



American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists
Promoting excellence in fishery science

... BRIEFS ...

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President's Message
Thank's to all who participated in the AIFRB
50th Anniversary Celebration in Seattle, WA.

I would like to especially thank all our co sponsors: NOAA Fisheries Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, North Pacific Research Board and NOAA Sea Grant. And our generous donors: School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences University of Washington, ECorp Consulting, Inc, Simrad Fisheries, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Census for Marine Life, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, Biosonics, Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc., West Palm Beach Fishing Club, Shakespeare Fishing Tackle, and Cabela's Outfitters. We would like to thank Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Dr. Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Service for attending and giving key note addresses to open the Symposium. Many AIFRB members worked very hard to make the Symposium a success. Although a simple thank you is inadequate, I do want to say thank you to acknowledge all of these dedicated people. Our hard working Treasurer, Allen Shimada, kept our finances on track, and worked with the Organizing Committee. Brian Rothschild and President-elect Dick Beamish were the original instigators of the 50th Symposium and the creative forces for all that followed. They also were responsible for much of the major fund raising for the symposium and will serve as the editors of the Symposium book. The National Steering Committee who developed the symposium program concept: Dick Beamish, John Boreman, Bill Fox, Rick Methot, Joanne Morgan, Steve Murawski, Victor Restrepo, Andy Rosenberg and Brian Rothschild. Fund Raising Committee: Vidar Wespestad, chair, Bern Megrey, Membership Chair Tom Keegan, and John Jolley did a great job with additional fund raising. Local Organizing Committee: Nancy Davis, Fred Utter, David Somerton, Rick Methot, Kristan Blackhart, Vince Gallucci, and Bill Aron all spent many months preparing for the symposium, getting contracts in place and organizing the session volunteers. Nancy, Fred and Dave were responsible for the program booklet that was distributed to all attendees. Rick was responsible for the AV support and for the memory sticks with the abstracts that were given to symposium participants. Nancy also was my partner in securing the hotel arrangements. Web Committee: Dave Somerton and Allen Shimada worked with Vickie Lingwood (who is also contracted to overhaul our AIFRB our homepage web site) to develop the web pages and the symposium database which allowed us to track registration, make electronic payments, print off data such as name tags, and generally made the symposium mechanics go smoothly. Great job!

Poster Session: Ray Wilson was responsible for the excellent poster session. Kasahara Early Career Award: Steve Cadrin, chair, Morris Southward, Kate Myers, and Bruce Miller presented Mrs. Toshiko Kasahara with a certificate of appreciation, announcing the Kasahara Early Career Award. There were many others who gave much effort to the symposium. Steve Murawski, NOAA Fisheries, was a member of the Steering Group, and provided keynote remarks, along with Brian and Dick, to generate a great opening and closing of the Symposium. The Session Chairs recruited excellent speakers for the symposium. The Chairs were Jim Balsiger, Bill Fox, Mike Fogarty, Jake Rice, Ken Drinkwater, Anne Hollowed, Rick Methot, Bob Mohn, Van Holliday and Ken Foote. NOAA Fisheries staff were also critical contributors: Steve Murawski, John Boreman, Bill Zahner, Marty Golden and Christopher Moore (HQ), Wendy Carlson (AFSC) who did the wonderful graphics for the Symposium. Volunteers: Andrea Belgrano, Kristan Blackhart, John Brandon, Troy Buckley, Lisa Crosson, Keith Denton, Katy Doctor, Martin Dorn, Heather Gibbs, Marty Golden, Pete Haaker, Jim Hastie, Katrina Hoffman, Mary Hunsiker, Bob Lauth, Alan Lin, Jodie Little, Stacey Miller, Vija Pelekis, Mary Ramirez, Cheryl Ryder Nancy Somerton, Ian Stewart, Nancy Utter, Mark Wilkins, John Williams, Matt Wilson and Stephani Zador.

Thank you all!

Linda

New AIFRB Effort

Kasahara Early Career Award

AIFRB announced a new award at the poster session of its 50th anniversary symposium. The Kasahara Early Career Award is intended to recognize the Institute's most promising young associates and members early in their research careers. The 2007 award is \$2,500, and subsequent awards will be granted biennially with the amount to be established by the Institute. At the September 2006, Board of Control meeting, Gary Sakagawa, Vidar Wespestad and Alan Shimada proposed the Kasahara Early Career Award to honor the memory of Dr. Hiroshi Kasahara and the lasting contributions made by Dr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Toshiko Kasahara to fisheries science and the work of the Institute. A committee was formed to propose guidelines and a process for administering awards, chaired by Steve Cadrin and including Clark Hubbs, Bruce Miller, Kate Myers and Morris Southward. Mrs. Kasahara was in attendance at the announcement and was presented a certificate from Linda Jones, AIFRB President (see picture). Please send nominations for the award to your District Director.



AIFRB President Linda Jones (right) presents plaque recognizing the support of the Kasahara family in establishing the Kasahara early career award to Mrs. Toshiko Kasahara during the AIFRB 50th Anniversary Celebration, Seattle, Washington, February 12-15, 2007

Award Guidelines

Qualifications: Candidates must...

- ... be accomplished researchers in fisheries science, with competence in conservation and proper utilization of fishery resources,
- ... demonstrate potential for leadership in scientific frontiers,
- ... have received a PhD within the last seven years (exceptional scientists who do not have a PhD should have received their BS within the last fifteen years),
- ... be a professional associate or member of the Institute in good standing, and
- ... be nominated by a professional associate, member or fellow of the Institute.

Criteria for evaluating candidates: preference will be given to candidates who...

- ... develop innovative approaches to fisheries science,
- ... promote connections between basic and applied research, and
- ... integrate science and policy for sustainable management of fishery resources
- ... active involvement or leadership in research and science organizations.

Selection Process

Nominations – The general membership of the Institute will be solicited for nominations through correspondence that includes qualifications and evaluation criteria. Solicitations will be administered by the Committee Chair through District Directors to promote a wide distribution of nominations.

Evaluation

- All nominees will be contacted by the committee chair and requested to submit a curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, and a one-page summary of how the award would be used to promote the nominee's research.
- The committee will work by correspondence to evaluate all nominees who submit the required information.
- The committee will recommend an award recipient to the Board of Control.

Award Schedule – Awards will be biennial.

- Year 1 – Nominations will be solicited and reviewed to form a recommendation to the Board of Control. The Board will review the recommendation and decide on the award winner and amount at its annual meeting.
- Year 2 – The award recipient will be notified by the President and requested to present the award-winning research agenda at an Institute event where the award will be presented.

Volunteers rate more Symposium Thank Yous!

A remarkable cadre of volunteers gave their time and effort to make significant contributions to the success of our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Volunteers came forward from a variety of professional levels and institutions in the Seattle area. A total of twelve energetic, young fisheries students who volunteered came from the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and the School of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington. Ten experienced and veteran fisheries professionals volunteered from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center of the NOAA Fisheries Service. And two AIFRB members in town for the Symposium volunteered to help during the meeting. The Local Organizing Committee thanks the University of Washington and the NOAA Fisheries Service for enabling volunteers to contribute their time in support of the Symposium. Volunteers set up and dismantled the poster session, ran the AV, and populated the registration desk throughout the meeting. The mixture of volunteers in the initial, middle, and the mature portion of their fishery research careers provided a chance for some cross-generational collegiality, ribbing, and competition. It appeared that volunteers enjoyed their experience at the meeting as much as we appreciated their help! Thank You All.

Nancy Davis, Local Organizing Committee, AIFRB 50th Anniversary Symposium

Summary and Perspectives of the Symposium on the Future of Fishery Science in North America

by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists – AIFRB

Prepared by Marty Golden and Ron Rinaldo, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries

The symposium, convened by AIFRB in Seattle, Washington February 13-15, 2007, was co-sponsored by NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS), Fisheries & Oceans, Canada, and the North Pacific Research Board. Dr. William Hogarth, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, provided key note addresses. Over 240 fishery scientists from North America and Europe participated in the program.

Symposium objective: Explore current state of our fisheries and emerging research opportunities and challenges for fishery science over the next decade. Copies of abstracts are available upon request.

Overview: (1) One prevalent theme in many presentations was the importance of ecosystem management of our fisheries but it was recognized that we do not have the data to run sophisticated models without using extensive assumptions. It was clear that the models themselves also need to be improved; (2) The changing ocean environment and climate must be factored into both research design and management decisions more effectively. Successful fisheries management will require more dynamic applications to remain concurrent with changing ecosystems; (3) Communication among scientists, between scientists and managers, and among the public, scientists, & managers requires significant improvement to gain broad support for research funding & fisheries management decisions. Much of this burden is expected to fall to the scientists to make clear the complexities of environmental perturbations and the uncertainties inherent in fisheries management; (4) Social and economic sciences data collection and assessment must be given a higher priority, with fisheries governance including Designated Access Programs (DAP's) built on a stronger social network which includes active participation of both recreational and commercial interests. This is especially true for addressing and preventing over exploitation of fish stocks.

Management: Scientists need to be very clear about the significance of uncertainty in fish stock assessments and projections, and managers must recognize these uncertainties in the decision making process. A good model based on a lot of uncertainty should not be presented as if it were a simple assessment. Overcapacity must be addressed more effectively for management to be successful in implementing resource conservation goals. Viable international fisheries agreements are critical to global marine fisheries management. Partnerships with social sciences need greater attention particularly from the managers, but also from the fishery scientists.

Ecosystems: Science needs to address the big picture more effectively – the land, river, ocean, climate connection. Expanding to ecosystem management is important, but it needs to be a continuum of moving from single species management to ecosystem management as data improve. Research programs must be designed for long term decision making rather than simply quick fixes. Ecosystem indicators may be a valuable focus of research. Research needs to address forage species as well as target species and their food and energetic requirements at all important life stages. Managers must realize that understanding recruitment is essential to sound management and that ecosystem modeling can neither replace nor supply that requirement.

Ocean environment: The overlay of ocean environment and climate on stock trends needs to be more strongly incorporated into models and analyses of stock dynamics. Interactions of complex assemblages must be considered in the context of a changing ocean environment.

Stock assessment: The data needs for developing unambiguous projections far exceed resources. To optimize the effectiveness of stock assessment we need to significantly increase cooperative research between countries, agencies, universities, and commercial and sport fisheries constituents. Recognize that Maximum Sustained Yield is a constantly shifting baseline and often quickly shifting – management must be designed to adapt to these quickly shifting baselines (more retrospective analyses). Assessments need to better address patchiness of recruitment and all important life stages for key taxa. Age structure change and species interactions due to fishing and environmental change needs to be investigated in more detail. Solving regime problems may be critical to understanding recruitment problems.

Technology: Many presentations noted that an ecosystems approach will not solve our basic need to determine how a stock is doing and what the stock potential will be in the future, under either the same environment or a changing environment. We need to understand recruitment for both the individual stock and stock assemblages (similar species in an area or fishery) and that will take a lot of time and data. The only expectation for real progress in ecosystem management appears to be to make significant investments in technology development and use of new unobtrusive observation techniques. Areas for additional research include underwater vehicles (ROVs, AUVs), LIDAR, sonars, acoustics, hydrophone arrays, genetic nekton and plankton sampling (i.e. biopsy hooks designed to sample DNA and gene chips to speed identification & quantification), otolith micro-chemistry, and new electronic tagging methods with satellite down links for young individuals in the stocks of interest. Technology advances in bycatch reduction also need a stronger funding stream.

Poster Session: There were 23 papers presented in the poster session. These covered a wide variety of topics within the themes of the Symposium. US and Canadian perspectives, with examples from both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, provided examination of tagging, monitoring, modeling, ecosystem, genetics, and management approaches to research and future needs. One interesting poster reviewed an approach that is being taken in California to utilize the internet for “stock assessment with citizen scientists” for species such as grunion that spawn simultaneously over a broad area and require a lot of observers at the same time to get an idea of spawning success and recruitment.

Summary Remarks: Dr. Michael Sissenwine provided an insightful overview of the meeting noting that we need more emphasis on crosscutting scientific issues. Plankton-nekton-benthos linkages need to be strengthened and more consideration for these linkages should be given in stock assessments. The impacts of ocean acidification, effects of fishing on stock genetics, and the development of models for management strategies are among the issues needing much more emphasis. The science/policy interface is an ever increasing challenge, especially for addressing ecosystem objectives. A better understanding of social science is critical to providing society with the tools to set research and management objectives. Society will proceed without these tools, leading to poorer management choices, and it up to us, the fisheries scientists, to move funding and research in the directions required to meet all of these needs.

Messages:

For Scientists: The science community should put much more effort into developing cooperative research programs with commercial and recreational fisheries interests. A strong and continuing dialog with these and other public constituencies is critical to getting appropriate program support and funding. There were many research areas identified for more emphasis and funding in addition to stock assessment, modeling, and ecosystem assessment. Research to develop environmentally acceptable aquaculture practices will help promote aquaculture and subsequently may lead to reduced pressure on wild stocks. Additionally, increased attention to research on marine protected areas will make it easier for managers to justify or reduce their use in fisheries management programs.

For Managers: Managers need to foster powerful education and outreach programs for both management and scientific staff to optimize constituent (public) support for research and management initiatives (i.e. FMC training, Ethical Angling Program). Critical needs must be addressed for fishery management infrastructure. More support is needed for the scientific community; this support includes recognition, pay, and recruitment of young people into fishery science and mentoring them. Support for employee’s involvement in science based organizations such as AIFRB is just one way to show this support. Data ownership is also an ever increasing issue that needs to be addressed; the increasing need/requirement for quick release of data versus the need of scientists to have time to publish data.

For Commercial Fisheries: The commercial fisheries community needs to be much more proactive politically to insure that research they believe to be important is supported with appropriate funds. Commercial fisheries participants need to better understand how their fishing practices may impact the long term viability of a stock (i.e. full age range stock are more stable than ones that have been truncated). Key areas of research that will help sustain and build better commercial fisheries include enhanced data collection, marine protected area research, and bycatch reduction studies. The commercial fishing community should continue efforts and develop more cooperative research programs with the science community.

For Recreational Fisheries: The recreational fisheries community needs to remain politically active to insure that critical research and monitoring is supported with appropriate funds. Recreational fisheries participants must understand how specific fishing practices and resource sharing may determine the long term viability of a stock. Key areas of research that will help sustain and build better recreational fisheries include enhanced data collection through electronic log books, landing reports, and observers. Economic research and bycatch studies will lead to a better set of tools for managers to provide reasonable regulations. Increased research regarding hooking mortality reduction and the use of slot limits for certain fisheries should help

them become more important management tools for developing more robust fisheries. The recreational fishing community should increase efforts to develop cooperative research programs with the science community.

For the Public: Ask for clear communications and explanations of science issues so that they may make informed decisions related to marine resource management and conservation. Communicate with elected representatives to ensure that marine research and management issues receive the funding needed to satisfy their values. Use the information provided by science and management to become better stewards of our fishery ecosystems (including marine, land, rivers, wetlands, ocean, and air quality).

Presenters and Titles

AIFRB 50th Anniversary Symposium

The Future of Fishery Science in North America

Seattle, Washington, February 12-15, 2007

Opening Session

Wendy Watson-Wright, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Assistant Deputy Minister for Science, *The Promise of an Ecosystem Approach (EA): Lessons from the Past, Hopes for the Future*; William Hogarth, U.S. NOAA Fisheries Service, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, *U.S. Marine Fisheries under the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act*; Brian Rothschild, University of Massachusetts and AIFRB, *Research Requirements for Fishery Management*; Richard Beamish, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and AIFRB, *The Future of Fisheries Science on Canada's Pacific Coast is Keeping Up with the Changes*; Steven Murawski, U.S. NOAA Fisheries Service, Chief Scientific Advisor, *The future of fisheries science: Flexibility to adapt to changes in fisheries production and management*

Session 1, Management: research requirements - current successes and challenges

Co-chairs: James Balsiger and William Fox, Jr.

James Balsiger, NOAA Fisheries Service, *What Will Fishery Managers Need from Scientists in the Future?*; Kevin Stringer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *Fisheries Management and Science: Traditional Relationships in a Complex, Changing and Uncertain Environment*; Franklin Schwing, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Future Research Requirements for Understanding the Effects of Climate Variability on Fisheries for Their Management*; Robin Waples, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Evolutionary Effects of Fisheries on Natural Populations: Future Research Needs and Management Implications*; Dale Squires, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Opportunities in Social Science Research*

Session 2, Ecosystems

Co-chairs: Michael Fogarty and Jake Rice

Michael Fogarty, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Production Dynamics of Exploited Marine Ecosystems: Implications for Ecosystem-based Management*; Jake Rice, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *Biodiversity, Spatial Management, and the Ecosystem Approach*; Mariano Koen-Alonso, Centro Nacional Patagónico, *Thinking Out Loud: Some Observations on the Role of Trophodynamic Models for Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management*; Phillip Levin, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Ecosystem-based Management of What?*; Marie-Joëlle Rochet, Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, *Why and How Could Indicators be Used in an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management?*; Saul Saila, University of Rhode Island, *Ecosystem Models of Fishing Effects: Present Status and a Suggested Future Paradigm*; Carrie Holt, Simon Fraser University, *Uncertainties in Population Dynamics and Outcomes of Regulations in Sockeye Salmon Fisheries: Implications for Management*

Session 3, Ocean environment - ocean and climate influences

Co-chairs: Kenneth Drinkwater and Anne Hollowed

Kenneth Drinkwater, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, *Ecosystem Oceanography: Is There a Future?*; Anne Hollowed, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Joining Fish Ecology and Ocean Science: Present and Future Challenges to Understanding Marine Ecosystems*; James Overland, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, NOAA OAR, *What Will the North Pacific Look Like in the Next 30 Years?*; Alec MacCall, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Revisiting the "Recruitment Problem"*; Kenneth Frank, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *Community Diversity, Species Dominance and the Role of NAO Variability in the Recruitment Dynamics of NW Atlantic Groundfish Stocks*; Pierre Pepin, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *Identifying the Impacts of Climate Change and Ecosystem Structure on the Early Life Stages of Fish: What are the Implications for Predicting Single Species Population Dynamics?*; Ashleen Benson, Simon Fraser University, *Evaluating the Importance of Accounting for Biodiversity in Fisheries Management*; George Pess, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *How Much Restoration is Enough? Science Challenges for Restoring Dynamic River Systems*

Session 4, Stock Assessment

Co-chairs: Richard Methot and Robert Mohn

Richard Methot, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Stock Assessments: Operational Models in Support of Sustainable Fisheries*; Robert Mohn, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *The Uncertain Future of Assessment Uncertainty*; James Ianelli, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Fisheries Assessment and Ecosystem Research: Are There Lines in the Benthos?*; Robert O'Boyle, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, *The Implications of a Paradigm Shift in Oceans Management on the Structure and Function of Stock Assessment*; Daniel Goodman, Montana State University, *Merging Stock Assessment and Risk Assessment*; Marc Mangel, University of California, Santa Cruz, *Life History Plasticity and Stock Assessments: Beyond the von Bertalanffy*; Steve Cadrin, NOAA/University of Massachusetts CMER Program, *Accounting for Population Structure in Stock Assessment: Past, Present and Future*; Yan Jiao, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, *Bayesian Model Averaging in Fisheries Recruitment Modeling*; Jerry Ault, University of Miami, *Opportunities for Assessment and Management of Sustainable US Coral Reef Ecosystems*; Mark Maunder, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, *Computers, Software, and the Future of Fisheries Stock Assessment*; Jerrold G. (Jerry) Norton, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries, *Species Abundance Cycles in Ecosystem and Economic Management of California Current Fish and Invertebrate Resources*; M. Elizabeth Clarke, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *The Development of New Methods to Monitor Populations of West Coast Groundfish and Their Habitat Using the SeaBED AUV*

