



TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1988

ANNUAL MEETING SET

The place and dates for the Chapter's annual meeting have been confirmed as follows:

DATES: Thursday January 12, 1989 through
Saturday January 14, 1989

PLACE: Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, MD

THEME: Recruitment, Monitoring and
Stock Assessment

Further details on times, lodging, and costs will follow in the next newsletter. The Calvert Marine Museum has always had excellent displays on Maryland Chesapeake Bay history. By the time of our meeting it will have a beautiful new auditorium and new display space. With the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory less than half a mile away, the Museum should prove a superb site for this year's meeting. The southern Maryland setting is fairly central in our wide geographic region. It's located approximately 1½ hours from Annapolis, 3 hours from Tidewater Virginia and 5 hours from Greenville, NC. We continue our rotation of sites among our three states (Gloucester Pt., VA - Atlantic Beach, NC - Solomons, MD).

CALL FOR PAPERS

As mentioned above, the theme of this year's paper sessions will be **Recruitment, Monitoring and Stock Assessment**. That covers a wide area of fisheries work in our three states. As has been our practice in past meetings, there will be a session devoted to worthy but unrelated papers as well. One of the founding principles of the Chapter was to encourage communication among researchers working on similar projects throughout the Tidewater region. This means that a goal of the Chapter is to present members and non-members with the opportunity to present current research, including work in progress.

Depending upon the types of papers submitted, we may divide the meeting into sessions based on species, geographic regions or another criterion. This year, for the first time, awards will be presented for the best paper and the best student paper. We encourage everyone to submit abstracts.

Papers will be limited to 15 minutes (strictly enforced) with 5 additional minutes allowed for discussion. Abstracts are due by November 15, 1988.

ABSTRACT FORMAT:

Title
Author(s)
Institution
Address
Abstract (250 words or less)
Also: Author presenting paper:
Phone:
Student: Yes ___ No: ___

If not a Chapter member, please indicate this so that a program package can be sent to you.

SEND YOUR ABSTRACTS TO:

Dr. Eileen M. Setzler-Hamilton
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
University of Maryland System, CEES
P.O. Box 38
Solomons, MD 20688-0038

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In keeping with the retreat theme established at the Seattle Excom meeting (March 1988), the first day of the Toronto Excom meeting was devoted to a free-wheeling discussion on the critical issues that are facing AFS and the priorities for action in the society's long range plan.

The attendees suggested environmental areas that they considered to be critical and these were divided into freshwater-related or marine-related. The selection criteria were that AFS could have an impact in the area and that the solution could be reached within the next five years.

The list was extensive: 23 separate topics in freshwater and 18 in marine. A hand vote was conducted to determine priorities in the two areas. The top five in freshwater were non-point source pollution, acid rain, riparian rights, toxics, and a tie between wetlands and instream flow. In the marine area, the top five were wetland loss, ocean dumping, coastal development, estuarine anoxia, and bottom alteration. These were then voted on to establish which areas AFS

should concentrate on during the next year: in freshwater, the top three are wetland loss, riparian rights, and non-point source pollution; in marine, the top three are wetland loss, ocean dumping, and coastal development.

The long range plan for AFS received extensive discussion primarily in making fisheries policy known to the public. This would be accomplished through Fisheries, popular magazines, traveling lectures, and slide shows for conservation and education groups. The thrust of this is echoed in the report "Focus on Fisheries", the visibility action plan for the society. Increasing public awareness of the fisheries resource and the role AFS plays is the goal of both plans.

The "rebate" issue was discussed thoroughly, and in some cases, retraced much of what was said in Seattle. After several amendments were tried and changed, a motion by Gene Huntsman was amended and accepted by vote. The accepted version reads: "... AFS institute collection of a fee/dues for Chapters with a check-off system like that in use for sections, with the Chapter fee (if any) to be set by the individual Chapter - a minimum of \$1 fee/dues will be charged. In addition a contribution of \$1 in 1989-90, to be \$2 in 1990-91 per Chapter member to be determined from the Chapter membership list as developed above will be provided to the Chapters from the general fund.: The amendment to this motion was made by Chuck Coutant and reads "... to designate every AFS member to be a Chapter member on the basis of zip code unless they designate another Chapter." This was changed to read "Unless otherwise chosen by the member, Chapter membership is assigned by default according to geographic area by zip code." There still remains differences in interpretation of the mechanics of how this will work. I hope to have final explanations from AFS in time for the January business meeting.

