Fisheries Management Section
of the
American Fisheries Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 19 #1 SPRING 2000

President's Message

The past two years have gone quickly and I feel like, as I am sure most outgoing President's have felt, that the time was too short to accomplish what we set out to do. However, we did get a few major projects underway and near completion. The electrofishing injury study is in its second year and progressing nicely. The investigators are excited about their findings and, in fact, are exploring some questions not in the original proposal. The project should be wrapped up this time next year. The mortality model software (Fishery Analysis Simulation Tool-FAST) is scheduled to be finalized this summer. I attended a demonstration at the Southern Division Meeting in February. Comments from participants were extremely favorable. Mike Maceina and Jeff Slipke are putting on another workshop at the Western Division meeting in July. I plan to attend this workshop also. This software should be a valuable tool for field managers. FMS had meetings at each of the four AFS Division meetings in 1999 and are scheduled to have meetings in conjunction with each Division meeting in 2000. These meetings have become a valuable way for the officers to meet members from around the country and get feedback from those members.

My major disappointment over my tenure as President has been dealing with the publication efforts. I feel like this has been largely a "wheel-spinning" exercise. The "Guide for Authors" for *North American Journal of Fish*eries *Management* has been rewritten to better accommodate field and case history studies, but few have found their way into print. It is difficult to pinpoint at which end of the process the problems occur. I visited with AFS's new Communication Director at the Midyear Governing Board Meeting and found Victor Van Beuren to be very open to suggestions. However, being new to the job, he felt he lacked the background to provide too many useful suggestions. I plan to meet with Vic in St. Louis to further discuss the issues. Sally Kendall has retired as head of the "Journals" program. We will miss Sally and all of the assistance she has given me to try make AFS Journals more relevant to field biologists. Her replacement has yet to be named. I see this process carrying over into my past-president's tenure.

Being somewhat of a history buff, I felt it important to make the membership aware of those individuals who have served FMS in the past. This **list*** of officers, division representatives, newsletter editors, and award winners may come in handy in some of your future endeavors. See you in St. Louis.

-- Jeff Boxrucker

*** See Page 12 for FMS-Past and Present**

In This Issue

Editor's note

No articles were submitted this issue, and therefore, all articles were taken from various press releases. These articles were thought to be of general interest to the subscriber.

Fms 2000 election

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR BALLOT

Nominees:

President – Elect:

- Stephen G. Rideout

Secretary/Treasurer:

- Cliff Stone
- John Copeland

Southern Division Rep.:

- David Buckmeier
- Victor DiCenzo

Northeast Division Rep.:

- Tim Brush

North Central Division Rep.:

- Randy Shultz
- Vic Santucci

Western Division Rep.:

- Ron Remmick
- Linda Prendergast

Biographies:

President Elect Nominee

- **Stephen G. Rideout**

Most of Steve's career has been involved with fisheries management and his current research directly supports management needs. Steve is currently the Director of the S.O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center, USGS Biological Resources Division, where he directs a five area program on anadromous and migratory fishes. He is also the Chief of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance, USFWS, where he represents the Service on the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, several Fisheries Management Boards of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the New England FMC's Essential Fish Habitat Technical Team.

Steve said he would be honored to serve the Section as President Elect. He has a long history of service to the AFS including: President -Elect and President of Northeastern Division AFS (1983-1985) and recipient of Division's Dwight Webster award for professional service to the Division (1995); Distinguished Service Award, AFS (1986), President - Elect and President, Southern New England Chapter, AFS (1978-1980); Program Chair (1990) for AFS Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA; and twice Nominated for Second Vice-President American Fisheries Society (1986 and 1990). Steve was the Associate Editor for the North American Journal of Fisheries Management from 1982 to 1984.

Secretary/Treasurer Nominees (2)

- **Cliff Stone**

Cliff graduated with a B.S. and M.S. from South Dakota State University and has been working for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, & Parks since 1981. He is currently employed as a Senior Wildlife Biologist (reservoir fisheries) in charge of fisheries research and management on the lower two Missouri River reservoirs and associated stretches of river. He has been an active member of AFS since 1979 and was certified by AFS as a Fisheries Scientist in 1985. He served the Dakota Chapter as membership co-chair (2 years), vice-president (1988) and president (1995-96). He has also served AFS as the North Central Division Representative to the Fisheries Management Section for two years. In 1992 he served as the Registration chairman for the national AFS meeting held in Rapid City in 1992. He has been an active participant in the Walleye Technical committee and a member of the Fisheries Management, Computer Users, and Fisheries Administrators sections.

He feels that the Fisheries Management Section has served its membership well by promoting sound fisheries management practices, developing new management concepts, and encouraging professional growth and development of its membership. Cliff welcomed the opportunity to serve the Fisheries Management Section as secretary/treasure and would work to continue the strong voice that the Section has within our Society.

- **John Copeland**

John is in his 8th year as a fisheries biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). He currently works in the southwestern portion of the state where his primary responsibilities are fisheries management and research on reservoirs, small impoundments, rivers, and streams. He coordinates the VDGIF Stream Survey Project, which is an effort to increase knowledge of stream fish distributions across the state. John participates in a number of VDGIF internal committees, but feels that his work as a member of the aquatic education committee is the most important. He believes fisheries professionals need to reach constituents with the message of the societal benefits of fisheries management and research.

John holds a B.S. degree in fisheries science from Virginia Tech and a M.S. degree in zoology from North Carolina State University. He is seeking the office of Secretary-Treasurer as a means of giving back to his profession. In 1984, he was named the Virginia Tech

See J. Copeland Page 3 . . .