Session 5, Technology

Co-chairs: Van Holliday and Kenneth Foote

Van Holliday, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, *Technology for Evaluating Marine Ecosystems in the Early 21st Century*; Kenneth Foote, Woods Holes Oceanographic Institution, *Sound Prospects: Seizing the State-of-the-Art to Advance Fisheries Research*; Kevin Stokesbury, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, *Astonishment, Stupefaction, and a Naturalist's Selectivity Approach to Ecosystem Studies*; Olav Rune Godø, Institute of Marine Research, *Technology Answers to the Requirements Set by the Ecosystem Approach*; Stephen B. Brandt, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, NOAA, *Integrating Fisheries Acoustics with New Observation Platforms, Environmental Sensors and Models: Future Research Opportunities and Challenges*; Lorenz Hauser, University of Washington, *The Molecular Genetic Revolution in Fisheries: Developments, Applications and Prospects*; David Somerton, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service, *Marine Fish Movements Revealed by Electronic Tagging*; James Churnside, ESRL, NOAA, *Combining Techniques for Remotely Assessing Pelagic Nekton: Getting the Whole Picture*

Poster Presentations

Management: J. Amos, M. J. Bradford, and R. M. Peterman, Simon Fraser University, *Evaluating recovery actions for the endangered Cultus Lake sockeye salmon*; M. Baker, University of Washington, *Pre-spawning mortality in sockeye salmon related to interactions with gillnet fisheries and implications for management*; J. S. Cleary, W. K. de la Mare, and R. D. Stanley, Simon Fraser University, *Evaluating the reliability of trends in stock abundance from the Queen Charlotte Sound multispecies survey*; S. Y. Hyun and S. Ellis, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, *Pre-season forecasts of ocean escapements of Columbia River summer and fall Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) populations*; G. Smith, C. Marzin, and S. Claesson, University of New Hampshire, *Sources, methods, and implications of historical research in ecosystem-based management*; K. Wieckowski and W. K. de la Mare, Simon Fraser University, *A comparative analysis of two fleet dynamic models: Which is the better predictor of effort distribution?*

Ocean Environment/Ecosystem: R. Brodeur, H. L. Soulen, W. T. Peterson, T. D. Auth, and L. Ciannelli, NWFSC/NOAA Fisheries, Newport, Oregon, *Ichthyoplankton indices of climate and ecosystem change in a coastal upwelling zone off Oregon NOAA Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Ichthyoplankton indices of climate and ecosystem change in a coastal upwelling zone off Oregon*; C. Rooper NOAA Fisheries Service, Alaska Science Center, *An ecological analysis of rockfish (*Sebastes spp.*) assemblages in the north Pacific along broad-scale environmental gradient*; J. J. Ruzicka, R. D. Brodeur and T. C. Wainwright, Oregon State University, *Seasonal food web models for the Northern California Current upwelling ecosystem: insight into the variability of juvenile salmon survival*; T. C. Wainwright, R. L. Emmett, P. W. Lawson, and W. T. Peterson, NOAA Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, *Long- and short-term performance of ecosystem indicators for coho salmon*

Stock Assessment: K. Holt and S. P. Cox, Simon Fraser University, *Simulation modeling as a research tool for designing coho visual survey programs that maximize the power of escapement trend detection*; K. Martin, B. Cupp, C. Stivers, M. Studer, and P. Johnson, Pepperdine University, *Stock assessment with citizen scientists on the internet*

Technology: P. M. Adam, J. K. Horne, J. H. Churnside, University of Washington, *Unveiling time: using optics to quantify movement effects on acoustic abundance estimates*; C. I. Anderson, J. Boyle, and J. K. Horne, University of Washington, *Probabilistic classification of ecosystem components using multi-frequency acoustic*; R. Bellinger, P. Lawson, P. Moran, D. Teel, and M. Banks, Oregon State University, *Genetic stock identification (GSI) technology transfer to fishery management*; T. Bigelow, J. Loehrke, D. Martins, and S. Cadrin, University of Massachusetts, *Tagging Methodology applied to two New England fishery resources: Past, present, and future*; J. Harms, J. Benante, S. Tomich, J. Hempelmann, and M. Barnhart, NOAA

Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, *Improvements in genetic hook DNA capture*; B. P. Harris, J. I. Nogueira, M. C. Marino II, and K. D. E. Stokesbury, University of Massachusetts, *Mapping surficial substrates and megabenthos along the northwestern Atlantic continental shelf with underwater video surveys*; E. E. Knudsen and E. G. Doyle, Mt Vernon, Washington, *Science and technology are essential for sustaining salmon populations and their ecosystems*; S. Lindley, L. Wooninck, and C. Grimes, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, *Acoustic tagging and integrated ocean observing systems*; M. C. Marino, B. P. Harris, J. I. Nogueira, and K. D.E. Stokesbury, University of Massachusetts, *Measuring population dynamics on appropriate biological scales; a case study examining sea scallop mass mortality*; T. Steig, Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc, Seattle, *Three-dimensional behavior results of acoustically tagged Puget Sound dock shrimp (*Pandalus danae*)*

Flashdrives Available

No handbags at the Future of Fisheries Science Symposium. Instead, the AIFRB distributed USB flashdrives as a useful tool in our electronic era. The 256MB drives were custom printed with the Symposium logo and pre-loaded with the abstracts and program for the meeting, all for a modest cost from customUSB.com. If you would like one of the flashdrives for your own, you can order them from Allen Shimada for \$20.00.

AIFRB E-Journal Friedland Seeks Assistance

I need your help in launching the Journal of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (J. Am. Inst. Fish. Res. Biol.). The concept and business model for this journal is to provide an open-access e-journal that represents the work of the Institute. As an e-journal, we will not produce a printed version, so we will not be burdened with that aspect of cost recovery. We will however need to recover some costs related to editing and formatting, so the business model of the journal will include a modest two-tier author charge to publish in the journal, a charge on the order of \$100-200/paper for AIFRB members and maybe twice that for non-members. The other ingredient needed to make this model work is a board of associate editors.

The journal is in many regards intended to be patterned after the new e-journal from the National Biological Information Infrastructure of the USGS, entitled "Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy" (see <http://ejournal.nbii.org/>). Like that journal, the goal of the J. Am. Inst. Fish. Res. Biol. would be to produce between 15-25 articles per year, as a start. To achieve this goal, we need a board of associate editors of approximately half that number. Each associate editor will be the decision editor for some number of submissions (finding three reviewers and making an acceptance decision), but will also make the commitment to edit the accepted papers in preparation for publication. We will limit the work load for an associate editor to two accepted papers per year, unless that individual is willing to take on more work. When the paper is of acceptable content and readability, it will be sent to an editorial house for formatting and technical proof-reading. The final version of manuscript will be examined by the editor before placement on the AIFRB website e-journal page.

I believe this editorial/business model can work. It will provide visibility for the Institute, encourage membership, provide a relatively economical way for authors to publish, and avoids placing a strain on Institute resources. This editorial/business model depends on a committed group of associate editors who are interested in developing an open-access journal to serve the fisheries community and the AIFRB. If you are interested in serving as an associate editor, please contact me for details.

Sincerely, Kevin Friedland, Ph.D., National Marine Fisheries Service
28 Tarzall Drive, Narragansett, RI, 02882
Email: kevin.friedland@noaa.gov, Tel (401) 782-3236, Fax (401) 782-3201

Correction: NMFS Old Timers Report Correct Email Address

Harold Allen's Email is hallen01@tampabay.rr.com (note the rr, not just one r)

Thanks to Al Jones for spotting the mistake in our last issue. Ed.

2006 Stock Assessment Report for Atlantic Menhaden

A report prepared by the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee for the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board, September 26, 2006

Executive Summary: The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) convened a stock assessment workshop (AW) at the NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, Beaufort, North Carolina, on Tuesday, July 18, 2006. The workshop's objective was to conduct an update of the benchmark assessment of the Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) stock off the U.S. Atlantic coast (ASMFC 2004a). Participants in this update assessment included state, commission, federal and university scientists, as well as several observers (Appendix A). The AW worked at Beaufort through July 19, 2006. All decisions regarding stock assessment methods and acceptable data were made by consensus.

Following a scoping conference call in January 17, 2006, available data on the species were evaluated during a subsequent Data Workshop (March 16–17, 2006) in Providence, RI. These data were then finalized for inclusion in the assessment model. Data included abundance indices, recorded landings, and samples of annual size and age compositions from the landings. Six state juvenile abundance seine indices were developed; five of these were updated from the 2003 peer-reviewed assessment or benchmark assessment (ASMFC 2004a). The new seine index (New Jersey) was only used in an alternate model run. The pound net index from the PRFC was improved to reflect a better unit of fishing effort (from per license which has been fixed at 100 since 1994 to days fished). Landings and catch-in-numbers-at-age data were updated from the reduction and bait fisheries. A new vector of natural mortality at age was obtained from the recently peer-reviewed MSVPA-X model to replace the vector used in the benchmark assessment (SARC 2005).

During the assessment workshop, the statistical model from the benchmark assessment was applied to these updated data. A base assessment model run was developed and sensitivity model runs were made to evaluate performance of the assessment model to these updated data. Because unrealistically high levels of adult natural mortality were estimated when the new M -at-age vector from the recent MSVPA-X base run was used, the AW scaled this vector so that adult natural mortality matched historical tagging results ($M_{\text{adult}} = 0.5$). This is in keeping with the peer-reviewed results, which found that adult M from the peer-reviewed assessment (0.55) was reasonable because it provided an estimate of adult M similar to the historical adult M obtained from tagging (Reish et al. 1985).

Status of stock is determined based on the terminal year (2005) estimate relative to its corresponding limit (or threshold). Benchmarks have been estimated based on the results of the updated base run. The terminal year estimate of fishing mortality rate (F_{2+}) was estimated to be 56% of its limit (and 91% of its target). Correspondingly, the terminal year estimate of population fecundity was estimated at 158% of its fecundity target (and 317% of its limit). Hence, the stock is not considered to be overfished, nor is overfishing occurring.

Submitted by Doug Vaughan

Bay's commercial menhaden catch plummets to lowest level in decades

The 2006 commercial menhaden catch in the Chesapeake bay fell to its lowest level in decades, although overall Atlantic catches increased last year as commercial boats found many schools of larger fish off the coast. Fisheries officials in January said preliminary figures indicate that about 65,000 metric tons of the oily fish were harvested in the Chesapeake last year, down from about 98,000 metric tons in 2005, and well below the 109,020 metric ton average between 2001 and 2005. But overall Atlantic catches, which include the bay figures, increased from 146,000 metric tons in 2005 to an estimated 157,000 metric tons last year, according to figures presented to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates catches of migratory fish. Joe Smith, a fisheries biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service who tracks menhaden landings, said the Virginia-based commercial fishing fleet found menhaden to be scarce in the Bay in both the spring and fall. They had better luck in Virginia ocean waters off the Eastern shore and Virginia Beach as well as federal waters more than three miles off the Mid-Atlantic coast where they found larger, older fish. "There was a tremendous showing of fish off Delaware and Jersey this year," Smith said. "It doesn't happen like that every year." In contrast, about half of the fish caught in the Bay consisted of smaller 1-year-old fish, Smith said. The industry usually targets larger, 2-year-old fish in the Chesapeake. Smith said the large number of age-1 fish in 2006 may mean that production of young menhaden was high in 2005. "That, to me, signals a pretty strong year class coming through," he said. "They should be back as twos this summer, and we may see more of our 'normal' distribution like we've seen in the previous decade or so with the majority of catches being twos in the Bay." Fishing in the Chesapeake by Omega Protein has become increasingly controversial as many recreational fishermen, and some scientists, say it's Reedville, VA-based fishing fleet had reduced the bay's menhaden population, which is an important food source for striped bass.

The ASMFC's menhaden stock assessment shows the coastwide population to be healthy, but the Commission last year imposed an annual cap of 109,020 metric tons for the bay, a number derived from the average of harvests from 2001-2005, while scientists study whether the fishery is causing "localized depletion" in the Chesapeake. The fishery has become increasingly concentrated in the bay over the last two decades, with as much as 75 percent of the total East Coast landings coming out of the Chesapeake in some years. Bill Goldsborough, a fisheries scientist with the Chesapeake bay Foundation – one of a coalition of groups that has supported restrictions on Bay menhaden catches – said he believes the low 2006 catch reflected ongoing low abundance in the Bay, which he said is likely to continue. "My sense is that the stock in the Bay is down on average and is continuing downward, and they won't reach the cap this year either," he said. When the fishery catches less than the cap, it is allowed to make up for the shortfall the following year, up to a maximum catch of 122,740 metric tons – which is how much can be caught in the bay this year. If that number is reached, further catches will have to come from Virginia ocean waters or federal waters off the coast – most states have closed their waters to the menhaden fleet. Measured by weight, menhaden are the largest commercial catch in the bay. The cap only affects the "reduction fishery" operated by Omega Protein, which processes large numbers of menhaden into animal feed and other products. It does not affect smaller operations that catch the fish for bait

Karl Blankenship, From Bay Journal March 2007

AIFRB Members at Work

Revival at the river

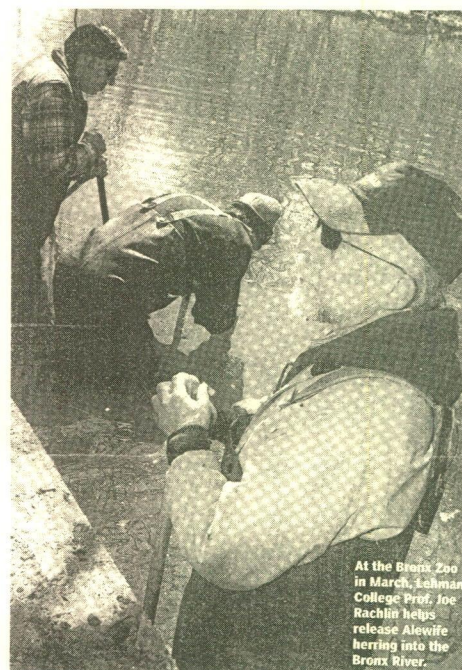
The Campaign to Clean up the Bronx River celebrated two landmarks, with the Bronx Zoo reintroducing herring (*Alusa*) to the river 400 years after Dutch dams drove them out, and Attorney General Eliot Spitzer inking a deal with several Westchester towns to stop them from dumping sewage into the waterway.

From: Bronx Boro News Thursday, December 28, 2006.

Submitted by: Barbara Warkintine

AIFRB Members at work left to right

Tony Pappantoniov, Barbara Warkentine (AIFRB Secretary), Joe Rachlin, Keystone District Director.



At the Bronx Zoo in March, Lehman College Prof. Joe Rachlin helps release Alewife herring into the Bronx River.

A Loss

Dr. Ole A. Mathisen M '59, F' 68, EF

Ole Alfred MATHISEN Died March 12, 2007 at the age of 88. He was born in Oslo, Norway on February 9, 1919 and studied Zoology at the University of Oslo. During World War II he served in the Norwegian Underground Service. He came to the US after the war to continue his studies at the University of Washington and earned his Ph.D. in Fisheries Biology in 1955. He was a Professor at the College of Fisheries, University of Washington, teaching and conducting research, from 1955 to 1982. During this time he spent summers in Bristol Bay, Alaska studying the population dynamics of sockeye salmon. In 1983, he became the Dean of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Science, University of Alaska in Juneau. He served as a visiting scholar at the University of Moscow in 1960-1961 and also was a Fulbright Scholar in Norway in 1965-1966 and in Malaysia in 1988 -1989. During his professional life Ole participated in many scientific expeditions to regions ranging from the Bikini Atoll to the Antarctic to South America and the African continent. After his retirement from the University of Alaska he built a log cabin near Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington where he continued his research and many professional activities. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Randi, his two children and their spouses, Sven and Gro and granddaughters, Karine and Benedikte of Oslo, Norway and Heidi and Klaus and grandchildren, Kristiaan and Annika of Seattle and many friends and former students all over the world. Two Memorial Services were held. On March 31st a Service was held at 1:30 p.m. at the Friday Harbor Presbyterian Church, 425 Spring Street, Friday Harbor, WA. On April 3rd a Service was held at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1200 10th Ave East, Seattle, WA with a reception following at Lake Union Crew, 11 East Allison Street, Seattle, WA. His ashes will be interred in Norway later this year. Remembrances may be sent to the Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle WA 98117 www.nordicmuseum.org. Published in print on 3/18/2007.

Submitted by: Vidar Westestad

Member Louis Daniel Named to North Carolina's Top Marine Fisheries Post

Dr. Louise Daniel has been named as the new director for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries effective February 1, 2007. Daniel, 43, replaces Preston Pate, who served as the division's director since 1997. The Division of Marine Fisheries has the lead role and responsibility in managing and regulating the state's saltwater fisheries. The saltwater fishing industry in North Carolina is a \$1 billion dollar a year enterprise. North Carolina estuaries and coastal waters are nursery areas for fisheries extending up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

"I'm looking forward to working with Louis in his new capacity," said Bill Ross, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "Our fisheries are such an important part of the economic and cultural fabric of North Carolina, serving as both a livelihood and a recreational pastime for many of our residents. Louis's extensive knowledge and his ability to manage complex fisheries issues will make him an effective leader in this important role." Daniel began working with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries as a biological supervisor in 1995. For the past nine years, he has served as an executive assistant to the division director working extensively with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, where he helped develop management policy for fisheries in federal ocean waters extending 200 miles off shore. He served as the chairman of the council from 2004 to 2006 and also serves on numerous management boards for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a compact of the 15 East Coast states that regulate nearshore migratory fisheries.

Daniel also has had oversight of the division's fishery management plan process, coordinating development of long-term management strategies for North Carolina's most economically significant fisheries. He also works closely with the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission, serving as a technical advisor on numerous issues. Prior to working with the division, Daniel worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for one year.

Daniel received his doctorate in marine science from the college of William and Mary, his master's degree in marine biology from the college of Charleston and his bachelor's degree in biology from Wake Forest University.

A native North Carolinian, Daniel grew up in Pinehurst. He and his wife, Ruth, live in the Morehead City area with their two children, Josie and Louis.

From: South Atlantic Update, Winter 2007

Federal judge says marine fisheries failed snapper

A federal judge has issued a decision that is, in effect, a repudiation of the National Marine Fisheries Service's restoration plan for red snapper. On Monday, U.S. district Judge Melinda Harmon noted that the Department of Commerce (through the NMFS) has repeatedly extended the time that it needed to rebuild red snapper stocks but that the NMFS's efforts have not resulted in a plan that has a greater than 50 percent chance of succeeding. The judge also found that the facts used by the NMFS to support its plan were unreasonable or unwarranted based on the information available to the government.

Judge Harmon's ruling seemed to validate what the Coastal Conservation Association has said for a number of years: that the NMFS has failed to regulate the harm done to red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico by shrimp fishing. "The judge's ruling affirms CCA's long-standing position: to manage red snapper stocks, NMFS must take into account the devastation caused by shrimp trawl by-catch," said CCA Chairman Walter Fondren III. The CCA, the lead plaintiff in the suit that brought the ruling, challenged the legality of the 2005 NMFS rebuilding plan for red snapper because it failed to address and regulate the shrimp fishing industry, which is thought to account for the vast majority of the red snapper mortality. The Coastal Conservation Association is the largest marine resource conservation group of its kind in the nation. With more than 90,000 members, CCA has been active in state, national and international fisheries management issues since 1977.

The District Court ordered that the NMFS issue a rule by Dec. 12, 2007 that will provide for the rebuilding of red snapper stocks by 2032, at the latest. It was further ordered that any plan approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce must consider and adopt measures to minimize the number of juvenile red snapper killed by the shrimp fishing industry.

From Sun Journal, New Bern, NC, March 16, 2007

Pushing Puget Sound to the Fore

Saying the time to act is now, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and People for Puget Sound Launched an \$80 million campaign in Washington to restore and protect Puget Sound's ecologically rich shorelines. The new Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines aims to conserve hundreds of miles of shoreline and create 10 new parks and natural areas over three years. Currently, less than 10 percent of the shoreline that is accessible by land is open to the public. The effort will lay the groundwork for what will ultimately be a 10-year, multi-billion dollar campaign that puts the conservation of Puget Sound on a par with large scale estuarine restoration projects in the Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades. The Russell Family Foundation contributed \$3 million to launch the campaign and jump-start conservation efforts.

The sound's shorelines have been in decline for years, with thousands of acres contaminated by toxins, 75 percent of salt marsh habitat destroyed and one-third of the shoreline altered from its natural state. Yet with help the shorelines can sustain biological diversity in the marine ecosystem. "We have enormous confidence in these three groups and, just as important, in our region's deep commitment to Puget Sound," says Nancy McKay of The Russell Family Foundation. "It's time to undertake the hard work of bringing people together around a shared vision—a healthy Puget Sound that is accessible to all."

