

General Session

A 50-year History of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society

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Abstract: We evaluated the accomplishments of the past 50 years of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDAFS). We used minutes from the Southern Division annual meetings and various records to view past issues addressed by the division and activities of the SDAFS technical committees and chapters, and the evolution of the SDAFS annual meeting. Since its formation in 1952, the SDAFS has grown to about 2,000 members with 8 active technical committees, 20 chapters, and 8 student units. Issues addressed by the SDAFS have included a diversity of conservation and management issues including support for some concepts that would likely not be popular today such as intentional introduction of exotic fishes and proposing the sale of game fishes. The technical committees were the primary source of interstate coordination within the SDAFS with work including large-scale field projects, published symposia, and many compilations of data and reports. Due to the many products and accomplishments over the past 50 years, the SDAFS has set a high standard of excellence in the profession. Recruiting new anglers from urban areas may be among the greatest challenge facing fisheries managers in the next 50 years.

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On 21–24 February 2002, the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) celebrated its 50-year anniversary with a special plenary session and a poster session at the SDAFS spring meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas (Noble and Pine 2002). We summarized the SDAFS history with particular emphasis on issues and accomplishments from 1952–2002. A look back at the past 50 years provides snapshots of how fisheries management and aquaculture evolved in the southeastern

United States and may help predict where we will go in the future. We used minutes from the Southern Division annual meetings and various records to construct this view into the past. We began with a look at the founding of the SDAFS and the activities of the SDAFS technical committees. We then discuss various “issues of the day” examined through SDAFS resolutions and the evolution of the SDAFS spring meeting. Finally, we consider the next 50 years of SDAFS activity.

We thank many individuals who contributed to this paper with invaluable information, recollections, and discussions. Contributors included J. Dequine, L. Olmsted, J. Ney, S. Van Horn, J. Wingate, B. Pine, J. Boxrucker, F. Janssen, S. Miranda, and other SDAFS past officers, Technical Committee chairs, and chapter presidents.

Merging of Southeastern Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioners and Biologists

In the 1940s, many southeastern U.S. fish and game directors held annual meetings as part of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners (SEGFC) organization, a previous name of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) (Dequine 1993). At the time, each state would send an American Fisheries Society representative to the SEGFC meetings. In the mid 1940s, fishery workers called for an expansion of the program to include meetings specific to fisheries issues. The state agency directors concurred and strongly supported the recommendation. The Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society (SSTWS) joined in the program at about the same time. Fisheries and wildlife technical sessions were held for the first time at the 1947 SEGFC meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida (Dequine 1993). Subsequent fishery worker meetings were held in conjunction with the SEAFWA meetings from 1948–1951. Annual meetings continued from there, and publication of the Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners (the previous name of this journal) began in 1954. Dequine (1993) noted that:

“Without the wholehearted encouragement of the directors, the evolution of both the SDAFS and SSTWS would have been delayed or seriously handicapped.”

Thus, original directors and members of the SEAFWA organization were strong contributors to the formation of the SDAFS. Since its inception, the participants in SEAFWA meetings have broadened to include academics, students, and representatives from federal agencies and the private sector.

Southern Division American Fisheries Society Formation

After original discussion dating back to 1947, the SDAFS was officially formed at the AFS annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, in September 1952 (Dequine 1993). The SDAFS included 13 states (Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., Ky., La., Miss., N.C., Okla., S.C., Tenn., Texas, W.Va.) and “Cuba and other West Indian Islands.” Maryland, West Virginia, and Washington D.C., joined in subsequent years (Dequine 1993). Officers of

Table 1. Chairs (pre-1962), presidents (1962–2002), and secretary-treasurers (1952–2002) of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society.

| Year | Chair | Secretary-Treasurer |
|---------|---|---------------------|
| 1952–53 | John F. Dequine | James H. Cornell |
| 1953–54 | Edward E. Hueske | Lawrence F. Miller |
| 1954–55 | Charles J. Chance | Bernard T. Carter |
| 1955–56 | Norman G. Benson | Bernard T. Carter |
| 1956–57 | Carlos Fetterolf Jefferson Fuller ^a | J. R. Snow |
| 1957–58 | Eugene W. Surber | J. R. Snow |
| 1958–59 | I. B. Byrd | Robert G. Martin |
| 1959–60 | Andrew H. Hulseay | Howard D. Zeller |
| 1960–61 | Barry O. Freeman | Edwin M. Barry |

