



Summer 2011

Southern Division News

Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society



Alabama	North Carolina
Arkansas	Oklahoma
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Virginia
Maryland	Washington, D.C.
Mississippi	West Indian Islands
	West Virginia

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Tools of the Trade

Steve Lochmann, SDAFS President

Would you send a fisheries biologist to electrofish without a dip net? Would you send a hatchery worker to harvest fish without a seine? These tools are critical to a fishery professional. Another tool for fishery professionals is the knowledge base present within AFS journals. McMullin and Pert (2010, see Figure 5.4) revised the fisheries management cycle, relative to the fisheries management process outlined by Krueger and Decker (1999, see Figure 2.3). I defer to the wisdom of McMullin and Pert, but there is an aspect absent from their diagram, which perhaps should not be. Krueger and Decker identified the central role that a knowledge base plays during each step of the management process cycle. Would you send a fishery biologist to manage a fishery without access to the knowledge base in our AFS journals? For 44% of the states in the Southern Division the answer is, yes.

At the 2010 Mid-year meeting in Tampa, I suggested a “no biologist left behind” policy. I iterated the importance of online access to AFS journals for every fishery biologist in the Division. Since that meeting, I have discussed journal access with biologists from every state in the Division. Seven states do not provide online access to AFS journals for their biologists. Without access to the science, the expectation that a fishery biologist will make science-based management decisions might be unrealistic. The magnitude of the fishery science knowledge base is growing exponentially. No biologist can be expected to internalize this much information. Therefore, consistent journal access is a requirement.



Access to journals might not have to be “online” access. I disagree, for two reasons. Firstly, one cannot keyword search a shelf full of paper copies of a journal. To do their job effectively, fishery biologists should be able to access a maximum amount of information in a minimum amount of time. Electronically searching a database for journal citations is the most likely way to generate a comprehensive citation list. Secondly, there is an expectation today that information will be accessible instantly from the Internet. What supervisor wants to see his or her biologist disappear into the stacks of a library for hours at a time? The biologist who can access a searchable database and electronic copies of articles, from their desk, is going to be more efficient.

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Tools of the Trade

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State budgets are shrinking; so many administrators are looking for cost-cutting opportunities. Cutting journal subscriptions may appear to be a wise decision. Again, I disagree. As budgets shrink, travel line items decline, so fewer biologists are able to attend scientific conferences. Scientific conferences were an important place for a biologist's knowledge base to grow. If biologists attend fewer meetings, journal access becomes even more important. Yes, there is a cost for journal subscriptions and online access (probably \$2000-\$5000 per year), but ask yourself how much bad management costs an agency.

Last year, AFS contracted with Taylor and Francis to market our journals. This action created a new procedure for providing biologists access to AFS journals. Some state agencies have had difficulty with the change. Some state agencies may appear to bear an increased cost for the same access. Each state is unique, and access to our journals is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. Taylor and Francis are ready to speak with state agencies regarding consortia pricing. If your state is along the eastern seaboard, call Beth Mullen at 215-625-8900 (ext 340). If your state is in the central U.S., call Tina Currado at 215-625-8900 (ext 366).

My hope is that every state in the Southern Division will work out a deal with Taylor and Francis, so that no biologist goes without access to our AFS journals. If every state embraces this ideal, I will be pleased, but not satisfied. I will be satisfied when biologists are accessing journals regularly to facilitate science-based management decisions. Once state agencies provide access, it is incumbent upon biologists to pick up this tool and use it.

- Krueger, C. C., and D. J. Decker. 1999. The process of fisheries management. Pages 31-59 in C. C. Kohler and W. A. Hubert, editors. *Inland fisheries management in North America*, 2nd edition. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.
- McMullin, S. L., and E. Pert. 2010. The process of fisheries management. Pages 133-155 in W. A. Hubert and M. C. Quist, editors. *Inland fisheries management in North America*, 3rd edition. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.

SDAFS Membership Challenge

The purpose of the Membership Challenge Award is to recognize Chapters with a high proportion of Chapter members belonging to the Society. This award is presented by the Division President. To be considered for this award, Chapter Presidents or Secretary-Treasurers should compare a list of names of members who have paid Chapter dues, to the list of Society members in good standing from their state(s) utilizing the AFS membership directory (<https://secure.fisheries.org/DotNet/Login.aspx>).

Chapter President or Secretary-Treasurer will determine the proportion of Chapter members whose names also appear in the AFS membership directory. Names from the AFS membership directory, in the appropriate state(s), that ARE NOT chapter members should not be included in the proportion calculation. Chapter Presidents or Secretary-Treasurers should submit their proportion to Steve Lochmann (slochmann@uaex.edu) by September 30, 2011. Documentation of the proportion will be requested in the event of a close race (within 0.5%).



