

Chapter Annual Meeting Heads to Wilmington, NC

By Fred Scharf

The 2009 American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting will take place March 12-14 in Wilmington, NC along the riverfront. The historic downtown area of Wilmington offers a variety of establishments within easy walking distance, so attendees will not have to worry about transportation once in town.

This year's meeting will include the usual Thursday evening poster and Friday evening banquet socials. Meeting oral presentations will run all day Friday and Saturday morning in a large auditorium at the Cape Fear Community College downtown campus—just a short walk from the conference hotel.

A block of rooms are reserved for Thursday and Friday nights at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside (<http://www.wilmingtonhilton.com>)

located along the river on Water Street.

After arrival and check-in at the Hilton on Thursday, meeting attendees will be shuttled across the river to the battleship *USS North Carolina* for a catered poster social in the former mess hall. On Friday, organizers also have arranged for shuttle transportation back to the battleship for the evening social, which will be held outdoors on the fantail of the ship. During both socials there will be an assortment of food to choose from, including some locally caught seafood, and plenty of locally brewed beer. Attendees will be granted complete access to the ship during both social events and are welcome to tour different areas throughout the evening.

To register, submit an Abstract or find out more information, please visit the meeting Web site: <http://uncw.edu/>

tidewater. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

There will be both early and late registration fees, so folks are encouraged to register early (by March 1). It has yet to be determined whether the system can accommodate credit card payments. Thus, as long as you register early you only will be charged the early fee if you wait to pay onsite.

Given the restrictions on overnight travel for many state and government employees, organizers have created a separate daily rate for Friday to encourage more participation from all marine and aquatic research sectors of the Tidewater Chapter region.

On behalf of myself and the UNCW student subunit, welcome to Wilmington! It looks to be an outstanding meeting during a great time of year to visit the southeast NC coast.

Volume 24, Issue 1

January 2009

Opportunities

The Institute for Coastal Science and Policy and Department of Geological Sciences at East Carolina University invites applications for a tenure-track, joint-appointment position at the assistant or associate professor level in the area of coastal ocean dynamics to begin Aug. 17, 2009. Apply online at: www.jobs.ecu.edu. For questions, contact Dr. J.P. Walsh, walshj@ecu.edu; 252-328-5431. Screening will begin on Feb. 16, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

NOAA is looking for volunteers for their 2009 Spring Bottom Trawl and Sea Scallop surveys. They will conduct a total of eight cruises between March and June from Cape Hatteras to the Gulf of Maine. You need not be a scientist to volunteer. If interested, contact Katherine Sowers at 508-495-2342.

Inside this issue:

DSU Student Subunit News	2
UM-AFS Student Subunit News	2
UNCW-AFS Student Subunit News	3
Duke-AFS Student Subunit News	3
Setzler-Hamilton Scholarship	4
Chapter Award Solicitations	5
ECU-AFS Student Subunit News	5
Treasurer's Report	6
President-Elect Nominee	8

Dr. Ron Klauda Wins Carl S. Weber Award

By Sara Mirabilio

At their annual conference held on December 4, 2008, the Maryland Water Monitoring Council (MWMC) named Dr. Ron Klauda, Tidewater Chapter member, the 2008 recipient of the Carl S. Weber Award for Vision and Leadership in Monitoring Maryland's Waters.

Beginning in 2007, the

award is presented annually to an individual(s) involved in water monitoring in Maryland who exhibits the spirit, vision and leadership so exemplified by Dr. Carl S. Weber.

Dr. Weber not only was a founding member of the University of Maryland—Baltimore County Biological Sciences

see **KLAUDA** page 6

Dr. Ron Klauda has dedicated much of his professional and personal time to the goal of better cooperation, communication and collaboration among water monitoring entities throughout Maryland.