Short Notes

The proceeds from the annual fund-raising raffle for next year have been dedicated to the Permanent Home Expansion Fund for AFS headquarters. The proposed expansion will require \$480,000, most of which will come from corporate donors. There will be a campaign soon asking for donations from the AFS members. This year the raffle proceeds went toward the J.D. Allen Scholarship Fund.

During the business meeting, a resolution was presented on the National Park and National Forest natural-burn policy. The rules of AFS require that resolutions of broad national or international interest be submitted to the resolutions chair at least 30 days before the annual meeting. Since this was not done for this resolution, the rules must be suspended by 2/3 majority vote. This was done after some debate. Objections focused on the appropriateness of asking members to consider a resolution of this magnitude with virtually no time for review. After considerable debate over the language used and the intent of the resolution, the resolution was passed. In its final form, the

resolution states that AFS supports the natural-burn policy in National Parks and Forests (in contrast to complete fire suppression) and commends the National Park Service, the Forest Service and their directors and supervisors for the manner in which they have administered that policy.

There was a special raffle prize this year: 8 one-day salmon fishing trips on Lake Ontario on the last day of the meeting. This prize was sponsored jointly by the Toronto Star (newspaper) Great Salmon Hunt and Andrews' Charters. I was fortunate to win two of these (I bought nearly half of the chances). My Dad and I left from Port Credit with four other winners as the guests of Wayne Andrews of Andrews' Charters. We had only three hours of fishing since some guests had to return to Toronto in the Afternoon but we landed four fish, the largest being a 25lb. chinook.

CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING

On July 22, 1988 the Tidewater Chapter Executive Committee (EXCOM) met in Solomons, MD. Present were President John Cooper, Past-President Roger Rulifson, President-Elect Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, Secretary/ Treasurer Chris Bonzek, and Maryland At-Large Member Ron Klauda. Several items important to members were discussed.

BYLAWS REVISION - Two proposed revisions were approved.

The Chapter bylaws inadvertently state that individuals must be AFS members in order to be Chapter members. This was not the intent of the Chapter founders, though it is in line with AFS preferences. A motion passed to change the bylaws to reflect that a person does not have to be an AFS member to be a Chapter member. Specifically, under Section 2 - Membership, the proposal is to change the wording from "The membership of the Chapter shall be made up of those AFS members in good standing having an interest ..." to "The membership of the Chapter shall be made up of those persons having an interest...".

A second proposed change increases the size of the Chapter EXCOM in order to increase participation and discussion. Under Section 6 - Executive Committee, the current version reads "The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate Past President, the at-large members from each state, and the chairperson of each standing committee. The committee is authorized to act for ...". The proposed version would read "The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate Past President, the at-large members from each state, and the chairperson of each standing committee. Voting shall be limited to the elected positions. The Executive committee is authorized to act for...". These questions will be put before the membership at the annual business meeting.

REBATE QUESTION - The Chapter EXCOM is still against a parent society proposal to increase AFS dues in order to rebate funds to chapters. Our opposition is due mainly to the inevitable and unnecessary conflict this would create between neighboring and overlapping

chapters such as Tidewater, Potomac and VPI. At the Seattle meeting however, (see last newsletter) the proposal passed pending development of a firm plan for implementation. See the President's message above for more recent details.

DUES INCREASE -- As noted in the last newsletter, the current dues do not cover the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter, to say nothing of other Chapter activities. The EXCOM voted to propose a dues increase to \$5.00 which would cover newsletter costs and may contribute toward the cost of the annual meeting. Other fund raising activities, such as selling T-shirts, coffee mugs, and hats will be used for additional activities. Those other activities which the EXCOM would like to lead towards are:

1. Publishing abstracts of annual meetings.
2. Contribute to the Federal Fisheries Responsibilities Committee.
3. Contribute to scholarship and memorial funds.
4. Present awards at the annual meeting for best paper and best student paper.

Split Secretary/Treasurer from Newsletter - The EXCOM decided to split the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer from those of the Newsletter Editor and to make the Secretary/Treasurer the Membership Committee Chair. The first change is in response to the relatively heavy burden imposed by the present combination of duties. Combining the Secretary/Treasurer with the Membership Committee is simply recognition of a de facto practice since membership renewal forms and dues are sent to the Secretary/Treasurer.