| Year | President | Secretary-Treasurer |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1961–62 | Howard D. Zeller | Edwin M. Barry |
| 1962–63 | Clifford E. Ruhr | Robert G. Martin |
| 1963–64 | Edwin M. Barry | James T. Davis |
| 1964–65 | Bernard T. Carter | James T. Davis |
| 1965–66 | Alex B. Montgomery | Janice S. Hughes |
| 1966–67 | James T. Davis | Janice S. Hughes |
| 1967–68 | Robert G. Martin | J. Harry Barkley |
| 1968–69 | Buford L. Tatum | J. Harry Barkley |
| 1969–70 | Hudson M. Nichols | James P. Clugston |
| 1970–71 | J. Harry Barkley | James P. Clugston |
| 1971–72 | Archie Hooper | L. Glenn McBay |
| 1972–73 | James P. Clugston | L. Glenn McBay |
| 1973–74 | Felix G. Banks | Wendell Lorio |
| 1974–75 | L. Glenn McBay | Wendell Lorio |
| 1975–76 | Gordon E. Hall | Bobby G. Grinstead |
| 1976–77 | W. Donald Baker | Bobby G. Grinstead |
| 1977–78 | Wilmer A. Rogers | Barry W. Smith |
| 1978–79 | Janis S. Hughes | Barry W. Smith |
| 1979–80 | Bobby G. Grinstead | Dennis E. Holcomb |
| 1980–81 | Barry W. Smith | Dennis E. Holcomb |
| 1981–82 | Melvin T. Huish | Joe Logan |
| 1982–83 | Dennis E. Holcomb | Forrest Ware |
| 1983–84 | Larry R. Aggus | Fred Harris |
| 1984–85 | Ben D. Jaco | David K. Whitehurst |
| 1985–86 | Fred A. Harris | Bill Reeves |
| 1986–87 | Charles C. Coutant | Susan Shipman |
| 1987–88 | David K. Whitehurst | Susan Shipman |
| 1988–89 | Gene E. Hunstman | Scott Van Horn |
| 1989–90 | Richard L. Noble | Scott Van Horn |
| 1990–91 | Susan Shipman | Marty Hale |
| 1991–92 | Nick C. Parker | Marty Hale |
| 1992–93 | Larry L. Olmsted | Mike Armstrong |
| 1993–94 | J. Larry Wilson | Michael Armstrong |
| 1994–95 | Donald C. Jackson | Jeff C. Boxrucker |
| 1995–96 | Michael J. VanDenAvyle | Jeff C. Boxrucker |
| 1996–97 | William L. Fisher | John Odenkirk |
| 1997–98 | Scott Van Horn | John Odenkirk |
| 1998–99 | Reinal M. Harrell | Larry Conner |
| 1999–00 | Marty Hale | Larry Conner |
| 2000–01 | Michael Meador | Richard Luebke |
| 2001–02 | Jeff C. Boxrucker | Richard Luebke |

a. 1956–1957, Jefferson Fuller was named chair after Carlos Fetterolf moved from the Division.

the SDAFS were elected in Savannah, Georgia, in October 1952 at the meeting held in conjunction with the SEAFWA meeting. John F. (Jack) Dequine was elected as the first president of the SDAFS in 1952. Membership increased steadily from the 1950s through mid 1980s, where it stabilized at about 2,000 SDAFS members (there were 1,995 members in 2002).

Officers of the SDAFS have included a range of directors, academics, and practicing fisheries biologists. A complete list of past presidents and secretary-treasurers of the SDAFS is shown in Table 1. These individuals include many of the fisheries and aquaculture leaders in the Southeast and the United States over the last 50 years.

Technical Committees

Inspection of the SDAFS minutes and records quickly led us to conclude that the technical committees (TCs) have been a center of action in the organization. While the SDAFS as a whole facilitated communication and professional interactions, the TCs frequently “took to the field” and produced products to improve management of fisheries and aquatic systems. The first TCs were the reservoir and pollution committees which began in 1958. Figure 1 depicts the time line of TC activity in the SDAFS. Eight committees were active in 2002. Products from the TCs have included field studies, literature reviews, published and unpublished symposia, and outreach and education in the forms of books and circulars. We contend that TC activities over the first 50 years set the SDAFS apart as a standard of excellence in the profession.

