

Fisheries Management Section

of the

American Fisheries Society

(<http://www.sdafs.org/fmsafs/>)



NEWSLETTER VOL. 22 #1

SPRING

✧ President's Message

All I can seem to focus on at the moment is that I should be out shad fishing rather than letting myself get stuck in the office, but here I am. We're in the peak of the annual American shad migration on the Connecticut River and fishing has been really good below the Holyoke Dam from what I hear, but I really need to verify these data myself. I want to follow up on a couple of items that I introduced or mentioned in my last article as they are still important and relevant to our membership I believe.

The first is the continuing process of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Fisheries Program Strategic Vision. As you may recall, I represented AFS and the Section on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council's Fisheries Program Strategic Plan Steering Committee and continue to do so. The final version of the Service's Strategic Vision can be found at the following web site <http://pacific.fws.gov/Fisheries/Docs/VisionDocument.pdf>

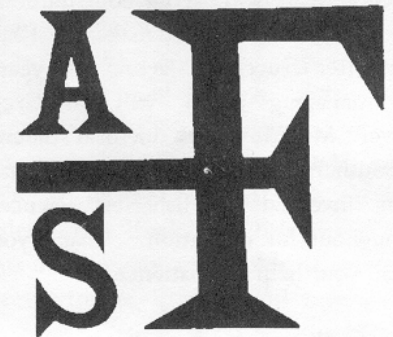
Laury Parramore, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council's Coordinator (703) 358-2541 Laury_Parramore@fws.gov has recently updated the Steering

Committee on the Vision process.

As I noted in our last newsletter, each Region of the FWS has initiated development of step-down regionally focused plans tailored to the resources and issues within their regions. I participated in the Northeast Region's (R5) stakeholder involvement exercise held in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference this past April in Newport, RI. These Regional components will be rolled up and included in the national plan this fall with an opportunity to review provided to the Steering Committee. This is expected to occur by late September or early October 2003. I hope you have been aware of this Regional step-down process and had an opportunity to provide input. I also encourage you to feel free to provide your thoughts, concerns, suggestions, and ideas to me if you wish and I will include them in my continuing input opportunities through the Steering Committee. I expect that this planning exercise will be part of the Fisheries Administrator's agenda at their business meetings in June and at the AFS Annual Meeting in Quebec and I plan to seek additional Section input at our meeting in Quebec also.

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President's Message

The second item relates to the continuing development of the USGS's National Biological Information Infrastructure's (NBII) Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (FAR) Node. Since our last newsletter, Doug Beard, formerly with Wisconsin DNR, and current president of the Computer Users Section has taken the position of FAR Node Coordinator with NBII and is located in Reston, VA. We're really excited about Doug joining us and he, Node Principle Investigator, Cara Campbell (located at the USGS Northern Appalachian Research Lab in Wellsboro, PA), and I have developed a great working relationship to move the evolution of the Node forward. A key component of that has been the establishment of an Advisory Committee. The members are:

Andy Loftus - Loftus Consulting (NMFS contact and MARIS person, etc...)

Bill Taylor - MI State, Sport Fishing and Boating Council

Gil Radonski - Former SFI president, private consultant.

Stan Allen - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Maury Osborn - Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Ruth Keltz - NOS, Coral Reef Representative

Stu Shipman - IN DNR and AFS official representative

Mike Mac - USGS Columbia Lab Director

Doug Stang - New York Inland Fisheries Chief

Dirk Miller - Wyoming Game and Fish & official liaison to IAFWA

Hannibal Bolton - USFWS

Jim Kaptosky - UN/FAO, retired and consultant to USAID

Steve Moyer/Laura Hewitt - Trout Unlimited

Karen Koltes - DOI, coral reef task force representative

Bill Fox - NMFS (potential)

Jeff Waldon - Ex-officio, Conservation Management Institute.

I sure a number of these names are familiar to you as long-time AFS and Section members. You should feel free to contact any of them to provide guidance to the continued development of the Node. I still feel the Node development is in its infancy, but ultimately if it is to be successful, it will need to meet a significant component of the resource conservation and management needs of the typical members of our Section. Thus your willingness to provide input and guidance on a continuing basis will be important.

Finally, I anticipate, that as this newsletter goes to press, we will be in the midst of or wrapping up the Propagated Fishes in Resource Management Symposium, co-sponsored by our Section and the Fisheries Administrator's Section in Boise, ID. I will be attending the Symposium and look forward to the presentations and discussions generated from this third in the series of symposiums related to the use of cultured fish in conservation and management. I have been fortunate to attend the first two and believe this one has been well structured to build on the knowledge and experience gained from the previous efforts. Expect a report on the Symposium at our Annual Meeting in Quebec.

I appreciate that these are exceedingly tough budget times for many fishery management agencies and travel to meetings will be tough to come by. Nevertheless, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual Meeting in Quebec.

Let's go fishing!

Steve Rideout

President

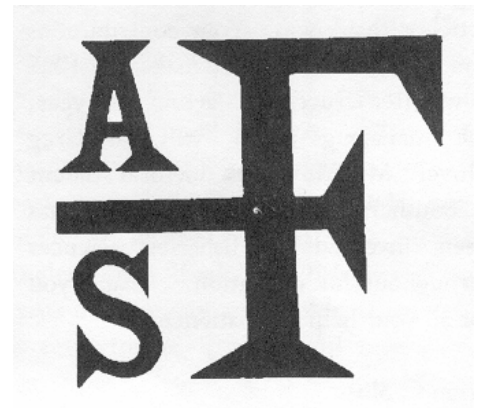
Travel Support to Vancouver

Travel Support for International Member to Vancouver!

At our business meeting in Baltimore last August, the FMS voted to pay the travel costs for an international member of the Section to the 4th World Fisheries Congress as a way to recognize and support this group. FMS would like to fully sponsor an international FMS member (from other than the U.S. and host Canada) to attend this meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from May 2-6, 2004. It is the FMS's intent to cover air travel, lodging, meals and registration costs for this person.

To apply, please send a 1-page letter of interest by August 1, 2003 to

Tim Hess (FMS – Past President)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Division of Federal Aid,
Mail Stop MBSP – 4020, 4401
North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203,
or **e-mail** it to tim_hess@fws.gov



The FMS Executive Committee will make its selection by the annual business meeting in Quebec, and in time for that individual to coordinate with our Secretary-Treasurer regarding payment of the Congress' pre-registration fee and making air-travel reservations.

ISSUE FEEDBACK

The Issue:

1. Is your agency having to cut fisheries management staff or leave vacant positions unfilled for uncomfortably long periods? If so, to what extent? Are the cuts to the extent that you no longer have staff to maintain basic fisheries management projects?
2. What are you doing with your staff to try to maintain basic fisheries management projects in the face of budget cuts? And how is your angler constituency reacting to this?



Virgil Moore

Fisheries Chief
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The Idaho Department of Fish And Game gets no general state funds, our license funds account for about 60% of our budget. License funds continue to hold up sufficient that we have not needed to reduce permanent or temporary staff levels, even though some reduction in license and DJ/WB funds are occurring. We expect to see reductions in budgets and operations in 2005 if license sale do not increase or a fee increase is not approved.

