



TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Southern Division - American Fisheries Society

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1990

AFS ANNUAL MEETING

The 120th Annual meeting of AFS was held in the "three-rivers" area of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 26-30 August. There were 38 sessions with 400 papers presented along with 38 poster papers. More than 870 scientists registered during the four-day meeting and the business meeting was attended by 250, the most ever. The annual banquet was held on the river boat Majestic as it plied the waters of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers giving the attendees an excellent nighttime view of downtown Pittsburgh, Three Rivers Stadium, and the fountain at Point State Park.

At the business meeting, honorary AFS membership was conferred on Dr. Edwin L. Cooper, AFS Executive Assistant Mary Frye, and Executive Director Carl Sullivan.

The members present at the AFS business meeting voted their approval of three new chapters: North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia. Congratulations to the members of these chapters: we look forward to working with you. [It may be of interest to know that a resolution approving overlapping chapters was approved at the Southern Division meeting in Memphis].

There were many resolutions passed during the business meeting:

- support of the proposed Upper Ohio River Island Refuge System (to protect undisturbed island habitats and associated fauna and flora).
- inclusion of undeveloped shoreline of the Great Lakes in the Coastal Barrier Resource System (to deny federal subsidies and flood insurance to new development).
- establishment of a Large Rivers Research Initiative by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- support of an initiative to facilitate aquaculture drug registration begun at the Oslo, Norway, meeting (June 1990) of the Round-Table Consultation on Documentation on Drugs.

- a request asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to abandon its 1988 Hydropower Policy in favor of the 1981 mitigation policy to be used in federal hydropower licensing.
- a petition asking the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine to accept the definitions of eggs, fry, and small fingerlings as non-food fish (to facilitate use of aquaculture drugs on early stages of fish).
- approval of expanded Endangered Species protection by endorsing a resolution forwarded to AFS from the Fisheries Society of the British Isles.
- support for government prevention, research, and control of non-indigenous species (ruffe, asiatic clam, zebra mussel, etc.)

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS

The final call for papers for the Fifth Annual Meeting to be held in Pine Knoll Shores, NC, is here. This is it. There are three general areas for your contribution:

Anadromous Fisheries - coordinated by Roger Rulifson (ECU) 919-757-6752

Marine and Estuarine Fish Biology - coordinated by Joe Smith (NMFS) 919-728-8765

Fish Habitats, Endangered Species, and any other topic - coordinated by John Merriner (NMFS) 919-728-8708

The poster session (any topic) will be coordinated by John Merriner. If you have an audio-visual display you would like to show, bring the necessary equipment and space will be made available. The DEADLINE for abstracts is November 19, 1990.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Several letters received by President Ron Southwick were discussed at the meeting: 1) from the Environmental Concerns Committee came a request for an itemized list of environmental concerns. Some

of those we sent to the committee included ground-water contamination, pesticide/herbicide use and manufacture, shoreline development, radioactive/hazardous waste disposal, and many more. The Environmental Concerns Committee is searching for issues that require a policy position by AFS; 2) from the Chapter Caucus Committee came a request for opinions on changing the name of AFS, presumably to something that eliminates the perception of isolating members who are not in the U.S. After a short discussion, the Executive Committee decided in favor of keeping the name as is. The reasoning was that the membership of the Society is predominately "American," in the broadest sense including those from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America. There are many arguments against the present name, the strongest perhaps is the increasing international role of the Society: a name change to more accurately reflect this role is deemed advantageous by some. If you have an opinion, send it to any of the officers.

The Chapter will have a t-shirt design contest concluding at the Fifth Annual Meeting in February. The design will be for the SIXTH Annual Meeting and should have Tidewater Chapter and AFS on it; there are no other restrictions -- let your talents emerge and bring a winning t-shirt design to the Fifth Annual Meeting. Designs can also be mailed to John Cooper, ICMR-ECU, Greenville, NC 27858.

President Ron Southwick has named Mitchell Norman (VA) to chair the audit committee and Eileen Setzler-Hamilton to chair the nominating committee.

Wildlife artist Al Agnew has donated several art prints to the Chapter for use in fund-raising: these will be raffled and auctioned at the upcoming annual meeting. We would like to thank Al for his generosity.

