

Fisheries Management Section

of the

American Fisheries Society

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Winter 2004

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President's Column

Winter – 2003/2004

My mind seems to be stuck in the deep freeze of this particularly cold (at least so far) New England winter. At least the days are getting noticeably longer and I can start thinking a little about spring. I'm entering the final months of my presidency and it's time to start thinking about transition and the things our Section will be involved in during the upcoming months.

I was asked by President Ira Adelman to have the Fisheries Management Section review the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and provide him recommendations regarding AFS support. Tom McMahon (MT) kindly reviewed the initiative and provided very thoughtful and useful guidance and recommendations that I have forwarded to Ira. Tom's review is included in this newsletter.

Past President Tim Hess is taking the lead on developing a symposium entitled "Utilizing the New State Wildlife Grants and Landowner Incentive Program(s) to Improve Habitat for Fish and Other Aquatic Species in Decline". Tim and others discussed this Federal Aid program at the Fisheries Administrator's Annual Meeting in Idaho last summer, and the topic generated significant interest by their members, many of whom are FMS members also. Given the tight financial times most agencies find themselves in these days, any new sources of funding that can help us better manage aquatic resources is going to be important. This symposium at the AFS Annual Meeting in Madison should be important to many of our members.

Section Member Andy Loftus reminds me that several new software programs of interest to fisheries managers are available through the Computer User's Section. They

can be found under the “Software Resources” area of the CUS web page available through the parent Societies home page.

In March, our Section will once again be a sponsor of the International Salmonid Habitat Enhancement Workshop (15th this year). Section Past-President Don Duff will be actively involved in the Workshop to be held in March in Salt Lake City following the Annual Meeting of the Western Division – AFS.

President-Elect Dave Willis gave an excellent report on the happenings of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (NCD-AFS) noting that a lot of interest was generated in sponsoring a sauger symposium at the 2006 AFS Annual Meeting. Clearly their was interest in our Section being a sponsor/co-sponsor and it seems like a natural for us. Look for more on this in future newsletters and communications.

Another outcome of the Midwest was an expression of interest in determining the genealogy of FMS members. I have appointed Randy Jackson to chair an Ad Hoc Committee to survey our members to “back-track” their educational institutions and advisors. When you receive the survey, please take a few moments to fill it out and return it. Being one of those getting along in years, I will fill mine out and am interested to see how it compares to others.

Finally, I want to remind you that this is the time of year that we are soliciting nominations for our Section awards as well as nominations for our officers, in particular President-Elect. Past-President Jeff Boxrucker is our Awards Committee chair (Dave Willis, as President-Elect, chairs the Hall of Excellence award committee) and Past-Presidents’ Bob Wiley and Steve Filipek are co-chairs of our Nominating Committee.

I am impressed with the activity of our Section, do much more to the ambitions, desires and capabilities of our members than to my leadership! Keep up the good work.

Steve Rideout
President

ISSUE FEEDBACK

By: Michael Vanderford
Northcentral Regional Editor

The Issue:

In a time when State budgets have been cut so deeply that fisheries staff have been laid off in many States, and fisheries vacancies left un-filled in many more; there is a substantial new source of funding that may be used for fish management. This is the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service. The SWG grants may be used for “development and implementation of programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.” The SWG annual Congressional appropriations are apportioned to the States based on State land area and population. The SWG apportionments to date have been: \$77.6 million for 2002; \$57.7 million for 2003, and \$61.5 million for 2004.

Questions:

ONE How has your State fisheries staff been involved with the development of your State’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP) for use of SWG grant funds? Are fisheries resources specifically included in the current draft of your State’s CWCP for use of State Wildlife Grant funds?

TWO Has your fisheries program developed any SWG proposals to date? Have your proposals been funded? If so, please provide a title or two of your SWG funded projects.

Editor’s note: Due to unavoidable technical difficulties I was not able to include photographs to accompany the responses, I apologize for the omission. A. Schrey

Ronald D. Payer
Chief
Section of Fisheries
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Question One.

The development of this plan is being conducted by several teams of staff, including those from the Section of Fisheries. A conservation stakeholders’ team will also include angling organizations and groups. Part B. Yes. There are several project areas which include fisheries resources.

Question Two.