The winning Chapter will receive a cash prize of \$250 AND get to direct the donation of another \$250 to the AFS fund of their choosing. The winning Chapter will be announced at the subsequent SDAFS Business Meeting, have their name engraved on the SDAFS Membership Challenge Plaque, and be presented with the plaque and a \$250 check. They will be able to direct a \$250 donation to the AFS Fund of their choice, and can direct the SDAFS Secretary-Treasurer to do so after conferring with the Chapter's EXCOM or membership.

2011 Officer Elections

The 2011 SDAFS officer elections have begun. The election will be open until **Friday, July 8th 11:59 PM** (Eastern Time). Votes can be cast at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=yS1qHtGztTwb6qprYQn1QQ_3d_3d

This year we will be voting for Vice-President and SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. We have four excellent candidates. The candidates for Vice-President are Tom Holman and John Jackson. The candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee are Melissa Kaintz and Anthony Overton.



Tom Holman has worked for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks in various capacities since 1988. From 1988 – 2003, he was a district biologist managing sport fisheries in reservoirs, streams and agency owned impoundments. In 2003, he moved into administration. Currently, he is the Federal Assistance Sport Fish Restoration Grants administrator and also coordinates the fish hatchery and aquatic education programs. He is active in the agency's children's fishing rodeo program promoting youth participation and is a member of the Aquatic Resources Education Association. He serves as the agency's representative on the Mississippi Fish Consumption Advisory Task Force and the SARP Communications and Outreach Committee. He is active in the agency's boating access program and was a contributor to the second edition of SOBA's Operations and Maintenance Program Guidelines for Recreational Boating Access Facilities. Prior to working in Mississippi, he was a consultant for the Instituto Nacional de Investigaçāo de Pesca in Lisbon, Portugal, on largemouth bass management and catfish aquaculture (86-87) and was an Observer with NMFS in Alaska (83).

Holman earned his BS in Biology from George Mason University, The University of Northern Virginia, in 1980 and his MS in Fisheries Management from Auburn University in 1985. He was a member of the Auburn Chapter (82-85).

Holman has been a member of AFS and the Mississippi Chapter since 1989 and is a Certified Fisheries Professional. He served as liaison between the chapter and agency in installing a permanent chapter display at the state fish hatchery in Enid, Mississippi. He served as chapter president in 2010. He is chapter chair for the AFS Technical Committees and Workshops for the upcoming 2012 SDAFS meeting in Biloxi, MS. He served on the SEAFWA Fisheries Program committee (92-95) and was SEAFWA Fisheries Program Chair in 1994 and 2010. On the division level, Holman has been the agency's representative on the Reservoir and Striped Bass Committees and is currently on the Alligator Gar Committee.

"It is truly an honor to be nominated as a candidate for the position of Vice President. As a management biologist the exchange of technical information afforded me from participation at division meetings and through technical committee publications over the years has been invaluable in my communicating with anglers on management issues. In this time of small budgets and expanding internet availability, if elected, I would work to encourage agencies, universities and chapters to team up and develop a central, searchable depository for agency management reports and results of funded research which are otherwise unavailable to the Southern Division Membership."

John Jackson is an Associate Professor of Fisheries in the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas Tech University (ATU) where he currently teaches Population Dynamics, Advanced Fisheries Science, Principles of Ecology, Biostatistics, and Fish and Wildlife Seminar. John received his BS degree from Michigan State University in 1983, his MS from Mississippi State University in 1987, and his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University in 1996. So far, John has directed 10 MS students through research topics that have included relations between fish assemblages and environmental characteristics in floodplain rivers and backwater lakes, changes in river fish assemblages following increases in environmental flows, evaluation of community fishing programs, and assessment of crappie populations supplemented with hatchery-reared fingerlings.

John has been a member of AFS since 1993. He has served as President of the Mississippi State University Student Sub-Unit, Student Representative for the Southern Division, President and Treasurer of the Arkansas Chapter, Faculty Advisor to the ATU Student Sub-Unit, Chair of the Southern Division Student Affairs Committee, and Chair of the Meeting Over-Site Committee.

"The Southern Division of AFS has been a leading influence on my professional development through its commitment to student involvement, technical committees, and exchange of ideas at workshops and annual meetings. I look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to AFS and, if elected, to develop and strengthen linkages among the student sub-units within the Southern Division."



2011 Officer Elections

Originally from Saint Louis, Missouri, **Melissa Kaintz** graduated from Loyola University New Orleans in 2003 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. During that time, she worked with Dr. Frank Jordan to complete an undergraduate thesis project studying the summer patterns of microhabitat use by *Percina nigrofasciata* in Northwest Florida. In 2005, she received her M.S. in Biology with a focus on fisheries management from Tennessee Technological University. Under the guidance of Dr. Phil Bettoli at TN Tech, she researched black bass tournament mortality and more specifically, smallmouth bass delayed tournament mortality on Dale Hollow Reservoir, TN.

She returned to Louisiana in 2005 and worked as a Coastal Resources Scientist with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. In September 2008, she transferred to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries where she currently works as the statewide Operations Manager for the Inland Fisheries Section within the Office of Fisheries.



