

# Tidewater Press

Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 22 Issue 4

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## President's Corner



Well, the time for our next Tidewater Chapter annual meeting is fast approaching. To me, this is really what the Tidewater Chapter is all about. The 2008 annual meeting will be hosted by Dr. Jack Musick and the fine folks at VIMS. Jack has done a great job of

holding the meeting costs down and making it a student friendly event. Please make sure to book your accommodations early as they will certainly fill up. It is my sincere hope that you will all be able to attend this meeting. The meeting site is in the middle of the Tidewater Chapter distribution so this will help cut down on the drives for those at both ends of the range. Our Chapter's success greatly depends on our participation in these annual meetings. Not only are they a source of continued funding for the Tidewater Chapter but they provide a casual atmosphere where everyone can get together and discuss their findings from the previous year. With the annual meeting announcement comes the call for officer elections. If you are at all interested in seeing how the Tidewater Chapter works and or would like to give back to the chapter I would strongly encourage you to volunteer for one of the open positions.

This will be my final official contribution as the 2007 Tidewater Chapter President. Looking back I will say that it has certainly been a learning experience. The process of planning the annual meeting and pulling it off without any major catastrophe was really the highlight of my year. One thing I have learned is that you really need to have a good support network around you to pull something off like this. A simple call or email was often all it took to get the help needed from folks in the Tidewater Chapter. Thanks again for all your assistance over the last year. Additionally, thanks very much for allowing me to serve you this past year. I hope to see you down in Yorktown, VA in early March. Regards,

Dewayne Fox, Tidewater Chapter President 2007

## 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** – Jennifer Woodroffe, Phone 252-328-9407; email [JRW0709@ecu.edu](mailto:JRW0709@ecu.edu).
- **MD Student Subunit** – Ryan Woodland, Phone 410-326-7216; email [woodland@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:woodland@cbl.umces.edu)
- **UNC-W** – Cassie Martin, Phone 910-398-2272email [crm7295@uncw.edu](mailto:crm7295@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
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  - JM Phone 252-728-3595 x639; [james.morris@noaa.gov](mailto:james.morris@noaa.gov).
- **Historian/Listserv Administrator** – Roger Rulifson.
- **Webmaster** – James Morris.



## Secretary/ Treasurer's Report

Within the past year, the Tidewater Chapter has greatly increased its membership to 181 documented members. In the fall newsletter of 2006, I reported that the Chapter had just broke 100 members, so in 2007 our membership has nearly doubled! Great job everyone!! This increase is in majority due to our student members and their excellent efforts to introduce 5 official student subunits into the TWC including the Delaware and Virginia folks who are currently active members but not yet subunits. Official student subunits are as follows:

- East Carolina University
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- University of Maryland
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Duke University

We look forward to even more members in 2008 in addition to one or two more student subunits. If you have any questions about TWC membership, please don't hesitate to contact me at 252-422-5717 or at [Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@noaa.gov).

### Treasurer's Report:

Checking:       \$ 4491.15

Mutual Fund:   \$ 1232.56

Total:           \$ 5723.71

### October 2007 Tidewater Chapter EXCOM Meeting Minutes

President Dewayne Fox called the meeting to order at around 2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 with a welcome and introductions. Attendees were Dewayne Fox, Anthony Overton, Stephanie McInerny, Jennifer Woodroffe, Bob Murphy, Ryan Woodland, Debra Parthree, Fred Scharf, Jack Musick, Brian Boutin, Kevin Neves, and James Morris.

### 2008 Annual Meeting Report – Jack Musick:

Jack Musick gave an update on the progress of the annual meeting organization to be held in Virginia in early March. The meeting will be held at VIMS from Thursday, March 6 to Saturday, March 8. A reception and poster session will be held on Thursday evening, Friday will consist of oral presentations followed by an evening social, and the meeting will be concluded on Saturday around noon after a morning wrap-up of oral presentations. A block of rooms for the meeting have been reserved at the Duke of York hotel in Yorktown, VA.

While the annual meeting was being discussed, there was open discussion among the group regarding staying above operating cost after the meeting and hidden costs that prior TWC presidents-elect encountered during their annual meeting preparations.

Anthony Overton also mentioned the idea of holding a Phantom Ball as a fundraiser at the meeting.

In addition, the issue of accepting credit cards for meeting registration for the 2008 meeting was questioned.

### Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Stephanie McInerny:

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Stephanie McInerny. Current account totals for the Tidewater Chapter were:

Checking:       \$ 4491.15

Mutual Fund:   \$ 1257.70

Total:           \$ 5748.85.

A progress report of the TWC mutual fund was provided showing an average 17% increase in the fund from inception. This increase percentage is much larger than our previous 2% interest we were earning while the money sat in a savings account.

### Committee Reports:

#### Awards and Scholarship Committee:

Ron Klauda was not present to comment on awards and scholarships.

#### Membership Committee:

The collection of membership dues from subunits and students was discussed. Students should be encouraged to join the Parent Society as well as Tidewater. The issue of student dues will be discussed at the 2008 annual meeting EXCOM meeting and hopefully a decision will be announced at the business meeting.

#### Nominating Committee:

Dewayne volunteered Lori Brown and himself to assist Jack with the annual meeting preparations.

It was confirmed that Fred Scharf will agree to run for 2008 President of the Tidewater Chapter.

#### Communications and Webpage:

The webpage has been pretty dormant and may need some work to make it up to date. James will be trying to get last year's annual meeting presentations on the website along with digital recordings.

James is looking to hand over the webpage to someone, if interested.

#### Member at Large Reports:

Bob Murphy (MD), Debra Parthree (VA), and Fred Scharf (NC) all mentioned that they are working to recruit members from local federal and state organizations. Bob requested a copy of the current membership list to be sent to the At-Large members so they had a good jumping off point in their endeavors.

Brian Boutin and Kevin Neves mentioned that University of Delaware, Delaware State University, and Delaware Environment and Natural Resources had lots of participation and that there was not much room for more recruitment in Northern Delaware.

#### Subunit Reports:

##### University of Maryland:

Ryan Woodland reported that their current membership consists of 12 students. Several students presented at the Parent Society meeting in CA, as well as at the Diadromous Fish Symposium and at the ERF meeting. The Chesapeake Biological lab had an open house where students from the subunit came and gave presentations. Their subunit has been educating kids in fisheries and

marine biology by taking some seining trips with local schools. In addition Ryan mentioned that they are putting together more ideas about the student mentor lunch at the upcoming TWC annual meeting and hope to have representation of all types of job markets (private, state, federal). They are also trying to recruit students from satellite schools in the area as well as faculty to become Tidewater members.

##### East Carolina University:

Jennifer Woodroffe reported their current subunit membership was around 22 members. Five students attended the Parent Society meeting in San Fran and 2 attended the ERF meeting. Jennifer also mentioned that the subunit participated in a creek clean up.

##### University of North Carolina Wilmington:

Fred Scharf reported for Cassie Martin about the UNCW subunit. He stated that their membership was around 25 people with 8 grad students and 7 undergrad students at the last meeting. UNCW had several students also attend the 07' Parent Society annual meeting. Their subunit has hosted a number of guest speakers, done outreach with local fishing clubs, and participated in other community service in the Wilmington area. Members of the subunit also volunteered to help at the Wrightsville Beach surf challenge.

##### University of Maryland Eastern Shore:

No student representative for UMES was present.

##### Duke University Subunit:

No student representative for Duke was present.

