



Summer 2013

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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A Message from the President

Mike Allen, SDAFS President, msal@ufl.edu

I admit it, in the past I've seen AFS as mainly a forum for communication and the exchange of research to improve fisheries management and conservation. Possibly like you, I have mainly been involved in AFS through conferences and publications, and outside of those activities I haven't seen a large presence from AFS on science issues. Lately, I've realized the impact of AFS is much broader, weighing in on national and international policy issues relevant to all of us. AFS appears poised to increase this impact in the future.

I recently had the chance to visit South Africa, and was surprised to find that AFS expertise was sought and used in fisheries conservation. Biologists with Cape Nature (the conservation agency in the western cape province of the country) had solicited the help of AFS member Brian Finlayson to help with rotenone application for removal of invasive smallmouth. Brian visited there and helped with the logistics, safety, and protocol in the use of rotenone. The Cape Nature biologists told me that having Brian's help made their project better, and AFS involvement improved public outreach in South Africa as well. Holy cow, the AFS is helping fish conservation in Africa!

Recently, a bill was working through Congress termed the *Invasive Species Screening Act*. The bill is intended to protect against exotic organism introductions. It's a well-intended piece of legislation with many good actions that would protect against such establishment of non-native species. However, there are a number of components to the bill that could cause unintended damage to

fisheries that are supported by non-native species (e.g., rainbow trout). The Introduced Fish Section of AFS drafted a letter providing constructive critique of the bill, which was led by Jeff Hill at the University of Florida. This letter was sent to our legislators by AFS President John Boreman, and is a clear example of AFS influencing policy.

In yet another example, John Boreman recently briefed Congress about the expected effects of global climate change on fisheries. This effort was spearheaded by the Potomac Chapter AFS and others, and the briefing highlighted the number of jobs and economic loss at risk if current trends continue (<http://sdafs.org/john-boreman-briefs-congress-on-climate-change>). Examples like this exemplify AFS's engagement in critical policy issues of broad importance to fisheries and conservation.



President Mike Allen (right) with former SDAFS President Mike Van Den Avyle

Finally, the recent announcement that Doug Austen will be the new AFS Executive Director bodes well for our impact on future legislative and policy issues. Doug has an extensive background working in both state and federal agencies and is well versed in the issues facing our field. At the last AFS Governing Board meeting in Bethesda, the board had a chance to discuss the position with Doug. He did a fantastic job, and I'm very excited about his leadership of the AFS. Doug will be working hard to put AFS front and center on policy issues that are important to aquatic resources in North America and abroad. He also plans to work with sister organizations like The Wildlife Society on issues that are paramount to all of us. That is progress, no doubt.

So, as I sit roughly halfway through my term as SDAFS president, I have seen that AFS has broad impacts to our aquatic resources. We are much more than meetings and conferences, and it's exciting to see AFS engage our legislators on issues critical to fisheries. Thanks to everyone for the hard work they do on behalf of AFS.

Meeting announcements

2013 American Fisheries Society Meeting Little Rock, Arkansas September 8-12

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce the 143rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society which will be held in Little Rock Arkansas on September 8-12, 2013. The theme for this year's meeting is "Preparing for Challenges Ahead".

Plan on joining your colleagues from around the world along the banks of the scenic Arkansas River for a meeting that is sure to be memorable with cutting edge scientific content, entertaining social events, plenty of fun, learning and camaraderie in a laid-back environment.

We have received a number of requests for withdrawals of abstracts for the 2013 AFS meeting caused by the federal sequestration and travel restrictions. At the same time, we have received a number of requests for late submissions of abstracts for the meeting.

In response to both these situations, we are re-opening abstract submissions for oral contributed presentations for the 2013 AFS meeting. We are not re-opening poster submissions. Late submissions for oral contributed presentations will be accepted until June 21. Submissions should be made via email directly to the Program Chair (slochmann.afs2013@gmail.com). Submissions should include the following information...



Title

Presenting Author's Email

Author List with Contact Information for each author (name, affiliation, city, state, country, zipcode, email)

Recording Permission Y or N

Abstract Text

For more information on the meeting including registration and location information, please visit:

<http://afs2013.com/>

2014 Southern Division Spring Meeting Charleston, South Carolina January 22-26



The South Carolina Chapter and the Planning Committee for the 2014 Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting would like to invite you to historic Charleston, South Carolina for the Spring Meeting in 2014.

The host hotel for the meeting is the Francis Marion Hotel, located in the middle of Charleston's historic district and within walking distance of a wide choice of restaurants and all major attractions, such as the historic waterfront, the maritime center, and the South Carolina Aquarium.

The culture and history of Charleston provide an amazing diversity of attractions for all interests. In the Charleston area, history is not just a plaque on a landmark; it is a sense of place and a connection to the past. It is apparent in traditions, graces the facades of homes, punctuates the vernacular, and seasons the food. While the Charleston area is indeed a veritable living museum, it is also a bustling epicenter of culture, invigorating outdoor activity, and great dining that welcomes close to four million visitors annually.

So please, plan to spend a few extra days in the area.

Save the date and experience our Lowcountry hospitality.

Additional information as well as the first call for Workshops, Symposia, and Papers can be found at: <http://sdafs.org/meeting2014/>

Diversity in Natural Resources Conference Blacksburg, Virginia June 19-21

Diversity is the recognition and commitment to understand and appreciate that individuals and communities have a variety of characteristics that make them unique. We are pleased to put forth our first request for abstracts for *The Future of Diversity in Our Disciplines and Careers: Natural Resources and the Environment Conference* to be held June 19-21, 2013, in Blacksburg, Virginia. This conference brings together Natural Resource and Environmental (NRE) Science professionals to participate in workshops focused on diversity, share recent research advances, and learn from case-studies of successful programs of inclusive excellence in academia, agencies, industry, and other natural resource and environmental organizations.

Papers will focus on contemporary topics and will have the potential to create the future foundation of diversity in natural resources and environment. We are particularly interested in processes that underlie and encourage diversity in natural resources. Abstracts might use different methodologies including analytical, empirical, and conceptual approaches. Topics may include, but may not be limited to:

- Integration of diversity in sustainable communities
- Building institutional capacity for diversity efforts
- Inclusion and diversity in the working environment for NRE professionals
- Diversity policy issues
- Measuring diversity and understand the pipeline for diversity in NRE
- Successful programs that handle diversity efforts at Universities
- Attracting diverse audiences to careers in NRE
- Other pertaining topics

Registration can be completed through the conference website at <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/ndc/abstracts.html>. For any additional questions, please contact Henry Quesada at quesada@vt.edu or (540) 231-0978.

Can't Attend SDAFS Meetings?

Hundreds of podcasts of presentations from past meeting are available on the SDAFS website. The most recent addition includes podcasts from the 2013 meeting in Nashville, TN, which can be found at <http://sdafs.org/mobile-podcasts-spring-meeting-2013/>.



SDAFS Officer Candidate Biographies

SDAFS representative to AFS nominating committee

Kimberly Bonvechio

I received my Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of South Carolina in 1998 and Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida in 2001. I have worked the majority of my career as a freshwater fisheries researcher with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). In this position, I have collaborated with other professionals, within and outside FWC, to implement and evaluate standardized sampling procedures for Florida's statewide long-term monitoring program. I have also participated on multiple teams and committees, including FWC's Data Management Team, Publications Editorial Board, and Web Team, and the American Eel Technical Committee with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Within AFS, I have acted as a peer reviewer for multiple AFS journals and books, member of the Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee, member of the South Carolina and Florida Chapters, co-organizer for a professional Southern Division AFS workshop, creator of an online abiotic habitat manual for the Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee, and Newsletter Editor for the Florida AFS Chapter. I am honored to run for Southern Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee and will do my best to work with the other members of our team to select high quality candidates for Society offices.