Delaware State University Student Subunit News

By Johnny Moore

Delaware State University (DSU) has had a very productive year. We participated in the University of Delaware's Annual Coast Day held at the Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, DE. Coast Day gives visitors the opportunity to learn the importance of resources found in and around Delaware's coastal waters, while offering fun and exciting exhibits. Our booth at Coast Day consisted of a toy shark fishing game as well as two display tanks that held live specimens which we are working with at DSU. Overall, it was a great day and we had lots of time to interact with folks of all

ages. The little ones seemed to really have a great time fishing and as well as learning about our research.

DSU is currently working on a broad range of species including my work on sand tigers as well as oysters, Atlantic sturgeon, American eel, and weakfish. DSU students recently participated in the fall Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting held in Camden, NJ in a cold rain. We are really looking forward to the upcoming meeting being hosted by UNCW and are hoping for warmer weather.

Several DSU students/staff are planning to attend the Commercial Waterman's Expo at the end of January in Ocean City,

MD. This event offers a great opportunity for us to interact with local commercial and recreational harvesters. We have had a booth at this event the past four years and are starting to get a number of "repeat customers". This expo draws a broad swath of the fishing community and allows us to gauge their needs as well as getting the word out on what we are currently involved in at DSU. I look forward to seeing everyone again at this year's meeting.



University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Lab Student Subunit News

By Adam Peer

This fall our subunit found a balance between work and play, as members dug deep to achieve our goal for greater community involvement and outreach and then celebrated those achievements with social gatherings.

In September, members worked diligently to design a series of posters describing and illustrating the life history; distribution; and ecological, economic and historical importance of several species of Chesapeake Bay fishes. These posters have been, and will continue to be, used

for our subunit's outreach activities and copies have been donated to the Chesapeake Biological Lab's (CBL) Visitor Center. Due to high demand and requests from CBL's Outreach Coordinator and MD Sea Grant Marine Extension Specialist, Jackie Takacs, more posters are in the works.

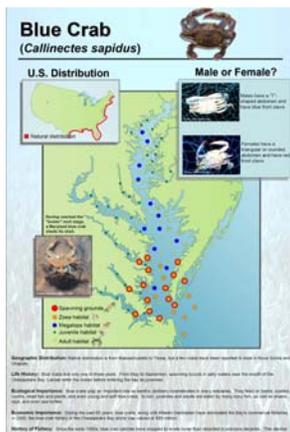
In October, members volunteered at the Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD), an annual festival in Solmons, MD. The festival is organized to create awareness, advocacy and action to protect the tributaries and watershed of the Patuxent River (a tributary itself of the Chesapeake Bay) and the basin through which it flows. A particular focus is on the economic, social, recreational, cultural and historical impact of the fishery. While at PRAD, we spoke with the community about fish and fisheries; displayed our new posters; and provided a microscope exhibit showcasing otoliths, fish larvae and living organisms commonly found on oyster reef habitat. To raise funds for future subunit activities, we also raffled a charter fishing trip in the Bay.

At October's end, our subunit celebrated our hard work at the 4th Annual Bring-Your-Own-Species BBQ Feast. Each

year our subunit hosts a BBQ where members are encouraged to bring their own catch to the grill. This year's event was unique in that it coincided with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Student Colloquium. The Colloquium is an annual conference where students from each of the UMCES campuses (CBL, College Park, Horn Point, Eastern Shore, Appalachian Lab, and Center of Marine Biotechnology) come together to display and to communicate their research. How better to cap off a weekend of scientific fellowship than to invite subunit members, visiting researchers and friends over for wiffle ball and healthy servings of North Carolina pulled pork BBQ and Texas chili. We could not have asked for a more timely concurrence!

Other projects and events to come in 2009 include a workshop to educate graduate students on the keys to preparing and to applying for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fellowships and federal fisheries positions. Our subunit continues to plan a "Surfer" workshop to be taught by Dr. Elizabeth North (UMCES Horn Point). Surfer is a powerful contour-

**Poster series—
Fishes of
Chesapeake
Bay
by the UMCES/
CBL subunit —
describes ecology and importance of several species of Bay fishes like the blue crab pictured here. Copies are handed out at the CBL Visitor Center.**



see **MARYLAND** page 5



University of North Carolina Wilmington Student Subunit News

By Chip Collier

The University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) student subunit has been busy this year volunteering, studying and conducting research.