State Wildlife Grants (SWG) and wildlife Restoration and Conservation (WCR) funds have been used to fund the following projects related to aquatic resources:

- a. Status and critical habitat of special concern fish species in nonwadeable rivers of southeastern Minnesota.
- b. Statewide mussel resource survey.

- c. Completion of *Fishes of Minnesota*, a reference text.
- d. East Grand Forks dam modification.
- e. Turtles, turtle watching and Minnesota salamanders.
- f. Lake Christina reclamation: Ecosystem Consequences of Biomanipulation.
- g. Comprehensive analysis of the long-term relationship between flow and aquatic fish communities on two Minnesota rivers.
- h. Status and critical habitat of threatened , special concern, and rare fish species in nonwadeable rivers of the St. Croix River drainage.
- i. Blanding's turtle conservation in southern Minnesota.
- j. Research and management of Blanding's turtles within a suburban regional part system.

In addition, State Wildlife Grant competitive funds were awarded to MNDNR's project entitled: "Enhanced Management of Lake Shorelands for Wildlife Conservation," and Landowner incentive Program (LIP) funds were awarded to a MNDNR project that includes working with private landowners to conserve and improve habitat for the Topeka Shiner.

Stephen G. Perry

Chief

Inland Fisheries Division

NH Fish and Game Department

Question One.

Yes, a member of the NH Fish and Game Department's Inland Fisheries Division has been involved with the development of the NHCWCP and yes, fisheries resources are included in the working draft of the NHCWCP.

Question Two.

No, the Inland Fisheries Division has not developed any SWG program proposals to date.

Eric Palmer

Director of Fisheries

VT Fish and Wildlife

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is still in the process of developing its CWCS for SWG funding, but the Fisheries Division is very much involved in the process. Several fish projects have already been funded including work on evaluating population parameters for Lake Champlain lake sturgeon and a stream temperature modeling study.

Don Gabelhouse

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Question One.

To develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy, required by Congress, our state created *Nebraska's Natural Legacy Project* (NNLP). NNLP is tasked with creating a blueprint for conservation in Nebraska that will identify both priority conservation focus areas and conservation strategies. To accomplish these tasks, five implementation teams and two oversight committees were established. From the very beginning of the process, Fisheries staff have been involved at a number of levels. Rick Holland (Assistant Fisheries Division Administrator for Research, Larry Hutchinson (Water Resources Program Manager) and I serve on the Internal Support Oversight Committee, which is designed to ensure that NNLP meets the ongoing needs of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Rick Holland and Steve Schainost (Rivers and Streams Program Manager) serve on the Science Team, which is tasked with identifying conservation targets, setting goals and selecting priority conservation landscapes. The Science Team has been one of the most active groups to date. Their initial task was to identify priority species in need of conservation and how to assess current inventory needs for input into the Project. It is the intent of this team to move away from the traditional species-by-species approach and focus on habitat conservation at a landscape level that will work to both keep our common species thriving and conserve our rarer species. Gene Zuerlein (Assistant Fisheries Division Administrator for Environmental Services), Larry Hutchinson and Mark Porath (Fisheries Management Biologist) serve on the Conservation Strategies Team, whose main task is to develop the conservation strategies needed to implement the blueprint for Nebraska conservation.

Question Two.

Fisheries staff has taken advantage of this new funding source in two major arenas. Staff developed a comprehensive Statewide Stream Inventory Project that was submitted and co-funded with SWG allocations and some Federal Aid to Sport Fish Funds. This Statewide Stream Inventory Project seeks to document the present occurrence of fish and invertebrates in every river basin within the state, thus updating a 30 year-old comprehensive stream survey performed by NGPC in the early 1970s. An ongoing population and habitat assessment project on the Platte River that deals primarily with two T&E species (pallid sturgeon and sturgeon chub) has also received two separate years of SWG funding. In addition, staff assisted in developing a SWG funded project with The Nature Conservancy which targets conservation efforts in the Missouri River Valley and deals with many of the pending issues for this important system. A final project funded by SWG is a cooperative study between the University of Nebraska-Kearney and NGPC which deals with assessing the potential impacts of the western mosquitofish on the native plains topminnow. In addition to these projects, a proposal designed to conduct an economic impact study on the Platte River has been submitted for SWG funding.

