

# TIDEWATER PRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
TIDEWATER CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Summer 2013

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## President's Corner | *Mike Wilberg*



### **Enhancing Student Participation in the Tidewater Chapter**

I would like to kick off my first President's Corner by beginning a discussion about how we can enhance student participation in Tidewater. As much as consistent recruitment is important to support a healthy fish

population, so too is consistent recruitment of new members (i.e., students) to support the health of the American Fisheries Society. Students often bring new ideas and the most enthusiasm to the Chapter.

Student subunit participation in Tidewater has declined somewhat, and at least one recent study has suggested that younger generations are less likely to participate in professional societies than older generations. Therefore, we need to have a clear answer to why students should use some of their precious time to participate in the Tidewater Chapter of AFS?

I see three overlapping sets of opportunities for students involved in the Tidewater Chapter: professional development, networking, and educational opportunities. How can we expand and strengthen these opportunities?

*continued on next page* >>>

*President's Corner, continued  
from page 1*

Of the many activities offered by the Tidewater Chapter, the one most relevant to students is the Tidewater annual meeting. The annual meeting provides an opportunity to present research to a broad fisheries audience in a relatively low pressure environment and to interact with a diverse group of fisheries professionals. Interchange of ideas and development of a network of colleagues are invaluable functions of these meetings. We have also recently begun continuing education courses at the annual meeting, and most of the participants have been students.

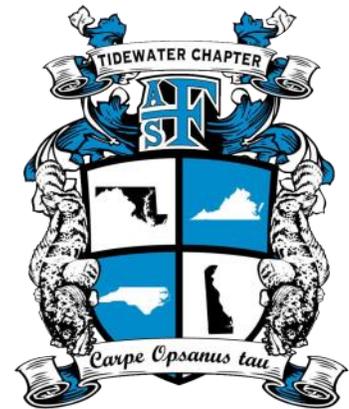
Participation in the Tidewater Chapter and its student subunits also fosters leadership skills.

Fisheries training rarely includes formal training in leadership, but participation in the Chapter allows learning by doing. It also provides an opportunity to serve the other members of the Chapter, which can be very rewarding both personally and professionally.

We have considered new ideas to enhance participation of students in Tidewater, such as providing funds to active student subunits to expand their activities and fund travel grants to the parent society or Southern Division annual meetings. Student subunits are often grassroots organizations, so we

need to strive to make their participation in Tidewater as seamless as possible.

I hope to hear more from our Tidewater members over the next few months about ways we can continue to improve our student members' experiences. Let's see what we can do to foster strong recruitment and participation in the upcoming years.



## Seeking Officers and At-Large Member Nominees | *Jacob Boyd*

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is seeking nominations for the Chapter's officers (President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer) and also the At-Large Members for North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. Officers and At-Large Members shall be elected annually and installed at the annual meeting. All positions except for the President-Elect may hold office for a period longer than one year.

For the President-Elect office, the successful nominee will assume the position of Program

Committee chair and have the honor of hosting the annual meeting in North Carolina in the spring of 2015. The President-Elect assumes the presidency upon the expiration of the current President's term. Incumbent positions need to make sure they nominate themselves if they would like to stay in their position.

Nominations including a brief bio can be submitted to Nomination Committee Chairman Jacob Boyd ([jacob.boyd@ncdenr.gov](mailto:jacob.boyd@ncdenr.gov)) by November 1, 2013. Self-

nomination is accepted, and in fact, encouraged.

Voting will take place from November 15 through December 15. The successful nominees will be announced during the 2014 meeting being held in Virginia and will assume the position during the business meeting. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time hosting the annual meeting and serving as President. For more information about officers and duties visit the chapter's website ([www.sdafs.org/tidewater](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater)) and click on the Bylaws.

# Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

## Meeting Highlights | *Mike Wilberg*

We are fresh off the 27th annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This year's meeting was held March 21-23 in Solomons, MD. We had over 90 attendees from four states (Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina) and the District of Columbia. Attendees represented 23 academic, government, and non-governmental organizations.



University of Maryland CBL. Photo by Cory Janiak.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday afternoon at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) with a continuing education course, taught by Laura Lee, on comparing and selecting growth models. The course was approved by the parent society's committee on continuing education, so that participants were able to use the course in support of the continuing education requirements of AFS certification. The Executive Committee also met Thursday afternoon, which was followed by the poster social in the CBL Bernie Fowler Laboratory.