#### EXCOM Officers Guide:

This guide was put together by James Morris with help from Stephanie McNerny to provide a training guide to officers. It is organized as a time line of duties for officer's throughout the year and should assist new officers when starting a term.

It was decided unanimously that the Officers Guide should be looked at in further detail and a vote to adopt this guide as a framework for future officers will take place at the 08' Tidewater Chapter annual meeting.

### New Business:

Stephanie brought up the issue that there are several tax-exempt numbers floating around associated with the TWC and that Dewayne and Jack should be aware of the correct ones. Stephanie will email Dewayne and Jack the correct numbers.

### Adjourn:

The meeting was motioned to be adjourned at around 4:00 pm. Meeting Adjourned.

--Stephanie McInerny, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer

## **22<sup>nd</sup> Tidewater Chapter Meeting, VIMS, Gloucester, VA, March 8-10, 2008**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter will be held on the beautiful Virginia Institute of Marine Science campus from March 6-8, 2008. A poster session, with heavy finger-foods, and beer will take place Thursday evening at the VIMS campus. Friday's events will consist of oral presentations during the day followed by a buffet with beer and wine at the Freight Shed in historic Yorktown. The meeting will conclude with Saturday morning presentations. Rooms have been reserved at the Duke of York in Yorktown.

Registration is now open for the 2008 Tidewater AFS Meeting!!! Meeting, hotel, and registration information can be found at our website: <http://www2.vims.edu/fisheries/afs/index.html>

At this time we would also like to call for papers. Abstract submission is open and a link to it can be found at the above website. Abstracts will be accepted until **January 31st** and must be limited to 300 words or less. Please be prepared to submit your final abstract when you register for the meeting.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the VIMS campus in March.

Pat McGrath

Patrick McGrath  
Graduate Student  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Gloucester Point, VA 23072

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[patm@vims.edu](mailto:patm@vims.edu)

<http://www2.vims.edu/fisheries/afs/index.html>



The Duke of York Motel in Yorktown.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Tidewater Chapter Nominating Committee has nominations for the 2008 slate of officers, including President, Secretary/Treasurer, and the Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina Members at Large. Nominees must be members of the American Fisheries Society and the Tidewater Chapter. If you wish to nominate someone (including yourself) please contact Anthony Overton ([overtona@ecu.edu](mailto:overtona@ecu.edu)) at 252-328-4121.

The elected 2008 officers will be installed during the Tidewater Chapter Business meeting Friday March 7, 2008 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester, Virginia

Candidates are:

- President-Elect– Fred Scharf (UNC-Wilmington)
- Secretary/Treasurer –Stephanie McInerny (NOAA)
- Maryland At-Large Member –Bob Murphy (private, incumbent)
- North Carolina –Paul Rudershausen (NSCU-CMAST)
- Virginia At-Large Member –Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

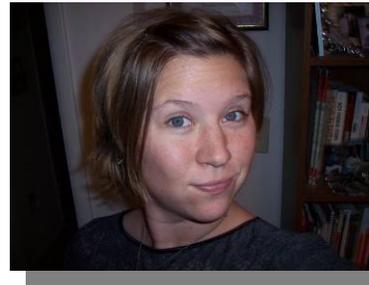
## Biographies of Nominated Members



### **Fred Scharf – nominee for President**

Fred received a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Marine Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1994, where he started his fisheries career helping with a bluefish project in the Hudson River. He then moved on to the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for graduate school and received his MS degree in 1997, focusing his research on predator-prey relationships of marine fishes off the northeast US coast. After finishing his MS, Fred took a job as a fisheries biologist for the Coastal Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife and spent a year working on feeding habits and juvenile ecology of red drum along the Texas coast. He returned to UMass, Amherst in 1998 for a PhD and conducted most of his dissertation research at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory in Sandy Hook, NJ, which is part of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center. His PhD work focused on size-dependent behavioral interactions between piscivorous fishes and schooling forage fishes. Beginning in 2001, Fred started a National Research Council postdoctoral fellowship at the Howard Laboratory examining the role of structured benthic habitat in determining mortality of juvenile marine fishes. Since January of 2003, he has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, where he teaches zoology, fisheries biology, population ecology, and biostatistics. His current research projects include an examination of recruitment processes in age-0 juvenile red drum, estimation of fishing mortality rates in southern flounder, and quantifying consumption rates of red drum and the potential for impact on blue crab mortality. Fred has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1994 and an active member of the Tidewater chapter since 2003.

### **Stephanie A. McInerny – incumbent for Secretary/Treasurer**



I earned a Bachelor's degree (B.S.) in Biology /Marine Biology from East Carolina University. While at ECU, I worked under Dr. Roger Rulifson and was very active in the

ECU Student Subunit of AFS in which I served as historian for one year. In July 2007, I received my Master's Degree (M.S.) in Marine Biology as well as an Applied Statistics Certificate from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. My thesis work on red snapper age and growth is currently being used in a benchmark SEDAR assessment on this species.

Currently I work as a biological technician for the National Marine Fisheries Service at the NOAA Beaufort lab in NC working under Jennifer Potts on age and growth of reef fish. I have been at NOAA for about 4 years in which I have completed aging projects on several species including Gulf of Mexico red drum and red snapper as well as assisted in the aging of several other species of South Atlantic reef fish.

While at UNCW, I worked hard with Dr. Fred Scharf 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 at UNCW and the subunit has been accepted by the Tidewater Chapter and was approved by the Parent Society in March 2007.

During my last two years as Tidewater Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, I have made large improvements to the Procedural Manual and Bylaws, assisted in developing a Guide to Officers' for the TWC, and helped 5 student subunits get official status within the Chapter. I am also still currently working on getting the chapter tax-exempt status in NC in order to receive a tax refund from the Atlantic Beach annual meeting and to ensure no future problems when the annual meetings are held in NC. I look forward to serving the Tidewater Chapter in the future and will work even harder this year to make more contributions to our organization.



**Bob Murphy -  
Candidate, Maryland  
Member-at-Large**

Born in Washington, DC and raised “inside the beltway” in Maryland, 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. My work experience has taken me from freshwater stream assessments with Maryland DNR to the non-profit world 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 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (UMD) under the guidance of Dr. Dave Secor. My thesis included a multivariate community analysis of the fish assemblages inhabiting the coastal bay complex of Maryland with an emphasis on spatial and seasonal variation. In August 2005, I took the reigns as head of a new nonprofit research organization, Ecosystem Solutions, whose focus is on habitat restoration and assessment using biological indicators (fish and invertebrate community structure) in aquatic systems.

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.

**Paul Rudershausen -  
Candidate, North Carolina Member-at-Large**



Paul Rudershausen holds a masters degree from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. He has worked in multiple states as a research technician, including Idaho, Alaska, and North Carolina. Currently he is a research assistant with the North Carolina State University

Department of Zoology.



**Virginia write-in candidate**\_\_\_\_\_

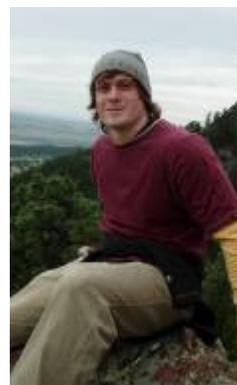
## **Communications Committee**

### **Tidewater LISTSERV –**

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If you are having difficulty with getting on the listserv, please contact me. [Rulifsonr@ecu.edu](mailto:Rulifsonr@ecu.edu).