Melissa has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 2003. She served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Tennessee Tech Student Fisheries Association from 2004-2005, she was the abstract editor for the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2010 annual meeting, and is currently President-elect for the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The American Fisheries Society has been a major factor in the development of my fisheries career thus far. I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with so many dedicated and motivated individuals at various AFS events. It would be an honor to serve as a committee member for the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and I appreciate your consideration.



Anthony Overton is an Associate Professor in Fisheries Ecology in the Department of Biology at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. He received his B.S. (1994) from South Carolina State University, M.S. (1997) from University of Georgia, and Ph.D. from University of Maryland-Eastern Shore (2003). He spent one year at East Carolina University on a postdoctoral research appointment at East Carolina University before joining the Faculty in 2004.

Anthony is very active in AFS at multiple levels. He has been a member since 1995. He has served on many committees (e.g. Best paper in NAJFM and TAFS), former president of the Tidewater Chapter, Former Chair of the Best Paper Awards in AFS Journals, Current Faculty Advisor for the East Carolina University Student Subunit, Current Treasurer and Webmaster for the Estuaries section. Anthony currently serves as a subject editor for the newest AFS Journal Marine and Coastal Fisheries. Anthony is a member of other management boards including the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Advisory Board and a member of the ICCAT Advisory Committee.

Georgia Chapter Test Drives Online Survey Tool to Select New Logo

Joe E. Slaughter, IV, GA-AFS President

While most of us have likely participated in an online survey, I suspect few have actually thought about setting one up. Even those that have considered their own online survey probably have some reservations. The Southern Division of AFS has a registered account with surveymonkey.com to facilitate member surveys and provide a free tool for Division units interested in going digital.

In early 2011, the Georgia Chapter utilized the Southern Division surveymonkey.com account to poll its membership and select a new logo. Initially, I was apprehensive about setting up the survey for several reasons a) I have no experience whatsoever with online survey creation and distribution, and b) our survey was intended to select from among four graphical logo options and not to simply answer text-based questions.

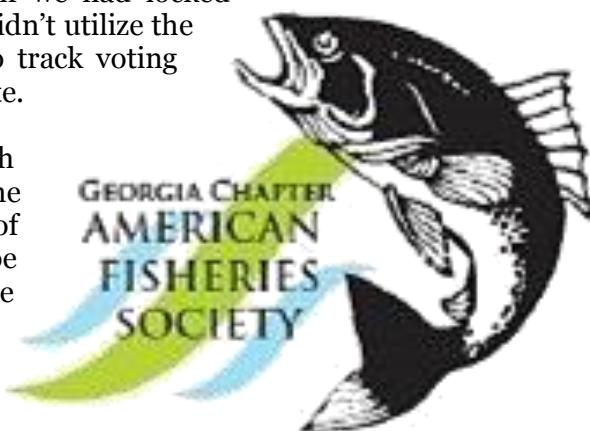
Relative to my first concern, the site is much easier to navigate than I ever thought possible. Everything I needed to know was right in front of me, and they intuitively asked the right questions and worked out the details in a step-wise and very user friendly manner. From log-in through full creation, it took about 15 minutes. It was really as easy as clicking to add a question, selecting the question type, typing in your question and your possible results, and then clicking a button to finish. Even adding the graphic was as simple as a couple of mouse clicks. We didn't want to have to load all our members' email addresses into their system (which by the way only requires an email list in excel format...should have read a little deeper into the manual before making that choice), so the site gave us the option to have a web link created for our survey. We sent out that link to our members in a standard email from the Chapter, and we were off and running.

As for the latter apprehension...I squeeze fish for a living. No one has ever mistaken me for a graphic designer, artist, or digital media specialist. I started with four separate logo options saved as .jpgs. While I'm sure there is an option within surveymonkey.com's system to assign each of the various .jpgs as a potential answer to a question (another part of the manual I likely skipped over), I resorted to the old fashioned way...MS Paint. I copied all four options side-by-side, cleverly labeled them Option 1 through Option 4, saved the whole thing as a .jpg, and uploaded it to the survey. Oh yeah, that resourceful approach to digital media design took up about 12 of the 15 minutes spent creating the survey.

We set a 10 day deadline for submissions to our poll. In retrospect, I suppose a week or less for a simple survey would have been more than sufficient. Over 25% of our membership responded within two hours of the initial announcement, after half a day we had reached a quorum (>50%), and in total over 75% of our members participated. I'm not too sure we could've done much better if we had locked everyone in a room and taken the vote in person. Also, while we didn't utilize the more advanced survey results functions, options are available to track voting trends and all sorts of other survey related data directly from the site.

In my humble opinion, this is a very worthwhile tool, even for fish folks. If you or your unit leaders are interested in exploring the surveymonkey.com tool to conduct AFS business, contact one of your Southern Division officers for more information. Maybe somebody should call the company and inquire about changing the name to surveycatfish.com...just a thought.