Membership in the TCs evolved through time. In the 1960s to mid 1980s, membership was restricted to representatives from each state appointed by the fisheries chiefs. Meetings were held mainly at the SEAFWA conference, and additional sum-

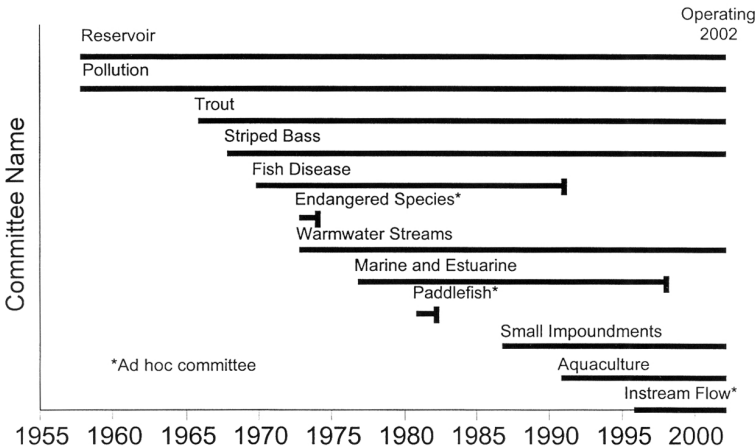


Figure 1. Time line of Southern Division American Fisheries Society Technical Committees from formation to 2002.

mer meetings were held by some TCs. However, by the mid 1980s membership expanded to include academia, federal agencies, and private (consulting) companies as members as a result of less formal membership policy (by 2002). Below, we summarize the accomplishments and impact of several SDAFS TCs.

Reservoir Committee. The Reservoir Committee was formed to provide a forum for discussion of reservoir fisheries management, promote research and integrated management, and advance the science of management to fit current needs. This committee has conducted numerous field studies, published symposia, and developed critical data compilations. Table 2 provides an overview of Reservoir Committee activities and impacts to the profession. Field projects and symposia document changes in focus from basic sampling questions to inclusion of human dimensions and social sciences followed by fish habitat management in reservoirs (Table 2). An applied fisheries management focus remained unchanged throughout Reservoir Committee activities.

Pollution Committee. Established to address water pollution issues, this committee took an active nationwide role in assessing liability issues in fish kills and fish kill assessment methods. The committee published a report entitled "The 1970 Monetary Values of Fish." They also published "Basic Procedures for Investigating Fish Kills in Streams" in 1971. In 1978, the Pollution Committee cooperated with the Reservoir and Warmwater Streams committees to test fish kill counting guidelines. These efforts, which set standards for assessing fish kill assessment techniques and damages, were revised several times including the 1982 AFT Special Publication Number 13: Monetary Values of Freshwater Fish and Fish Kill Counting Guidelines and the 1992 AFS Special Publication Number 24: Investigation and Valuation of Fish Kills.

Striped Bass Committee. The Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*) Committee evolved from reservoir fisheries and hatchery issues on propagating striped bass for stocking. A look into committee activities mirror development of striped bass fisheries in Southeastern reservoirs and the advancements needed in culture techniques to support those fisheries. Table 3 indicates the highlights from this committee.

Warmwater Streams Committee. In response to a need for protection and management of warmwater streams, this committee became active in 1976. Products have included various publications and data compilations and are summarized in Table 4. The committee activities ranged from habitat protection in streams to applied fisheries management topics and work on endangered species (Table 4). Filipek and Jaco (1991) described the committee's activities as a model of AFS contributions through a technical committee.

Small Impoundments Committee. Formed much later than the previous technical committees, the Small Impoundments Committee organized to address fisheries management issues in rural and urban ponds. This TC hosted a symposium at the SDAFS annual meetings in 1997 and conducted an urban fishing workshop in 2001. In 2001 and 2002, the committee addressed ways to rectify high density and slow growth of largemouth bass in rural ponds.

Aquaculture Committee. Formed in 1991, this committee conducted a national

Table 2. Selected Reservoir Committee activities.*Field Studies*

- 1962–1967. Douglas Lake, Tenn. gear evaluation. -assessed rotenone samples in coves versus open water on a large scale. Effort included 150 participants from 13 states. Results published in First Reservoir Symposium 1967 (see published symposia). The project suggested ways to better improve density, biomass, and size specific abundance estimates of reservoir fishes from rotenone samples.
- 1975–1979. Barkley Lake, Ky. gear evaluation. Contrived to improve on Douglas Lake study and better estimate fish biomass in coves relative to open water and improve open-water sampling methods. Also sought to assess predator to available prey ratios and fish biomass around different types of fish attractors. Study included 400 people from 14 states and 200 acres of water treated with rotenone. Published as a block of papers in 1979 SEAFWA (vol. 33).
- 1990–1994. Sampling shad in reservoirs - Lake Texoma, Texas-Okla. Affectionately called the “Shadathon”, this project aimed to assess various gears for use in sampling shad. Gill nets, trawls, electrofishing, hydroacoustics, cove rotenone samples, and seines were compared simultaneously in 3 basins of the reservoir over 3 field days. Effort included 96 people from 20 States. Results published in North American Journal of Fisheries Management vol. 15(4).