From: Nature Conservancy, Autumn 2006

Ocean News

First – Ever Limits On Antarctic Shark Fishing

The Ocean Conservancy and other member groups of the Shark Alliance coalition are applauding the decision by the parties to the convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) to halt targeted fishing of vulnerable sharks in the Southern Ocean. Concern over increased fishing for deepwater sharks there led to the moratorium. Shark fishing will be prohibited at least until the populations and the effects of fishing them are assessed. "This responsible yet bold action by CCAMLR establishes the world's first-ever limit on the amount of sharks taken from international waters and is therefore a landmark agreement in global shark conservation," said Sonja Fordham, policy director for The Ocean Conservancy's shark program and the Shark Alliance. Sought for their rich liver oil, deepwater sharks have been rapidly depleted in some regions. Several species are considered threatened by the IUCN. Despite leading the world in shark conservation, the US does not safeguard deepwater sharks. Shark fishing in the rest of international waters is a virtual free-for-all. This moratorium is an important first step to conserving these vulnerable species. Read more about shark conservation: <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/sharks>

From: Ocean Conservancy, Winter 2007

Bering Sea – Aleutian Island Salmon Bycatch

The North Pacific Fishery Management (BSAI) council reviewed a discussion paper from staff providing an overview of the bycatch of salmon species, preliminary spatial analysis of bycatch patterns, as a review of methodologies for establishing bycatch caps. This information was provided to assist the Council in the discussion of refining alternatives for the Amendment 84B analysis.

The 2006 bycatch of Chinook salmon in BSAI trawl fisheries reached a historic high of 87,524 fish. Preliminary indications of bycatch of Chinook in the 2007 A season show very high numbers again, with the Chinook salmon savings area triggered on February 6, and bycatch numbers over 42,000 thus far this season. Chum salmon bycatch dropped 327,690 in 2006 from a historical high of over 700,000 in 2005.

From: News and Notes North Pacific Fishery Management Council, February 2007

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American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists
Promoting excellence in fishery science

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Website: www.iattc.org/aifrb/

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MARCH, APRIL 2007

President's Message

Dear AIFRB Members

Now that the symposium is completed, we are working again on the AIFRB web pages. If you have suggestions about information you would like to see on the web site, let me know.

Awards to recognize and support outstanding research in fisheries and conservation are an important part of the AIFRB mission. An important benefit of membership in AIFRB is the opportunity to nominate appropriate people for these awards. We are currently seeking nominations for:

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
OUTSTANDING GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SHIP AWARDS.

The nominations and due dates for these awards are announced in this issue of *Briefs* and are described on the AIFRB web site. If you need more information about the award, you can contact your Regional Director.

Please take the time to write a nomination for one or more of the awards. We depend on your nominations for them.

Happy Spring.

Linda

Nominations Needed: Outstanding Achievement Awards

The Outstanding Achievement Awards are the highest recognition given to individuals and to research groups by the AIFRB. We are soliciting your nominations for these Awards. This is your opportunity to provide nominations and help AIFRB recognize the individuals and organizations that are making outstanding contributions to our science.

Individual Achievement Award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of fishery science. This is the highest AIFRB award for achievement. Candidates are rated on the following criteria: significance of publications, exceptional service to the profession, outstanding teaching or training of students, important discoveries or inventions, and significant contributions to the advancement of fishery science.

Group Achievement Award is given to research groups with outstanding records of scientific contribution to fishery science or fishery resource policy. It is the Institute's highest award recognizing research groups that nurture excellence in fishery science. Candidates will be rated on the following criteria: sustained contribution of significant publications, exceptional service of the fishery profession, outstanding teaching or training programs, important discoveries or inventions, and significant contributions to the advancement of fishery science.

To nominate an individual or research group: Submit a letter fully describing how the nominee meets the criteria for the award. Include the name, address, telephone number and email address of the nominee and a short resume of the nominee. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address.

Nominations due: JULY 15, 2007

Submit nominations to: Dr. William Fox,

Southwest Fishery Science Center, NMFS,

8604 La Jolla Shores Drive

La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

Phone: (858) 546-7000

Fax: (858) 546-7003

The AIFRB is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization (EIN 61-6050711).

If you have any questions, please contact:
Bill Fox William.Fox@noaa.gov
Jack Helle Jack.Helle@noaa.gov
Bill Taylor Taylorw@msu.edu

Previous Awards

Group Outstanding Achievement Award

1982, Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences; 1983, Great Lakes Sea Lamprey Control Program; 1984, Harvesting Technology Division, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS; 1985, Sport Fishing Institute; 1986, International Pacific Halibut Commission; 1988, Southwest Fisheries Center, NMFS, La Jolla, CA; 1992, Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units Center & Related Coop Units; 1997, International North Pacific Fisheries Commission; 1998, The Illinois Natural History Survey; 1999, National Fish Health Research Laboratory, USGS, Kearneyville, WV; 2000, International Pacific Halibut Commission; 2002, The Great Lakes Fishery Commission; 2003, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Ecotoxicology Research Team

Individual Outstanding Achievement Award

1979, Elbert H. Ahlstrom; 1980, James E. Sykes; 1981, F. Heward Bell; 1982, Richard H. Stroud; 1983, Kenneth D. Carlander; 1984, David W. Schindler; 1985, Peter Larkin; 1986, William G. Gordon; 1987, William F. Royce; 1988, Reuben Lasker; 1991, Robert L. Burgner; 1992, William W. Fox; 1993, Arthur D. Hasler; 1994, William E. Ricker; 1995, Raymond J.H. Beverton; 1996, Reeve M. Bailey; 1997, William G. Pearcy; 1998, John H.S. Blaxter; 1999, Saul B. Salla; 2000, John R. Hunter; 2001, Kenneth E. Wolf; 2002, Fred Utter; 2003, Howard Bern; 2004, Brian Rothschild; 2005, John Fryer; 2006, Geoffrey Moser

Apply Now!

2007 AIFRB Research Assistance Award Program

The Research Assistance (RA) Award established in 1986 is offered annually to AIFRB graduate students and other Associate members to support travel expenses associated with professional development. The RA provides a maximum award of \$500 towards the opportunity to present results of an original paper or research project of merit at scientific meetings, or to conduct research at distant study sites. All AIFRB Associate Members in good standing are eligible (www.aifrb.org). An individual may receive one award in a lifetime. Application packages must contain a research abstract, letter of support from the student's sponsor, and a 2-page curriculum vitae. Send AIFRB RA applications to: Dr. Jerald S. Ault, University of Miami RSMAS, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149, (305) 421-4884 ph; (305) 421-4791 (fax); jault@rsmas.miami.edu. Deadline is 1700 EDT on June 15, 2007.

Board of Control To Meet

At the AFS 137th Annual Meeting, San Francisco, September 1-6, 2007

The AIFRB Board of Control (BOC) will be meeting on September 1 and 2, 2007, at the 137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society at the Downtown Marriott in San Francisco. Following the end of the BOC meeting on Sunday, September 2, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, AIFRB will host a reception for both members and non-members. We especially encourage students to drop in and meet AIFRB members, and to learn about the various research and travel awards that we offer. Young professionals will also be interested to learn about our newly installed Kasahara Early Career Award. We also hope to recruit both students and professional fishery research biologists to submit applications for AIFRB membership. In addition, we are planning to have a hospitality room open for the duration of the AFS Annual Meeting, so be sure to drop in if you are planning to attend. Please encourage your non-member (and member!) students or colleagues to drop in and learn more about the Institute.

Submitted by: Tom Keegan

Watson Award Nominations

C.W. Watson Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2007 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Charleston, West Virginia, October 21-24, 2007.

The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

All Southeastern U.S. fish and wildlife conservationists and other interested persons are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should include complete information on the candidate's background; i.e., education, training, noteworthy accomplishments, and particularly, the achievement(s) for which the nomination is being made. The nomination should include, but not be limited to, a description of the accomplishment(s), application in the state and region concerned, time involved, and the amount of aid received from associates. As much information as possible should be furnished to aid the committee in making the selection. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted each year.

Selection will be based on specific accomplishment(s) and other information included in the letter of nomination. Nominations should be sent to: Robert Warren, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; warren@warnell.uga.edu; 706-542-4741 as soon as possible, but **not later than August 1, 2007**. Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Editor's Note: Marine conservationists are greatly underrepresented in the list of Watson Award winners. Take time to nominate one of the many worthy potential recipients who have furthered marine conservation in the southeastern U.S.

Student Presentation and Poster Judging

AIFRB Judges Student's Work

The **AIFRB Northern California District** will organize and preside over the judging of AFS Western Division student presentations and posters at the Annual Meeting. **AIFRB Southern California District** members will also participate as judges. However, Any AIFRB member who will be attending the AFS Annual Meeting, and is interested in helping us with the presentation and/or poster judging, is asked to please contact Thomas Keegan (tkeegan@ecorpconsulting.com), Coordinator for the Western Division Student Presentation and Poster Judging. The **Northern California District** has coordinated student presentation and poster judging for six straight years at annual CalNeva Symposia (including the joint Western Division/CalNeva Symposium in San Diego).

Submitted by: Thomas Keegan

Symposium Proceedings to be Published

New England Director Steve Cadrin announced that Springer will be publishing the proceedings of the AIFRB Anniversary Symposium at no cost to AIFRB. The timeline for publication is as follows: (1) All manuscripts are due on the 1st of May; (2) All materials will be delivered to the publisher by the end of this year; (3) Proceedings should come out in early 2008.

The cost for the book will be in the range of \$70 to \$75. However, all authors will receive a free copy.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada has agreed to purchase approximately 300 copies.

Midyear BOC Ponders \$

President Jones commended the Symposium fundraising committee for raising \$70,000. Major contributions came from such organizations as NMFS and Fishery and Ocean, Canada.

Treasurer Allen Shimada reported that currently there is \$53K in place from the anniversary symposium. However, there may be additional expenses that will need to be paid. There is currently \$10,300 in the operating budget. These funds will be needed to cover two issues of *Briefs* and costs of the BOC meeting. It is estimated that \$2,300 will be on hand at the end of the year. Currently we derive approximately \$5,100 from dividends.

Past President Gary Sakagawa presented two proposals; (1) Change source of funding for the Thompson and Research Assistance Awards from operating income to income derived from the Founders Fund and; (2) Allocate \$1K in the 07-08 budget for support of the 5th World Fisheries Congress.

A motion by J. Rachlin to approve both proposals was seconded and unanimously approved by the BOC.

Submitted by: Barbara Warkentine

Fellow Rothschild Receives Another Well-Deserved Accolade 2007 NOAA Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards

NOAA has just announced recipients of the second-annual sustainable fisheries leadership awards. NOAA Fisheries developed the national award program to honor innovation and excellence in marine stewardship. Recipients of the 2007 Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards were selected from 60 nominations for awards in six categories of achievement.

AIFRB Fellow **Brian Rothschild** will receive a Special Recognition Award for his long and sustained contributions to marine science and education. He is widely recognized as one of the most cited fishery scientists in the world, publishing over 100 scientific papers and book chapters. He is a former dean of the School of Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts and a resident of New Bedford, MA.

Other awardees are: **Don Hansen** will receive a Special Recognition Award for improving the management programs for west coast marine fisheries fostering open dialogue and understanding between Pacific fishery scientists, managers, and fishing communities. He is a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and a resident of Dana Point, CA; **Don Kent** will receive the Stewardship and Sustainability Award for furthering our understanding on minimizing the impacts of fishing operations on killer whales and for his pioneering research projects with marine finfish aquaculture and stock enhancement off the coast of California. He is president of Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, located in San Diego; **The Coastal Conservation Association of Texas** will receive the Conservation Partnership Award for promoting volunteerism through its Bay Debris Cleanup program that brought together a broad group of citizens, industry, and local, state and federal governments to clear tons of debris from the bay and beach in coastal Texas. The Association is based in Corpus Christi; **World Wildlife Fund** will receive the Science, Research, and Technology Award for inspiring innovation to reduce bycatch in the world's fisheries through its Smart Gear Competition. The organization is headquartered in Washington, DC; **Amigos de Bolsa Chica (Friends of Bolsa Chica)** will receive the Coastal Habitat Restoration Award for preserving the 1,200 acre Bolsa Chica wetlands off the California coast allowing fresh ocean water to enter the wetlands for the first time in over 90 years. The organization is based in Orange County; **The John G. Shedd Aquarium** will receive the Public Education, Community Service, and Media Award for educating and equipping consumers to make good personal decisions about seafood consumption, and educating the public about Great Lakes fisheries. The Shedd Aquarium is in Chicago; In Addition, **Nelson Beideman** will be recognized posthumously for his lifetime contributions tireless efforts to preserve the economic viability of the pelagic longline fleet through sustainable fishing practices, and through reduction of sea turtle and marine mammal by-catch in the fishery. He was co-founder and executive director of Blue Water Fishermen's Association based in Barnegat Light, NJ.

About the Award

The Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards were created to recognize outstanding performance, achievements and leadership by industries, organizations and individuals whose contributions to science and management have served to promote best stewardship practices for the sustained use of the Nation's living marine resources. The Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards were initiated in June 2005 by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. With the assistance of Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, criteria were established for six award categories encompassing the fundamental elements necessary for promoting a public stewardship either over our nation's living marine resources and assisting NOAA with fulfilling its stewardship mission.

Administered by NOAA Fisheries Service, nominations to the Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards are to be held annually for the following award categories; (1) Special Recognition Award; (2) Stewardship and Sustainability Award; (3) Conservation Partnership Award; (4) Science, Research and Technology Award; (5) Coastal Habitat Restoration Award; (6) Public Education, Community Service & Media Award.

Nominations for the first annual awards were solicited in November 2005, resulting in 28 nominations. Winners for the inaugural awards were announced in April 2006 and an awards ceremony was held June 2006 in Washington, D.C.

The awards program is open to industry sectors, organizations, individuals, state, local and federal government agencies and their employees. Organizations, individuals and agencies cannot nominate themselves. Employees of NOAA Fisheries Service are not eligible to receive an award under any category. The awarding of categories will be entirely dependent on the pool of eligible candidates received and the agency's determination as to their qualifications. As such, there may be years in which one or more categories are not awarded.

Editorial Ranting: Things to fix

Being naturally disinclined to unnecessary work, I only occasionally trouble myself with expending effort in producing opinion pieces. But from time to time enough glaring blank space impends for an issue of *Briefs* and enough bile sloshes around in my innards to stir me to editorial pontificating. On the other hand the editor's high altitude overview of the Institute and long term appointment do provide a perspective on the health of the organization that ought to generate suggestions with merit. So maybe the editor has a responsibility to bellyache when things aren't working as well as she thinks they ought to work. Presuming that vitality and growth are sought-for attributes in the AIFRB let me point out some things that I believe need fixing.

First I don't believe that we use our membership very well. When I look at major efforts of the AIFRB they seem, over and over, to be run by the same dozen or two people, mostly members of the Board of Control. To some extent the Anniversary Symposium did not follow that pattern closely but over the last decade or so that event was an exception. I believe that our sister (cousin, godfather, grandmum, whatever) organization, the American Fisheries Society, remains extraordinarily vital because it reaches deep into its membership rolls to find chairs and members of important committees and does not rely repeatedly on its Excom members. Thus a large fraction of the AFS membership is intimately involved in the daily working of the Society and consequently is enthused and enfranchised. Given that most AIFRB members are the same folks that are donating lots of energy to the AFS I believe that we could expect the same level of contribution to the AIFRB, if we asked for it.

Second, we have become ever-increasingly an organization that represents only marine interests. In my darker moments I am not certain that based on activity alone (overlooking for a moment our elitist membership requirements) that you can really tell the difference between the AIFRB and the Marine Fisheries Section of the American Fisheries Society. Our Anniversary Symposium gives first class evidence of that bias. (n.b. the editorial content of *Briefs* isn't much better!) Just look at the list of sponsors, presenters and titles for the symposium (last issue of *Briefs*). Now the symposium was a magnificent effort, a tribute to the organizers and the Institute. But if I were trying to sell the Institute to a potential member from Nebraska, I don't think that she would find much of immediate interest there. The AIFRB was always predominantly a marine and Pacific-anadromous-salmonid organization, but four of 26 charter members (15+ percent) were biologists with clearcut freshwater interests and some of the other 22 had mixed allegiances. We no longer give evidence of even a 15 percent interest in freshwater activities. If we want the AIFRB to be as strong and vital as it ought to be can we increasingly ignore all the potential membership in America's heartland? We ought to immediately devise program and policy changes that would allow us some appeal to freshwater-oriented potential members and to inaugurate an active inland recruitment program.

So what are these program and policy changes we need? And the answer to this question brings me to my third need for repair: the institute does not play to its strong suit, it does not emphasize nearly enough that, by charter and by-laws, its main emphases are professionalism and ethics. You all have heard the question, "How do youse guys differ from the AFS?" Holding symposia and publishing journals, as noble as are these enterprises, clearly will not distinguish us from the AFS. They have us beat hands down on both fronts. Our merit-based membership requirements begin to make the crucial distinction but insufficiently. (Potential member: "Oh, I see, you are just like the AFS but are a lot harder to join!") Our awards programs are a valuable part of the distinction. They allow us to recognize and reward professionalism and excellence. But nowhere do I see any effort towards enforcing our ethics standards. Without enforcement of what use are they? Have we castigated a fisheries scientist for misleading the public? Have we ejected a member for unethical behavior? (c'mon there are nearly 500 of us. One of us must be a louse!) Have we gone to bat for fisheries scientists trying to do their job but whose controversial findings are being suppressed or misconstrued so as to achieve some political end, or who are being denied promotions or financial rewards proportional to

their training and performance. Remember the AIFRB had its origins in a dustup between the State of Washington Department of Fisheries and its professional fisheries scientists. What happened to that spirit? If we do not distinguish, and I mean distinguish by deed as well as word, our Institute from the American Fisheries Society do we have any reason for a separate existence?

So there's my diatribe of the month. I have strong suspicions that not everyone will agree with me. But the beauty of our relationship is that you have the same access to the AIFRB membership through the pages of *Briefs* that I do. In ten years now I have never turned away a member-offered piece and in fact I encourage you to write. I guarantee to print your written opinion. And remember that the more that you write, the less likely you are to see all that white space filled with my drivel. *Editor*

Open Letter to the Board of Control

I was pleased to read the coverage about the Symposium on The Future of Fishery Science in North America in the recent issue of *Briefs*. The fact that the idea of the symposium first surfaced seven years ago during Gary Sakagawa's tenure as President speaks to the need and advantages of "planning ahead". In that regard, I think it is time for the Board of Control to plan an "in house" symposium on The Future of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists.

I recently reviewed the membership of AIFRB.* I was surprised to learn that there were only 664 now on the rolls — i.e. about half the 1,200 during the 3 years I was president (1982 -84). On further examination of the data, I found that only 485 were paid-up members in 2006 and only 439 in 2007. About 20% of the paid-up members had Emeritus status and were not required to pay dues prior to 2004 (?). I have no recollection of seeing membership data published in *Briefs* in recent years and think all should be aware of the current situation. The 50% decline in 20 years does not bode well for the organization, particularly considering the increase in the number of biologists in various fields that could qualify for membership. In my opinion, the situation is aggravated by the fact that the presidency of AIFRB in recent years is dominated by federal employees and West Coasters.

At one time, AIFRB had some objectives and programs that were distinct from those of the American Fisheries Society. For the most part, that is no longer true and AFS now claims about 9,000 members and has 52 Chapters and 21 Sections in comparison to AIFRB's 12 "active" Districts — emphasizing our membership problem. While the establishment of new funds for grants and the potential of an "on-line publication" offer promising attributes, they are over-shadowed by the declining membership and it is time for realistic decisions about AIFRB's future. I think the Board of Control should provide a list of options and poll the membership for the preferred action.

Bernard E. Skud

Interestingly neither Bernie nor I knew the other was writing about the vitality of the Institute. His and my pieces were written completely independently. Ed.

Herke Monograph Online

In the 1970's I (Bill Herke) tried to publish a monograph that contradicted many of the fisheries paradigms of that time. In my opinion, it was the best thing I wrote in my 40-year career. My greatest professional disappointment is that it was too far ahead of its time to get it past the journal reviewers. If it had been published in a journal, I believe it would have had a significant effect on fisheries science. After several years of trying to satisfy various reviewers, I copyrighted and "published" it myself, but this procedure gave it very little circulation.