The Chapter officers would like to assemble a gazetteer of agencies and university units within the chapter area. This would be used to show which groups are responsible for what and where their interests are. An example of the information needed is shown in paragraph two of the following article. Those who would like to contribute should send their items to Rick Eades, 500 Hinton Ave., Chesapeake, Virginia 23323.

The newsletter will also devote space to a summary of what different groups do in resource work. The first in this series is submitted by Don Kain:

VIRGINIA STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD

Tidewater Regional Office

The Tidewater Regional Office (TRO) of the State Water Control Board (SWCB) is located in Virginia Beach and serves the eastern portion of the

state, including the majority of Virginia's tidal waters.

The SWCB is a regulatory agency and is charged with maintaining water quality throughout the state. EPA has delegated NPDES permitting authority to the SWCB, which is administered through the state's VPDES Program. In addition to direct regulatory control of pollutants via the VPDES and VPA (Virginia Pollution Abatement -- "no discharge" facilities) permitting programs, staff at TRO implement several monitoring and pollution assessment programs.

Staff biologists conduct spring and fall benthic biomonitoring at a network of fixed stations (primarily freshwater) for evaluation of impacts from targeted dischargers and for long-term trend analysis. EPA's Rapid Bioassessment Protocol is scheduled to be incorporated into this program in Fall of 1990. Site-specific intensive studies, involving benthic evaluations and ambient and effluent water sampling, are conducted on an as-needed basis. TRO's wetlands evaluation program (State 401/U.S. Army COE 404) has expanded during the past year to address an increased need to protect tidal and nontidal wetlands and associated receiving stream water quality.

Extensive chemical and toxicity analyses of effluents are conducted by TRO's Effluent Toxicity Assessment Program (ETAP) personnel. Data generated are used in permit development and to address special concerns such as assessing wastewater treatment technology and evaluating the potential for instream toxicity from discharges. Much of the recent work conducted in this program has focused on the highly industrialized Elizabeth River, identified as a primary area of concern with regard to toxics in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Ambient water quality is sampled monthly at approximately 200 sites throughout the region to support monitoring programs administered by the SWCB Tidewater Office and the Agency's Chesapeake Bay office.

Perhaps the most visible SWCB program in Tidewater is the Pollution Response Program, which provides a 24-hour readiness to respond to pollution events which threaten waters of the Commonwealth. The agency's primary role in this program is to ensure that prompt measures are taken to prevent the introduction of pollutants to state waters and that, in the event of a spill, remediation is conducted as rapidly and as effectively as possible. On-site activities include overseeing cleanups by responsible parties and assessing damage (e.g. fish kills, violations of water quality standards) to aquatic resources.

If you have questions or would like additional information on SWCB-TRO activities, call Don Kain or Roger Everton at (804) 552-1840.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

Virginia. EMPORIA RESERVOIR SHAD- A routine electrofishing survey in August on the Emporia Reservoir yielded two young-of-the-year American shad. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries personnel had manually lifted 102 American shad over Emporia Dam in the spring to aid in the restoration of anadromous fish runs to the upper Meherrin River. The capture of these two shad in the reservoir showed that at least some of the adults continued the migration upstream and spawned successfully. It is hoped that the fish lift located at the Emporia Dam will perform well in future springs and spawning success will increase. See the June 1990 newsletter for more information.-*RE*

North Carolina. NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has proposed a new national wildlife refuge in Tyrrell, Hyde, and Washington Counties. The new refuge would encompass 93,000 acres of shrub bog (pocosin) habitat and would protect the watershed of nearby lakes, rivers, and sounds. The land would come to USFWS through The Conservation Fund working with the Richard King Mellon Foundation. The Conservation Fund is the sole landowner within the proposal area. A draft environmental assessment has been developed which evaluates four alternatives. The alternative preferred by USFWS would consolidate the proposed refuge with the adjacent 12,350 acre Pungo National Wildlife Refuge and would be renamed the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.-*NCWF, JC*

MINERAL RIGHTS IN THE REFUGE- The mineral rights to the refuge have been retained by the Conservation Fund, according to the NC Coastal Federation. The refuge land is composed of peat which has been proposed for electrical generation and part of the donated land is still licensed for peat mining. It remains to be seen what will happen to the peat and the refuge.-*NCCF*

OREGON INLET JETTY- The Dept. of Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr. met with Governor Jim Martin, Senators Terry Sanford, Jesse Helms, and a delegation from Dare County to discuss North Carolina's request that Interior drop its objections to building the jetties. Lujan promised to make a decision in October.