Nancy Brown-Peterson

Nancy Brown-Peterson earned her M.A. in Marine Science with a focus on the reproductive biology and recreational fishery of spotted seatrout in the Chesapeake Bay from the College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science in 1981 and a B.A. in Biological Sciences from the University of Delaware in 1978. Her area of specialization is the reproductive biology of fishes and she has worked with commercially and recreationally important marine species as well as small estuarine and freshwater species. Ms. Brown-Peterson has been a Research Associate at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi, Ocean Springs, MS since 1995, where she has focused on fish reproduction, histology and toxicology research. She has been a PI on several grants during this time, served on graduate student committees, taught special problems courses, and published over 70 papers. Previously to working at GCRL, she held positions at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Mississippi State University. Brown-Peterson has been a member of the Mississippi Chapter since 1991, and has served on the Executive Committee as President-Elect, President and past-President from 2011-2014. She is also a member of the Marine Fisheries Section, and has reviewed for several AFS journals. She participated in the Oil Spill Symposium at the 2011 AFS National Meeting, and has



two chapters in the forthcoming book resulting from that symposium. She was a co-organizer of the 2009 Gonadal Histology of Fishes Workshop that was co-sponsored by the AFS Marine Fisheries Section, and was a guest editor for a special section of Marine and Coastal Fisheries related to publications from the Workshop. Ms. Brown-Peterson was the Local Arrangements Chair for the first Southern Division meeting sponsored by the Mississippi Chapter, held in Biloxi in 2012. She is pleased to run for the Southern Division's representative to the Parent Society Nominating Committee, and will work diligently to identify quality AFS leaders for the coming year.

Vice President

Dave Coughlan

Dave Coughlan is a senior fishery scientist for Duke Energy where he has worked for 30 years. He received a B.S. in biology from Penn State University and a M.S. in fisheries and aquatic toxicology from Cornell University. Dave joined AFS in 1979 and is a Certified Fishery Scientist and lifetime member. At the Chapter level, he is a member of both the NC and SC Chapters and was the president of the NC Chapter in 1999. After his term as NCAFS president, he became the newsletter editor (2000 – 2007) and helped initiate an internet-based newsletter to save paper and postage costs. He continues to serve as a member of the NCAFS Newsletter Committee. At the Division level, he has served on the Reservoir Committee, Audit Committee (2012), chaired the Nominating Committee (2001– 2002), and was the SDAFS



Secretary-Treasurer for two terms from 2007 to 2010. In addition, Dave was a member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1999 National AFS meeting in Charlotte. He has been a member of the Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee since 1996 and was the chairperson from 2006 to 2008. Most recently, Dave has been involved with fish community assessments at several hydro relicensing projects, evaluated the impacts of dam removal to the fish community in the Tuckasegee River of NC, helped with a large hydroacoustic evaluation of fish entrainment at a pumped storage station, and cooperated in diadromous fish migration studies in the Santee-Cooper Basin. Dave is a regular presenter at AFS Chapter and Divisional meetings and has authored several scientific publications. The Southern Division has a proud and storied history. It has been blessed with strong leadership and engaged and active members. The SDAFS, from its Chapters to its Standing Committees and Technical Committees, offers a host of meaningful ways to serve in AFS's pre-eminent Division. It is a profound and humbling honor to be nominated for the position of SDAFS Vice President. My four years as SDAFS Secretary-Treasurer provided valuable insights into the function, finances, and mission of the Division. That experience has prepared me to be a more effective President. Whether elected or not, I look forward to working with each of you to simultaneously protect our aquatic resources and advance the honored traditions of the Southern Division.

Eric Nagid

Eric Nagid is a fisheries biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). He earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and a Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Florida. His research with FWC focuses on fish community and sportfish interactions with stream flows and levels, and he has served FWC as a member of several challenging and diverse committees during his 14 year tenure with the agency that have focused on Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Regulation Review, and the Minimum Flows and Levels. He also represents his agency in the Instream Flow Council (IFC) where he served as Regional Director (2008-2010) and a member of the Strategic Plan Committee (2009-2010). During this time, he also represented the IFC on the steering committee for the newly formed Southern Instream Flow Network. Eric joined the American Fisheries Society as a student in 1998 and was later elected into leadership roles with the Florida Chapter as Secretary-Treasurer (2004-2006), President (2007-2008), and most recently as the Awards Committee Chair. He is currently a member of the Southern Division Warmwater Streams Committee, and he served as General Chair for the Southern Division Spring Meeting held in Tampa, FL in 2011. He looks forward to continue his service to the Southern Division AFS should he be elected.



Proposed Changes to Bylaws

According to the present SDAFS bylaws, changes to bylaws must be reviewed by the Executive Committee and then published in the newsletter for consideration by the membership. This year, two changes are proposed. The first change would add a student representative to the Executive Committee. The second change would allow proposed bylaws changes to be distributed to membership in media other than just the newsletter.

Below is the original wording of each of the relevant sections of the current bylaws (*in italics*), followed by the proposed changes to each in **red**:

Division officers propose a change to the Division bylaws in Section VI (Executive Committee) from, *“The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, and the President of each chapter within the Division”* to *“The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, a student representative elected by students, and the President of each chapter within the Division.”*

The second proposed change is in Section X (Amendment of Bylaws), changing verbiage from, *“all amendments must be reviewed by the Division's Executive Committee and published in the Division newsletter at least 30 days prior to consideration by the membership”* to *“all amendments must be reviewed by the Division's Executive Committee and provided to the membership for consideration at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.”*

These proposed changes will be voted on at the 2014 SDAFS meeting.

2013 Meeting proceedings

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
February 7, 2013
Nashville, Tennessee**

President Brian Murphy called the EXCOM to order at 5:32 pm. President Murphy asked Dave Rizzuto (General Meeting Chair) and Phil Bettoli (Program Chair) to provide an update on the general meeting. Dave stated the general meeting received 378 paid and 11 complimentary registrations. He expected a total of approximately 410 registrations. Phil stated 171 oral presentation and 48 poster abstracts were accepted into the meeting program. President Murphy extended thanks to the entire Tennessee Chapter host committee. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds announced a quorum was present. President Murphy called roll and the following proxies were identified: Florida (Eric Nagid), Louisiana (Craig Gothreaus), Mississippi (Stephen Brown), Puerto Rico (Craig Lilyestrom), Virginia (John Copeland), and Virginia Tech (Brandon Peoples). President Murphy recognized AFS President, John Boreman. AFS President Boreman thanked the Southern Division for the invitation and sent regards from AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam. President Murphy recognized SDAFS Past Presidents Fred Heitman, Pat Mazik, and Larry Olmstead. SDAFS officers (President, Brian Murphy; Past-President, Steve Lochmann; President-Elect, Mike Allen; Vice-President, John Jackson; and Secretary-Treasurer, Craig Bonds) were introduced.

SDAFS President Report

President Murphy stated his report was covered in the briefing book, copies of which were distributed to the EXCOM on portable USB drives. Highlights included progress on the “3 Cs” (Chapters, Committees, and Communications). Puerto Rico Chapter was welcomed as a new sub-unit, the Potomac Chapter reactivated, Austin Peay University became a new student sub-unit of the Tennessee Chapter, and the Clemson University Student Sub-unit revived after a period of inactivity. The Non-Game Aquatics Technical Committee reactivated under the leadership of Mark Thurman. The Small Impoundments Committee completed their book publication. President Murphy updated the EXCOM on the Division’s new website utilizing the WordPress platform. The Division spent considerable effort negotiating with the Society on migrating the Division’s site over to the Society’s server, but issues related to cost and template compatibility precluded this move. Gloria Schoenholtz has been serving as Division webmaster and is available to assist Division sub-units migrate their information to the WordPress platform and/or attach their web pages to the Division’s site. President Murphy asked Craig Bonds and Michelle Klopfer to investigate web-conferencing options to facilitate enhanced communication within the Division and remote participation on committees. Craig and Michelle prepared a proposal containing a variety of options for use and reported to the Division Officers. That report will be posted on the Division’s website. Members are encouraged to contact Craig with questions (craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us; 903-566-1615).

