



# NEWSLETTER

## Fisheries Management Section American Fisheries Society

Don Duff, President

Volume 6. Number 3

December, 1986

### President's Corner

The Section held its annual business meeting on September 15, 1986, in conjunction with the AFS annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. Some twenty-two members were in attendance at the meeting. That meeting concluded the term of President David Whitehurst who has ably served the Section for the past two years. I would like to commend David for his leadership and dedication to the Section's goals and objectives. He has carried the Section's quality professionalism to high levels within the AFS which we can all be proud of. The entire Excom which served under David is also to be commended for their service since the duties of the Section is no one person's job. It requires all officers and members to participate to become an effective arm of the Society.

I would hope, as I take the helm of the Section for the next two years, that we (the Excom and I) can continue to stimulate member participation and uphold the quality of the Section. We hope to encourage members to participate more in the next two years to bring to the forefront those fisheries management issues needing attention by the AFS. In doing so we hope to assist members at all levels of the Society - the Division, Chapter, and Section level as well as the international level.

During the 1986-1988 tenure of this Excom we intend to maintain the direction the past Excom has set as well as take on new initiatives. We will keep the current committee chairmen to assure that the job previously given them reaches a conclusion. Additional members may be needed on these committees and the chairmen are free to appoint members as needed to assure work completion. You will note within this newsletter a committee "interest list". Feel free to indicate the committee(s) on which you would like to either serve in an active or informational

role. Please fill out the card and mail it to me at your convenience. I would like to get all committees filled and with a job assignment soon.

The Section is for your professional use, but we are all volunteers. Since we all have another primary job we sometimes find it difficult to participate in AFS. Whatever your job, I'd like to see everyone try to participate next year in whatever small way. After all, AFS and you will profit only if you do a little for your profession. Consider a quote from former President of the United States, Teddy Roosevelt: "Every man owes a little of his time to his profession". Whether you are in administration, research or management, I would encourage you to become more active in your professional society.

At the end of this newsletter appear the names, addresses and phone numbers of the Excom and current Committee chairmen. New committees which will be formed this year will include ones on Wallop-Breax legislation, Stream Habitat Improvement, Awards, Bylaws and Procedural, and Computer User. President-Elect Jim Addis will head up the Wallop-Breax Committee to follow the implementation of this legislation. The W-B legislation is up for reauthorization in 1987 and the parent Society has asked the Section to provide the needed technical data from the States to support AFS testimony at the 1987 hearings. Jim will be looking for help on this committee very soon.

Past Presidents David Whitehurst and Lee Redmond will assist in getting bylaws in shape and in developing a Section procedural manual to assist new officers in assuming positions. This effort will be in coordination with the AFS which is also putting together a Society Procedural Manual. We will also be establishing liaison positions with other Sections to assure the coordination of cooperative AFS work efforts. Doug Austin has been appointed liaison to the Computer Users Section (CUS). The



Section and the CUS are exploring the sponsorship of fisheries management computer workshops in 1987 and 1988 in conjunction with Division, Chapter or AFS meetings.

The Parent Society office is gearing up to expand AFS business by electronic mail and communication. The CUS has been instrumental in getting this communications system going at the AFS level. At the incoming AFS Excom meeting, the Section suggested the purchase of an additional computer to assist AFS units with faster communications. We hope that this will become set up early in 1987 to hasten communications between and within units. As a part of this, the AFS will be establishing a Rapid Response Network to assure rapid response to requests for assistance, job markets, professional expertise, etc. I would like to have the Section geared up to use this system as soon as it gets on-line. To assist us in planning, I would appreciate knowing how many Section members have access to a computer and what brand (type) it is. Please send this information to Doug Austin, CUS Liaison. Also let him know if you are interested in serving on a Section Computer User Committee to oversee development of modeling efforts and computer use.

The Section is the largest of all AFS sections with over 1,000 members. But it has the potential to grow even more since there is a great deal of fisheries workers who work or have an interest in fisheries management. I would challenge all current members of the Section to get a co-worker to join the Section in 1987.

I will look forward to working with each and every one of you during the next two years. Please feel free to call on me at any time and give me your suggestions, concerns and ideas. We're all in this profession together and as a team we can continue to make the Section grow and prosper in AFS. Thanks for your support and have a prosperous 1987.