Position Statements -- The EXCOM believes that the Chapter can provide members with an opportunity to express their professional opinions on environmental issues in a forum divorced from any institutional loyalties. President John Cooper has used this forum to present Chapter opinions on several issues specific to North Carolina (see below). The EXCOM encourages all members to contact a Chapter officer if there is an issue (local, national or global) on which you believe the Chapter should express its opinion.

Involvement with Other Organizations - The EXCOM believes that there exist in our area many organizations which share the Chapter's concern for the preservation of natural resources. The At-Large Members have been asked to contact as many of these local organizations (conservation groups, watermen's associations, citizen groups ...) as possible with a flyer which describes the Chapter and our desire to cooperate with other local groups. A copy of that flyer is on the last page of this newsletter. If you are a member of other conservation groups please discuss this idea at your next meeting.

POSITION STATEMENTS

(Editor's Note: President John Cooper has prepared these statements)

Update on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) - In September 1987, the Tidewater Chapter responded to a proposed resolution concerning oil and gas development

on the ANWR. The proposed resolution that endorsed development on the refuge was opposed by the Chapter (see Sept. 87 newsletter). At the AFS EXCOM meeting in Winston-Salem (Sept. 12-13, 1987), a resolution written by the Alaska Chapter concerning the ANWR was adopted. It was resolved that AFS, as a professional society, was concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed planning scheme within the refuge, particularly that of water withdrawal, location of transportation corridors and coastal facilities, and protection of stream buffers. The adopted resolution was given the preamble "If Congress decides to develop ANWR, it be done in accordance with this resolution." The resolution provides for a tax on oil and gas recovered from ANWR to be used for refuge programs in other states and that it could not be used for impact mitigation on ANWR.

The Dept. of Interior has predicted that there would be some long-term environmental effects in developing ANWR but that these would be minimized or eliminated by using the lessons learned from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The question is whether the lessons learned will be applied. Considering the record of development at Prudhoe Bay, this would be risky at best. In an article in the New York Times (May 11, 1988), a preliminary report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Fairbanks, Alaska) comparing the predicted and actual impact of the pipeline system was suppressed, according to George Miller (D-CA), because it was damaging to Reagan's attempt to open the refuge quickly to development. This was denied by the Fish and Wildlife Service's spokesman Philip Million saying that it was not released because of differences of opinion within the agency concerning the report's conclusions.

Recently I received a copy of this report from Sydney Butler (Vice-President, The Wilderness Society). Some of the problems that come to light within this report are a nearly doubling of the acreage affected by development compared to the Environmental Impact Statement, land uses not predicted such as causeways, seawater treatment plants, contractor service areas, sewage and solid waste disposal areas. Part of this increase came from expanding the predicted oilfield development areas along with the addition of service areas and construction materials. The addition of marine structures (docks, causeways) has made further expansion possible into areas not addressed originally. These in turn will allow greater and faster development of the ANWR and offshore areas. At the time of the USFWS report, nearly 4 million acres of the North Slope has been leased by Alaska as well as 1 million acres in the Beaufort Sea and 2 million acres on the Outer Continental Shelf. In Butler's accompanying letter, he notes that the refuge is the only part of the Alaska Arctic coastline that is currently withdrawn from oil and gas exploration and development.

More on ANWR:

In another letter from Sydney Butler in reply to my question of the fate of Alaska oil:

"The 1974 Act authorizing the route and construction of the Alaska oil pipeline contains a

provision which forbids the exportation of oil transported via the pipeline. Thus all Alaska North Slope oil is shipped from the southern terminus of the pipeline at Valdez to Southern California and Gulf state refineries. Oil produced from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge south of Anchorage is exported to Japan. The Alaska congressional delegation has been advocating amending the present law to enable North Slope oil to be sold abroad. However, realizing that this flies in the face of their argument that the coastal plain of the refuge should be developed in the interest of our national energy security, the delegation has had to lay low on the exporting issue. We have every reason to believe that they will renew their efforts if they can convince their colleagues to open the refuge."

Comments Prepared for Scoping Meeting for TexasGulf Inc. Mining Advance Permit Application - The wetland areas that will be affected by the proposed mining advance plan provide valuable habitat for many species of fish and shellfish. Some of these are of commercial importance, and others provide forage for commercially and recreationally important species. These areas have been classified as primary nursery areas by the State, underscoring their importance. Mining through these wetlands or filling these areas with mined material will disrupt the nursery habitat that is essential in the life cycle of many species. Changing the freshwater inflow to these habitats will affect the salinity of these areas with the result of changing the biotic community. This effect will remain long after the mining operations cease.