SDAFS Officer Reports

President-Elect Mike Allen provided his report. The Western Division is hosting their 2014 meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. They asked other divisions and sub-units to provide financial support for this meeting. President-Elect Allen informed the EXCOM there would be a related budget item for discussion later in the meeting. Julie Harris was recognized and thanked for her service as the Student Affairs Committee Chair. President-Elect Allen

worked with her to schedule several student-related activities at this meeting, including the student-mentor lunch on Friday, free registration for one officer from each student sub-unit, reduced registration (i.e. \$35 rebate) for undergraduate students (must be Society member), and a student leadership luncheon on Sunday. At this luncheon, Steve McMullin will talk with them about leadership in AFS, and a discussion will be held among students and Division officers concerning the future of the Student Colloquium.

Vice-President John Jackson reviewed the Non-Game Aquatics Technical Committee meeting. Mark Thurman is spearheading the effort to resurrect the committee. The committee discussed the possibility of hosting a special symposium at next year's meeting dealing with State Wildlife Action Plans. His report stands as written.

Past-President Steve Lochmann's report stands as written. He did want to remind the EXCOM that the Society's 2013 annual meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 8 - 12. President Murphy reminded the EXCOM that future Society annual meetings will be held in Quebec City (2014) and Portland, Oregon (2015).

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2012 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted the SDAFS website. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Lochmann), and the 2012 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

The 2012 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2012 with \$11,658 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Spring Meeting in Biloxi (\$12,152.63) and the AFS dues rebate (\$8,216). Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. Bonds noted a non-budgeted expense of \$2,000 was paid to the Division webmaster for website redesign and content migration. Donations were made to the following: Black Bass Conservation Ad-Hoc Committee (\$1,500), AFS-EOS (\$500), North Carolina Chapter (\$250; 2011 Membership Challenge), AFS Education Section's Skinner Memorial Award (\$250; on behalf of NC Chapter's Membership Challenge Award), SDAFS Small Impoundments Committee (\$500), and SIU (\$400) to support the publication of the book *North American Freshwater Fishes*. The Student Affairs Committee was provided \$5,500 for student lodging at SDAFS and SEAFWA Meetings. The Division ended the year with \$11,927 in cash with an additional \$6,000 maintained in the Strategic Reserve Fund. An audit of the 2012 financial information was completed 10 January 2013 by the SD Audit Committee and reported to President Murphy. Bonds made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report which was seconded by Mike Allen. Motion passed.

The Proposed 2013 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Finances for 2013 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2013 while still leaving enough cash for early 2014 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2014 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Nashville Meeting and \$2,000 from the John F. DeQuine estate. Bonds noted that an additional, larger donation is expected from the DeQuine estate once remaining assets (e.g. real estate holding) are liquidated. Murphy noted the estate donation is meant to support communication within the Division. Projected income in 2013 is \$27,299 and expenses are projected at \$26,220 for an end of year balance of \$1,079. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. A motion was made (Mike Abney) and seconded (Pat Mazik) to approve the 2013 budget. After no further discussion, the proposed 2013 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

Reports from Committees with Action Items

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke, presented a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2013 Spring Meeting in Nashville. A motion to send the resolution to the Business Meeting for membership

consideration was made by Jackson and seconded by Bonds. The proposed resolution was approved to proceed to the membership for consideration by a unanimous vote.

Chair Riecke then presented a resolution to support federal funding of the Asian Carp Control and Management Plan. The resolution has been presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2012 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment). One editorial comment was received and the resolution was revised accordingly. Motion was made (Jackson) to approve for presentation to the membership at the Business Meeting and seconded (Lochmann). The motion was approved unanimously.

Archiving Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Greg Summers, recognized committee members Jeff Boxrucker and Mike Van Den Avyle. Greg summarized accomplishments of the committee to bring this task to a successful conclusion. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Greg provided examples of over 2,800 digital images (e.g. newsletters, pictures, proceeding abstracts, and correspondence) cataloged and archived online.

Chapter Reports

Arkansas – Report stands as written.

Auburn University – Report stands as written.

Florida – Report stands as written.

Georgia - Report stands as written.

Kentucky – Report stands as written.

Louisiana – Report stands as written.

Mississippi - Report stands as written. President Murphy commended the chapter for the exceptional job they performed in fundraising for the 2012 Biloxi Meeting.

North Carolina - Report stands as written.

Oklahoma - Report stands as written. Jim Long noted that the Oklahoma State University Student-Subunit will host a regional (Great Plains area) student colloquium at Lake Texoma. Vice-President Jackson noted the decline in student participation in the Division student colloquium and that President-Elect Allen has organized a student luncheon on Sunday (February 10) to obtain input from students and to discuss the future of the student colloquium. President Murphy noted he attended the last student colloquium in West Virginia, which only drew students from a limited geographical area. He stated that a regional model, rather than a Division-wide approach, for student colloquiums might be more ideal. Jackson noted the Wildlife Student Colloquium uses a different model, including competitions (e.g. quiz bowl) and is more focused on attracting undergraduates.

Potomac – Not present. Report stands as written.

Puerto Rico - Craig Lilyestrom introduced Miguel A. Garcia, Interim Chapter President and Director of Fisheries and Wildlife for the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Puerto Rico recently joined the Division as a Chapter.

South Carolina - Report stands as written. Noted the 2014 Southern Division meeting will be held in Charleston, January 23-26, at the Francis Marion Hotel.

Tennessee – Report stands as written.

Texas - Report stands as written.

Tidewater – Report stands as written.

Virginia - Report stands as written.

Virginia Tech – Report stands as written.

West Virginia – Report stands as written.

New Business

Future meeting locations were discussed. President Murphy briefly explained some confusion surrounding the meeting host bid-proposal process. The officers will be working to update the Division procedures to improve this process. President Murphy noted the 2015 Division Meeting will be held in Georgia. Meeting location is yet to be determined at this time. West Virginia is confirmed for the last week of February, 2016, at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling. The Oklahoma and Puerto Rico chapters have discussed hosting in 2017, but neither have committed to date.

President Murphy stated that Phil Bettoli recommended the Division consider employing an abstract submission service. Murphy stated this service may cost approximately \$1,800 - \$2,000. For host chapters interested in utilizing this service they should build it into the meeting expenses budget as opposed to a Division expense. Pat Mazik spoke in favor of using this service provided it fit within a meeting budget.

President Murphy passed along a suggestion from the Mississippi Chapter's 2012 Biloxi Meeting Planning Committee. They recommended selecting all weekdays for meetings to take advantage of cheaper hotel rates.