Published Symposia

1967. Reservoir Fisheries Resources Symposium, Athens, Ga.
First symposium compiled into 1 published volume to assess reservoir research. Contributed papers ($N = 39$) were from across the U.S. with international contributions. Emphasized commercial fisheries in reservoirs, management of water levels for fisheries, water chemistry to fish biomass relations.
- 1980–1986. Reservoir Fisheries Management Symposium, Lexington, Ky.
Second symposium resulted in publication of 37 papers in Reservoir Fishers Management: Strategies for the 1980's. Assessed harvest restrictions, water-level and hydrology management for fish, and species interactions.
- 1991–1996. Multidimensional Approaches to Reservoir Fisheries Management, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Publication included 48 papers. Emphasized human dimensions and marketing, competitive fishing, and traditional fisheries and habitat management.

Data Compilations and Reports

1961. Reservoir bibliography
- 1959–1963. Methods for reporting fish population and creel surveys
1962. Summary of creel survey data
- 1984–1991. Update of the National Reservoir Research Database
- 1998–2001. Online habitat manual constructed for use of artificial structures in lakes and reservoirs.
Included a national survey of state game and fish agencies to assess methods used.
- 1998–2002. Online habitat manual constructed for establishing native aquatic macrophytes in reservoirs.
Included a national survey to assess success/failures in establishing native macrophytes.

Awards Sponsored

- 1997–present. Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Scholarship. Monetary award to students conducting reservoir fisheries management research. Two awards given annually.

survey in 2000 to assess how states determine hatchery costs and relate these costs to individual species. The committee developed a hatchery directory which lists every state and federal hatchery in the SDAFS, primary personnel, contact information, and species raised. The directory was provided to each facility and hatchery administrator. It was also posed electronically on the SDAFS webpage. A SDAFS hatchery list server was developed through AFS to provide timely information transfer and communications among hatcheries and administrators. This tool allowed hatcheries

Table 3. Selected Striped Bass Committee Activities

A chronicle of emerging striped bass fisheries

1968. Committee reports successful rearing of striped bass fry to fingerlings in 8 states and striped bass reported in angler creels in 9 states, the program is underway.
1971. Committee reports that fisheries have been established in 3 of 12 reservoirs, and natural reproduction was documented in 1 reservoir.
1974. Striped bass committee reports production of 10.5 million fingerlings in the Southeast this year, up from 3 million in 1973. The number of striped bass fisheries increased to 23 from 7 in 1970.

Field studies

1970. Project evaluated stocking small fish in spring versus larger fish during fall in Ga., Miss., Okla., and Texas. In 1971, study found better survival was found for 2 to 3-inch fingerlings stocked in spring than for 4 to 10-inch fish stocked in fall.
1986. Committee completes striped bass stocking evaluation study at Lake Greeson, Ark.

Publications

1990. Culture and propagation of striped bass and its hybrids. Book included 16 chapters and provided a history of striped bass fisheries in inland waters and various techniques for hatchery production.

Culture versus management

1979. Two subcommittees are formed, one to address management of striped bass fisheries, one to address innovations and needs in culture techniques
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Table 4. Selected Warmwater Streams Committee Activities.

Publications and symposia

- 1977–1981. Warmwater Streams Symposium, Knoxville, Tenn. Publication included 47 papers. Topics addressed included habitat and fisheries management in streams, primary and secondary production, effects of flow on biota, and threatened and endangered species.
1982. Warmwater Streams Techniques Manual
- 1991–1991. Smallmouth Bass Symposium, Nashville, Tenn. Publication included 35 papers addressing ecology, fisheries management, recruitment, and nesting behavior of smallmouth bass. This publication was the first comprehensive symposium addressing smallmouth bass fisheries.
1993. Impacts on Warmwater Streams: Guidelines for Evaluation.

Data compilations and reports

1975. Conducted literature review on methods for sampling fish and benthose in streams
1986. Evaluation of instream flow methodologies
1999. Riparian Restoration Workshop. Presentations concerning riparian restoration and securing funding for restoration projects.