We are looking at existing positions to determine if they can be reassigned to conduct new and different activities. The state agencies of Idaho are operating under a cap on the number of full time positions, IDFG included. This limits our ability to take advantage of soft contract funding. New activities will have to be at the loss of some existing activities. We actually have funds for new full time limited service position but can not get the position approved.

We are beginning to see some concern by anglers as we have to pass up management opportunities due to lack of personnel and funds. We see this most in the development of new fishing waters - lots of opportunities but limited and declining resources.

Gary Isbell

Fisheries Chief
Ohio Division of Wildlife

So far, very few of our positions are being left vacant due to current budget cutbacks. Actually, we made some strategic decisions over the last five years that reduced our staff a bit and now we are much more prepared to deal with the situation. In Ohio, nearly all of our fiscal resources are derived from license fees and Sport Fish Restoration apportionments. The state budget cuts primarily have hit the General Revenue Fund agencies a lot harder. We are conducting basic fisheries operations, management projects, and a healthy amount of research.

We have consolidated many of our functions. That is, we have combined many field work units and utilized more central facilities. This year, we are implementing a new "Inland Management System" in an effort to standardize our sampling of inland lakes. We view this as a step in the direction of getting "more with less". Also, we have tried to purchase equipment that makes more efficient use of our manpower (like really big mowers at hatcheries). I really don't think that the anglers have sensed any reduction in our services

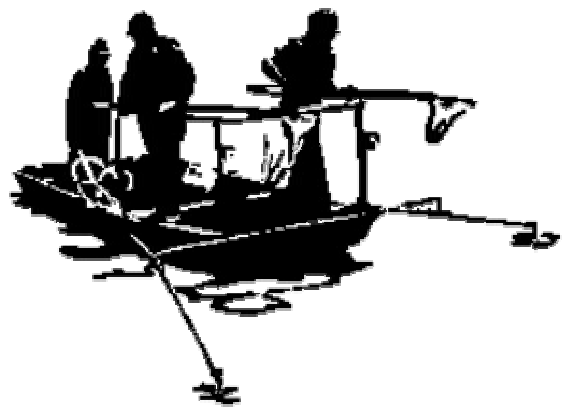
ISSUE FEEDBACK



Douglas L. Stang

Chief, Bureau of Fisheries
NYSDEC

New York State is suffering severe state budget difficulties due to the economic downturn. Our agency has not had to lay-off staff, but we have been under a hiring freeze for a few years now. We have had to leave many positions vacant as staff were promoted, retired or moved on to other employment opportunities. To deal with the most recent budget difficulties, staff were offered an early retirement incentive which most of the Bureau of Fisheries mid to upper-level management staff accepted - which resulted in a tremendous loss of institutional knowledge and management expertise. The attrition that has occurred, with the lack of opportunity to fill positions, has resulted in an unbalance of staff resources among Fisheries Units across the state and, therefore, an unbalanced set of impacts to fisheries resources and our capability to effectively monitor the efficacy of our strategies or undertake projects. The irony of the budget situation is that our Conservation Fund (source - license dollars) is in good shape due to a sporting license fee increase enacted in 2002 and our Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds are stable. Unfortunately we are held to the same hiring and spending constraints as others funded via the state's General Fund.



While the mantra of the 1980's was "Do More with Less," we are currently focusing on "Doing Less - Well" and are working with staff to identify priority programs/ efforts which must be continued and those that can be put on hold until a later date (if ever). We are trying to focus efforts on a reduced number of high-profile projects. We are also utilizing staff from across the state to work together on some larger projects that are high priority and require more staff resources than can be mustered within a Unit or Region. We are continuing our staff development and training activities to help prepare staff for the new and varied roles they are called upon to serve.

Our angling constituency clearly feels shortchanged by the recent fee increase coupled with staff/ program reductions and they have voiced their concerns to the Legislature and Governor. A number of groups have developed "coalitions" in support of our fisheries programs and to more effectively lobby for restoration of fisheries staffing and programs. To date, their concerns have not been addressed (at least it has not yet resulted in a relaxation hiring constraints for sporting-license or federal aid funded positions).

ISSUE FEEDBACK



Dennis Unkenholz

Fisheries Program Administrator
South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks

While the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has not had to cut fisheries positions or leave vacancies open for a length of time, the new governor, Governor Mike Rounds, has implemented a procedure requiring a critical justification be presented prior to filling fulltime vacancies. This new procedure has added a few days to a few weeks to the hiring process. This procedure was implemented to insure all vacancies are necessary as the state prepares for lean times financially. As an agency we have been able to fill all vacancies and have not had to delay completion of any fisheries projects.

Fisheries income and therefore fisheries budgets in South Dakota remain strong. This has allowed fisheries projects to be planned and completed in a timely manner. Fisheries projects are being prioritized in a greater fashion these days in anticipation of future budget reductions. The philosophy of this is to guarantee the most important projects are completed

first. This whole issue is rather transparent to anglers as little has changed from their perspective. While budgets have remained stable, not allowed to grow beyond inflation and staff numbers maintained, the Game, Fish and Parks agency is staff limited in terms of completing additional fisheries projects.

If in the future fisheries staff must be reduced in numbers, one strategy discussed is to contract for development type of projects. A specific example of this might be the hiring of a consultant engineer to develop plans for bidding and project completion for a stream habitat improvement project.

Norm Stucky

Fisheries Division Administrator
Missouri Department of Conservation

While the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is blessed with a diversity of funding sources, all have been impacted by the sluggish economy. MDC employees will soon be entering the third fiscal year without a pay raise. In addition, we are in the process of cutting 50 positions over the next year, and an additional 30 the year after that. Fisheries Division has contributed four positions so far to that total. In most cases to date, the cuts have eliminated supervisory positions; we are making every attempt to spare field positions unless absolutely necessary. With the budget adjustments we have made, our ability to meet basic fisheries management needs for the short

term has not been seriously impacted.

We have made some workload reallocations to accommodate the loss of positions, but given that we have not yet had to downsize our field staff, we don't believe anglers have noticed the changes. We have decreased the frequency in which we survey some lakes and streams, put special emphasis on projects that contain grant monies, utilized retirees as temporary labor to fill important gaps, dropped lower priority activities, and significantly cut back on all acquisition and development projects that are not covered by Sport Fish Restoration funds.

Ron Garavelli

Mississippi Depart. of Wild., Fish. and Parks.

Mississippi cuts are 27.75 % of Fisheries Technical Staff as of the last 10 years. As of May of 2003 some 23 positions remain unfilled. Workload has been cut (i.e. no rotenones, no stream sampling). We have added program such as Community Assistance Program, Kids Fishing Rodeos. These programs are minimum workload with assistance from outside and inside help.

Using other divisions to work on programs. We do what we can. Most projects are managed by Who complains the loudest. This is not good management practice but, with manpower decreased, we do what we can and what is more important to the program. Angler have no concept as to what is being done.

ISSUE FEEDBACK



Don Gabelhouse

Nebraska Game and Parks
Commission

Nebraska has not experienced any problems with maintaining fisheries staff or filling vacancies in recent years. We did lose three FTE's in 1995, but we added one in 2001. We have had to "tighten the belt" on expenditures, especially capital construction; if the drought continues and fishing permit sales continue to decline, we will be forced to reduce expenditures even more.

