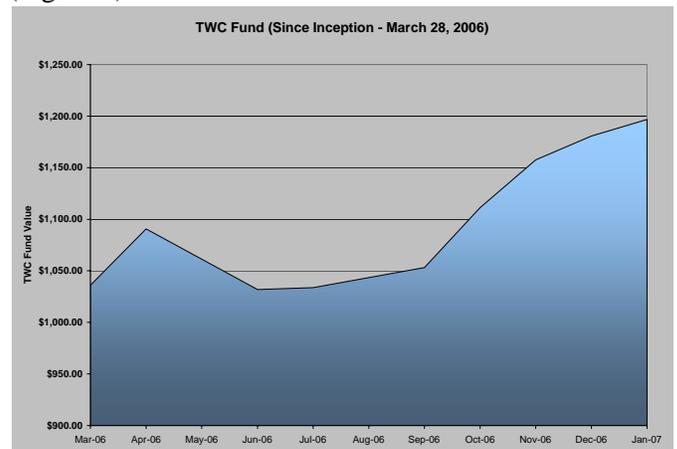


Figure 1. TWC fund value from March 28, 2006 to January 28, 2007.

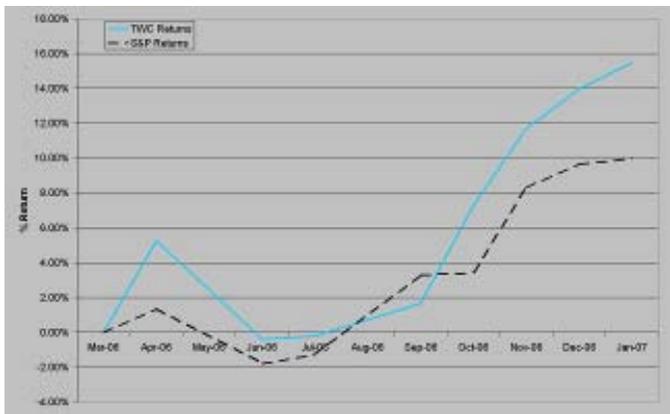


Figure 2. TWC returns compared to the S&P index returns.

In addition to mutual funds as a source of increasing profit within the Tidewater Chapter, the chapter will look into transferring the final checking account balance, after meeting finances come to a close, into a Money Market Account with check writing privileges. Transferring the money into a MMA will increase the amount of interest our money is earning throughout the year. Hopefully, this will increase our interest gained from 1-2% to 5-6%.

## Secretary's Report

### Bylaw Revision

This year the Tidewater Chapter bylaws have been revised and sent to the Parent society for approval. Two revisions were discussed and voted on by the EXCOM and then voted on by the chapter membership at the annual business meeting. The following revisions were as follows:

Revision one – Previously in Section 2, the Chapter membership area stated in the bylaws consisted of the commonwealth of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. The words “but not limited to” were added behind the phrase “consisting of” to allow for inclusion of persons from Delaware and any other person interested in being involved with the Tidewater Chapter regardless of their physical address.

Revision two – An addition was made to Section 2 of the bylaws that included student subunits as part of the Tidewater Chapter. These subunits were listed by name

as suggested by the constitutional consultant of the AFS Parent Society. The subunits are as follows: ECU, UNCW, UMD, UMES, Duke.

Since both bylaw revisions were accepted by the EXCOM and by the membership, these changes were promptly sent to the Parent Society and will be voted on at their midyear EXCOM meeting at the end of March. Results of that vote will be posted on the website as soon as the verdict comes in. Stay Tuned!

--Stephanie McInerny, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer

## **Awards Presented at the Joint Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater Chapters, American Fisheries Society, Lewes, Delaware, February 1-3, 2007**

### **Student Paper Awards**

A total of 21 posters and 17 oral presentations were judged in the student paper competition.

#### POSTERS

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Deana McQuarrie, University of Maryland. Title: *White Perch Bioenergetic Responses to Temperature, Salinity and Dissolved Oxygen*

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Nathan Bachelier, North Carolina State University. Title: *Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Recruitment of Red Drum in North Carolina*

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Marissa G. Brady, Delaware State University. Title: *An Assessment of American Eel (Anguilla rostrata) Dispersal and Prevalence of Parasitism by Anguillicola crassius in the Waters Surrounding the St. Jones River, Delaware*

#### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Ryan J. Woodland, University of Maryland. Title: *Seasonal Structure and Diversity of Mid-Atlantic Nearshore Marine Fish Community*

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Terra Lederhouse, University of Maryland. Title: *Assessing Oyster Reef Habitat Value Through Naked Goby (Gobiosoma bosc) Lipid Production*

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Lisa A. Kerr, University of Maryland. Title: *Bioenergetic Differences Between Juvenile White Perch Morone americana Contingents*

NOTE: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners received \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively.



L to R: Marissa Brady, undergraduate student, Delaware State University; Nathan Batchelor, grad student, NCSU; Deanna McQuarrie, grad student, University of Maryland; Terra Lederhouse, grad student, University of Maryland; Lisa Kerr, grad student, University of Maryland; Ryan Woodland, Grad student, University of Maryland.

### **Other Awards**

At the 2007 meeting, the Tidewater Chapter's Awards and Scholarship Committee recognized four individuals who were nominated for their outstanding accomplishments and their contributions to science, management, and education.

### EXCELLENCE IN FISHERIES EDUCATION AWARD

This 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 Tidewater Chapter meetings. This year's recipient is **Dr. Tom Lankford**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Since his arrival at UNCW in 2000, Tom has demonstrated an unmatched dedication to teaching excellence---at both the undergraduate and graduate levels---in addition to building a strong research program in fisheries ecology. Among the many courses Tom has taught at UNCW are Introductory Biology, Fisheries Ecology, Ichthyology, and graduate-level Marine Biology. Of particular note is his work in reforming and strengthening the Ichthyology

course. In the relatively short time that Tom has been at UNCW, he has become known as one of the best instructors in his Department. His graduate students describe him as approachable, knowledgeable, and always caring about their success. Accompanying the nomination of Tom Lankford for this award were supporting statements from three students at UNCW.

Here's what one student had to say: *Dr. Lankford is a tireless individual whose commitment to the learning process is only surpassed by his commitment to his students. His cheerful, pleasant demeanor coupled with his passion for fisheries motivates all he comes in contact with to surpass their own expectations to achieve accomplishments previously thought impossible. Throughout the years I have known him, his understanding and willingness to sit down and explain in terms you can understand, a subject which seemed totally foreign to you has always impressed me. A graduate student could not ask for a better mentor.*

### CONSERVATION AWARD

This award is given periodically for important contributions in fisheries or habitat conservation and restoration. This year's recipient is **Mike Naylor**, from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mike's work to conserve and restore submerged aquatic vegetation, or SAV, habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed has been tireless and very productive. From a mosaic of over 4,000 old aerial photos of Maryland's shoreline that he begged, borrowed, and bought, Mike developed a complete map of the State that gave a clear picture of SAV distributions prior to their dramatic declines in the late 1960's and then again after the ravaging impacts of Hurricane Agnes in 1972. This mapping exercise led to a new SAV goal for Chesapeake Bay that became the mechanism through which Bay-wide water clarity standards are set and met. Together with two DNR colleagues, Mike started the Bay Grasses in Classes Program in 1999---a successful and innovative educational tool that has taught over 36,000 students in Maryland how to raise and plant SAV. This program has been adopted by Virginia and Alabama. For the past seven years, Mike has chaired the SAV Workgroup in the vast Chesapeake Bay Program-----a time consuming and mostly thankless, but very important leadership position. When an alert landowner called Mike a few years ago to report a "weird plant" growing in a nearby tidal creek, Mike took on yet another daunting challenge: How can DNR develop and

implement a program that will eradicate the non-native water chestnut from those waterways where it had gained a foothold? He recruited an array of eager volunteers, hired some mechanical aquatic vegetation harvesters, and did the job. Water chestnut is almost entirely gone from Maryland.