## **Student Subunit News**



**University of Maryland By  
Ryan Woodland**

The University of Maryland student subunit celebrated the end of the semester by hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Bring Your Own Species BBQ. The event was a big success with students and research assistants from Chesapeake Biological Laboratory mingling

while enjoying a variety of local and exotic aquatic fare. The subunit is busy preparing a number of activities for the upcoming year although most remain in the planning stages at present. We are planning to host 1 or 2 seminar speakers from the Mid-Atlantic region over the course of the spring as well as organizing a workshop focused on professional development that will be open to both subunit and non-subunit students. This workshop was very well received last year, and we hope to continue its legacy by providing students with an opportunity to hone professional skills that will aid them in their pursuits beyond graduate school.

The subunit is proud to organize a student-mentor lunch at the March 2008 Tidewater meeting hosted by president-elect Jack Musick. We are currently in the process of gathering names of interested students and mentors. We sent out an email last month requesting students and mentors reply with an indication of their interest. A number of potential mentors have responded, but we have not received many student replies to date. This opportunity to sit down and chat with established mentors over lunch can provide students with valuable insight related to career paths and job requirements while expanding their collegial network. These successful individuals are a great source of information on topics related to their field of expertise and beyond. Mentors benefit by passing along the knowledge they've gained in the pursuit of their career while interacting with their future peers.

Students are encouraged to participate in this activity, and established professionals from academia, government, NGOs or private industry are encouraged to volunteer as a host mentor for a student. Interested individuals should contact Ryan Woodland at [woodland@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:woodland@cbl.umces.edu) for further information. A reminder email with sign-up forms will be emailed shortly. Please respond ASAP to make the most of this opportunity.

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

Ryan J 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)

## University of Maryland Eastern Shore

by Josh Newhard

We are proud to announce the formation of a student subunit at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore!



During our first year of existence, we have brought together 20 talented student researchers who are motivated to continue to support the mission of the parent society in our region as well as

support efforts to increase the involvement of minority researchers in fisheries science. It has been the pleasure of the executive committee to serve the UMES Student Subunit over the course of 2007 as we have worked to form a cohesive and productive student organization.

Members of the UMES Student Subunit participated in both the annual Tidewater Chapter Meeting in Lewes, Delaware and the national meeting in San Francisco, CA. Subunit members Reginald Black and Joshua Newhard were honored with travel awards from the Equal Opportunities Section and the Estuaries Section, respectively. Student members gave 8 poster and 3 oral presentations in San Francisco. Additionally, members Daniel Cullen and Bernice Bediako traveled to the annual meeting of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea in Helsinki, Finland in October to share their research on monkfish and interact with researchers from across the globe.

The UMES Student Subunit has been fortunate enough to gain a solid fiscal footing through the support of the campus community. We hosted a fundraiser cookout in September which allowed us to provide a \$100 donation to the Equal Opportunities Section. We are also appreciative of the additional financial support that we have received from Mr. Larry Alade, Dr. Eric May, and Mr. Scott Corbin.



L-R: Vice President elect Josh Newhard, Secretary elect Tedra Booker, Aisha Washington, Current Secretary Nicholas Clemons, Washington H.S. teacher Kelly Taylor, and current President Lonnie Gonsalves.

Our members have been working to fulfill the Subunit's mission of community outreach through their continued participation in the Upward Bound Marine Science Program which allows high achieving minority high school students to gain unique experiences in the marine sciences through field activities and interaction with environmental science professionals. We recently had the opportunity to teach high school students at Washington High School in Princess Anne, MD about the diversity of life found in local waterways. Live specimens were brought into the classroom to show the students aspects of habitats in their own backyard. Additional outreach commitments include our participation in the Eastern Shore Restoration and Education Program, a partnership between UMES, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Worcester County Board of Education, and participation in the Wicomico County Mentor Project.

Our Subunit was able to obtain funds for a 125-gallon freshwater fish tank display at the UMES. The fish tank display is maintained by Subunit members and all specimens were caught locally so that other students can learn about the diversity of life found in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A poster was created to explain some ecological and biological details about species in the tank. Currently, we have several species of sunfish, crayfish, brown bullhead catfish, and a largemouth bass in the tank.

New officers were elected in November for the upcoming year. Our newly elected officers are: President Reggie Black, Vice President Joshua Newhard, Treasurer Bernice Bediako, and Secretary Tedra Booker.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to thank our members for all of their hard work which has allowed the Subunit to have a successful year. We would also like to thank Dr. Gwen White, Dr. Joseph Love, Dr. Anthony Overton, and Dr. Andrea Johnson for their support and guidance during our inaugural year.

--Joshua J Newhard, UMES Student Subunit VP-Elect [jjnewhard@umes.edu](mailto:jjnewhard@umes.edu)



**UNC-W** By Cassie Martin

The UNCW student subunit would like to congratulate past subunit president William Smith for defending his thesis on the population demographics of southern flounder. Will has moved to the Raleigh, NC area and is looking to begin a PhD program. Mr. Smith will be missed at UNCW, and we would all like to send our well wishes his way.

Congratulations are in order as well for Mike Waine, who accepted a position with Dr. Joe Hightower working on anadromous fishes. Mike's friendly face will be missed at the monthly meetings.

This semester Dr. Fred Scharf did his part in recruiting new members to the sub-unit by engaging his Fisheries Ecology Lab students in graduate student research. The undergraduate students assisted in the field with seining for juvenile red drum, gillnetting for age-1 and age-2 red drum, and observing mortality rates of released undersize southern flounder. Hands-on experience has become a great recruitment tool, as the majority of the students in the lab have become active in sub-unit activities.

Our website has changed to a new user-friendly page through the trendy MySpace. You can now check out our activities and upcoming speakers at [www.myspace.com/uncwafs](http://www.myspace.com/uncwafs).

If you would like to become involved in the UNCW subunit, please contact me at:

Cassie Martin  
Department of Biology and Marine Biology  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
601 S. College Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
[crm7295@uncw.edu](mailto:crm7295@uncw.edu)  
910-962-3407



We have continued our tradition of volunteering at the Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina. In November, we cleaned, inspected, and packaged more than 30 dozen eggs! It is amazing what toothbrushes, elbow-grease, and a little Clorox® can do!



Will Smith in San Francisco.



**East Carolina University** by Jennifer Woodroffe

ECU AFS celebrated our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet on November 30, 2007. Michael

Street, Chief of the Habitat Protection Section of the NC DMF, was our guest speaker. More than 50 students and professionals turned out to hear Mr. Street! He gave a wonderful talk reminiscing about the changes he has seen in Fisheries Management over the last 40+ years.



This Spring, we will be participating in annual Southern Division meeting and the annual Tidewater Chapter meeting as well as several other conferences.

We will also be participating in the Grifton Shad Festival and ECU's annual Barefoot on the Mall extravaganza in April. It is an opportunity for us to fundraise and get the word out about what we do.

If you are interested in attending a meeting of the ECU-AFS subunit, participating in a seminar or workshop, or presenting your research, please contact the student subunit!

We look forward to hearing from you!

--Jennifer R. Woodroffe  
President, ECU-AFS



## **Maryland News from Bob Murphy**

### **Tagging Study To Focus On Striped Bass Health - Anglers, Commercial Fisherman Play Vital Role in Data Collection**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) are conducting a cooperative tagging study to better understand mycobacteria disease of resident striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay. Mycobacteriosis is a bacterial disease known to be present in striped bass since at least the mid 1980s. Stock assessment analysis has not demonstrated a decline in the population of striped bass and reproduction remains high. This tagging study is designed to determine how or if the disease progresses in fish over time. Diseased and healthy fish are collected, assessed for current health condition, implanted with bright-green anchor tags and released back into the Chesapeake Bay.