Sincerely,

Don Duff

## Section Business

### Walleye Technical Committee

The North Central Division AFS has initiated a Walleye Technical Committee, which held its organizational meeting last December in Omaha, Nebraska. Under a mission statement to "promote the research and development of functional management strategies leading to the wise use of native and introduced stocks of walleye, sauger, and their hybrids, to

improve culture techniques, and to facilitate the dissemination of pertinent data and technology to both the scientific and user communities," several goals and objectives were discussed and adopted.

The first goal is to develop better understanding within the North Central Division concerning walleye-sauger biology. Three objectives were identified: one, to meet at least once a year to discuss current projects, new findings and new projects; two, to collect and disseminate information pertaining to new projects/findings involving walleye-sauger research/management in the Division and elsewhere; and three, to sponsor and/or support workshops/symposia addressing management and research information pertaining to walleyes.

The second goal is to develop a list of research priorities for walleye in the North Central Division. Three objectives were identified: first, to poll the biologists and administrators in the various management agencies for a list of research priorities; second, to develop and distribute this list to members of the Committee and others for use in justifying new research projects within their agencies; and third, attempt to design and coordinate projects that would be conducted in a similar manner in various geographical areas across the North Central Division.

The third goal is to annually reevaluate the goals and objectives of the Walleye Technical Committee, so that the aims of the Committee remain up-to-date and useful to all.

From the attendance and the amount of interest shown, it appears that the Walleye Technical Committee will progress well and should be a catalyst to improve walleye management in the upper Midwest.

### New NAJFM Editor

Dr. Robert F. Carline will be the new editor of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, succeeding founding editor Mercer Patriarche last November. Bob was recommended by a seven-person search committee from a strong group of candidates, and has been appointed by the AFS President. Bob is now leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, is a life member of AFS, the current president of the Central Penn Chapter of AFS, and is an active FMS member. Congrats, Bob.

### A Letter From Mercer

Shortly after the last newsletter went to press, I received a nice letter from Mercer Patriarche, which was really addressed to all FMS members. Here is his letter:



To the members of FMS:

Something very nice happened to me at the recent annual meeting of AFS in Providence, R.I. Two of your past presidents (David Whitehurst and Lee Redmond) called me up in front of the audience and presented me, on behalf of the Section, with a large, attractive print of a leaping smallmouth bass that was beautifully framed. What a nice surprise, as were the flattering remarks that accompanied it. At this time, I want to thank you all, not only for this wonderful gift, but also for your encouragement and assistance during the founding years of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. It has been my privilege to be the initial editor of that journal since 1981. I am glad I had the opportunity to do this but, after about 6 years, it is time to turn the job over to someone else. That "someone else" is Dr. Robert Carline, coop. leader at Penn State University. Bob also has been associated with the Wisconsin DNR and spent several years at Ohio State. He will do well as the volunteer editor of the management journal and I feel it will be in capable hands. I trust you will give him the help and encouragement that I received.

I am pleased to state that the journal is flourishing and much of the backlog has been eliminated with the expansion of each issue to 150 pages and the previous publication of three special issues. Most of the time about 25% of the content was contributed by managers. It would be nice if more of you submitted papers on your experiences and activities. It is your journal and I encourage you to do so. And, with this plea, I again thank you for the recognition — not really deserved — but that picture hangs proudly over the mantle.

Best regards to all,

Mercer Patriarche

### **FMS Business Meeting Minutes**

After every annual meeting, I try (not without frustration, mind you) to condense the minutes of a busy and diverse FMS business meeting into a format that fits into a newsletter. So again, with apologies to all who participated, I am editing the minutes.

#### **Minutes of the 6th Annual Fish Management Section Business Meeting**

President Whitehurst called the meeting to order with a quorum of 30 present. The minutes of the 5th annual meeting were read and approved, as was the treasurer's report. The Section has a balance of \$6,168.79. President Whitehurst noted that the

section is the largest, due to Wallop-Breaux expansion, membership efforts and no splintering into competing sections. The section has been very active this past year publishing a newsletter and sponsoring several workshops and symposia, including the Large River Symposium, the Artificial Habitat for Fisheries Workshop, and the 5th Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop.