Choosing what to do and what not to do is a constant and evolving process. We continue to examine where we can get the best "bang for our buck" and re-prioritize our activities. Over the past five years, vacancies have allowed us to redirect staff and operating budgets to create an Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation Program, an Urban Fisheries Program, a

Private Waters Program, a Lake Mapping Program and an Irrigation Reservoir Research Program, with two fewer FTE's than we had before these programs were implemented. We also contract and partner with other agencies and entities to accomplish mutually beneficial activities and we do quite well in securing grants for outside funding



Phil Durocher

Director of Inland Fisheries
Texas Parks and Wildlife

In Texas, we have been under a hiring freeze since February of '03. We currently have 15 vacant positions in the Inland Fisheries Division (of a 193 FTE total). The vacant positions cover the whole range of positions in the Division, from administration, to technicians, to biologists, to support staff.

Fortunately, we have been able to maintain basic fisheries management, research and hatchery functions by temporarily shifting staff around to man priority needs. To help maintain sufficient operating monies to keep the current staff working, we have eliminated all out-of-state travel and capital equipment purchases to supplement savings from the hiring freeze hopefully, by the middle of the summer, we will know the extent of the permanent cuts that will have to be made. We intend to focus on programs and not on across the board cuts. Those programs which provide basic services (closest to our mission) will be maintained and those farthest away from our mission will be reduced to meet budget projections. For instance, the management and hatcheries programs will be top priority. Other functions such as the outreach, marketing, research, etc., will be evaluated for savings. Because we have focused on maintaining our core services, anglers are not yet concerned. They do know that cuts are forthcoming and have been extremely supportive of fee increases to reduce those impacts on fishing.



ISSUE FEEDBACK

Larry Riley

Chief of Fisheries

Arizona Game and Fish Department

In Arizona we scaled back staff through attrition several years ago. This was in response to significant pay increases sought for Wildlife (including fisheries) Series employees sought by the Commission and our Director. While we were able to secure some improved compensation for our employees, budgets could not be increased to accommodate the added labor cost, so positions were cannibalized. This was unfortunate but necessary. We are facing serious budgetary constraints for the upcoming years, despite the fact that our hunters and anglers lobbied for and secured a fee increase several years ago. Our constraints are driven by several factors:

1) Drought, drought, drought, drought (5 years worth)

- a. Our license sales have declined consistently in the past 5 years, and precipitously last year - can't sell licenses to folks whose favorite lakes are dried up or inaccessible due to fire or fire hazards.
- b. In calendar 2002 we saw an 18% decrease in fishing license sales and a 25% decrease in trout stamp sales.

2) Travel concerns and travel costs

- a. Nothing in Arizona is what you'd call real close. With the events of the last 2 years, the public seems less willing to travel. Page, AZ (at Lake Powell) saw a 20% reduction in visitation last summer.
- b. Compounding travel concern is travel cost. Fuel price increases have limited the public's willingness to travel.
- c. Fires and fire hazards significantly constrained travel to AZ's White Mountains last year. National Forest closures began in mid May and continued until the 4th of July, peak trout fishing periods. I believe that travel to fire ravaged Northern AZ was constrained even late in the summer.

3) State Budget crisis

- a. While the AZ Game and Fish Department receives NO general fund monies, we are touched by the budget crisis.
- b. Non-license revenue funds are liable to redirection by the State Legislature in times of budget crisis.

Redirection of non-license revenue funds has not yet caused significant changes in program, however the future could be very different than the immediate past. These fiscal constraints continue to put us in a difficult position in recruitment and retention of employees because of compensation issues, and many of our field positions are limited-term appointments. Our funding for Sport Fish Program personnel is secure and we are adequately staffed at present. The Sport Fish Program is perhaps among the most secure of any of our programs. Nongame Fish Programs teeter, and are heavily financed with short-term grants, contracts, and the like. We will continue to strive to ensure that those programmatic needs are met in every way possible.

Question 2. This is a tough question. First, noting that we have scaled staff back over the past 4 years, we are attempting to diversify our financing and restore staff into our future. Our Director and the agency are committed to continuous improvement and we constantly seek process improvements. The Department has instituted a "performance based" bonus program that helps address some of our compensation issues and keys the attainment of these bonuses to the accomplishment of pre-planned and significant process improvements. We've been spoiled by our executive leaders in that our programs have been buffered by good fiscal and strategic planning. More than 65% of AZ anglers relate that they are with their angling experiences (89% satisfied with law enforcement, 88% satisfied with sport fish management, and 86% satisfied with information products and services). Fire, drought and fiscal constraints can certainly change that - but it will not change the dedication of our personnel to customer service. Perhaps that dedication to customer service is the key human resource improvement that I've seen in the past 5 years, and I think it's made a real difference to our publics.

ISSUE FEEDBACK



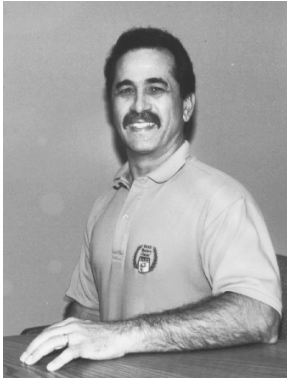
William Hyatt

Director, CT Inland Fisheries Division

The CT Inland Fisheries Division has been subject to a 16% reduction in staff size during the last 1 ½ years due to the inability to fill vacancies, layoffs, and an early retirement incentive plan. The loss of personnel has been particularly severe in our fish culture program where we no longer have sufficient staff to maintain facilities and stock trout. Other units within the CT Department of Environmental Protection have had similar personnel cuts and are unable to provide traditional levels of support for fisheries programs. For example, Conservation Law Enforcement Officers that have historically worked on all stocking runs are now available only to provide occasional assistance. The immediate future is not any brighter as cuts equivalent to over 30% of our total budget have been proposed for the 03-04 FY.

Difficult times are upon us and we've had to respond by taking a hard look at all of our programs to identify core components, primary enhancements and secondary enhancements. The resources needed to maintain each component have been quantified with the intent, if need be, of protecting the core elements at the expense of the enhancements. This has been a difficult task because funds have never been easy to come by and all of our programs are the products of tough decisions and trade-offs. Our core programs are those that are necessary to conserve fish populations and produce fishing opportunities. We've determined that assessments of many of our fisheries management projects are enhancements rather than core elements. Measures already taken include temporarily reassigning fisheries management staff to fish culture operations and tasking biologists with increased trout stocking responsibilities. Plans have also been developed to close one of our Atlantic salmon facilities and to transfer staff to cover critical positions at our trout hatcheries. These actions have clearly diminished our ability to collect data needed to evaluate fisheries management actions and to address resource concerns, the timeliness and quality of our reports, our responsiveness to the public and, potentially, threatens to reduce our efforts to restore Atlantic salmon. Fortunately, organized anglers have responded by supporting a license fee increase (which helps ... but not enough) and by rallying to oppose further budget cuts. The anglers are arguing that the monies proposed to be cut and transferred elsewhere are from a user pay – user benefit tax on motorboat fuels and should therefore be dedicated to support fishing and boating programs. This is a logical argument and we hope it prevails.