Titles of Funded Projects:

1. Nebraska Statewide Stream Inventory
 2. Pallid sturgeon and sturgeon chub study of the Lower Platte River
 3. Targeted conservation in the Missouri River Valley
 4. Evaluation of the impact of introduced western mosquitofish on plains topminnow
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Tim Morrison

Louisiana Department Wildlife & Fisheries
Sport Fish Coordinator Louisiana.

The Office of Fisheries has been involved with the CWCP since its inception. The draft plan will include both fresh and marine species. The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program is currently funding two projects for us. They are the " Gulf Sturgeon Winter Habitat" and " Big River fisheries Survey".

Larry Riley

Chief of Fisheries
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Question One.

Times are tight for many programs. Tight State finances, drought, and reduced license sales (attributable to drought) have all contributed to a sense of austerity. "State Wildlife Grants" (and the predecessor – Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program) have certainly been a welcome addition to the mix of available financing for wildlife conservation. We are in development of our Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan right now and we certainly anticipate that aquatic resources of greatest conservation need will certainly emerge as one of many priority areas. Fishes of greatest conservation need are utilizing SWG monies at the moment and undoubtedly will continue to benefit from the program in the future. The need is large, and SWG will only help.

While some sport fishes (Apache trout) and potential sport fishes (Gila trout) will definitely benefit from SWG, many of our fisheries management issues of general interest to the recreating public may not fit the criteria for species of greatest conservation need. SWG will expand and amplify the Game and Fish Department's ability to address some aquatic issues in Arizona, but not all of them. As with all things, we have to seek a diversity of financing strategies to address our needs.

Question Two.

We have utilized SWG financing in several activity areas already, including addressing native fish staffing in some of our regional offices. We are utilizing SWG (and WCRP before it, along with a diversity of financing) to help support our native trout (Apache and Gila trout) restoration projects with partner. SWG has helped with projects focused on several native fishes, native amphibians, and native mollusks. WCRP and SWG has also assisted with issues related to invasive species, including nonnative crustaceans.

Ron Garavelli

Director of Fisheries Mississippi

Question One.

A grants committee was formed in Mississippi to improve communication among divisions concerning the wide variety of grants. The nongame program, which is housed at the agency's Natural Science Museum, will oversee CWCP development with input

from fisheries staff. The Gulf Coast strain walleye is a gamefish species of concern in Mississippi which has declined due to stream impacts.

Question Two.

Approved proposals from our fisheries program include “Assessment of the Gulf Coast Strain Walleye: Development of Hatchery Production and Stocking Methods” and “Status and Movements of Paddlefish in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway”. An implementation proposal has been submitted entitled “Gulf Coast Strain Walleye Restoration - Facility Construction”.

Peter M. Bourque

Dir.-Fisheries Program Development
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Question One.

Our fisheries staff has been involved in developing the Comp. Plan for SWG monies. Fishery resources are included in the current draft.

Question Two.

We currently have four projects funded under WCRP or SWG. The Job Titles are: Unique Aquatic Ecosystems, Stream Survey Databasing and Utilization of Restored Aquatic Habitats, Lake Habitat Inventories and the Maine Aquatic Biodiversity Project.

Mike Fujimoto

Section Chief
Anuene Fisheries Research Center
Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources

Hawaii's Div. of Aquatic Resources staff is involved with our CWCP for use of SWG grant funds. Aquatic animals will be included in the CWCP.

We have one grant funded by SWG at this time. (T-3-P Planning, Coordination and Implementation of Statewide Program for Aquatic Wildlife Conservation).

FYI --- faims.fws.gov is a great website to look for grant information

Benjy T. Kinman

Kentucky Dept of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Question One.

Kentucky's Fisheries Division staff has been actively involved with our Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP). Our preliminary species list will include 33 fish species and 44 mussel species or 32% of the total species at risk list. Focus areas in KY will undoubtedly involve a large percentage of aquatic species.

Administratively, we have a Wildlife Diversity Section that operates outside the Fisheries Division. Plan implementation will involve full Department cooperation and will involve

Fisheries Division staff time will involve fish monitoring for baseline data, watershed planning, or evaluation of specific action items.

Small agencies, like the KY Dept of Fish and Wildlife Resources now have a tremendous opportunity with this funding source (SWG) to impact a very neglected list of species. Previously there has not been any directed funding for these species. We have to work cooperatively, efficiently, effectively, and creatively with multiple agencies, academia, NGO'S, and other groups to produce measurable outcomes in the near future.

Question Two.