The subunit volunteered at the 10th Annual Cape Fear Disabled Sportsman Fishing Tournament held in May on the Kure Beach Fishing Pier. Turnout was excellent with over 200 from the disabled community fishing. Participants caught a variety of species, including spot, croaker, sea mullet, flounder and pompano. In a similar spirit, we volunteered in October at the National Make A Difference Day Fishing Tournament. "Little Buddies" - at-risk youth and youth from low income and single family homes in the community—gathered to fish with UNCW volunteers, their "Big Buddies."

Subunit graduate students have been working with undergraduates on a variety of projects. The undergraduate students

assisted in the field with seining, gillnetting and hook-and-line sampling for a variety of species. Hands-on experience has become a great recruitment tool, as the majority of the undergraduate students have become active in subunit activities.

Graduate students have been researching red drum overwinter mortality and feeding ecology, red porgy and black sea bass reproductive dynamics, recruitment of juvenile fishes, and life history of sea mullet. Research results have been presented at a variety of meetings, including the 2008 Tidewater Chapter (TWC) meeting, the national American Fisheries Society meeting in Ottawa, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in Rehoboth, DE. Look out for some of their hard work to be presented at the upcoming TWC meeting in Wilmington!

Congratulations go to Joe Facendola and Nikolai Klubansky for receiving the 2008 Got-Em-On Live Bait Club fellowship. Each

October the Club holds a charity golf tournament where all proceeds go to fund a fellowship for graduate students in marine sciences at UNCW. The hope is that these monies eventually will lead to advances



Cassie Martin—2008 Got-Em-On Live Bait Club award recipient.

in improving the condition of our oceans and of declining fish stocks. Also notable, UNCW professor Dr. Thomas Lankford and masters student Janie McAuliffe received the UNCW Charles L. Cahill Award to study fish nursery function of salt marsh tidal creeks in southeastern NC, particularly effects of residential development and water pollution.

see **WILMINGTON** page 5

Duke University Student Subunit News

By Eddie Farrell

The Duke University student subunit has been busy over the past few months. We took part in the Duke EarthJam Festival in Durham, NC for the second year. EarthJam is an environmental festival that features interactive animal displays, marine touch tanks, and information booths from local



Playing our sustainable seafood fishing game. EarthJam, Duke Univ., Oct. 21, 2008.

organizations. Our booth had a sustainable seafood fishing game. Participants were able to learn about sustainable seafood while having fun at the same time.

Also in October, we participated in the 22nd Annual NC Seafood Festival in Morehead City. Our booth sold kabobs made with locally caught shrimp and distributed information about the importance of local seafood and the sustainability of other available seafood. Great weather and long lines made the weekend an overwhelming success. Profits from shrimp kabob sales were donated to a local seafood organization called Carteret Catch, which fosters cooperation between local (Carteret County) fishermen and restaurants to guarantee fresh menu items that are not shipped from overseas and caught using unknown methods.

We currently are planning a spring sym-



Catherine McGlade, historian, manning the NC Seafood Festival booth. Oct. 3-5, 2008.

posium that will focus on the future of marine aquaculture. It will be a weekly series of discussions about current policy concerns, feasibility of novel techniques, and current aquaculture operations. Each week will feature a new speaker and perspective.





Third Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Available

By Sara Mirabilio

The Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship is awarded periodically to an outstanding graduate student currently enrolled in a fisheries or closely related curriculum who has displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional endeavors and public outreach/community service. The award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton—a long-time member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and fourth president (1989) of the Tidewater Chapter.

Eileen was committed to the preservation of marine fisheries resources and to the science that supports Atlantic coast fisheries management. But this award goes beyond recognition of scholarly efforts and honors Eileen’s commitment and enthusiasm for teaching and public outreach.