ISSUE FEEDBACK



Terry Steinwand

Chief, Fisheries Division
North Dakota Game and Fish Depart.

To date, North Dakota has not been faced with budget shortfalls or the inability to fill positions upon retirement or movement to other positions. Thus, basic operations and the ability to adequately manage recreational fisheries has not been substantially affected.

With one of the smallest fisheries staff in the nation, we've had to manage the state's fisheries on a priority basis. Although we'd always like to get more done there's only so much time in a day to accomplish everything so prioritization is paramount. Many times it becomes the 'squeaky wheel' syndrome that drives tasks but we also like to have the ability to predict issues and collect information for good management decisions. Much of our funding is in the form of grants that are used for cooperative agreements to accomplish research and development activities. This normally is the first to be reduced but we have not experienced this in over 12 years and appears our funding will remain at status quo for the immediate future.



With the small staff we've been forced to be as efficient as possible. As stated, much of our research is granted out but under the administration of fisheries staff. We've entered into cooperative agreements wherever possible (e.g., the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where fish production is a joint effort in North Dakota, being more cost efficient for both entities). We've also reviewed the manner in which we perform our daily duties and have acquired equipment to accomplish approximately the same amount of work with fewer personnel.

I believe the key to facing budget shortfalls is to inform (and include) the public. Of course, they will always prefer there interests are funded first but they will also understand that not everything can be accomplished. Include them in the prioritization process. North Dakota's constituency appears to be quite understanding but at times demands more be done. However, they also appear to understand the limitations of a small staff and variable weather patterns and how both can affect the ability to manage fisheries.

Benjy Kinman

Fish Chief, Kentucky Department of
Fish and Wildlife Resources

Significant budget cuts have not occurred to date in our Department. Our resident license sales have decreased by 33% since 1992; however, this loss has been offset by a new senior/disability license, two increases in license cost, and a stable federal funding source (SFR). Only one full-time position has been lost and some temporary hiring delays have occurred.

Without any budget cuts, no basic services or fishery management programs have declined. There have been continual new demands on staff time, i.e. fishing derbies, marketing efforts, watershed initiatives, etc that were previously non-existent. Workload saturation is nearing and tough programmatic decisions are imminent especially with the threat of declining revenues. Cost-benefit analysis of some activities and/or programs will undoubtedly be necessary in the near future.



FMS Minutes

**Fisheries Management Section (FMS), American Fisheries Society (AFS)
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
18 August 2002, Baltimore, Maryland**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT YEAR'S BUSINESS MEETING

President Tim Hess called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Jan Lubeck from the AFS home office addressed the group on publishing within the society, membership issues, the World Fisheries Congress, and the Hutton Program.

The 2001 business meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

The current FMS financial report prepared by Cliff Stone (SD) was distributed to members. Included on the summary was an item of \$2,006.26 still due the FMS because the Internal Revenue Service withheld this amount from our payment for the Electrofishing Injury Study, when the money was actually owed by the Alaska Chapter AFS. Past-president Jeff Boxrucker (OK) has been in contact with both the Alaska Chapter and the IRS, and resolution of this issue may be difficult. Mike Hansen (WI) moved and Mike Allen (FL) seconded that the report be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report – Tim Hess reported for Ron Dent (MO) on the election results. Newly elected officers were President-Elect Dave Willis (SD), Secretary-Treasurer Dirk Miller (WY), Canadian Division Representative Stephen Kerr (NS), Southern Division Representative Chris Horton (AR), Northeast Division Representative Bill Hyatt (CT), North-Central Division Representative Randy Schultz (KS), and Western Division Representative Don Duff (UT). Tim expressed his thanks to all candidates who agreed to run for offices, and noted that approximately half of the votes received by Ron were sent via e-mail.

FMS Awards – The FMS Award of Excellence was presented to the Southern Illinois University student subunit for their outstanding service in producing our section newsletter since 1993!! President Hess asked Chris Kohler from SIU to carry back the appreciation from our section to the students. Two candidates were elected into the FMS Hall of Excellence this year: Norm Stucky, Fisheries Division Administrator for the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Bruce Schupp, currently Conservation Director for B.A.S.S. and formerly Fisheries Chief for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Both members were present at our business meeting and accepted their awards to a standing ovation by the membership.

FMS, in conjunction with the Introduced Fish Section, sponsored the aquatic invasive species symposium being held Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning at this meeting.

FMS Web Page – Tim Hess reported that Fred Janssen (TX) continues to serve the FMS by managing our web page through the Southern Division AFS web site. President Hess encouraged everyone to seek opportunities to contribute items for the web page.

Mercury letter – President Hess indicated that the EPA responded to the section's letter on mercury.

Legislation – Past-President Steve Filipek (AR) reported on the 2002 Farm Bill, and indicated that millions of dollars were provided for riparian zone, habitat, and bank stabilization programs and are available to all states.

Arkansas worked with state and country technical committees that ranked priorities for habitat management in that state. President Hess reported on the Landowner Incentive Program, and indicated that habitat conservation seems to be key for many federal programs; Tribal grants, which may include competitive grants; and reauthorization of the motorboat fuels tax, which has to occur this fall/winter or these funds will not continue to flow into the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program.

Funding support – FMS continued financial support of many efforts. Last year, we supported the International Stream Restoration Workshop held in Ireland, supported student travel through the Equal Opportunity Section to the AFS annual meeting, and supported travel of fisheries staff from other countries through the International Endowment Fund. Randy Schultz (KS) reported that the FMS and the Southern Division Reservoir Committee paid for special reprints of the White Bass Ecology and Management Symposium module that was sent to FMS members and Southern Division Reservoir Committee members who do not currently receive the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management (NAJFM)*. NAJFM Coeditor Mike Hansen (WI) reported that a similar crappie module would soon be out, and that a walleye module had recently been published by NAJFM. Jeff Boxrucker (OK) indicated that these efforts have been made and supported by FMS to make the NAJFM more germane to field managers! Vaughan Paragamian (ID) reported on continuing sales of *Burbot: Biology, Ecology and Management* (FMS Publication Number 1) and provided a \$1,200 check to FMS for this year's sales proceeds.

Membership – President Tim Hess reported that FMS membership is fluctuating between 700 and 800, which Jeff Boxrucker (OK) reminded us still makes it the largest section in AFS.

FMS Survey Results – Tim Hess reported briefly on the results of the section survey, reporting that membership services and continuing education, information transfer and outreach by AFS, and aquatic stewardship are priorities of our membership. He will provide these results to incoming President Steve Rideout (MA). Fred Harris (NC), incoming AFS President, had three suggestions for FMS that were related to the AFS strategic plan. The North American fisheries action plan will be updated beginning this year, and President Harris wants FMS involvement. AFS will be developing a plan to get science-based information to various publics, and again FMS involvement is needed. Finally, FMS should play a big role in international outreach efforts by AFS. Fred indicated that the management perspective that Chris Kohler (IL) will provide to AFS as incoming 2nd vice-president pleased him. Jeff Boxrucker (OK) reported that the AFS Publications Overview Committee wants to disseminate technical information in a more popular form, such as past efforts by FMS in the *North American Fisherman*.