Only one SWG project has been approved involving fisheries and it is a data sharing project with another state agency (Nature Preserves Commission). Once our plan is approved, several projects are anticipated.

Doug Nygren

Assistant Director, Fisheries
Fisheries and Wildlife Division

Question One.

Aquatic resources are certainly a part of our CWCP plan. Species included in our plan are not game fishes, but native species that are in decline. We have developed a new list to include fishes that are not on the Kansas T&E Species List or on the Species In Need of Conservation List. This new list is called Species of State Conservation Interest. That new status makes them eligible for funding under SWG. While some of these are caught by anglers, they are not legally classified as game fish in Kansas.

Lake Sturgeon, Shovelnose Sturgeon,
Pallid Sturgeon, Paddlefish, Bowfin
American Eel, Southern Redbelly Dace,
Bigeye Chub, Silver Chub, Bigeye Shiner,
Blacknose Shiner, Pugnose Shiner,
Quillback, White Suckerm Freckled Madtom,
Brindled Madtom, Ozark Shiner, Trout Perch

Question Two.

We have secured two grants. The first one was a mussel monitoring program (Evaluate Freshwater Mussel Populations in Southeast Kansas Streams) to evaluate a ten year moratorium on mussel harvest in Kansas. The second was to develop a State Invasive Species Plan (Develop a Nonindigenous Invasive Species Action Plan for Kansas) to submit to the Governor and the USFW. Approval of the Aquatic Nuisance Species portion of that plan by the USFWS will make Kansas eligible for federal funds from the Invasive Species Act.

Mike Stone

Chief of Fisheries

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

My response to the recent request regarding State Wildlife Grants follows. In addition, I must comment on your issue statement. While SWG funds may certainly be used for fish management, we must stay mindful that they are not meant as an expansion of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. Instead, SWG are a weak, partial substitute for the failed Conservation and Reinvestment Act proposal. The national need for a source of funding for species of concern, particularly nongame species with little source of program funding in many states, was a key factor in passage of the SWG program. Thus, we should expect and facilitate direction of these funds toward program intent vs. traditional sport fish management.

Question One.

Our fisheries staff has been, and will continue to be, heavily involved in development of our State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for use of SWG funds. Plan development is underway with a target completion date of October 2005. Fisheries and other aquatic species of concern will be included in the plan.

Question Two.

Fisheries/aquatic proposals have been developed and funded. Sample titles include:

Native cutthroat trout spawning and migration enhancement

Upper Yellowstone River basin cutthroat trout study

Herpetological program development

Conservation of prairie stream systems

Douglas Stang

Chief, Bureau of Fisheries

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

In New York, fisheries staff are very involved in the State Wildlife Grants program and in the development of New York's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (now CWC Strategy). We have an interdivisional team of staff from all bureaus (Fisheries, Wildlife, Habitat and Marine Resources) in New York DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources that serves as a steering committee for project selection and compilation of information for the CWCS. Since the Bureau of Fisheries has some skilled planners and manages the Division's work planning efforts, Fisheries has the lead in the development of NY's CWCS.

Fisheries (freshwater and marine aquatic) resources are specifically included in New York's CWCS and have 61 species/ families/ groups of fish (53 that are freshwater or anadromous) currently included on the list of "species of greatest conservation need." Currently no freshwater "sport fish" (except Heritage strains of Adirondack brook trout and some might argue American eel) are on this list.

To date, we have received funding for these fisheries projects (out of the 2002 funding): Adirondack Round Whitefish Investigation, Conservation of Lesser Known Species of Fish, Comprehensive Assessment of American Eel in New York State (Inland), and Recruitment and Spawning Stock Characteristics of American Eel from the Marine

District; and are in process of submitting these fisheries projects to the USFWS for funding out of the 2003 SWG funding: Investigation of Decline and Development of Recovery Plan for Longear Sunfish, Atlantic Sturgeon Ocean Abundance and Habitat Assessment, and Oswayo and Allegheny Conservation Plan (darters, suckers and lamprey spp.)

Additional aquatic projects that have been funded (2002 funding) include: Allegheny and Susquehanna Drainage Freshwater Mussel Surveys, Odonate Inventory, Bay Scallop Restoration Planning and Pilot Spawner Evaluation, and Horseshoe Crab Population Surveys; with these additional proposal for 2003 SWG funding: Freshwater Mussel Surveys (cont'd), and Oyster Habitat Restoration Project in the Lower Hudson River. As you can see, New York's aquatic resources are a significant part of our state's CWCS and the Bureau of Fisheries is deeply involved the development of New York's CWCS.