DIOXIN WARNINGS- In an August 13 memorandum, scientists Kenneth Rudo and C. Gregory Smith of the state office of Environmental Epidemiology

recommended posting dioxin warnings for fish consumed from the Roanoke (especially Welch Creek), Neuse and Chowan Rivers. The state health office recommends limiting consumption of fish which have contamination levels greater than 3 parts per trillion. Average dioxin levels in the three rivers were 5.6 parts per trillion in the Neuse, 25.6 parts per trillion (in catfish) in the Chowan, 14.1 parts per trillion in the Lower Roanoke, and 37.5 parts per trillion in Welch Creek. State regulators are now considering a request from the paper industry to increase the allowable level of dioxins to be discharged into rivers.-*N&O, NCCF*

BIG SWEEP '90 - North Carolina's beaches, rivers and lakes were swept clean on September 22. Ten thousand volunteers collected 162 tons of trash from 160 sites compared to 81.5 tons of trash last year at 96 sites.-*UNC Sea Grant*

ROANOKE RIVER STRIPED BASS - Fishing for striped bass is legal in the Roanoke River if all stripers are released. Legal harvest will resume in January 1991. The harvest was banned in May 1990 after sport fishermen reached a yearly quota recommended by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The commercial fishery had been closed earlier in the year. The quota was based on an 80% reduction from harvests in the mid-1970's. The Wildlife Resources Commission and the Division of Marine Fisheries are completing a management plan for striped bass that will be submitted to the ASMFC in 1992.-*ADH, VV*

Maryland. MIGRATION-After 16+ years in the exciting but high anxiety realm of soft-money research, Ron Klauda has decided to become an ecological bureaucrat. He will migrate 15 miles or so up the Chesapeake Bay to Annapolis, Maryland, and take on a new array of challenges. Effective October 17, 1990, his new affiliation, mailing address, phone and FAX numbers will be: Ronald J. Klauda; Chesapeake Bay Research and Monitoring Division; Tidewater Administration; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Tawes State Office Building, B3; Annapolis, MD 21401; 301-974-3782; FAX: 301-974-3770.

FISH NOTES

It is estimated that more oil is spilled annually by backyard mechanics in the U.S. than was spilled in Prince William Sound, Alaska: around 400 million gallons of used oil that carries heavy metals and acids into water bodies.

Maryland ranks third in pounds of trash per mile on beaches (1636) with North Carolina sixth at 741. Virginia is not in the top ten. The list was compiled by the Center for Marine Conservation and lists Texas first (1926 lbs. per mile) and Louisiana second (1642). Sixty-three percent of the trash collected (by weight) in 1989 was plastic (542 tons).

MEETINGS

Back Bay Ecological Symposium, November 2-3, 1990, to be held at the Virginia Marine Science Museum, 717 General Booth Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA. Sponsored by Old Dominion University and Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries. For more information, contact either:

Dr. Harold Marshall
Department of Biological Sciences
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA. 23529-0266
804-683-3595

or

Mitchell Norman
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
500 Hinton Ave.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
804-683-2871

Third Annual Public Meeting of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, October 6, in Morehead City at the Crystal Coast Civic Center. The keynote speaker will be Jerry Schill, Executive Director of the North Carolina Fisheries Association. For more information, call NC Coastal Federation at 919-393-8185.



14-19 April 1991

Athens, Greece

Major Themes:

Condition of Major Aquatic Habitats
Fisheries Resource Utilization & Policy
Protection of Biotic Diversity
International Development Projects
Assessment Methodologies & Fisheries Management
Role of Aquaculture in World Fisheries
Other Fisheries Science Topics

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Co-sponsored by 38 natural resource organizations worldwide.

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