“Coordination between DNR and VIMS will ensure that fish recaptured in the Chesapeake Bay are collected and analyzed in a timely manner, regardless of where they are caught,” said Howard King, Director of DNR’s Fisheries Service. “Results of this study will increase our understanding of the potential impacts of mycobacteriosis on the striped bass population.”

Fish will be tagged each spring and fall through at least 2009. Both agencies are using a bright-green colored anchor tag marked with either “VIMS” or “MD DNR” that includes a toll free number to report the fish. A reward is being offered for the return of tagged whole fish to biologists so that they can be examined. Fish bearing the bright-green tag are exempt from Maryland and Virginia daily catch limits and seasonal and size restrictions, provided that they are reported promptly, kept intact, kept cool or chilled (not frozen) and turned over to DNR or VIMS. Cooperation by anglers, commercial fishermen and charter boat captains is very much needed for success of this study. Tagged fish captured outside Maryland and Virginia waters should still be reported on the toll free number and the tag returned by mail.

## **Formation of Maryland's New Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC)**

Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary John R. Griffin has appointed 21 scientists, watermen, anglers, businessmen, economists, environmental advocates, and elected officials to Maryland’s newly created Oyster Advisory Commission (OAC). The OAC will recommend strategies for rebuilding and managing the Chesapeake Bay’s oyster population using the best available science to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly.

The OAC will also utilize the latest findings of an Environmental Impact Statement currently being drafted with other state and federal government partners to evaluate oyster restoration options for the Chesapeake Bay. At the OAC’s first meeting on September 17, members participated in a strategic planning exercise to evaluate Maryland’s efforts towards achieving the ecological and economic goals of the oyster restoration program.

## **Revitalizing an Important Volunteer Angler Based Survey in Maryland’s Chesapeake & Coastal Bays**

The Maryland Volunteer Angler Summer Flounder Survey (MVASFS) was initiated in 2002 in response to Maryland angler dissatisfaction with annual harvest estimates from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey and resulting minimum size increases. Based off of the already popular Maryland Striped Bass Cooperative Angler Survey, the MVASFS was welcomed with great enthusiasm and data collected over the first few years of the survey played a vital role in the establishment of the current regulations in Maryland waters. The strength of this survey allowed fisheries managers to propose a *status quo* (Coastal – 15.5 inch @ 4 fish; Chesapeake Bay – 15 inch @ 2 fish) management option to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass, and Scup Management Board in 2005, 2006 and 2007 as additional restrictions, such as, increasing minimum size limits, decreasing creel limits, and seasonal closures were made in a number of other coastal states.

The Maryland DNR has promoted the MVASFS since 2002; however, a decline (38% since initiation) in angler participation in recent years began to worry the fisheries managers who rely so heavily on these data to manage

the summer flounder stock in Maryland. The survey was in desperate need of some TLC!

Angel Bolinger, a fisheries biologist with the DNR's Coastal Fisheries Program, was given the task of bringing new life to this very important survey and luckily for the Department, she was the perfect person for the job. A well known name in the recreational fishing community, Angel wrote DNR's Weekly Fishing Report for many years and worked as a freshwater fisheries biologist before more recently moving to the Coastal Fisheries Program. Angel focused on promoting the MVASFS and its importance to the many recreational fishing groups throughout the state and spent a great deal of time speaking to various fishing clubs and organizations in an attempt to educate them on the importance of their data. In addition, Allison Luettel, a new member of the Coastal Fisheries Program and graduate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, began working with Angel on the survey in 2007 and plans to take over the program in 2008.

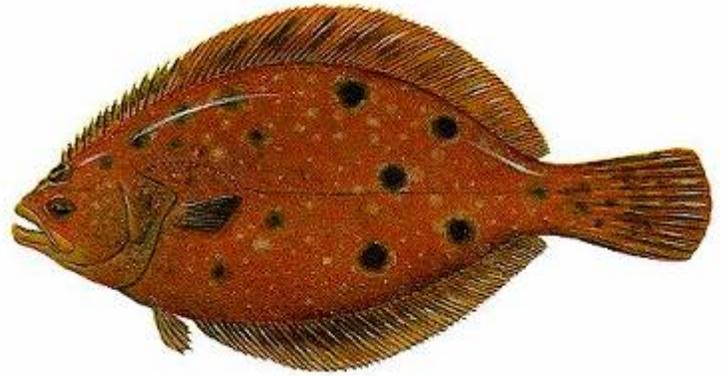
All of the hard work and effort put forth by Angel and Allison have not gone unnoticed. Results of the 2007 survey indicate that participation has soared. Over 1,100 surveys were completed this year and we received length data on approximately 10,000 legal and sub-legal summer flounder! To put this into perspective, only 600 surveys and 5,000 lengths were collected in 2006 and no other year in the survey was as successful as 2007.

With summer flounder management under the microscope along the Atlantic coast, we hope that the MVASFS will continue to provide DNR fisheries managers with the best available data necessary to manage the summer flounder fishery.

We must thank the members of the Maryland Saltwater Sportsmen's Association, Coastal Conservation Association, the Pasadena Sport Fishing Group, the Ocean Pines Anglers Club, Captain Bob Gowar, and Larry Jock (Coastal Fishermen) for their continued support in our efforts.

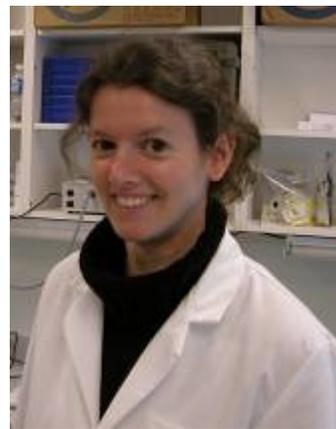
If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the MVASFS please contact Allison Luettel at 410.260.8343 or via email [aluettel@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:aluettel@dnr.state.md.us). Thanks to Michael Luisi, DNR Coastal Fisheries Program Manager, for this update.

--Bob Murphy, MD At Large Member



## Virginia News from Debra Parthree

**Gloucester Point**—Mary Fabrizio, an associate professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), has been elected president of the American Fisheries Society. Fabrizio focuses on the population dynamics of finfish and manages the VIMS Juvenile Finfish and Blue Crab Trawl Survey and Striped Bass Seine Survey, which play important roles in managing harvests in the Chesapeake Bay.



## STATE RECORD

**Virginia Beach**—A 53-pound, 8-ounce golden tilefish (*Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*) was caught by Charles Maresh of Norfolk on September 22, breaking the previous state record of 44 pounds. Maresh was celebrating his bachelor party with friends fishing off the Virginia Beach coast. The party was held aboard the charter vessel Keyed Up captained by Joe DelCampo. Squid was used for bait.



Source: Virginia Marine Resources Commission

## SUMMER FLOUNDER

**Newport News**—In an order by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), on November 9 the Virginia Directed Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery was closed and landings harvested from federal waters or waters of any other state were prohibited. The summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) stock is currently rebuilding under a science-based management plan extended to 2013.