For more information concerning New York's CWCS, see:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/wilddiv/swg>.

Stan Cook

State of Alabama
Chief of Fisheries

Question One.

Alabama's freshwater fisheries staff have been fully involved in the development of Alabama's CWCP. A steering committee, consisting of fisheries and wildlife staff is overseeing this process. A new position, created specifically to coordinate SWG and CWCP development, was filled by one of our fisheries staff. We are working on a draft CWCP which will be ready in the fall of 2005 and fisheries resources will be specifically included. The Alabama CWCP will have a much larger number of aquatic than terrestrial "species of conservation concern."

Question Two.

Efforts to date have centered on getting the CWCP process underway. No specific proposals have been funded at this time, although this process will begin very soon. A variety of fisheries projects will be implemented in October of 2004.

Joseph B. Mion

Program Administrator
Fish Management and Research

Gary Isbell asked that I send you the following responses to the winter 2004 Issue Feedback questions regarding SWG funds and fisheries:

Question One

We are currently developing the CWCP for Ohio, which will be completed later this year. Our fisheries staff has been very involved in this process. Ohio's CWCP will place strong emphasis on fisheries resource needs, especially habitat-related issues. For example, one of our major problems is the impact of high sediment loads on fish habitat in streams and

reservoirs. The CWCP will advance our efforts to lessen sediment inputs by furthering our state-wide program for restoring and protecting stream riparian habitats.

Question Two.

To date, we have several aquatic-resource projects supported with SWG. There are ongoing projects involving paddlefish and mussel research and management, as well as statewide stream conservation, that are all SWG-funded.

Fisheries Chief Kim Erickson

By Harold Namminga

Question One.

Involved with development of CWCS for SWG? YES - Chief on the Advisory Group or Board Fisheries resources specifically included in CWCS? YES

Question Two.

Fisheries program developed SWG proposals? YES

Proposals funded? YES

Title of funded project?

1. Oklahoma Paddlefish Information for Conservation Management
 2. Instream Flow Modeling for Mussels and Fishes in Southeastern Oklahoma Rivers
 3. Digital Atlas of Oklahoma Fishes
-

Dennis Unkenholz

Fisheries Program Administrator
South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks

Question One.

While fisheries budgets in South Dakota have remained adequate, agency staff continually look for alternative funding sources. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is currently working on the Comprehensive Wildlife conservation Plan (CWCP) which will identify potential projects that could be funded through the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program. The CWCP writing effort, led by the wildlife diversity staff, will include fisheries in addition to wildlife. Ecosystem management Research Institute is completing the ecological component of the plan. Fisheries staff have been involved and will have continuing opportunity for involvement as the plan is formulated. The Wildlife Division staff, following input from all interested publics including GFP staff, would craft the public component of the plan.

Question Two.

South Dakota fisheries staff has been involved by reviewing project proposals that have been submitted for SWG funding. Due to strong GFP budget support and fixed number of fisheries staff there has been little incentive to fund fisheries management with SWG funds. There are two fisheries related projects currently funded with SWG. Specifically they are: Evaluation of a decision support tool to help conserve fish species at risk in South Dakota streams and Macroinvertebrate bioassessment of Black Hills streams.

Bill Hutchinson

Assistant Chief of Fisheries

Question One.

Yes we have been involved, to a lesser degree, with the CWCP and fishery resources will be included.

Question Two.

Yes we have developed SWG proposal and they have been funded. The funded project is our Native Fish Program. This program is to develop a plan for Native Fish in Idaho. It will include plans for native game and non-game fishes and will also address Aquatic Nuisance Species and Invasive Species programs in Idaho. Let me know if you need further information.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Jeff Boxrucker