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

This award is given periodically to a Tidewater Chapter member to recognize their unswerving loyalty, dedication, and service to the Chapter over a long period of time, and for their exceptional commitment to the goals, objectives and programs of the Chapter. This year's recipient is **Dr. Roger Rulifson**, a Chapter member for 21 years who was also one of the founding members. A Professor in the Biology Department at East Carolina University, he is also an active 27 year member of the AFS Parent Society. He has served the Chapter in almost every capacity, including President in 1986. Roger served as Co-Chair of the Program Committee for the 2000 annual meeting held in St. Louis. In 1993, he helped organize one of the Tidewater Chapter's most successful ventures---the Anadromous Alosa Symposium that led to a very nice publication. Roger organized the highly successful East Carolina Student Subunit, and continues to serve as their faculty adviser. In short, Roger Rulifson's service to the Tidewater Chapter defines what this award is all about.

**SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARD**

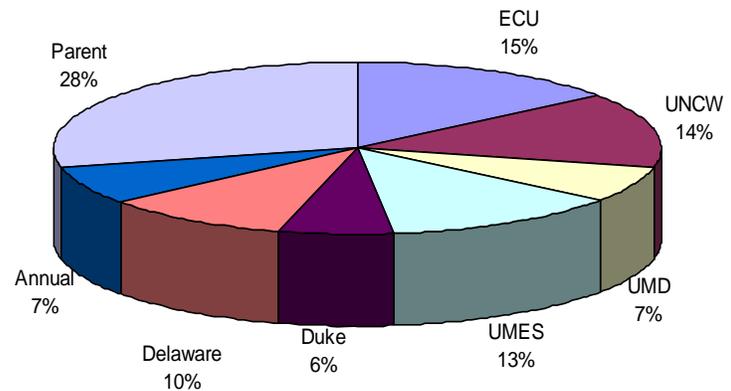
Outgoing Chapter President, Dr. Anthony Overton, presented a Special Presidential Award to **Bob Murphy**, the At Large Member from Maryland. Bob has been active in the Chapter since his graduate student days at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, when he won a student paper award. This Special Presidential Award recognizes Bob's commitment to his elected position within the Chapter, his responsiveness to requests for help from the Chapter's EXCOM, and his willingness to run for a second term.

-- Ron Klauda, Chairman, Awards and Scholarships Committee, email: [rklauda@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:rklauda@dnr.state.md.us)

**Membership for 2007**

Amazingly, as of the spring newsletter the Tidewater Chapter boasts 180 members, our highest membership

roster ever! As a part of that, the Tidewater Chapter is a huge supporter of our future fisheries professionals, as our membership is made up of 64% students. Only 36% of the total 1979 members are fisheries professionals and of those, about 80% register through the Parent Society. In the coming year, let us continue to recruit in the workplace and through email to bolster our professional ranks so that we can continue to support our students in our long-term Tidewater Chapter tradition.



**2007 Membership List by Category and First Name Alphabetical Order**

Parent & Annual Meeting (65)	State	Parent & Annual Meeting	State
Dewayne Fox	DE	Jeff Buckel	NC
Thomas B. Hoff	DE	Jennifer Korth	NC
Tim Targett	DE	Jenny Vander Pluym	NC
Andy Danylchuk	FL	Kerri Miller	NC
John Walter	FL	Kyle Shertzer	NC
Andrea K. Johnson	MD	Michael Street	NC
Ann Barse	MD	Nathan M. Bachelier	NC
Bob Murphy	MD	R. W. Laney	NC
Branson Williams	MD	Robert Herrmann	NC
David Secor	MD	Sara Mirabilio	NC
Edward Houde	MD	Thomas Thompson	NC
Elizabeth North	MD	Warren Mitchell	NC
Erik Zlokovitz	MD	Jon Truebe	NH
Gerald Balmert	MD	John Cooper	NY
H. Ward Slacum	MD	Alan Weaver	VA
James Uphoff	MD	Christopher Ruck	VA
Michael Wilberg	MD	Cynthia Jones	VA
Richard Bohn	MD	David Hewitt	VA
Richard Takacs	MD	Hank Brooks	VA
Robert Aguilar	MD	J. C. Watterson	VA

Ronald J. Klauda	MD	Jason Romine	VA
William Goldsborough	MD	Jessie Thomas	VA
William Van Heukelem	MD	Joe Grist	VA
Andi Stephens	NC	John Musick	VA
Andrew Gross	NC	John Olney	VA
Christine Voss	NC	Jon Lucy	VA
Doug Vaughan	NC	Julia Ellis	VA
Emily Bryant	NC	Justine Woodward	VA
Heidi Alderman	NC	Marcel Montane	VA
Helen Takade	NC	Mary Fabrizio	VA
J. C. Taylor	NC	Richard Kraus	VA
Jason Lanier	NC	Todd Gedamke	VA
James Morris	NC		

Dr. Tom Lankford	Erica Anuszewski
Eric Lehm	Folasade Morvan
Gregg Bodner	Gregory Oliver
Jacob Frady	Habibul Bakt
Joe Facendola	Josh Newhard
Johanna Imhoff	Lonnie Gonsalves
Kyle Rommel	Msano Mandalasi
Martin Benavides	Nicholas Clemons
Melissa Mitchell	Reginald Black
Melissa Dionesotes	Rhea-Marie Ruiz
Michael Waine	Ryan Corbin
Stephanie McInerny	Senorpe Asem-Hiable
Trey Sherard	Sunandan Saha
William Smith	Tedra Booker
	Tsega Gsilassie
	William Gardner

**ECU-AFS (26)**

Andrew Gross  
 Becky Deehr  
 Brandon Hendricks  
 Brett Hartis  
 Cecilia Krahforst  
 Chad Smith  
 Chris Voss  
 Curtis Hodges  
 Dr. Anthony Overton  
 Dr. Donald Holbert  
 Dr. Joseph Luczkovich  
 Dr. Roger Rulifson  
 Eric Fitzpatrick  
 Garry Wright  
 Greg Meyer  
 Heather Anderson  
 James Edwards  
 Jason Clermont

**Delaware Students (18)**

Benjamin J. Ciotti  
 Brian Boutin  
 Clytrice Watson  
 Colette Cairns  
 Danielle Tuzzolino  
 Jason Rager  
 Jon McKenzie  
 Kevin Neves  
 Lori M. Brown  
 Marissa G. Brady  
 Matt Jones  
 Mike Rhode  
 Naeem Willett  
 Pat Erbland  
 Phil Simpson  
 Shanna S. Chambliss  
 Shenay Evans

**Jenny Woodroffe**

Jillian Osborne  
 Katie Kleber  
 Kelly Register  
 Ken Riley  
 Kevin Hart  
 Mark Keusenkothen  
 Nick Jones

**UMD-AFS (12)**

Adam Peer  
 Dave Lowensteiner  
 Deanna McQuarrie  
 Ed Martino  
 Janet Nye  
 Jason Edwards  
 Lisa Kerr  
 Rebecca Schroepfer

**UNCW-AFS (25)**

Adam Branson  
 Alex Starnes  
 Andy Ostrowski  
 Brad Tayloe  
 Brennan Carter  
 Cassie Martin  
 Cheston Peterson  
 Chip Collier  
 Chris Stewart  
 Christina Stewart  
 Dr. Fred Scharf

**UMES-AFS (23)**

Bashiru Balogun  
 Belita Nguluwe  
 Bernice Bediako  
 Danial Cullen  
 Daniel Luers  
 Dr. Eric May  
 Dr. Joseph W. Love

-- Stephanie McInerny, Secretary/Treasurer

**Communications Committee**

**Changes to Tidewater LISTSERV –**

*Please note that the instructions have changed as the address has changed to [TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto: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: [Listserv@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:Listserv@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](mailto:TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU)
- **To unsubscribe** -- E-mail to: [Listserv@Listserv.ecu.edu](mailto:Listserv@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](mailto:Rulifsonr@ecu.edu).