Awards sponsored

- 1997–present. Jimmy Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award. Awarded annually to 1 or more students who have shown excellence in stream-related research and education.
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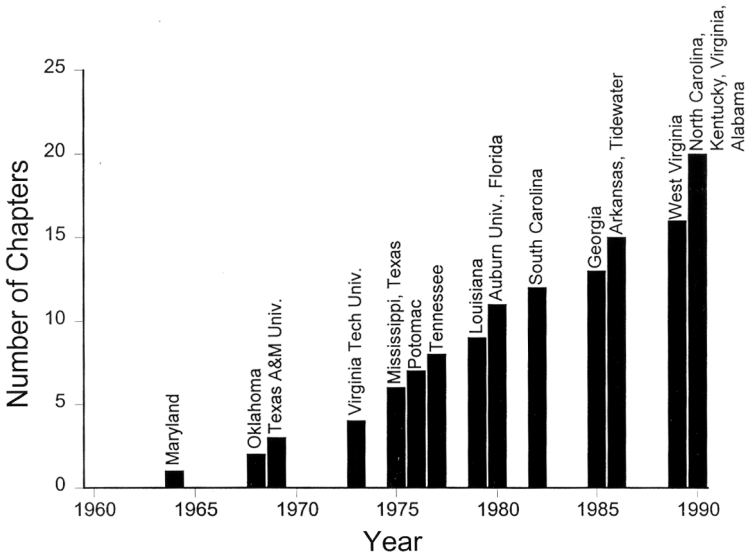


Figure 2. Number of chapters of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society through time. Chapters and the year of their formation are indicated above each bar in order of inauguration.

to offer or solicit fish trades, to request help with hatchery problems, and to provide information on new techniques, etc.

Trout Committee. This committee has conducted numerous workshops evaluating tailwater trout fisheries, habitat issues related to the timber industry, creel survey techniques for trout fisheries, and has prepared annotative bibliographies to help fisheries managers with trout management.

In summary, the TCs have provided many products that have helped fisheries resource management in the United States and elsewhere. Not all committees were successful, as the Marine and Estuarine Resources Committee never garnered high interest and was discontinued in 1998. Nevertheless, the overall impact of SDAFS TCs was substantial, with active research and management-oriented projects directed toward fish culture, conservation, and fisheries management in reservoir and streams. Publications originating from TCs include some of the more cited works in inland fisheries and stream ecology.

Chapters and Student Units

Chapters of the SDAFS began with the Oklahoma and Texas A&M chapters in 1972 (the Maryland Chapter formed in 1964, prior to Maryland joining the SDAFS). The chronology of initiation of chapters is shown in Figure 2, with a total of 20 chapters existing in 2002.

Chapters served local fisheries efforts at the state or university levels. A review of all chapters' activities is too extensive to list here (but see SDAFS 2002 *a* for details). However, SDAFS chapters have provided essential support in hosting the SDAFS annual meetings and national AFS meetings. They have addressed state conservation issues, published local and SDAFS newsletters, raised funds for scholarships and student travel, and held chapter annual meetings including technical sessions and workshops. In addition to several university chapters, student units of state chapters were established at many educational institutions throughout the SDAFS starting in 1998, and their numbers had grown to 8 units in 2002.

Southern Division AFS Resolution, Issues, and Debates

Resolutions from the SDAFS depict the changes in issues and ideas of our profession. We found that some of the resolutions that were proposed to the membership but not approved were just as interesting as those that passed. The resolutions and issues below serve as "snapshots" into the history of fisheries in the Southeast and the SDAFS.

Sale of Game Fish Reared in Private Waters

1952 - H. S. Swingle submitted a resolution for the SDAFS to support the sale of game fish. Justification was that decreased abundance of some game fish would increase growth rates and allowing sales would help aquaculture in the south because game fish were frequently propagated in private waters. Motion generated much discussion but was not approved.

1953 - P. Viosca, Jr. proposed a similar resolution to Swingle's to support the sale of game fish from private waters:

"whereas angling restrictions and fish restocking practices originating in the North have been oversold to southern sportsmen."

"many states now permit the sale of trout, pheasants, mallards, and other wild game reared in captivity."

"angling methods do not adequately harvest the fish populations in private impoundments (and) the surplus fish thus harvested could find a ready market."

"blanket prohibition against the sale of game fishes is preventing the advance of commercial fish farming in the South."

"Be it so resolved that the Southeastern Division AFS go on record as condemning the prohibition of sale, export, or import for food purposed of fish of any species reared on property."

The motion passed. Thus, an issue was to allow sale of game fish from private waters to promote freshwater aquaculture. This issue continued to come up from time to time, but sale of game fish has remained illegal in most states or highly regulated.