Senior Biologist

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory

Debate on Fish Stockings: Round Three

I recently returned from the “Propagated Fishes in Research Management” symposium and have had time to reflect on how the debate surrounding the use of cultured fishes in agency management programs has progressed. This was the third in a series of AFS-sponsored symposia on the topic. The first, “Fish Culture in Fisheries Management,” held in 1985, reflected an emphasis on enhancing the effectiveness of stocking as a management tool, with 35 (81%) of the papers in the proceedings broadly directed at establishing improved criteria for stocking programs, improved culture techniques and better post-stocking assessments. Only eight of the papers could be broadly categorized as cautionary, representing a roughly equal mix of genetic and biodiversity concerns. Of the 59 technical papers published in the proceedings of the second symposium in 1995, “Uses and Effects of Cultured Fishes in Aquatic Ecosystems,” 30 (51%) can be characterized as reporting positive benefits of fish stockings or recommending techniques for improvement of hatchery contributions to natural systems. A noticeable increase in the emphasis on cautionary themes is reflected by the 22 papers (37%) that fell into the broad category of characterizing negative impacts of hatchery fish or were directed at methods for minimizing these impacts, with strong emphasis on genetic considerations. Not trusting my memory to categorize the themes of the presentations at the most recent in the series, held in mid-June in Boise, ID, I will suffice it to say that several of the presentations focused on results of 10 additional years of study on issues addressed at the 1994 symposium in Albuquerque, NM. For example, “successes” using wild broodstock in salmonid culture programs were reported with several presentations cautioning on the risks of these programs.

I believe, however, that the real story is in how the interactions of professionals on both sides of the debate on the use of cultured fishes has progressed. My first exposure to the contentiousness of the issue was at a biodiversity symposium held at the Annual Meeting in Rapid City in 1992. A panel discussion was held after the technical presentations, complete with audience participation, in which stocking issues were addressed. It was a good thing weapons were checked at the door! At times I felt the need to take cover. This was the first time that I observed open hostility among professionals debating resource issues. The symposia in Albuquerque and Boise had organized open forum in the evenings following the day's technical presentations at which questions from the audience were addressed. The atmosphere in Albuquerque was contentious, but civil. A fair amount of "hatchery bashing" took place. A facilitated workshop, at which issues were identified and consensus reached as to strategies to address the issues, served as a follow-up to the Albuquerque symposium. The open discussions in Boise were well attended but little emotion was evident in the debates over the issues. A workshop to follow the Boise symposium is being planned.

So, have the issues surrounding the use of cultured fishes been addressed to the satisfaction of all? Certainly not. A FMS-solicited survey on agency stocking programs and policies, results of which were presented in Boise by Randy Jackson and will appear in the proceedings, indicated that while much progress has been made in addressing genetic and ecological concerns associated with culture programs, more work is needed in several areas. Are professionals tired of the debate? I would be extremely disappointed in our profession if apathy has crept into a practice that formed the roots of our profession. Rather, I suspect that the aforementioned progression in the debate over the issues is a result of professionals interacting to discuss the issues, gain perspectives from opposing views, and working together to solve the problems.

AFS and the Fisheries Management Section have played a significant role in this progression. FMS has been a cosponsor of all three symposia. FMS President, Steve Rideout, and immediate Past-President, Tim Hess, attended PFRIM. Dirk Miller, current FMS Secretary-Treasurer, served on the steering committee, moderated the "management" portion of the symposium, and made a presentation at the "wrap-up" session. Past-Presidents, Bob Wiley and Jeff Boxrucker, made presentations. Dave Willis, current FMS President-elect, helped develop the aforementioned survey and served as a co-author, along with principle author, Randy Jackson, and Jeff Boxrucker, of the manuscript.

Professional interaction, both formally via technical presentations and informally in the halls and at socials, are an integral component of AFS-sponsored meetings. Providing a setting for professionals to debate resource issues ultimately benefits the professionals by broadening their perspectives, the resource and the resource-users.

FMS BUSINESS

Fisheries Management Section (FMS), American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Business Meeting Minutes

10 August 2003, Quebec City, Quebec

President Steve Rideout called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and Secretary-Treasurer Dirk Miller recognized that a quorum was present.

President Rideout recognized past FMS President Steve Fillipek.

Glenn Miller of the Wisconsin Chapter invited everyone to attend the 2004 meeting in Madison.

Virgil Moore moved (Vaughn Paragamian second) that we dispense with reading the minutes of the 2002 business meeting and approve them as published. Motion carried unanimously.