Recipients receive an engraved plaque and \$250. The award will be presented at the upcoming Tidewater Chapter annual meeting in Wilmington, NC.

Applications must be received no later than Feb. 13, 2009. Please send an application and recommendation forms to:

Ron Klauda, chairman
Awards and Scholarship Committee
AFS Tidewater Chapter
c/o MD Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, C-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

For more information, contact Klauda, 410-260-8615 or rklauda@dnr.state.md.us.

(NOTE: Proper forms must be requested from Ron Klauda. Below follows merely examples to showcase questions.)

APPLICATION

To be completed by graduate student applicant:

Name _____ E-mail address _____
University _____ Phone _____
Enrollment date __ Current degree held __
Next degree being pursued and
expected graduation date _____
AFS member? __Yes __No
Tidewater Chapter member? __Yes __No

- 1) Send a current resume that includes your presentations at scientific meetings and publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- 2) Outline your graduate research activities, including field, laboratory and data analysis tasks. Clearly state the hypotheses, goals and objectives of your research.
- 3) Include a list of graduate courses you have taken and the grade received for each course.
- 4) Describe two courses you have taken that have been most important to your professional development and why.
- 5) Describe your teaching experience.
- 6) Describe your professional endeavors,

including your involvement with AFS, the Tidewater Chapter, and other scientific organizations.

7) Describe your public outreach and community service activities.

8) Provide any additional information you feel makes you an outstanding graduate student who deserves to win this scholarship.

9) Ask your adviser, another faculty member, and a fellow graduate student to fill out the respective recommendation form (A,B, or C) and e-mail to Ron Klauda.

RECOMMENDATION FORM

To be completed by applicant’s graduate adviser (“A”), faculty member who is not applicant’s graduate adviser (“B”), and fellow graduate student who knows the applicant (“C”):

Applicant’s name _____
Your name _____ E-mail address _____
Phone _____ Date _____

- 1) How long have you known this graduate student?
- 2) Provide a brief outline of the applicant’s research, coursework, teaching experience, professional endeavors and public outreach/community service activities.
- 3) Why do you consider the applicant to be outstanding and deserving of this scholarship award?

A Who’s Who For The Tidewater Chapter

By Ron Klauda

The following is a summary listing of Tidewater Chapter non-paper award recipients since records started being kept in 1993. Except for the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship (\$250), all awardees receive an

engraved plaque.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

- John Cooper (1996)
- Rick Eades (1998)
- Bill Rodney (2001)
- Fred Harris (2004)
- James Morris, Jr. (2005)
- Roger Rulifson (2006)

EXCELLENCE IN FISHERIES EDUCATION

- Roger Rulifson (1999)
- E. Setzler-Hamilton (2000)
- Dave Secor (2004)
- John Olney (2005)
- Tom Lankford (2006)

CONSERVATION

- John Olney (2003)
- Ken Paynter (2003)

Wilson Laney (2004)

- Beth Versak (2004)
- Ed Houde (2005)
- Mike Naylor (2006)
- Robert “JJ” Orth (2007)

SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL

- Joe Loesch (1993)
- John Cooper (1993)
- Ron Klauda (1998)
- Ron Klauda (2003)

Roger Rulifson (2004)

- Erik Zlokovitz (2005)
- Bob Murphy (2006)
- Stephanie McInerny (2007)

EILEEN SETZLER-HAMILTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Jennifer Cudney (2002)
- Janet Nye (2005)





Committee Seeks Nominees for 2009 Awards

By Ron Klauda

The Awards and Scholarship Committee is seeking nominations for awards to be presented to deserving individuals at the 2009 American Fisheries Society (AFS) Tidewater Chapter annual meeting March 12-14 in Wilmington, NC.