Concern over Falsified Fishing Records

1955 - N. Benson (Tennessee) questioned who should be the authority on record fish. He stated, "...in Tennessee the number of large fish entered into local and national contests are being doctored to make them weigh more." After discussion, the suggestion was to refer this matter to the Sport Fishing Institute which in turn could bring up the concerns to Field and Stream Magazine. That same year, a world record smallmouth bass (11 lb. 15 oz.) was caught in Dale Hollow Reservoir (Tenn.-Ky.) but the fish became suspect as being falsified after reports surfaced in the late 1990s that weight was added to the fish in 1955! The record has been "retired" from the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) world records but was still under investigation in 2002 (D. Blodgett, IGFA, pers. commun.). However, after intensive investigation the smallmouth bass is still recognized as the state record in Tennessee (R. Fox, Tenn. Wildl. Resour. Agency, pers. commun.). The Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame also recognized the fish as the record. As it turned out, the fish Benson was referring to was a walleye, and he did not question the weight on the world record smallmouth (R. Fox, TWRA, pers. commun.).

Certification of Fisheries Scientists

1956 and 1957 - C. Bowers called on the SDAFS to request the AFS parent society to consider a committee to certify fisheries biologists in order to "more soundly establish the profession of fishery biology." A plan was outlined in 1957 to follow procedures used by engineers, foresters, and other professional groups. The parent society AFS was requested to be the certifying authority. The motion passed. The AFS certification program was initiated in 1963 and expanded to about 1,000 AFS certified fisheries scientists in 2002. The program has been modified repeatedly to include rigorous coursework and continuing education criteria for certification (see AFS 2002).

Recognition of Additional Sport Fish

1958 - A resolution passed for SDAFS to encourage Field and Stream magazine to recognize white bass (*M. chrysops*) and spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) as game fishes and that world records be established in their annual record fish contest. At the time, the Field and Stream annual contest was the primary keeper of fish world records.

Perceived Need for Exotic Fish in Reservoirs

1958 - Due to the perceived lack of a carnivorous fish adequate to fill the "pelagic niche" in reservoirs, the SDAFS resolved to petition the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to send "an expedition of competent biologists to foreign countries of similar climatic conditions to seek possible species of carnivorous fish suitable for introduction into artificial reservoirs of the Southeast." Sufficient study should be made . . . to insure the possession of the following desirable qualities . . . including pelagic or stream spawning habits, rapid growth rates, adaptability to pelagic feeding habits, at-

tractive appearance, easily caught, edible, and attaining suitable size to be sporting on freshwater tackle. Due to the importance of such possible introductions, this work should be commenced as soon as possible.” This resolution corresponded to the time of formation of the Reservoir TC in 1958. The motion was not passed by the SDAFS, although examples of exotic and non-native fishes are numerous. Since that time the intentional introduction of exotic fishes has stirred much controversy, evaluation, and remedial measures for negative impacts (see Schramm and Piper 1995, Fuller et al. 1999, Kohler and Hubert 1999). Nevertheless, an issue of the times included a need for non-native pelagic predators to utilize offshore prey and benefit sport fisheries in reservoirs.

National Reservoir Research Program (NRRP)

1961 - NRRP was initiated in the fall of 1961 with the establishment of the North Central Research team at Yankton, South Dakota. A second team and the national administrative headquarters were established at Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1962. The program eventually grew to include field stations at Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and Clemson, South Carolina. At its inception, the program emphasized research on fish life histories, population dynamics, and limnology. R. Jenkins, director of the program from 1961 to its closing in 1983, emphasized that team work was necessary to address the varied and complex reservoir problems of the day, and the program worked closely with the SDAFS Reservoir Committee (see below) to maintain communication and coordination of activities. The SDAFS Reservoir Committee functioned as a clearing house, communication center, and project facilitator among federal, state, academic, private, and other programs concerned with reservoir management in the southern United States. This gathering of interests, institutions, and personal energy within the committee, along with the significance of reservoir fishery resources in the South, created a synergy that led to many significant accomplishments.

Stream Habitat Protection

1968 - With concern for impacts on streams, SDAFS deliberated “be it resolved that the SDAFS implore the administrators of the Soil Conservation Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Army Corps of Engineers, to desist, as the request of local game and fish administrators, small watershed programs which involve channelization and impoundments until a more realistic economic evaluation of the recreational, aesthetic, and ecological aspects of this resource can be ascertained.”

Passage of this resolution preceded formation of the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee in 1973 but showed recognition of the importance of native stream habitat.