Committee reports followed. The Audit Committee reported that past records and the treasurer's balance are correct. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates and a ballot for use in last year's election. The Ballot Committee tallied the vote (32% response) and announced the winners. The Riparian Habitat Committee reviewed and published AFS's policy on riparian habitat, reviewed the Western Division's riparian habitat terminology glossary which will be developed into AFS's glossary, and coordinated and implemented the 5th Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop in Pennsylvania. The Fish Management/Fish Culture Symposium Committee announced that the proceedings of the symposium had been typeset and sent to the printer. Copies will be available soon to symposium attendees and sponsors; the remainder will be sold. The Urban Fishing Committee is developing an AFS position statement on urban fishing, is considering an urban fishing workshop soon, and announced that the Urban Fishing Proceedings are still selling, and several hundred copies still remain. The Fishery Techniques and Gear Standardization Committee have distributed questionnaires and are now analyzing the data. Requests for the results from the American Society for Testing Materials Communication and one from the Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists were noted. The Competitive Fishing Committee is currently developing objectives. The Fisheries Management Textbook Committee has a preliminary outline of the chapters and will soon select authors and reviewers. The North American Journal of Fisheries Management received 72 manuscripts this year, enough for all of 1987, if acceptable. Two extra issues in 1985 helped reduce the back log, as did 150 pages per issue in 1986. More manuscripts from field biologists are needed. (Note: Mercer Patriarche was presented the Section's first Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding dedication and service to the society and the section at the AFS business meeting).

Bill Seamans, chairman of the Fourth International Conference on Artificial Habitats for Fisheries, thanked the section for its financial support for the conference. President Whitehurst thanked members for help and support in the last two years.

Incoming President Don Duff accepted the gavel from



Dave Whitehurst and began to take care of new business. President Duff presented Dave Whitehurst with the Past-President's Plaque, and asked that present committees continue until their tasks are completed. President Duff suggested co-sponsoring, with Computer Users Section and the Bonneville Chapter, a workshop at the 1987 Western Division annual meeting, and a fisheries management training session on computer modeling was suggested for next year's annual meeting. President Duff called attention to the Computer Users Section's efforts to install an electronic mailbox in the parent society office, whereby sections and individuals with access to a computer could easily call in for mail and AFS news. Another proposed activity is to assist the parent society in tracking progress by states in implementing Wallop-Breaux programs. President-Elect Jim Addis will chair this committee.

The Mail Ballot Committee recommended that the bylaws be amended to cut off voting at least 6 weeks prior to the annual meeting, changing the existing bylaw of 2 weeks. FMS Excom approved a 7 week cutoff date. A motion to that effect was made, seconded and unanimously approved. The Constitutional Consultant and the Parent Excom must approve before it goes into effect.

President Duff expressed interest in developing a procedural manual for incoming officers and asked for volunteers to assist in completing this in 2 years. President Duff also expressed continued interest in improved riparian habitat management, and stated that the section will continue to support workshops, development of guidelines for stream habitat improvement, and related efforts. There has been some interest in forming a section to address these concerns specifically, but since FMS was formed to address issues of this type and we are accumulating funds and expertise to support significant efforts in this direction, we hope those interested individuals will continue to pursue within FMS stream habitat improvement technology.

Joe Dillard, Second Vice President of AFS, addressed the section and stressed that one of this major thrusts as an AFS officer will be better communication.

The meeting adjourned.

## 1988 Special Session Requests

Is there any interest in the section for sponsoring a special mini-symposium with the Bioengineering Section at the Toronto Meeting in 1988 to address the Bioengineering/Hydrological/Fish Habitat relationships of trout stream habitat improvements. If

so, contact Don Duff with a recommendation. We'll need chairperson(s) to plan and coordinate with the 1988 AFS Program Chairman and Bioengineering Section. We need to plan early to put on a quality session, if we decide to plan such a session.

## AFS Competitive Fishing Committee

The AFS Competitive Fishing Committee was formed in 1986 as a joint committee of the Fisheries Management and Fisheries Administrator Sections, a result of the competitive fishing session at the 1985 Annual Meeting. Committee Chairman Kevin Richards recently sent me a statement of objectives for the committee and a list of approaches.