The current FMS financial report prepared by Dirk Miller was distributed to members and reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

FMS Awards –Three candidates were elected into the FMS Hall of Excellence this year: Angelo Incerpi, Del Graff and Larry Mitzner. Angelo started his fisheries career in 1963 as an Assistant Regional Fisheries Biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife in Ashland, Maine. He moved to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife in 1967. Thirty- five years later he retired from the department as Director of Operations. Del’s career with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission covered a 37-year period. He began as a fisheries biologist in 1964 and culminated his career as Fisheries Bureau Director in January of 2002. Larry began his career with the Iowa DNR in 1966. In 1970 he moved to south central Iowa and worked as a research biologist until his retirement in 2003. Only Angelo was present at our business meeting and accepted his award to a standing ovation by the membership.

Legislation – Ron Essig of the US Fish and Wildlife Service reported on reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration Act. He also discussed the Landowner Incentive Program and State Wildlife Grants.

Funding support – FMS continued financial support of many efforts. We contributed \$2,500 to the World Fisheries Congress and another \$2,500 to support travel of a German scientist to that meeting. Mike Fraidenberg’s book project titled “Lessons Learned” also received \$2,500. We gave \$500 each to the SDAFS warmwater stream video project and the Equal Opportunity Student travel fund. Vaughn Paragamian (ID) reported on

continuing sales of *Burbot: Biology, Ecology and Management* (FMS Publication Number 1) and provided a \$300 check to FMS for this years' sales proceeds.

Electrofishing injury study update – Jim Reynolds provided an update on the project, indicating that it is near completion. Technical publications are in progress but there is still need for a white paper. Jim is joining the Peace Corps and will be unable to take the lead to see that project to completion. Bob Hughes is still willing to work on the project and a few more committee members are needed to assist. Jim encouraged FMS members to get involved, indicating that a diverse committee of 6 or 8 members would be appropriate. Dirk Miller reviewed discussions he had with Jeff Boxrucker and indicated that someone from Wyoming Game and Fish will work on the “white paper” project. More volunteers are needed to assist with the project.

Jim Reynolds provided a handout “A proposed paradigm for electroshock-induced injury in fishes”. This summarizes their projects over the last several years and will come out in several publications during 2004. They propose that the risk of electroshock-induced injury is primarily a function of fish response, fish size and vertebral count.

Propagated Fish in Resource Management Symposium – Randy Jackson briefly discussed the survey on the use of stocked fishes that was conducted for this meeting, held in June of 2003. The survey was sponsored by the Fisheries Management and Fisheries Administrators sections. Survey results indicated that the stereotype of continued indiscriminant use of stocked fishes by the fisheries management profession is not true. While there are still areas for improvement, much progress and many changes have been made over the last two decades. Complete survey results will be published in the meeting proceedings.

NEW BUSINESS

Hutton Program – Christine Fletcher of AFS staff provided an update on the program in urged more AFS members to get involved.

Infobase - Aaron Lerner from AFS staff provided an update on the Infobase project, indicating that an additional 10 years of journals and all 25 years of Fisheries technical articles will be available very soon.

Requests for funding – 1) Steve Filipek moved and Chris Horton seconded that FMS provide **\$1,000** to the Hutton Program. The motion carried without dissent.

Process for handling funding requests – President Rideout wants to formalize the process for handling funding request to FMS. President-elect Willis will chair a committee to consider the issue. It was suggested that the Western Division has a process that may provide a starting point.

USGS-NBII Fishery and Aquatic Resource Node – President Rideout gave an update on the project. He explained that this is targeting data that should be of value to FMS

members and encouraged support and involvement. He also described a guidance committee that he and Dirk Miller are serving on.

Suggestions for the 2004 meeting – President Rideout requested that all symposium or workshop suggestions for the Madison meeting be forwarded to him.

Awards Committee – Jeff Boxrucker will chair the awards committee this year and would appreciate assistance.

Web-based newsletter – Fred Janssen would like to implement a web-based newsletter and has some ideas on how to make it easier for readers.

Burbot symposium – Vaughn Paragamian announced that there are plans to hold the 2nd Burbot symposium at the 2005 AFS meeting in Alaska.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50p.m.

Message From the Editor.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the editor for this newsletter for this and the previous issues. I appreciate all those who have contributed material and assistance, it was appreciated.

I would like to introduce the new editor, who will serve as editor for the remainder of his tenure as a graduate student at SIUC, Rob Colombo. I am sure he will do a great job.

Thank you, again.

Aaron W. Schrey

FMS INFORMATION

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