## Student Subunit News



### University of Maryland

By Ryan Woodland

The University of Maryland AFS Student Subunit saw a recent turn-over as new officer elections led to three new appointments. The subunit said farewell as **Lisa Kerr** stepped down from her job as president, a position that she used to organize and lead the subunit through two revitalizing years. **Adam Peer** and **Ryan Woodland** stepped down as subunit Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The new officers are **Ryan Woodland** (President), **Jason Edwards** (Treasurer), and **Deanna McQuarrie** (Secretary). The subunit was well-represented at the recent annual Tidewater Chapter meeting held at Lewes, DE. Six members of the subunit presented oral presentations that encompassed an impressive range of expertise, including dinoflagellate parasitology (**Sean Cooney**), meta-population dynamics and coupled bioenergetics (**Lisa Kerr**), ichthyofaunal community ecology (**Rebecca Wingate** and **Ryan Woodland**), and oyster reef ecology (**Terra Lederhouse** and **Bill Rodney**). We would like to congratulate **Terra Lederhouse**, **Lisa Kerr** and **Ryan Woodland** for taking home the honors of best student oral presentations. Similarly, **Deanna McQuarrie**, the sole member of the subunit presenting a poster (bioenergetics of juvenile white perch), garnered 1<sup>st</sup> place honors in the student poster competition. The UMAFS Student Subunit recently hosted a series of seminars aimed at addressing certain skills and areas that are vital to the success of students during and after graduate school. These seminars were open to both subunit members as well as the University of Maryland environmental science graduate student community at large. The first seminar was held this past January and, with a stellar line-up of accomplished scientists presenting 1-hour talks, focused on skills such as constructing an effective presentation, the peer-review process, and proposal writing. The second seminar in the series occurred in March and was geared towards providing students with information about career choices after graduation. A host of speakers from academia, as well as representatives from NOAA and the Environmental Trust (formerly Environmental Trust Fund) NGO provided descriptions of locating and

landing a position, as well as on-the-job expectations and suggestions for those students interested in pursuing each career avenue.

Upcoming events are currently being organized and we look forward to tackling the logistics of a student-mentor lunch at the 2008 Tidewater conference hosted by VIMS and Tidewater Chapter President-elect Jack Musick.

Ryan Woodland

President, UM-AFS Student Subunit

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory

P.O. Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688

410-326-7216

[woodland@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:woodland@cbl.umces.edu)

### East Carolina University

By Becky Deehr

I think I can speak for all of our ECU-AFS attendees of the joint TWC-MAC annual meeting when I say that we had a great time. Congrats to our own Roger Rulifson



for winning the Meritorious Service Award and to Anthony Overton for wrapping up his year of service as TWC President. Big thanks go to everyone who worked diligently to put on a wonderful conference and associated events. Unfortunately, there aren't many places in NC that sell Dogfish Head beers, so we've had to go without Midas Touch and 120-

Minute IPA... probably just as well as we are all working hard in classes and in the field, right? We also still have conference t-shirts available, so if you "didn't have enough money" with you at the conference, you can order shirts (only \$15 each, including shipping!) through our website ([www.ecu.edu/org/afs](http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs)). Please help us make money to support student travel to future conferences and meetings!

Just a few days after the Lewes meeting, Becky headed down to Memphis, TN for the Southern Division Spring meeting. There was good representation by the North Carolina contingent, but not many from the Tidewater Chapter. We're happy to report that ECU-AFS was recognized as the Outstanding Student Subunit in the Southern Division! This makes it two years in a row for us, an accomplishment we hold with high regard.

In March, we held our annual recruitment event, featuring a guest panel of ECU-AFS grads and free pizza for all who attended. Our average attendance increase by over 100%, and we're looking forward to adding some of those new faces to our membership. In addition, we held officer elections for the 2007-2008 schoolyear. Congratulations to our new leaders: President Jennifer Woodroffe ([JRW0709@ecu.edu](mailto:JRW0709@ecu.edu)), Vice-President Jillian Osborne ([JHO1212@ecu.edu](mailto:JHO1212@ecu.edu)), Secretary Cecilia Krahforst ([CSK1021@ecu.edu](mailto:CSK1021@ecu.edu)), Treasurer Ken Riley ([KLR1011@ecu.edu](mailto:KLR1011@ecu.edu)) and Webmaster/Historian Becky Deehr ([RAD0708@ecu.edu](mailto:RAD0708@ecu.edu)). We also finalized plans for our surf-fishing trip to Emerald Isle the weekend of March 23-25, where the fishing was mediocre, but the weather was fabulous, and the company was more than entertaining!

By the time this goes to press, ECU-AFS will have hosted a special event on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. We were asked by the Co-chairs of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences annual meeting to host an undergraduate social for conference attendees. ECU-AFS was happy to take on the challenge, providing a little light entertainment (and food) in a casual, social atmosphere. Special thanks to Drs. Gerhard Kalmus and Jean-Luc Scemama for giving us this opportunity.

April will prove to be one of the most challenging months for us. Not only is spring in full bloom and the semester is winding down, but we have several key activities coming up. First, we are sponsoring the first ever ECU-AFS "Take a Kid Fishing Day" on lucky Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We're taking 10-15 kids from the local Boys and Girls Club to River Park North for a fun afternoon of free fishing with our members. This is a new venture that we hope will be well-received and possibly become an annual event. On Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, we hope to receive some university awards at the Recognition of Outstanding Leadership and Service ceremony. We have been nominated for the Organization of the Year and the Advisor of the Year Awards. You'll have to check our website to find out the results. On Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll be participating in the annual campus event, "Barefoot on the Mall," where we hope to recruit some new members and make some money to help support travel to next year's conferences and meetings. Then on Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, we'll be hosting a booth at the Grifton Shad Festival ([www.grifton.com/shadfest.html](http://www.grifton.com/shadfest.html)) called "Catch it on the Fly," where we'll have kiddie

pool fishing and fly fishing demonstrations. Come see us in the Town Common and maybe you, too, can win a nifty prize at the fishing pool!

While we won't be graduating too many of our members, we're happy to have a strong and active membership return to ECU-AFS for the 2007-2008 schoolyear. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our new officers if you have any questions or if you'd like to join our mailing list.

Happy Fishing,  
 -- Becky Deehr, ECU-AFS President (for just a little while longer!) [RAD0708@ecu.edu](mailto:RAD0708@ecu.edu), office phone: 252-328-9405



Top: ECU-AFS members at the TWC-MAC joint meeting: Ken Riley, Jillian Osborne, Anthony Overton, Katie Kleber, Nick Jones, Becky Deehr and Chad Smith. Right: Bottom: TWC President Dewayne Fox receives the coveted TWC gavel from outgoing President Anthony Overton.



Top: ECU-AFS members Jason Clermont and Katie Kleber sell conference t-shirts. Bottom: ECU-AFS and friends at the Dogfish Head Brewery social on Friday night. If you think this picture is blurry, then you probably had too many Dogfish Head brews (or maybe it was the photographer)!



TOP L to R: Mark Keusenkothen, Kevin Hart, Jillian Osborne, Nick Jones and Cecilia Krahforst. MIDDLE L to R: Jennifer Woodroffe, Advisor Roger Rulifson, Joe Luczkovich and Katie Kleber. BOTTOM L to R: Jason Clermont, Ken Riley, Brandon Hendricks, Greg Meyer and Becky Deehr.