Under the overall objective to gather and summarize information relating to competitive fishing and to disseminate the information to resource managers and users, five approaches have been identified. First, the committee intends to assemble a bibliography of technical and non-technical references pertaining to competitive fishing. Second, they would like to summarize the results of surveys dealing with competitive fishing and tournaments (trends, results, regulations, etc.). If necessary, the committee would develop a survey to collect additional information to augment past work. Third, they would like to develop brochures, pamphlets and/or detailed publications which provide up-to-date information, advice and recommendations for competitive anglers, event sponsors, and managers. Fourth, the committee would like to identify future research needs and stimulate research efforts. Finally, by using AFS newsletters, Fisheries, SFI, and other sources, the committee would like to keep constituents informed on their progress and to generate interest and support.

The committee sees themselves as providing a role of information gathering and dissemination. They were very explicit in stating that they do not want to interfere with regional issues or agency policies. However, the information gathered will certainly help agencies, managers and users resolve or avoid regional problems.

As you can see, they have a big job ahead. Assembling a comprehensive bibliography of technical and non-technical references alone is a big task. Committee members ask for your help and input. If you have questions, call Kevin at 314/873-5838.

## Ben Jaco Throws His Hat Into the Ring

Competition for the slate of second vice president of AFS can be quite high at times, and no wonder. After serving two years in the vice presidential slot, the incumbent becomes president of AFS. This



year, the competition seems to be particularly keen. Fish Management Section is ably represented by Ben Jaco, however.

Ben is an FMS member in good standing, and for years has been an AFS leader in the Southern Division and the Tennessee Chapter. Ben has been quite active in the Warmwater Streams Committee of the Southern Division, and recently served as a very effective chairman of the Nominations Committee.

An AFS election is too important to ignore. When ballots are issued, VOTE!

### Tracking Wallop-Breaux Projects

As we all know, there are continual attempts to rob or otherwise modify Wallop-Breaux. None of these attempts to date have been beneficial to aquatic resources. The American Fisheries Society has been one of the watchdogs, trying to keep this innovative legislation intact, and now Sully has some help.

The Fisheries Management Section has established a committee to track the accomplishments and the status of Wallop-Breaux projects and funding by states. FMS President-Elect Jim Addis will chair this important committee. Others to be appointed to the committee will be Fisheries Management Section and Division representatives as well as other key members involved in administration of the legislation at the state level. The Fisheries Administrators Section is also interested in participating in the effort.

Hopefully, the committee will be able to provide Sully with up-to-date information on Wallop-Breaux in preparation for the 1988 reauthorization of the legislation.

### Stream Habitat Improvement Group

The section currently has a "Riparian and Stream Habitat Management Committee" filled with members from across the continent. Because of the interest of the membership in Stream Habitat Improvement as a result of the Pennsylvania workshop, President Duff plans to split this committee.

The present committee will remain intact, but the name will be changed to the "Riparian Habitat Committee" which will oversee the management and protection initiatives of riparian habitat. A "Stream Habitat Improvement Group" will be established to oversee the future planning of stream habitat workshops and symposia, develop standardized general planning guidelines for stream improvement work on the continent, technology transfer or the dissemination of planning and technical information

to the profession and layperson alike, and assist the AFS, Divisions, Sections and Chapters in this field of interest.

Don Duff is looking for two persons to co-chair this group as well as a well rounded group of members who would like to serve on or with this group. All who wish to participate are welcome from a technical point to just a purely informational point. Don plans on maintaining a list of all persons or groups interested in any aspect of stream habitat improvement. If you're interested in stream habitat improvement and want to see these initiatives continue then contact Don Duff by phone or letter to participate.

### Warmwater Stream Habitat Improvement

Some section members would like to see a committee formed to address warmwater fisheries needs in stream habitat improvement. The Southern Division AFS has an operational warmwater habitat committee which the section could interact with or assist. Do we have any interest in the formation of such a committee? If so, let Don Duff or any member of the Excom know, and we'll pursue. A good publication of this type improvement is contained in the AFS Special Publication Number 6 "Response of Fish to Habitat Structure in Standing Water" by the North Central Division, December, 1979. It can be purchased from the AFS central office.

### Trout Habitat Improvement Workshop

Planning is proceeding to look into putting on a 1988 trout habitat improvement workshop. To date we have received informal comments that the following may be interested in hosting the workshop: the Toronto, Ontario area (possibly the Sir Sanford Fleming College), Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. Other options include holding regional workshops to key in on techniques that work and are adaptable to that geographical area.