Oh yeah, AND THE WINNER WAS...



SDAFS Resolution Needs Your Input

As per the SDAFS bylaws, all proposed resolutions must be published in the summer newsletter to receive comments prior to consideration by SDAFS Officers and a vote by the SDAFS membership at our annual SDAFS Business Meeting. All comments to the below proposed resolution should be sent to Dennis Riecke at dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us by September 1, 2011.

RESOLUTION ON THE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND MANAGE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, since the European colonization of North America, it has been estimated that between 5,000-50,000 nonnative species have been introduced into the United States (Pimentel et al. 2000) and at least 4,500 species of foreign origin have established free-living populations in the United States (OTA 1993) and;

WHEREAS, the Office of Technology Assessment estimates that 10-15 percent of introduced species may become established and about 10 percent of established species become invasive (U.S. Congress, OTA 1993) and;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health and;

WHEREAS, in the Executive Summary of the National Invasive Species Management Plan the term “invasive species” was further clarified and defined as “a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health and;

WHEREAS, it has been conservatively estimated that annual economic costs to the United States of nonindigenous species, exceeds 120 billion dollars (Pimentel et. al. 2005) and;

WHEREAS, species introductions have been both intentional and accidental and the following pathways for the introduction of invasive aquatic species have been identified: aquaculture, water gardening, fishing, ballast water and other media, transportation, shipping, boating, natural disasters, the aquarium and pet industry, cultural traditions, and;

WHEREAS, the US Congress in recognition of the harm caused by the introduction of the zebra mussel and concerned about increasing numbers of aquatic invasive species introductions passed the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1992 (Act) and;

WHEREAS, this Act mandates the development and implementation of a comprehensive national program to prevent and respond to problems caused by the unintentional introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species into the waters of the United States which led to the formation from 1991-2003 of six Regional Panels on Aquatic Nuisance Species (Regional Panels) covering the entire country and;

WHEREAS, in response to this act, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) has approved seven National Species Management and Control Plans (ruffe, brown tree snake European green crab, Chinese mitten crab, Caulerpa (seaweed), New Zealand mudsnail, and Asian carp) and has approved 39 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans (State/Interstate Plans) with the goal of each state having an approved Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan in the near future and;

WHEREAS, since 2004 annual federal authorizations and appropriations have resulted in only \$300,000 dollars for all Regional Panels and \$1,075,000 dollars for all State/Interstate Plans to implement activities and programs to prevent, monitor and control aquatic invasive species and thus the amount of funding per

State/Interstate Plan is decreasing as more State/Interstate Plans are approved by the ANSTFS since the \$1,075,000 is divided equally among all State/Interstate Plans and;

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species experts have recommended that adequate funding would be \$1,000,000 dollars per year for each of the six Regional Panels and the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (2010) estimated that approximately \$1,000,000 dollars was needed for adequate implementation of each State/Interstate Plans (39 plans) and,

WHEREAS, in the near future it is anticipated that there will be at least 53 State/Interstate Plans (50 State Plans and 3 Interstate Plans), therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 19th day of January in the year 2012 at Biloxi, Mississippi urges the Congress of the United States to appropriate \$59,000,000 dollars funding on an annual basis for Regional Panels and State/Interstate Plans for prevention, control and management of nonnative aquatic invasive species.



NEW FRONTIERS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY: LEADING THE WAY IN A CHANGING WORLD

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 141ST ANNUAL MEETING
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON . SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2011 . WWW.FISHERIES.ORG/AFS2011

Set your sights on attending this year's Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. With its focus on "**New Frontiers in Fisheries Management and Ecology: Leading the Way in a Changing World**," the conference will provide a wonderful opportunity for fisheries professionals to meet, exchange information, catch up with friends, and find inspiration.

The 2011 AFS Meeting will provide a unique forum for participants to explore the many multidisciplinary aspects of fisheries science and management. In addition to the eclectic mix of outstanding symposia, contributed papers, and posters for which AFS meetings are known, the Seattle meeting will feature a broad range of technical, social, and legal topics that are of national and international interest, including measures to recover from massive anthropogenic and weather-related catastrophes and to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources. Regional topics will highlight efforts to protect and clean up Puget Sound and address emerging issues related to the Columbia River, salmon recovery, and watershed management. We encourage those involved or interested in fisheries science and management, marine and freshwater habitat protection, or fisheries-related recreation to contribute to this important meeting.

Support AFS and indulge yourself by coming to Seattle this September. We guarantee your experience will be a memorable one.

Come experience the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast!

20TH

AFS SOUTHERN DIVISION
SPRING MEETING

January 26 - 29, 2012



Hosted by the Mississippi Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society

"Fisheries in Recovery?"

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join us in Biloxi, Mississippi for the 2012 Southern Division Spring Meeting, to be held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa on Biloxi's Back Bay.