Past-President Lochmann explained the differences associated with bylaws and procedural changes, and several modifications were proposed and discussed. Proposed changes were intended to ease difficulties associated with conducting Technical Committee meetings under restricted travel circumstances. Lochmann made a motion to change the Division procedures relevant to the way quorums are determined for conducting Technical Committee business. Specifically, Lochmann moved and Jackson seconded to change all Technical Committee procedures to state, "A quorum consists of five committee members, including the chair, or the chair's proxy." Lochmann noted that several Technical Committees met but could not conduct business because many required ten or one-half of all voting members to be present to establish a quorum. Pat Mazik spoke in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Lochmann made a motion to change the Division procedures relevant to all Technical Committee meeting frequency and location to state, "The committee will meet at least one time per year, and electronic participation is acceptable." The motion was seconded by Eric Nagid and discussed. Greg Summers asked whether the motion should include explicit reference to "real-time" participation because email is considered "electronic". Summers moved to amend the motion to state, "The committee will meet at least one time per year, and synchronous electronic participation is acceptable." Mazik seconded. The motion to amend was discussed. Motion to amend passed by unanimous vote. Amended motion was further discussed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lochmann moved to make a procedural change to the tenure of Technical Committee member appointments from one to two years. Motion seconded by Bonds. Motion was discussed. Lochmann noted that by the time agency fisheries chiefs provide the Division president their committee appointments, it is typically well into the calendar year. This change would allow the Division to approach fisheries chiefs once every two years rather than every year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lochmann noted changes to bylaws must be reviewed by the EXCOM and proposed to the membership through announcements in the Division newsletter prior to voting at the next business meeting. Lochmann noted that the Division officers would like to propose a change to the Division bylaws in Section VI (Executive Committee) from, "The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, and the President of each chapter within the Division" to "The Executive Committee of the

Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, a student representative elected by students, and the President of each chapter within the Division.” Lochmann noted that the Western Division recently implemented a similar change to be more inclusive to students. He also noted that any subsequent changes to the Division procedures to facilitate the election a student representative will only be made following a bylaws change.

Lochmann noted a proposed bylaws change will be presented to the membership relevant to Section X (Amendment of Bylaws), changing verbiage from, “...and published in the Division newsletter at least 30 days prior to consideration by the membership” to “...and provided to the membership at least 30 days prior to consideration by the membership”. The Division is currently constrained by having to include proposed bylaws changes in the newsletter. This change would enable the bylaws change proposals to be presented to the membership by a variety of electronic distribution channels, allowing at least 30 days for consideration prior to voting. This proposal was discussed. No motion was required.

Other Business

Division Representative to SEAFWA, Pat Mazik, requested incoming President Mike Allen to appoint an ad hoc committee, consisting of Mazik, Gene Gilliland, Bob Curry, and Gary Saul, to investigate potential collaborative enhancements, communication, and joint meeting opportunities between SEAFWA and the Southern Division. This ad hoc committee will report their findings to the Division.

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Dennis Riecke) and seconded (Mike Abney) and, hearing unanimous support, President Murphy adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 7:10 pm.

Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2013

Nashville, Tennessee

The 2013 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1716 hrs by President Brian Murphy. Secretary/Treasurer Craig Bonds determined a quorum was present. President Murphy recognized the current SDAFS officers; Mike Allen, President-Elect; John Jackson, Vice-President; Steve Lochmann, immediate Past President; and Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer. President Murphy recognized SDAFS Past Presidents: Jeff Boxrucker, Charles Coutant, Cecil Jennings, Pat Mazik, Steve McMullin, Larry Olmstead, and Larry Wilson. Murphy introduced AFS President John Boreman.

AFS President John Boreman’s Remarks: President Boreman mentioned recently attending several subunit meetings (e.g. Texas, Arkansas, and North Carolina Chapters; North Carolina State Student-Subunit). AFS will hold its annual meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, 8 – 12 September 2013, which will include 28 symposia. “Preparing for the Challenges Ahead” will be the meeting theme. The Society is searching for a new Executive Director, as Gus Rassam’s contract ends at the conclusion of the annual meeting. President Boreman briefed the Division on the search and hiring process. He provided updates on three special committees appointed during his tenure. First, the Governing Board discussed strategies to provide more efficient and effective governance by paring it down to a more manageable number. A committee is currently studying this task and will report back to the Governing Board with recommendations for organizational change. A second committee, chaired by Second

Vice President Ron Essig, was appointed to investigate educational requirements for professional certification, congruence between academic curricula and professional hiring needs, and identifying/cataloging North American fisheries science institutions of higher learning. The third committee, chaired by Julie Clausen, will investigate scientific communications and social media to determine optimal means to disseminate our science externally to the public. Additional activities have included upgrading member web services, reinstituting Capitol briefings, looking into hiring of a professional meeting planner for annual meetings, and completing a salary survey (will be published in the March issue of *Fisheries*) of fisheries professionals. President Boreman closed by thanking the Division for the meeting invitation.

President Murphy's Address: President Murphy introduced and welcomed the contingent from the new Puerto Rico Chapter: Miguel Antonio Garcia, Interim President and Director of Fisheries and Wildlife; Craig Lilyestrom, Director of Aquatic Resources; Maria de Lourdes Olmeda, Hatchery Manager; and Vilmary Roman, Program for Education in Aquatic Resources.

He updated the members on his Plan of Work, including highlights from the “3 Cs” (i.e. Chapters, Committees, and Communication). Under chapters, Murphy mentioned the establishment of new subunits (e.g. Puerto Rico Chapter and Austin Peay University Student-Subunit) and Division officers attending all but one chapter meeting during the past year. The Non-Game Aquatics Technical Committee reactivated under Mark Thurman's leadership. Murphy solicited feedback from agency fisheries chiefs on shaping committee work priorities. The EXCOM voted to make several procedural changes to enhance the ability of committees to establish quorums, conduct business by synchronous electronic participation, and extending appointments to 2-year terms (see EXCOM meeting minutes). For communications, a new Division logo was created by Patrick Cooney and accepted by the membership. A new website was developed. Former webmaster Jerry Finke retired, and Gloria Schoenholtz assumed the role under a paid arrangement due to the rigorous demands of new website development and content migration. Murphy acknowledged Jared Flowers who served as interim webmaster of the old site during the transition. Gloria will be available to assist Division subunits with migrating web site content over to the new WordPress platform and/or attaching their websites to the Division host server and domain. Also within communications, three options for web-conferencing were developed by Craig Bonds and Michelle Klopfer and reported to the Division. This report will be made available on the Division website. At the EXCOM meeting (see minutes), two proposals were reviewed that would 1) change the bylaws to add a student representative to the EXCOM and 2) remove the requirement that bylaws changes must be posted in the newsletter (allowing dissemination among members through a variety of distribution channels). These proposed changes will be presented for membership review in the next newsletter (conforming to current bylaws constraints) and vote at the 2014 business meeting.

Murphy noted a student luncheon will be held Sunday (February 10). At this luncheon, Steve McMullin will talk with them about leadership in AFS, and a discussion will be held among students and Division officers concerning the future of the Student Colloquium.

Murphy discussed his latest newsletter address specific to his confessed bird-watching passion, and encouraged others to share their interests with each other. He closed with a warning to incoming President Allen that his next year of service would be a “wild ride” (those not present missed the projected photo of Mike Allen riding a bear; written minutes can't possibly do proper justice to that image).

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' Report: Minutes from the 2012 Biloxi Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bonds made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded (Charles Coutant) and the 2012 Business Meeting minutes were approved by vote. Bonds presented the 2012 financial statement, covering income and expenses for the year (note: the financial statement is a report and does not require a motion for approval). Bonds noted the Division 2011 IRS return was submitted prior to the May 15th reporting deadline. Bonds presented the 2013 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. He reported the Audit Committee completed their audit on 10 January 2013, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. Motion was made (Fred Heitman) and seconded (Tom Holman) to approve the 2013 budget. Motion passed.

President-Elect Allen's Chapter Activity Report: Highlights from the various state chapters and their student-subunits, as reported in the EXCOM Briefing Book, were summarized. The Arkansas Chapter will be hosting the AFS Annual Meeting in Little Rock 8 – 12 September 2013. Past-President Lochmann invited all to attend the meeting. Several chapters hosted continuing education workshops at their meetings (e.g. Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia). The Mississippi Chapter is reimbursing the final payment of \$3,000 back to the Division for donations it made to the Chapter after the Hurricane Katrina devastation. Stephen Brown, Tom Holman, and Dennis Riecke presented the check and a letter of appreciation to President Murphy. South Carolina Chapter will host the 2014 Division Meeting 23 – 26 January at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston. The West Virginia Chapter hosted a joint meeting with the Ohio Chapter. The Florida Chapter is bidding to host the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting.