-- Becky Deehr, ECU-AFS Co-President, 2006-07  
 382 Flanagan Building,  
 Office phone 252-328-9405



Top: Honorary ECU-AFSer Mindi Davis joins Eric Fitzpatrick, Kelly Register, Chad Smith, Jason Clermont and Becky Deehr at Emerald Isle for our first ever surf-fishing weekend. Bottom: Becky and Mindi assemble cane poles for the upcoming "Take a Kid Fishing" day in April.



**Delaware State University and University of Delaware**

By Kevin Neves and Brian Boutin



The Joint Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater Chapters has come and gone and spring has finally arrived in Delaware. With that, it means the start of another busy field season collecting, spawning, and tagging fish at Delaware State University. Once again, the focus will be on Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), and weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*).

Further down the bay, the students in Tim Targett's lab are also gearing up for another field season. They will be getting a new student in June. Aside from that, it's business as usual.

A few items worthy of congratulations should be acknowledged. The first is the oral defense of Pat Erbland on his master's thesis entitled, "A comparison of the macrofaunal communities inhabiting a created oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) reef and oyster aquaculture gear in Indian River Bay, Delaware." He is the first graduate student of Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay, one of the faculty members in the Aquatic Sciences Department. Upon his graduation, Pat plans to work aboard the A.J. Meerwald, a restored Delaware Bay oyster dredgeboat that now serves as a sailing classroom promoting ecological and historical awareness of the Delaware Bay region.

The second is in regards to Damian Brady, who has assisted with writing the Delaware portion of the newsletter. Damian has stepped down after accepting a post-doc position at the University of Delaware. He and his wife Laura also celebrated the birth of their first child, Laila Libby Brady on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Damian will also be defending his dissertation in the near future. We all wish Damian and his wife the best of luck. In light of this, Brian Boutin, another of Dr. Tim Targett's students will be the new University of Delaware representative. His email address is [boutin@udel.edu](mailto:boutin@udel.edu) for those who would like to update their address books.

The third is for Marissa Brady (not related to Damian!). Marissa took third place in the poster presentations at the Joint Meeting this past February. As an undergraduate student working under Dr. Dewayne Fox, she was investigating the presence of *Anguillicola* parasites in American eels in Delaware Bay. We are all very proud of her excellent poster.

As with most field based disciplines, the winter is a time for preparation and recuperation for those in marine sciences. The upcoming months will be sure to keep us Delawareans busy. Much more will be sure to follow in the upcoming newsletters.

-- Kevin Neves (DSU) and Brian Boutin (UD)

## UNC Wilmington

By Will Smith



The UNCW Subunit of AFS has been quite busy over the last few months. Their recent activities include a trash pick-up along the Cape Fear River, a fishing trip, the Tidewater Chapter meeting, and planning a fishing tournament in April. As usual, the Subunit has been meeting every month for a seminar series, where they have

heard from several speakers: Warren Mitchell, Ted Wiligis, James Morris, Dr. Dave Meyer, and Betsy Laban. We look forward to hearing from Nate Bachelor in April.

Several UNCW students attended the recent Tidewater Chapter meeting in Lewes, DE. Six posters were presented, including Melissa Mitchell and Chip Collier's poster, *Discrimination among sympatric kingfishes based on otolith morphometrics*. Melissa was the recipient of the first Undergraduate Travel Award, which will now be offered annually by the UNCW Subunit, for an undergraduate to attend the Tidewater meeting.

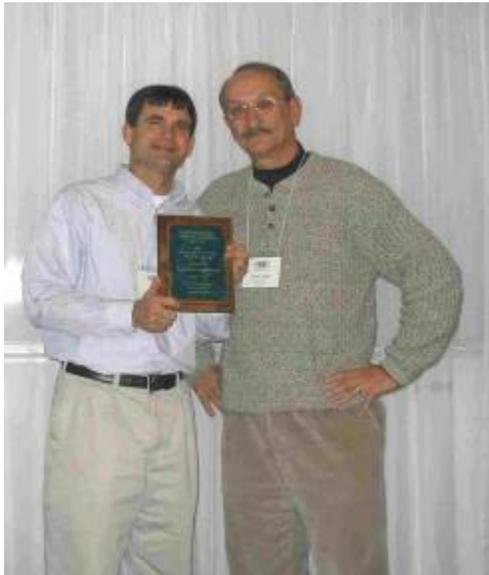


Melissa Mitchell and Chip Collier in Lewes, DE.



UNCW AFSers at the Dogfish Social

In 2004, president-elect, Cassie Martin, graduated in the first class of the new Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont, with a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. While at UVM, she supplemented her studies with a summer program at Duke University Marine Lab, taking courses in Conservation Biology/Policy and Marine Ecology. Although that summer cemented Cassie's desire to work in marine ecosystems, she was unsure where her passion lied. So, even though she was technically able to graduate a semester early, she spent her last five months of undergraduate studies abroad in Thailand, completing ReefCheck analyses on the reefs around Koh Adang and Koh Lipe and living and working in and amongst crab and squid fishermen of the Trang Province.



Congratulations are in order for UNCW professor, Dr. Tom Lankford, who received the Tidewater Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Every spring the UNCW Subunit elects a new executive committee. Nominations for new officers are currently being accepted, and the newly elected officers will be announced at the April meeting. Nominations so far are:

- Cassie Martin *president*
- Hillary Lane *vice-president*
- Jacob Frady *treasurer*
- Cheston Peterson *secretary*
- Eric Lehm *historian*
- Gregg Bodnar *webmaster*



Cassie Martin investigates juvenile red drum mortality.

After graduation, Cassie took a fish technician position with the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation in Cordova, AK, collecting and fertilizing pink salmon eggs. In March of 2005, she was awarded a Biologist I position with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in the Fisheries Dependent Monitoring section. Cassie's main responsibility was that of performing Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Surveys at port and at sea. When not conducting surveys, she joined other sections of the Tequesta Field Lab working on snook, reef fish, and Florida manatees.

Cassie was awarded a graduate research assistantship at UNCW in August of 2006 in Dr. Scharf's Fisheries Ecology Lab. The main focus of her thesis is juvenile

red drum, and more specifically, how the age-0 cohort structure influences recruitment to the fishery. She is investigating otolith microstructure to develop a relationship between early growth and winter survival. If this relationship exists, Cassie will test temperature tolerance as a mechanism for over-winter selective mortality. When not in the lab, you'll find Cassie in the ocean, surfing!

-- Will Smith  
*UNCW-AFS President*

## **Duke University AFS**

By Elia Herman



This year marks the inauguration of Duke University's AFS chapter. To kick things off, we are creating an interactive and educational display for Duke University's Earth Day celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. In the fall, when most of us move to Beaufort, NC we plan to work with fishers and local restaurants to encourage sustainable fishing practices and consumption. The first weekend of October we will be co-sponsoring a food booth at the 2007 North Carolina Seafood Festival in Morehead City with the Duke Chapter of The Coastal Society. Our website is currently under construction, but please check [dukeAFS.googlepages.com](http://dukeAFS.googlepages.com) and our MySpace page at [www.myspace.com/dukeAFS](http://www.myspace.com/dukeAFS) for updates. We can also be reached by email at [dukeAFS@gmail.com](mailto:dukeAFS@gmail.com).

Our new officers are all Masters students at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, pursuing degrees in Coastal Environmental Management.

Aja Peters-Mason (Founder) is from Alexandria, Virginia. Her interests include geospatial analysis for conservation planning and sustainable fisheries

management. She will be graduating from the Nicholas School in May 2007, after which she will begin working as a Conservation Scientist for the Marine Conservation Biology Institute in Bellevue, Washington.