Meeting details (including accommodations, registration and call for papers) can be found at: www.sdafs.org/meetings/2012/default.htm

MEETING FEATURES

- Technical Committee Meetings
- Workshops
- Symposia
- Contributed Oral and Poster Presentations
- Social Events



2012 SOUTHERN DIVISION SPRING MEETING



Hosted by the Mississippi Chapter AFS

26-29 January 2012; Biloxi, Mississippi

IP Casino Resort and Spa on Back Bay Biloxi –

<http://www.ipbiloxi.com/STAY/tabid/56/Default.aspx>

Mark your calendars for the 20th annual Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society to be held January, 2012 in Biloxi, Mississippi! This meeting promises to once again be an intriguing forum directed towards the exchange of novel ideas, presentation of current research, participation in cutting edge technology workshops, and the discussion of Division business and professional interests.

The Spring Meeting will be held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa on Back Bay Biloxi in coastal Biloxi, Mississippi. Details regarding accommodations, reservations, and registration procedures and meeting registration is available at the Division's meeting website (<http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2012/default.htm>). Updates will be made to this webpage as they become available. The general schedule for the Spring Meeting will be as follows: Thursday - Technical Committee Meetings; Friday – EXCOM Meeting, Continuing Education Workshops, Poster Presentations; Saturday and Sunday morning - Technical Sessions and Symposia.

Our meeting theme is ‘Fisheries in Recovery?’ We are excited and honored to have three speakers who will provide keynote talks to set the stage for our theme during the opening session. The speakers and their respective talk titles are:



Dr. Martin O’Connell, University of New Orleans, speaking on ‘Disasters, resilience, and long-term change: a decade of assessing nekton community dynamics in the Pontchartrain Estuary,’

Dr. Stephania Bolden, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Endangered Species Branch, speaking on “Crossing the saltwater interface: management of sturgeons in the southeast”, and

Mr. Donny Lowery, Tennessee Valley Authority, speaking on “Kingston coal ash spill effects on Emory River and Watts Bar Reservoir fishery”.

SYMPOSIA

Currently, we have two symposia scheduled for the meeting (noted below) and we still have space for four 1/2 day (4 hour) symposia. Persons interested in organizing a symposia should contact Matt Roberts (matt.roberts@mmns.state.ms.us). Organizers should note that contributed papers will be allowed 15 minute presentations (which includes a 3 min discussion). Proposals for symposia should state objectives, format, amount of time required, a tentative list of participants and topics they will cover, and a list of visual aids required. Computers with PowerPoint capability will be provided. Sessions having broad appeal and relevance to fisheries will receive highest priority. Symposium titles, moderators, and titles/authors will be included in the Spring Meeting program. Symposia will be finalized by 1 August when abstract submission is opened.

Spring Meeting Symposia:

- 1) Life History Characteristics of Elasmobranch Fishes from the North Western Atlantic Ocean. (NOAA, 1/2 d).
- 2) Fish Habitat Conservation in the Southern Division, SARP (1/2 d).

WORKSHOPS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

A series of workshops and technical committees have been organized. The workshops are Vemco Acoustics, Hummingbird Habitat Mapping, Pod Casts, Catfish, Alligator Gar, Leadership at all Levels, and Cover Letters and Resumes for Professionals. The technical committees are Warmwater Streams, Alligator Gar, Catfish, Small Impoundments, Aquaculture, Striped Bass, and SDAFS Leadership Training. Information on workshops and technical committees can be obtained from Tom Holman (tomh@mdwfp.state.ms.us).

FIRST CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Individuals desiring to present research and management results and/or progress of ongoing work should submit abstracts online at the Southern Division website provided in the following paragraph. Technical presentations will be scheduled for 15 minutes (12 min for the presentation followed by a 3 min question/answer period). Moderators will strictly enforce the time limit. PowerPoint presentations are required.

Poster presentations will be encouraged due to the number of attendees at the meeting. Posters will be exhibited throughout the meeting duration, and poster authors will be available at the Friday evening poster session/social to talk about their work and answer questions.

Abstracts, either for presentation or poster, should be submitted online at the Division website (<http://www.sdafs.org/abstracts>) – this link will become active on or shortly after 1 August 2011.

The text should be no more than 250 words.

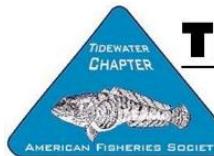
Mark Your Calendars!

The SDAFS Student Colloquium (usually held in November) will be held April 14-15, 2012 in conjunction with the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency (NEAFWA) meeting in Charleston, WV.

The Colloquium will be hosted by the West Virginia University student AFS chapter. More details coming this fall!



Chapter Updates



Tidewater Chapter

American Fisheries Society

Maryland – Virginia – North Carolina

The **Tidewater Chapter** (TWC) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) held its silver anniversary (25th) annual meeting Mar. 10-12, 2011 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, VA.