The present mining proposal is similar to that presented by North Carolina Phosphate Company in 1982. At that time, NCPC initiated several in-depth studies of the aquatic community in the creeks and a newly-created marsh. These studies have been continued by TexasGulf but at a much reduced level and, in their present form, are inadequate for baseline data.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed mining advance should first address the limitations of past studies that may be used for baseline data and then evaluate the cumulative effects of the proposed mining plan. Alternatives to disturbing wetlands and creeks should be thoroughly explored. The EIS should specifically:

1. estimate changes to the hydrology of the creeks and wetlands from drainage ditches, dikes, culverts and road construction.
2. explore the possibility that mining of upland areas will create a net reverse flow within the creeks.
3. determine the effects of reducing or eliminating freshwater inflow to the creeks and the resulting changes in salinity and productivity.
4. determine the changes in plant and animal communities within the creeks and wetland areas as a result of mining uplands and creek headwaters.
5. determine the potential for contamination of the wetlands and creeks from mined areas or mine materials, particularly heavy metals, chemicals, nutrients, and sedimentation.

Roanoke River Water Flow Committee - The Roanoke River Water Flow Committee, co-chaired by Roger Rulifson and Charles Manooch, has issued a preliminary report of flow recommendations to the Army Corps of Engineers and Virginia Power Company that would regulate the flow from Kerr Reservoir, Lake Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids. The Ad hoc committee is composed of twenty professionals from various federal and state agencies and universities. The US Army Corps of Engineers and Virginia Power Company served as advisors. The purpose of the new flow regime is to protect wildlife and fishery resources within the Roanoke River basin. In addition, the new flow regime would benefit timber and agriculture interests downstream from the dams.

The Committee has studied the flow regime of the Roanoke River taken from US Geological Survey records from 1912 to the present. Analyses of these records along with the yearly juvenile abundance index of striped bass in Albemarle Sound resulted in the recommendation to control the Roanoke River flow between the 25% low flow value and the 75% high flow value from March 1 to June 30 each year. River flow is considered to be the most important factor involved in striped bass larvae survival and growth in the Roanoke River.

Proposed Water Flow Regime in CFS, April 1 - June 15

Dates	Expected Average Daily Flow	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
April 1-15	8,500	6,600	13,700
April 15-30	7,800	5,800	11,000
May 1-15	6,500	4,700	9,500
May 16-31	5,900	4,400	9,500
June 1-15	5,300	4,000	9,500

Striped bass spawning in 1988 started before the flow regime was adopted. However, the Corps of Engineers and Virginia Power Company attempted to maintain flows within the proposed guidelines. Flow remained between these levels over 45% of the spawning period, the best percentage since 1968. Preliminary values of the striped bass juvenile abundance index indicated that 1988 may be the best index in many years. These flow levels also resulted in improved downstream conditions for deer fawning, turkey nesting, access to timberland, production and harvest of row crops, and recreational boating.

The Committee will continue to investigate flow effects on downstream resources, make further recommendations on flow characteristics as needed and file a formal report at five-year intervals. The proposed arrangement will be evaluated over a four year trial period, and if found to be beneficial to striped bass and other resources, then the rule curve for Kerr Reservoir and the FERC license requirements should be re-examined to incorporate the new flow regime.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

(Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Chapter member Charlie Wooley, Chesapeake Bay Fishery

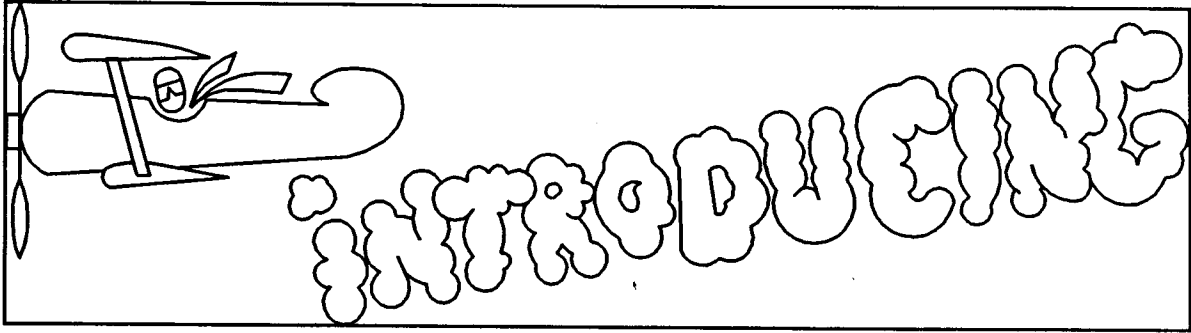
Coordinator for the USFWS. It is a trip summary of NOAA R/V OREGON II striped bass tagging survey, Atlantic Ocean off the coast of North Carolina January 14-24, 1988. Submissions of articles by Chapter members, describing recent or ongoing work, is encouraged.)

