



TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1989

ALASKA AND SCIENCE

The 119th Annual meeting of AFS was held in Anchorage, Alaska, a place of indescribable beauty and grandeur. It is something that should be experienced rather than read about.

My experience began with a pleasant but long airplane ride (more accurately, several rides) from North Carolina in early evening, reaching Anchorage in the wee hours of their morning just in time to catch the train to Denali National Park. This train is not what most people have traveled on: these cars are clean, air-conditioned, and comfortable; 85 ft. long with a domed viewing area (bulletproof glass) on top and a dining car below where you can feast on Alaskan salmon, seafood salad, and several excellent deserts (calorie-unconscious especially). The train travels from Seward to Fairbanks, a distance of 470 miles but my trip was from Anchorage (mile 114) to Denali (mile 348). On this trip, we passed through Wasilla, the second starting point for the Iditarod dog sled race (it officially starts in Anchorage but there are no suitable trails until the dogs reach Wasilla) and the microscopic metropolis of Willow, at one time destined to be the capital of Alaska. It seemed like a pleasant place to live. Further north at mile 227 is Talkeetna, once a gold-mining town and now the major take-off point for Mt. McKinley climbing expeditions. The winding track climbs steadily upwards at 24 ft. per mile through alder, willow and aspen; their leaves changing to yellow, and black spruce that look like they have been growing for thousands of years with little to show for it. The train reaches the Continental Divide at Summit (mile 310) at an elevation of 2365 ft., the lowest rail pass in the Rocky Mountain system. This taiga (from Russian meaning "land of little sticks") has tundra-like plants (similar to that found in the more northerly climes) but still with small forests of black spruce and a great

deal of open space. Perspective in this state is unreachable, much like areas of the southwest desert. Large animals (caribou, grizzlies) that we know are large can be easily overlooked in trying to take in this broad expanse.

Denali National Park, at mile 348, encompasses nearly two million acres (only 0.5% of Alaska) and includes Mt. McKinley, at 20,316 ft., the highest point in North America. Our tour through the park began with a 5:30am wake-up call, breakfast, and a bus ride through the park watching for wildlife, and there is a lot to see: caribou, ptarmigan, golden eagles, Dall sheep, magpies, moose, wolves (or in our case, wolf), spruce grouse, and grizzly. But the scenery of the mountains, glaciers and glacial streams and the colorful vegetation is alone worth seeing. And of course, there is Mt McKinley, a twin-peak of snow and ice that dominates the skyline and the weather.

"At the Mountain"

The blond ranger
called her Denali
Some do, Denali, the mighty one
As if calling her by the old Athabascan name
will make a friend of the mountain

But Denali is a casual killer
and makes no easy friends
Her heart is as cold
and as white as death

And as we watched from Wonder lake
her snow-bright eyes
did not see us
but were turned to her one rightful lover
the still and silent sky

-Margie L. Gallagher

One might note that very little space has been devoted to SCIENCE so far. That is not without cause, after all, this was a trip to Alaska. But there was a great deal of science in evidence-nearly 600 technical papers in ten concurrent sessions and a poster session (and I listened to every one of them). The range of topics was immense, covering anything from tribal rights in fishing, physiology, and ethics to global changes in climate. Attendance set a record of 1,182 with someone from each state and province in North America.

The Heart of the Wilderness

Alaska is the heart of the American wilderness
here nature is as it should be
today you will see some of our
2205 Caribou
2457 Dall sheep
520 Grizzly bears (here he added a safe little
shiver)
and 420 wolves