The three-day meeting, organized by VIMS fisheries scientist and incoming chapter president Leonard Machut, brought together over 85 researchers from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and even Delaware, and from 16 different academic institutions, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental groups, to share findings from their studies of fish and fisheries. Their research ranges from the headwater streams of the Appalachians to Chesapeake Bay and the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Student presentations once again carried a successful TWC annual meeting. A total of 29 (13 posters and 16 oral papers) presentations were evaluated and scored by six judges.

In the poster category, the judges selected these winners:

First Place: Brandon Rowan (Old Dominion University) – “Finding Animal Reservoirs in Chesapeake Bay for the Striped Bass Pathogens *Mycobacterium pseudoshottsii* and *Mycobacterium shottsii*”

Second Place: Whitney Dyson (University of Maryland, Eastern Shore) – “A PCR-based Assay for Detection of *Hematodinium* sp. in Sediment and Water from the Maryland Coastal Bays”

Third Place: Megan Davis (University of North Carolina Wilmington) – “Determining Intra-ovary Developmental Differences in Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*”

In the oral paper category, the judges selected these winners:

First Place: Christian Conroy (University of Maryland) – “Diversity of Early Life History Habitat Use by Age of Striped Bass Collected in Tidal Fresh Habitats in the Patuxent River Estuary, Maryland, USA”

Second Place: Amanda Colton (University of Maryland) – “An Evaluation of the Synchronization in the Dynamics of Blue Crab Populations in the W. Atlantic Using Fishery Dependent Data”

Third Place: Steve Midway (University of North Carolina Wilmington) – “Updating Size and Age at Maturity Schedules for Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*, in North Carolina”

At the Awards Banquet, the Awards and Scholarship Committee presented awards, as well, to several deserving individuals.

The Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award is presented periodically to an outstanding graduate student who currently is enrolled in a fisheries science or closely-related curriculum and who has displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional endeavors, and public education, outreach and community. This award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, a long-time member of the AFS and fourth President (1989) of the TWC.

This year, the “Eileen Award” went to Jacob Boyd, a M.S. candidate



in Biology at East Carolina University. His major professor is Dr. Roger Rulifson. Jacob's graduate research is focused on the "Maturation, Fecundity, and Spawning Frequency of the Albemarle/Roanoke Striped Bass Stock." He expects to complete his M.S. degree in August 2011. In addition to taking graduate courses, carrying out his research project, and volunteering for numerous education and outreach events, Jacob also puts in 40 hours a week working for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries in their Morehead City office.

The Conservation Award is given periodically 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 recipient was Jack Travelstead. Jack is Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Fisheries Management with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). He has been with the VMRC since 1981, and Fisheries Chief, since 1984. Jack's department is responsible for the management of Virginia's saltwater fisheries, both finfish and shellfish, recreational and commercial. His department also manages Virginia's artificial reef system, water access projects, and the popular Saltwater Fishing Tournament. In addition to serving as Virginia's designated state representative to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Jack also takes time to visit various academic institutions to lecture students on fishery management practices, promote habitat conservation, and encourage students to pursue fisheries management based on sound science. Jack was one of the 23 founding members of the TWC back in late 1986.



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



This year's Excellence in Fisheries Education award went to Dr. Don Kelso. Don is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. During his long career in Fisheries Education, Don established an impressive track record as an educator and mentor. He served as a major professor for more than 40 students, and on scores of master's and doctoral committees. In addition, he advised, trained, and inspired hundreds of students in his classes that focused on biological oceanography, ichthyology, ecology and coral reefs. Don's influence on his many students is best captured in this statement from the person who nominated him for this award: "His teaching style embraces both experiential learning in ecological studies

and the iterative nature of field activities. His students at once embrace his high standards for learning and his gentle, respective nature. For those students who have gone on to become educators themselves, Don continues to inspire them to bestow a deep understanding of ecological principles and to provide their students the opportunity to get their hands dirty in the pursuit of science."

In addition to VIMS and its Fisheries Science Department, thanks go to both the VMRC and Virginia Sea Grant for providing sponsorship to make the meeting a success. ~*Sara Mirabilio, TWC Newsletter Editor*

Chapter Updates



The **Florida Chapter** of AFS hosted the 19th annual Southern Division of AFS Spring Meeting January 13-16, 2011. The theme for the 2011 SDAFS meeting was 'Fisheries connectivity: headwaters to oceans,' and provided a platform for fisheries biologists from mountain streams to open seas to meet and discuss patterns of diversity, similarities in demography, behavior, and species-specific adaptations for survival in these habitats. The meeting was very well attended with 408 attendees and over 200 individual oral and presentations. Several of these attendees participated in the six symposia organized for the meeting: Conservation of Darters, Ecology, Biology, Conservation, and Management of Snook: What have we learned?, Tools and Techniques Used to Conserve and Manage Freshwater Mussel Populations, Southeast U.S. Reef Fishes: Research, Monitoring, and Implications for Management, Reproductive Resilience in Exploited Fishes of the Southeast U.S.: What do we need to know?, and Non-native Fishes in Florida (discussion panel).