Specific awards to be given are:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

The Meritorious Service Award is given periodically to a Chapter member for their unswerving loyalty, dedication and service to the Tidewater Chapter over a long period of time, and for their exceptional commitment to the programs, objectives and long-term goals of the Chapter.

EXCELLENCE IN FISHERIES EDUCATION

The Excellence in Fisheries Education Award is given periodically to a Chapter member who has achieved excellence in teaching and in student advising in the field of fisheries science (or closely-related area), and who encourages student participation at the Tidewater Chapter meetings.

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Award is given periodically to a Chapter member, resource management agency, corporation or non-profit organization who has distinguished themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

Please help the Awards and Scholarship Committee and your Tidewater Chapter by nominating deserving individuals for these awards. Send the names of your nominees, plus a brief description of why you think they deserve the award, no later than Feb. 2, 2009 to:

Ron Klauda, chairman
Awards and Scholarship Committee
AFS Tidewater Chapter
c/o MD Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, C-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

For more information, contact Klauda,

2007 Conservation Award recipient—Dr. Robert “JJ” Orth—faculty at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and William & Mary.



East Carolina University Student Subunit News

By Katie Kleber & Ryan Spidel

The East Carolina University student subunit has been busy over the past few months. In early summer, we coordinated a boat-mounted, electrofishing workshop led by NC Wildlife Commission fisheries biologists Bob Barwick and Justin Homan. In July, we hosted two groups of Ocean Adventure campers in the Rulifson-Luczakovich labs. The campers (ages 9-11) learned how to measure, weigh and identify some common, coastal North Carolina fish. They also used dissecting microscopes to look at fish scales, otoliths and blue crab early life stages.

Two graduate students received funding from the subunit to attend the American Fisheries Society meeting in Ottawa in August. It was the first national meeting for one; the other co-hosted a symposium on Squaloid (dogfish) sharks.

Moving into fall, the subunit organized the annual Big Sweep river clean-up in October. Turnout was excellent, with 68 people from campus and the local community volunteering their time. We removed 1,835 pieces of trash from nearly a 1.5-mile stretch of Green Mill Run (a tributary of the Tar River). We also sponsored a campus screening and panel discussion of the new movie *Sizzle*—a global warming comedy by Dr. Randy Olsen.

We are looking forward to the spring, which will mark our ten-year anniversary as a student subunit and of our annual banquet. Dr. Steven Cooke, Carleton University, will be our guest speaker for the annual banquet to be held Jan. 9 in Greenville, NC. Other upcoming activities include participating in the 2009 Grifton Shad Festival and the city-wide Take a Kid Fishing Day. Many members plan to attend the Southern Division and Tidewater Chapter annual meetings. Stay up-to-date on our activities or obtain instructions for joining by visiting our Web site: www.ecu.edu/org/afs, or by subscribing to our Listserv.

MARYLAND continued from page 2

ing and 3-D surface mapping package that accurately transforms XYZ data into contour, wireframe, shaded relief, image, post and vector maps. Originally scheduled for June, insufficient funding warranted postponement to a later date. We will be sure to keep you posted via the Chapter Listserv as dates become firm.

If you are interested in getting involved with the subunit, please feel free to contact me. New membership is always welcome!

Adam Peer, president
UM Center for Environmental Science
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
PO Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688
Ph: 410-326-7373 Em: peer@cbl.umces.edu

WILMINGTON continued from page 3

Dr. Jeff Hutchings, Dalhousie University, accepted the subunit and the Biology Graduate Student Association's joint invitation to give a lecture at UNCW on March 27 as part of the Lindquist Seminar Series. All are invited to attend. You can now check out all upcoming activities and speakers at <http://student.uncw.edu/org/AFS>.

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

Chip Collier, president
Department of Biology and Marine Biology
University of North Carolina Wilmington
601 S. College Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Ph: 910-796-7292 Em: wrc1620@uncw.edu





Treasurer's Report



By Stephanie McInerny

After the 2008 annual meeting at the Virginia Institute of Marine

Science, the Tidewater Chapter (TWC) checking account was well above our operating budget of \$4,500. This has allowed the Chapter to give donations to other Divisions and Sections within the American Fisheries Society (AFS).