In the succeeding years, many of the conclusions in the monograph have been reached by other researchers, so the monograph is somewhat dated. Nevertheless, there is still much in it that is pertinent today. Consequently, since I am now semi-retired, I have had the time to put it on a website (www.herke-estuarine-fisheries.com) to make it more readily available. Also on the website is a list of 60 different reprints on various coastal fisheries issues. These are available on request by using the email form on the website.

If you have an interest in such things as coastal marsh nursery use, organism growth rates, environmental factors affecting emigration, recruitment periods, initial spawning age, and length frequency analysis, I invite you to visit the website.

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NOAA Recruitment Website

We (NOAA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce) are pleased to announce the unveiling of the New NOAA Recruitment Website. This new comprehensive recruitment website has been designed to showcase NOAA Career Opportunities and all that NOAA has to offer. The website can be accessed from the NOAA homepage by clicking on "Careers" on the left-side navigation. We believe you will find the new website to be appealing, informative, user friendly, and easy to manage and navigate.

Please make a note of the website address — [Careers.NOAA.gov](http://careers.noaa.gov) (<http://careers.noaa.gov>) and join the effort in marketing NOAA as an employer by sharing the address at meetings, conferences or other venues that may be potential sources of quality applicants for NOAA positions.

We could not have completed this "first phase" of the recruitment website without the efforts of line and corporate staff who assisted us during the pilot testing and provided comments to help us improve the appearance and content of the site. We will continue to build on the website by adding features that provide details on our specialty positions and insight on the day-to-day work of these jobs, so please stay tuned. If you have comments or questions about the site, please contact Theodoris Corbett at Theodoris.L.Corbett@noaa.gov or 301-713-6366.

Submitted by: Allen Shimada

America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2007

1. Santa Fe River (New Mexico), complete diversion; 2. San Mateo Creek (California), proposed highway; 3. Iowa River (Iowa), weak enforcement of Clean Water Act; 4. Upper Delaware River (New York), proposed powerline corridor; 5. White Salmon River (Washington), existing Condit Dam; 6. Neches River (Texas), proposed impoundment; 7. Kinnickinnic River (Wisconsin), toxic waste in sediments; 8. Neuse River (North Carolina), factory hog "Farms", rapid urban development; 9. Lee Creek (Arkansas, Oklamona), proposed dam, weakened regulation; 10. Chitna River (Alaska), proposed coal mine.

List from: American Rivers, April 17, 2007

Coddock?

ROCKPORT, ME. - It's not quite a haddock. It's not quite a cod. Meet the "coddock," the latest catch for two dragger fishermen out of Rockport. Paul Theriault, captain and owner of the day boat dragger Terminator, based in Pigeon Cove Harbor, and crewman Joe Roderick have landed a most bizarre haddock. Last Thursday, the Terminator's groundfish net scooped the coddock from the 300-foot muddy bottom east of Thatcher's Island during its first tow of the day, which ended around 10:30 a.m. when Theriault and Roderick hauled back the fishing gear, then emptied and reset it. While sorting the cod, haddock and flounder catch on deck, Roderick threw any questionable-size fish needing measuring into a separate fish tote. Groundfishery regulations require haddock to be at least 19 inches long to be legally landed. Theriault then noticed the strange fish as it lay back-to-back alongside a cod in the tote. "The fish's spots caught my eye right away," he said. "I said to Joe, 'Look at this. I've never seen one of these before in my 25 years of groundfishing.'" The 21-inch fish has a haddock body but also bears its close cousin cod's traditional upper sides and back, olive-brown background, speckled color and pattern. Could this coddock possibly be the result of interbreeding between animal members of the same family - Gadidae in the case of the cod and haddock - like the mule and the Australian dingo? This specimen also possessed pairs of the normal haddock's devil's marks, or "God's fingerprints," as Theriault calls them, above its pectoral fins, and black lateral lines, a peaked first dorsal fin and a whitish-silver underside. Regular haddock have unspeckled, blackish-purple topsides, while traditional cod have white lateral lines, no devil's marks, a more rounded first dorsal fin and also light-colored bellies. "I'm going to freeze this one for a while just in case the scientists are interested in doing a DNA test on it to see if it bred with a cod," Theriault said. Two weeks ago, John Greenleaf and Mike Interrante hooked a rare golden haddock off Cape Ann aboard their Gloucester longliner, David & Jenna II. Although there's mention of a golden haddock in "Bigelow & Schroeder's Fishes of the Gulf of Maine," there's no record of such a cod-colored haddock in the text, which is full of fish oddities.

By Peter K. Prybot, Correspondent

Gloucester, MA. Daily Times

March 20, 2007

Submitted by: Bernie Skud

Is an immature coddock a scroddock? Ed.

Pacific Council Grants Experimental Swordfish Permit

The Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended NMFS issue an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to allow a single vessel to fish in the West Coast exclusive economic zone targeting swordfish in 2007 only. The purpose of the EFP is to make an initial assessment of the economic viability of longline gear as an alternative to drift gillnet gear with potentially lower bycatch mortality. The EFP would be issued with a range of measures to mitigate environmental impacts. Key mitigation measures include:

- No fishing within 30 miles of the coastline;
- No fishing within the Southern California Bight;
- No fishing north of 45° N latitude;
- Compliance with existing highly migratory species FMP regulations, including protected species conservation measures;
- Mandatory 100% observer coverage;
- A cap on total fishing effort of no more than four trips, 14 sets per trip, 400-1,200 hooks per set (for a maximum of 67,200 hooks deployed overall);
- Fishing conducted between September and December;
- Use of 18/0 circle hooks with 10° offset;
- Use of mackerel bait and light sticks;
- Setting gear at night to reduce seabird mortality.

In addition, the Council recommended a catch cap of 12 striped marlin, and a take cap of one short-finned pilot whale. Caps on humpback and sperm whales and leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act, will be equivalent to any amounts in the Incidental Take Statement that will be part of the Biological Opinion NMFS will prepare for the action. Caps on seabird takes would also be established based on an Incidental Take Statement that is part of the Biological Opinion the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may prepare for this action. If any of these caps are reached before the fishing effort cap or the end of the permitted time period is achieved, any continued fishing authorized under the EFP would cease immediately for the remainder of the year upon retrieval of any gear in the water.

While not endangered, American eels face numerous threats

The population of adult eels in Chesapeake Bay has decreased significantly.

By Karl Blankenship

American eels may not be endangered, but biologists still believe the snakelike fish needs plenty of help.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in January concluded that while the eel population has undergone significant declines in some places, including the Chesapeake Bay and the upper St. Lawrence River, it does not warrant listing as a threatened or endangered species. Eels face a number of threats, but still inhabit about 75 percent of their historic range in the United States and Canada, the service said. Reproduction – measured by the number of small “glass eels” seen in coastal areas – appears stable, the service concluded. “The eel population as a whole shows significant resiliency,” said Heather Bell, the USFWS biologist who led the review. “If we look at eels over time, we’d see fluctuations in the population numbers, so a decreasing number of eels right now does not necessarily forecast an irreversible trend.” The review was spurred by a petition filed in 2004 by two brothers, Tim Watts of Massachusetts and Doug Watts of Maine, who expressed concern about declines of eels in some of their favorite fishing areas, where they were unable to get past dams. Nonetheless, concern about eels remains high among many fishery biologists and managers. In the Chesapeake Bay – considered the heart of the eel population – long-running surveys by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science have documented a significant decline in the number of yellow eels since 1979. “I think what we are seeing is representative of what is going on along the coast, as well as in Canada,” said Marcel Montane, who oversees the VIMS eel survey. “We’ve seen a large decrease.” Others report similar, if anecdotal, observations. Declines have been noted at the Conowingo dam on the Susquehanna River, where large numbers of eels were once routinely seen trying to slither over the 100-foot-high structure. “You talk to everybody; in the 1970s they were just crawling all over that dam,” said Steve Minkinen, who heads the USFWS Maryland Fisheries office. “People used to go there and get them for bait. There was only been one year in the last 10 where people saw a lot there.”

Eels have a complex life cycle. They are born in the Sargasso Sea in the mid-Atlantic, and the larvae float with currents until they enter coastal areas as transparent, worm-like glass eels. As they gain pigmentation, and move into estuaries, they become elvers, and then larger yellow eels which range everywhere from coastal waters to the farthest headwater streams. As they mature, they can reach lengths of more than 2 feet, and finally become darker olive eels, which migrate back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn, then die.

Although they can be found in almost every aquatic habitat, they are also vulnerable to a variety of impacts. They are fished, largely for bait; exposed to chemical contaminants in some areas; and in recent years many have become infected with nonnative parasites that may impact their ability to swim. Dams impede their movements up and down rivers, and changing ocean currents may affect the distribution of their larvae along the coast.

Last year, a stock assessment by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates migratory fish along the East Coast, concluded that the population of yellow eels was at or near historic lows.

"There is no reason to list them as endangered, the management authority that is in place is adequate," said Dave Secor, a fisheries biologist with the University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science who chaired the ASMFC's eel stock assessment. "But I think there is downward trend." Secor said there was reason to be concerned about potential changes in ocean conditions, which might be affecting larval distribution along the coast. Such changes could account for significant population drops seen in Canada, which is at the northern edge of the species' distribution. Declines there are especially important because those eels are the largest females in the spawning population, each producing large numbers of eggs. Elsewhere along the coast, Secor said that it's possible dams are taking a toll by reducing the number of eels reaching many habitats. Many small dams do not totally block upstream movements – some eels can slither around – but their numbers are reduced and eels leaving the water may be subject to increased predation. In addition, large mature eels are thought to suffer high mortality when they migrate downstream to spawn if they pass through turbines at hydroelectric facilities. "You can only accumulate so much mortality," Secor said.

At its meeting in January, the ASMFC's Eel Management Board gave the go-ahead to develop management actions aimed at improving the survival of eels during their migration to the ocean. By increasing the number of spawning adults, the hope is that more young eels will make it back into coastal and freshwater areas. Those management actions, which could be finalized this fall, will likely include a mix of seasonal closures, catch size and gear restrictions, and management triggers based on juvenile abundance indices. In addition, the recommendations would likely call for steps to improve eel passages at dams.

Actions are also planned in Canada, where a 99 percent drop in eels migrating through the Upper St. Lawrence River has been seen. Ontario has closed commercial and recreational fisheries, and the Canadian government has set a goal of reducing eel mortality by 50 percent from all sources. "Eels face a gantlet of challenges during their life cycle, with a substantial, we think, cumulative effect," Rob Macgregor, of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, told the ASMFC. In addition, the Canadian government is supporting efforts to stock eels upstream of dams to boost the spawning population – eels do not determine their sex until later in life and those that move far up freshwater river become almost exclusively females. Moving small glass eels into areas where they are likely to become females could boost the spawning stock – if they survive downstream migrations which often lead through turbines at hydroelectric dams.

In the Chesapeake Bay, which has historically had the largest eel population, fishery officials are moving forward with efforts to give eels a hand getting over the numerous dams that block their migrations to freshwater habitats. In 2003, the first eelway in the watershed was completed by Allegheny Energy Supply at its Millville Dam, the first blockage on the Shenandoah River upstream of the Potomac. Since then, thousands of eels have passed the structure, and last year the company opened an eelway at the next dam, located 45 miles up the river at Warren.

This year, biologists are hoping to win approval for two passages on the Potomac River at Dams 4 and 5, located between Great Falls outside the District of Columbia and the mouth of the Shenandoah. The eelways have to be specifically designed so they don't clash with the historic masonry structures, which are owned by the National Park Service as part of the Chesapeake and Ohio National Park.

Last summer, federal and state biologists also built the first eel passage in Maryland, which allows eels to pass over a 10-foot-high dam at Unicorn Lake in Queen Anne's County.

On the Susquehanna, Minkinen suggested that efforts might be considered to move eels upstream, where 43 percent of the potential habitat in the Bay watershed is closed by the Conowingo dam which, unlike some others, is too large for eels to crawl over. "I can't think of one thing you could do that could potentially have more impact than opening the Susquehanna up to eels," he said. The river once supported a major eel fishery, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission had a program to transport eels into the Susquehanna that moved 17 million eels from 1936 through 1980, when it was discontinued because of costs and declining interest in catching eels. But interest is growing in returning eels to the river, in part because of recent research that shows eels are critical for the reproduction of certain important mussel species in the river. "We're going to be writing it into our management plan on the Susquehanna," said Mike Hendricks, a fisheries biologist with the commission.

From: Bay Journal, March 2007

One Point of View

International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) Opposes Harvest Reductions for the Alaskan Recreational Charter Boat Halibut Fishery.

Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) is an international fishery shared by both the United States and Canada on the west coast of North America. Because it is a shared resource, it is managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), which was founded as a convention between the United States and Canada.

Recently, the IPHC has recommended reducing the daily bag limit of the recreational charter boat fishery from two fish per person per day to one fish per person. There are several reasons why IGFA does not support the IPHC's decision. First and foremost, the current allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors is far from equitable. The commercial halibut fishery, including bycatch and undersized waste, currently harvests nearly 80 million pounds of halibut annually. In contrast, the recreational harvest is approximately 9 million pounds, or roughly 40 % of commercial bycatch and undersized waste alone. Furthermore, the role of organizations, such as the IPHC, is to issue quotas to participating countries, not to define allocation between user groups. Halibut allocation issues in the United States should be under the purview of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Finally, there is no biological data that suggests that halibut are either over fished or undergoing over fishing, especially from the recreational charter boat fishery.

Halibut is one of the most important recreational stocks in Alaska and also a major component of the Alaskan economy, this fishery deserves better management, and IGFA urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop a fishery management plan for it that will make the halibut fishery pursuant to National Standards dictated in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and also provide equitable allocation between recreational and commercial fisheries.

From: International Angler 69 (2) March, April 2007

Hundreds of dead northern hogsuckers found in Shenandoah River

Scientists baffled by massive spring fish kills on the Shenandoah River over several years now have additional confusing information: several hundred dead fish in December.

An environmentalist counted at least 300 dead northern hogsuckers on a 10-mile stretch of the main branch of the Shenandoah in Clarke and Warren counties in early December, said Don Kain, a state Department of Environmental Quality biologist. An accurate count was impossible because many had sunk the bottom DEQ spokesman Bill Hayden said.

About a dozen more dead fish were found later, but they were of different species and in different parts of the river. Most of them were sunfish except for one smallmouth bass, Kain said. Half were found on the North Fork of the Shenandoah and half on the South Fork.

"That's been the toughest thing about this fish kill," Kain said. "There really aren't any concerted (SIC) patterns."

None of the fish killed recently bore the cigar-burnlike lesions that afflicted fish in previous kills.

Other kills on the river prized by anglers occurred in the spring, but the species have varied. Last spring, northern hogsuckers died on the mainstream Shenandoah of Clarke County, and a number of smallmouth bass and sunfish bearing lesions died on the North Fork.

In 2005, 80 percent of the smallmouth bass and redbreast sunfish in the South Fork developed lesions and died. The kill was similar to one in 2004 on the North Fork of the Shenandoah.

Scientists have been unable to determine the cause of the fish kills, and the state's Shenandoah River Fish Kill Task Force that was formed to investigate those kills will look into the recent incidents.

Kain, the task force's co-chairman, said he'll be out on the river looking for fish samples that scientists can study. A fish must still be alive and in distress or freshly dead to be useful to scientists. The fish found so far had been dead for a longer period.

Fish that died in previous kills showed signs of stress, and some males had female characteristics, a condition called "intersex."

Development caused the Shenandoah River to make American Rivers' 10 most endangered waterways this year (2006) for the first time.

-Associated Press

From: Bay Journal, January 2007

Ruling Gives Hope for the Rescue of Lake Okeechobee

“Backpumping” Will Now Be Regulated and Restricted.

Florida’s largest surface drinking water source and the country’s second largest freshwater lake has for years been polluted by pumps that dispose of storm water runoff from gigantic industrial sugar operations and urban areas.

Owing to the contamination from fertilizer and other pollutants, fish and wildlife have been decimated, along with grasses and other flora. Toxic algae blooms periodically deplete oxygen levels and position drinking water supplies. A once-thriving bass fishery is gone.

This unique lake and important part of the Everglades ecosystem has been dying, and state and federal authorities were doing little to bring Lake Okeechobee back to life.

This past December, however, following a three-month trial with scores of expert witnesses, a federal judge ruled that the South Florida Water Management District must now face the fact that years of unabated pumping of polluted water into Lake Okeechobee has taken a huge toll. The judge wrote that this practice violates the Clean Water Act and cannot continue.

The case would have far-reaching implications, in that transfers of polluted water from one water body to another are not confined to Lake Okeechobee. This should prove to be very good news nationwide. Earth-justice attorneys David Gust and Monica Reimer represented the Florida Wildlife Federation in the litigation – Jared Saylor and Tom Turner.

From: In Brief, Spring 2007

President Bush Lifts Drilling Ban In Alaska’s Bristol Bay

Some Fear Action Could Have Devastating Impact on Region’s Economy, Wildlife

President Bush announced in January that he is lifting a ban on oil and gas drilling Alaska’s Bristol Bay, which has been protected since 1989 through the Presidential Withdrawal first declared by his father, President George H.W. Bush. Restoring drilling could hurt the region’s economy and wildlife.

The region is home to four national wildlife, refuges, the world’s largest runs of sockeye, salmon, and important herring, crab, halibut and pollock fisheries. It also is home to endangered species including stellar sea lions, humpback and fin whales, and the world’s most endangered whale species, the north Pacific population of northern right whales.

From: Focus, March-April 2007

Hope For The Dammed

While they once were part of the third-largest salmon fishery on the West Coast, the chinook and coho salmon of the Klamath River have been in steady decline ever since the river was dammed more than 80 years ago. Reduced flow and poor water quality, along with the algae and aquatic parasites that thrive in such conditions, have decimated Klamath salmon to 10 percent of their historic numbers.

But in January, the federal agencies charged with licensing four hydropower dams on the river ruled that the dams’ owner, PacifiCorp, must invest \$300 million in fish ladders and screens before its licenses can be renewed. The changes are so expensive that it makes better financial sense for the company to remove the dams and buy market-rate electricity. Government officials estimate that taking down the dams, meeting water-quality regulations, and funding hatchery operations would save ratepayers between \$100 million and \$285 million over 30 years compared with building the ladders.

PacifiCorp officials say they may yet invest in the ladders; they could also appeal the licensing decision. But the data marshaled by government agencies will be hard to dispute, says Steve Rothert of the conservation group American Rivers. “If they’re going to make a decision that makes sense for their customers, they will remove the dams.”

Dashka Slater

From: Sierra, May-June 2007

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American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists

Advancing Excellence in Fishery Science

... BRIEFS ...

Website: www.iattc.org/aifrb/

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President's Message

The Annual Board meeting will be at the San Francisco Marriott on September 1-2. We will have a reception on Sunday evening following the Board meeting. I hope you will all attend at least the reception to meet your fellow AIFRBers and to greet potential new members. In addition, if you would like to help at the AIFRB table during the AFS meetings, please contact our Membership Chair and hard working Meeting Planner, Tom Keegan (tkeegan@ecorpc consulting.com).

In the last issue of BRIEFS, two long term members wrote their views about AIFRB. The issues they raised will be discussed by the Board at our meeting in September. But if you have new ideas or concerns, similar or not, please let your Regional Director or a Board member know, so we can discuss them at the meeting. We want to make AIFRB an organization that works for you and your input is important.

I also wanted to add some information about the issues Gene and Bernie raised. A critical point they make is the low membership. This is something the Board discussed at the last meeting and we are taking actions to increase activities that are of importance to our members and potential new members. The symposium on the Future of Fishery Science in North America was one of the first of these actions. It was a very successful symposium and drew a lot of recognition to the organization. The electronic journal that Kevin Friedland is in the process of implementing is another activity that the Board thinks will be of interest to fishery biologists and hopefully will bring us new members. We also started a new award, the Kasahara Early Career Award, to recognize outstanding scientists early in their careers (vs. the Outstanding Achievement Awards) and the first award will be given at the AIFRB Reception, September 2 at the San Francisco Marriott. In addition, we have been working on our AIFRB web site, to make it more informative and useful. The web pages should be updated by the September meeting and will be a place for current information as well as for you to give the Board your ideas/views.