Friday featured a full day of presentations and the student-mentor lunch, followed by the awards



Maryland Director of Natural Resources Fishery Service, Tom O'Connell, delivering his keynote talk. Photo by Cory Janiak.

ceremony and business meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Solomons. Tom O'Connell, Director of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, was the keynote speaker. After the business meeting, the meeting continued at the banquet at Solomons Island Yacht Club with an enthusiastic raffle that was emceed by members of the CBL student subunit. The meeting concluded with a half day of talks on Saturday.



Sunset at the Solomon's Island Yacht Club. Photo by Chad Smith.

*Meeting Highlights, continued from page 3*

Presentation and poster topics ranged from fish biology topics, such as a comparison of otolith chemistry in summer flounder, to social networks in the spiny dogfish trade. Locations of research ranged from Puerto Rico to New England, mountain streams to the coastal ocean, and covered a continuum of scales from individual streams to global analyses.

The meeting would not have been possible without the efforts and support of many individuals and organizations. Thank you to all our meeting sponsors including Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Maryland Sea Grant, and Vemco, Inc. Also, the meeting would not have been possible without the help of the CBL student subunit and the staff at CBL who set up all the Thursday events.

## 2013 Tidewater Chapter Awards | *Ron Klauda*

### STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Student presentations once again reflected a successful Tidewater Chapter meeting. A total of 27 presentations were evaluated and scored by the judges: 14 posters and 13 oral papers.

#### Student Oral Presentation Awards

- First Place: Deena Anderson, University of North Carolina, Wilmington – “Size-selective patterns of juvenile red drum mortality as a result of variable winter severity”
- Second Place: David Kazyak, University of Maryland, Appalachian Laboratory – “Growth variation in a Mid-Atlantic brook trout population”

- Third Place (tie): Sarah Rains, University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory – “Effects of sex ratio on sperm limitation for blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay”
- Third Place (tie): Anto Kajajian, Old Dominion University – “Is the otolith chemistry within the sagittal pair of the summer flounder the same?”

#### Student Poster Presentation Awards

- First Place: Tim Ellis, North Carolina University – “Experimental determination of cold tolerance in spotted seatrout”
- Second Place: Casey Grieshaber, University of North Carolina, Wilmington – “Seasonal physiological changes in maturing southern



Oral Presentation Award winners (left to right): Sarah Rains, Anto Kajajian, David Kazyak, and Deena Anderson. Photo by John Cooper.



Poster Presentation Award winners (left to right): Casey Grieshaber, Chad Smith, Symone Johnson, and Tim Ellis. Photo by John Cooper.

**2013 TWC Awards, continued  
from page 4**

flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*"

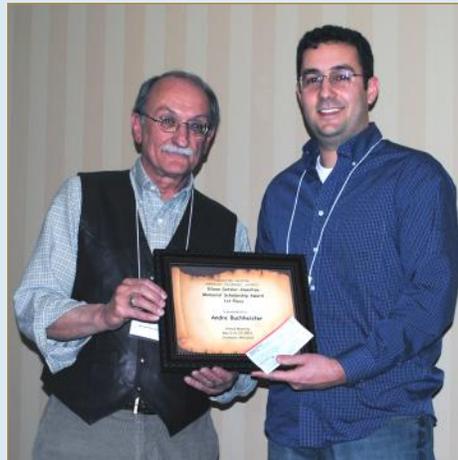
- **Third Place (tie):** Symone Johnson, Delaware State University – "Building a conservation plan for sand tigers (*Carcharias taurus*) in Delaware Bay"
- **Third Place (tie):** Chad Smith, East Carolina University – "What does the public know about water quality? Using cultural consensus analysis to determine differences in knowledge of water quality between volunteers of citizen-based water quality monitoring programs and the general public"

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

The **Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award** is presented periodically to one or more outstanding graduate students who are currently enrolled in a fisheries science or closely-related curriculum that have displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional endeavors, public education, outreach, and community. This award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, a long-time member of the American Fisheries and fourth President (1989) of the Tidewater Chapter.

This year, 'Eileen Awards' were given to two worthy applicants.

The First Place Eileen Award went to Andre Buchheister. He expects to receive his PhD in Marine Science from the College of William and Mary at VIMS in the fall of 2013. His Thesis Advisor is Dr. Robert Latour. Andre's research focuses on how trophic dynamics, exploitation, and biophysical factors interact to regulate productivity of fishes in Chesapeake Bay. Andre is an active member of the Tidewater Chapter, and helped with the 2011 meeting that was held at VIMS.