Recently, the Chapter made a contribution of \$250 to the Northeastern Division for help with publication costs of a book entitled, *Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment?* Three TWC members (John Cooper, Roger Rulifson, and Ron Klauda) are co-editors. The book will come out next summer as AFS Symposium 69. In addition, the Chapter has donated \$300 to the Equal Opportunity Section. Monies will go toward the 2009 AFS annual meeting student travel award offered by the Section.

In other good financial news, the Chapter finally has received their Sales and Use Tax refund from our 20th annual meeting in Atlantic Beach, NC. To get this money re-

imbursed to the Chapter was a long process but well worth it, as it resulted in a refund check of \$374.41. Dues paid so far to the Chapter from the AFS Parent Society for 2008 add up to \$273.

Due to the decline in the economy and the stock market, the TWC mutual fund, which was thriving about six months ago, has been on the decline. The mutual fund is currently valued around \$718, representing a 30% decrease from the original investment of \$1,025. The funds are being monitored, but the TWC EXCOM has agreed that it would not be wise to pull our money out when we are at a loss. Therefore, the mutual fund will stay open and continue to be monitored.

Financial Report Summary:

Checking:	\$7,600.36*
Mutual Fund:	\$718
<hr/>	
Total:	\$8,318.36

**Checking account total includes additions of the Sales and Use Tax refund and of the Parent Society dues, but also, deductions of a total \$550 in donations to the Northeastern Division and the Equal Opportunity Section and of a \$550 deposit to hold the USS North Carolina for the 2009 TWC annual meeting.*

Please do not forget to pay your 2009 TWC dues! If you are not currently a member of the Chapter but would like to join, a membership form can be found on the Chapter Web site at:

www.sdafs.org/tidewater/index.html and clicking on "About Tidewater," then "Constitution/Bylaws" and going to the last page of the Procedural Manual. Or, you can e-mail me at Stephanie.McInerny@ncmail.net. Annual dues are \$7.00, and checks should be made payable to "Tidewater Chapter AFS." Please submit completed form and payment to:

Stephanie McInerny
TWC Secretary/Treasurer
252 Wildwood Road
Newport, NC 28570

All memberships are for a calendar year. Any payments received later than September 1st will be processed for membership beginning January 1st of the following year. Join the AFS Tidewater Chapter Today!

KLAUDA continued from page 1

Department, teaching there for over 40 years, but also was instrumental in the development of the MWMC and one of the founding Board members.

From the inception of the MWMC over 14 years ago, Dr. Ron Klauda has worked tirelessly to help advance the goals of the Council. He has served on the Board of Directors, chaired several committees, organized many workshops, assisted in the planning of the annual conference and worked to ensure that the Council's "infrastructure" has been maintained within the MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Ron always has been the man behind the scenes, making sure that

MWMC activities have been successful and relevant to the water monitoring family.

Ron's dedication to the involvement of Maryland's citizens in water monitoring and in environmental stewardship has been steadfast for over a decade. He was integral to the establishment of Maryland's first Volunteer Water Monitoring Coordinator, who assists citizen monitoring organizations in program planning and implementation. He also has been active in volunteer monitoring himself. With his wife Kathy, Ron became a Maryland Stream Wader and sampled aquatic invertebrates in over ten freshwater stream sites near his home in Calvert County. Further, he has participated in other local, citizen-driven efforts to assess and to improve water qual-

ity near his home.

Ron has consistently demonstrated his commitment to foster collaboration and cooperation among water monitoring practitioners. He organized the first stream monitoring roundtable in Maryland, providing an opportunity for folks to meet, share and collaborate on monitoring the waters of Maryland. Ron always has worked to incorporate monitoring data from different groups into a unified assessment.

Currently, Ron Klauda is the Director of the MD DNR Monitoring and Non-tidal Assessment Division.