Elia Herman (President) hails from Honolulu, HI. She has worked for ten years studying the behavior and ecology of humpback whales and bottlenose dolphins. She has also written educational articles for National Geographic on a variety of marine conservation issues, including overfishing and bycatch. Her interests include marine mammal behavior, interactions between marine mammals and fisheries, community-based management and sustainable fisheries practices.

Lisa White (Vice President) is a native of Portland, ME. Lisa has worked on piping plover, common, Arctic, least, and roseate tern and Atlantic puffin conservation and restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine. Her career interests include: protected species interactions with fisheries, international development and community-based management.

Suzanne Blake (Secretary) has worked in disaster planning and emergency management for the past five years in Wilmington, NC and has continued to do so while pursuing her Masters degree at Duke. Her interests include coastal hazards management, coastal geology, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem based management. She enjoys scuba diving and surfing, and, of course, observing fish while pursuing these activities.

Stuart Brown (Treasurer) was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A recent graduate of Gettysburg College, he majored in Environmental Studies with a dual concentration in Marine and Freshwater Ecology and Conservation Biology. Stu's career interests include community based management, anadromous fishes, and organic bison farming.

Stacie Koslovsky (Historian) is a native Texan and a 2005 graduate of the University of Texas. Over the past four years, she has gained practical experience as a staff scientist at the Whale Center of New England and as an aerial right-whale observer for Wildlife Trust. She values the importance of the marine environment and looks to combine field research with marine conservation.

Caitlin Luderer (Durham Liason) is from Tiverton, RI. She obtained her bachelors degree in Biology/Marine

Biology from Northeastern University. In her senior year, she had the wonderful opportunity to study marine ecosystems in Massachusetts, California, and Jamaica. Before coming to Duke, Caitlin worked with commercial lobstermen for a population restoration v-notching program. Caitlin's main career interests are marine policy and marine ecotourism.

-- Elia Herman, Duke University AFS President



## Maryland News from Bob Murphy

### Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative

Artificial reefs, for the purpose of enhancing fish populations, have been constructed in Maryland's tidal waters for at least 40 years. During part of this time, the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources maintained a formal artificial reef program, including program staff and funding. However, there has never been a formal plan to coordinate the development of artificial reefs in the Chesapeake Bay, coastal bays, or ocean waters. There are presently 20 such permitted artificial reefs sites in the Chesapeake Bay, nine in the Atlantic Ocean off Maryland, and one in the coastal bays. Interest from Maryland's fishing community to further develop these sites and add new sites continues to grow, particularly as some productive fishing areas and opportunities have been lost.

The Artificial Reef Management Plan for Maryland establishes broad goals, guidelines, and criteria for future development of artificial reef sites. The plan and supporting material reflects state-of-the art scientific understanding of artificial reef development. Specifically, it outlines criteria for program management and coordination, reef site selection, material selection and acquisition, funding, monitoring and evaluation requirements, and other aspects of artificial reef development. Maryland DNR, as the state authority for managing state sub-aqueous bottoms, will coordinate implementation of the plan.



Caption: Rubble from the old Wilson Bridge (I-495) span is placed as artificial reef in the Chesapeake Bay.

### Predicting year-class strength in Chesapeake Bay striped bass

The relationship between parent stock size and the number of new recruits is a fundamental component of stock assessment and management. Unfortunately, statistical modeling of this relationship usually fails to capture much of the variability in recruitment. This dilemma results in considerable uncertainty in optimum management reference points for fishing mortality and population size.

Consistently poor recruitments were central to the early 1980s collapse of Chesapeake Bay striped bass. Managers were unable, or unwilling, to foresee the impending population collapse until it was too late. Management of striped bass was recently in the spotlight again, with the rejection of a proposal to eliminate a quota for Maryland's spring recreational fishery. It is possible that sufficient fish are available to justify a higher quota. But, a precautionary approach may be best since the supply of new recruits to replace fishery catches and natural losses largely depends on uncontrollable environmental conditions. Further, new research suggests that year-class strength is overestimated in strong recruitment years.

The uncertainty in determining the sources of striped bass recruitment variability has motivated one of the most prolific areas of research in Chesapeake Bay. Striped bass recruitment variability has been and remains an active area of research due to both the commercial and recreational importance of this natural resource, and the high variability (>15-fold) in age-0 abundance that characterizes the age structure and abundance trends of the population. Research conducted by Ed Martino, a doctoral student working under the advisement of Ed Houde at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), adds to existing knowledge of how environmental variability

controls striped bass larval-stage survival, and also provides strong evidence for density-dependent juvenile survival. These findings improve understanding of environmental controls on larval survival, but also suggest that recruitment indices overestimate actual numbers reaching the adult population. Martino's dissertation research is part of a larger NSF-funded project titled BITMAX (Biophysical Interactions in an estuarine Turbidity MAXimum), a multidisciplinary project involving physical and biological oceanographers. Prior research has shown a positive relationship between freshwater flow and striped bass larval-stage survival. BITMAX results confirmed and strengthened this relationship and demonstrated higher larval-stage feeding success and growth rate in wet years. The detailed biophysical controls explaining these relationships are still being investigated. But, it is apparent that larvae feed more successfully, grow faster, and experience higher survival in wet years.

The second component of Martino's research revealed a constraint on recruitment strength. Elevated survival at the larval stage results in increased age-0 juvenile abundance as measured by annual recruitment surveys and indices. However, high larval-stage survival does not necessarily lead to exceptionally strong year classes by the time a cohort enters the fishery several years later. The constraint on recruitment is believed to be available juvenile habitat and benthic prey resources. In other words, there is a limit on the number of juvenile fish that ultimately survive to adulthood regardless of the number of surviving larvae. The net result of the entire process is that there are very strong year classes in wet years, although not as strong as previously thought when juvenile survival was not considered. Overall, this research allows more accurate forecasting of adult abundance based on environmental conditions that fish experience during their first year of life. Recruitment forecasting and use of environmental predictors in stock management are most useful when the environment explains a significant portion of recruitment variability, and when recruitment variability explains a significant portion of variability in landings. In this respect, Chesapeake Bay striped bass may be a good model to evaluate the merits of environment-recruitment modeling.

### Striped Bass Update

In the event you haven't heard, the trophy season size limits for Maryland have finally been agreed upon. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will let the

state have keeper stripers from 28 to 35 inches - and those 41 inches or better. There will be many fish that have to go back in the 35- to 41-inch range, in early season possibly close to half of those landed. DNR plans a campaign to alert anglers to proper procedure for releasing those big and vulnerable fish. The trophy season is slated to open April 21.

### NEW Release from Maryland Sea Grant

#### The Blue Crab: *Callinectes sapidus*

Victor S. Kennedy and L. Eugene Cronin, editors

Book, 800 pages, hard cover, 8-1/2" x 11", with hundreds of drawings and photographs (some in color), plus subject and species indexes.

An essential resource for researchers, students, and managers, this book is the first truly comprehensive reference work on the blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*.

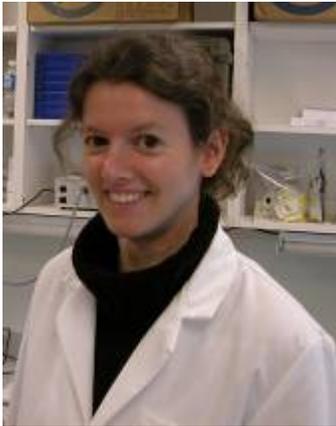
The blue crab is a significant U.S. commercial and recreational species from the Mid-Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico. In Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, the blue crab has become a regional symbol, as well as the Bay's most profitable seafood product. During recent years, controversies have arisen over the status of blue crab stocks and how best to manage them. A clear synthesis of scientific information detailing the blue crab's biology and ecology will greatly augment our baseline knowledge about this important crustacean.