National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries biologists recently participated in an offshore, experimental striped bass tagging project in the Atlantic Ocean off North Carolina. The objective of the experimental, cooperative project was to try to successfully locate, capture with a trawl and tag adult striped bass that are wintering in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of North Carolina. The research team was also prepared to obtain important biological data, tag and release any summer flounder, Atlantic sturgeon, redfish, black drum or sea turtles that were captured.

The NOAA Fishery Research ship OREGON II, a 170-foot long, North Atlantic trawler design, operating out of Pascagoula, MS was used for the trawl survey conducted between January 14-24, 1988. Sampling was conducted using two 65' stern trawls fished simultaneously, 24 hours a day. Trawl times varied between 15 and 30 minutes. All captured target species were held in on-board tanks with continuously circulating ambient water. Striped bass, flounder, and sturgeon which appeared healthy were then marked with internal anchor streamer tags, and released.

Striped bass are being tagged as part of a cooperative state and federal coastal tagging project involving the states of RI, NY, NJ, MD, DC, NC, the USFWS, NMFS and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The objective of the coastal tagging program is to develop a data base that will serve as one of the primary sources of information for scientists, managers and administrators charged with anadromous striped bass management.

The coastal area from Corolla, NC, south to Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC was surveyed. Thirteen hundred and thirty five adult striped bass ranging in size from 7-65 pounds were tagged during the survey. In addition three striped bass previously tagged by the Hudson River Foundation, American Littoral Society, and Maryland DNR respectively, were also captured. All of the striped bass captured were from the coastal area North of Cape Hatteras in 6-10 fathoms. Thirty striped bass were sacrificed to obtain sex ratios and tissue samples for genetic evaluation. Trawl mortality on striped bass was less than 1%. Nineteen Atlantic sturgeon, 85 adult summer flounder and three loggerhead sea turtles were also tagged. This initial, experimental trawl survey established that a survey team could successfully capture, tag and release alive adult striped bass and other target species captured in large trawls in 6-10 fathoms to provide important biological and management data to researchers.



AFS TIDEWATER CHAPTER!!

Dear Colleague:

This is to introduce you to your local chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The Tidewater Chapter was formed approximately two years ago by fisheries professionals working in the coastal areas of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

The function of the Chapter is to provide fisheries professionals, both AFS members and non-members, with a forum for discussing and presenting progress on regional estuarine and marine coastal fishery developments.

The major accomplishments so far have been two very successful annual meetings. Each meeting has devoted the first full day to presentations surrounding a theme and a second half day session devoted to worthy but unrelated papers. The first, held in Gloucester Point, VA was attended by over 70 members. Its theme was **Estuaries of National Concern: Lessons from the Past, Plans for the Future**. The second, held in Atlantic Beach, NC attracted even more attendees and centered on a discussion of **Coastal Development and Fisheries**. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 1989 in Solomons, MD, with a theme of **Recruitment, Monitoring and Stock Assessment**. For the first time, the author of the best paper and best student paper will receive awards.

We also publish a quarterly newsletter which describes Chapter activities and provides summaries of local issues and actions. A copy of a recent newsletter is enclosed.

Future plans include increased interaction with local fishery related groups (watermen's associations, citizen action groups, etc.) and especially increased involvement in important local fishery conservation issues.

We are contacting you in the hope that you will become active in this local professional organization and will encourage your colleagues to do the same. Please post this announcement and the enclosed membership form in a prominent location at your place of employment. Thank you.

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? _____

Mail this form and \$3.00 to: Chris Bonzek, Secretary/Treasurer
Tidewater Chapter, AFS
580 Taylor Ave./C-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

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