The excitement was mounting
and everyone checked their cameras and film

But my heart was grieving
and, when I asked it why
it said

My God, they've counted the animals
- Margie L. Gallagher

RESOLUTIONS

Several resolutions were approved at the business meeting. In summarized form they are: "That the American Fisheries Society, assembled at its 119th Annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 6, 1989, opposes construction of the proposed Great Lakes Inland Waterway," and "That the American Fisheries Society... urges the United States and Canadian governments to provide sufficient funds to maintain an essential level of sea lamprey management, monitoring, and research in all the Great Lakes," and "That the American Fisheries Society... joins Great Lakes fishery agencies, the International Joint Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, in urging the United States and Canadian governments to enact appropriate regulations and eliminate the serious threats that ballast-water intro-

ductions pose to the integrity and value of North American fisheries," and "That the American Fisheries Society... urges the governments of the United States and Canada to initiate and engage in serious negotiations with other concerned nations to alleviate the serious and destructive influence that drift gillnets have on salmon, steelhead, sea turtles, marine mammals and sea birds; and be it further resolved, That the American Fisheries Society respectfully requests the Congress of the United States to increase appropriations for high seas fishery patrols by the Coast Guard and for enforcement of all laws and agreements prohibiting the harvest of American stocks of salmon and steelhead by other countries," and "That the American Fisheries Society... urges the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a cooperative agreement that will provide for dealing effectively with acid mine drainage problems."

The method of dealing with resolutions has been challenged occasionally, particularly when the issue may be seen as more political than scientific. This was true in Toronto of the vote of support for the Yellowstone National Park leadership and its fire policy. While none of the issues dealt with at Anchorage created much dissent, voting on any issue representing the society's position should be done with as much information as possible. The general membership at the business meeting must rely on the wisdom of the resolutions committee and the Executive committee since only a few minutes is allotted for the membership to become acquainted with the issue before voting. Is there a better way to deal with these issues? Are the issues of such little importance to the general membership that only a few minutes is needed to decide and that the decision is made by only a small portion of the membership? Not all of those in attendance were listening to the proceedings, presumably having issues of greater importance to discuss.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

North Carolina. The Lake Gaston pipeline issue will be in court on October 30 at the Federal Courthouse, 5th floor, in Raleigh, beginning at 9:00am. The decision to be dealt with is whether or not the Corps of Engineers must write an environmental impact statement on the pipeline construction and operation. Whatever the outcome, the decision will most likely be appealed to the Federal District Court in Richmond, Virginia.

Weyerhaeuser's paper mill operation on the Roanoke River has accidentally spilled 2 million gallons of NaOH into the river, resulting in another massive fish kill.

Maryland. ROCKFISH SPAWN A COASTAL CONTROVERSY. Results of a summer seine survey conducted by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources in Chesapeake Bay nursery areas suggest that juvenile striped bass production was up in 1989 compared to recent years of record low spawning success. Based on 132 seine hauls at 22 sites in four Bay rivers, the average juvenile catch per haul in 1989 was 25.2 and second only to the record year index of 30.4 in 1970.

State officials hailed the 1989 juvenile index as a sure sign that the days of plentiful striped bass are returning after a four-year moratorium on fishing in Maryland. On 22 September, Natural Resources Secretary, Dr. Torrey C. Brown, announced that a limited sport and commercial fishing season for striped bass will reopen in 1990. Maryland's Tidewater Administration Chief, Pete Jensen, defended the State's decision to reopen the fishing for one month next year and speculated that anglers are headed back to the heyday of the 1970s when striped bass were incredibly abundant from the Carolinas to Maine.

Organized opposition to the State's plan to reopen the striped bass fishery is stirring among fishing and conservation groups in Maryland and New England. The opposition groups are arguing that the 1989 juvenile abundance index of 25.2 was skewed upward by four extremely large seine catches at one of the 22 sampling sites. During the 1989 seine survey in four Bay rivers, State biologists caught 3,320 juvenile striped bass. A total of 1,698 juveniles (or 51.1 percent) were caught in four seine hauls on Hambrook Bar in the Choptank River. Outside of the Choptank River, average catches of juvenile striped bass per seine haul in 1989 were below 3 in the Potomac and Nanticoke Rivers, and just under 20 in the upper Bay.

Fishermen and scientists are continuing to debate the validity of an unweighted average catch per haul among four rivers to accurately describe the production of young striped bass in Maryland's portion of Chesapeake Bay during 1989. Angus Phillips, outdoor writer for The Washington Post, recently concluded that the rockfish controversy is a puzzling situation, seemingly backward, as fisheries managers say, "go get 'em," but fishermen urge restraint.