Ron Klauda presents the first place Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award to Andre Buchheister. Photo by John Cooper.

The Second Place Eileen Award went to Cory Janiak. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Natural Resources at Delaware State University, and expects to graduate in May 2013. Her Thesis Advisor is Dr. Dennis McIntosh. Cory's research project is focused on the development of aquaculture

methods for the mummichog, *Fundulus heteroclitus*, a popular marine baitfish species that is almost entirely supplied by wild harvest. Cory has served as her university's student representative to the Tidewater Chapter since 2011. And for the past year, she has been editor of the Chapter's newsletter.



Ron Klauda presents the second place Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award to Cory Janiak. Photo by John Cooper.

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

This year's Meritorious Service Award went to Dr. Dave Secor. He is a Professor at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, and has been a member of the Tidewater Chapter for 20 years. Dave served as

*2013 TWC Awards, continued  
from page 5*

Chapter President-Elect in 1998, hosted the 1999 meeting in Solomons, and served as Chapter President in 1999. During his 22 year tenure at CBL, Dave has served as Thesis Advisor to 17 students, and all have attended Chapter meetings, at which many regularly present posters and oral papers.



Ron Kluda presenting the Meritous Service Award to Dave Secor. Photo by Chad Smith.

The **Conservation Award** is given periodically by the Tidewater Chapter to an individual, resource management agency, corporation, or non-profit organization that has distinguished themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

This year's Conservation Award was presented to Dr. Kent Mountford. Retired from the U.S. EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program since 2000, Kent now spends his time lecturing, consulting, and

writing full-time. Since 1997, he has written a popular column for the Bay Journal called "Past is Prologue – tales from the Chesapeake's past that offer insight in solving today's problems." He has authored several books, including one with Dr. Vic Kennedy titled "Discovering Chesapeake Bay," published in 2001.



Ron Kluda presenting Kent Mountford with the Conservation Award. Photo by John Cooper.

The **Excellence in Fisheries Education Award** is presented periodically to a Tidewater Chapter member who has achieved excellence in teaching and student advising in the field of fisheries science, and who also encourages student participation in Tidewater Chapter, American Fisheries Society, and other fisheries-related meetings.

This year's Excellence in Fisheries Education award went to

Dr. Vic Kennedy. Vic is a Professor at the University of Maryland's Horn Point Laboratory. His research background and expertise include the reproduction and larval behavior/ ecology of bivalves, crab and fish foraging behavior, ecology of littoral and sub-littoral benthic communities, and global climate change effects on estuarine organisms. Vic has served as Thesis Advisor for 12 students. Since 1987, he has taught a course in Scientific Writing and Communication that has been taken by 339 students. In 1999, Vic's teaching skills were recognized by his university and he was awarded the Graduate Education Award for Excellence in Teaching and Dedicated Service Student presentations once again carried a successful TWC meeting.



Ron Kluda presenting the Excellence in Fisheries Education Award to Vic Kennedy. Photo by John Cooper.

For more photos from the annual meeting, visit our web site at <http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/AFSTidewater/Photos/Photos.html>

*2013 TWC Awards, continued  
from page 6*

The **Outgoing Chapter President's Certificate** was presented to Jacob Boyd.

The **Incoming President's 'Coveted Oyster Toadfish'** was presented to Mike Wilberg.



Mike Wilberg presents the President's Award to Danielle Zaveta. Photo by Chad Smith.

The **Presidential Award** this year was presented to Danielle Zaveta. Danielle serves at the president to the CBL AFS student subunit. She has also been involved with the Chapter as proponent for student participation and helped organize the 2013 Tidewater Annual Meeting.

## AFS Tidewater Chapter Executive Committee

**President:** Mike Wilberg

**President-Elect/ Program Committee**

**Chair:** Jessica Thompson

**Past President/ Nominating Committee**

**Chair:** Jacob Boyd

**Treasurer/ Secretary:** Stephanie McInerny

**At-Large Members**

**North Carolina:** Paul Ruderhausen

**Virginia:** Kevin Spanik

**Maryland:** Bob Murphy

**Student subunit presidents**

**Duke:** Ana Griefen

**ECU:** Nick Tolopka & Zach Gillum

**UMCES CBL:** Danielle Zaveta

**UMES:** inactive

**UNCW:** inactive

**Student representatives**

**DSU:** Cory Janiak

**UD:** vacant

**Awards & Scholarship Committee Chair:**

Ron Klauda

**Webmaster:** Chad Smith

**Newsletter Editor:** Cory Janiak

## Get updates via the Chapter *LISTSERV*

### TO SUBSCRIBE

E-mail to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU) and enter SUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.