Sources: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Virginia Marine Resources Commission

## ATLANTIC MENHADEN

**Reedville**—In the wake of the historic recovery of the Atlantic coast's striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) population, more focus has been placed on Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) because of its prey value to striped bass. Last year, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) forced Virginia to impose its first harvest limits on menhaden in Chesapeake Bay, setting an annual cap of 109,000 metric tons through 2010. Now, two bills have been introduced in Congress to outlaw the commercial harvest for manufacturing meal and oil. Critics of the bills include residents of Reedville where the only menhaden-processing business remains on the east coast and provides money and jobs to the community. Advocates of the bills argue that the processing plant imperils the health of the Chesapeake Bay by both depleting the prey base for important gamefish and by diminishing the benefits of this filter-feeding species to the Bay's poor water quality.

Source: Lawrence Latane III, Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

## ARTIFICIAL REEFS

**Hampton**—In an attempt to attract fish and anglers, a thousand tons of concrete piping were pushed off a barge into the Chesapeake Bay in 25 to 30 feet of water about three miles from Salt Ponds in Hampton in November. The concrete will become the 23<sup>rd</sup> artificial reef built by the VMRC in Virginia waters. The 5,000 tons of concrete pipe were donated by Hanson Pipe and Precast in Chesapeake. Past reefs have proven successful in establishing favorite fishing destinations for Peninsula anglers.

Source: Patrick Lynch, Daily Press

**Mosquito Point**—A six-ton precast rectangle of concrete deployed as a man-made oyster reef in 28 feet of water was recovered from the Rappahannock River last month after supporting its native oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) inhabitants for nearly seven years. The reef appeared to be sustaining hundreds of oysters including a large individual pointed out by VIMS professor Rom Lipcius who suggested its age was 5 or 6 years old. Lipcius said that there are 170 such reefs submerged in the Bay possibly supporting more than 5 million oysters.

Source: Lawrence Latane III, Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

## COMMERCIAL FISHING COMPANY CHARGED WITH FINES

**Norfolk**—The Newport News commercial fishing company Peabody Corporation President William Peabody and Vice President Yvonne Peabody have agreed to plead guilty to employing 126 illegal immigrants over four years. The Peabodys face nearly \$7 million in fines.

Source: Richmond-Times Dispatch business briefs

## CORRECTION

In a summary on dam removal in the fall newsletter, it was stated "The Chesapeake Bay Program's "Chesapeake 2000" initiative identified 1,357 miles of blocked river habitat throughout the watershed they

*hoped to see opened by 2010.*" That goal was exceeded by 2004. "Chesapeake 2000" itself did not have new fish passage goals but there was a recognition for the need to accelerate the restoration effort and to set new fish passage goals. This led to the new goal established in January of 2005. A new 10 year fish passage goal was set to reopen an additional 1000 miles of stream habitat by 2014.

Source: L. Alan Weaver, Fish Passage Coordinator, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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

## North Carolina News

By Fred Scharf

### Study finds that age-1 striped bass are primarily piscivorous throughout summer months (May-October) in western Albemarle Sound, NC

A recent study conducted by researchers in Jeff Buckel's lab at NC State's Center for Marine Sciences and Technology indicates that age-1 striped bass in the western Albemarle Sound feed almost entirely on fish during the summer and early fall and that they can make up a significant fraction of natural mortality for juvenile *Alosa* spp. in some years. In a two-year study, the researchers found that age-1 striped bass consumed juvenile *Alosa* spp. in all months sampled, but peak dietary importance occurred during early fall (September and October) of both 2002 and 2003. Alternative prey made up a large part of age-1 striped bass diets during summer months and likely buffered predation on *Alosa* spp. during this period. Alternative fish prey included Atlantic menhaden, yellow perch, bay anchovy, and silversides.

Age-1 striped bass also showed evidence of selective feeding (e.g., selection for juvenile *Alosa* spp., Atlantic menhaden, and recently metamorphosed yellow perch). The researchers concluded that striped bass selectivity was, at least in part, related to prey density, relative prey size, and prey morphology (i.e., lack of spination). Previous studies have described striped bass as generalist feeders based only on qualitative results. The quantitative examination of selection completed in this study suggests that striped bass do not feed randomly with respect to available prey; a result that has important implications for how striped bass are modeled in ecosystem and/or multispecies stock assessment models.

The study found that age-1 striped bass can be a major contributor to American shad loss rates. At times, predation by striped bass accounted for all juvenile American shad natural mortality (estimated from the descending portion of juvenile American shad catch curves). However, age-1 striped bass predation rates on American shad varied from year to year. Variable predation on American shad in nearshore habitats (where American shad were primarily found) may have resulted from differences in water quality. The researchers detected hypoxic conditions in deeper channel habitats during 2002 that may have forced striped bass into the nearshore habitats, resulting in higher predation on American shad. During 2003, however, no hypoxia was detected in the deep bottom waters, enabling striped bass to utilize these habitats and likely lessening predation on American shad in the nearshore habitats.

The study also examined the feeding patterns of age-2+ striped bass. The older striped bass were not found to be a major predator of *Alosa* spp. during summer months based on a high incidence of empty stomachs and strong selection for Atlantic menhaden. However, during fall months, age-2+ striped bass predation on *Alosa* spp. increased, suggesting they may contribute to natural mortality of *Alosa* spp. seasonally.

The study directly addressed a public concern often faced by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries that abundant striped bass stocks are having a negative impact on a variety of economically important species (e.g., blue crab, American eel, and river herring). The research determined that striped bass predation on *Alosa* spp. is buffered by other juvenile fishes such as Atlantic menhaden, yellow perch, bay anchovy, and silversides, which make up a large part of age-1 striped bass diets during summer months. However, given the densities and feeding rates of age-1 striped bass, the researchers found that, at times, age-1 striped bass predation could account for all juvenile American shad losses observed during summer months in western Albemarle Sound. They conclude, however, that if the proportion of American shad juveniles in age-1 striped bass diets remains stable from year to year, the impact of striped bass predation on juvenile American shad should decrease if efforts to rebuild the American shad population are successful.

The full article describing this research is scheduled to appear in *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* sometime in 2008.

## **North Carolina Watermen Save Ocracoke Fish House**

Recently, a group of 35 full and part-time commercial fishermen that form the Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association were awarded a \$325,000 grant to save the last seafood house on Ocracoke Island. These fishermen harvest seafood from the Pamlico Sound and surrounding waters to supply all of the catch sold at Ocracoke Seafood. The grant from the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center allowed them to buy the fish house and secure the last 67 years of the original 99-year lease. In addition, the group received a \$100,000 zero-interest loan commitment from Tideland Electric Membership Cooperative to construct an addition to the building to house public educational programs.

"We had to band together or not have the fish house," stated Hardy Plyler, a fish house representative. "Three years ago, there were two fish houses on the harbor. One didn't renew its lease. Then when South Point Market shut down and went up for sale, we went six months without a fish house." Community leaders and politicians, including N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, were a driving force behind the effort. "You don't have local seafood if you don't have a local fish house," Basnight said. "Fishermen have to have a place to take their catch. When they have surplus catch that goes to other markets, they have to have a place to unload the seafood."

The success of the Ocracoke fish house will help to counter a trend of closures sweeping the state. A recent North Carolina Sea Grant study found that one-third of the state's fish houses have closed since 2002. Sea Grant seafood technology specialist Barry Nash and cultural anthropologist Barbara Garrity-Blake conducted the survey and attribute the decline to globalization. "Growth in the worldwide seafood market has not yet expanded opportunities for North Carolina fishermen," the report notes. "Rather, the value of domestic-caught seafood has declined due to a flood of less expensive, farm-raised imports entering US markets."