FISH NOTES

Carl Sullivan, Executive Director of AFS, received the National Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award from Dr. Jay Hair, NWF President, during the plenary session of the annual meeting in Alaska.

At the Alaska meeting, I received many compliments on the Chapter newsletter. I would like to thank all those members who supplied news and especially Kay Evans for the newsletter's attractive appearance. Kay is also the production editor for the Bulletin of the Coastal Society.

The Louisiana Chapter sent the final agenda for the 1989 mid-year workshop on aquaculture to be held in Lafayette, LA on 22 September. Its timely arrival was thwarted by the delay in producing this newsletter. Those of you who are interested in the outcome of the meeting can write to Karen Foote, Secretary-Treasurer, 2130 Terrace Ave., Baton Rouge, LA. 70806. There were 14 papers given; some on specific species and some on concepts.

Tidewater Chapter member Margie Gallagher (ECU) has become the newsletter editor for the International Fisheries Section of AFS.

Of the 4.5 million registered chemicals in the U.S., only 30,000 have been studied for potential human hazards. Think about that the next time you drink water.

Speaking of water, the town of Washington, NC, has had its water supply contaminated by trihalomethane, apparently as a result of chlorination. The EPA says not to worry if your community has fewer than 10,000 individuals: no action is required.

APL's Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology group finds a new home. In early 1990, the Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology research group of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory will officially join the University of Maryland's Agricultural Experiment Station. Five principal investigators (Dennis Burton, Dan Fisher, Lenwood Hall, Ron Klauda, Mike Unger) and several support staff, now based on the Chesapeake Bay at Shady Side, Maryland, will relocate to the University of Maryland's Wye Research and Education Center near Queenstown.

The APL research group will add a new dimension to water quality programs within the Experiment Station that are focused on Chesapeake Bay issues. The group will be able to collaborate in joint research projects with Experiment Station scientists without duplicating other program efforts.

The addition of the APL research group coincides with several recent changes within the College of Agriculture at the University of Maryland. On 1 September 1989, the Office of Vice Chancellor for Agricultural Affairs officially became the Office of Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Natural Resources. This organization change is intended to provide a more statewide presence for agriculture and natural resources at the University of Maryland.

**CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING
and
SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS**

DATES: Thursday, 11 January through Saturday, 13 January, 1990

PLACE: Virginia Beach Marine Science Museum, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The Marine Science Museum is located near the oceanfront and houses nearly 100,000 gallons of fresh and saltwater aquariums in combination with numerous hands-on exhibits. A special tour of the museum will be arranged for those attending the annual meeting.

The theme for the fourth annual meeting will be **Fisheries Research in the Virginia-North Carolina-Maryland Tidewater Area: Who, What, When, Where.** This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the diverse fisheries research being conducted in the tri-state area.

Papers will be limited to 15 minutes with 5 additional minutes allowed for discussion. Abstracts are due by November 17, 1989. Copies of accepted abstracts will be available at the meeting.

This year's meeting will also feature a silent auction and noisy raffle for some excellent art prints and other prizes. More details in the next newsletter.

Abstract Format:

Title
Author(s)
Institution
Address
Abstract (250 words or less)
Also include: author presenting paper
telephone number
Student? yes no

Please indicate if you are not a Chapter member, so that a program package can be sent to you.

Send abstracts to:

Ron Southwick
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
500 Hinton Avenue
Chesapeake, Virginia 23323

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

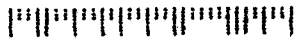
Gallagher, Margie Lee and Gad Degani. 1988. Poultry meal and poultry oil as sources of protein and lipid in the diet of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*). *Aquaculture* 73:177-187.

Gallagher, Margie L., Susan H. McLeod, and Roger Rulifson. 1989. Seasonal variations in fatty acids of striped bass, *Morone saxatilis*. *J. World Aquaculture Society* 20(2):38-45.



WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS

*To assess the state of the world's fisheries resources
and promote scientific collaboration*



89

Eileen Setzler-Hamilton
Chesapeake Bio. Lab.
Solomons, MD 20688

AFS - Tidewater Chapter
VIMS / Chris Bonzek
Blouester Pt., VA 23062