One aspect that distinguishes AIFRB from other scientific organizations is that membership is by nomination and qualifications. For AIFRB to grow, all of us need to be nominating new members and bringing them into AIFRB activities. It is one key responsibility of being a member. So I encourage you to invite qualified scientists to join. And if you have ideas for improving the AIFRB, let your Director or another Board member know. We need to know what is and isn't working in the organization.

I hope you will plan to join us at the AIFRB Reception on September 2nd, following the Board meeting. See you there!

Linda

Reminder: BOC to Meet, All Invited!!

The AIFRB BOC will be meeting on September 1 and 2, 2007, at the 137th Annual Meeting of The American Fisheries Society at the Downtown Marriott in San Francisco. Following the end of the BOC meeting on Sunday, September 2, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, AIFRB will host a reception for both members and non-members. We especially encourage students to drop in and meet AIFRB members, and to learn about the various research and travel awards that we offer. Young professionals will also be interested to learn about our newly installed Kasahara Early Career Award. We also hope to recruit both students and professional fishery research biologists to submit applications for AIFRB membership. In addition, we are planning to have a hospitality room open for the duration of the AFS Annual Meeting, so be sure to drop in if you are planning to attend. Please encourage your non-member (and member!) students or colleagues to drop in and learn more about the Institute.

Two Founding Members Pass: Atkinson, Idyll

Clinton E. Atkinson, one of the Founders of AIFRB, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2007. He has a long and distinguished career in fisheries and continued working as an advisor and consultant until 2002. His publications span over 70 years.

Clarence P. Idyll died June 3, 2007 at Gaithersburg, MD. Dr. Idyll's most recent positions included being Chair of the Division of Fisheries and Applied Estuarine Ecology, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science University of Miami, and stints with UNFAO and NOAA.

Full obituaries will be published when available.

The AIFRB is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization (EIN 61-6050711).

Institute Co-Sponsors Symposium: Performance of alternative harvest policies

The American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists is a co-sponsor (together with the AFS Marine Fisheries Section and the Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University) of Symposium 51 on performance of alternative harvest policies at the American Fisheries Society annual meeting in San Francisco (September 2-6). The specific timing of the symposium will be posted at <http://www.fisheries.org/sf/> as more information becomes available. Jim Bence, Jon Deroba, and Brian Irwin from Michigan State University, and Michael Wilberg from the University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory are co-organizers. Harvest policies represent how harvest limits or targets are determined. Standard policies include constant exploitation rate or fishing mortality; constant escapement; constant catch; and biomass based policies whereby fishing mortality rate is a function of stock size. More complex policies depend upon other system-state variables. Literature on harvest policies is scattered and, in some cases, apparently contradictory. Different conclusions regarding preferred policies reflect consideration of different fishery management objectives or consideration of different factors influencing system dynamics and implementation of policies (e.g., certainty of knowledge about dynamics, assessment error, refractivity of production functions). Related to this year's conference theme, evaluation of harvest policy performance has potential to reduce unintended consequences of management decisions. The objective of this symposium is to review and summarize what is known, present recent results, consider pragmatic issues related to policy implementation, and provide an opportunity for discussion of different views. The symposium includes 15 talks summarizing and synthesizing previously published research, several case studies from both marine and freshwater systems, new research investigating the performance of different policies and their sensitivity to assumptions and estimated parameters, and the relationship between harvest policies and reference points and the precautionary approach. Harvest policy evaluation continues to remain an active research area, and decisions about harvest policies can be highly controversial and directly influence the success of fishery management actions. This symposium will provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about state-of-the-art approaches for deciding on appropriate levels of harvest and provide participants a chance to consider and discuss alternative viewpoints.

Remedies on the Fast Track: Editorial

In the March-April issue of Briefs I reviewed some problems that I thought were hindering the growth of the Institute. One response to that list of complaints was that it only portrayed the problems without suggesting solutions. That was a point well taken. Even if the generalized remedies are obvious (e.g. Problem: We are ignoring those with freshwater interests; Solution: Stop ignoring those with freshwater interests) effective remediation requires development of specific programs. Over the past few years some very good minds have attempted to devise growth enhancing programs for the Institute. Thus I have some trepidation about replowing well worked ground. But it seems to me that the Institute should initiate what amounts to an affirmative action program for those with freshwater interests, a program that immediately reaches into the heartland of the U.S. and Canada and raises our visibility there. Here are some ideas (and remember I have friends that say ALL of my ideas are "crackpot" ideas)that will cost little money, allow us to involve many members that might like to contribute thought and effort, and which I believe will enhance our visibility inland.

1. An annual award for the best professional performance by a fishery biologist in each state and province. (Too many awards? Howzabout annual awards for districts of three or four states any scheme that ensures that we have guaranteed annual presence in inland areas).
2. An annual listing of the five best state or provincial fishery research and management programs. (no guarantee here for an inland presence but the listing will sure up the odds of visibility in all regions of the U.S. and Canada).
3. An accreditation program for fishery educational programs at universities- another guaranteed presence inland, and good press all around.
4. An annual award for the best freshwater fishery research and management program. (Here is another affirmative action activity that will guarantee an annual presence in the freshwater arena)
5. An annual (or biennial or triennial or otherwise periodic) listing of the 10 best fishery programs in which to be employed). Considerations should include pay, advancement opportunities, training programs, encouragement of professional participation, publication opportunities, etc. This suggestion gets to the issue of the Institute's support of professionalism and ethics without requiring the tarring and feathering of errant members (the accomplishment of which would, I guess, generate substantial publicity).

Our Board of Control meets in just a few weeks. I hope all AIFRB members encourage the Board to implement ideas that immediately broaden the apparent sphere of influence of the American institute of Fishery Research Biologists.

American Midland Naturalist Seeks Submissions

The *American Midland Naturalist* will be celebrating its 100th year of publishing in 2009. I have been looking into the past contributions of fishery research and came across two familiar names as contributors, Carl Hubbs and Clark Hubbs. Carl was one of my mentors in the early days. I am hoping that some of the current and recent past members of AIFRB will consider the *American Midland Naturalist* when submitting a research paper for publication. Since I took over as the Editor, we receive and increasing number of papers in ichthyology and aquatic ecology. Many members may not be aware that *American Midland Naturalist* is no longer Midlands. We publish papers from all over the world.

William E. Evans, Editor

From Loons to Razorbacks Fellow Wingate retires to Arkansas

Letter received from Jack Wingate:

Dear Gene,

As you can see from the return address, we have retired and relocated to NW Arkansas. We are in the edge of the Ozarks which remind us of when we lived in Asheville.

Take Care, Jack Wingate

Jack may be reached at: 1 Portland Circle, Bella Vista, AR 72714. Phone (479) 721-9870

AFS Fisheries Management Section Awards Nominations Sought

The Fisheries Management Section is currently seeking nominations for inductees in the Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence (HOE) and for its three awards. The application deadline for these nominations is June 22, 2007 (*obviously 2007 deadline has passed but consider nominees for 2008. Ed*). Send nominations in the form of a letter outlining the accomplishments of the individual/organization to Ron Essig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Assistance Division, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035; (413) 253-8504 or ron_essig@fws.gov. Information on qualifications for HOE induction and each award, plus lists of past recipients is on the FMS website.

The Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence is located at the AK-SAR-BEN Aquarium in Gretna, Nebraska. It was established in 1992 with the stated objectives: 1) to recognize fisheries management professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of fisheries management; 2) to provide where the contributions of those honored can be displayed and viewed by the public and other fisheries professionals; 3) to emphasize the accomplishment, dedication and principles of those honored in the HOE; and 4) to describe the fisheries management profession. Selection of the HOE is the highest honor given by the Fisheries Management Section.

The Conservation Achievement Award recognizes any significant action, program, or initiative by a nonmember individual, non-governmental organization, or state (provincial), local, or federal agency that contributes substantially to fishery conservation or fishery science.

The Award of Merit recognizes any singular accomplishment of an individual or group acting as a team or committee for contributions in fisheries management and research. The award can be given for outstanding leadership, administration, or project-related accomplishment in any aspect of the fisheries profession.

The Award of Excellence is given for inspirational leadership in the fishery profession and substantial achievements for AFS and the fisheries resource. The recipients must have effectively communicated their work at the national and/or international level. This award is given for cumulative accomplishments rather than a singular effort as recognized by the Award of Merit.

Russia, Beware: Estonia Chooses A National Fish

Baltic Herring, Submerged Under the Soviets, Wins; Will People Eat It Now?

TALLINN, Estonia – Since this seafaring Baltic nation achieved independence in 1991 from its far larger Russian neighbor, Estonia has tried to forge a post-Soviet national identity. That effort became more urgent recently in the face of renewed threats from Moscow, including riots in the capital here led by Kremlin supporters.

A key part of the strategy: Baltic Herring. Following an emotional debate, an online poll, charges of voter fraud and parliamentary debate, Estonia, which is about half the size of Maine, several months ago officially selected the small, oily animal as its national fish. “Food has a political dimension,” explains Ruve Schank, an Estonian Agriculture Ministry official, who recalls how recipes, including their names, had to be approved by Moscow in Soviet times. “For me, the Baltic herring as our national fish is meaningful.” There are some problems with the selection. For starters, few Estonians actually eat it. The Baltic sea is one of the most polluted in the world, reducing the herring catch in recent years. High amounts of dioxin are found in some Baltic herring, often above levels allowed by the European union, which Estonia joined in 2004. The country’s herring fleet is about a third its size a decade ago. What’s more, much of the 40,000 tons of herring caught last year was exported. Herring prices – about \$1.60 a pound in local stores – are now largely determined by the international market, making the fish expensive for many Estonians. Vjateslav Savtenko, a 70-year-old retired locksmith fishing from the banks of a saltwater river near Tallinn early one morning, said he hasn’t caught a Baltic herring in years. He prefers porgy, he said, like the four-pounder he caught the previous evening and fried with onions for his dinner. “For fishermen, the bigger the better,” he said, with a blue, frayed cap pulled down low over his weathered face. Baltic herring are usually no more than eight inches long. That size makes them hard to prepare. The can also go bad within a day or two, he added, even when refrigerated.

More Worthy Choice

Some believe that pike would have been a more worthy choice. In fact, in the online poll to select a national fish, which attracted 50,000 voters, the pike won by about 500 votes, acknowledges Valdur Noormägi, the head of the group behind the idea, the Estonian National Fishery Association. But a panel of judges that included him overruled the vote on the grounds that as a traditional staple of the Estonian diet, the Baltic herring has been more important for more people through the country’s history. The pike’s popularity lies mostly with weekend fishermen on the country’s many river and lakes. Mr. Noormägi says the panel’s action was also justified by what he termed voter fraud, which occurred on the last day of voting in February when more than 150 votes for the pike came from a single computer. Also, other Web sites that allowed Estonians to vote for the national fish – which boosted the voter turnout to more than 300,000 – showed a vast majority for the Baltic herring, he says. “This was the correct choice,” says Mr. Noormägi. “Scientists said the Baltic herring has been near our coast for 5,000 years.” The heralding of the herring is part of a larger government campaign – called “fish makes good” – to encourage Estonians to improve their diet by eating more fish. The government in recent weeks began running ads depicting a woman in a bikini emerging from the sea with a fish in her mouth (*Now this I would like to see! Ed*), illustrating how fish can improve one’s complexion. The government also wants to promote Estonian cuisine. It first has to identify it. Over the years, the largely agrarian population of 1.4 million has been partial to pork, sauerkraut, blood sausage and fried potatoes, fare heavily influenced by nearby Germany and Russia. During the Soviet period, Estonian recipes were suppressed as nationalist by the Soviets. A Moscow-sanctioned Estonian cookbook from 1955 has just 18 pages of Estonian recipes relegated to the back of the 416-page publication. It features instead long political tracts describing how in “capitalist countries the production of consumer goods diminishes with each passing year.”

Out of Favor

As a result, many Estonian dishes – such as a popular holiday recipe of beets, potato salad and Baltic herring called *rosolje* – fell out of favor during the Cold War, preserved primarily by the Estonian diaspora. After independence in 1991, Estonians were eager for foreign goods, such as German yogurt and American ice cream. “Our food was virtually lost,” says Karin Annus Kärner, who heads an Estonian school in New York and recently wrote an Estonian cookbook. In Brooklyn, NY, Toomas Sorra, a gastroenterologist and Estonian-American who has visited Estonia frequently in recent years, says the only Baltic herring he has experienced was a gift at a dinner at the Estonian consulate in New York. He offers that his relatives in Estonia like to catch eel.

Now, the government is eager to develop its own cuisine, led by the herring. The matter recently found its way to the Estonian Parliament, which debated whether to build some sort of statue for the chosen fish. Estonian personalities have weighed in. Dimitri Demjanov, a prominent Estonian chef and founder of a culinary institute in Tallinn, has appeared numerous times on TV to talk about the distinctiveness of the fish. Herring eaten in other countries like Finland, Sweden and Holland is bigger and “more rubbery” than the Estonian version, he says. “We have this fish that no one else has,” she says. “Ours is smaller and more gentle.” Mr. Demjanov says having symbols like a national fish is particularly important for a country like

Estonia, which has enjoyed independence only once before in its history, for 22 years before World War II. "It shows the world we are an independent country," he says.

The Baltic herring joins the blue cornflower and the barn swallow as Estonian national symbols, which were chosen during the Cold War as small expressions of nationhood in the face of Soviet hegemony. The suddenly unfriendly relations with Russia make the initiative timely. Russia last month cut rail and road links to Estonia – and may have been behind an unprecedented cyber-attack on the country – after the Estonian government relocated a Soviet war memorial. Moving the controversial statue triggered a night of riots led by a pro-Kremlin youth group called Nashi (the word is Russian for "Ours"). The Kremlin has denied any involvement in the cyber-attack. Others still assert there are better uses of the government's time and money. The total cost of the fish promotion, including advertising and brochures, was more than \$600,000, some of which came from EU. "I like Estonian food but it's not worth spending money for this jokey thing," says Leopold Garder, who runs a shipping business in Tallinn. "We have a national flag, song and flower – that is quite enough." An angry editor of a local newspaper quipped in an editorial that the national fish is the former agriculture minister who came up with the campaign.

From: Wall Street Journal June 13, 2007

Editorial: A USA National Fish-Now!!

How far have we fallen? When tiny Estonia leaps ahead of the U.S. in choosing a finny emblem it is clear that history is passing us by and the time for action is now!! And I know exactly the ichthyobeast that should be designated the U.S. National Fish: the channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus*. This racy and whiskery tussler is universally acclaimed as delicious on the table and as a strong fighter on the line. It is democratically available to all: from the bent pin-cane pole equipped to weather-beaten deployers of trotlines and trammel nets in the lower Mississippi. Channel catfish are found in at least 48 of the 50 states (Maine won't admit to having them, but I bet they are there somewhere, and if Alaska were supposed to be part of the United States God wouldn't have invented Canada) as well as Puerto Rico. Heck, channel catfish by sporting distinct and genuine adipose fins, ought to appeal even to the salmonisnobs among us (Not convinced? See "The Barbed Trout of Kansas", Doze, J.B. TAFS 1925). And most importantly, the channel catfish with its proclivity for ingesting unreservedly virtually any organic concoction from Ivory soap to vintage carrion seems a perfect symbol for the American public which is currently being asked to choke down an unremitting stream of indigestible policies cooked up by our leaders in Washington.

Next issue: The obvious National Pastry, the Hush Puppy

More provisions approved to conserve pacific tuna

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission convened the week of December 10, 2006, in Apia, Samoa. The most pressing issue was the need to respond to scientific advice that fishing effort on bigeye tuna should be reduced 25 percent and that on yellowfin tuna by 10 percent. After considerable debate, the commission agreed to the following new measures to supplement action taken a year ago to limit fishing effort.

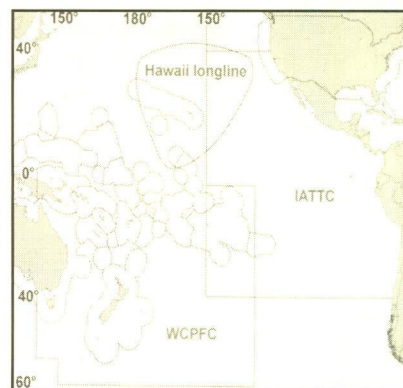
- Being to address commercial fisheries other than longline and tropical purse seine, most of which are fisheries of Indonesia and the Philippines,
- Cap effort for purse seine fishing on the high seas,
- Call for the development of management plans for Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) of the high seas, and
- Encourage members to reduce FAD-related catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and calls for collaboration between members and with industry on FAD research and for the investigation of full retention and increased port state controls.

Although these measures fall far short of achieving the reductions in fishing mortality called for by the Science Committee, they do represent incremental steps in the right direction.

Another significant result of the meeting was agreement on a high seas boarding and inspection scheme. This complicated issue, which has been a source of heated debate since the earliest stages of the negotiation of the Convention, was brought to a successful completion by arriving at an agreement on how China and Taiwan would participate in such a scheme. Other issues finally resolved regarded the use of force and the inclusion of sexual harassment of inspectors as a serious violation. The agreement represents the first post UN Fish Stock Agreement Boarding and Inspection scheme developed by any regional fishery management organization dealing with tunas.

The Hawaii longline fleet operated within waters of both the western and central pacific fisheries commission (WCPFC) and the inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

From: Fish News via Pacific Island Fishery News Spring 2007



North Atlantic Swordfish

The good, the bad and the ugly.

Good news for swordfish anglers! According to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the biomass of the North Atlantic swordfish stock is roughly 99% of that needed to produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY). In other words, the North Atlantic swordfish stock is nearly rebuilt. Landings in the North Atlantic fishery peaked in 1987 with 20,236 tons. However, over the last decade, total landings have averaged roughly 11,900 tons in response to a rebuilding plan implemented by ICCAT. In the U.S., time/area closures and mandatory use of circle hooks in the commercial longline fishery, as well as reductions in recreational harvest, have undoubtedly aided swordfish's recovery. The problem is that the U.S. is having difficulty harvesting its quota. Why this is an issue is both absurd and somewhat complex. The National Marine Fisheries Service manages the United States' swordfish fishery under the authority of the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). ATCA requires the U.S. to implement and comply with ICCAT recommendations, which include swordfish quotas. One of ICCAT's responsibilities is to determine the MSY of swordfish and to partition that into quota shares for participating countries.

Since 2000, the United States' quota share has been between 2,951 and 3,907 tons, yet each year it has failed to harvest its full quota. ICCAT determines quota shares based on MSY for the North Atlantic stock, which is the largest average catch that can be taken continuously from a stock under average environmental conditions. For years the U.S. managed its domestic fisheries in the same way, but learned the hard way the managing stocks on the basis of MSY has several inherent problems. First, because most fish stocks experience natural variation in abundance, MSY leaves little room for error and can sometimes lead to unintentional over-fishing. In addition, it also tends to truncate the age/size distribution of a stock leading to smaller fish – something undesirable to recreational anglers.

So, the fact that the U.S. is harvesting swordfish at a level below the ICCAT quota should not necessarily be construed as a bad thing. In fact, the amount of swordfish quota not harvested each year (termed underage), should be thought of as a conservation investment. However, ICCAT has the ability to reallocate quota from a country that is not fully harvesting its quota to another participating country and ATCA requires the U.S. to comply with ICCAT. The United States' chronic inability to fully harvest its quota share generated great debate at the 2006 ICCAT meeting held last year in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The end result was that the U.S. is now required to give up a total of 2,690 tons of its stockpiled underage during 2007 and 2008 in an attempt to, at least temporarily, retain its full quota share. Underage was redistributed to several countries including Mexico, Senegal and Belize. Senegal and Belize in particular are worth noticing because they went from having no harvest of swordfish to 400 and 130 tons, respectively. And this is just the beginning. Some believe that the U.S. is in danger of losing somewhere between 20-30% of its quota share at the next ICCAT meeting if it doesn't fully utilize its quota.

NMFS has recently proposed several new preferred management alternatives in an attempt to capture more of the U.S. quota share, while at the same time minimizing bycatch. These alternatives include:

- Increase the incidental retention limit to 30 swordfish/trip and 15 swordfish/trip for squid trawl vessels.
- Establish new vessel upgrade restrictions for longline vessels that allow for bigger boats with longer range.
- Increase the swordfish retention limit for vessels issued HMS C/HB (Highly Migrating Species charter/headboat) permits to one per paying passenger, up to six per vessel/trip for charter vessels, and 15 per vessel/trip for headboat vessels.
- Increase swordfish retention limit for vessels issued HMS Angling permits to one per person, up to four per vessel/trip.