Well-known marine biologists Victor Kennedy and the late Eugene Cronin edited the volume and assembled scientists who are leaders in their respective fields of blue crab study across the United States and beyond to provide this first comprehensive overview of the science surrounding the blue crab. Kennedy was the lead editor of *The Eastern Oyster: Crassostrea virginica*, the most comprehensive compilation of current scientific knowledge about the Eastern oyster. Currently in press, the new book, *The Blue Crab: Callinectes sapidus*, will

include chapters on systematics; anatomy of larval, juvenile, and adult stages; molting and growth; reproduction; diseases and parasites; physiology; ecology of all life history stages; history of blue crab fisheries in the U.S.; and population dynamics. It will be the first treatment of such breadth on any major crab species.

Cost: \$125.00 plus \$6.25 state tax (Maryland residents only) and shipping and handling



### Virginia News from Debra Parthree

#### VIRGINIA BOY WORLD RECORD HOLDER

Seaford, VA—Ken Braddy, age 12, started fishing when he was 7 and since then has landed a handful of citation fish, including two world records. The cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) world records in the junior and small fry divisions both belong to Ken, one for the 78.5-pound fish he caught September 8, 2002 and the other for the 86-pounder he caught June 25, 2006, both in Chesapeake Bay. He caught 43 cobia in 2006 and continues to break records. 2007 has thus far brought Ken three citations: two for weight with rockfish (*Morone saxatilis*) and one for the catch and release of a white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*). In his new 17-foot motorboat, “The Cobia Kid,” Ken looks forward to the summer. Cobia are notoriously hard to catch, even for adult fishermen, but Ken uses a special blend of chum to lure the cobia in and live bait such as eel, spot, and croaker to catch them. (Photo by E. McLean).

Reference: “Boy, 12, has tales to tell” by Natalie Miller-Moore, Daily Press, 15 February 2007.

#### BLUE CRAB DECLINE

Newport News, VA—As the commercial crabbing season starts, concerns are ongoing about the Chesapeake Bay’s declining blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) population. Factors contributing to the decline include small numbers of females, loss of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) as rearing habitat for juveniles,

and an annual harvest rate exceeding the recommended threshold four years in a row prior to 2005. A single female crab produces an average of 2 million larvae. Consequently, the blue crab population is susceptible to extreme fluctuations in a short period of time. Under favorable conditions the blue crab population could recover quickly; however, according to professor Rom Lipcius of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the population is showing no signs of rebounding from its near-historic low.

Reference: “Decline of blue crab in bay causing concern—Population shows no signs of rebounding as crabbing season starts” by the Associated Press, 19 March 2007.

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS DECLINE

Virginia Beach, VA—Once prime habitat for largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s, Back Bay no longer supports a healthy abundance of the popular sport fish. Fisheries Biologist Chad Boyce of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has found virtually no largemouth bass in the Bay’s open waters and only a few individuals in the tributary creeks. The low abundance is attributed to the demise of the invasive plant species Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), as the dense vegetation once provided habitat, forage, and cover for largemouth bass of all sizes. The future of the largemouth population may be dependent upon the recovery of native submerged plant species. According to scientist Liz Noble of Elizabeth City State University, native grasses currently cover 1 percent of Back Bay’s total acreage.

Reference: “Scientists ponder missing fish—Back Bay no longer a largemouth bass hot spot for anglers” by the Associated Press, Sunday, 18 March 2007.

#### SHENANDOAH FISH KILLS

Roanoke, VA—Scientists are refining their search for factors contributing to fish kills that began occurring in the Shenandoah River basin three years ago. Previously, water quality analyses have focused on nutrients from fertilizer runoff such as nitrogen and phosphorus and on fish tissue taken from dead specimens. Based on advice from professors Don Orth of Virginia Tech and Greg Garman of Virginia Commonwealth University, studies will now include focus on specific chemicals used in the

Shenandoah Valley such as heavy metals and pesticides. Thousands of fishes, including smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*), and sucker species (mostly Northern hog sucker, *Hypentelium nigricans*), have been effected.

Reference: "Search refined for cause of Shenandoah fish kills" by the Associated Press, 6 March 2007.

## DAM DEMOLITION FOR ENDANGERED FISH

### Rocky Mount, VA

The Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*), a yellow and black darter growing no longer than six inches and occurring only in the Pigg, Roanoke, and Nottoway Rivers is a federally listed endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's interest to save the logperch and expand its habitat runs deep enough to spend up to \$1.5 million to remove a crumbling 92-year old dam on the Pigg River, outside of Rocky Mount. The 22-foot-high, 100-foot-long hydroelectric dam was built in 1915, but has not been operational since the 1950s. Prospects to develop Virginia's first whitewater park at the demolished dam site has made saving the logperch worth millions in tourism dollars for the state. Given scientific evidence that the development and exploitation would not harm the logperch, county officials estimate that a basic version of the whitewater park could be open by 2008 at a cost of \$600,000 to \$800,000. (Photo by C. Crippen).



Reference: "Dam demolition's dual benefits—Franklin County project would aid rare fish, make whitewater park possible" by Rex Bowman, Richmond Times-Dispatch, [rbowman@timesdispatch.com](mailto:rbowman@timesdispatch.com) (540) 344-3612, 11 March 2007.

## VMRC

Newport News, VA—On February 27, 2007, the Commission approved the recreational flounder size limit at 18.5 inches and possession limit of 5 fish with 2 closed seasons January 1-March 31 and July 23-July 28. The Commission also took emergency action and opened the crab pot season March 17<sup>th</sup> instead of the regular April 1 opening.

## VIRGINIA TROUT HERITAGE DAY

The following areas, lakes, and streams will be stocked and opened at 9:00 AM on April 7 for Virginia Trout Heritage Day: Clinch Mountain, fee area (Washington County), Crooked Creek, fee area (Carroll County), Douthat Lake, fee area (Bath County), Beartree Lake (Washington County), Bark Camp Lake (Scott County), Cripple Creek Ravens Cliff (Wythe County), Jennings Creek (Botetourt County), Lake Witten (Tazewell County), Liberty Lake (Bedford County), Lincolnshire Lake (Tazewell County), Middle Fork Holsten River (Smyth County), Passage Creek (Shenandoah County), the upper Pedlar River (Amherst County), Pigg River (Franklin County), Rose River (Madison County), and Tinker Creek (Roanoke County). For details visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries web site: [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov).

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



### North Carolina News from Fred Scharf

#### North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

There have been several happenings in marine fisheries management in North Carolina recently. First, Dr. Louis Daniel was named as the new Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, replacing the retired Preston Pate. Louis began working with the Division as a biological supervisor in 1995, and for the past nine years, he has served as an executive assistant to the division director working extensively with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, where he helped develop management policy for fisheries in federal waters. Congratulations Louis!

In other news, the Division recently enacted a moratorium on the harvest and sale of river herring taken from joint and coastal fishing waters. This new measure combines with Wildlife Resources Commission regulations that prohibit the take or possession of river herring greater than 6 inches in length from the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment dam of the main course on the rivers. The most recent stock assessment completed in May 2005 outlines increased mortality rates, decreased

recruitment and reduced spawning stock biomass as key indicators of continued decline in the river herring stock in the Albemarle Sound area. At the most recent North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, the Division provided updates on all current Fishery Management Plans, which now have been developed for 11 of the state's most important coastal fisheries, with 3 more on schedule to begin development in 2008.

2007 marks the first year of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License in North Carolina. All anglers fishing in coastal waters were required to possess a fishing license beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. As of March 22, 2007, the Division had already sold over 48,000 licenses since the beginning of the year, not including the over 250,000 lifetime licenses sold prior to 2006 that included coastal fishing privileges. Interestingly, North Carolina coastal fishing licenses were purchased online by anglers from states as far away as Alaska and by anglers from several other countries, including Canada, Italy, Japan, and the UK. It's clear that the angling opportunities provided by North Carolina's coastal waters have global appeal. The license will give fishery managers in the state a more accurate picture of the numbers and demographics of recreational anglers as well as fishing pressure generated by this sector. The funds generated will be used in a variety of ways to improve angling opportunities along the coast.