### TO SEND A MESSAGE

E-mail to: [TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU)

### TO UNSUBSCRIBE

E-mail to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU) and enter UNSUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.

## Do you have something to share with us? Let us know!

Currently, the Tidewater Press is published twice annually, in January and June. If you or anyone you know has any news, upcoming events, or opportunities related to Tidewater fisheries or research we would love to share it with our readers! Please contact Cory Janiak, newsletter editor, at [cory.janiak@gmail.com](mailto:cory.janiak@gmail.com) with any announcements you would like to place.

*To share or keep updated through the Tidewater AFS listserv, see above for details.*

## Introducing Tidewater's New President-Elect | *Jessica Thompson*



Dr. Jessica Thompson is an assistant professor of biology at Christopher Newport University (CNU) in Newport News, Virginia. She was born and raised in Austin, Texas, but traveled halfway across the country to New York to complete her undergraduate degree in ecology at Bard College. Having never caught a fish in her life, Jessica decided to complete her senior thesis studying the distribution of juvenile fishes living in freshwater tidal marshes along the Hudson River. Once she

waded into the mud to set her homemade pop net and caught her first fish (a banded killifish!), she never looked back. Jessica got her doctorate from North Carolina State University under Jim Rice studying bioenergetics and habitat selection of reservoir striped bass.

After a semester teaching as an adjunct professor at NC State, Jessica decided her passion lay in undergraduate education, and she pursued a position at a primarily undergraduate institution. At CNU, she teaches an introductory course that covers evolution, biological diversity, and ecology, as well as upper-level courses in fish biology, evolutionary biology, and aquatic ecology. Jessica has graduated three students in CNU's M.S. in Environmental Science program, but her real joy lies in taking undergrads into the field to help with her research program on salt marsh fishes. She is currently studying the influence of landscape-scale characteristics of natural and created marshes on

mummichog populations, focusing on diet, survival, growth, and population size. While waist deep in mud, she enjoys pausing to watch dolphins in the river, muskrats building dens along the marsh bank, and redwing blackbirds swaying on the tips of the *Spartina*.

Jessica is looking forward to hosting the 2014 Tidewater meeting at CNU, and she hopes to involve as many undergrads as possible in organizing the meeting, as well as encouraging them to sit in on the talks to experience the amazing science and management that the talented folks in the Tidewater Chapter do every day. Jessica has still never caught a fish with rod and reel (much to her graduate advisor's chagrin), but she's handy with a gill net, pop net, cast net, seine, and minnow trap. She lives on Main Street in a house built in 1918 with her husband, three daughters, black cat, black rabbit, and a tank full of tropical fish.



## Virginia State Update | *Kevin Spanik*

### Blue Crab Bust

An annual winter dredge survey conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources report a drop in overall blue crab abundance from an estimated 765 million last year to 300 million crabs. This is due to a sharp decline in the juvenile crab population from 581 million to 111 million. Biologists believe that a major factor in the decline in juvenile crabs can be attributed to a large influx of juvenile red drum last summer. Recreational anglers released 2.5 million red drum this year as compared to 61,000 last year. The Maryland red drum harvest was nearly 300,00 fish this year as compared to less than 3,000 in both 2010 and 2011. On the positive side, abundance of spawning-age female crabs increased from 95 million to 147 million, which bodes well for next year's recruitment. A new conservation measure that will be

implemented for the 2013 commercial crabbing season will be a daily bushel limit. This is the first time in Virginia's history that this limit will be enacted, and will vary from 27-55 bushels per day, depending on the number of crab pots a license holder is permitted. *VMRC*

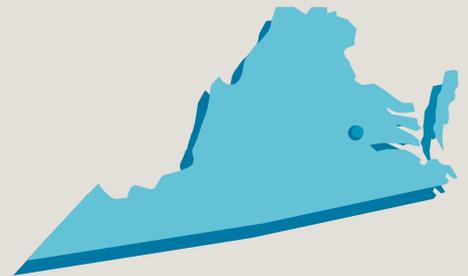
### Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program has Record-Breaking Year