Portions of this article were adapted from the MWMC award announcement found at: <http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/MWMC/>





Did you hear?

JOHN GRAVES APPOINTED TO MAFAC

Gloucester Point, VA—Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez appointed Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) fisheries professor John Graves to the US Department of Commerce's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), the nation's top governing body for domestic fisheries. The 21 members appointed to the MAFAC are responsible for recommending priorities and changes in fisheries management, such as the Magnuson-Steven's Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Dr. Graves contributes to the diversity of expertise via his fisheries genetics background and his past experience in management and policy. Source: Dave Malmquist, 804-684-7011.

BACTERIAL DISEASE KILLS STRIPERS

Gloucester Point, VA—A recent study conducted by lead researcher Dr. David Gauthier (Old Dominion Univ.) while at VIMS demonstrated the bacterial disease mycobacteriosis can kill striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay. An infected fish has only a 70% survival rate compared to a non-infected fish. Older females are more likely than males to die of the disease, possibly due to energetic stress of spawning. Further, disease-related mortality is higher in summer, conceivably due to energetic stress of warm temperatures and low oxygen levels. The researchers caution that research results rely on several assumptions that are reasonable but should be tested in future studies. Source: *Ecological Applications*, October 2008.

ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN MD

Annapolis, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in the lower Susquehanna River. The latest zebra mussels found in Maryland were recovered from a boat docked in Harford County. State biologists are calling for vigilance and assistance from boaters and an-

glers to prevent spread of harmful zebra mussels.

The species free-swimming larvae move rapidly with natural currents, but the main mechanism for zebra mussel transport up rivers and to inland lakes is hitchhiking with people. Boaters and anglers who use the Susquehanna, the only water body in MD where zebra mussels have been found, should be particularly careful to avoid spreading these invasive species to other state waters. Their presence has been connected with widespread ecological impacts, ranging from increasing toxic microorganisms to declining duck populations. Source: MD DNR Press Release 12/09/08.

NEW MD BLUE CRAB REGULATIONS

Annapolis, MD—In order to get a better handle on how many crabs are taken from the Chesapeake Bay each year, Maryland officials may require anyone who plans to catch crabs next year to get a license first. Maryland DNR is considering new regulations that would end a license exemption for waterfront property owners and those on land who catch crabs with dip nets. While some recreational crabbers already must be licensed, there would be up to 65,000 crabbers exempt from license requirements.

This year the state cut the female crab harvest by 34% in an effort to rebuild the crab population, but DNR managers say they lack reliable information about how many crabs are caught by recreational fishermen—a point of contention for commercial fishermen. The policy change would help managers understand how many crabs are caught by recreational crabbers. Source: MD DNR Press Release 12/21/08.

MD OYSTER PARTNERSHIP HIRES 500+

Annapolis, MD—Maryland DNR and the Oyster Recovery Partnership expect to hire more than 520 watermen for oyster restoration work as part of Governor Martin O'Malley's plan to help mitigate eco-

nomie losses from the declining blue crab fishery, while also helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay. An additional 84 watermen are expected to be hired for land-based work that will begin later this year.

In November, more than 100 watermen worked to recover and to clean approximately 100 acres of oyster bars in Tangier Sound and the Patuxent and Severn Rivers. Watermen used their boats and dredge equipment to remove silt and sediment from the tops of once historically healthy oyster bars to prepare them for a natural spat set and/or hatchery seed planting. Source: MD DNR Press Release 11/21/08.

STATE RECORD FOR BLUE MARLIN

Morehead City, NC—Trey Irvine of Westin, FL, caught the North Carolina state record for an Atlantic blue marlin on Aug. 15 during the Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament. The fish weighed 1,228.5 pounds, beating the previous state record by 86.5 pounds and just 173.7 pounds shy of the world record. The tournament is a part of the NC Governor's Cup Billfishing Conservation Series, which is managed by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to promote conservation, protection and preservation of our marine resources. Source: NC DMF News Release 8/18/08.