Status of the June 2003 Symposium on “Propagated Fishes in Resource Management” – Dirk Miller (WY) reported for Ron Remmick that the symposium will be held 16-18 June 2003 in Boise, ID, in conjunction with the Fisheries Administrators Section meeting. The steering committee wants FMS to provide two speakers on two issues for propagated fishes in a point-counterpoint type of session. The **FMS can cover travel costs** for Ron Remmick for a planning meeting in Iowa in December, if needed. There was also discussion of whether FMS could help with travel costs for our sponsored speakers, if necessary.

Electrofishing injury study update – Jeff Boxrucker reported on the results of this \$250,000 federal aid project, which supported a Ph.D. student at Auburn University and an M.S. student at Mississippi State University. A 280-page final report has been completed, and approximately 10 peer-reviewed publications are anticipated. The project filled the void in our knowledge of electrofishing effects for warmwater fishes, as most of the previous work involved coldwater and coolwater species. Hopefully, this will lead to more care in when and how we use electrofishing, so as to avoid some of the previous controversy such as occurred for electrofishing of coldwater fishes.

Electrofishing white paper/manuscript initiative – Bob Hughes (OR) and Jim Reynolds (AK) proposed a two-part initiative for the FMS. First, Reynolds and Dan Schill (ID) are completing a meta-analysis that will overview published and grey literature on probability of population-level effects from electrofishing. Initially,

the publication was intended for Fisheries, but Mike Hansen (WI) suggested that such a paper should be published in the scientific literature, and would be ideal for a lead article in an upcoming issue of NAJFM. Second, a FMS committee chaired by Reynolds and Hughes would prepare a guideline-oriented manuscript for Fisheries that would compare effectiveness of electrofishing and alternative methods, and provide recommendations for appropriate use of electrofishing. The consensus was that these were important tasks for FMS; the information needs to be summarized, professional conclusions should be drawn, and recommendations should be made. Funding needs should be modest, supporting committee work and publications costs, and Jeff Boxrucker (OK) reminded attending members that FMS had previously approved up to **\$5,000** to support publication of the electrofishing injury study.

Old business not on agenda – Mike Fraidenberg (WA) discussed a book on “Lessons Learned,” based on career experiences of natural resource professionals. Much of our careers involve continual learning, and it often is difficult to get this information to the next generation of career professionals. The intent is to obtain interviews from seasoned professionals. As one example, Mike Dombeck (WI) has agreed to be interviewed for this project. Mike requested that FMS provide a grant to help cover his travel costs for the interviews. Jeff Boxrucker (OK) moved and Larry Connor (FL) seconded that the section provide **\$2,500** for this project. The motion carried unanimously.

New officers were installed, and President Steve Rideout (MA) presided over the remainder of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The first order of business for Steve was to present outgoing president Tim Hess with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to FMS.

Requests for funding – 1) Chris Kohler (IL) moved and Jeff Isely (SC) seconded that FMS provide **\$500** to the Equal Opportunities Section to continue support of student travel to the AFS annual meeting. The motion carried without dissent. 2) After an overview of the Warmwater Streams Committee (Southern Division) video by Chris O’Bara (WV), Larry Connor (FL) moved and Steve Filipek (AR) seconded that FMS provide **\$500** for VHS copies of the video to be sent to each chapter and student subunit in AFS. Motion carried. 3) Dana Schmidt and Bruce Ward provided an overview of the upcoming World Fisheries Congress, 2-6 May 2004 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Jeff Boxrucker (OK) moved and Steve Lochmann (AR) seconded that FMS provide **\$2,500** for the general fund of the World Fisheries Congress, and would consider another \$2,500 next year. Motion carried.

Monetary values of fishes update – Andy Loftus (MD) reported that the Socioeconomics Section and the Southern Division were updating the AFS publication on monetary value of fishes. He requested that when states received the surveys, they be completed and returned. They are seeking volunteers for an advisory committee on fish growth standards by region.

Web-based newsletter? – Jim Garvey (IL) discussed the advantages and disadvantages of FMS going to a web-based newsletter. The obvious concern is cost, as the last newsletter cost the section approximately \$1,000 for printing and postage. After discussion, we will move toward a web-based newsletter in .pdf format, although hard copies can still be printed and mailed to members who requested such a format.

Suggestions for the 2003 meeting – President Rideout requested that all symposium or workshop suggestions for the Quebec meeting be forwarded to him.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Research Reports

Exploring mechanisms regulating crappie populations in Ohio reservoirs.

D. “Bo” Bunnell, Ph. D. Student and Roy A. Stein.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration.

For many animal taxa, temporal oscillations in population density are common. In aquatic systems, population dynamics are driven primarily by variability in birth and death rates, rather than emigration and immigration. For fishes, both biotic (e.g., competition, predation) and abiotic (e.g., water temperature, water level, nutrient concentration) factors cause temporal and spatial variability in birth and death rates, especially during the first year of life. Specifically, the number of larvae produced (i.e., birth rate) and the probability of their survival are not constant. Thus, we hypothesize that variability in survival to age-1 (herein referred to as recruitment) dictates temporal changes in population density: those systems with low population density will be characterized by frequent recruitment failure, whereas those systems with high population density are renewed with a consistent supply of recruits each year.

From a population biology perspective, the sportfish white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) exhibits substantial interannual fluctuations in population density. From a fisheries management perspective, these changes translate to variable fishing success (i.e., variable mean size of adult fish and catch rate among reservoirs) for Ohio anglers. Although mortality from fishing likely contributes to reductions in population size, we hypothesize that recruitment dynamics ultimately drive changes in population density. Our research seeks to understand how both the adult white crappie population and age-0 survival influence recruitment of white crappie. With regard to the impact of adults, we are evaluating whether adult condition, population fecundity, and stock size relate to recruitment success. From the age-0 survival perspective, we are evaluating whether processes occurring during the first year of life (e.g., starvation, predation, emigration) determine recruitment success. To explore these issues, we are sampling up to 12 Ohio reservoirs over 3 years to quantify white crappie recruitment and population dynamics. Reservoirs were selected to reflect continua of multiple gradients, each potentially influencing white crappie growth and recruitment: 1) reservoir productivity (which should influence food availability), 2) latitudinal location (which should drive epilimnetic temperature and consequently white crappie growth during summer), and 3) historical fishery success.

From an applied perspective, identification of factors or processes that influence white crappie recruitment would be invaluable to fishery managers. If factors critical to recruitment success can be manipulated (i.e., spring water level, predator abundance, prey availability, nutrient input), managers then can modify reservoir characteristics to improve recruitment success and population density. Conversely, if we identify critical factors that are either impervious to modification (i.e., spring warming rate, reservoir draw-down in the fall) or unpopular (i.e., reduction of predator biomass), managers then will have the capability to anticipate years of poor recruitment and reduce angler expectations via education.

Research Reports

Exploring ecological mechanisms underlying recruitment of smallmouth bass in Lake Erie.