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging program is a cooperative effort of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Currently coordinated by Susanna Musick, the project aims to train experienced recreational anglers to tag and release their fish. This year volunteers tagged more than 31,600 fish, setting a record high for the program. This was a 63% increase in overall number of fishes tagged and an 11.8%

increase in the number of recaptures. Red drum in particular contributed greatly to these numbers with more than 18,300 fish tagged. For more information on the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program and membership information, visit <http://www.vims.edu/research/units/centerspartners/map/recfish/index.php>. *Dave Malmquist, VIMS*

### New Recreational Summer Flounder Size Limits

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission has lowered the recreational summer flounder size limit for the fourth year in a row. Anglers may now keep summer flounder at a minimum length of 16 inches, the lowest the size limit has been since 2001. The creel limit remains unchanged at four fish. *VMRC*



## North Carolina State Update | *Paul Ruderhausen*

### New Study of Black Sea Bass Trap Selectivity Funded.

Captain Tom Burgess, commercial fisherman out of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina, has recently been awarded funds through the North Carolina Sea Grant Fishery Resource Grant

(FRG) Program to study the selectivity of commercial fish traps set for black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*). His project, Determining Optimal Trap Mesh Sizes for New Black Sea Bass Minimum Size Limits, will employ square trap mesh sizes custom made for the project by Houston,

Texas-based C.E. Shepherd, a leading manufacturer of wire mesh.

The motivation for the project came from Burgess and other commercial trap fishermen in the U.S. South Atlantic who wanted to further reduce percentages of sub-legal black sea bass caught in the commercial trap fishery.

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### *North Carolina State Update, continued from page 7*

Burgess's first FRG project on this topic (Project # 06-FEG-05) revealed that 2-inch square mesh traps caught legal black sea bass in equal numbers- and sub-legal bass in lesser numbers than the then minimally legal 1.5 inch mesh trap, during a period of time when the commercial minimum black sea bass was 254 mm. Part of that project also predicted optimal mesh sizes across a range of black sea bass sizes. Since then, the commercial minimum size limit has increased to 279 mm. Burgess used results from his first trap selectivity project to predict the optimal mesh size that would cull sub-legal bass while simultaneously retaining legal individuals greater than the new 279 mm length limit. These new optimum mesh sizes were not available on the open market. C.E. Shepherd generously agreed to custom manufacture wire mesh to Burgess's size specifications. He will test new wire mesh sizes of 2.5 and 2.25 inches, alongside traps made of 2 inch mesh and traps made of 1.5 inch mesh. The 1.5 inch traps will serve as a control by which selectivity of the larger meshes can be computed.

The black sea bass is one of the most important commercial and recreational fish species in the snapper-grouper complex. It is managed through a combination of gear specifications, size limits, bag and trip limits, closed seasons, and

catch quotas. The vast majority of black sea bass landed in the commercial fishery are caught with traps, with a lesser percentage caught with hook and line.

### **SAFMC Approves Increases to Black Sea Bass Annual Catch Limits**

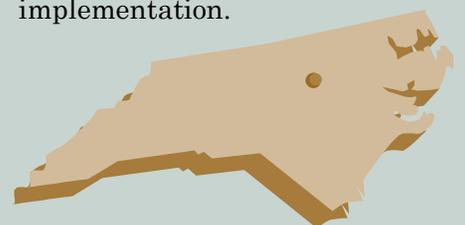
The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) approved measures to increase the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for black sea bass in the U.S. South Atlantic. SAFMC approved an increase from the current limit of 847,000 pounds to 1,814,000 pounds. The increase would be effective for 2013, 2014, and 2015. For 2016 and beyond, the ACL would be 1,756,450 pounds until changed. A recent stock assessment shows that the black sea bass stock in the U.S. South Atlantic is no longer undergoing overfishing, is not overfished, and the stock is rebuilt. The assessment, as reviewed by the SAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee, allows for an increase the ACL.

If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the changes would be implemented through Regulatory Amendment 19 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. The amendment initially included three alternatives, a "no action" alternative leaving the current ACL in place and a second alternative to increase the ACL to 2,133,000 pounds in 2013, a value

equal to the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, with a decrease in catch limits in subsequent years. The third, more conservative alternative would have allowed for an increase to 1,756,450 pounds per year for 2013-2015. After reviewing public comment and discussing the three alternatives, a fourth alternative to increase the ACL to 1,814,000 pounds was introduced and approved by SAFMC.

SAFMC's intent is to have the increase in place in 2013 in order to help extend this year's fishing season, which begins June 1st for both commercial and recreational fishermen. The ACL is currently divided between the two sectors, with 57% allocated to recreational fishermen and 43% to the commercial sector.

SAFMC also approved an action in the amendment to implement a seasonal closure (November 1 through April 30) for the commercial black sea bass pot fishery. The seasonal closure would address potential gear interactions with large whale migration and right whales during calving season. Measures approved by SAFMC in Regulatory Amendment 19 must be reviewed by NOAA Fisheries before final approval and implementation.



## East Carolina University Student Subunit Update | *Dan Zurlo*

This spring semester, the ECU AFS student subunit was very busy. In January, members Walt Rogers and Jillian Osborne participated in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) led Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, in which they caught and tagged several species of fish off the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina.

In February, members Dan Zurlo, Evan Knight, and Tyler Peacock attended the Southern Division AFS 2013 spring meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Dan and Evan presented posters while Tyler presented a talk. Later in February, members Coley Hughes, Dan Zurlo, Evan Knight, and Walt Rogers participated in the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NC DMF)-led Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Hook and Line Tagging Cruise. In one day of fishing 20 miles off Virginia Beach, Virginia they, along with others representing NC DMF, Maryland

Department of Natural Resources, and NC State University, caught and tagged 284 striped bass ranging in size from 30-50 lbs.

March was marked by several members, including Zach Gillum, Nick Tolopka, Andrea Dell'Apa, Chad Smith, Chuck Bangley, Dan Zurlo, Evan Knight, and Walt Rogers, attending the 27th annual AFS Tidewater meeting in Solomons, Maryland. Chad Smith received an award for his poster on citizen participation in water quality management. On March 29th ECU AFS held its 14th annual banquet at which Dr. Dean Grubbs of Florida State University delivered the keynote lecture.

Early April was cause for celebration as our long-time advisor, Dr. Roger Rulifson, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Research and Creative Activity from ECU for his 30 years of service our university. The month also proved to be a busy month for our subunit as we



Walt Rogers holding a flounder on the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise. Image courtesy ECU AFS.

participated in the Grifton Shad festival where we educated the public about what our subunit does and about fisheries in general. Coley Hughes participated in fisheries education outreach at South Central High School in Winterville. Finally, we had officer elections in which we welcomed Nick Tolopka and Zach Gillum as co-presidents, Evan Knight as vice-president, Jillian Osborne as treasurer, Walt Rogers as secretary, Daniel Zurlo as historian, and Chuck Bangley as web-master.



Coley Hughes holding 40lb+ striped bass on the Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Hook and Line Tagging Cruise. Pictured from front to back: Coley Hughes, Walt Rogers, and Dan Zurlo. Image courtesy ECU AFS.



Coley Hughes demonstrating the removal of striped bass otoliths at South Central High School. Image courtesy ECU AFS.

## Duke University Student Subunit Update | *Ana Griefen*



Mike Grubert holds a smooth dogfish.  
Photo by Kimberly Hernandez.



Leland Moss displays his catch: a pinfish. Photo by Kimberly Hernandez.



DukeFish members (from left to right): Jiaxi Wang, Leland Moss, Kate Brogan, Mike Grubert, Kimberly Hernandez, and Ana Griefen. Photo by Jess Hawkins.

DukeFish, the Duke University AFS student subunit, had an eventful semester filled with movie screenings, fishing trips, guest speakers, and more.

The semester began with on campus screenings of Fish Meat in both Durham and Beaufort. The Fish Navy Films documentary explores modern fish farming techniques around the world and spurred thought provoking conversation among our members.

Fishing trips out of Morehead City through Crystal Coast Ecotours bestowed much-appreciated breaks from our studies. Despite suboptimal weather conditions, Captain Jess Hawkins provided memorable experiences catching smooth dogfish, northern puffers, and the occasional heavy weight...pinfish.

Larger fishes were the topic of our guest speaker's presentation entitled "Evolved for Extinction?"

Survival assessments and vulnerability of sharks in a changing ocean." University of Miami PhD candidate Austin Gallagher discussed challenges associated with shark management, and shared experiences communicating science to the public.

The semester closed with final Master's project presentations, which covered topics ranging from geospatial analysis of fisheries, to social network analysis of communication between environmental professionals. Congratulations to all the recent graduates!

Returning members are involved in a variety of summer internships. Lydia Utley is studying spinner dolphins in Hawaii and Aimee Boucher is conducting baseline acoustic studies through her fellowship with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. Five

members with the North Carolina Coastal Federation have already helped to oppose wastewater injection wells in the coastal plain, commented on the Nutrient Criteria Development Plan by the Division of Water Quality, and planted 10,000 plants to restore marsh habitat.

Finally, plans are underway to return to the October North Carolina Seafood Festival, where for the past several years DukeFish has had great success interacting with the community and selling our renowned fish tacos.

Our newly elected officers include: Ana Griefen (President), Kim Hernandez (Vice President), Amanda Santoni (Secretary), Sarah Gillig (Historian), Lydia Utley (Treasurer), and Nichola Clark (Durham Liaison). Inquiries can be emailed to Ana Griefen at [ana.griefen@duke.edu](mailto:ana.griefen@duke.edu).

## University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Student Subunit Update | *Alex Atkinson*

Spring has arrived and with it the University of Maryland subunit has had lots going on! First we must offer our congratulations to Jason Robinson on his successful PhD defense! The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) hosted the 27th Annual AFS Tidewater Chapter meeting in Solomons, MD. Talks included: Sarah Rains, Mike O'Brien, Jen Humphrey, and Carlos Lozano (faculty research advisor of Mike Wilberg and Ed Houde). Sarah Rains won 3rd place in the Best Student

Presentation awards for her talk on potential sperm limitation in blue crab within tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. A raffle with a plethora of fun, fishy items and great attendee participation helped us to raise money for the Tidewater Chapter.

We also held the 2nd annual "Knot Class" this April at CBL hosted by Walter Boynton, Mike Hulme and Bruce Cornwall. With delicious home-made chili and cornbread in our stomachs, we learned the ins and outs of knot-

tying. This should come in handy with the quickly approaching field season!

Danielle Zaveta was recognized with the Drach-Mellody Navigator Award for her research proposal focusing on RNA:DNA as a tool to measure habitat quality in blue crab. Two fisheries students, Alex Atkinson and Matt Siskey, received GEC travel funds to attend the Tidewater meeting. Finally, we plan to have a display at the Bernie Fowler Wade-In on June 9, 2013 which highlights the important role of oysters in providing habitat and hiding spaces for small fish. Come and check it out!

## Delaware State University Update | *Cory Janiak*

Delaware State University was well represented at the annual Tidewater meeting this year. Graduate students Amy Comer, Symone Johnson, and Jimmy Kilfoil all presented posters. Lori Brown and Dr. Dewayne Fox both presented talks. Symone received a Student Poster Presentation Award for her poster about a sand tiger conservation plan and Cory Janiak received the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award.

In April, DSU Aquatic Sciences hosted a field trip for Appoquinimink High School students. The day included tours of all of our aquaculture and aquatic science research facilities

at DSU. Students also learned how to seine and sample fish. Mike Cinelli, Cory Janiak, and Andrea Stoneman led sections of the tour and gave the students an opportunity to learn about fisheries and aquaculture research. On the same day, the university hosted a Graduate Research Symposium, at which Kris Roeske and Amy Comer both won awards for their presentations. Cory Janiak successfully defended her Master's thesis in April and graduated in May.

The research season is now well under way. Andrea Stoneman is wrapping up the last of her trials determining the effects of ocean acidification on a variety of



Andrea Stoneman describes potential effects of ocean acidification on otoliths for Appoquinimink High School students. Photo by Cory Janiak.

larval otoliths. Jimmy Kilfoil will also be finishing his research on beach-caught sand tigers. Amy Comer has been tracking, scanning for, and tagging Atlantic sturgeon from Delaware up to New York. And Kris Roeske starts his second field season tracking juvenile blue crab along Blackbird Creek within the National Estuarine Research Reserve.

**Treasurer's Report** | *Stephanie McInerny*

**Current Financial Report**

Checking:	\$11,604.75
Mutual Fund:	\$ 1,374.25
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,979.00</b>

The Tidewater Chapter expects to make around \$1,700 from the 2013 Annual Meeting in Solomons, Maryland, which includes \$330 from the raffle and \$75 from additional 25th anniversary t-shirt sales. The Chapter is still waiting on the donation from Maryland Sea Grant in the amount of \$3,000 that will bring the checking account balance up to \$14,604.75.

The Chapter remains above its operating budget of \$7,500 and hopes to offer some student travel awards to future meetings.

If you are not currently a member of the Chapter but would like to join, a membership form can be found on the Chapter website or you can email me at [Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov). Annual dues for 2013 are \$10.00. A lifetime membership is available for a onetime fee of \$150.00 and should be sent to:

**Stephanie McInerny**  
**TWC Secretary/Treasurer**  
**209 Brigantine Ct.**  
**Cape Carteret, NC 28584**

Make checks payable to "Tidewater Chapter AFS."



**Current Tidewater Membership by State**

<b>Delaware (4%)</b>	Andrew Loftus	Jason Spires	John Boreman	Allyn Powell	Jon Lucy
	Lori Brown	Bradley Stevens	Jacob Boyd	James Rice	John Musick
	Dewayne Fox	Scott Stranko	Jeff Buckel	Jason Rock	Lauren Nys
	Timothy Targett	Andrea Sylvia	Jody Callihan	Roger Rulifson	David Rudders
<b>Maryland (40%)</b>	Maude Morris	Marek Topolski	Mary Egbert	Fred Scharf	Jason Schaffler
	Robert Aguilar	James Uphoff	Tim Ellis	Kyle Shertzter	Ryan Schloesser
	William Goldsborough	Michael Wilberg	Joseph Hightower	Michael Street	Jim Seuberling
	Lonnie Gonsalves	E. Eugene Williams	Todd Kellison	Thomas Thompson	Matthew Smith
	Reginal Harrell	Rebecca Wingate	Katharine Kleber	Doug Vaughan	Jessica Thompson
	Edward Houde	Danielle Zaveta	Laura Lee	<b>New York (1%)</b>	<b>Washington (1%)</b>
	Jennifer Humphrey	<b>North Carolina (33%)</b>	Tracy McCulloch	John Cooper	Carl Schilt
	Christian Johnson	Stephanie McInerny	Stephanie McInerny	<b>Virginia (15%)</b>	<b>West Virginia (1%)</b>
	David Kazyak	Scott Baker	Warren Mitchell	Andre Buchheister	Kyle Hartman
	Ron Klauda	Charles Bangley	Stephen Poland	Mary Fabrizio	
		Samantha Binion		Carissa Gervasi	

## AFS Annual Meeting Awards for Students

*Are you a student presenting at the annual parent society meeting in Little Rock this September? AFS provides many award opportunities for students, based on merit, skill, and need. These listed here are just a few. For more opportunities, visit <http://fisheries.org/> and click on the Awards tab on the left.*

### **Fisheries Information and Technology Section (FITS) Best Student Poster Award**

Posters are judged on the innovative use of technology in a fisheries research project. In addition to recognition from AFS fisheries professionals, the award is accompanied by a plaque and a \$250 cash prize. To be considered for the FITS Best Student Poster

Award, please submit your poster title and abstract to FITS President-elect Thomas Litts ([thom.litts@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:thom.litts@dnr.state.ga.us)) by Friday, August 9, 2013. The field of fisheries science, and overall presentation of the study. The award winner receives \$150 and an award certificate following the annual meeting.

### **A. Stephen Weithman Student Paper Award**

The Missouri Chapter and the Socioeconomics Section of the AFS sponsor the A. Stephen Weithman Best Student Paper Award in Socioeconomics. The award is given for the best platform or poster paper using economic and/or other social science data and

analyses presented by a student at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Papers are judged on content, originality, organization, contribution to the field of fisheries science, and overall presentation of the study. The award winner receives \$150 and an award certificate following the annual meeting.

A nomination form can be found at <http://afs2013.com/wp-content/uploads/Weithman-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf> for use by the student's supervisor or by an officer of an AFS Section, Chapter or Division. Please return the form Peter Fricke ([peter.fricke@frontiernet.net](mailto:peter.fricke@frontiernet.net)) by July 1, 2013, for the Annual Meeting in Little Rock.

## 2013 AFS Annual Meeting Comes to Little Rock, Arkansas

The 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries society will be held this year in Little Rock, Arkansas. This year's theme is *Preparing for the Challenges Ahead*. Early bird registration ends Friday, July 12, 2013.

Little Rock, nestled in the heart of the Natural State, offers down-home hospitality with big city flair. The Marriott Hotel in downtown Little Rock hosts the event while the AFS Technical Program and other meeting events will be held at the adjacent

Statehouse Convention Center. The Statehouse Convention Center is in Little Rock's River Market district, which hosts abundant cultural, entertainment and dining options. Little Rock also offers excellent trolley service for nearby attractions. For those interested in an extended visit, the "Natural State" offers world-class fishing, hiking, whitewater, and cultural experiences. Arkansas also offers excellent state and national parks ranging from the Crater of Diamonds State Park, the world's only public diamond mine, to the

Buffalo River National Park, America's first national river.

For more information visit <http://afs2013.com/>