Gaining Support for Expansion of Dingell-Johnson Funding

1978 - The Dingell-Johnson Act (DJ Act) in 1950 placed taxes from fishing tackle into an account for allocation to state game and fish agencies. The first payment to the states occurred in 1952. Expansion of the DJ Act was proposed in 1978 to

include boat sales and fuel taxes. The SDAFS resolved in 1978 to support and provide promotional material in support of expanding of these funds. The bill was discussed and supported at several SDAFS annual meetings from 1979–1982. Although the expansion bill failed in the late 1970s, it was approved in 1984 as the Wallop-Breaux Act. At the 1985 SDAFS business meeting, the AFS Executive Director Carl Sullivan announced the successful passing of the Wallop-Breaux Act. He predicted the Act would increase DJ funds from about \$40 million in 1984 to \$125 million to \$135 million in 1985. He estimated that the legislation would create about 500 new positions for fishery workers by 1986. The bill was reauthorized by Congress in 1998. By 1999, Wallop-Breaux funds allocated to the states had increased to \$212 million. No other legislation has so strongly influenced fisheries research and management in the United States. The bill continues to send strong support to states today.

Review of Technical Committees

1986 - Over the years, TCs arose independently as needs were recognized. In 1986, SDAFS President F. Harris appointed a committee to evaluate the role and service of the TCs. N. Prosser was appointed chair, and the “Prosser Report” recommended some consolidations of the TCs and the creation of some new ones, as well as broader membership and increased turnover of individual members. As a result, the Small Impoundments and Aquaculture committees were formed in later years, and some committees gained new momentum. In 2000, a second review of TCs was conducted by a committee chaired by M. Meador. This report included a survey of fisheries chiefs in the Southeast. Recommendations were to encourage TCs to produce products that help state agencies with management problems.

Recognizing Importance of Freshwater Mussels

1994 - SDAFS passed a Warmwater Streams TC resolution to urge state and federal agencies to recognize the importance of freshwater mussels to aquatic ecosystems and to increase funding for mussel biology and management.

Effective Communication

Minutes of SDAFS business meetings were available since its inception and their distribution to members provided communication of events and activities. In 1984, the SDAFS Newsletter was initiated to include activities from TCs, chapters, and state agencies in addition to meeting minutes. The Virginia Tech Chapter has continually provided service to the SDAFS by assuming primary responsibility for publication and distribution of the Newsletter. The SDAFS web page was created in 1997 by F. Janssen and T. Rienert. The site has been maintained by F. Janssen through 2002 and has continued to provide communication, history, newsletters, and meeting information for the SDAFS, TCs, and chapters (SDAFS 2002*b*).

In summary, resolutions and issues addressed by the SDAFS showed a mix of conservation efforts (e.g. stream protection) as well as agendas that would likely not be popular today such as legal sale of game fish or active importation of exotic fish-

es. The SDAFS took a strong leadership role in the parent society and contributed to the establishment of critical legislation.

Initiation of the Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting

During the late 1980s, SDAFS officers recognized a need for an expanded SDAFS meeting in addition to the SEAFWA meeting. The SDAFS sought to increase student involvement at meetings and allow presentation of unpublished research papers and communication of “works in progress.” The expansion of fisheries programs in the Southeast warranted a meeting that had concurrent technical sessions on a wide range of fisheries and aquatic sciences topics. There was also a need to increase the opportunity for continuing education workshops required for the AFS certification program. These needs were filled with the initiation of the SDAFS spring meeting.

L. Olmsted, 1992 president of the SDAFS, announced expansion of the mid-year SDAFS Executive Committee meeting to include meetings of all TCs and a program of oral technical (inclusion of unpublished profession) presentations. The first SDAFS spring meeting (then termed the SDAFS mid-year meeting) was sponsored by the Georgia and Tennessee chapters and held in Chattanooga, Tennessee in February 1993. Subsequent annual meetings were held in Little Rock, Arkansas (1994), Virginia Beach, Virginia (1995), Mobile, Alabama (1996), San Antonio, Texas (1997), Lexington, Kentucky (1998), Chattanooga, Tennessee (1999), Savannah, Georgia (2000), Jacksonville, Florida (2001), and Little Rock (2002). Annual attendance ranged from 250–400 with about 90–130 professional presentations in concurrent session each year from 1993–2002. Continuing education workshops spanned subjects such as fish bioenergetics and population dynamics, human dimensions, in-stream flow, sampling design, and considerations for working on floodplain rivers. Workshops meet continuing education criteria the AFS certification program and have been well attended by students and professionals. Meetings of all TCs were held at the spring meeting. Since its inception in 1992, the meeting emerged as the primary source of communication and interaction of the SDAFS and has been a great success.

SDAFS Individual Awards

Outstanding Achievement Award

1979 - Award established to recognize individual contributions to advancement of fisheries biology, science, education, and management. First awarded in 1981, recipients are shown in Table 5.