SALMON, SEA TURTLE "HOMING"

Chapel Hill, NC—A new idea hopes to inspire future studies into how salmon and sea turtles return to their birthplace after traveling thousands of open-ocean miles. Dr. Kenneth Lohmann, professor of biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, recently published a paper that suggests salmon and sea turtles learn the unique magnetic signature of their birthplace when they are born and retain this information. If this becomes an accurate assumption, it could serve as a useful tool for revitalizing salmon stocks and protecting endangered sea turtles. Source: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, December 2008.



Send us your notable fisheries photos!



At the August American Fisheries Society (AFS) national meeting in Ottawa, Dr. Roger Rulifson (faculty advisor for the East Carolina University Student Subunit and Tidewater Chapter member) was awarded the 2008 Meritorious Service Award from the AFS Parent Society. Shown here is Dr. Rulifson receiving his award from AFS President Dr. Mary Fabrizio. Congratulations Roger!

- Submitted by ECU-AFS

Register now for the March Tidewater Chapter annual meeting by visiting: <http://uncw.edu/tidewater/>

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) encourages the exchange of information by those residing, working in, or having a professional interest in the estuarine and coastal fisheries of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the States of Maryland and North Carolina.

Tidewater Officers include:

President—Jack Musick; jmusick@vims.edu

President-Elect—Fred Scharf; scharff@uncw.edu

Past-President—Dewayne Fox; dfox@desu.edu

Sec / Tres—Stephanie McInerny; Stephanie.McInerny@ncmail.net

At-Large Members:

MD—Bob Murphy; murphy@ecosystemsolutions.org

VA—Kevin Spanik; kspanik@vims.edu

NC—Paul Rudershausen; pjruders@ncsu.edu

Student Subunit President(s):

ECU—Ken Riley; klr1011@ecu.edu, and

Ryan Spidel; mrs0210@ecu.edu

UNCW—Chip Collier; Chip.Collier@ncmail.net

Duke—Eddie Farrell; edward.farrell@duke.edu

UMCES/ES—Reginald Black; inferred32@hotmail.com

UMCES/CBL—Adam Peer; peer@cbl.umces.edu

DSU Representative—Johnny Moore; johnny_mo85@yahoo.com

UD Representative—vacant

Newsletter Editors - James Morris; James.Morris@noaa.gov, and

Sara Mirabilio; saram@csi.northcarolina.edu

Webmaster - James Morris; James.Morris@noaa.gov

Editors' Note: We welcome comments on the new newsletter format!



Michael Luisi Nominated for Tidewater Chapter President-Elect

By Sara Mirabilio

Michael Luisi, Deputy Assistant Director of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Estuarine and Marine Fisheries Division, has been nominated for the Tidewater Chapter post of President-Elect. The President-Elect is chairperson of the Program Committee, and as such, selects time and place, and oversees all arrangements for the annual meeting. The President-Elect assumes the presidency upon expiration of the current president's term.

Mike graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1997. His career in fisheries began at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries where he worked as a technician on the Statewide Stream Survey Project out of the Farmville field office.

After a little more than a year, Mike en-

tered the graduate program at Tennessee Technological University and earned a Master of Science degree in 2000 for his study of the growth and survival characteristics of brown and rainbow trout.



Mike went to work for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the

summer of 2000 and remains with the Department. Over the past eight years, he has experienced a wide variety of positions within the Department, including the management of the state's commercial striped bass fishery and Director of the Coastal Fisheries Program. Currently, Mike oversees all finfish and blue crab related activities in tidal/coastal waters of the state.

Mike officially will be elected and installed at the upcoming Tidewater Chapter annual meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina. The officers of the Chapter consist of a President, President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer may hold office for a period longer than one year, but the term of the other officers is one year.

Mike lives in Annapolis, Maryland, with his wife Sarah and children Elizabeth and Andrew.