Geoffrey B. Steinhart, Ph. D. Student, Elizabeth A. Marschall and Roy A. Stein.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration.

Smallmouth bass in Lake Erie live in an environment that is more productive (i.e., high growth rates and fecundity) but is subjected to more intense storms (i.e., low nesting success), due to larger fetches, than other more commonly studied smallmouth bass lakes. These unique qualities of Lake Erie have left fisheries managers wondering how to manage the Lake Erie smallmouth bass population. A decline in phosphorus loading and the colonization of zebra mussels have lead to recent changes in water clarity, macrophyte abundance, and substrate, which, in turn, have altered the amount of habitat available for nesting smallmouth bass. Within acceptable nesting habitats, reproductive success is affected by dislodgment of eggs by currents, consumption of offspring by nest predators, and parental care provided by male smallmouth bass. Our research explores how abiotic and biotic mechanisms affect reproductive success of smallmouth bass in Lake Erie through field observations, manipulative experiments, and model simulations.

Storms and nest predators can reduce smallmouth bass nesting success. Storms physically remove eggs and fry from a nest, or can cover a nest with silt, suffocating the developing eggs. We are quantifying the effect of storms by monitoring how wind velocity and direction affect smallmouth bass nest success. In addition, artificial nests are being used to determine how depth and substrate-type interact to affect egg losses. Nest predators can limit smallmouth bass recruitment by consuming eggs and larvae. The effects of nest predators on smallmouth bass recruitment are especially important in Lake Erie since the introduction and spread of the round goby, a confirmed nest predator that is found in extremely high abundance. When the guarding male smallmouth bass is removed (i.e., caught by an angler), a nest is more susceptible to predators. Even when anglers practice catch-and-release techniques, a nest is vulnerable to predation while the guarding male is absent. We are using a manipulative experiment to quantify the effects of nest predators and anglers.

Providing parental care is essential for nest success, but is energetically costly and, therefore, involves a tradeoff between current and future fitness. For male smallmouth bass, parental care reduces energy reserves, and may reduce future survival. Given the high densities of round gobies in Lake Erie, energetic costs of nest defense by male smallmouth bass may be higher than previous estimates. As a result, nest abandonment due to low energy reserves may be more common in systems with high predator densities, like Lake Erie. Ultimately, we will combine our data from Lake Erie with data from other well-studied smallmouth bass lakes to examine the reproductive trade-offs in smallmouth bass using a dynamic programming model.

Lake Erie Walleye and Yellow Perch

Lake Erie Committee
Great Lakes Fishery Commission

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2003

Contacts:

Canada: John Cooper: 519-873-4613

USA: Marc Gaden: 734-662-3209 x. 14

Catch Limits Set for Lake Erie Walleye and Yellow Perch in 2003; Major Reductions in Allowable Harvest Anticipated for 2004 and 2005.

Limits designed to protect poor year classes.

PORT HURON, MI – Lake Erie fishery managers from Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Pennsylvania recently agreed to a slight increase in the yellow perch catch limit and to not change the walleye catch limit for the 2003 fishing season. However, the committee also anticipated major cuts in the walleye and yellow perch allowable harvest in 2004 and 2005 to help make up for poor fish hatches in 200 and 2002. These allowable catch limits were established during the recent meeting of the Lake Erie Committee, a committee comprising the fishery jurisdictions on Lake Erie.

WALLEYE

For the third year, the international total allowable catch of walleye will remain unchanged at 3.4 million fish. Fishery agencies agreed in 2001 to set the total catch limit at 3.4 million fish and not to increase it for 3 years to give walleye stocks a chance to rebuild. Actual harvest in 2002 was just under 2.5 million fish. The Committee's Walleye Task Group-comprising scientists and field biologists-reported that walleye spawning had been poor in 200 and 2002 and recommended the Committee seriously consider reducing the walleye catch limit in 2004. All agencies will be closely monitoring the success of walleye spawning this spring, though agencies anticipate significant reductions in the 2004 and 2005 allowable harvest-reductions between 40 and 60% from the 2003 allowable harvest.

"The Lake Erie Committee is very concerned about the possibility of another poor year class in 2003," said Lake Erie Committee Chairman Rick Hoopes, of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. "A third year of poor spawning in four years would be a serious blow to the lake's walleye stocks. We intend to monitor the fishery closely and take appropriate action to protect these fish stocks."

Each Agency is allotted a share of the total allowable catch, determined by a formula based on the surface area of the lake within each jurisdiction. Ohio receives 51 percent of the catch limit, or just over 1.7 million walleye. Ontario's share is 43 percent, or just under 1.5 million fish. Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania, each with a small amount of lake area, share the remainder of the harvest.

Lake Erie Walleye and Yellow Perch

YELLOW PERCH

Yellow perch stocks improved enough that the Committee agreed to a slight increase in the total allowable catch from 9.3 million pounds in 2002 to 9.9 million pounds this year. A formula involving surface area and past fishing performance is used to allocate shares of perch between the five jurisdictions on the lake. For 2003, Ontario share is about 5 million ponds and Ohio's allocation is 4.3 million pounds. Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania share the remaining allocation.

Yellow perch fishing – both sport and commercial – in 2002 was very good in all jurisdictions and the Committee expects the good fishing to continue through 2003. However, just as was found with walleye, a long, cold spring in 2002 resulted in poor yellow perch spawning success. Agencies anticipate reductions in yellow perch catch limits in 2004 in response to these poor spawning results.

LAKE ERIE COMMITTEE

The Lake Erie Committee is made up of fishery managers representing Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Pennsylvania. The Committee's work is facilitated by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a Canadian and U.S. agency on the Great Lakes.

Each year the Committee sets the total allowable catch for walleye and yellow, perch, which represents the number of fish that can be caught by sport and commercial fishers without putting the stocks at risk. The Lake Erie Committee noted its strong concern over major changes in the Lake Erie ecosystem. Said Vice-Chair Mike Morencie of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, "Changes in the Lake Erie environment, caused by such factors as introductions of new aquatic nuisance species and climate-change threaten to disrupt te fragile-ecological balance and undercut the success of this world class fishery. The Lake Erie Committee's member agencies will continue through the summer to monitor these changes and to determine strategies needed to protect Lake Erie's valuable fish resources.

John Cooper
Lake Erie Management Unit
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
London, Ontario
519-873-4613

Reports and News

ERNIE EVES GOVERNMENT COMMITTS \$1 MILLION TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE FISH AND WILDLIFE

TORONTO – The province, through Ontario's Living Legacy, is spending \$1 million for 78 projects to protect and enhance fish and wildlife across Ontario, Natural Resources Minister Jerry Ouellette announced today. "Our goal is to protect and enhance fish and wildlife while improving recreation opportunities," said Ouellette. "We want to give everyone – kids and grown-ups – the opportunity to enjoy the great natural resources Ontario has to offer, now and in the future." The funding, under the Ontario's Living Legacy Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement program, will be used for 78 enhancement and restoration projects such as 'take a kid fishing' projects, restoring muskie habitat, caribou collaring, lake rehabilitation and fish stocking projects. The ministry is working with local fish and game clubs, conservation groups, students and volunteers to complete the projects by the end of 2004. In the last four years, Ontario's Living Legacy has contributed \$16 million to more than 800 fish and wildlife projects. Ontario's Living Legacy is the largest natural heritage protection program in Ontario history created by the Ernie Eves government.