Five workshops were organized for the 2011 SDAFS meeting on a variety of topics: Use of simulation tools for informing fisheries monitoring (demonstrate the use of Monte Carlo methods and likelihood estimation tools for developing simulation models in Excel and program R), Basic Fish Population Modeling using Excel (topics covered: estimate growth parameters, length-weight parameters, building population models, diagnosing growth overfishing, and identifying harvest regulations), Public Outreach and Stakeholder Management (teach participants how to properly harness stakeholder input), Using PowerPoint and Poster Presentations to Effectively Communicate your Message (Free workshop to students), and Finding a Job as a Fisheries Professional (Free workshop to students). There was an overwhelming interest for these workshops, most of which were at or near capacity.

The Florida Chapter was able to provide 24 students complimentary registrations for the 2011 SDAFS meeting from funds raised through the previous year's raffle profits. Additionally, our chapter provided research funds to two students through the Rottmann Scholarship. Carla Garreau (University of Florida) was awarded the Master of Science level Scholarship, and Janice Kerns (University of Florida) was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy level Scholarship. Alan Collins, an active member of the Florida chapter, was presented with the second Rich Cailteux Award, which recognizes individuals for their career long contributions to the fisheries profession.

We would like to thank our sponsors and the SDAFS planning committee for their tireless efforts to make this meeting a success. After successfully hosting the Southern Division spring meeting in Tampa during 2011, the Florida chapter is looking forward to its annual chapter meeting at the beautiful Ocala 4-H camp from February 21-23, 2012. ~Kerry Flaherty, FCAFS President-Elect

The **Mississippi Chapter** of the American Fisheries Society held its 37th annual meeting on the scenic campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville on February 16-18. Over 100 members and guests enjoyed 32 oral presentations and 3 posters. Bubba Hubbard of the Audubon Society (also retired Assistant Chief of Fisheries for the MS Dept of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks) was the keynote speaker at the Thursday night banquet and awards presentation. Mr. Hubbard also received the Chapter's highest honor, the C.A. Shultz Award, for his career accomplishments in conservation and management of fisheries resources in Mississippi. Student awards were sponsored by the Mississippi Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), and were presented to Mike Lowe (USM), Mike Arnold (MSU), and Rebecca Krogman (MSU), for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best student



papers, respectively. New officers were elected at the Chapter Business Meeting. Tom Holman was congratulated for his service as President, and turned the gavel over to incoming President Jason Olive. Nancy Brown-Peterson was elected as the new President-Elect, and Jill Hendon remained Secretary-Treasurer. The Mississippi Chapter would like to thank our sponsors for helping to make this meeting a success: The Engineering Research and Development Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab, Center for Fisheries Research and Development, Brewski's of Starkville, Clark Distributing, and Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources.

The Student Sub-units of the Mississippi Chapter have had a busy spring as well. Members of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Student Sub-Unit spoke at the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series event in Biloxi and assisted with a CCA-sponsored kids' fishing rodeo in Pascagoula. The USM Sub-unit also instituted a cost-sharing program where the Sub-unit requires all of its members to be members of the Parent Society, with the Sub-unit paying a portion of each member's dues. The Mississippi State University (MSU) Student Sub-unit has "adopted" a local state fishing lake and added 2 gravel beds and numerous brush fish attractors to the lake this spring, in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The Sub-unit also held their annual stream cleanup on a stream near the MSU campus. The bed of a pick-up truck was completely filled with the trash the students collected from the stream!

The Mississippi Chapter is hard at work preparing for the 2012 Southern Division meeting at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi. We hope you all are making plans to join us there in January. For more details, see the special section in this newsletter (pages 6-8) or visit the website at: www.sdaf.org/meetings/2012/default.htm.
~Jason Olive, MCAFS President



The **Texas Chapter** of the American Fisheries Society held its annual meeting February 10-12, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in San Marcos. Attendance was higher than normal as evidenced by 207 registered guests, comprising a diverse mix of professionals and students ($N = 38$). Seventy-one participated in Thursday's continuing education workshop on side-scan imaging sonar and aquatic habitat mapping instructed by Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The plenary session consisted of five talks, each adhering to a common theme (Fish Habitat: Contemporary Approaches for Assessment, Conservation, Enhancement, and Restoration). Thirty-one technical presentations and thirteen posters provided quality information transfer opportunities. Podcasts of plenary and technical presentations are available for viewing online (<http://www.sdaf.org/tcafs/meetings/11meet/TCAFS2011/index.htm>). A total of five, \$1,500 student scholarships (Nathan Furey, Niki Ragan, Mark Thomas, Judson Curtis, and John Mohan) and one, \$500 Clark Hubbs Research Scholarship (Carmen Montana) were awarded to six deserving fisheries students. A new relationship with the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth helped the Texas Chapter set a new record for scholarship money given out in a single year (\$8,000). Ten Chapter members were rewarded with Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards for 2010 for the categories of Administration (Art Morris), Culture (Juan Martinez), Education (Fran Gelwick), Management (Dan Bennett), Research (Kristy Kollaus), Special Recognition (Brian Van Zee, Craig Bonds, and Carl Kittel), Student (Katie Roach) and Technical Support (Danny Lewis). Certificate plaques were also presented to the recipients of the best presentation awards for student and professional oral and poster presentations at the 2010 Chapter meeting. George Guillen was elected as President-elect and joins