Vice President John Jackson's Technical Committee Report: The Alligator Gar Committee, chaired by Lee Holt, held a gar aging workshop at Nichols State University and another workshop at the 2012 Division meeting. The Aquaculture Committee, chaired by David Deaton, maintains a hatchery listserv to promote exchange of information among hatchery managers. The Catfish Management Committee, chaired by Bob Greenlee, held a catfish sampling workshop at the 2012 Division meeting. The Non-Game Aquatics Committee was resurrected under the leadership of Mark Thurman. They plan to meet at this meeting to plan for a possible symposium at the 2014 Division meeting relating to State Wildlife Action Plans. The Reservoir Committee, chaired by Kurt Kuklinski, continues to work with the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership and the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership to assist with project selection criteria and reservoir impairment assessments. They held their summer meeting at Lake Texoma where they worked on updating their habitat manual. Small Impoundments Committee, chaired by Wes Neal, completed their textbook project, *Small Impoundment Management in North America*, which is currently for sale through the Society. The Striped Bass Committee, chaired by Tim Churchill, will complete their reference book project, *Biology and Management of Inland Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass*, this year. The Trout Committee, chaired by Matt Sell, hosted the 5th East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop at Frostburg State University. During the previous year, the Warmwater Streams Committee awarded Laurie Early of Auburn University the Jimmy Pigg Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award and continued with a variety of activities.

President Murphy's Standing Committee Report: Murphy recognized Dennis Riecke as long-time chair of the Resolutions Committee. Riecke presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the Tennessee Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Dave Rizzuto, General Meeting Chair; Phil Bettoli and Frank Fiss, Program Co-Chairs; and Bobby Wilson, Fundraising Chair for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2013 meeting. Riecke made a motion, and seconded by Lochmann, to pass the resolution. Motion carried.

Riecke presented a resolution on Federal Funding for Implementation of the Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States. The resolution was presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2011 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment, received one editorial comment to change a date) and approved by the EXCOM to bring before the membership for consideration. Motion was made (Gene Gilliland) to accept the resolution and seconded (Larry Wilson). Jim Rice inquired as to whether the “...” in the third paragraph was intentional or a typo. Riecke stated the “...” represented a non-substantive verbiage omission of a partial quotation, and was intentional, but that he would confirm. The motion was approved. Motion was made (Charles Coutant) and seconded (Fred Heitman) to forward the resolution to the Society’s Resolution Committee for consideration. Motion was approved. Riecke noted that the resolution on Federal Funding on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program that was adopted by the Division last year, and advanced to the Society, was currently open for Society members to vote.

Ballot Committee Chair, Christian Waters, noted that Division elections were held in July 2012. Kim Bonvechio and Dennis Riecke were candidates for Vice President, Craig Bonds and Linda Lombardi were candidates for Secretary/Treasurer, and Tim Churchill and Jill Jenkins were candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Through the use of Survey Monkey, e-mail ballots were sent out. Waters recognized and thanked Jerry Finke for his facilitation of the online balloting. Votes cast in 2012 were 403. Waters announced Dennis Riecke as incoming SDAFS Vice President, Craig Bonds as incoming Secretary/Treasurer, and Tim Churchill as the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

Presentation of Awards: President-Elect Allen announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Murphy congratulated recipients and presented awards:

SDAFS Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Dave Rizzuto and Greg Summers. Dave was recognized for his service as Secretary/Treasurer and President of the Tennessee Chapter, recipient of its Outstanding Service Award, 15-year member of the Division’s Small Impoundments Technical Committee, and many contributions and involvement in hosting Division meetings. Greg has served the Division tirelessly over the years. Most recently, he implemented and coordinated the use of presentation podcasts and led the digital archiving of the Division’s historical documents.

Allen recognized Phil Bettoli, inductee into the National Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence by the AFS Fisheries Management Section. Allen read excerpts from the plaque honoring Phil’s distinguished fisheries management service and mentorship of over 50 graduate students.

There was a tie for the 1st place 2012 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best paper award between Brandon Baker (Steve Lochmann co-author) of University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Mike Morgan (Sterling Heyden and Robert Pierce II, co-authors) of the University of Missouri. Plaques and checks for \$75 were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Student-Subunit Award went to Mississippi State University.

The Best Poster Award from the 2012 SDAFS Meeting in Biloxi went to Cher Newman (G. Walter Ingram, Jr., co-author) of the University of Southern Mississippi. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2012 SDAFS Meeting was given to Jamie Morgan (and 5 co-authors) of the University of Georgia. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Michael Bednarski (Douglas Peterson, co-author) of the University of Georgia. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to David (Randy) Stewart (Oklahoma State University) and Chris Starr (Oklahoma State University).

Murphy and Allen recognized and thanked Tim Bonner for his role as Awards Committee Chair.

Old Business: None.

Installation of 2012 Officers: Newly installed officers, Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer; Dennis Riecke, Vice President; John Jackson, President-Elect; and Mike Allen, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Brian Murphy presented the Presidential gavel and a copy of the Roberts Rules of Order motions chart to Mike Allen.

Newly Installed President Allen's Remarks: Mike thanked Brian for his guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past-President's plaque and a bottle of tequila. His plan of work in 2013 includes moving the proposed bylaws changes forward, working with students to decide the fate of the Student Colloquium, and working with Gloria on continued website enhancements. Mike encouraged members to nominate their colleagues for AFS awards at the Subunit, Division, and Society levels.

New Business: Wes Neal made a motion to donate \$500 in seed money to the new Puerto Rico Chapter. Motion was seconded by Fred Heitman. Brian Murphy moved to amend the main motion to increase the donation from \$500 to \$3,000. Motion to amend the main motion was seconded by Craig Bonds. Motion to amend the main motion passed by vote. The amended main motion to donate \$3,000 in seed money to the new Puerto Rico Chapter subsequently passed by vote.

Mike Allen recognized outgoing Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Julie Harris, for her outstanding service during the past year.

A motion to adjourn was made (Cecil Jennings) and seconded (Tom Holman) and the meeting concluded at 1847 hrs.

Committee Updates

Resolutions Committee

The function of the SDAFS Resolutions Committee is to serve the membership by affording them the opportunity to advocate the commonly-held or agreed upon viewpoints of fisheries professionals regarding programs, actions, legislation and projects which affect any fishery. Every fishery encompasses three essential elements: habitat, aquatic species and people. Any issue that impact those elements may be worthy of a division resolution. The committee has not considered any resolutions on marine fisheries or habitat issues in several years and has not received any resolutions from SDAFS subunits since 2004. Resolutions should be sent to the Chair by July 30, 2013.

At the 2013 SDAFS Annual Meeting the membership passed a resolution advocating titled Federal Funding for the Implementation of the Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass and Silver Carps in the

United States. This resolution is under consideration by the AFS Parent Society Resolutions Committee. This resolution and those adopted since 2005 are posted at: <http://sdafs.org/resolutions/>



Catfish Management Technical Committee

American Fisheries Society - Southern Division

During 2013, the Catfish Management Technical Committee (CMTC) has been very active; holding yet another in an ongoing series of successful annual meetings, this year's held in conjunction with the Southern Division meeting in Nashville – an absolutely rockin' venue by the way. As always the highlight of this year's committee meeting was a roundtable discussion of ongoing management and research projects. During the meeting the committee determined there was a need to hold a catfish ageing techniques workshop, and we are currently planning for a workshop on this topic to be held in conjunction with the 2014 Southern Division meeting in Charleston.