The N.C. General Assembly has begun to address the plight of fish houses, as well as other issues facing working waterfronts along the coast. Spurred by recommendations from a Waterfront Access Study committee chaired by North Carolina Sea Grant executive director Michael Voiland, the latest state

budget includes up to \$20 million to acquire waterfront properties or develop facilities that provide public and commercial waterfront access. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries recently sought public input on potential waterfront access projects. A citizens advisory committee is helping the Division review suggested projects. The plan sets out four general program areas for funding: public docking facilities, public boat ramps, fishing access and other marine industry facilities. Funding priority will be given to multi-use facilities that incorporate multiple program areas, while maintaining environmental responsibility.

Perhaps more important than just a place for fishermen to sell their catch, the watermen know that if there wasn't a fish house on Ocracoke, the village's entire reputation would have changed. With the Ocracoke fish house back in operation, Plyler feels optimistic about the company's future. He says that tourists, restaurants and residents are buying from the small market. Next summer, the association would like to start an "Ocracoke Fresh" program in local restaurants to recognize the value of fresh, locally caught seafood. The program would be similar to Carteret Catch, a seafood branding program that has been successful in Carteret County. "Commercial fishing is directly related to tourism in North Carolina, especially on Ocracoke," says Plyler. "It helps to preserve our quaint fishing village image."

Modified from *NC Coastwatch* Winter 2007

## **North Carolina Seafood Availability Cards Debut**

Consumers seeking to eat locally caught North Carolina seafood can now turn to new wallet-size reminders of their seasonal choices. *Local Catch: North Carolina Seafood Availability*<sup>SM</sup> cards, developed by North Carolina Sea Grant and the North Carolina Aquariums, debuted at the N.C. Seafood Festival in Morehead City in October. There are four seasonal (autumn, winter, spring and summer) cards that draw information from Sea Grant's popular *North Carolina Seafood Availability* poster, which was updated this fall. The poster was developed as a partnership between Sea Grant, the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Joanne Harcke of the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher approached Sea Grant earlier this year to suggest the card project. "Visitors to the three aquariums had questions about local seafood and best choices. We

wanted to create a positive message for what North Carolina has to offer," she explained. Barry Nash, Sea Grant seafood technology and marketing specialist, notes the cards and posters help consumers increasingly interested in the origin of their seafood. "People want to know what species are available along the North Carolina coast and what season they are available". The cards highlight commercial fisheries by season, including shellfish aquaculture, based on marine fisheries landings data. The cards also provide information on how and where North Carolina seafood is harvested. Each season offers a different set of "Quality Counts" tips for selecting seasonal fresh seafood. "Consumers want to know how to look at seafood and evaluate its freshness," Nash says.

For consumers looking for a seafood market or dealer, the cards and poster each provide the online address for NCDACS Seafood Marketing. "These are great consumer education tools that complement the state's 'Freshness from North Carolina Waters' campaign," says William Small of the seafood marketing program. He is working with Sea Grant and NCDMF to distribute the cards and posters to seafood markets and other venues. As an added bonus, those who want more information on sustainable fisheries can find links to websites that provide data on the status of fish stocks in both North Carolina and federal waters. "In addition to letting consumers know what and when local seafood is available, the charts serve as a springboard for educating the public about fisheries management," explains DMF Director Louis Daniel.

Modified from *NC Coastwatch* Winter 2007

--Fred Scharf, NC At-Large Member

## **Announcements**

The Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters of the American Fisheries Society Present

**“Managing Ponds and Small Impoundments: Everything from the Classics to the Latest Hits”**

A Workshop By Dr. Jeff Slipke, Southeastern Pond Management

Course Outline:

### **Traditional Pond Management**

Pond Construction  
Liming  
Fertilization  
Vegetation Control  
Water Quality  
Initial Stocking

### **Innovative Pond Management**

Harvest Strategies  
Trophy Bass Management  
Alternative Species/Strains  
Supplemental Forage Stocking  
Supplemental Feeding  
Fishery Assessments  
Pond Renovation

This workshop will be held in conjunction with the joint annual meeting of the Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters, American Fisheries Society, on February 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Blacksburg, Virginia. The actual workshop (half day) will take place on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m. Additional information can be obtained from the Virginia Chapter website <http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafes/> or by contacting Scott Smith at [scott.smith@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:scott.smith@dgif.virginia.gov) or by phone at 434/525-7522.

## 2008 Tidewater Student-Mentor Lunch

If you are either a student or a potential mentor interested in participating in the student-mentor lunch to be held at the 2008 Tidewater meeting at VIMS, please fill out the sheet below and return to Ryan Woodland at [woodland@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:woodland@cbl.umces.edu).

---

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Institution (student): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (mentor): \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in attending the student-mentor lunch as a:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Student:** Please indicate the preferred profession of your mentor. It's important to note that a mentor engaged in the profession of your choice may not be available, so it is helpful to pick the top 2-3 that interest you:

- \_\_\_ Academia
- \_\_\_ State/Federal government
- \_\_\_ Non-government organization (Non-profit)
- \_\_\_ Private industry
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mentor:** Please indicate your profession. Please note that the lunches will be held at local area restaurants off campus and that it is traditional for the mentor to cover the lunch expenses.

- \_\_\_ Academia
- \_\_\_ State/Federal government
- \_\_\_ Non-government organization (Non-profit)
- \_\_\_ Private industry
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(please specify)

Please fill this form and return it at your earliest convenience. We hope this will be a successful endeavor that will aid our fellow students in the career decision-making process that must coincide with a student career. We welcome any comments that anyone may have or suggestions to make this process as effective as possible.

Cheers,

Ryan Woodland  
UM-AFS Student Subunit  
[woodland@cbl.umces.edu](mailto:woodland@cbl.umces.edu)

## AFS-Ottawa Symposium Call for Presentations: Global Management of Squaloid Sharks – Protection and Enhancement of Regional Fisheries in Light of Global Conservation Initiatives.

**Symposium Organizers:** Roger A. Rulifson, Ph.D\*<sup>1</sup>, and Jennifer L. Cudney<sup>2</sup>, IICSP/Coastal Resources Management, Flanagan 379, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. email: <sup>1</sup> [rulifsonr@ecu.edu](mailto:rulifsonr@ecu.edu) / <sup>2</sup> [jlc0213@ecu.edu](mailto:jlc0213@ecu.edu)

### Symposium Sponsors: Marine Fisheries Section

Squaloid shark populations, especially spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), are subject to different management strategies that make a global conservation effort difficult to implement. In June 2007, a proposal was presented by Germany on behalf of the European Union to list the spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) protection. In regions where the sharks are scarce, such as northwestern Europe, these measures will undoubtedly benefit the species. Unfortunately, the fisheries in regions with locally abundant populations, such as the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, could be negatively impacted from the tighter controls on North American exports. Thus, there is a serious problem of dogfish populations and management measures in flux: how can we best manage a species with such wide ranging population characteristics and behavior patterns? Is a global conservation approach the best way to protect squaloid sharks? Squaloid fisheries are economically important in some countries - how can we protect the financial investment of fishermen and fishing communities?

This symposium will focus on squaloid management tools and strategies in temperate areas across the globe. This symposium is an important next step to identify research priorities and disseminate information on squaloid sharks. Participants will be invited to join the Spiny Dogfish Research Network, a recent collaborative effort by dogfish biologists that arose from a workshop on spiny dogfish movement patterns off the North American coasts.

If you are interested in presenting an oral or poster presentation, please email Jen Cudney or Roger Rulifson at the above addresses.