In essence, NMFS believes that these alternatives will make modest strides in capturing more of the United States quota in an economically viable yet sustainable manner that continues to minimize bycatch. In contrast, a representative of the commercial longline industry has recently applied for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) from NMFS that would allow 13 longline vessels access to closed areas of the southeast United States under the auspices of conducting "research" on catch rates, size of swordfish caught, hooking locations, mortality at haulback and bycatch. NMFS periodically issues EFPs that allow temporary fishing in a manner that is exempt from current regulations. Many EFPs are issued to organizations or individuals that wish to conduct research on alternative fishing gear. However, this recent proposal lacks any manner of rigorous experimental design. In reality, it appears that this is nothing more than a request to go fishing in areas that are currently closed to longline gear in exchange for any "data" that is collected. Spokespersons for the longline fishery have even been to blatant as to state that they are looking to gain fishing access into these closed areas, while citing potential quota loss as rationale.

The International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) is adamantly opposed to this EFP or any other that would allow longlines back in these closed areas. These closures were initially implemented because they were known to harbor high concentrations of bycatch species such as undersized swordfish, blue and white marlin and sea turtles. A comparison conducted by the National Coalition for Marine Conservation on bycatch from before these areas were closed (1997-1999) to a period after closure (2001-2003) revealed dramatic reductions in bycatch including -77.6% for sailfish, -55.9% for pelagic sharks, -50.3% for blue marlin, -47.5% for white marlin and -39.5% for juvenile swordfish.

There are a couple of take home points to all of this. ICCAT penalizing the U.S. or any other member nation that harvests swordfish at a level lower than its quota share is an ineffective and obsolete form of fisheries management. The current system

only considers the number of dead swordfish tallied each year, and fails to accept any additional conservation measures and/or economic importance of recreational catch and release fishing. It also greatly contrasts with the manner in which the U.S. is managing its domestic fisheries. The recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act dictates that conservation and management measures are predicated on Optimum Yield (OY), not MSY. OY is defined as the harvest level that achieves the greatest overall benefits, including economic, social, and biological considerations. The above notwithstanding, opening up closed areas to longlining is not the solution to U.S. quota woes. Economically, swordfish have taken a backseat to more lucrative species such as yellowfin and bigeye tuna. And you can bet if given access to closed areas, swordfish won't be the only thing that's targeted by longliners. In addition, claims that the mandatory use of circle hooks in the longline fishery should allow re-entry into closed areas are also feeble. The conservation benefits derived from circle hooks and closed areas in the longline fishery are not equal. Because longline gear is untended and has long soak times, circle hooks do not provide the same degree of post-release survival that they do on recreational gear. Closed areas are far more effective at reducing bycatch; plain and simple.

This issue is really going to need a multifaceted approach to solve it. First, international cooperation and management of swordfish and other highly migratory species is crucial. The U.S., through NMFS, and other participating countries needs to work together to help reform ICCAT policy to allow countries to manage their assigned quotas in a manner that gives each the greatest overall benefit, even if it does not result in total quota harvest. Measures to increase swordfish harvest in the U.S. should be conducted cautiously. Even though swordfish have been declared nearly rebuilt, other stocks such as bluefin tuna and white and blue marlin remain in poor shape. Efforts to dramatically increase the longline swordfish harvest would undoubtedly have negative impacts on them, particularly in closed areas.

From: International Angler 69 (3) May – June 2007

Circuit Court Upholds Minimum Klamath Flows

The Klamath river flows from Oregon south into Northern California and then to the sea. It was once the third biggest salmon producing river in the lower-48 states. Recently, however, fishermen, tribes, and coastal communities have all suffered due to the poor health of Klamath river salmon. Part of the problem is that the federal Bureau of Reclamation diverts water from the river to upstream irrigators at the expense of the salmon. Last year, after years of litigation, a federal district judge ruled that minimum amounts of water must be left in the Klamath river to meet the needs of the fish. The Klamath irrigators appealed that ruling, but their appeal was quickly denied by the Ninth Circuit in April. Meanwhile, in March, the Klamath irrigators lost a separate legal effort aimed at forcing the government to pay them a billion dollars for reported losses they may have suffered in 2001 when water was finally shared with protected salmon during a drought year. The court of claims dismissed the claim.

From: Joan McManus, In Brief, Summer 2007

Sharks Added to IUCN Red List

News grows worse for the world's wide-ranging, oceanic sharks. Mako, all three species of thresher, and scalloped hammerheads all had their threat status upgraded on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened species based on the findings of an expert workshop convened by the IUCN Shark Specialist Group (SSG). The demise, scientists say, is due to over-fishing. Sharks are especially susceptible to both over-fishing and bycatch because most grow slowly, mature late, and produce few young. Oceanic sharks are caught incidentally in tuna and swordfish fisheries and increasingly targeted for their meat and fins. The wasteful practice of shark finning - slicing off shark fins and dumping the bodies back into the water - is prohibited, but loopholes limit the effectiveness of such bans. "Despite mounting threats and evidence of decline, there are no international catch limits for open ocean sharks," says Sonja Fordham, policy director for The Ocean Conservancy and the Shark Alliance who serves as Deputy Chair of the SSG. "The workshop underscores the urgent need for international commissions to limit fishing of oceanic sharks and strengthen finning bans."

The IUCN Red List is the world's most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity. For more on sharks, visit: www.oceanconservancy.org/sharks and www.sharkalliance.org.

From: Ocean Conservancy (C2) Spring 2007

Oculina Bank Experimental Closed Area Boundaries to Remain the Same

The size and configuration of the 92-square mile area off the east coast of central Florida known as the Oculina Experimental Closed Area will remain the same. That was the final decision made by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in March after considering a report that supported the decision from the Oculina Evaluation Team, a group of area fishermen, scientists, law enforcement, and outreach specialists formed to provide input during a 10-year evaluation of the area. The Council also received similar recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee and Law Enforcement Advisory Panel.

The protected area was initially established in 1984 as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) to help protect the deepwater *Oculina varicosa* coral unique to the area from destructive fishing practices by prohibiting trawling and other damaging fishing gear. In 1994, the area was designated the Oculina Experimental Closed Area and closed to fishing for or possession of snapper grouper complex species to further protect both the dwindling numbers of fish and fragile coral. In 2004, the Council extended the closure for an indefinite period with a stipulation that the size and configuration of the area be reconsidered in three years and the entire area reevaluated in 10 years. In addition, an Evaluation Plan was developed for the Oculina Experimental Closed Area to address research and monitoring, outreach, and law enforcement needs. March 2007 marked the 3-year timeline for reevaluation of the size and configuration of the area.

In its final report, research scientists on the Oculina Evaluation Team reported that visual surveys conducted in the area provide evidence that two high-relief Oculina bioherms, Jeff's Reef and Chapman's Reef complex, remain healthy and undamaged from fishing activity within the protected Oculina Experimental Closed Area. These bioherms, ancient organic mound-like reefs, are the last known living deepwater Oculina bioherms in the world! Visual surveys also provide quantitative proof that populations of large grouper species are intimately correlated to intact coral habitat, with fewer gag and scamp grouper found associated with dead coral rubble habitat. Recent visual surveys also found juvenile speckled hind grouper and black sea bass within the Oculina Experimental Closed Area for the first time since the mid-1980's. The report finds that while living coral at Jeff's Reef decreased between 1977 and 1995, the living coral cover increased between 1995 and 2003, after the area was closed to bottom hook and line fishing.

The Oculina Evaluation Team Report also points to increased efforts in law enforcement and outreach for the closed area. Working jointly, both state and federal enforcement personnel have increased their presence in the area, using the patrol vessel the *C.T. Randall* for dedicated enforcement patrols. Enforcement officers utilize handout materials to increase awareness of the area for fishermen, including regulation brochures and new rack cards that outline restrictions for the area. New posters and rack cards have been distributed to area bait and tackle stores, and the Council's web site updated with new information and maps. In addition, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission highlighted the Oculina HAPC and Experimental Closed Area in its 2007 Fishing Regulations brochures. "I would like to compliment, again, the Oculina Evaluation Team and staff that worked together to provide this very extensive report," said Council Chairman George Geiger. "I think it really is the tool that we needed a long time ago to monitor and to ensure that the research promises that were made to the public will in fact, to the degree possible, be accomplished."

From: The South Atlantic Update, Spring 2007

Desert Fish in Peril

Stalled action on recovery plans may doom eight endangered and threatened fish species in the Gila River basin in southern Arizona and New Mexico, according to a December 2006 report issued by the desert fisheries team, an independent group of biologists. The group found that all eight species – desert pupfish, bonytail, spinedace, woundfin, Gila topminnow, Colorado topminnow, loach minnow and razorback sucker – show declines in range and abundance, mostly due to competition from non-native fish. Recovery plans for most of the endangered fish have been in place for several years, but in 2004 the U.S. Forest Service found that zero to twenty-five percent of recovery objectives had been achieved for most of the species. The report concludes that the prognosis for recovery of any of the warm-water fish in the Gila River basin is "bleak" unless recovery plans are implemented "in an effective and timely manner."

From: Forest Magazine, Spring 2007

Logs and Streams: Together Again

by Ian Reid

It's a familiar scene in many Pacific Northwest forests: A diesel engine belches blue smoke as a braided steel choker tightens around the substantial trunk of a Douglas-fir. With a few snarls of a chainsaw and steady tension on the cable, the once-towering tree now lies horizontal, sprawled across a meandering stream. But in contrast to logging protocols used as recently as twenty years ago, the tree is not dragged from the stream, loaded on a truck and hauled to the sawmill. Instead, it is left in place to help restore dwindling salmon populations by improving their freshwater habitats. Large wood placement has become one of the most popular types of stream restoration methods in the Pacific Northwest. Although there remain some detractors, most science findings support keeping or placing logs in streams, finding that instream wood creates high-quality spawning and rearing habitats for salmon and steelhead. A 2003 review of stream restoration case studies by German and American scientists reported, "the growing recognition that large wood is an important component in stream systems worldwide has caused researchers and managers to examine the potential for stream restoration or rehabilitation by adding large wood to streams."

The need for stream restoration stems from more than a century of land management policies that included intensive streamside logging and salvage of instream wood after floods, called "de-snagging." Although savvy anglers have known for hundreds of years that instream wood provides structure that attracts fish, forest managers previously thought logjams in Pacific Northwest streams could block migrating salmon from reaching their upstream spawning grounds. Some physical scientists also believed instream large wood could increase flood damage. They thought the best way to minimize flood impacts was to remove channel roughness, thereby quickly getting rid of floodwaters. Such reasoning fueled an aggressive campaign to remove wood from Northwest streams, both directly through stream cleanout and indirectly through riparian silvicultural practices. As one early U.S. Forest Service ranger recommended, "the obvious solution to prevent damage [from flooding] would be to remove [large trees] from the stream bank and channel. Management must foresee this potential problem and prescribe treatments over a period of time to reduce this resource damage to the streams. A prescription to protect streams from undergoing damage would be to harvest the large old-growth timber from the stream bank and convert to stands of alder, maple and willow." In many places, managers heeded this advice and tried in earnest to save the forest from itself. A walk along many Pacific Northwest salmon-bearing streams today reveals crumbling stumps, many more than five feet across, lining the banks as tangible reminders of the not-so-distant past.

But in the 1990s, emerging science helped change management philosophies. While researchers at Oregon State University and other major land grant universities still quibble over the natural timing, frequency, arrangement, amount and sources of large wood delivery to streams, it is now nearly indisputable that instream large wood is the single most important habitat element in many stream types and for several native fishes. Logs in streams form beds of spawning gravel, create scouring pools and channels, provide cover and stabilize stream banks.

The Forest Service signaled a major change in its policies with publication of its 1990 and 1993 informational brochures: "Fish in the Forest: Large Woody Debris in Streams—a New Management Approach to Fish Habitat" and "Large Woody Material, the Backbone of a Stream." The tide turned as crews and contractors shifted from years of taking the wood out of streams to putting it back in. The pendulum swung further in 1994 with the adoption of the federal Northwest Forest Plan that transformed riparian zones and stream channels—once denuded and used as bulldozer skid roads—to sacrosanct "no-touch" buffers nearly devoid of active management.

Logger, Restorer, Teacher

Mark Villers understands the value of stream restoration. The owner-operator of Blue Ridge Timber Cutting in Coos Bay, Oregon—a recovering coastal timber town where "I Love Spotted Owls...Fried" bumper stickers are still a common sight—Villers is a seasoned logger who estimates he has cut nearly 100 million board feet of mostly old-growth timber during his lifetime. He is also an avid outdoorsman who has a taste for fresh salmon and elk steak. But over the years, the Oregon coast native observed once-productive salmon runs plummet in coastal streams. A self-described "lousy" fisherman, Villers wanted to help bring Pacific salmon back to their heyday, when so many fish choked the rivers that even he could catch one. Ten years ago, when the field of stream restoration was still in its early stages, he began bidding on restoration contracts. A carpenter and millwright, Villers had the experience the job required. (He is also an ordained pastor who wears his gospel on his chest: a T-shirt emblazoned with "Rootwads Rule" on the front and "Streams Plus Wood Equals Fish" on the back.) Since then he has completed 113 fish habitat enhancement projects on four national forests in western Oregon, and on private, state and Bureau of Land Management lands in southwestern Oregon. The list is still growing. Villers delivers his restoration message to the media, landowners and concerned citizens, and he rarely lets a teaching opportunity slip by. A few years ago, while driving down a remote Forest Service road, he spotted a hitchhiker carrying an oversized backpack and stopped to give him a lift. The young man explained he left his North Dakota home to come out West and protest the salvage timber sale planned after the 2002 Biscuit Fire on the Rogue River–Siskiyou National Forest. Villers showed the would-be protester burned logs from the Biscuit Fire lying decked along the road. He told him that the logs, hauled from the salvage area, would be placed with minimal damage to the environment in the adjacent stream to improve fish habitat. Villers was a little shorthanded on a nearby stream restoration job

and suggested his rider sign on for a temporary stint. The traveler couldn't handle the rigors of setting chokers and dragging heavy cable through head-high brush, and only lasted two days. But his perspective about logging, timber salvage and active forest management was transformed. He even posed with Villers and the rest of the crew on their heavy equipment so he could send a picture to his friend, a member of the Earth Liberation Front who was in jail at the time.

Solution or Band-Aid?

Large wood placement remains one of the most common types of stream restoration projects. Other treatments include restoring fish passage; stabilizing, relocating and decommissioning roads; creating off-channel floodplain habitats; and planting native riparian trees and shrubs. Between 1995 and 2003, more than 2,700 miles of Oregon's riparian areas were rehabilitated, according to a recent Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board monitoring report. The report found that more than \$8 million was spent in 2002 and 2003 on instream restoration projects in Oregon, including national forests. Dave Heller, regional fisheries program leader for the Forest Service in Portland, estimated that national forests in Oregon and Washington have averaged \$7 to 8 million per year on aquatic restoration investments, with up to 30 percent of the total budget (about \$2.1 to 2.4 million) being spent on large wood placement projects. A growing body of evidence shows that the investment in stream restoration projects is paying off in improved wild salmon numbers. A 1997 *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* paper reported that adding large wood to a western Washington stream increased juvenile coho salmon winter abundance and smolt production. Likewise, a 2000 *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* paper found when large wood was added to two Oregon streams, juvenile coho salmon overwintering survival and abundance increased significantly. Because juveniles spend more than a year in fresh water, instream large wood is particularly important to coho salmon—a historically important but currently beleaguered species along Oregon's coast.

While large wood restoration projects appear to be a positive step toward rebuilding wild Pacific salmon runs, they do have detractors. A presentation at a recent fisheries conference titled, "Large Wood Restoration in Oregon Streams: Biological Integrity or Photo Op?" accused such projects of being money pits, which usually lack monitoring and frequently produce no tangible results. Some—often environmentalists or members of academia—have labeled large wood restoration projects as Band-Aids that treat symptoms but do not cure the ultimate causes of salmon declines, such as overharvest, habitat loss and degradation, urbanization, dams and hatchery practices. Occasionally, biologists and land managers are chastised by opponents for treating large wood placement as a panacea, rather than a means to the end of improving a suite of deficient aquatic habitat parameters. The notion of "just add logs and move on" does not sit well with some scientists and conservationists concerned with restoring watershed processes rather than engineering quick fixes. A 1992 *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* paper criticized instream wood restoration projects on Forest Service lands for having a high failure rate during floods and failing to address upland watershed problems. Conversely, a 1998 article by Forest Service biologists published in the same journal presented opposite findings—that instream wood projects had relatively high durability during floods, especially in smaller streams, and suggested they can be a positive step toward restoring damaged watersheds. Rich Nawa, staff ecologist for the Siskiyou Project environmental group and coauthor of the critical 1992 paper, concedes some of his views on instream wood projects have changed over the years. "Designed large wood structures, especially engineered debris jams using whole trees, can create stream complexity and benefit fish habitat," he says. "Although these projects still often lack stringent monitoring, some [biologists] are learning from others' research on what works and what doesn't."

Not all environmentalists are opposed to large wood restoration projects, however. Chip Dennerlein, former director of the Siskiyou Project and former Alaska Department of Fish and Game habitat director, has recently shown support for proposed large wood stream restoration projects on Forest Service land in southwestern Oregon, even if large trees have to be cut to provide the raw materials. Other opponents have alleged large wood placement projects pose danger to boaters and block access to mining claims. Some have raised philosophical concerns of "trying to play God" by creating more fish for anglers to catch. While results vary depending on a variety of factors, there is general consensus among fish biologists that large wood projects can be designed to improve salmon production and protect private property and other resources. The courts seem to agree. Recently the Forest Service successfully defended its actions in a lawsuit in which the plaintiff claimed that upstream fish habitat structures were responsible for flood damage on downstream private property.

The methods used to position large wood in streams are as diverse as the salmon-bearing creeks and rivers of the Pacific Northwest. Horses, helicopters, cranes, winches, heavy equipment and chainsaws have all been used to place instream large wood. Villers opts for a combination of pulleys, cables, chains and a large flatbed truck he built called the "tree-puller." He uses the device to move whole trees—some weighing close to 100,000 pounds—up to 1,000 feet away from a road. He says the technique minimizes damage to the riparian zone, but it's slow, tedious work that requires packing heavy steel chains and shackles for backbreaking twelve-hour days. After being dragged to the stream, large wood is then positioned between standing trees along the stream bank to minimize movement during winter floods. Over time, spawning gravels will accumulate upstream of the newly placed wood, and pools can form downstream.

If current management guidelines prevail and fish habitats on Pacific Northwest public lands continue to recover, job security for stream restoration contractors may itself be endangered. The Northwest Forest Plan and its protection of riparian reserves should do much to ensure many of these streams recover on their own through a mixture of special riparian management areas and natural wood delivery over the next century. By then, Villers will have created a living legacy. He has already

witnessed the results of his hard work. Many of his projects have transformed stream channels that were previously scoured down to bedrock and devoid of fish. Now the waterways have gravel beds several feet deep and run red in the winter with spawning coho salmon. A large wood restoration project he participated in on the Siuslaw National Forest recently won an international prize for river restoration. "Villers has consistently gone above and beyond the requirements for his contracts," says Sue Richardson, Coos Bay BLM district manager. "He has passion for his work and the resources he is helping to restore." But if well-designed large wood restoration projects continue in Pacific Northwest forests—in combination with other watershed restoration principles and careful management of healthy streams—Villers may one day find himself out of work. If that happens, he will finally have time to go fishing. He may find his luck vastly improved; if stream restoration projects are no longer needed in the Pacific Northwest, there should be enough salmon around for even the unluckiest of anglers to finally catch one.

From: Forest Magazine, Summer 2007

Bering Sea Habitat Conservation

By unanimous decision, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted new precautionary measures to conserve benthic fish habitat in the Bering Sea. These measures included "freezing the footprint" of bottom trawling in the Bering Sea by limiting trawl effort only to those areas more recently trawled, and an endorsement of efforts by the trawl industry to develop gear modifications that raise the trawl sweeps off the bottom. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the new measures would prohibit bottom trawling over 132,000 nm² of area, consisting of a deep slope and basin area (47,000 nm²) and the northern Bering Sea research area that includes the shelf waters to the north of St. Matthew island (85,000 nm²).