Catfish are a relatively difficult group to age, with practitioners often encountering difficulties in reading, preparation, and/or extraction of otoliths and/or spines. The appropriate use of a given technique or age structure is species and age dependant. Catfish ageing protocols and techniques continue to be refined; and, it has been close to a decade since the last SD AFS catfish ageing techniques workshop in Virginia Beach. Therefore, the CMTC has determined to offer a workshop which will provide:

- a forum for demonstrating the various techniques for extraction and preparation of catfish age structures (otoliths and spines);
- an opportunity for hands-on experience in the use of these techniques;
- guidance in the appropriate use of age structures (otoliths v. spines); and,
- training in reading age structures.



While the workshop is intended to focus on techniques for extraction, processing, and reading structures, we also see a need to provide AFS members and other practitioners with information related to basic theory and analyses - ways age data can be useful (e.g.; mortality/growth estimation and modeling). This seems best suited to an invited speaker symposium to follow the workshop. Details are still being worked out – stay tuned. The workshop is likely to happen in 2014, the symposium may happen in 2014.

Chapter Updates

The **Mississippi Chapter** of American Fisheries Society (MSAFS) was busy this winter and spring with meeting attendance and planning. A delegation of chapter and subunit members attended the Southern Division AFS (SDAFS) annual meeting in Nashville in January. Chapter Past President Dennis Reicke was inducted as the Vice President of SDAFS and the MSU Student Subunit received the Outstanding Student Subunit Award for the year. The chapter had the honor of presenting a check for \$3000 to the SDAFS Executive Committee to repay the divisions' "rainy day fund" for donations made to the MS Chapter in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



Rainy Day Fund repayment to SDAFS (Jason Olive, Dennis Reicke, Tom Holman, Brian Murphy (SDAFS Past President), Stephen Brown (MSAFS President), and Mike Allen (SDAFS President))

The chapter conducted our annual meeting February 20-22 at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, Mississippi. Chapter and student subunits attended and presented research through 23 talks and 2 posters. At the MSAFS banquet, Dr. Don Jackson spoke eloquently about the need for students and professionals to get back to our outdoor roots. He communicated passionately the need for promoting the outdoors to the generations that follow in order to save our hunting and fishing ethics and create an environment where fisheries professionals can continue to be created and flourish. After he concluded his presentation, Jason Olive, MSAFS Past-President and Awards chair, presented Dr.

Jackson with the C.A. Schultz Award which is the highest honor the chapter bestows upon its members. New officers were inducted at the business meeting including Stephen Brown (President) and Dr. Wes Neal (President-Elect). Awards were presented at the business meeting including a Meritorious Service Award to Dr. Mark Peterson, and Distinguished Service awards to Dr. Kevin Hunt, Nancy Brown-Peterson, Dr. Jim Franks and Dennis Reicke. These awards were presented for their work organizing and coordinating the 2012 SDAFS Annual Meeting.



Dr. Don Jackson with C. A. Schultz Award



Dr. Mark Petersen receiving the Meritorious Service Award

After revising and updating our chapter bylaws, the chapter voted on and approved the changes. Subsequently, SDAFS EXCOM voted and approved the new updated bylaws. Many thanks to MSAFS Past President Jason Olive for spearheading this effort! The chapter has also initiated 10 one-time travel awards of \$500 each to assist chapter professionals and students attending the 2013 annual AFS meeting in Arkansas. The new Travel Awards ad hoc Committee, chaired by Wes Neal, reviewed applications this spring and will announce these travel awards in the coming weeks.

The **Mississippi State University** student subunit took time this spring to give back to the local community. Students held fish print painting stations at two kids' fishing rodeos, co-sponsoring one of the rodeos at Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. Members also participated in a roadside cleanup near the university's fisheries research facilities.

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) student subunit has played an active role in community outreach this past season. Recently members assisted with the 2013 Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series held in Biloxi, MS. This seminar covered in-depth information and techniques for targeting common sportfish in Mississippi coastal waters. Students also recently aided the Mississippi Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) with their Casting for Conservation event. This event helps introduce kids age 5-13 to fishing and conservation of marine resources. The subunit will be assisting CCA in the near future with their FishFest: a fishing festival and tournament for local youths. The subunit is continuing to have great success in their sale of glassware as a fundraising technique and will continue sales while other ideas are being explored to help generate revenue. The USM subunit was represented at the MSAFS meeting held in McComb, MS this past spring. Eight members attended the conference and five members presented their research during the event. Subunit member Jeremy Higgs received the 3rd place student presentation award for an oral presentation.



Kids Fish Printing at Fishing Rodeo

Texas Chapter Awards Committee

by Dave Buzan, Awards Committee Chair

Texas chapter members and their supporters contribute significantly to our understanding of fish ecology, fisheries management, and recreational fishing both within the state and nation. At our 2013 Lake Conroe meeting, we recognized individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions both to our chapter and fisheries science. The summaries below offer only a brief glimpse into the broad, important contributions each of our awardees has made.

Special thanks to chapter members who submitted nominations and Awards Committee members (Michele Nations, Jim Matthews, Ya Sheng Juan, Robert Adami, Kristy Kollaus, Luci Cook-Hildreth, Richard Kline, Leslie Hartmann, and David Buckmeier) who evaluated them. Their selfless service makes these awards possible

Special Recognition – Randy Rushin

Randy Rushin first began exhibiting at TCAFS at the 1998 meeting in Athens and has continued since the 2002 Junction meeting as founder of his company, Water Monitoring Solutions. Randy is a devoted supporter of student scholarship fundraising efforts of our chapter. Over the years, he and his company have contributed more than \$10,000 through direct donations to the scholarship fund and purchases at the annual auction. To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of his company at last year's meeting in Galveston, Randy matched some of the auction's proceeds with a generous contribution of \$5,000.

Special Recognition – East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation

East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation is a conservation and philanthropic organization whose members share a passion for conservation, outdoor recreation and education, and community service. Since being founded in 1994, they funded construction of the native aquatic plant nursery at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. The foundation also secured a 20-year lease of private land along the Neches River to provide bank angling access to one of the state's most popular white bass runs. It partnered with TPWD to pay angler tag return awards for a flathead catfish exploitation study. The foundation has funded multiple projects in support of kids fishing events at the Tyler Nature Center, including purchases of



rainbow trout, fish feeders and feed, two fishing piers, an angler pavilion and fish cleaning station and rods and reels. Members regularly volunteer to assist with events and have even provided fish cooking demonstrations to attendees.

Special Recognition – Kirk Winemiller

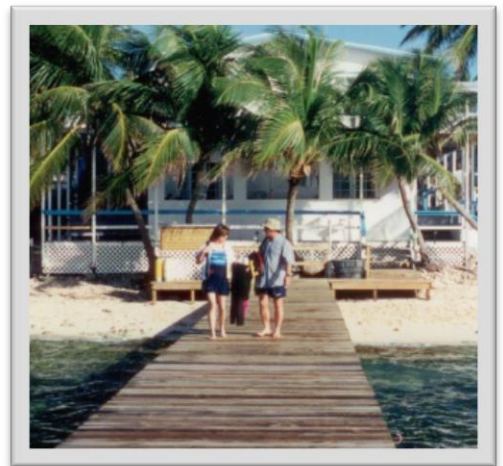
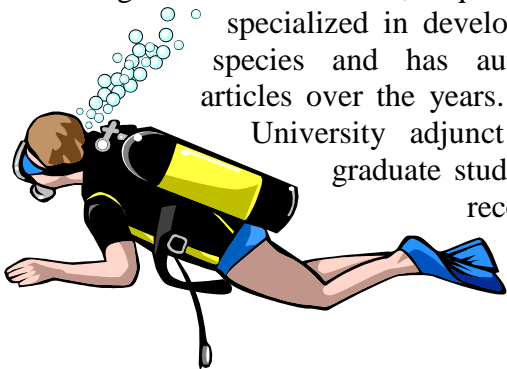
Dr. Winemiller who is a Regents professor at Texas A & M, his students, and collaborators have studied riverine and fish ecology throughout Texas and the world for over 20 years. This work is published in more than 200 scientific publications, agency reports and conference contributions. Dr. Winemiller served on the National Academy of Science committee that reviewed the Texas Instream Flows Program, was a member of the initial Science Advisory Committee established to help state agencies address environmental flows, and has served as an advisor in the development of flow recommendations for several rivers in Texas. Recently he organized two special sessions on environmental flows and river ecosystem connectivity at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Austin, Texas.