Sponsorship would be primarily from the state/province, local AFS chapter, and Division. In this manner, more specialists and publics working in the field could take advantage of the technology and learning experience. A series of regional workshops around the continent spaced at yearly intervals to allow participation of those interested could be set up as well as still having the biennial workshop for the international audience every two years.

If you have any suggestions for the future workshops or would like to sponsor the 1988 session, then write or phone Don Duff.



## Treasurer Steve Serns Passes Away

The tragic death of FMS Treasurer Steve Serns shocked many of us in the Section. Steve was recently elected Treasurer, and was emerging as a strong spokesman for walleye management in the upper Midwest. We mourn his death, remember the contributions he made to fishery management and offer our condolences to his family. Anyone interested in contributing to a memorial fund established to provide assistance to his wife and family should send contributions to the Steven Serns Memorial Fund at the DNR Office, P.O. Box 440, Woodruff, Wisconsin 54568.

Don Bonneau has been named to fill the treasurer's position until a new one can be chosen at the next election.

## News From The Regions

### Canada

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#### Information Wanted on Reservoir Clearing

Great Lakes Power Ltd. is proposing to develop hydro-electric generation facilities on the Magpie River (draining into the northeastern corner of Lake Superior). While much of the proposed reservoirs will be cleared for navigational/safety purposes, there appears to be a fisheries rationale for leaving standing timber in some areas. Most published information appears to relate to standing timber in bass reservoirs, with little information on walleye-northern pike communities. Ted Armstrong (MNR, P.O. Box 1160, Wawa, Ontario P0S 1K0, 705/856-2396) would be interested in hearing of any experiences with developing a reservoir, including the use of standing timber or other modified clearing techniques, to mitigate impacts on walleye-pike fisheries. Any published or unpublished references relating to reservoir clearing would also be appreciated.

#### American Shad Report Available

Jean Provost of the Universite du Quebec A Montreal (Montreal, Quebec; 514/282-3347) told me recently that a report on the American shad is now available. The study is a synthesis of the information on the various biological aspects of the shad (Alosa sapidissima) concentrating on the research carried out in Quebec. It is the first draft of a restora-

tion plan for the species in the St. Lawrence River. It would be a valuable source of information to anybody who is working on shad. Free copies of the report are available from the: Direction de la recherche sur les peches, Ministere des Peches et des Oceans, Laboratoire de Quebec C.P. 15500, 901 Cap Diamant Quebec (Quebec), G1K 7Y7.

As you probably gathered from the address, the report is written in French. Only the abstract is in English. Contact Jean if you require further information.

#### Ontario Sport Fishing License

Ontario will introduce a resident licence for sport fishing in 1987, Ontario Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio announced recently.

Mr. Kerrio said the licence will be required of most Ontario residents aged 18 to 64. Senior citizens and the disabled will be exempt, as will Status Indians fishing on their reserves or treaty areas. The annual licence will cost \$10 while a short-term licence to fish for four consecutive days will cost \$5.

"In public meetings held across the province, and through angler surveys, we have received strong support for this licence," said Mr. Kerrio.

"People have indicated strong approval for plans to put funding equivalent to revenues generated from this licence - projected to be 9-\$10-million a year - into fisheries improvement programs. This support indicates that the time is ripe to adopt the 'user-pay' principle in fisheries management."

"As a result of comments expressed in public meetings, we decided to exempt senior citizens from the licence and to incorporate the short-term licence for occasional anglers," Mr. Kerrio said.

The licence will be widely available through the Ministry of Natural Resources' network of private licence issuers, which includes sporting goods stores and tackle and bait shops. The network will be expanded as required to meet the demand for the licence. MNR district offices will also distribute the licences.

Mr. Kerrio said Ontario is among the last of the provinces to introduce a resident angling licence. In January, Cabinet gave approval in principle to the proposed licence. Since then the Ministry of Natural Resources has held more than 30 meetings across the province to hear public views. Question-



naires, angler surveys and letters to the ministry indicated that most people favoured a licence, providing that funding equivalent to revenues generated is used in fisheries management.

"The additional funding will be used to improve the quality of sport fishing in Ontario," Mr. Kerrio said. "It will go toward programs to protect, rehabilitate and enhance Ontario's fisheries, both in northern and southern Ontario. "For example, we can consider such projects as fish culture stations, the construction of fish ladders to aid naturally-reproducing species, improved enforcement capability and restoring fish habitat in urban areas to provide more fishing opportunities nearer people's homes."

Mr. Kerrio said the resident angling licence will also give ministry staff important information about how the resource is being used: "It will tell us who is fishing, where and for what. With this information, we'll be better able to gear our fisheries management programs to the needs or resource users."

A Fisheries Advisory Council, to be made of members of the public, will advise the Minister on fisheries management priorities and fisheries-related expenditures.

"The investment which anglers make in our fisheries resources will have far-reaching benefits in increased employment, and tourism and recreational opportunities," Mr. Kerrio said.

#### Ontario Fisheries Facts

- Sport fishing contributes \$700-million annually to the Ontario economy, the equivalent of 25,000 full-time jobs.

- Approximately 25 per cent, or 2.25 million Ontario residents fish at least once a year.

- The Ministry of Natural Resources currently spends more than \$30-million a year to look after its fishery.

- The fisheries budget dollars go toward programs such as fish and habitat protection, cleaning up polluted fisheries habitat, fish stocking, research and public education.

- Funds are also allocated for co-operative fishery improvement programs such as those run by MNR's Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP).

- Revenues from non-resident angling licences and other sources amount to about \$10-million.

- All other provinces in Canada require residents to obtain angling licences. Resident licences are also required throughout the United States. Licences in other jurisdictions range from \$5 to \$20 a year. The median charge is about \$10.

- A resident fishing licence could provide \$8- to \$12-million in additional funds for MNR's fisheries budget, allowing an expansion of existing programs and development of new initiatives.

- MNR is currently able to provide only about 70 per cent of the need for fish planting. This shortage could be alleviated by upgrading existing facilities and by placing additional fish hatcheries and rearing stations in strategic locations.

- Organized poaching has become a major problem in Ontario, and has wiped out brood stocks in some streams. Increased funding for fisheries law enforcement would help protect and preserve the fishery.

- Funding for the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) would be increased. Two additional Community Advisors could be hired to provide advice to participating community groups.

- Large scale CIP projects sponsored by municipalities and private organizations will be considered.

- With more project funds available for dam modification, access to spawning grounds could be improved for species like rainbow trout and salmon. MNR has already targeted many dams for removal or modification in southern Ontario alone.

- More and expanded research projects are necessary for fisheries scientists to develop fish stocks which are better able to cope with the changing natural environment.

- Distribution of education kits to teachers, class visits to fish hatcheries, and public involvement projects are ways that funding could be used to emphasize the importance of fishery management programs.

- A resident angling licence will also give fisheries managers important information about how the resource is being used. MNR will be able to monitor who is fishing, where and for what, and fisheries management programs would become better geared to the needs of the angler.

- An improved Ontario fishery means more fishing opportunities. This in turn means more revenue from tourism, resulting in increased benefits to the



hospitality industry, retailers, and other businesses and service industries.

## North Central

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### North Dakota and Minnesota

North Dakota Game and Fish Department Commissioner Dale Henegar has begun the process of importing European zander (*Stizostedion leuciopecca*) to North Dakota. While the walleye is doing well in the state's major reservoirs, there is concern over the impacts of early spring water level and temperature fluctuations on walleye spawning success. The zander's later spawning success (North Dakota's reservoir conditions are generally more stable in June) may make it more suitable.

"PROJECT ZANDER" has caused excitement in more than North Dakota's anglers, however. At the 48th Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Omaha, the North Central Division of the AFS passed a resolution sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter calling on North Dakota to follow AFS guidelines on the introduction of exotic species. Although the approach being pursued by North Dakota would initially introduce the walleye-cousin to a lake with no inlet or outlet, the approach does bring the exotic fish into a natural system well before AFS guidelines allow. (Contact Frank Rykman, ND Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismark Expressway, Bismark, ND 58501; 701/221-6300.)

### Mississippi River: MN, WI, IA, IL, MO

Evidence of a large scale die-off of mussels on the Upper Mississippi River was again apparent in 1986. Although not as pronounced as in 1982 and 1985, there is still great concern among the fisheries biologists and limnologists of the riparian states that the persistent die-off is a symptom of an emerging pollution or disease problem in the Upper Mississippi. The extremely high water levels experienced all spring, summer and fall of 1986 may have masked the problem this past year.

A symposium on the die-off was held in June of 1986, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The symposium was sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee. The proceedings are due to be published this year, edited by Richard Neves of VPI, Blacksburg, VA (703/961-5927).

### Missouri: Mission Impossible

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Fisheries Management Section has begun an awesome task. Plans have been laid, staff has been hired, training has begun, and D-J funding has been secured. The mission: restore the hundreds of miles of Missouri's warmwater streams to good fish habitat quality. One has to see the mile after mile of huge, raw river banks, cutting through acre after acre of corn and soybean fields, to appreciate what an awesome task these folks have taken on. The fact that much of the riparian land involved is in private ownership only makes the magnitude of the task loom larger.

The DOC is planning on a broad range approach, starting with implementing and evaluating the biological and economic impacts of enlightened stream bank management on state owned land. Based on current knowledge and experience, they are hoping to establish two showcase demonstration areas which will convince even the most skeptical farmer to manage their stream banks the "right way". First hand tours to the demonstration areas, filmed documentaries, and lots of extension work by district fisheries biologists are to be used to make the persuasive impact needed to get everyone on the conservation bandwagon. (Contact Lee Redmond, MO Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102; 314/751-4115.)

## South

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### Tennessee

The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency recently became embroiled in controversy when it attempted to implement a drawdown of Reelfoot Lake. Reelfoot Lake is a very large and shallow natural lake located adjacent to the Mississippi River. It was created in 1811 when, as the result of an earthquake it sunk below the level of the nearby Mississippi River and filled up with water. Prior to the 1980's fisheries management efforts were limited to the routine collection of baseline data. Then in 1984, it was determined that additional steps be taken to improve the Reelfoot Lake fishery. It was theorized by TWRA biologists that the maintenance of a stable water level regime since the 1940's resulted in adverse conditions for the fisheries. The answer was to implement a partial drawdown to expose and oxidize 50% of the sediment substrate.



Despite TWRA efforts in public relations, a lawsuit was filed by some of the opponents. It was determined in court that Reelfoot Lake was federal water since Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge is located on the upper portion of the lake. This has necessitated an Environmental Impact Statement be approved prior to any drawdown. As a result, a workshop was held and expert testimonies on the effects of lake drawdowns were gathered. Completion of the EIS is expected next summer. In addition a 50 year management plan is being drawn up. Interested fisheries managers can contact Jim Johnson for further information (TWRA Regional Office, 225 Martin Luther Drive, Jackson, TN 38301; 901/423-5725).

#### Texas

The reputation the state of Texas maintains with having everything the largest has apparently carried over to fisheries management. Dick Luebke (Heart of the Hills Research Station, Junction Star Route, Box 62, Ingram, TX 78025; 512/866-3356) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife reports that a newly created fishery in Braunig Lake for red drum has resulted in an angler harvest that exceeds 90 lbs/acre. The average size of the red drum creel was 9 pounds. Furthermore, it is believed that the fishery has not been developed to full potential.

The conversion of this popular saltwater fish to freshwater habitat is relatively trouble free. Red drum are easily produced in salt water hatcheries and have been stocked by the Texas Parks and Wildlife at densities of 1 to 200 per acre. The primary drawback to the management program is that drum do not tolerate cold temperatures. As a result, they are used only in power plant cooling reservoirs. A total of 5 additional cooling lakes have been stocked recently with the drum and biologists are anxiously awaiting the outcome.

Braunig Lake also supports a superlative largemouth bass population. In 1985, a 21 inch minimum length harvest restriction was imposed for largemouth bass to maintain a trophy fishery. The daily creel limit is 2.

#### Fish Tournament Software

New computer software has been developed by Robert Ditton (Texas A & M University, Department of Recreation and Parks, College Station, TX 77843-2261; 409/845-5380) to support fishing tournaments. The Fishing Tournament Information and Retrieval System (FTIRS) software was developed last year for use on microcomputers. The software was developed with funding support from the Texas A & M Sea Grant Program. The software is useful for registration and scoring purposes. Further, it can provide a mailing list for educational or marketing purposes.

There are fisheries conservation benefits as well. Records of catch by species can be kept for ready comparison with data from later years.

#### Kentucky Lake Mussels

The summer drought of 1986 was not without casualties in the field of fisheries. A die off of freshwater mussels was reported in Kentucky Lake, which supports a multimillion dollar mussel fishery.