Pictured (left to right) Tom Holman, Past-President; Mike Lowe, 1st Place; Rebecca Krogman, 3rd Place; Peter Allen, Student Awards Chair

President Craig Bonds, Past-President Ken Kurzawski and Secretary/Treasurer Robert Mauk on the Chapter's Executive Committee.

Plans are underway for next year's annual meeting, including procuring a location in the Houston-Galveston area and deciding on dates. The theme will be Exotics and their Impact on Texas Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Visit our Chapter website for more information soon. ~*Craig Bonds, TCAFS President*



Left to Right: Clark Hubbs Student Research Award winner, Carmen Montana; Scholarship Committee Chair, Mike Morgan; student scholarship award winners, John Mohan, Judson Curtis, Niki Ragan, Nathan Furey, and Mark Thomas; and Endowments Committee Chair, Dave Terre.



The **Virginia Tech** Chapter recently wrapped up another successful and productive year. Several members attended and presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Chapter in February. At the meeting, Shannon White was awarded Best Paper for her talk "Brook trout use individual recognition and transitive inference to determine social rank" and Jason Emmel received the Robert E. Jenkins undergraduate scholarship.

Our committees continue to be active in tackling community service projects and pursuing advocacy of a variety of fisheries concerns. The Science and Conservation Committee wrote to the governor of Virginia to comment on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Improvement Plan. This year also marked the 22nd year of VTAFS involvement in the restoration of Stroubles Creek. As customary, Chapter members gathered on several Saturdays to electrofish the stream to document species diversity. In April, we held the 28th Annual Mudbass Classic on the Virginia Tech campus. The event was well attended by members of the Blacksburg and Virginia Tech community.

Officer elections were held in April, and preparations are already underway for next year. ~*Shannon White, VTAFS President*



SDAFS Happenings

Member Updates

Dr. Jim Peterson of the GA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (UGA) has moved on. As of Feb 2011, he is now the Asst. Leader - Fisheries at the Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Jim and his students were active contributors to and supports of the SD Spring Meeting for about 12 years. Good Luck, Jim. We'll miss you at our Division Meetings.

Interesting News

Northern snakeheads in Chesapeake Bay watershed continue to expand - Summer 2011 marks the continued expansion of northern snakeheads into the Chesapeake Bay and other Bay tributaries from the Potomac River. Snakeheads have been found in small drainages to the north and south of the mouth of the Potomac, but as of this writing there were no confirmed snakeheads from major adjacent river systems feeding the Bay (e.g., the Rappahannock). However, it is likely only a matter of time until the fish move along margins of reduced salinity and take advantage of major storm events to expand into the Rappahannock and other major rivers such as the James. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries surveys and angler reports indicate that snakehead abundance has significantly increased since 2010. Impacts are still unclear and will likely be hard to elucidate. For more information contact john.odenkirk@dgif.virginia.gov.



A 2010 year class northern snakehead collected by electrofishing spring 2011 in Dogue Creek, Fairfax County, VA



The State Record Fish Committee of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has confirmed that the 143-pound blue catfish caught on June 18, in the John H. Kerr Reservoir, known as Buggs Island Lake, is a new state record. The committee members reviewed the application, verified the location of the catch as well as the species, weight, length, and girth of the fish. A VDGIF Conservation Police Officer and Fisheries Biologist were present at the weigh-in.

The new state record blue catfish was caught by Richard Nicholas "Nick" Anderson in John H. Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake) on Saturday, June 18, near the Goat Island section of the lake. Anderson was fishing with his father and brother when he hooked the potential world record fish. After forty-five minutes, the fish was finally wrangled aboard their pontoon boat. The fish was weighed at Mecklenburg Supply Inc. in Chase City, Virginia, which was one of the few venues available with a scale large enough to accommodate the big fish.

At 143 pounds and 57 inches in length with a girth of 43.5 inches the new state record blue catfish smashes the previous record. The previous state record blue catfish weighed 109 pounds and was caught by Tony Milam in Buggs Island Lake near the confluence of the Dan and Roanoke rivers on March 17, 2011. This is only the third confirmed freshwater fish over 100 pounds caught in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) will handle official certification of the trophy blue catfish as a potential new world record. If certified by the IGFA, the Virginia blue catfish will shatter the previous world record, a 130-pound blue catfish caught in the Missouri River in 2010.