Special Recognition – Loraine and Joe Fries

Loraine Fries began her TPWD career in 1989 at the old Lewisville hatchery and then moved to AE Wood and has, through the years, performed in many roles, fulfilling the needs of the Inland Fisheries Division whenever and where ever called upon. Loraine has been a prolific researcher and published extensively through the years. Her final position was Director for Analytical Services/ Inland Fisheries. A major portion of her recent research concentrated on golden algae and she was an active member of the state's Golden Algae Task Force. After 24 years of service with TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division, Hatchery Branch, Loraine Fries hung up her dip nets, sampling gear, analytical tools and writing pen.

Working with Drs. Bobby Whiteside, Dick Anderson, and Tom Brandt, Joe Fries evaluated effects of hand-feeding versus demand-feeding on striped bass growth and survival. Later as biologist at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center his work shifted to working with salamanders, aquatic insects, and wild rice. He specialized in developing culture techniques for these species and has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles over the years. He also served as a Texas State University adjunct faculty member on numerous graduate student theses. With Loraine, Joe has recently retired and enjoys being a scuba diving grandparent.



Outstanding Fisheries Student – Rebecca Pizano

Rebecca Pizano, an MS student in the fisheries program at Texas A&M University, has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while immersed in her research. Her project showed how combined impacts of drought, low flows, high salinity, and concentration of pollution severely impacted the aquatic and riparian components of the Lower Neches. During the course of this project, she interacted with state and federal agencies, and has provided research experiences for undergraduate and graduate students as well as visiting international researchers. Rebecca's research has great potential to impact water management and policy for the lower Neches River. In addition to her academic and research activities, Rebecca is very active in professional and student honor societies, especially those promoting diversity in scientific professions.

**Outstanding Fisheries Technician** – Bill Hughes

Bill Hughes shows a passion and dedication for natural resource management that sets a standard for those around him to follow. Bill dedicated himself to expanding and managing the Native Aquatic Plant Nursery at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. He was instrumental in the nursery's design, construction, and maintenance. In 2012 he doubled the nursery's capacity by constructing an additional 6 raceways which he then populated by splitting existing nursery stock. Bill's efforts provided 1,228 mature native plants used in 10 different aquatic habitat projects across Texas in 2012.

Outstanding Fisheries Culturist – Jennifer Butler

Jennifer Butler is an enthusiastic and highly skilled marine Fish Culturist at Sea Center Texas. She was instrumental in designing, acquiring and installing rotifer culture equipment which has substantially increased production of marine rotifers, a key aspect of the state's successful southern flounder culture. The early success of the middle-coast spotted seatrout stocking program can be largely attributed to her role in coordinating collection of brood stock. Her contributions extend beyond the state. The past two years, she has helped Florida International University refine their culture techniques for larval spotted seatrout and red drum they were using for their toxicology work.



Outstanding Fisheries Management – Mark Webb

Mark Webb is highly respected by his peers as a consummate professional who sees the big picture and knows how to bring people and resources together to reach a common goal. In his role as a district supervisor for TPWD's Inland Fisheries, Mark partnered with the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation to stock sport fishes in Lake Houston. Mark also used restitution from a pipeline spill to establish native aquatic plant nurseries and evaluate grass-carp-resistant native aquatic plants in Lake Raven. He, with two co-authors, published a manual for establishing native aquatic plants in reservoirs. This manual serves as a primary reference and establishes BMPs for the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership's habitat impairment mitigation strategies, a national effort.

Outstanding Fisheries Education – George Guillen

George Guillen, an associate professor of biology and environmental science at the University of Houston Clear Lake, guides his students as they explore how land use affects urban watersheds, freshwater inflow supports populations of organisms, water and habitat quality affect health of marine and freshwater ecosystems, and oil and chemical spills impact estuarine ecology. George is the executive director of the Environmental Institute of Houston which has become a pacesetter in building partnerships in research, education, and outreach. Through his leadership, the Institute encourages environmental literacy within the greater Houston –Galveston area by providing environmental and science-oriented educator workshops.

**Outstanding Fisheries Administration** - Brenda Bowling

Brenda Bowling, an ecosystem biologist with TPWD in Dickinson, developed a photo key of marine fish and invertebrates of the Texas coast. Her work has matured into a web-based taxonomic key and photographic atlas of Texas marine organisms and is now extensively used by thousands of students, fisherman, naturalists, and fisheries professionals. She championed the use of digital technology in managing fisheries data in the 1980's and 1990s. Brenda introduced her website at the most recent meeting of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife sought her advice in developing a similar fish identification web site for their state.

Outstanding Fisheries Administration - Tim Birdsong

Tim Birdsong is Chief of Habitat Conservation for TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division. In partnership with Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, Tim led development of the Southeastern US Native Black Bass Initiative, a new National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Keystone Initiative expected to provide over \$30M in new funding for river conservation in the region over the next 10 years. Tim was the primary author of the Business Plan for the overall regional initiative and of three successful grant proposals selected for funding through the initiative. The three grants provided TPWD \$425,000 for conservation of Guadalupe bass populations in the Llano River.

**2013 Best Presentation and Poster Awards**

Oral presentations and posters were judged by over 20 chapter member judges at the Lake Conroe meeting. The 2013 winners are listed below. Each winner will receive a plaque at the 2014 annual meeting.

Professional poster: At this year's meeting, there was a tie for Outstanding poster by a professional.

- Kevin Mayes, TPWD, B. Littrell, E. Oborny, J. Webster, and C. Blunt - "Combined Acoustic-Radio Tracking of Blue Sucker in the Lower Sabine River."
- Brenda Bowling, TPWD - "Texas Marine Species Identification Website."

Professional presentation: Ashley Oliver, Halff and Associates - "Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) Western Dams Rehabilitation Project: Avoiding Take of State-listed Threatened Mussels and Game Fish in the Elm Fork Trinity River Through Relocation Efforts."

Student poster: A. N. (Niki) Ragan, TPWD - "Saltmarsh Pond Classification and Fish Community Dynamics at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge."

Student presentation: Tiffany Hedrick-Hopper, Texas Tech – "The Effects of Triclosan on Reflex Responses and Anti-predator Behaviors in an Estuarine Fish."



Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan (center), poses with (left to right) Harry Tennyson Scholarship by the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth winners Melissa M. Gires and Michael Dance and TCAFS Student Scholarship Award winners Alin Gonzales, Virginia Eaton and Lindsey Carey



Dan Fitzgerald (center) receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Chapter president George Guillen (left) and Kevin Mayes, Chair of the Clark Hubbs Committee (right).

Announcements

Recent publications within the Division:

McManamay, R. A., D. J. Orth, J. Kauffman, and M. M. Davis. 2013. A database and meta-analysis of ecological responses to stream flow in the South Atlantic region. *Southeastern Naturalist* 12 (Monograph 5):1-36.

McManamay, R. A., D. J. Orth, C. A. Dolloff, D.C. Mathews. 2013. Application of the ELOHA (Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration) framework to the Cheoah River, a regulated system in the Little Tennessee River basin *Environmental Management Early View*
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00267-013-0055-3>

White, S.L. and C. Gowan. 2013. Brook trout use individual recognition and transitive inference to determine social rank. *Behavioral Ecology* 24: 63-69.