### **North Carolina Sea Grant**

**Fisheries Forum highlights recent collaborative fisheries research.** The Fisheries Forum, held March 20 at the New Bern Convention Center, and was attended by several participants from recreational and commercial fisheries throughout the state, fishery researchers and fishery managers. The forum featured presentations from researchers who have recently received support through the NC Fishery Resource Grant (FRG) program and the NC Blue Crab Research Program (BCRP). These programs encourage partnerships between researchers and fishery participants to develop innovative proposals that will improve, protect and restore North Carolina's marine fishery resources. Both programs are funded by the NC General Assembly and are administered by NC Sea Grant. The event was co-hosted by NC Sea Grant and the NC Marine Fisheries Commission and included eight research presentations. Topics for FRG research included two presentations from Tidewater Chapter members: Dr. Fred Scharf (UNCW) gave a presentation on recruitment of red drum

in North Carolina estuaries and Dr. Anthony Overton (ECU) provided an evaluation of the state's yellow perch fishery. A presentation on new fishing gear configurations was also featured. Blue crab research presentations included testing the efficiency of varying colored crab pots, a study on the production of multiple clutches of eggs by female crabs, and seasonal patterns of blue crab post-larval movements. The results of a state wide cull-ring study were presented by Tidewater Chapter member Paul Rudershausen (NCSU). In addition to the research presentations, information was presented on the newly implemented Coastal Recreational Fishing License, as well as an overview on the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan implementation.

-- Fred Scharf, NC Member At-Large

On October 26, 2006, Chad Coley and Bob Graham boat electrofished the Roanoke River near the city of Roanoke Rapids to collect eels for *Anguillacola crassus* examination. In addition to the eels, we were surprised to encounter two flounder, 390 and 397 mm! Although we did not make positive IDs, they are shown in the attached jpg, and were returned to the river in good shape. In the past several "marine" species have been collected from the Roanoke River between Scotland Neck and Roanoke Rapids, including Atlantic needlefish, striped mullet, and Southern flounder. However, we found it unusual to collect two fairly good sized flounder in October over 130 miles upstream from the western edge of Albemarle Sound. Another unusual catch for that day was a 694 mm silver eel. It's shown in one of the attached images bracketed by two yellow eels of similar size, and next to one yellow eel in the close-up to better show the difference in eye diameter and coloration. This was our first documentation of a silver eel from the Roanoke. Finding an American eel in the silver phase, ready to return to sea to spawn, helps Dominion Power with its continued efforts to investigate the patterns of eel movements in the Roanoke River and to eventually provide upstream passage for American eels.

--Bob Graham  
Environmental Biology  
4111 Castlewood Road  
Richmond, VA 23234  
bob.graham@dom.com  
Pager 7044  
804 271-5377



First documented silver American eel (center) collected near the Fall Line of the Roanoke River and below (center). Photos by Bob Graham.



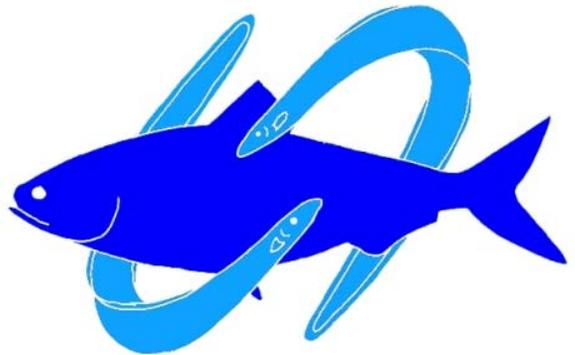
Chad Coley and Bob Graham hold two flounder of nearly 400 mm TL caught 130 miles upstream in the Roanoke River near the Fall Line.



Former TWC president Chris Batsavage displays a fine hickory shad caught from the Neuse River in February of this year. This is remind us all to get out there and mix a little fun with work during the hectic spring season. (Photo by Tina Moore).

## Announcements

### *Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment*



June 17-24, 2007, Halifax, Nova Scotia

[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.

Presenters have been selected from Scandinavia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, France, Iraq, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Puerto Rico and USA. These presenters, along with the invited speakers, will offer a worldwide view of diadromy. We have scheduled two poster sessions each with full socials to accommodate over 60 poster presentations. Species of interest are:

---

char (Arctic, brook)  
ayu  
cisco  
coregonids  
whitefish  
Galaxias  
gobies  
herring  
kutum  
lamprey (Pacific, sea)

smelt (rainbow)
salmon (Atlantic, Chinook, coho, masu, Pacific)
sculpins (various)
shad (alewife, American, blueback herring, hickory, river herring, sbour, hilsa, tropical)
striped bass
sturgeon (Atlantic, shortnose)
trout (brook, brown, bull, steelhead)
white perch
whitebait (inanga)
eel (American, European, Japanese)

We have two great excursions to several areas beyond Halifax. Please visit the website, <http://www.anacat.ca> for updates on the program, registration, and accommodations. We expect a large and vigorous crowd so if you decide to attend please register as soon as you can.

**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).

-- Roger Rulifson

**4<sup>th</sup> Reservoir Symposium**  
*Balancing Fisheries Management and Water  
Uses for Impounded River Systems*  
**June 6-9, 2007**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**



Water allocation is one of the leading issues facing fisheries today, and fisheries managers are increasingly required to interact with other professionals including hydrologists, economists, and industry representatives in water conflicts. This symposium will address the challenges of managing reservoir fisheries and habitat in the context of competing water uses. Approximately fifty speakers, representing various state and federal agencies, universities, and private organizations, have been assembled from across the United States -and globally- to present issues related to the symposium's theme, "Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems." In addition to invited and contributed papers, a poster session and social will also be held to further discussion of these issues.

Collectively, the symposium and book that follows will provide a valuable resource for reservoir fisheries managers, anglers, and professionals in fields related to water allocation.

For a tentative program and other information about the symposium, including registration and hotel details, visit the symposium's home page at:

[www.sdafs.org/reservoir/symposium](http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/symposium).

***See you in Atlanta!***

For more information, contact Vic DiCenzo at

[vic.dicenzo@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:vic.dicenzo@dgif.virginia.gov).



**FINAL  
Interest**

**Call for**

**Editor**

**New AFS Open Access Electronic  
Journal in  
Marine and Coastal Fisheries**

In September of 2006, the AFS Governing Board charged the Publications Oversight Committee (POC) with developing a new open access electronic journal devoted to the science and management of marine and coastal fish, fisheries, and fish habitat. At this time, we are seeking expressions of interest from those individuals who would like to serve as the Editor for this exciting new initiative. Candidates should have extensive editorial experience and be willing to embrace the concept of having an open access electronic journal. The Editor would work with the POC and AFS staff (as well as relevant sections) to help shape the scope, format, editorial policy, editorial board, etc. needed to implement this journal. The Editor must be a skilled moderator as electronic journals provide the opportunity to engage in lively, current, and transparent debate regarding controversial topics. The Editor must be a team builder willing to work in a collaborative environment. In addition, the Editor should be well known within the marine and coastal fisheries community and should have broad interdisciplinary training/experience to enable him or her to be cognizant of emerging trends and capitalize on them to develop thematic issues. This is a volunteer position but would include a modest stipend as well as travel support to attend the AFS Annual Meeting. In the first instance, interested parties should contact Steven Cooke (Chair of the POC) for further information prior to April 15 2007.