**64th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference  
Sunday, April 27 - Wednesday, April 30, 2008  
Marriott Seaview Resort, Galloway, NJ**

You are invited to share your projects and presentations with the audience at the 64th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Presentations will be made in the following subject areas: Wildlife, Inland Fisheries (Freshwater, Diadromous, Fish Health), including a special session on Large Rivers and Streams, Marine Fisheries, Conservation Law Enforcement, Outreach, Special session on Mitigating the Impacts of Roads to Wildlife (submit in the wildlife track)

Submitted abstracts must be in complete session outline/description in paragraph form at the time of submission and will only be accepted online. Presentation guidelines are available via the link below. [<http://www.neafwa.org/html/presentations.shtml>]

The deadline for submissions has been extended to Friday, January 11, 2008.

If you would like your presentation to be considered for the 64th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, submit an abstract today! [Copy and paste this link into a web browser to submit a presentation now,

[<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?4W,M3,30676ca6-2d79-4025-9882-12e5220ee0f8>]

For more information, visit [www.neafwa.org](http://www.neafwa.org).

**Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) Spring 2008 Meeting!**

The meeting will be held on **March 13-15, 2008** in **Lewes, Delaware**. The meeting will feature a keynote speaker, and a panel discussion of the meeting theme: **“Effects of climate change on mid-Atlantic coastal wetlands: science and conservation.”**

The panel discussion will be followed by scientific presentations (oral and poster) given by scientists and students from throughout the Mid-Atlantic States on a diverse array of estuarine and coastal topics.

**Abstract and pre-registration deadline: February 1, 2008**

**Student travel awards deadline: February 1, 2008**

More details will follow in the next couple of weeks, including abstract submittal, registration, hotel and local information.

For those of you unfamiliar with AERS, it is a very student-friendly organization. We encourage student participation! Presenting at an AERS meeting will provide you with wonderful experience and feedback from local scientists on a scale not as daunting as that for national meetings.

More details will follow, including abstract submittal, registration, hotel and local information. Please check the AERS website often for updated information. [www.aers.info](http://www.aers.info).

Jessie Campbell Jarvis, Graduate Student  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062  
Phone: 804-684-7401; Fax: 804-684-7752

4<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration -- This is the only national conference that brings together the entire coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community. It provides a unique blend of people and policy, science and strategy, business and best practices.

The Conference Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration, in all habitats and at all scales. Habitat restoration – manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning self-sustaining natural or historic structure and functions to former or degraded habitat – offers great promise for reversing trends of habitat loss and degradation and is a crucial component of comprehensive ecosystem restoration, protection and management.

**Conference Audience**

The Conference is a national (and international) gathering of the full coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community, including participants from both the public and private sector. Restore America's Estuaries will work with 200 partnering and supporting organizations to develop and host the Conference, and we expect 1,500 attendees from the restoration community: non-profit and community organizations,

businesses and corporations from supporting industries, tribes, academic and research institutions, and agencies from all levels of government. Restoration practitioners, citizens and community leaders, consultants, scientists, educators, planners, engineers, volunteers, philanthropists, program managers, field staff, contractors, regulators and others involved in restoration efforts are expected to participate.

#### Call for Proposals

The National Program Committee invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference. The program emphasizes best practices and lessons learned in all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. There are three opportunities to present:

**Dedicated Sessions** – Potential session chairs may propose three or four presenters in a 90 minute session. Dedicated Sessions must include multiple perspectives and we strongly encourage that they address multiple aspects of restoration within the chosen topic. Submissions must be made by the proposed session chair, and should identify all proposed presenters. The session chair may propose himself/herself as one of the presenters in the session.

**Presentations** – Please propose one 15-20 minute presentation within one or more of the Conference themes and topics. The National Program Committee will organize selected presentations into cohesive 90 minute Contributed Sessions and assign session moderators. If you would like to propose more than one presentation, you must submit each proposal separately.

**Posters Sessions** – Posters will be displayed throughout the Conference, and one special 90-minute poster session (on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>) will allow Poster Presenters to discuss their work with Conference participants. A Student Poster Contest offers cash awards to the best student posters. For more contest information, please visit the Conference website.

#### Themes and Topics

Restore America's Estuaries and the National Program Committee seek proposals for sessions, presentations and posters that relate specifically to one or more of the following Conference themes. While presentations and posters that address the specific topics identified in each theme are encouraged, you may also submit a proposal that falls outside of the suggested topics and themes.

#### Coastal Restoration in the Context of Climate Change

As the earth warms, our coasts have been and will be impacted. Sea-level rise and dramatically changing coastal dynamics are already affecting habitat restoration planning and implementation. Proposals are sought that address:

- how climate change is impacting our coasts and what that means for habitat restoration
- how to justify habitat restoration in the face of sea-level rise
- how to plan for climate change in habitat restoration efforts at all scales
- how climate information has been applied to improve restoration planning
- the link between habitat restoration and carbon sequestration.

This is an excellent theme in which to propose sessions or presentations that address new policy initiatives and other opportunities related to restoration and climate change.

#### Human Dimensions of Restoration

Our coasts and estuaries are cultural and economic, as well as natural, landscapes. Healthy and resilient coastal ecosystems are essential to our economic, cultural, spiritual and physical well being. Proposals are sought in this theme that address methods to evaluate the economic and cultural aspects of restoration. Proposals are sought that examine the human dimensions of restoration at all scales including research to document the importance of our coasts to our national heritage, for example:

- disaster prevention/relief
- the economics of restoration
- the importance of using local and traditional knowledge in restoration processes

Both quantitative and qualitative approaches to the human dimensions of restoration are encouraged.

#### Education and Outreach

Education and outreach play a key role in generating public interest to restore the health of our coasts and estuaries to health. Proposals are sought that address building constituencies for coastal and estuarine restoration through formal and informal education programs and community outreach. Our children are growing up without a strong connection to nature – what has been called “nature deficit disorder” by some. This aspect of child development must be addressed, and the link between restoration and education is one way to do this. Proposals in this theme are encouraged to address:

- the best practices and lessons learned in restoration education at all grade levels
- working with volunteers and the benefits of volunteer participation
- engaging key and new constituencies in restoration (such as faith-based organizations and environmental justice organizations)
- creative partnerships with businesses
- identifying the values and messages that should be used to engage and educate the public and public officials

**Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration and Management**  
Comprehensive coastal ecosystem restoration and management is imperative. Proposals in this theme may address many topics, including:

- the benefits of long-term land-use planning
- integrating the best scientific understanding of coastal ecosystems into planning and implementation
- restoring water quality to facilitate habitat restoration
- setting national priorities
- choosing the right scale
- funding habitat restoration at all scales.

Region-specific proposals are welcome, as are proposals that address common themes across regions.

#### Advances in Science and Technology

This theme addresses the latest advances in our understanding of coastal and estuarine ecosystems and innovative restoration technologies. Proposals are encouraged that address the integration of science into planning and practice at any scale, and in any habitat type. Some of the possible presentation topics include:

- using tools and technologies such as GIS and LIDAR to support restoration work
- modeling water level and tidal interaction for coastal restoration
- techniques for measuring land elevations
- new software and tools for efficient project and data management
- the application of emerging technologies

#### Best Practices On-the-Ground

Proposals that address the best practices and techniques of various aspects of restoration on-site are invited. The practices and techniques featured in the proposal must relate directly to the restoration of coastal and estuarine habitats.