We'd like to help you spread the word about your research! Be sure to let us know about your recent publications, and we will include them in the newsletter.

Why are fish listed as an ingredient in my peanut butter?

What are the five most common mistakes when electrofishing?

For answers to these fish questions and more, check out *The Fisheries Blog* (www.TheFisheriesBlog.com) every Monday morning. For more than a year, four fisheries professionals, along with a wide variety of guests, have written short weekly posts about pertinent and forward-thinking fisheries science topics. *The Fisheries Blog* promotes communication and discussion amongst fisheries professionals as well as with non-fisheries individuals across the globe. *The Fisheries Blog* can also be found on Facebook and Twitter (@FisheriesBlog). We've been highlighted by PBS's *This Week in Nature*, *Fisheries* magazine and *LiveScience*...Come see what all the buzz is about!



Contributed Articles

The Adipose Fin: Old Mysteries with New Answers

By Steve Midway

Originally posted on The Fisheries Blog: 28 May 2013

If you are a fish, your fins are obviously critical for making a living. Fins provide a long list of essential functions, from generation of movement to stabilization, turning, stopping, and dynamic lift (to name a few). Yet only select families of fish—namely trouts and salmons and catfishes—possess a small nub-like fin behind their dorsal fin and before their caudal (tail) fin. This fin is called the adipose fin*, and while many fisheries biologist and fishermen know what it is, explanations have been few and far between when it comes to the function of the adipose fin.

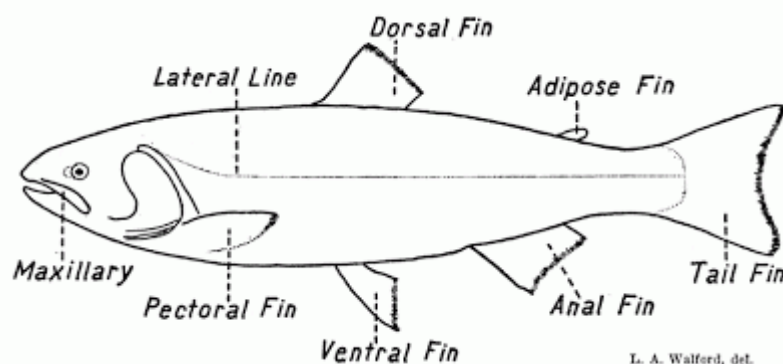
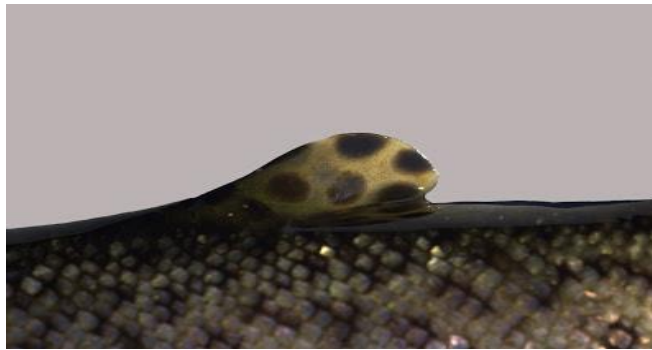


FIG. 3. Example of a fish with an adipose fin.

Diagram of fish fins, including the adipose fin. (from L.A. Walford)

**Because the adipose fin is not rayed and appears as a unsupported finlet, one early hypothesis was that the fin stored fat, or adipose tissue. Studies have generally confirmed that the fin does not hold adipose, yet the name stuck.*

Naturally, a proposed 'non-functional' fin was too much for some biologists to take, and experiments were designed. In 2004, two authors [published a paper](#) that took a first step in establishing the importance of the adipose fin. Reimchen and Temple removed the adipose fin from a set of juvenile steelhead and compared their swimming abilities to similar steelhead whose adipose fin remained attached. They found an 8% increase (on average) in caudal fin amplitude (i.e. work) in the fish without the adipose fin. Although they didn't get into the mechanisms of how the fin possibly increases swimming efficiency, they did suggest that the adipose fin may create vortices that impact the caudal fin, or the fin may serve as a pre-caudal sensor to flow.



Close-up of adipose fin on salmonid species

As a natural extension of their fin-clipping comparisons, [Temple and Reimchen followed up](#) in 2008 by investigating catfish, another fish group exhibiting an adipose fin. This time they consider 1906 catfish species, and compared the presence of the adipose fin to the habitat in which the species lived. They found that for species in moving waters (streams and rivers), an adipose fin was more often present than for species in low-flow environments, such as lakes. Although the specifics of *how* the fin might work were still unsubscribed, this work was critical toward supporting the notion of the adipose fin as a sensory organ.

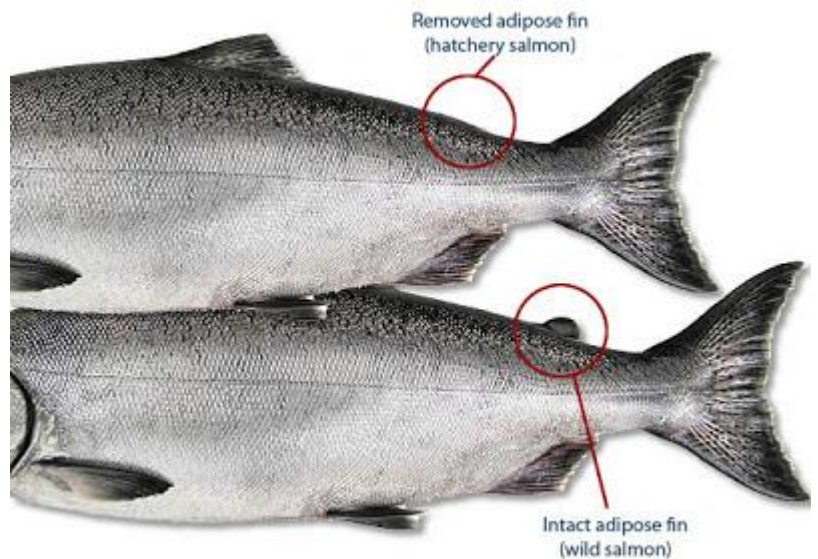


The catfish (here, flathead) is another group of fish exhibiting an adipose fin, particular for those species in moving waters. (Source: [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency](#))

And most recently, [Buckland-Nicks and coauthors](#) in 2012 began to articulate the how. This work reported that indeed the adipose fin was innervated (connected to the nervous system). The authors called the adipose fin a "precaudal flow sensor" allowing improved maneuverability in *turbulent* waters. And while other studies failed to demonstrate swimming performance differences in clipped and unclipped fish, the authors note that at least three of these studies took place in non-turbulent waters. Of course, this also fits with the catfish results from Temple and Reimchen.

So why the concerns with the loss of the adipose fin? Turns out that clipping this 'non-functional' fin has been routine for fisheries management agencies for decades. Surely, millions of adipose fins have been removed from fish! Simply snipping this small fin provides a permanent marker as to whether the fish (when caught later) is a naturally-produced individual or a stocked individual.

Perhaps the benefit of adipose fin clipping through the information retrieved at the time of (re)capture outweighs the cost of a marginal decrease in swimming ability. And remember, the adipose fin swimming benefit is conferred only in turbulent waters—so we can't assume that all stocked fish swim around at a constant disadvantage. (And of course, other differences between stocked and wild fish may swamp any impact of the adipose fin, but we'll save that comparison for a later date.) So although we have made great strides in understanding the function of the adipose fin, the impacts of adipose clipping on stocked fish remain unknown.



Comparison of stocked and wild salmon, based on presence of adipose fin