The entire northern Bering Sea research area will be closed to bottom trawling while a research plan is developed for this area. The research plan may include an adaptive management design which could allow bottom trawling in designated areas to evaluate effects, or research using other experimental fishing approaches. Within the Northern Bering Sea Research Area however, the Council adopted trawl closure areas that would remain closed to bottom trawling regardless of the adaptive management design. These marine protected areas include the near shore areas of Nunivak Island and Kucskokwim Bay, and around St. Lawrence island and St. Matthew island. These closures were established to conserve blue king crab habitat and/or to address subsistence harvesting and small scale local fisheries in these areas. The research plan will consider and identify additional protection measures as may be necessary for king and *C. opilio* crab, marine mammals, ESA-listed species, and subsistence needs for Western Alaska communities in near shore areas.

Although modifications to trawl sweeps (discs that would raise the sweeps off of the seabed) were considered in the analysis, it became apparent that additional field testing of the gear was necessary before these modifications could be regulated. Nevertheless, the Council endorsed efforts by the trawl industry to continue development of workable trawl sweep modifications. Following additional gear testing by the flatfish trawl industry later this year, the Council will provide recommendations to NMFS for the specific gear modifications in June 2008.

Additional information, including maps of the areas and the Council's motion, are available on the Council web site, staff contact is Cathy Coon.

From: NPFMC news and notes, June 2007

Gulf of Mexico: Amberjack, Triggerfish, Gag, Red Grouper

In the Gulf of Mexico, the greater amberjack stock is not recovering as projected. It remains overfished and continues to undergo overfishing. Meanwhile, gray triggerfish are also undergoing overfishing, according to a 2006 stock assessment. A reef fish plan will set TAC and management measures to end overfishing of both species, bring the greater amberjack rebuilding plan back on course for recovery within a ten year time frame, and set management targets and thresholds for gray triggerfish.

Another amendment will co-manage gag and red grouper. For gag, TAC and other management measures will be aimed at ending overfishing. For red grouper, the TAC may be increased, since the most recent stock assessment found the stock to be above its maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and slightly below optimum yield (OY).

MSY is the largest average catch that can be continuously taken from a stock under existing environmental conditions. OY is the harvest level below MSY that achieves the greatest overall benefits. However, because both of those assessments are being given a second look, Council and staff will revise the goals of the amendment accordingly, once the reevaluation results are available in June.

From: Gulf Fishery News, March-May 2007

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President's Message

The annual AIFRB Board meeting is being held on September 1-2, in San Francisco. Since this issue of *Briefs* will arrive after the Board meeting, results will be in the next issue. I hope to see you at the Board meeting or the reception.

That said, one of the issues that will be discussed at the Board meeting is new people for various officer and committee positions. There is no better way to get involved in AIFRB than serve in these capacities. The web site gives some information on the various officers and committees. If you would like more information, please contact me or the current chair or officer. It is always challenging to fit yet one more activity into your busy schedule, even for those of us who are retired. But it is rewarding to be part of growing AIFRB for the future and I hope you will seriously consider joining the AIFRB leadership. Please contact me (lljnew@sbcglobal.net) if there is a committee or position you would like to serve on.

This was a busy year for AIFRB, with new major activities. In February we held a very successful symposium on The Future of Fishery Science in North America. We implemented a new award, the Kasahara Early Career Award. We developed new web pages for the symposium and for the official web site. We are implementing a new electronic journal. You will read more about these activities later in this issue.

This year we established the Reynald A. (Mike) Fredin Memorial Award: I was contacted by Mrs. Fredin who asked that donations be made to AIFRB in lieu of flowers at the memorial service. Allen Shimada set up an account for these donations. I sent letters to each donor thanking them for their generous contributions. I have suggested that these funds be used for a special research award through the Research Award Committee.

A great deal of effort was put into the AIFRB web site again this year. With the symposium demands, we needed increased abilities on the web site to handle registration, abstract submission and printing, etc. Dave Somerton and Vickie Lingwood developed an online database for the web site with much help from Allen Shimada. This allowed us to take registrations and payment online, linked to the hotel for reservations, produce nametags, print and download abstracts. We greatly appreciate their efforts to improve the web site. We then contracted with Vickie to build a dynamic web site so that we can enter new information and pictures ourselves rather than through a single person. This website is nearly complete. During this process a number of people have supplied updated information for the web site on committees, activities, etc. This year we will focus on completing the update of information and having each Region provide complete information on their activities, officers, etc.

For the upcoming year, I have made the following Committee Chair Appointments: John Merriner, President-elect Committee; Tom Keegan, Membership Committee; Katherine Myers, Archival Committee; Neal Foster, Computer Committee; Jerry Ault, Research Assistance Awards Committee; William Bayliff, W.F. Thompson Award Committee; Gene Huntsman and John Merriner, Editorial and Production Committee; William Fox, Outstanding Achievement Awards; Vidar Weststad, Capital Management Committee.

It was a good year!

Linda

2007 Research Assistance Program: Awards to Four

In 2007, four AIFRB Associate Members received \$500 research assistance awards. The award recipient, their affiliation, title of their abstract, and scientific meeting attended are listed below. This information, plus abstracts of the papers presented or description of research activities will be presented in AIFRB *Briefs*.

The Research Assistance (RA) Award, established in 1986, is offered annually to AIFRB graduate students and other Associate members to support travel expenses associated with professional development. The RA provides a maximum award of \$500 towards the opportunity to present results of an original paper or research project of merit at scientific meetings, or to conduct research at distant study sites. All AIFRB Associate Members in good standing are eligible. An individual may receive two awards in a lifetime.

The AIFRB is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization (EIN 61-6050711).

2007 AIFRB Research Assistance Award Recipients: **Ms. Anna Bella de los Santos Camarillo**, Centro de Investigaciones Biologicas del Noroeste, Baja California, Mexico, will present a paper entitled '*Genetic diversity of native Mexican species of trout using microsatellite markers*' at the 137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society 2007 in San Francisco, California; **Mr. Allen H. Andrews**, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California, will travel to Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, to complete key aspects of his Ph.D. research on '*Application of lead-radium dating to determine age and lifespan of Patagonian toothfish*'; **Mr. Matthew J. Breen**, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, will present a paper entitled '*Movement patterns of mottled sculpins in a small stream: evaluating PIT equipment*' at the 137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society 2007 in San Francisco, California; **Ms. Kimberly S. Wieber**, College of Charleston, South Carolina, presented a paper entitled '*Habitat associations of demersal fishes on the Charleston Bump and adjacent Blake Plateau*' at the Annual Meeting of American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists 2007.

*Jerald S. Ault, Chair - Research Assistance Award Program
Committee Members: Colleen Caldwell and Robert Stickney*

Obituaries: Founding Members Atkinson and Idyll

Clint Atkinson: Obituary

We lost our old friend, and a Founding Member of AIFRB, Clint Atkinson on May 14, 2007. Clint's CV is summarized below. It is but a partial reflection of the man and his contributions to our community.

Memorial services were held on June 20, 2007 at the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle. There were five eulogies offered by friends, each who had known Clint in differing ways, but each statement was remarkably alike.

Clint made things happen. He enhanced careers, programs and people's lives. Family, friends and professional associates were all better for their proximity to Clint. He was both a consummate professional and a distinguished human being. His help to graduate students, to fishermen, professional colleagues, and especially to an army of close friends and family set a standard we can all aspire to attain.

The CV below was prepared by Clint at his son's, Rob, behest. It clearly speaks to the diversity of a long career, marked by major accomplishments and growth. It fails to note, however, the most important accomplishment of all- making this world a better place and making the people around him happier and better for having known him. He will be remembered.

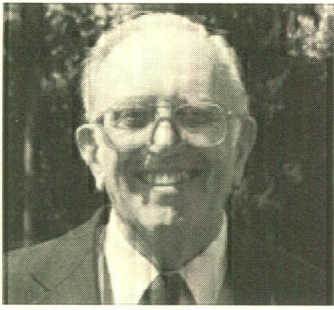
Clint passed away peacefully on May 14, 2007. He was born in Boise, Idaho in 1913 and graduated from the University of Washington in 1947, completing his M.S. in Fisheries at the University of Washington in 1964.

Clint had a long and distinguished career in Fisheries working for the International Salmon Commission (1938-1948), Bureau of Commercial Fisheries/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1948-1956), Director, Biological Laboratory, Seattle, Washington (1957-1965), Regional Fishery Attache, American Embassy, Tokyo, Japan (1966-1973), Fisheries Consultant and Advisor (1974-2002), when he finally retired (sort of). During his long and distinguished career, he received numerous awards from Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States for his work with both salmon and shad on the Pacific Rim. He belonged to the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. A Fellow past and present, International Institute of Fishery Economics and Trade, Fellow and Member of Executive Committee, received a Distinguished Service Award in 1990. His publications and reports span over seventy years. Clint was active in our local fishing industry and was instrumental in helping a number of young companies get started and connected on the international market. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary, of sixty years and son, William. He is survived by his son, Robert and wife Karen, his grandson Evan and his partner of the last six years, Margaret H. Berger.

Thanks to Bill Aron for this submission

Clarence Purvis Idyll: Obituary

Clarence Purvis Idyll, 91, of Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD, on June 3, 2007, of pneumonia. Born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada February 10, 1916. Dr. Idyll was raised in Vancouver, BC. He was ready for university when the Great Depression was at its deepest, but his mother was determined that he would get the education that she had missed at a time when advanced education was considered to be unnecessary for girls beyond high school. No Depression, great or small, was any match for his mother's determination. His family moved close enough to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver so that he could get there by bus—he was launched on a long career as a student. A biologist in British Columbia at that time had the best chance of making a living as an entomologist or a fishery biologist. When he got a summer job in a research fish hatchery on Vancouver Island, run by the federal Fisheries Research Board of Canada, that did it. Dr. Idyll graduated with First



Class honors in Zoology from the University of British Columbia. He continued on at UBC where he received a Master's Degree in Zoology. The Depression was still being felt, and the prospect of a job in science did not appear promising, so during the second year of his Master's degree he also took Teacher's Training and emerged with a certificate to teach high school. Upon completion of his Master's degree, he was hired to teach mathematics and physical education by the Superintendent of Schools, who later became his father-in-law. He found teaching tough and decided there must be easier ways to make a living. Now married, he and his wife, Marion, moved to Seattle where he entered the College of Fisheries of the University of Washington. They lived frugally in a squalid little room near the campus, where they heard on the radio that Japanese planes had attacked Pearl Harbor. He was subject to military service both in Canada and the United States, but by then he was involved in

research on the conservation of salmon, a major food resource and both draft boards exempted him. The move opened the world of internationalism for him—up to then his habitat had been the Vancouver area, trips to Seattle, infrequent visits to the interior of British Columbia, and a momentous mid-winter trip by train to Winnipeg to attend a students' conference as a delegate from UBC. He had never been as far south as Portland, Oregon, and he did not get to Alaska until he moved to Florida some years later. He had a job with the International Pacific Salmon Commission, a group of Canadian and U.S. scientists whose task was to restore and manage the sockeye salmon resources of the Fraser River. This catapulted him into the vast and dynamic world of international fisheries which eventually took him to 84 countries, some of them several times, and all of them with a worthwhile message to impart. In 1948 Dr. Idyll was invited to join the faculty of the newly minted Department of Marine Sciences at the University of Miami, now known as the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, in Coral Gables, Florida, as an Assistant Professor of Fisheries Science. He and his wife moved with his three young children, the oldest five years, the youngest six weeks, for a new and different life in semi-tropical southern Florida. Some of the most jolting differences were social. In Vancouver the only black people were porters who worked the Canadian Pacific Railway trains. In Coral Gables they were catapulted into a viciously divided society with separate drinking fountains, toilets, and seats in the back of the bus for blacks. The blacks went to separate and decidedly unequal schools elsewhere. Most of Dr. Idyll's professional life was spent at the Institute of Marine Sciences. When he arrived at the University he was the only faculty member of the Department of Fisheries, and he was given the exciting challenge to create a southeastern school of fishery science that would be the warm-water equivalent of the acknowledged leader in the field, the College of Fisheries at the University of Washington, where he had graduated. He served as the first Chairman of his department, which eventually consisted of 12 to 15 teaching and research faculty, a post he held until he left the University in 1971. The total enrolment in his first course consisted of one student, who later became the Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the United States Government. Many of his students, American and foreign, went on to become scientists and teachers, in some cases heads of research groups and professors and deans of schools of fisheries around the world. He was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1969. The research carried out in his department was chiefly on spiny lobsters, mullet and shrimp. To a considerable extent this research was supported by State of Florida and United States Government contracts, foundation and private grants. The National Geographic Society provided research grants over many years, and their support made it possible for them to pioneer in the adaptation of Japanese research on shrimp farming. This led to his first trip to Japan, and the first of seven articles in the National Geographic Magazine. The research at the University started Dr. Idyll on foreign travel. His first trip to Europe was with other university faculty members as the guest of the German Government. They visited the major fish research and production centers of the country, and his whole perception of the world turned upside down. It made him to decide that he wanted his children to get an early experience of foreign lands and people, so he sent his two youngest daughters, who were then in college, to Europe for six weeks. Subsequently, on behalf of the University or as a consultant for several agencies of the United Nations, USAID, or for U.S. companies, he went on many overseas trips, the missions of which were to assist in the development and conservation of fisheries. He helped establish a training program for fishery administrations and staff in Nigeria; created a multi-year research and exploration program for the countries of the Caribbean; evaluated a research institute managing the biggest fishery in the world, the huge anchovy fishery of Peru; advised the Chinese government on fish farming research; established in British Honduras a management program for their spiny lobster fishery. He also went to Indonesia, The Gambia, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Korea and more, for various functions. All of these excursions taught him something more about how human beings function, how science can take a back seat to politics in the decision-making, how money—particularly the lack of it—can cancel the best-planned research and development programs, and how agendas and lack of understanding can overwhelm logic and common sense. These experiences also taught him that respect must be given to differences among people in their societal and professional dealings, and that there are men and women of good will over the world doing excellent work with inadequate tools, untrained staff and unenlightened political oversight. Dr. Idyll's responsibilities at the University included running the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), which he did for many years. Members included fisheries scientists from university and government laboratories, state and federal fishery administrators, and representatives of fish industries. Through the GCFI he discovered the usefulness of getting the broadest possible range of views about issues, in particular understanding the problems and needs of the consumers—in this case the owners and managers of fishing fleets, fish processing plants, and marketing organizations. In 1971 Dr. Idyll joined the professional staff of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Published in *The Miami Herald* on August 5, 2007.

Thanks to Charles Caillouet

Another Loss

Robert Cummings, Jr., May 13th, 2007

M'70 F'78 EF'93

Jan Cummins may be reached at:

2 Renegar Way, Apt. 211

St. Simons Island, GA 31522-8868

(912) 628-2034

And A Member Seriously Ill:

Lawrence Korn

A'64 M'71

Ruth Korn says that Lawrence is in Hospice Care.

2109 W. Grammercy Drive

Green Valley, AZ 85614-5467

W.F. Thompson Award

Committee Report

The W.F. Thompson Award, for the "best student paper" published during the year in question, has been awarded in most years since about 1964 (when it was awarded for a paper published in 1963). The criteria for eligibility are summarized on the AIFRB web site. A list of the winners, the titles of their papers, and the journals or books in which they were published are also listed on the AIFRB web site. The current Committee consists of myself (Bill Bayliff), Rob Hayward, Anne Hollowed, Frank Panek, and Jack Pearce. The Committee members have been helpful in discussing the criteria for eligibility for the Award and the criteria for judging the papers, and especially in finding reviewers for the papers.

Securing nominations for the Award: Each nomination must be accompanied by a résumé of the student, which is used to verify that the paper submitted was based on work conducted while the nominee was a student.

I don't remember how we obtained nominations for papers published in 1989, 1990, and 1991, but I remember that we received about five nominations per year. Jack Pearce succeeded me as Chairman of the Committee. I don't know how he obtained nominations for papers, but I know that he had trouble, as no award was given for papers published in 1995 because he couldn't get enough nominations (AIFRB *Briefs*, Vol. 26, No. 4). When I read about that I decided to help him by examining the Fishery Bulletin of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service for papers based on work performed while the senior author was a student, and then sending e-mail messages to them suggesting that they submit their papers for consideration for the Award. Two or three of those people won the Award.

By email I contacted heads of the largest university departments of fisheries and asked them to nominate students for the Award. (I have learned the hard way that many people have never heard of W.F. Thompson, so if an e-mail message is sent to somebody the subject line should be "Award for best student paper published in 2005," or something like that, rather than "W.F. Thompson Award.") Also, an announcement was published in the AIFRB *Briefs*. And, I made announcements at meetings that I attended in May 2005 and May 2006. Those announcements prompted the submission of two papers published in 2004 and one published in 2005. Also, the American Fisheries Society publishes an electronic newsletter, and a notice about the Award was published in that newsletter. I have established a mailing list of people to whom I send e-mail messages requesting nominations for the award. In addition to heads of the departments with major fisheries programs, it includes all professors who have submitted papers of their students for consideration for the Award, professors who have reviewed papers that were being considered for the Award, and other professors with whom I am acquainted, I have thanked all the people who have submitted nominations for the Award.

When the Committee was formed I asked its members for their opinions on the criteria used for judging for the 2004 Award. Bob Carline, a Committee member at that time, suggested a new set of criteria, and we all agreed that his were better than the ones used for the 2003 Award, so his criteria were used for the 2004 Award and are being used for the 2005 Award.

The Committee members and some other people helped me find reviewers for the 2004 papers. Some reviewers are probably stricter or more lenient than others, and different reviewers probably interpret the criteria differently. A partial solution for that is (1) to get more reviewers for each paper and (2) to get at least some of the reviewers to review several papers. My goal for the 2004 papers was about three or four reviewers for each paper. (However, Bob Carline and Frank Panek found more than three or four reviewers for the freshwater papers, and I received more than three or four reviews of some of these, which is good, of course.) On the other hand, it is unlikely that all the people who have consented to review papers will do so, which is why it is good to get at least three or four reviewers for each paper. The deadline for receiving reviews of the 2004 papers was September 1, 2006, and I sent reminders to some of the people who had consented to review papers but had not yet sent me their reviews.) I have been careful to thank all the reviewers, once when they consent to review one or more papers and once when they submit their reviews.

Selection of the winner: The winner for 2005 will be selected by September 1, 2007. With luck, the student will be in attendance in San Francisco, and a brief ceremony will be held, at which he or she will be given a check.

Suggested revised criteria eligibility for the Award: Below are suggested revised criteria eligibility for the Award. The suggested changes are *highlighted*. Most importantly, it recognizes the fact that the Committee members are not necessarily reviewers, and *vice versa*. The Committee members should be fellows or members of the AIFRB, but there may be no AIFRB members who are qualified to review papers on esoteric subjects such as otolith chemistry, so we must often seek reviews from non-members. Criteria 12, 13, and 14 are afterthoughts. Criterion 14 was suggested by a reviewer who said that the student should be able to judge which of his several papers was the best and submit only that paper. If this criterion is accepted, obviously Criteria 12 and 13 would have to be rejected.