Steven J. Cooke  
POC Chair  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada  
Tel. (Daytime) 613 520 2600 X 2143; Tel. (Evenings)  
613 719 7787  
Email: [Steven.Cooke@carleton.ca](mailto:Steven.Cooke@carleton.ca)

## **Appendix A.**

### **February 2007 Tidewater Chapter EXCOM Meeting Minutes**

President Anthony Overton called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm on Friday, February 1, 2007 with a welcome and introductions. Attendees were Anthony Overton, Dewayne Fox, Stephanie McNerny, Bob Murphy, Mary Fabrizio, Hank Brooks, Lisa Kerr, Ryan Woodland, John Cooper, Ron Klauda, Fred Scharf, Will Smith, Jack Musick, and Dave Secor.

#### **2007 Annual Meeting Report – Dewayne Fox:**

Dewayne Fox commented that 27 oral presentations and 26 poster presentations were submitted this year. He mentioned that sponsors and discounts helped provide discounted prices for the Friday night social and these extras funds made providing a bus available for transportation to and from Dogfish Head Brewery.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Stephanie McNerny:**

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Stephanie McNerny. Current account totals were given in treasurer's report (pg 2).

A summary of the TWC mutual fund portfolio was provided showing a diversified portfolio. A list of the mutual funds and a pie chart were provided to show allocation of funds. A plot of the Tidewater portfolio value across time since investment was also provided.

Also mentioned by Stephanie was the idea that once all transactions from the annual meeting were finished, checking account money would be moved to a Money Market Account with check writing privileges to increase the amount of interest our money is earning throughout the year.

\*\* More information on the above items can be found in the Treasurer's report of the Newsletter

Jack Musick mentioned that Stephanie should make sure that her name is on the signature card for the mutual funds since she is not the original to open the accounts. This is to ensure that the Chapter will get its money if something should happen to the prior secretary.

Conversation was exchanged about the security of Tidewater funds in mutual fund investments and the stability of the stock market.

It was agreed that Stephanie would prepare a Treasurer's report to send to the EXCOM and the report would be accepted then.

As Secretary, Stephanie reported that after the annual meeting, a current list of members and correct contact information would be drafted to help get the listserv as accurate and up to date as.

Stephanie also mentioned that she is still trying to get non-profit status in NC to get our money back from the Atlantic Beach meeting. She had talked to several people at the NC Dept of Revenue and determined that our application and letter needs to be perfect due to some skepticism from the Dept of Revenue people.

Stephanie stated that she will work on getting a letter together and send it out to the EXCOM for ideas. Anthony offered some help.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Awards and Scholarship Committee:**

Ron Klauda commented on the winners of the special awards to be given at the business meeting and thanked everyone for their candidate nominations. Ron also mentioned the total price of the awards and thought that it was reasonable and worth spending to give the award winners proper recognition.

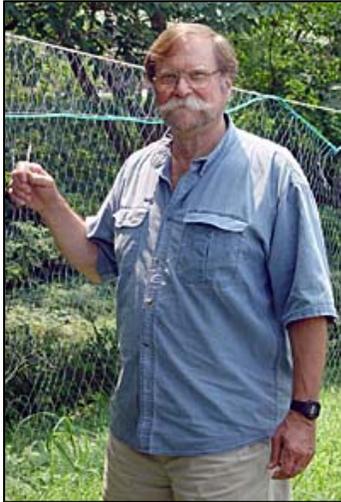
##### **Membership Committee:**

Hank Brooks reported that he and Stephanie McNerny had conversed about ways to increase membership such as another membership drive, sending reminders through recorded contact information, and updating the listserv to use as a way to contact old members for membership renewal.

##### **Nominating Committee:**

Hank Brooks announced the winners of the officer elections for 2007.

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



Hank and Jack Musick commented that those students not involved in subunits should pay to be members if they wish to compete for best poster and oral presentation. There was a consensus on this idea among the other EXCOM members.

Fred Scharf volunteered to be President-elect for 2008 and suggested hosting the 2009 meeting in Wilmington, NC.

#### Communications and Webpage:

Anthony stated that for the time being Roger Rulifson has passed newsletter privileges to himself and James Morris.

Roger Rulifson and James Morris were not present to comment further on newsletter or webpage topics.

Bob Murphy suggested that a Delaware section should be added to the newsletter just as NC, VA, and MD have presented from their members at large.

#### Member at Large Reports:

##### Maryland – Bob Murphy:

Bob reported that the Maryland member at large contact area included Washington DC as well. Bob mentioned that MD Department of Natural Resources consistently participates in providing information about goings on in the state and that he is trying to get the NOAA Chesapeake Bay office in Annapolis and other federal

agencies to participate more. He also mentioned having a Delaware member at large in the future since Delaware is becoming very involved with the TWC and that he would be glad to fill the role until an officer becomes elected for the position.

##### Virginia and North Carolina:

Virginia and North Carolina members at large were not present for the meeting.

##### Subunit Reports:

##### University of Maryland:

Lisa Kerr reported that new officers are in place for UMD-AFS. These officers consist of Ryan Woodland as president, Deanna McQuarrie as secretary and Jason Edwards as treasurer. The UMD subunit will be holding their “Bring your own species” BBQ again this year which seemed to be a hit last year. The subunit is also currently organizing their fall seminar schedule. Lisa also mentioned the subunit would like to work on getting a student/mentor lunch organized for the next annual meeting.

##### East Carolina University:

No student representative for ECU was present.

##### University of North Carolina Wilmington:

Subunit President Will Smith reported that in November 2006, the UNCW subunit was officially accepted by the Parent Society. The subunit has been continuing their monthly seminar series and in the past year has held a fishing trip and been involved in a river clean up. Will also mentioned that UNCW SGA provided funding to the subunit that was used as an student travel award, which allowed Melissa Mitchell, a UNCW undergraduate, to attend the annual meeting.

##### University of Maryland Eastern Shore:

No student representative for UMES was present.

##### Duke University Subunit:

No student representative for Duke was present.

##### Other discussion:

Jack Musick asked about ways to increase diversity within the Chapter and there was general discussion about who to contact and where to refocus (smaller universities, etc.) to increase minority participation within the Tidewater Chapter.

**Ongoing Business:**

**Bylaw Amendments:**

Two amendments to the existing bylaws were discussed. Each amendment was discussed and voted on separately. Amendments dealt with membership area and student subunits membership.

Jack Musick moved to accept Amendment 1. Fred Scharf seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Hank Brooks moved to accept Amendment 2. Stephanie McNerny seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Since both bylaw amendments were accepted by the EXCOM, these changes will be presented to and voted on by the chapter members at the business meeting on Saturday, February 2, 2007.

\*\* More information on the above items can be found in the Secretary's report of the Newsletter

**Procedural Manual for EXCOM Members:**

Stephanie McNerny presented the updated version of the procedural manual for EXCOM members which included up to date information for contacts throughout the TWC membership area for use by members at large. Thanks were given to those members at large that helped with the collection of contact info. The updated procedural manual also had a complete list of annual meeting locations, dates, and their coinciding presidents.

Ron Klauda stated that the Awards and Scholarship Committee for which he is Chairman is not listed in the bylaws or in the procedural manual as a committee. He suggested adding this committee to the bylaws since it has been long standing. Jack Musick commented on the difference between Adhoc and Standing committees and suggested that the Awards and Scholarship committee is

liable to change and to put it in the procedural manual which requires less effort to change officially.

Stephanie McNerny motioned to add the Awards and Scholarship committee as an Adhoc committee in the procedural manual. Bob Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

**New Business:**

No new business.

**2008 Meeting – Jack Musick:**

Hank Brooks and Jack Musick mentioned that they have been talking about venues. They will be shooting for an attendance of about 90 people.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was motioned to be adjourned by almost everyone at 6:50 pm.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
--Stephanie McNerny, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer