



TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

APRIL-JUNE 1988

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

(Editor's Note: Each Chapter President is a member of the AFS Executive Committee. The AFS EXCOM held its mid-term meeting in Seattle, Washington in early March. Our fearless leader attended. This is his summary.)

The travel brochure said the weather for March can be wet but is generally sunny with the daytime highs in the 60's. As I left Greenville's rain and cold, I was looking forward to spending a few days in the sun looking at the Cascades and perhaps a few salmon. I thought about all this again as our pilot told us we were going to be in a holding pattern for about 20 minutes before landing at Seattle due to rain squalls. Not a good sign. My fears increased as we taxied to the arrival gate in the rain. The ground crew could be seen huddling behind any large object to avoid the cold wind coming in from the west. Warm and sunny indeed! The truth of the matter is that the weather improved on some days and did not on others but the overall stay was enjoyable.

Seattle has some interesting historical sights to see, particularly the old underground section of the city - not what one would expect in a relatively young city. Part of the city has been rebuilt over the remains of the old city that burned. Much of the old city remains intact and is worth seeing if you get the chance.

My introduction to the workings of the EXCOM meeting came by receipt of a copy of the meeting handbook which includes reports from sections, committees, the status of the society's journals, and a report on upcoming annual meetings. This handbook is sent to all participants at the meeting, including non-voting members. It includes an agenda of all activities and the proposed order in which they will be dealt with along with the minutes of the previous EXCOM meeting (that being in Winston-Salem). In the remainder of this report, I would like to summarize the activities of the EXCOM meeting.

The newly-elected officers (chapter, section, and otherwise) met for "freshman orientation" while the budget review committee met elsewhere. The parent society officers had met earlier in the day. The orientation for the newcomers was the first to be held at the EXCOM meeting and was led by Paul Brouha (deputy director) and Rich Gregory (constitutional consultant).

The meeting began by the leaders asking for

any questions that the others might have concerning the society and its functions. The majority of the questions dealt with what does the society do in Bethesda, who does what, what is the relationship of the chapters to the rest of the society, and the discussion followed these questions with the point being made that the answers to these questions are contained in the membership handbook. One suggestion was made that the orientation be held for the president-elect in the future as well as other interested individuals. Several of the Chapter presidents were mid-way in the terms of office so had been "oriented" on their own. To help in this regard, the parent society is preparing a procedure manual for the subunits to explain or at least list the functions of various parts of the society.

On 11 March, we went on retreat to the Kiana Lodge on Bainbridge Island, west of Seattle, for an all day, free-for-all discussion on issues that were grouped as follows: professionalism and policy; structure and function; financing; and membership. The agenda proved to be a bit ambitious and only the first two were discussed. Some items discussed were internal communication within the society (chapters, sections, and parent society); the number of issues before the environmental concerns committee; public affairs presentations for AFS; certification for fisheries scientists; and university accreditation. None of these reached a conclusion but several ideas for addressing the problems are being examined. Another major topic was the long-range plan for AFS. This 28 page report, presented in outline form, is to serve as a blueprint for the future growth and changing needs of the society. Some of the high priority topics are increasing involvement of AFS in developing public policy; expand news coverage and opinion coverage of Fisheries; increase efforts to inform the public on fishery-related issues; expand and promote a more comprehensive certification program; assess the organizational structure of AFS in relation to the needs of Canadian members; and several that deal with developing leadership within the society. The responsibility for implementation and a target date has been given to committees, officers, and parent society staff for each topic covered.

A plenary session began the activities on 12 March. Two working groups had an agenda of items to discuss and make recommendations on. These items were then brought before the plenary session where those requiring action were debated, amended, joked about, or tabled for later. This activity required the remainder of Saturday and Sunday.

Maryland

North Carolina

Virginia

Items Relating to the Tidewater Chapter Out of all this discussion has come some noteworthy ideas that our chapter should explore: 1) raising money for worthwhile causes, and, here is an example: the federal fisheries responsibility committee has no steady financial backing. The Chapter could raise money by selling "Tidewater Chapter" T-shirts, baseball caps, or similar items to chapter members with the proceeds going to support the committee; 2) National Fishing Week is 6-12 June and to increase the profile of the Chapter we need to sponsor local activities (e.g. fishing clinics, displays on what fish are, or who we are) for kids or adults either on our own or in conjunction with other organizations. ANY IDEAS? Other items that came up were bi-monthly meetings of our executive committee, strict policy of registration payment at meetings (no pay-no attend); student paper award; best paper award, reduced registration fees for students; business meeting held in conjunction with lunch to be paid for in registration fees; dividing the present position of secretary/treasurer/newsletter editor into two with the newsletter editor as a single position; chapter retreat where any topic of business can be addressed. If you are still reading, take a break here and think about some answers for these ideas and send them to any chapter officer or at-large member.

One item of interest to members is the rebate proposal (for a discussion see the previous issue of this newsletter); the concept was accepted contingent upon development of the means of operation for collection and distribution. This may require geographical divisions among chapters, not an easy task to deal with. The officers of the Tidewater Chapter will be working on this during the coming year. The plan for implementing the rebate program will be proposed at the Toronto meeting in September.

That's all I have as a summary. For those who want even more, Carl Sullivan has prepared an excellent summary of the major actions taken by the executive committee at the Seattle meeting and this was printed in the AFS Diary. For those members who do not receive the Diary, it would be a good investment to do so. The news contained in the diary is timely and affects all AFS members as well as many non-members involved in fisheries.

One final note. There were 13 Chapter Presidents at the Seattle meeting, primarily from the west: Oregon, Illinois, Humboldt, Missouri, Montana, Tennessee, Alaska, Nebraska, Bonneville, Idaho, North Pacific International, Tidewater, and Potomac. This was the largest contingent of Chapter Presidents at any EXCOM meeting to date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Cooper has asked me to give you a full accounting of the state of the Chapter's finances. Get ready for some exciting reading.

Due only to the good spiritedness of some of the organizations which employ us, the Chapter bank account has been steadily growing. We currently have over \$600.00 on hand. This is up from \$300.00 before last fall's annual meeting.

The annual meeting, held last November in Atlantic Beach, NC cost the Chapter just under \$200.00 to conduct. Costs were minimal because the North Carolina Aquarium did not charge us for use of its auditorium; and because after much negotiation, the hotel charged us only a per head fee for the social. Registration fees brought us \$245.00 so we made a slight profit. Dues paid at the Chapter meeting totaled \$123.00 and dues paid since the meeting total \$165.00. That brings us to our present total of over \$600.00.

It costs approximately \$1.15 per member in materials and postage to prepare each newsletter. That's \$4.60 per year. With dues set at \$3.00 per year there seems to be a slight problem. If we are lucky, we can make a small amount of money at the annual meeting but not enough to cover the shortfall. Of course the figures above do not reflect any costs for personnel time in conducting Chapter business. John contributes several hours each week to Chapter/parent society business. It requires a couple of hours each week for the Secretary/Treasurer to keep up the books. Preparing and mailing the newsletter is another 2-3 man-days each quarter. Further, consider the endless hours the President-Elect contributes while trying to prepare a quality program for the annual meeting. All of that is contributed.

The salvation of the Chapter has been the willingness of some of our employers to underwrite the costs associated with running the Chapter. Fortunately, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has agreed to absorb the publishing costs while I am the Chapter's Secretary/Treasurer. Another break we have gotten is that the President's attendance at the AFS EXCOM meeting in Seattle did not cost the Chapter a dime.

If we are to continue, we need to find increased revenue. The dues are minimal and we wish to keep it that way. It would seem reasonable however to set the dues at a level which would at least cover the cost of mailing the newsletter. The parent society Chapter rebate discussed in the President's Message will help but that source is not yet a sure thing (you may remember that the Chapter EXCOM opposed the rebate idea). The Chapter is only as active as its members. If you have any novel ideas for raising some funds (or some old ideas that are sure fire winners) and would like an excuse to become more

involved in your Chapter, contact any of the Chapter officers listed on page 5 of this newsletter.

P.S. I have developed a Chapter accounting spreadsheet and have itemized all transactions dating back to November's annual meeting. Any member wishing a copy of the Chapter's accounts should call or write the Secretary/Treasurer.

POSITION STATEMENTS

TexasGulf Chemicals NPDES Permit: (Editor's Note: The following was prepared by President John Cooper. The first paragraph is an introduction for our benefit. The rest of the statement was presented at a public hearing on May 9, 1988)

The TexasGulf Chemicals facility at Aurora, NC is one of the largest open pit phosphate mines in the country. The process used at this mine requires that the freshwater contained in the mine be pumped out, in this case about 60 million gallons per day. The water is then discharged into the Pamlico River along with fluoride, heavy metals, phosphorous, and no doubt other contaminants not identified. The amount of contaminants discharged varies with the information source, ranging from 300-500 tons per year up to 1-1.5 million tons per day. In any case, the discharge permit (NPDES) that the mine is operating under expired in 1984. Several conservation organizations, the NC Division of Environmental Management, and TexasGulf have been working together to draft a new permit to reduce the level of contaminants by 80-90%. The proposed permit requires that the discharge design be changed to include a "closed-loop" recycling system of the water used in processing the ore. Discharges after periodic storm episodes would be allowed but would be required to adhere to contaminant guidelines in the permit. The proposed time allowed to accomplish all this is about five years.

I am representing the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Our membership would like to support TexasGulf and the Division of Environmental Management in their effort to reduce the pollution entering the Pamlico River from the TexasGulf operation near Aurora. The concept of containing process wastewater and its contaminants is a beneficial step toward protecting the Pamlico River resource. The Pamlico River and Sound have provided employment and seafood valued in millions of dollars annually. Over 25 species of finfish and shellfish are landed commercially. Millions of dollars are brought into the state through recreational fishing. Protection of the resource that these activities depend upon should guide the development of regulations governing any potentially harmful activity. The members of the Tidewater Chapter feel that the proposed permit for TexasGulf does not adequately protect the

resources of the Pamlico Estuary. We suggest that the Environmental Management Commission should:

- require an ongoing program of pollution reduction milestones during the period TexasGulf is designing the "no discharge" plan,
- instruct the Division of Environmental Management to coordinate a study of the short and long term effects of TexasGulf discharge water, particularly for heavy metals, fluoride, and freshwater inflow, and assess the feasibility of improving existing conditions associated with TexasGulf discharge areas,
- and require that the TexasGulf engineering plan for the "no discharge" concept receive public review and comment prior to issuance of a new discharge permit.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

INTERSTATE MD-VA

NEMFIS TO BECOME A REALITY - The Northeast Marine Fisheries Information Service, an online database to contain commercial fisheries statistics for the Northeast states (Maine to Virginia) is almost here. The system is scheduled to come on line January 1, 1989.

The system will be housed on the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center computer at Wood's Hole, MA. System design and programming is being handled by Mr. Jim Sargent and Mr. Paul Wood of the Northeast Center.

Development of the system began with the formation of Northeast Statistics Technical Committee (NESTC) by the board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in 1982. Long delays were experienced due to concerns over confidentiality and due to a diversion of resources during the U.S.-Canadian fishing dispute. Full scale development efforts have been ongoing for approximately 18 months.

The system will contain landings, dockside value, and effort data for the contributing states. Each state will have access to data from other states which have signed a confidentiality Memorandum of Understanding. The level of aggregation will vary by state and fishery but in most cases the data base should contain records by state, year, month, species, gear type, and water area.

Preliminary printed summaries of landings by state, species and landing zone (less than 3 miles, 3-200 miles) will be issued quarterly to all interested parties. To allow time to make the summaries fairly complete, yet maintain a degree of timeliness, the summaries will be issued approximately 3 months after the close of a quarter (e.g. the January-March, 1989 summary will be mailed on approximately July 1, 1989).

CHESAPEAKE BAY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY SCHEDULES - (Editor's Note: the following is excerpted from a circular printed by the Chesapeake Bay Program)

The 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement contains a set of objectives and commitments for restoring and protecting the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay. A draft schedule has been prepared by the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) for developing management strategies. The approach in this document for developing Bay-wide resources management strategies is based on:

- a) A recognition of the major categories of living resources,
- b) Scheduling assessments of the resources management needs of each category to ensure that appropriate short and long-term efforts for restoration and protection are underway, and
- c) Integration of the management strategies of all categories of living resources in specific regions of the Chesapeake to improve coordination of priorities.

The living resources of the Chesapeake Bay can be grouped into five major categories:

1. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
2. Tidal and Non-tidal Wetlands
3. Waterfowl
4. Finfish and Shellfish
5. Other Ecologically Valuable Species

For SAVs a resource management strategy is already in draft form, which includes detailed monitoring, research, protection, restoration, and education objectives. The SAV schedule includes the review and implementation of this strategy.

A Bay-wide Wetlands Policy is called for by December 1988. The Wetlands Policy Work Group of the CBP Living Resources Subcommittee has begun to put together a policy combined with specific goals.

Waterfowl have been managed for many years through Atlantic Flyway management plans. Plans that address Chesapeake Bay concerns for dabbling ducks, wood ducks, geese, and swans will be initiated as part of the schedule for waterfowl.

Development of fishery management plans for oyster, blue crab, and American shad is specified. The Agreement also requires the initiation of fishery management planning for other major finfish and shellfish species by 1991. Planning efforts have already begun for initiating management planning for ten other major fish species.

Resource management strategies for ecologically valuable species are the least well defined and planning efforts are just beginning. The strategy will focus on habitat management, monitoring, research, restoration, and education.

For more information contact:
Chesapeake Bay Liaison Office
410 Severn Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21403
(301) 266-6873

NORTH CAROLINA

ALLIGATOR RIVER REFUGE - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has applied to the Corps of Engineers for a permit to block freshwater drainage ditches in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose is to decrease the effects from freshwater influx on the decreasing local seafood industry landings. The Dare County Commissioners are opposed to the idea unless the Fish and Wildlife Service can show it will not hamper mosquito control in the area.

COASTAL INITIATIVE - North Carolina Governor Martin's Coastal Initiative received some deleterious publicity with the decision of the Blue Ribbon Commission to deny Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) protection for western Bogue and southern Core Sounds. The ORW designation is the environmental cornerstone of the Coastal Initiative. Michael Corcoran, director of the N.C. Wildlife Federation, has asked Governor Martin if he is serious about protecting areas that are threatened or if this Coastal Initiative is just window dressing.

PERSONNEL TURNOVER - Dr. Robert Holman has been named project director for the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study replacing Doug Rader who left to work with the Environmental Defense Fund. Holman received his doctoral degree in botany from N.C. State University.

RED TIDE - (Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the South Atlantic Update)

The red tide (Ptychodiscus brevis) which has plagued North Carolina since November 1987 appears to have cleared up, based on samples taken from the water column. The effects are still to be found in the oysters and scallops which in a few areas remain toxic. In an attempt to assist shell fishermen who had been particularly hard hit by the occurrence of the red tide, the Division of Marine Fisheries instituted a program which pays shell fishermen \$1.00 per bushel for relaying oysters out of previously polluted, permanently closed areas into areas that had been closed by the red tide. During the 12 week relaying period this program paid fishermen \$335,980, for relaying a like number of bushels of oysters. This program benefitted both the oysters which will have time to cleanse themselves and be available for public harvest in a month or so and the shell fishermen who have been out of work since the closure of these areas by the red tide.

MARYLAND

STREAM LIMING - (Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Ron Klauda, the MD At-Large member. It is a summary of work he is currently conducting)

Habitat acidification appears to be an important ecological problem in Maryland's coastal plain portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Short-lived acidic episodes associated with intense spring storms can expose early life stages of fish species that spawn in small tributary streams to toxic levels of hydrogen ions and metals. Recent laboratory studies have shown that several Bay fishes are sensitive to moderately acidic pH (5.7-6.5) and elevated monomeric aluminum levels (15-100 ug/l). Yellow perch populations in some portions of Chesapeake Bay may also have declined at least partly in response to habitat acidification.

Field verification of these laboratory-derived predictions of Bay fish species' sensitivity to acidification is still an open issue. During 1986 and 1987, the Maryland Doser Study was conducted to demonstrate the efficiency of automated wet slurry dosers for maintenance of suitable spawning and nursery habitats for selected Bay fishes. This stream liming approach provides a unique opportunity to evaluate the in situ survival of fish eggs and larvae during storm associated acidic episodes, and thereby assess the role of habitat acidification in the reproductive success of several important Bay fisheries resources.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

PUBLICATIONS - Three members of the Tidewater Chapter (John Cooper, Ron Klauda, Roger Rulifson) are among six coeditors of the inaugural proceeding of the new AFS symposium series. The 1987 book titled "Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes" (edited by M.J. Dadswell, R.J. Klauda, C. M. Moffitt, R.L. Sauders, R.A. Rulifson, and J.E. Cooper) blends review papers with original research and basic science with resource management to expand both the theory and our empirical knowledge of diadromy from a global perspective.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS - The newsletter editor is always in need of interesting items. Most articles tend to come from the institutions where the officers are employed. Some institutions (VIMS is the best example) have heavy membership but no officers so not much news comes through. Anyone (member or non-member) who would like to contribute newsletter articles is welcome to do so. For students, it might be a good way to get some recognition for your work. Let's hear from you VIMS, CP&L, MAFMC, EPA, VPI, USF&WS, VERSAR, VDG&IF, VMRC,

M E M B E R S H I P

The Chapter currently has 90 members to call its own. At various times there have been 175 individual members. For an organization which is only 3 years old, that seems to be a high turnover rate. Many individuals who have shown interest in the past have not renewed for 1988. Please encourage your colleagues to sign up for the local chapter of their professional organization. Remind them that they do not have to be members of AFS to be members of the Tidewater Chapter. **Please post the membership application on the last page of this newsletter.**

A complete membership list is available to any member upon request. The list is available either on paper or on MS DOS formatted floppy disk. Send requests to the Secretary/Treasurer.

O F F I C E R S ' A D D R E S S E S

Chapter correspondence may be addressed to one of the Chapter officers below.

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TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858

28 May 1988

Greetings:

The Potomac Chapter of AFS has invited members of the Tidewater Chapter to attend a two-day meeting on Tilghman Island in Chesapeake Bay. The meeting topic is Chesapeake Bay and the programs that are designed to "rescue" it from degradation. Also, guest speakers will address the role of AFS Chapters in Bay protection (applicable to other areas as well). The first notice of the meeting is being sent to officers since space is limited. The general agenda will be as follows:

- 7 Oct. arrive at Chesapeake House, Tilghman Island (Eastern Shore of Maryland) in early afternoon
meeting with guest speaker on Chesapeake Bay, general discussion with officers/members of Potomac Chapter
dinner
- 8 Oct. breakfast
meeting with officers/members of Potomac Chapter
charter boat fishing (includes box lunch), return to dock
around 2 pm

TOTAL cost for trip is \$114.95/person: includes room, dinner on Fri., breakfast, box lunch, and fishing trip

COST without fishing trip is \$64.95

Reservations are needed at the Chesapeake House and as it is a popular vacation area, we need to have our reservations in by 10 June. To do so, send a check in the appropriate amount to:

Joe McGurrin
1400 16th St. NW Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

This will be an excellent chance for Tidewater and Potomac Chapter members to get acquainted with each other and can strengthen the membership of both Chapters.

John E. Cooper
President



TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

PLEASE POST

Members of the American Fisheries Society representing coastal areas of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina have formed a chapter of the AFS which is serving the research and management communities of the coastal region.

The purpose of the Chapter is to provide a forum for discussing and presenting progress on regional estuarine and coastal fishery information by AFS members and non-members residing in, working in, or having a professional interest in the estuarine and coastal fisheries of Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. We are committed to providing such a forum for scientists, managers, students and interested citizens. In keeping with our purpose, we have had chapter meetings in which members are given an opportunity to present information related to their work, regardless of whether the work is in progress or completed.

Membership in the Chapter is composed both of AFS members and non-AFS members. Chapter members who are not AFS members will receive all Chapter communication, but may not vote at business meetings, may not chair a Chapter committee, and may not hold Chapter office.

To become a 1988 member, please fill out the application below and send it, along with \$3.00, to the address indicated.

CUT ALONG THIS LINE

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TIDEWATER CHAPTER, AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

I would like to become a member of the AFS Tidewater Chapter. Enclosed are my 1988 dues of \$3.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY? YES ___ NO ___

Mail this form and \$3.00 to: Chris Bonzek, Secretary/Treasurer
Tidewater Chapter, AFS