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EVES GOVERNMENT ANGLING TO GET KIDS INVOLVED IN SPORTFISHING

TORONTO – The province is committing \$25,000 towards promoting children's sportfishing in Ontario, Natural Resources Minister Jerry Ouellette announced earlier today at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show. "I want to encourage young anglers to get out and enjoy the wonderful fishing that Ontario has to offer, said Ouellette. The province's tremendous diversity, with a quarter million lakes and too many streams and rivers to count, means there is fishing to please every kind of angler."

While participating in the official opening of the show, Ouellette announced that the ministry would match the \$25,000 in funding made available by the show organizers, for a total of \$50,000, to help enhance or promote sportfishing among young people.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has participated in the Sportsmen's Show for 32 years.

For More Information:

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(416) 314-2212

Reports and News

EVES GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES NEARLY \$1 MILLION TO ENHANCE FISH AND WILDLIFE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

THUNDER BAY - The Ernie Eves government has provided \$985,500 through Ontario's Living Legacy to improve conditions for fish and wildlife and to increase recreational opportunities in northwestern Ontario, Natural Resources Minister Jerry Ouellette announced today.

"We are carrying out our commitments under Ontario's Living Legacy," said Ouellette, who made the announcement in Thunder Bay. "Our goal is to protect and enhance fish and wildlife, while improving recreational opportunities."

The projects being funded, some of which are ongoing, include the following:

Twenty-five lakes in Nipigon and Dryden districts are being assessed for potential fish stocking.

Collecting data on fish populations in northwestern Ontario, including a muskie survey on Lac Seul.

A partnership with commercial operators on Lake St. Joseph to survey the quality of fishing experiences with the goal of developing a lake management plan.

A study of habitat use by walleye in Lower Marmion Lake near Atikokan with the goal of determining if rehabilitation of the walleye population is possible.

Enhanced moose harvest data collection in Red Lake District to help increase confidence in future tag allocations.

Collection of data regarding caribou movement in Nipigon District for use in management and conservation.

Many of the projects that are carried out in the summer employ young people participating in provincial programs, such as Ontario's Living Legacy Intern Program, Ontario Stewardship Rangers, Ontario Rangers and the Summer Experience Program.

Ontario's Living Legacy is the most comprehensive, long-term program of natural heritage protection in the province's history.

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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRIEVES LOSS OF FOUR COLLEAGUES IN HELICOPTER CRASH

SAULT STE. MARIE — Flags at Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) buildings are flying at half-mast today in honour of four co-workers who died in a helicopter crash approximately 80 km north of Sault Ste. Marie yesterday. The four employees were carrying out an aerial survey of moose populations when their helicopter went down. "I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic deaths of four highly respected MNR employees," said Premier Ernie Eves. "This is a terrible tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and colleagues of those who died."

Deceased are Michael Maguire, 50, chief helicopter pilot; Walter Ceolin, 52, conservation officer; Bruce Stubbs, 39; and Chantelle Walkey, 27, both resource technicians. All were based in Sault Ste. Marie.

"This is a difficult time for everyone in the Ministry of Natural Resources," said Natural Resources Minister Jerry Ouellette. "On behalf of everyone at the ministry, I want to offer my sincere condolences to the families of our colleagues."

Information about memorial services will be available over the next few days.

Transport Canada's Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

For More Information:

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Ministry of Natural Resources

SAULT STE. MARIE

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Reports and News

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR LAKE TROUT STUDY IN RED LAKE

RED LAKE – To help maintain the health of the fishery, the province, through Ontario's Living Legacy, is providing \$12,000 for a study of reproduction of lake trout in Red Lake, Natural Resources Minister Jerry Ouellette announced today.

Live traps will be set in the major spawning areas of the lake to gather information on spawning populations. Profiles of the spawning area will be conducted after the trout spawn. Emergent traps will then be placed to help determine the future dynamics of the lake. On October 19, an exploratory dive will be conducted on the west end of Red Lake to map some of the key locations. The alternate date in case of rain is October 26.

"Our government is committed to maintaining healthy fish populations now and for future generations," said Ouellette. The study will look at spawning, survivability of eggs and the emergence of fry. After spawning occurs in the fall, divers will place traps over the egg masses. Then in the spring the ministry will return to see if the eggs have hatched.

Lodge owners on Red Lake will provide support by offering accommodations, meals, boats and equipment during the study. The ministry needs certified divers to help with the study. If you would like to volunteer please contact Kim Austen at 807-727-1343 or visit the Red Lake District Office at 227 Howey Street. The ministry also invites any other group, organization, business or citizen who would like to help with the project to contact Austen as well.

Ontario's Living Legacy is the most comprehensive, long-term program of natural heritage protection in the province's history.

For More Information:

Kim Austen

Ministry of Natural Resources

(807) 727-1343

Gord Prisco

Minister's Office

(416) 314-2212

OUELLETTE ANNOUNCES MEMBERSHIP OF QUINTE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TORONTO – Ontario's Natural Resources Minister Jerry Ouellette announced today the members who will serve on the Quinte Fisheries Advisory Committee along with Chair Tom Worden.

Appointed to the committee are: Dave Brown of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Fish'n Canada radio host Angelo Viola; biologist Kevin Reid of the Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association; Quinte-area anglers George Nowak, Mike Mason and Bob Clapp; Mayor of Prince Edward County James Taylor; Wayne Maracle of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and Jim Bamford of the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board.

"Our goal is to sustain fish populations in eastern Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte now and for future generations," said Ouellette. "I have every confidence that these dedicated people will make every effort to provide us with the best recommendations about the management of the fisheries in the area."

The committee members include representatives from the local community and will work with Worden to provide input and recommendations to the ministry on long-term planning for the fisheries. The committee will provide input on sustainable fish populations and fisheries objectives, including complementary approaches for angling regulation changes, habitat improvement and adjustments to commercial fishing licence conditions.

"I am delighted to have the rest of the committee in place, and I know that we all are eager to get started," said Worden.

The creation of a fisheries advisory committee was suggested during public meetings held last winter and recommended by Bob Gray, the facilitator appointed by the ministry. In 2002, the ministry introduced changes to recreational fishing size limits for walleye as a conservation measure. The angling regulation changes introduced in 2002 for walleye will remain in place in 2003. Any future changes will be reviewed with the fisheries advisory committee.

Continued on following page.

Reports and News

During the angling season for walleye, anglers may harvest walleye up to a maximum size limit of 48 cm (18.9 in.), with allowance to harvest one walleye greater than 63 cm (24.8 in.). The creel limits remain at four walleye for those fishing with a sport fishing licence, and at two walleye for those holding a conservation licence.