Distinguished Service Award

1999 - Created to recognize outstanding service to the Division. Award recipients are listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Award winners from the Southern Division American Fisheries Society. The Outstanding Achievement and Distinguished Service awards were initiated in 1981 and 1999, respectively.

| Year | John F. Dequine best paper | Outstanding achievement | Distinguished service |
|------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1968 | Jack Snow | | |
| 1969 | H. R. Schimittou | | |
| 1970 | Janice Hughes | | |
| 1971 | Robert C. Summerfelt | | |
| 1972 | | | |
| 1973 | | | |
| 1974 | Nick C. Parker | | |
| 1975 | William C. Reeves | | |
| 1976 | Nick C. Parker | | |
| 1977 | Jim Oliver | | |
| 1978 | Gene R. Huntsman | | |
| 1979 | Larry L. Olmstead | | |
| 1980 | Christopher Kohler | | |
| 1981 | Richard Guier | Jack Dequine | |
| 1982 | William E. Kelso | Gordon Hall | |
| 1983 | John Kaufman | | |
| 1984 | Duane Harrell | | |
| 1985 | Eugene Gilliland | Larry Nielsen Hudson Nichols | |
| 1986 | Stephen Quinn | Robert Martin | |
| 1987 | Louis Helfrich | Ben Jaco | |
| 1988 | Jeff Boxrucker | Robert E. Stevens Don W. Hayne Connie R. Arnold | |
| 1989 | Eugene Gilliland | I.B. Byrd R. Don Estes Monte Seehorn Carl Sullivan | |
| 1990 | J. R. Jackson | Robert Jenkins Richard Stroud | |
| 1991 | Richard A. Ott, Jr | Donald Baker John Gottshalk Janice Hughes Little Richard Robbins | |
| 1992 | David Terre | Fred Harris | |
| 1993 | James C. Borawa | Susan Shipman | |
| 1994 | James J. Duffy | Barry Freeman | |
| 1995 | David Terre | Larry Olmsted | |
| 1996 | Robert Betsill | L. Esteban Miranda Churchill Grimes | |
| 1997 | Charles Mesing | Richard L. Noble | |
| 1998 | John A. Prentice | Michael Van Den Avyle Bobby Grinstead | |
| 1999 | Harold L. Schramm, Jr. | Norville S. Prosser John Ney | Richard Luebke |
| 2000 | Kevin Storey | Jimmy Pigg | Bruce Saul Fred Janssen |
| 2001 | | Phil Durocher Scott Van Horn | Duke Energy Corp. |

John F. (Jack) Dequine Best Paper Award

1999 - Founding father and initial SDAFS President J. Dequine championed excellence in the written and oral communication of the Southeastern papers from the start. Due to his long standing support and service to the SDAFS, the division renamed the Best Paper Award, initiated in 1968, in honor of Dequine. Award recipients are listed in Table 5.

Conclusions and the Next 50 Years

The first 50 years of the SDAFS included substantial products and activities to further fisheries management and aquatic conservation in the Southeast United States. Issues of the times evolved from a perceived need to introduce exotic fishes to fish conservation and habitat protection. Applied fisheries management has remained a staple of SDAFS activities over the past 50 years, and we expect that trend to continue. Critical legislation such as the Wallop-Breaux Act dramatically increased the resources and workers directed toward aquatic systems and fisheries management. Striped bass fisheries expanded throughout the region and now make up viable fisheries in most SDAFS states, and individuals in the SDAFS were leaders in the technology to propagate striped bass and evaluate the success of stocking programs. Large-scale field studies, peer-reviewed published symposia, and data compilations were generated throughout the past 50 years. As a result, our ability to enhance fisheries and protect aquatic systems has been improved greatly due to efforts of the SDAFS. We encourage the TCs to conduct more field projects and symposia as there will be a need for more “products” in the future.

At the 2002 SDAFS 50-year anniversary plenary session, it was clear that fisheries managers and ecologists will need to be broad in their talents in the future. Tools such as hydroacoustics, bioenergetics and population models, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will continue to improve our science, and problem solving using the latest technology will be required. Due to increasing urbanization and reductions in the number of anglers, understanding of human dimensions of fisheries management will increasingly be an important part of resource management. Recruiting new anglers from urban areas may be among the greater challenges facing fisheries managers in the next 50 years. Additionally, habitat degradation due to impacts on streams and aging of reservoirs will ensure the need for symposia and field studies addressing these problems. The past 50 years have shown tremendous progress, and the SDAFS has been a leader. Because of the foundation and leadership provided in the past, we anticipate similar progress from the SDAFS in the future.

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