#### Measuring and Communicating Results

The restoration community must be able to document and communicate its successes. This theme emphasizes communicating a vision for success and also encompasses monitoring and adaptive management (concrete case studies of adaptive management in practice and triggers for adaptations). Some of the possible topics include:

- identifying the best means of project-level and ecosystem monitoring
- measuring the cumulative effects of smaller projects
- measuring ecological services provided by restoration
- the cost-effectiveness of restoration

#### Policy and Funding

Negotiating the policy and finance mazes associated with habitat restoration can be among the most challenging aspects of restoration projects. This theme highlights policies and funding initiatives around the country that have advanced restoration opportunities. Presentations within this theme will provide opportunities for groups that have worked to catalyze or shape policy on the local, state, regional or federal level to share lessons learned, and offer tools and suggestions. Presentations will also explore creative funding opportunities—including unique ways to raise the necessary “matching” funds that are often required for restoration efforts. Possible topics include:

- Establishing project funding criteria / priority-setting at a regional or national scale
- Connecting land protection with in-water restoration work – describing the link between terrestrial restoration and coastal/estuarine health
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) – opportunities for restoration
- Corporate culture and a commitment to habitat protection and restoration
- Innovative funding mechanisms, including creative partnerships with businesses
- Law and policy impediments to implementing best management practices
- Solving the disconnect between science, practice and the legal framework for habitat protection and restoration
- Other federal, regional, state or local policies that impact coastal restoration

#### INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a proposal for a dedicated session, presentation, or poster, visit [www.estuaries.org/conference](http://www.estuaries.org/conference) to complete the proposal form and submit the form online.

For More Information about the Conference  
Visit [www.estuaries.org/conference](http://www.estuaries.org/conference).

**International Marine Conservation Congress, Society for Conservation Biology, May 20 – 24, 2009, Fairfax, VA**

The Marine Section of the Society for Conservation Biology is hosting the first International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) from 20-24 May 2009 at George Mason University near Washington D.C. IMCC is aimed at advancing marine conservation by facilitating discussion among scientists, managers and policy makers and developing science-based products that inform policy change and implementation. Major themes are:

- Global Climate Change
- Land-Sea Interface
- Poverty and Globalization
- Ecosystem-based Management

IMCC will serve as the 2nd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC2) and maintain the scope and vision of IMPAC1 (held in Geelong, Australia in October 2005).

To address the most pressing marine conservation issues, IMCC will hold exciting plenary talks and solicit creative submissions for contributed presentations, symposia and workshops. Confirmed plenary speakers include: Dr. Daniel Pauly, Dr. Ratana Chuenpangdee, Dr. Rod Fujita, and Alexandra Cousteau. Dr. Callum Roberts will be giving the Dr. Ransom A. Myers Memorial Lecture at the banquet.

During interactive symposia and workshops, participants will be challenged to go beyond one-way communication. Each of these sessions will address specific topics within major themes and develop innovative solutions to current conservation challenges. Symposium organizers will invite a select group of speakers and devise creative ways to facilitate discussion. Workshops will consist of multi-disciplinary teams focused on crafting policy and management recommendations, briefings, white papers or peer-reviewed publications.

**Please check the IMCC website ( [www.conbio.org/IMCC](http://www.conbio.org/IMCC) ) for updates, information and volunteer opportunities. The call for papers,**

**symposia and workshop will be announced in early 2008.**

**Teach At The Beach 2008, NJ Marine Education Association, May 16, 2008, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Marine Science and Environmental Field Station**

The New Jersey Marine Education Association (NJMEA) announces the return of the popular "Teach At The Beach" on Friday, May 16, 2008. This year's "Teach At the Beach" will be held at Stockton College's Marine Science and Environmental Field Station. This annual event will run from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NJMEA is an approved state professional development provider and this event qualifies for six professional development hours (Provider #999). The event is limited to the first 125 registrants. The workshops are designed to provide educators of all grades and disciplines with a wealth of ideas, resources, lesson plans, and programs dedicated to utilizing marine and aquatic environments as a background to classroom teaching. Lessons will integrate curriculum using the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

This year's program will be hosted by the Richard Stockton College of NJ and will highlight their Marine Science and Environmental Field Station. Additional partners for this year's event include US Fish and Wildlife Service, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Forest Service, NMSC, and Ocean County Parks. Keynote speech will be presented by Dr. Mark Sullivan of Stockton College, professor of marine biology, ichthyology, and fisheries management. Other sessions being presented include the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, Great Bay Seining, Mullica River Tour, American Eels, Shellfish Restoration, Waterfowl Decoys, Tide Marsh Ecology, Saltwater Aquaria, Seaweed Pressing, Discovering Barnegat Bay, Gytaku, Salt Marsh Canoe Ecotour, Batsto to Brigantine, Field-Forest and Pond, Shorebirds, and much more.

The cost of registration is \$75.00 and there will be no walk-in registration this year. Deadline for registration is March 15, 2008. The \$75.00 fee includes a one-year membership in the NJMEA as well as breakfast and lunch. Checks can be made payable to NJMEA, and sent to PO Box 1149, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

To learn more about the NJMEA, see program selections, and to register online, visit the NJMEA web site at [\\_http://hometown.aol.com/newjerseymea/\\_](http://hometown.aol.com/newjerseymea/) or e-mail Cindy Claus at [\\_jenkinsonsaquarium@comcast.net\\_](mailto:jenkinsonsaquarium@comcast.net) or call 732-899-1659.

**2008 AWRA Summer Specialty Conference, "Riparian Ecosystems & Buffers: Working at the Water's Edge," June 30 - July 2, 2008, Founder's Inn & Spa, Virginia Beach, VA**

The 2008 Conference will focus on emerging science and new studies on the structure, function, and management of riparian ecosystems, conservation buffers, and coastal shorelines, including water quality, aquatic habitat, and terrestrial habitat, while focusing on new techniques in landscape prioritization and targeting, measuring and monitoring effectiveness, and the application of riparian buffer practices and restoration approaches in urban, agricultural, prairie, and forest landscapes

A major aim of the conference is to foster interactions among scientists and practitioners in the field. The Conference Planning Committee encourages submissions of an abstract for consideration at the link. If you have an idea for a panel or a session devoted to one particular topic contact the Conference Chair, Al Todd.

Abstract Submittal Deadline: February 4, 2008

**Coastal Louisiana Habitat Restoration Initiative, National Wildlife Federation, to April 2008, in Louisiana**

The National Wildlife Federation invites you and your organization along with any affiliate chapter groups to help restore wetlands damaged during Hurricane Katrina by volunteering with the NWF Coastal Louisiana Habitat Restoration Initiative. Through the end of April of 2008, NWF will be holding week long volunteer events for groups of 10 adults or more. Projects can include tree plantings, invasive species removal, native seed collection or installing nest boxes for native birds. Volunteer groups will be responsible for their own travel to the Gulf, but once there, NWF will coordinate travel, lodging if needed and project expenses. This program is perfect for company retreats or alternative vacationers

who want to get into nature, but don't have the income to afford other trips. Please visit our website, [www.nwf.org/Louisiana](http://www.nwf.org/Louisiana) or call our office at 703-438-6003 for more information.

The National Wildlife Federation is also accepting donations of needed supplies to keep this important program going. If your organization would like to be a part of the changes occurring in Louisiana by donating money, food, drinks or tools, then please contact Jessica Jones at 703-438-6003 or [jjones@nwf.org](mailto:jjones@nwf.org).