Fact Sheet: Biographies of Committee members

For More Information:

Gord Prisco

Minister's Office

(416) 314-2212

2001 LAKE ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT

Each year, MNR produces an Annual Report about Lake Ontario fisheries. The 2001 Annual Report is now available and contains three chapters that focus on walleye. The quantity of walleye in the Bay of Quinte has fluctuated over the past century in response to man-made influences, such as changing nutrient levels and fishing effort. Beneficial habitat and fish community conditions led to the rehabilitation of the Bay of Quinte walleye population in the 1980s and early 1990s from low levels in the 1970s. The walleye population peaked in the early 1990s at greater than one million fish. Walleye habitat conditions in the Bay declined in the 1990s because of the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels, coupled with water quality clean-up efforts that resulted in a clearer, weedier environment. The clearer, weedier habitat has led to a changing fish community with increases in yellow perch, bass and panfish, and declines in walleye. The production rate (hatch and survival) of young walleye through their first summer has been low since 1995, as compared to the 1980s and early 1990s, resulting in a small walleye population in the foreseeable future. It was projected that the walleye population would likely fall below 320,000 fish in 2001. There was the potential that the population would reach a critical stock size of 160,000 fish based on the scenario of low production of young fish and excessive harvest. The estimated walleye population in 2001 was approximately 400,000 according to information from surveys conducted that year. There was improved entry of walleye into the fishable population. Harvest of walleye by all fisheries is about two times the recommended amount. The production rate of young fish and the lack of total harvest reporting are two key uncertainties that make predicting the future of walleye more difficult. A responsible fisheries management approach to sustain walleye is to manage in a precautionary manner because of the environmental change, lower production rate of young fish, and too many walleye being harvested. The abundance of walleye in 2003 will be estimated using the most recent fisheries data that were collected in 2002. This information will be reported in the 2002 Lake Ontario Annual Report that will be available later this year. The 2001 Lake Ontario Annual Report is available at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/pubs/lakeontario/report/2001/report2001.html>

For More Information:

Barry Radford

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AFS Publications

Common and Scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates from the United States and Canada: Cnidaria and Ctenophora, Second Edition

Stephen D. Cairns et al.

The purpose of this volume (an update to the first edition and now with a CD-ROM) is to provide a checklist of species and to recommend selected common names for North American Cnidaria and Ctenophora, thereby achieving uniformity and avoiding confusion in the nomenclature of their common names. In addition to stabilizing common name nomenclature, this list will heighten public awareness of the diversity and wide distribution of cnidarians in North America, help identify taxonomic groups in need of systematic revision, and serve as a preliminary guide to the literature required for the identification of species.

This text lists more than 1,300 taxa of jellyfishes, hydroids, corals, anemones, and comb jellies and sets the standard for vernacular names of the more widely known species. This book also includes an index, extensive references and bibliography, and annotated changes from the first edition. 126 pp. + 32 color photographs, paper, March 2003

Stock #510.28P, book and companion CD; ISBN 1-888569-39-5

Book and companion CD:

List Price: \$39

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Strategies for Restoring River Ecosystems: Sources of Variability and Uncertainty in Natural and Managed Systems

Robert C. Wissmar and Peter A. Bisson, editors

Fisheries and natural resource managers and policymakers need more efficient procedures for identifying sources of variability in ecosystems (natural and managed) and assessing uncertainties of managing and making decisions for developing and implementing river restoration strategies. This book seeks to integrate perspectives on variability of physical and biological functions and concepts of uncertainty in natural and managed systems, into strategies for renewing and conserving river ecosystems. The book explores approaches to understanding and communicating the processes contributing to the variability of different types of river systems, and to assessing major sources of uncertainty in natural and managed river ecosystems. 276 pp., hardcover, April 2003

Stock Number: 550.44

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AFS Publications

Nutrients in Salmonid Ecosystems: Sustaining Production and Biodiversity

John Stockner, editor

The proceedings of the 2001 conference “Restoring Nutrients to Salmonid Ecosystems” and the first book of its kind, this volume presents recent information on the role and importance of marine-derived nutrients in salmonid ecosystems. The authors examine how this research can be used effectively to assist in rebuilding salmonid stocks in the Pacific Northwest. The book contains: (1) Description and management of historical and current nutrient regimes in salmonid ecosystems; (2) Ecological linkages between salmon and productivity of freshwater ecosystems and the ecological impacts of a diminished salmon nutrient shadow; (3) Dispersal mechanisms of marine-derived nutrients in Pacific Northwestern freshwater ecosystems; (4) The effects of hatcheries, harvest, and other resource management regimes on nutrients and their dispersal; and (5) An incorporation of nutrient management into ecosystem restoration.

AFS Symposium 34
302 pp., paper, February 2003
Stock Number: 540.34
List price: \$60
AFS member price: \$42
ISBN 1-888569-44-1

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Population Genetics: Principles and Applications for Fisheries Scientists

Eric Hallerman, editor

The principles of population genetics have important bearing on the practice of fisheries science. However, fisheries managers do not typically receive training in population genetics. This is due, in large part, to lack of course materials in population genetics relevant to fisheries science. This book was born of a need perceived by many fisheries geneticists for the availability of a textbook for a course in fisheries genetics. Qualified instructors too busy to develop their own course from scratch can use this title as a ready resource text for teaching such a course. Population Genetics is an excellent resource for making the field of population genetics relevant and accessible to students and practitioners of fisheries science.

507 pp., hardcover, March 2003
Stock Number: 550.34
List price: \$69.00
AFS member price: \$48
ISBN 1-888569-27-1

To order:
Online: www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi
Phone: (678) 366-1411, or Fax: (770) 442-9742
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Announcements

4th World Fisheries Congress
Vancouver, BC CANADA
May 2 - 6, 2004

The Congress theme, "Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: The Challenge of Managing Aquatic Ecosystems," will be addressed by a world class list of Keynote speakers, session topics, posters, limited presentations, round table discussions, forums, workshops and debates.

Online Abstract Submittal for the Fourth World Fisheries Congress will open April 2003.

Please visit www.worldfisheries2004.org for details

What's new at AFS? Read all about it at
<http://www.fisheries.org/WhatsNew.shtml>

The AFS Online Bookstore is a valuable resource for all fisheries and aquaculture related books:
<http://www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi>

AFS Job Center Online (and other employment resources):
<http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>

Renew your AFS Membership online at <http://www.fisheries.org/forms.shtml>

Don't forget to browse featured articles from the latest issue of FISHERIES magazine at: <http://www.fisheries.org/fisheries/fishery.shtml>

Announcements



American Fisheries Society 133rd Annual Meeting Québec City, Québec, Canada August 10-14, 2003

"Worldwide decline of wild fish populations"

For more information on the meeting or to register online, please go to
www.fisheries.org and click on "Annual Meeting"

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Fisheries Management Section

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

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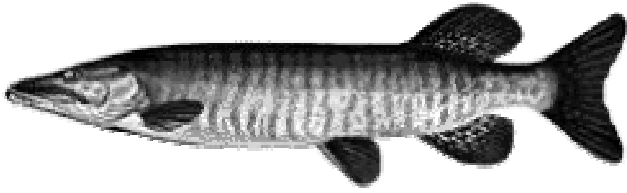
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Fisheries Management Section dues are \$5 per year. Notification of address change should be submitted to the American Fisheries Society Office in Bethesda, Maryland.



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Section
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AFS-FMS Newsletter
Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center
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