Fms 2000 election

J. Copeland (continued) …

Chapter's Outstanding Member for his involvement as Vice-President. While he was in graduate school, John was a member of the Southern Division's Student Affairs Committee. From 1996 to 1999, he served as the Virginia Chapter's Secretary and Newsletter Editor. John is currently involved in Southern Division affairs as the VDGIF representative to the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee and was recently appointed as Outreach Liaison for that committee. If elected as Secretary-Treasurer, John will work to make Section activities more visible by fostering media contacts. He will support the Section's commitment to its current projects and faithfully manage the Section's financial resources. Finally, he will continue to emphasis the newsletter as a means of fostering communication among Section members, but will also explore avenues to increase electronic communication.

Southern Rep. Nominees (2)

- **David Buckmeier**

Dave is a Fisheries Research Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. He earned his Bachelor degree from the University of North Dakota in 1993 and his Master degree from Tennessee Technological University in 1995. Since graduation, he has worked as a Fisheries Biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and as a Research Associate at Auburn University. Dave gained first-hand experience in fisheries management of cold and warmwater fisheries while in North Carolina and emphasized experimental design and implementation while at Auburn. In his current employment, Dave's research concentrates on applied issues affecting fisheries management.

Dave has a diverse background in fisheries management. He has worked with most sport fish species and his research has concentrated on improving management of largemouth bass, crappie, channel and flathead catfish, sauger, and trout. Dave is familiar with fisheries management issues affecting streams, rivers, and reservoirs. His research has concentrated on fish population dynamics and evaluating aging and marking methods. Current research projects include evaluating components of the Florida largemouth bass stocking program in Texas, developing improved methods for aging channel catfish, and compiling a review of marking methods for evaluating fry and fingerling stockings.

- **Victor DiCenzo**

Victor is a graduate of Virginia Tech (B.S.) and Tennessee Tech University (M.S.) and his professional career has been centered around fisheries management. Currently, Vic is a fisheries biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries where he is responsible for management of many fisheries. Until recently he was a district biologist for Texas Parks & Wildlife. He also worked on several reservoir research projects as a research associate at Auburn University. Victor welcomed the opportunity to serve the Section as Representative.

North east Rep. Nominee

- **Tim Brush**

Tim Brush is a Senior Principal Biologist with Normandeau Associates, Inc. and manages Normandeau's Vermont Office. Tim has an M.S. in Wildlife Management from Frostburg State University and B.S. in Biology from Waynesburg College. Tim began his fisheries career with RMC Environmental Services (since acquired by Normandeau) in 1983. He spent 8 years at RMC's Muddy Run Ecological Lab in Lancaster County, PA working primarily on American shad restoration and power plant impact assessment in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1991, Tim moved to New England to establish the Vermont Office. In addition to managing numerous large programs related to Atlantic salmon and American shad restoration to the Connecticut River basin, Tim has extensive experience in hydro impact assessment and FERC relicensing in more than a dozen states throughout the Northeast, upper Midwest, and Pacific Northwest. He has been an AFS member since 1984 and served on the Professionalism and Continuing Ed committees. In addition to the Fisheries Management Section, he belongs to the Bioengineering and Computer Users Sections as well as numerous chapters throughout the country.

North Central Rep. Nominees (2)

- **Randy Shultz**

Randy has worked for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks as a research biologist for the past six years. Prior to that, he spent two years as a district/urban biologist with KDWP. His current research efforts relate mostly to fisheries management activities in both large and small impoundments, although he has remained active in urban fisheries.

The American Fisheries Society has figured prominently in his education and career since 1988. He served the Parent Society as a member of the Publications Award Committee, AFS2000 Committee Representative, and as co-organizer for the White Bass Ecology & Management Symposium, 130th AFS Annual Meeting. He has been a member of the Fisheries Management Section since 1995, and served on this year's Nominating Committee. Randy has been active in the NCD as a Centrarchid Technical Committee Representative since 1996, and is the current chair-elect for this committee. He has been a member of the Kansas Chapter since 1992, where he

See R. Shultz Page 4 …

Fms 2000 election

R. Shultz (continued) …

has held many executive positions including president, and served on the Continuing Education, Nominating, and Arrangement committees. From 1990-1992 he was a member of the Tennessee Chapter, where he was the student member of the Executive Committee.

- **Vic Santucci**

Vic has been working as a fisheries research biologist with the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee, Illinois since 1991. He has also worked as a biologist on fisheries related projects with the Illinois Natural History Survey, LMS Engineers, and the Fisheries Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in zoology from SIUC and is a Certified Fisheries Scientist. Vic joined the American Fisheries Society in 1983 and became a member of the Fisheries Management Section soon afterwards. He has been active in the Society at the chapter level and is the current Past-president of the Illinois Chapter. In addition, he recently chaired the Best Paper and Poster Awards Committee for fisheries presentations at the 61st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and is a volunteer on the program committee for the 130th Annual Meeting of AFS. Vic's professional interests have always been directed toward fisheries management, including lake management, fish population assessment, creel surveys, fish stocking, and more recently stream and wetland restoration. If elected, this would be his first opportunity to actively participate in the Fisheries Management Section.

Western Div. Nominees (2)

- **Ron Remmick**

Originally from Colorado, Ron graduated from Colorado State University in 1976. He was hired by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in 1997 as a Fish Culturist at the Speas Rearing Station . In 1978 Ron received a fisheries biologist position in Pinedale, Wyoming. Much of his work in Pinedale focused on native cutthroat, and wilderness fisheries management. In 1996 Ron was promoted to Regional Fisheries Supervisor for the Green River region. Much of his responsibilities continue to focus on native cutthroat management in the Green River and Bear River drainages. In addition, he is responsible for recreational fisheries management in man-made impoundments such as Flaming Gorge Reservoirs. Ron has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1979 and served on various committees including chairing a Western Division committee that produced an audio slide show on Riparian Management in Western Streams. He is currently the Past-President for the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the AFS after serving as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. Ron has presented papers at Western Division, Colorado-Wyoming Chapter, and "Wild Trout" meetings.

- **Linda Prendergast**

Linda is a far cry from her home "town" - the Bronx, New York! While pursuing educational (M.S. Fisheries) and job opportunities in fisheries, she has lived in Wisconsin and Arizona before settling in the Northwest. Her job experiences range from bass and bluegill management, Apache trout restoration to predator/prey research on the Columbia river. For the past 11 years, she has worked for a private utility company based in Portland, Oregon. Most of her responsibility involves relicensing hydroelectric projects which includes such issues as instream flows, fish passage, water quality, and compatibility with local state and federal management plans. When she's not working, she loves to ski, scuba dive, fish, and kayak.

Editor's note:

Enclosed in this issue of the FMS newsletter is a ballot for the FMS 2000 election of officers and representatives. Please make an effort to fill out and return the enclosed ballot.

The deadline for ballot submission is July 15, 2000

STATE TO ALLOW SMALL-SCALE SPINY DOGFISH FISHERY

Released April 18,2000 Mass. Dept. Fisheries Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement
Contact: David Pierce (617) 626-1532
http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/press/

At its April 13 meeting, the state's Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) decided to adopt Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) recommendations for management of the spiny dogfish fishery beginning May 1, 2000. DMF has developed an alternate management program for state waters that contrasts with the Secretary of Commerce's recent decision to end the dogfish directed fishery in federal waters for at least 10 years by imposing a federal quota of just 4 million lbs. to be taken only as bycatch in other fisheries.

Director, Paul J. Diodati, explained to the MFC: "Using the same NMFS quota projection model and assumptions, DMF has concluded that an annual 8.8 million lbs. (4,000 mt) quota is consistent with the federal rebuilding timeframe and will drastically reduce dogfish fishing mortality."

Diodati continued, "By allowing fishermen to land 7 million lbs. of spiny dogfish, we provide for a small, tightly controlled fishery in state waters. This fishery will maintain some dogfish industry infrastructure and allow DMF to collect biological data on the dogfish stock while rebuilding the resource and eliminating overfishing. This quota and a landing limit of 7,000 lbs. also will help reduce regulatory discards where fishermen are forced to toss overboard saleable fish." Recent years' coastwide landings have been 45-50 million lbs. Seven million lbs. represents: (1) a greatly reduced harvest of about 80%, (2) a small-scale directed fishery in state waters, and (3) allowable landings of bycatch of dogfish taken in other fisheries in state and federal waters at 600 lbs. per trip.

DMF is disappointed with the Secretary of Commerce's decision to close the federal waters' directed fishery. The federal plan attempts to achieve an unattainable low fishing mortality rate of less than 3% annually. It attempts to create a biomass of mature female dogfish of about 441 million lbs. (200,000 metric tons) in 10 years. In actuality, a late-breaking NMFS analyses showed it actually will take about 17 years to reach this biomass target.

DMF's approach is more consistent with the national standards of federal law – the Sustainable Fisheries Act. Unlike the federal plan, DMF better meets National Standard 9 by reducing dogfish discards and not causing regulatory discards. The federal plan is silent on how to reduce discards, and it will cause large amounts of regulatory discards – a minimum of 10 million lbs. per year potentially overwhelming the federal rebuilding efforts to the relatively high 441 millions lbs. target. With this federally-imposed target, the Councils now will find themselves having to consider restricting other fisheries (such as groundfish in New England and summer flounder in the mid-Atlantic) to address dogfish rebuilding concerns because dogfish are unavoidable bycatch in many other fisheries.

DMF also minimizes adverse economic impacts on fishing communities such as Chatham, Scituate, and Plymouth (National Standard 8). The federal plan disregards economic impact on these fishing ports. For example, in its final rule implementing the Plan, the National Marine Fisheries Service calls Scituate and Plymouth "bedroom communities and tourist areas" to justify NMFS not having to consider economic impacts of the prolonged closure on these fishing ports. Scituate and Plymouth (and Chatham) are very dependent on dogfish. DMF strongly disagrees with this NMFS characterization. Other state restrictions have been implemented:

- Commercial fishermen landing dogfish from state waters must obtain a DMF regulated fishery permit, and dealers purchasing dogfish must obtain DMF authorization and report their purchases to DMF.
- Dogfish less than 31" (80 cm) cannot be landed.
- Dogfish gillnetters are prohibited from setting their gear overnight. All gillnets must be on board and returned to the dock each day with the vessel. Fishermen who leave gillnets in the water are limited to 600 lbs., the federal trip limit for May 1 through October 31. This is a major change in state waters gillnetting since until these new regulations, dogfish caught by gillnets in Massachusetts waters have been with overnight or multi-day sets.
- Only those dogfish gillnetters who can document fishing for dogfish in Massachusetts waters three out of the last five years (1995-1999) will be able to target dogfish with gillnets. Gillnetters file catch reports with DMF, and these reports will be used to determine fishing history in state waters.
- Only gillnets with at least a 6 ½" mesh opening can be fished.
- No more than thirty 300-foot gillnets can be set. The maximum length of a gillnet is 2,400 feet.

DMF's recommendations and the MFC decision are consistent with our understanding that spiny dogfish are slow-growing/maturing. The commercial fishery along the Atlantic coast has intensified over the last decade and has focused on the largest fish, which happen to be large females. To sustain a fishery, fishing mortality has to be fairly low; otherwise, the population will

See Dogfish Page 7 . . .

articles

CRITICAL HABITAT DESGINATED FOR TWO THREATENED FISH

Jeff Humphrey (602) 640-2720 X-222 Tom Bauer (505) 248-6285
http://news.fws.gov/newsreleases/

Responding to a court order, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today designated 898 miles of rivers and streams in Arizona and New Mexico as critical habitat for two threatened fish species, the spikedace and the loach minnow.

Critical habitat refers to specific geographic areas that are essential for the conservation and recovery of threatened or endangered species and which may require special management considerations. These areas do not necessarily have to be occupied by the species at the time of designation.

The designation does not set up a preserve or refuge. It has no impact on private landowners taking actions on their land that do not involve Federal funding or permits. For actions where Federal funding or a Federal permit is involved, the designation of critical habitat triggers the need to consult with the Service. For most areas, these actions already require consultation.

"By definition, the designation of critical habitat is limited in its impact," said Nancy Kaufman, the Service's regional director for the Southwest Region. "As threatened species, the spikedace and loach minnow already are protected wherever they occur. The critical habitat designation will contribute to their conservation by helping Federal agencies determine when they must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service before taking a proposed action that might adversely modify vital habitat."

"We do not expect the designation to have a substantial economic impact on the region or on private landowners. Nationwide, relatively few projects have ever been stopped or significantly altered as a result of critical habitat consultations," Kaufman said. "In Arizona and New Mexico, we believe that economic activities such as grazing can be compatible with the conservation of the spikedace and loach minnow provided that habitat is maintained in good condition."

The critical habitat covers 822 miles for the spikedace and 894 miles for the loach minnow in portions of the Gila, San Francisco, Blue, Black, Verde, and San Pedro rivers and some tributaries in Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, and Yavapai counties in Arizona, and Catron, Grant, and Hidalgo counties in New Mexico. It includes areas in the flood plains of these rivers and tributaries.

The Service held four public hearings, solicited biological and economic information from Federal and State agencies and local governments, and considered hundreds of comments in the deliberation process. Service biologists thoroughly reviewed all comments and information submitted before making the final designation. Although originally proposed for designation, the Black River of Arizona was excluded from designation as spikedace critical habitat for biological reasons. No Tribal lands have been designated for either species.

The spikedace and loach minnow both are small fish less than three inches long. The spikedace has silvery sides. The loach minnow is olive-colored (males are brilliantly colored during spawning) with upward-directed eyes. Both require perennial streams, where they inhabit shallow riffles with sand, gravel, and rubble substrates free of fine sedimentation; moderate to swift currents; and swift pools over sand or gravel substrates. They were listed as threatened in 1986 due to habitat destruction and the introduction of non-native fishes.

The Service designated critical habitat for the two species in 1994. However, the 10th Circuit Federal Court determined that such critical habitat designations must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As a result, in March 1998, the Service rescinded the designated critical habitat. Responding to a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, the U.S. District Court ordered the Service to reconsider the designation of critical habitat and perform all NEPA compliance requirements and develop Endangered Species Act biological and economic justifications within 150 days by February 17, 2000 - later extended until April 21, 2000.

Many of the areas designated as critical habitat were included in the 1994 designation. Some of the areas are already designated as critical habitat for other endangered and threatened species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher (a bird), razorback sucker (a fish), and Huachuca water umbel (an aquatic plant).

The Desert Fishes Recovery Team - composed of State, Federal, and academic fishery scientists - has recommended recovery goals and strategies for these two fishes. Consistent with those recommendations, today's designation includes areas historically occupied by the spikedace and loach minnow that are not currently occupied. These unoccupied areas are essential to the conservation and recovery of the species because they link presently occupied riverine areas with unoccupied but habitable stream stretches where the species can disperse. The Service designated flood plains in some areas because recurrent natural flooding is important to maintaining the habitat of the two species and helps them maintain a competitive edge over invading non-native aquatic species.

See Threatened fish Page 7 . . .

articles

SAMPLING SHAD IN SOUTHERN IMPOUNDMENTS

A publication by the Reservoir Committee detailing an intensive study from Lake Texoma Oklahoma-Texas.

http://www.sdafs.org/reservor/manuals/shad/shadthon.htm

The paucity of published information on shad sampling methodologies prompted the AFS Southern Division Reservoir Committee to design a study to determine the relative effectiveness of several sampling techniques for estimating abundance and size distribution of gizzard shad and threadfin shad populations. Six sampling methods, including hydroacoustics, electrofishing, gill nets, rotenone, seines, and midwater trawls, were used concurrently to obtain data from three sites on Lake Texoma, Oklahoma-Texas, in August, 1991. Shad were collected to compare density estimates, precision, and length-frequency distributions among gear types. Sampling characteristics of individual gears also were evaluated to define sample-size requirements, interpret spatial patterns of shad abundance, and recommend gear and sampling improvements.

This booklet is intended to provide fisheries researchers and managers with some general guidelines in developing a shad sampling protocol suited to their specific needs. Gear-specific results will be presented and recommendations as to sample design will be made. A detailed description of the methods and results of this study can be found in a series of eight manuscripts published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Volume 15(4).

Editor's note: All income from the sale of advertising goes toward publication of this newsletter. Anyone wishing to advertise in the FMS newsletter should contact Gregory Moyer at 618-549-7761 (grmoyer@siu.edu).

Dogfish (continued) . . .

collapse and take many years to recover. Fortunately, at this time, spiny dogfish abundance is near historical highs with a pulse of good recruitment presenting an immediate rebuilding opportunity.

Threatened fish (continued) . . .

The Service published the rule designating critical habitat for the two species in today's Federal Register. The rule, Final Economic Analysis, and Final Environmental Assessment for this critical habitat designation are available on the Service's website at http://ifw2es.fws.gov/arizona. Copies can also be requested by writing to Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 W. Royal Palm Rd., Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 520 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

AFS 2000: FMS-SPONSERED SYMPOSIA

BLACK BASS 2000

ORGANIZERS

David Philipp, Illinois Natural History Survey and **Mark Ridgway**, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

SPONSORS

AFS Fisheries Management Section, Genetics Section, Fisheries Administrators Section, Canadian Aquatic Resources Section, Northeast and North Central Division, IL Chapter, Florida Chapter

A number of new issues and entire fields of research relevant to bass biology and management have arisen since the first National Bass Symposium in 1975. It is time for a new synthesis. To accomplish this, a special symposium entitled ***Black Bass 2000: The Ecology, Conservation and Management of Black Bass*** will be held, spanning four days (Aug. 21-24, 2000).

There will be three special sessions, one organized around each of the three main themes of the symposium. Roy Stein (Ohio State University) will be the keynote speaker under the Ecology theme, addressing the role of bass in structuring communities. Invited talks will cover such topics as reproductive ecology, trophic ecology, community ecology, and recruitment. As the keynote speaker for the Conservation theme, Brian Shuter (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & University of Toronto) will take an individual-based modeling approach for addressing population-level conservation issues. Invited talks will cover topics such as habitat restoration, conservation genetics, and rare species. Rich Noble (North Carolina State University) will be the keynote speaker for Management and will review the history and effectiveness of regulations. Invited speakers will present material dealing with a variety of management issues in river, lake, and reservoir fisheries, including tournaments, trophy programs, and human dimensions.

Midway through the symposium, there will be an interactive session bringing together policy makers, resource managers, anglers, biologists, and media/industry representatives to discuss relevant, current issues important to Black Bass. When combined, these various sessions should constitute a watershed event for the future of Black Bass fisheries.

FISHERIES GIS 2000

ORGANIZER

Michael D. Porter, Mississippi Valley State University

SPONSORS

AFS Computer User Section , AFS Fisheries Management Section

The symposium will present current techniques for applying geographic information systems (GIS) to fishery research and management in stream, river, lake, and marine environments, and provide general fishery practitioners an opportunity to learn how innovative GIS techniques can be applied to fishery and environmental management. The session will cover topics related to integrating hydrology and ecology for the development of GIS models, identifying targets for the conservation of aquatic biodiversity, predicting stream habitats and fish diversity using GIS, multi-dimensional GIS, the role of GIS in exploratory spatial data analysis, distribution of pathogens in populations of salmonids, measuring the effects of reservoir operations, spatial methods to delineate fish distributions, integrating sonic-tracking and benthic mapping to measure habitat selection, assessing the effects of watershed characteristics on stream fish communities, and assessing the effects of flow alterations on the spatial distribution of fish habitat.

ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF WHITE BASS

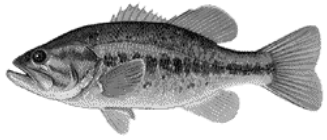
ORGANIZERS

Christopher S. Guy, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; **Randy Schultz**, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; **Mike Colvin**, Missouri Department of Conservation

SPONSOR

Fisheries Management Section

This Poster Symposium will highlight the life history of the white bass *Morone chrysops*, which is an important predator in lentic and lotic ecosystems and an important component of the sport fishery in many states. The objective of the symposium is to disseminate the current research on white bass ecology and management. Poster topics will be related to white bass population characteristics, river and reservoir components of creel survey design, comparison of electrofishing and gill netting, factors related to year class strength, variation in growth and condition, analysis of minimum length limits, spatial and temporal larval distribution, and catch and release characteristics.



AFS 2000: FMS-SPONSERED SYMPOSIA

CHALLENGES OF CRAPPIE MANAGEMENT CONTINUING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

ORGANIZER

Jeff Boxrucker, Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory

SPONSOR

AFS Fisheries Management Section

The objective of this symposium is to synthesize research conducted since the last AFS-sponsored symposium on crappie, *Pomoxis* spp., which was held in conjunction with the 120th Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA in 1990. High angler interest in crappie across the Midwestern and southeastern United States has caused management agencies to place a higher emphasis on crappie management and research over the past 15 years. Session topics will be related to information about managing with size limits, density-dependent growth with predators, electrofishing, population assessment methods, environmental effects on recruitment, and bioenergetics modeling. An accompanying poster session will include topics related to length limit management, estimating required sample sizes for management, gear evaluation for population assessment, and size selectivity of crappie angling.

CATCH-RELATED ASPECTS OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING EXPERIENCE

ORGANIZER

David K. Loomis, University of Massachusetts

SPONSORS

Committee on the Human Dimensions of Recreational Fisheries, formed under the auspices of the AFS Fisheries Management Section

Both catch and non-catch aspects of the recreational fishing experience are important to the understanding of angler behavior, preferences, satisfaction and management. It is now recognized that anglers can be successful in catching fish, but still have an unsatisfactory experience if the non-catch aspects of the trip are of poor quality. It is also understood that anglers might not catch any fish, yet be satisfied with their fishing trip. The purpose of this symposium is to provide a forum for the presentation of research on catch-related aspects of the angling experience.

The session will cover topics related to put-and-take fisheries, comparisons of anglers targeting diverse species, catch-related fishery management actions and reactions, development of a scale for measuring angler attitudes and satisfactory fishing success, and catch and release behavior of saltwater anglers.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN: ECOLOGY, ISSUES, AND MANAGEMENT

ORGANIZERS

David L. Galat, Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit ; **Steven G. Gutreuter,** U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center; **Harold L. Schramm, Jr**. Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

SPONSORS

Fisheries Management Section, Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Missouri River Natural Resource Committee, Missouri Department of Conservation, ORSANCO, Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division

Three of North America's largest rivers the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio rivers coalesce to form the Mississippi River Basin (MRB). With a watershed as large as 41% of the United States and portions of two Canadian provinces, the MRB affects, and has been affected by, the development of North America. Although supporting locally important fisheries and endemic species, management of the MRB has been the realm primarily of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE).

For decades, the fisheries of this multijurisdictional and multi-use resource were largely ignored. Improved water quality and completion of much of the alteration of the rivers in the MRB

See Mississippi River Page 10 . . .

AFS 2000: FMS-SPONSERED SYMPOSIA

Mississippi River (continued) . . .

stimulated some fisheries research and management activities by state and federal resource management agencies. However, integrated multijurisdiction management and research goals and objectives are lacking.

Increased river recreation and acknowledgment of the natural resource and historical values of great rivers has stimulated interest in the ecology and the management of the large rivers of the MRB. Social, economic, and political issues affect the research and management environment. Future understanding of the ecology and management of MRB can benefit from communication among the different stakeholders affecting and affected by the MRB. Several presentations at this symposium will focus on overarching issues and on the roles and responsibilities of different management agencies. Key management problems and the scientific information needed to implement and evaluate management alternatives will be identified. The majority of presentations will synthesize current knowledge of fisheries ecology and management. Presentations at this symposium will be guided by common themes to help explore ways in which the different rivers are both similar and different.

Participants and attendees will benefit from information and recognition of information gaps about the structure, function, and management of the MRB fisheries resources. This symposium is intended to stimulate the conservation and management of the fisheries and other living resources of the MRB.

Format for the Mississippi River Basin: Ecology, Issues, and Management symposium (see page 9)

- The symposium will be a full day and consist of 22 invited podium presentations with a **keynote address by Richard (Rip) Sparks.**
- Moderators: David Galat, Steve Gutreuter, Hal Schramm, and Jerry Schulte
- Audiovisual Needs:
  2x2 slides, LCD projector, overhead projector, tape recorder
- Overview presentations (**1-4** are 30 minute presentations with 10 minute question/discussion, **5** is 15 minute presentation with 5 minute question/discussion)

1. Fisheries research needs and priorities in the Mississippi River Basin
2. Management of the Mississippi River Basin for navigation, flood control, and fisheries: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3. Multi-use management of the Mississippi River Basin: a state agency perspective
4. Multi-use management of the Mississippi River Basin: a multijurisdictional perspective
5. Research framework to assess ecosystem effects relative to the scale and dynamics of large river systems (Bruce Lippincott)

- Missouri River (15 minute presentations with 5 minute question/discussion)
  1. Back to the basics: population dynamics of benthic fishes along the Missouri River
  2. The importance of floodplain connectivity to the Missouri River ecosystem
  3. Bioassessment needs and progress in the Missouri River
- Ohio River (15 minute presentations with 5 minute question/discussion)
  1. Fisheries and water quality: past, present, and future
  2. Biological assessment of a river-reservoir system
  3. Recreational fisheries opportunities, use, and management in the Ohio River
  4. Impacts of invasive species on Ohio River fisheries
- Upper Mississippi River (15 minute presentations with 5 minute question/discussion)
  1. Management challenges in the new millennium: what problems will we face and how might we solve them?
  2. Strategies for developing a consensus about desirable future conditions
  3. A critical appraisal of knowledge of factors limiting aquatic biological resources of the upper Mississippi River system
  4. A blueprint for development of an adaptive management framework for the upper Mississippi River system.
- Lower Mississippi River (15 minute presentations with 5 minute question/discussion)
  1. Habitat loss, conservation, and creation in a floodplain-river ecosystem
  2. Recruitment dynamics of lower Mississippi River fishes

- **With one exception, speakers have not yet been confirmed**.

ALABAMA STURGEON TO RECEIVE FEDERAL PROTECTION UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Released May 2, 2000 Contact: Tom MacKenzie
404/ 679-7291
http://southeast.fws.gov/news/2000

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today listed the Alabama sturgeon, a rare fish of prehistoric origins, as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A species is listed as endangered when it is at risk of extinction through all or a significant portion of its range.

The decision was largely based on the species' small population size and inability to sustain a viable population. The Alabama sturgeon has disappeared from approximately 85 percent of its historic range. Only five Alabama sturgeon have been captured in the last four years despite intensive efforts by Federal and State biologists. Two Alabama sturgeons, both male, remain in captivity. The listing protects the Alabama sturgeon from take including killing, harming, harassing, possessing, or removing the species from the wild; requires Federal agencies to protect the species and its habitat; and makes additional funding available to support recovery, including grants to State conservation programs.

"After many months of careful review, consideration and discussion of the best available scientific information and more than 4,000 public comments, and taking into account ongoing conservation efforts by the State of Alabama and others, I am confident that listing the Alabama sturgeon as endangered is the right decision," said Sam Hamilton, the Service's regional director for the Southeast Region. "When a species is as imperilled as the Alabama sturgeon, the Fish and Wildlife Service is required by law to take action."

"We have worked closely with the community to protect this fish and other resources of the Alabama-Tombigbee River Basin, and we've listened closely to what people have had to say on this listing proposal," Hamilton said. "In the final analysis, we are required to go where the science takes us, and the science tells us that this fish needs all the protection it can get."

Of the more than 4,000 public comments that were submitted on the March 1999 proposal to list the Alabama sturgeon and related issues, those supporting the listing generally said there is no doubt that the species is endangered and that the Endangered Species Act requires that it be listed. Those opposing the listing expressed generally three categories of concern - the potential that the listing would result in economic decline, that current conservation actions are adequate to protect the fish, and that questions remain over the status of the species.

"Concerns about economic decline on the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers as a result of listing the Alabama sturgeon are unfounded," said Hamilton. "There are four protected aquatic species already in these rivers, and negative economic impacts have not occurred. Putting the Alabama sturgeon on the endangered species list will not change the status quo on these rivers. Current activities, such as navigation channel dredging, hydroelectric power production, agricultural and silvicultural will not be stopped."

The Service, for example, has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to address concerns about the potential effects of listing the Alabama Sturgeon on navigation and other uses of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers. The Corps and the Service developed a written analysis, known as a White Paper, that states that navigation channel maintenance, among other activities, will not adversely affect the Alabama sturgeon.

Much has already been done for the conservation of the species. In February, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Tombigbee Rivers Coalition, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed a Conservation Agreement and Strategy for the species. The agreement will expedite measures needed to ensure the Alabama sturgeon's existence and recovery.

"With the Conservation Agreement and Strategy in place we have certainly taken a major step in the recovery process, but still we're just starting. We absolutely need all of the original partners to continue their good work and new partners to join us as we work to bring the Alabama sturgeon back from the brink of extinction," Hamilton said.

The Alabama sturgeon is a slender, golden-yellow, freshwater fish that was historically widespread in the Mobile River Basin of Alabama and Mississippi. It grows to about 30 inches in length and weighs two to three pounds. It was once so abundant it was caught and sold commercially. Biologists attribute the decline of the species to over-fishing, loss and fragmentation of its habitat due to navigation-related development, and decline in water quality. Scientific evidence supports the Alabama sturgeon as a distinct species. The American Society of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists and the American Fisheries Society, both national scientific organizations, recognize the Alabama sturgeon as a separate species.

The Service will designate critical habitat for the Alabama sturgeon next year. Critical habitat is a term used in the Endangered Species Act to refer to specific geographic areas that are essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and may require special management considerations.

The Service will publish its decision to

See Sturgeon Page 14 . . .

FMS-PAST AND PRESENT

Year: 1999-2000
President: Jeff Boxrucker
President elect: Tim Hess
Sec/Treas: Rob Neumann
Northeast Rep.: Doug Stang
Southern Rep.: Frank Fiss
North Central Rep.: Paul Michaletz
Western Rep.: Linda Prendergast
Newsletter eds.: Greg Moyer, Brian Sloss

Year: 1997-1998
President: Steve Filipek
President elect: Jeff Boxrucker
Sec/Treas: Chris Guy
Northeast Rep.: Doug Stang
Southern Rep.: Jim Borawa
North Central Rep.: Cliff Stone
Western Rep.: Bob Gresswell
Newsletter eds.: Tim Spier, Ed Wetzel

Year: 1995-1996
President: Bob Wiley
President elect: Steve Filipek
Sec/Treas: Jeff Boxrucker
Northeast Rep.: Bruce Hollander
Southern Rep.: Bob Betsill
North Central Rep.: Dave Willis
Western Rep.: Gary Carmichael
Newsletter eds.: Bradd Sims, James Rudacille

Year: 1993-1994
President: Hal Schramm
President elect: Bob Wiley
Sec/Treas: Jeff Boxrucker
Northeast Rep.: Al Schiavone
Southern Rep.: Steve Filipek
North Central Rep.: Steve Waters
Western Rep.: Vaughn Paragamian
Newsletter eds.: Paul Willis

Year: 1991-1992
President: Tom Gengerke
President elect: Hal Schramm
Sec/Treas: Ann Kiley
Northeast Rep.: Dennis McNeish
Southern Rep.: Jeff Boxrucker
North Central Rep.: Dave Tunink
Western Rep.: Tim Modde
Newsletter eds.: Chris Guy

Year: 1989-1990
President: Jim Addis
President elect: Tom Gengerke
Sec/Treas: Jan Dean
Northeast Rep.: Al Schiavone
Southern Rep.: Larry Cofer
North Central Rep.: Mike Hansen
Western Rep.: Karen Pratt
Newsletter eds.: Tom Pellett

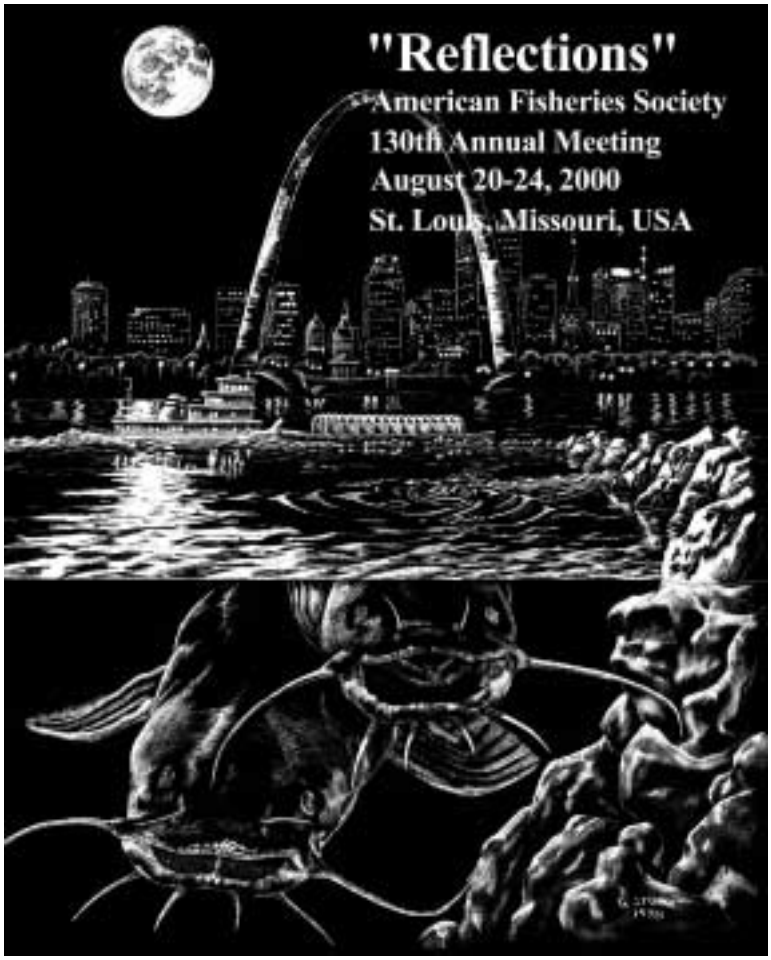
Year: 1987-1988
President: Don Duff
President elect: Jim Addis
Sec/Treas: Don Bonneau
Northeast Rep.: Rickalon Hoopes
Southern Rep.: Marty Hale
North Central Rep.: James Wahl
Western Rep.: Janet Decker-Hess
Newsletter eds.: Rich Wehnes

Year: 1985-1986
President: David Whitehurst
President elect: Don Duff
Sec/Treas: Al Elser
Northeast Rep.: Steve Rideout
Southern Rep.: Larry Olmstead
North Central Rep.: Jack Wingate
Western Rep.: Wayne Hubert

Year: 1983-1984
President: Lee Redmond
President elect: David Whitehurst
Sec/Treas: Dennis Workman
Northeast Rep.: William Flick
Southern Rep.: Steve Malvestuto
North Central Rep.: Ron Spitler
Western Rep.: Allen Binns
Newsletter eds.: Tim Modde

Year: 1981-1982
President: Ned Fogle
President elect: Lee Redmond
Sec/Treas: Don Reynolds
Northeast Rep.: Catherine Martin
Southern Rep.: Monte Seehorn
North Central Rep.: Stanley Michaelson
Western Rep.: Paul Turner

See Awards Page 14 . . .



YEAR 2000
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
"REFLECTIONS"
August 20 - 24, 2000
St. Louis, MO
Hosted by:
Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
and
Missouri Department of Conservation
(For more information visit **http://www.fisheries.org/annual2000)**

announcements

Awards (continued) . . .

Award of Excellence

1999: P. Jack Wingate
1997: Don Jackson
1995: Hal Schramm
1993: Dick Anderson

Award of Merit

1999: Steve Filipek
1994: Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
1993: Kim Graham
1992: Sponsors of the Crappie Biology Symposium, Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop
1991: Rich Wehnes

Conservation Achievement Award

1998: River Systems Management Section of the Mid-continent Ecological Science Center
1997: Fish America Foundation
1995: John Lawson-Bureau of Reclamation
1994: N. A. Salmonid Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop
1993: Beaver Tailwater Habitat Group
1992: Missouri Department of Conservation

Hall of Excellence

1999: Richard A. Ryder, Don Gabelhouse, Robert Hunt
1997: John Forney, Rich Noble, Robert Hanten
1996: Monte Seehorn, Otto Fajen
1995: Bob Jenkins, Fred Eisermann, Dennis Schupp
1994: Dick Anderson, Bob Martin, Homer Swingle, Carl Sullivan

Up and coming events

2000

- **April 25–28, 2000: Ecology and Management of Tailwaters in the United States.** Wahweap Marina, Lake Powell, Arizona. Contact Barbara Ralston, 520/556-7455; Bralston@flagmail.wr.usgs.gov.
- **June 6–8, 2000: East Coast Trout Culture and Management Workshop**. Frostburg, Maryland. Sponsored by the AFS Southern Division Trout Committee. Contact Larry Mohn, 540/248-9360; lmohn@dgif.state.va.us.
- **July 23-26, 2000: International Congress on the Biology of Fish**. Aberdeen, Scotland. For more information go to http://www.fishbiologycongress.org. Contact Don MacKinlay; 604/666-3520; MACKINLAYD@PAC.DFO-MPO.GC.CA.
- **August 20–24, 2000: 130th AFS Annual Meeting**. Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Betsy Fritz; 301/897-8616, ext. 212; bfritz@fisheries.org.

2001

- **February 21-25, 2001: Southern Division AFS Midyear Meeting**. Jacksonville Hilton Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact Larry Connor, 352/742-6438 (voice); 352/742-6461 (FAX); connorl@gfc.state.fl.us.
- **August 19–23, 2001: 131st AFS Annual Meeting**. Crowne Plaza Hotel and Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Contact Betsy Fritz, 301/897-8616, ext. 212; bfritz@fisheries.org.

2002

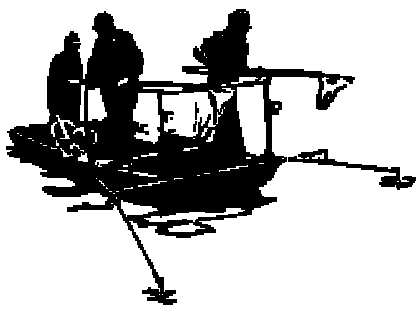
- **August 21–25, 2002: 132nd AFS Annual Meeting**. Baltimore Convention Center, Maryland. Contact Betsy Fritz, 301/897-8616, ext. 212; bfritz@fisheries.org.

Sturgeon (continued) . . .

list the Alabama sturgeon as an endangered species in the *Federal Register* on Friday, May 5.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 520 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

Release #: R00-014



Fms information

Fisheries Management Section

Fisheries Management Section Newsletter is published two times yearly. It is dedicated to maintaining the professional standards of the American Fisheries Management Section, and Fisheries management throughout North America.

Executive Committee:

Editorial Staff:

Editors Addresses and Phone Numbers:

Gregory R. Moyer
Cooperative Fisheries Research Laboratory
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL, 62901-6511
PHONE/FAX: (618) 536-7761
EMAIL: grmoyer@siu.edu

Steven Kerr
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Science and Technology Transfer Unit
Postal Bag 19
Kemptville, ON KOG 1J0, Canada
PHONE: (613) 258-8212
FAX: (613) 258-3920

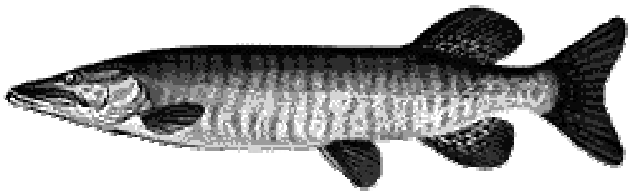
Wendell Willey
CA Cooperative Fishery Research Unit
Humboldt State University
Arcata, CA. 95518
PHONE: (707) 826-3223
E-MAIL: wsw1@humbolt.edu

Michael Vanderford
Division of Federal Aid
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111- 4056
E-MAIL: michael_vanderford@mail.fws.gov

Bill Hyatt
Kenneth Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033
PHONE: (860)-424-3487

Ron Moore
AR Game and Fish Comm
2905 West Oak
Rogers, AR 72756
PHONE: (877)-631-6005
E-MAIL: rmoore@agfc.state.ar.us

Fisheries Management Section dues are $5 per year. Notification of address change should be submitted to the American Fisheries Society office in Bethesda, Maryland.



Fisheries Management Section

American Fisheries Society

Election Ballot Enclosed

AFS-FMS Newsletter
Cooperative Fisheries Research Laboratory
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-6511

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARBONDALE, IL
PERMIT 89