Kentucky Lake is a reservoir nearly 150 miles long and 140,000 acres in size. It is normally characterized as having a short water retention time. As a result of the drought, the reservoir retention time quadrupled causing the reservoir to stratify. The stratified condition facilitated a hypolimnetic oxygen depletion which was lethal to some of the mussels. The extent of the kill is not known at the present time. Further information on the mussel die off can be obtained from the TWRA.

#### Crappie

The word is out that many state fisheries agencies in the South are renewing efforts at managing crappie populations in lakes and reservoirs. It has been my experience with crappie work on reservoirs located in Central Mississippi that a majority of the anglers indicate crappie as the preferred target species. As a result of this widespread interest in crappie I would like to receive information on crappie management which could be included in future newsletter editions. If any of you have some knowledge that could be shared with other crappie managers please let me hear from you.

#### Gulf of Mexico

This past year several government agencies cooperated to demonstrate the use of fisheries aid products derived from satellite data. The products were simplified line drawings of water mass boundaries identified from Coastal Zone Color Scanner (CZCS) data. The data was used by Gulf fleet fishermen to locate color gradients - which reflect nutrients and chlorophyll concentrations in the Gulf of Mexico. The first product was broadcast on March 14, 1986, since then erratic behavior of the color sensor has made data unavailable.

According to Tom Vanselous (National Science Technology Laboratory Station, Bay Saint Louis, MS 39529; 601/688-1213) more research is needed to aid in the interpretation of the CZCS data. However, preliminary responses from the fishermen indicate that the demonstration was successful. Future demonstrations are being planned.



## Upcoming Events

May 3-6, 1987. **Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of AFS.** Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. For more information, contact Peter Oatis, Field Headquarters, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife, Westboro, MA 01581; 617/366-4470.

May 26-29, 1987. **The Fifth Symposium on Coastal and Ocean Management.** The Weston Hotel, Seattle, Washington. For more information, contact Dolores Clark, NOAA External Affairs, Rockland, MD 20852; 301/443-8031.

June 1-5, 1987. **The Florida Bay Symposium.** University of Miami at Coral Gables, Coral Gables, FL. For more information, call Jim Tilmant at 305/245-5266 or Bill Fox, Jr. 305/361-4159.

June 21-26, 1987. **Annual Meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the American Elasmobranch Society.** New York State Museum, Albany, NY. For more information, contact Robert A. Daniels, NY State Museum, CEC-3132, Albany, NY 12230.

June 22-26, 1987. **International Symposium on Fisheries Acoustics.** Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Centers, Seattle, Washington. For more information, contact Martin O. Nelson, Chairman, ISFA Steering Committee, Division of Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115-0070.

July 12-15, 1987. **Annual Meeting of the Western Division of AFS.** Sheridan Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT. For more information, contact Al Mills, 615 E. Center St., Orem, UT 84057; 801/377-5780.

August 24-26, 1987. **5th Biennial Plains Aquatic Research Conference.** Winnipeg, Manitoba. For more information, contact Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Freshwater Institute, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N6; 204/949-5140.

August 24-28, 1987. **International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Coregonids being held in Joensuu, Finland.** For more information, contact Dr. Hannu Lehtonen, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 193, SF-00131, Helsinki, Finland.

September 11-17, 1987. **The 117 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.** Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC. For more information, contact Carl Sullivan, Executive Director, American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301/897-8616.

September 30-October 1, 1987. **Catch and Release Fishing—A Decade of Experience.** Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. This timely symposium will present new techniques, results and problems from a variety of fresh- and salt-water experiences. It also coincides with the peak run of salmon and steelhead in central California. Titles and abstracts are due by May 1, 1987. For more information, contact Roger Barnhart, California Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521; 707/826-3268.

November 2-6, 1987. **4th International Conference on Artificial Habitats for Fisheries.** Miami, FL. For more information, contact Dr. William Seaman, Conference Chairman, Building 803, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

November 20-22, 1987. **The 18th Annual Desert Fish Council Symposium.** Four Seasons Convention Center, St. George, Utah. For more information, contact Phil Pister, California Department of Fish and Game, 407 West Line, Bishop, CA 93514; 619-872-1171.

The Fisheries Management Section Newsletter is a publication of the Fisheries Management Section, American Fisheries Society. Address all correspondence to Richard E. Wehnes, Editor; P.O. Box 180; Jefferson City, MO 65102; 314/751-4115.



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