Proposed Modified Qualifications for Nomination for the W.F. Thompson Award (*changes in italics*)

1. The research must have been conducted while the nominee was a student at an institution of higher learning in the western hemisphere.
2. Papers *that* are considered for the award must be concerned with freshwater or marine biological resource problems. They will be judged on the basis of originality, development and organization, and interest to current problems.
3. The results of the research must have been published in a recognized scientific journal, or as all or part of a book, within three (3) years of termination of student status. (If a *paper* does not meet this requirement, due to a technically uncontrollable reason, such as military service, *etc.*, it may still be considered.)
4. Authors may nominate their own papers.
5. Multiple authorship is permissible, provided a student is the senior author.
6. A résumé, including details of the student author's employment history in fisheries or fisheries-related science and his *or her* status as a student, must accompany the nomination.
7. *The papers will be submitted to the Chairperson of the W.F. Thompson Award Committee, an AIFRB fellow or member appointed by the President of the AIFRB. The rest of the committee will consist of up to four fellows or members of the AIFRB appointed by the Chairperson. The committee will send copies of the papers submitted to competent reviewers, who need not be fellows or members of the AIFRB.*
8. The award will consist of a *congratulatory letter from the president of the AIFRB* and a monetary award. A faculty advisor co-author of an award-winning paper will receive a *congratulatory letter from the president of the AIFRB*, but no money.
9. If the winning paper is based upon research carried out independently by two or more student co-authors, each will receive a *congratulatory letter from the president of the AIFRB*, and the monetary award will be divided equally among them.
10. In most cases the award will be given once each year, but if none of the papers nominated for the award is judged to be outstanding the Committee is not obliged to select a winner of the award for that year.
11. Persons who have won the award are eligible to receive it a second time, provided the two awards are *based on two distinctly different pieces of research conducted in support of two different degrees*.
12. *If two or more papers based on the same thesis or dissertation are submitted, they will be judged separately.*
13. *If two or more papers based on the same thesis or dissertation are published in different years, and the student wins the award in the earlier year, he or she will not be eligible to win the award again in the later year.*
14. *Not more than one paper based on the same thesis or dissertation may be eligible for the award.*

Abridged from Report submitted by Bill Bayliff

Recipient: Kasahara Award 2007

Jamal H. Moss

NOAA Fisheries Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK, 99801

jamal.moss@noaa.gov (907) 789-6609

Education: Ph.D. - Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Washington, 2006; M.S. - Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Washington, 2001; B.A. - Biology, Connecticut College, 1997 (with honors). **Professional Experience:** 2003-present: **Research fisheries biologist** NOAA Fisheries, Ocean Carrying Capacity Program, Auke Bay Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Juneau, AK; 2005-present: **President** American Fisheries Society Alaska Chapter; 1999-2003: **Graduate research assistant** School of Aquatic and fisheries Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Current Research: Arctic-Yukon Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative: **Principal investigator** 1) Parameterization of temperature and weight dependence on maximum consumption rate of juvenile chum salmon and development of a biogenetics model and 2) Assessment of regional and interannual juvenile chum salmon growth potential across the eastern Bering Sea shelf; Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics: **Principal investigator** 1) quantification of spatial variability in juvenile pink salmon growth potential across the Gulf of Alaska and implications for production and survival Bering-Aleutian Salmon; International Survey: **Principal investigator** 1) Quantification of interannual variability in trophic structuring of the epipelagic fish community in the Chukchi Sea and eastern Bering Sea and 2) Affects of climate on the ecology, production and status of age-0 walleye pollock inhabiting the eastern Bering Sea.

Dr. Moss is already author or co-author of 15 peer-reviewed papers published, in press or in review.

Institute's E-Journal: Substantial Progress

Kevin Friedland Reports

I have taken the following steps in the development of an e-journal for the Institute: 1. I wrote to the fellows of the AIFRB and explained the intention of the Institute to develop an e-journal and asked for volunteers to participate as associate editors and members of the editorial board. I received approximately twenty responses, of which I would say fifteen indicated a firm commitment to work on the journal. This core group has gone forward in the planning process; however, the recruitment of additional editors is an ongoing process. I welcome recommendations of individuals who may want to serve as associate editors; 2. I sent the editors a flow diagram describing the submission, review, and publication process for the e-journal. I received feedback and generally took the procedure as accepted by the editorial board; 3. The editors were sent a layout and content draft for the website of the e-journal, which is intended to be part of the Institute's website. I received feedback and will soon transmit the data to the webmaster so the webpage can be mocked up and mounted as a draft site for a next round of review; 4. I sent the editors a journal submission template, which included detailed instructions on how to prepare a submission to the e-journal. I received feedback on this document and will develop a second version for their review.

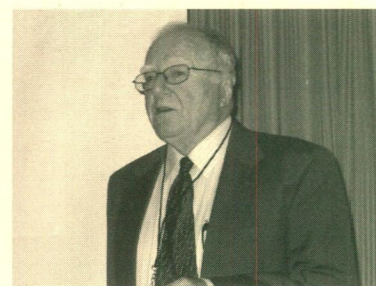
I would like to solicit a candidate paper for the first submission to the journal so that we can perform a dry run on the reviewing and editing of a submission. If anyone knows of a potential paper or author, please contact me. Once we have an acceptable webpage and procedure put together, I will contact CSA and ISI about getting the journal into ASFA and Web of Science databases. Hopefully we can post the website and announce the journal before the end of the year and begin filling the first volume in 2008.

Kevin Friedland

District Reports: Abridged Highlights

Great Lakes: The South Central Great Lakes District, AIFRB, presented five Special Awards at the 49th Annual Southeastern Michigan Science Fair, held at Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI, March 9-10, 2007. The Award consisted of a handsomely printed Certificate of Recognition by AIFRB. AIFRB was listed as an awarder of Special Awards in the Science Fair booklet. Judges for AIFRB were Dr. Edward F. Roseman, Mr. Donald W. Schloesser, and Dr. Dora R. Passino-Reader, who are members of AIFRB, and Mr. John R.P. French, III and Mr. Bruce Davis, also from the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, Ann Arbor, MI. The Science Fair provided a tiepin, supper, and snacks for all judges. *Submitted by: Dora Passino-Reader*

New England: As of March 2007, there were 39 members in the district, a 5% increase from 2006. The District met by correspondence and at a joint meeting with the Southern New England AFS Chapter on June 27, 2007 at the Coastal Institute of the University of Rhode Island. The partnership between the New England District and the local AFS chapter was proposed to increase attendance at the meeting and draw on the relative strengths of each organization. The role of the New England District was to provide a keynote speaker for the meeting. Registration was free for all students. The meeting was judged a success based on the attendance by over one hundred people, comprising a diversity of AIFRB members, AFS members and students. The keynote address was provided by Brian Rothschild, who summarized the AIFRB 50th Anniversary Symposium. *Submitted by: Steve Cadrin.*



Brian Rothschild, keynote speaker, New England District meeting, holder of the AIFRB Outstanding Achievement Award.

*Photo by Kate Myers
Submitted by Steve Cadrin.*

Capitol District: There are no formal meetings of the District members. Members stay in contact by personal contacts at professional meetings and by direct contact by e-mail. All members were asked to make colleagues and associates aware on the mission and activities of AIFRB. District members were urged to take advantage of both the AFS Annual Meeting and the meeting of the AIFRB Board of Control as opportunities to meet or socialize with other members.

For the second year the Capital District membership supported the W.F. Thompson Award by offering to review student papers. This year Gary Matlock, Don Orth, Ray Morgan, Kay McGraw, Kyle Hartman and Frank Panek collectively reviewed nine (9) student paper submissions. Many thanks to those members for their support of this program! *Submitted by: Frank Panek.*

Keystone District: The New York City membership in conjunction with colleagues from Connecticut DEC, NOAA, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Natural Resources Group of the Parks Department of New York City continued their activities regarding restoration of recreational fisheries in the Bronx. Specifically, a second successful introduction of 400 spawning run alewife was added to the Bronx River on April 5th. In compliance with NY State DEC Regulations alewife were tested for viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) prior to stocking, and found to be negative. *Submitted by: Joseph Rachlin.*

Southern California District: We had two dinner meetings where we attempted to get members from the northern and southern part of the District together. We also invited local university students in the fishery sciences to attend as a means of

getting the professionals and the students together. This was marginally effective because the District is so large. We also move the meeting place to various areas, but the attendance appears to be correlated with the location of the meetings. We like to get about 25 or more attendees at these meetings. The meetings include a speaker, recently one of the winners of our Southern California District Awards. The speakers have been outstanding. I would like to see more professionals attending the meetings to hear and see the upcoming cohort of biologists. The Southern California District sponsors a fishery award at the Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual meeting every year. The award of up to \$400, is given to the best student speaker presenting on a fisheries-related topic. The judging is separate from regular SCAS judging. Members of the district judge the papers using our own criteria. When Western Society of Naturalists meetings are in Southern California, the District also sponsors an award. The awards program is well received, but the awards can put a strain on our budget. We have discussed having some kind of fund raising event. In past years, the District has sponsored symposia on individual species of concern, professional development classes, and symposia on fishery related issues. We are currently looking for ideas for another event.
Submitted by: Peter L. Haaker.

Two Meetings: 2008

Call for Papers

Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting - 2008

The West Virginia Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Wheeling at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center for the 2008 Southern Division Spring Meeting, February 28 - March 2, 2008. The meeting's theme is "Headwater Streams to Large Rivers".

Please submit suggestions for symposia to Kyle Hartman (hartman@wvu.edu) and workshops to Chris O'Bara (chrisobara@wvdnr.gov) by September 1, 2007. The due date for symposia, poster, and general session abstracts will be December 1, 2007. For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2008>. Online abstract submission will be available August 15, 2007.

Dr. Kyle Hartman, West Virginia University, hartman@wvu.edu, (304) 293-3794 ext. 2494

The 2008 Alaska Marine Science Symposium: save the Date

Save the Date: The 2008 Alaska Marine Science Symposium will be held at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage on January 21-23, 2008 with a kick-off reception Sunday evening, January 20. Be sure to attend this exciting symposium on marine research off Alaska.

Clarence Pautzke, PhD, Executive Director North Pacific Research Board, 1007 West 3rd Ave, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501; Phone (907) 644-6700, Fax (907) 644-6780; Email: cpautzke@nprb.org

New NOAA Fellowships Granted

A new 'year class' of NOAA Fisheries Service - Sea Grant graduate fellows has been selected - two fellows studying population dynamics (fishery stock assessment) and two focusing on marine resource economics. This year's selectees were chosen from very competitive pools of applicants reviewed by two technical panels of experts (one for each discipline). Selected for 3-year population dynamics fellowships were Kiersten Curti at the Univ. of Rhode Island (Major professor - Jeremy Collie; NMFS mentor - Jason Link). and Carey McGilliard at the Univ. of Washington (Major professor - Ray Hilborn; NMFS mentor - Rick Methot) Ms. Curti's dissertation topic is "An age-structured multispecies model of the Georges Bank fish community" and Ms. McGilliard's dissertation, "Evaluating stock assessment methods and management strategies for spatially heterogenous fish stocks." Selected for two-year marine resource economics fellowships were Min-Yang Lee of the University of Illinois (Major professors - Richard Brazee and John Braden; NMFS mentors - Charles Fulcher and Drew Kitts) and Elizabeth Smith of the Univ. of Rhode Island (Major professor: Steve Swallow; NMFS mentor - Steve Edwards). Mr. Lee's proposal is "Ecosystem based management of interacting resources: Atlantic herring, humpback whales, and sandlance in the Gulf of Maine" and Ms. Smith's dissertation title, "Ecosystem services: How decision-making changes with incentives." Congratulations to those applicants, schools and Sea Grant programs and thanks to all who participated in the process.

Submitted by Allen Shimada

Toward ecosystem-based management

By Anne Hayden and Philip Conkling

Ecosystem management, a strategy for improving our nation's fisheries, has been the Holy Grail for marine conservationists for years, but that doesn't mean everyone - or even anyone - agrees on what it might look like.

The Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization of 1996 recognized the potential benefits of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries when it mandated the creation of an Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel to identify mechanisms for incorporating an ecosystem approach into fisheries management. On the simplest level, an ecosystem-based management approach suggests that trying to maximize sustainable yield simultaneously from both predator and prey species causes the system to change in unpredictable ways. Altering the food web sends ripples throughout the system: predators find new prey, some populations increase, some decrease, habitat use shifts, energy flows in new pathways - the complexity gets mind boggling pretty quickly. Factor in natural fluctuations in ocean temperature and currents, which influence species abundance and distribution, and it is a wonder we can predict anything about how our use of marine resources will affect the system a year from now when the next management plan is due.

But there are far simpler ways of using the important principles of ecosystem management than a hopeless effort to model all the complex relationships between species in different - largely invisible - parts of the marine ecosystem. Because we'll never get there from here, we might instead start from the recognition that not all species in an ecosystem are created equal. Some species exercise such a dominant effect on the system that their numbers and behavior must be clearly understood and carefully managed if we are ever going to be able to predict the resources available in the future. It is time to consider a new approach, one that marries a continually improving understanding of marine ecosystems with a regulatory approach suited to the tremendous uncertainty that characterizes such ecosystems.

Fisheries management must match the ecological scale of fish stocks and incorporate the knowledge of fishermen in an ongoing process of adaptive management, by which we mean management that can respond on a timely basis to observed changes in the marine environment. The old view of steady-state fisheries must be replaced with one that recognizes the continually changing nature of ecosystems and, for that matter, the continually changing nature of economic and social systems as well.

Here in New England, we have a multispecies ground-fish management plan. Some people consider a multispecies plan as a step toward ecosystem management. If it is, it is a very small one. Yes, it's true that more than one species is considered - but only to a limited degree. A better approach would be to bring the scale of management down to the substock level and to create a positive incentive for fishermen to share their knowledge of stock dynamics in relation to changing ecological, social and economic conditions. Integrating fishermen's knowledge into the management process is the only sensible strategy in making progress toward ecosystem management. Let's define ecosystem management not as knowing all things about the role each species plays in the marine ecosystem but as if these species were related to each other - beginning with the ultimate predators in the marine environment - fishermen.

*From National Fishermen, June 2007
Abridged and Submitted by Bernie Skud*

A Diamond Anniversary: The First Cooperative Unit

Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit

In early 1932, R.M. Hughes, the President of Iowa State College, received a visit from Jay 'Ding' Darling, the Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist of the Des Moines Register and a national leader in the new field of wildlife conservation. Darling proposed that the College join with the Iowa Fish and Game Commission to establish a cooperative wildlife research unit to address the critical need for research in support of wildlife management, and to provide a program for training future wildlife professionals. The Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit was established by mid-year, with a 3-year annual commitment of \$3,000 each from the College, the Commission, and Darling's own pocket. Dr. Paul Errington, who had recently completed his Ph.D. training under the direction of Aldo Leopold at the University of Wisconsin, became the first leader of the Iowa Unit, and the rest is history. Three years later, Darling was Director of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, the precursor to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the success of the cooperative Unit concept in Iowa led to the establishment of the national Cooperative Unit program under the federal/state/university partnership model.

This October, current and former Unit staff, students, and cooperators will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the first Cooperative Unit at a gathering in Ames. Planning of the banquet and associated events are underway. -Davis Ottis

*From Alumni Newsletter
Dept. of Animal Ecology and Forestry
Iowa State University, Spring 2007*

Fish kill study to include James, Cowpasture

A task force investigating fish kills in the Shenandoah river has expanded the probe to include the upper James river and the Cowpasture River in western Virginia. Responding to tips, scientists in mid-May found dead and dying fish in portions of the James in Botetourt County and in the Cowpasture in Bath County. Those rivers are more than 100 miles southwest of the Shenandoah region and in a different watershed. "We are definitely concerned, but we don't know enough to really say what it means," said Bill Hayden, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Stricken fish have been showing up in the Shenandoah and its north and south forks each spring since 2004. Many of the fish are afflicted with lesions. The task force members who found dead and ailing fish in the other two rivers also caught fish by putting an electric charge into the waters to stun them. They found that more than 25 percent of the smallmouth bass and redbreast sunfish, as well as some other fish, had sores. That pattern mirrors what experts have seen in the Shenandoah area. The number of dead fish found in the Cowpasture and James may not be more than a few dozen. Getting a precise count of the dead is difficult, Harden said, because many of the bodies drop to the bottom of the rivers. Some fish from the rivers will be sent to labs to be checked for bacteria and viruses. Chuck Frederickson, the James Riverkeeper, said he has never heard of such a problem before. "Anything that affects the fishery like that shows something is out of whack in the river," he said. "I hope we can get to the bottom of it as quickly as we can." The James begins in northern Botetourt where the Cowpasture and Jackson rivers join. The north and south forks of the Shenandoah flow north through the valley, merge at Front Royal and continue north to join the Potomac River.

From Bay Journal, June 2007

Middle Atlantic Management: Good News, Bad News

For the first time in the past three years the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Boards (Board) achieved consensus on their recommendations regarding proposed fishing regulations for those species for the upcoming fishing year - that's the good news. Now the bad news, for the third year in a row the Council and the Board recommended decreases in the total allowable landing levels (TAL) for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Bluefish was again the single bright spot as its quota was increased by about a half a million pounds.

The table below summarizes the recommended fishery management measures for 2008:

	Total Allowable Landings <i>(millions of pounds)</i>	Commercial Quota
Summer Flounder	15.77	9.46
Scup	7.34	5.46
Black Sea Bass	4.22	2.97
Bluefish	28.16	8.88

The situation presented to the Council at its August meeting was that it has only five years to double the spawning stock biomass of summer flounder. Despite the greatest abundance of summer flounder in the past twenty five years, the requirements of law (rebuild the stock by 2013) and best science (achieve a yet to be realized target that will produce the maximum sustainable yield) compelled the Council to recommend the lowest quota level in the history of its summer flounder management program. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis once commented that "The logic of words should yield to the logic of realities". Faced with the dual realities of an abundant resource and a very recently peer-reviewed model that indicates the stock can double if fishing mortality is aggressively controlled over the next five years, the Council (and Commission) recommended a reduction of 1.34 million pounds from the current year quota for summer flounder to 15.77 million pounds for 2008.

For the scup fishery both the Council and the Board recommended a TAL of 7.34 million pounds. This is nearly 40% reduction from the current year federal TAL of 12.00 million pounds. Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) will take effect later this month and initiate a seven-year rebuilding plan for scup effective January 1, 2008. Hence, to achieve the scup target associated with the rebuilding schedule to be implemented through Amendment 14, the Council recommended a quota level consistent with the FMP's rebuilding design. Moreover, as scup continues to suffer from the lack of a current assessment both management authorities elected to take a risk-adverse approach in establishing the 2008 TAL for scup.

New Regulations in Mexico Threaten Marine Life in Sea of Cortez

Effective May 15, 2007 NOM-029-PESCA-2006 allowed commercial longlining in coastal waters of Sea of Cortez. Prior to NOM-029, commercial vessels were not allowed to fish for or possess marlin, sailfish, dorado and other protected species within 50 miles of the coastline. Only recreational anglers were allowed to fish in these protected zones.

Although heralded as a means to protect sharks and rays, the adoption of NOM-029 introduces some significant loopholes that may have devastating effects on marine life. First it allows longline boats less than 30 feet to fish within 10 miles of the shore and longline vessels between 30 and 80 feet to fish within 15 miles of the shore in the Sea of Cortez and within 20 miles of the west coast of Baja. Bycatch is also not controlled because “incidental” bycatch of sailfish, marlin and other species may be retained and sold in these previously protected areas.

Finally, NOM-029 will also increase the number of permitted boats fishing coastal waters. For example, more than 60 permits have been issued to pangas 22 to 30 feet in length and as many as six pangas may work from a single permit. All told, the increase in fishing effort may translate to as many as 1.5 million hooks fishing in the Sea of Cortez each day.

The IGFA and other conservation organizations are petitioning that interested parties demand that NOM-029 be suspended until the following modifications are included: Prohibit commercial fishing in the 50 mile protected zones; Address bycatch so that game fish may not be incidentally targeted and sold; Regionalize fishing permits to evenly distribute fishing effort; Vigilant enforcement of commercial vessels by the Armada de Mexico; Stock assessment and catch and effort data be utilized in making management decisions.

From International Angler, July-August 2007

Plan to harvest cownose rays could be recipe for trouble

**Fishery sought to reduce predation on oyster, grass beds;
but rays' slow reproduction makes them particularly vulnerable.**

By Karl Blankenship

Last year, when scientists planted 750,000 oysters on a large reef in the Piankatank River, they thought it might prove to be a model for future large-scale restoration efforts. Cownose rays, on the other hand, thought the exposed oysters lying on top of the reef were lunch. A herd of the winged fish descended on the reef, picking off the oysters. Within days, hardly any were left. Tales of cownose rays ravaging oyster restoration sites, as well as some underwater grass revegetation projects, have become so common around the Bay that plans are in the works to turn the tables on them—by putting them on the table. By creating a food market for rays—and therefore a fishery—some fishery managers hope to cull the ray population.

In Virginia, where the rays are most plentiful in the Bay, some consider them to be a more formidable obstacle to oyster restoration than the diseases that plague the shellfish. “In the next couple of years, it is our number one problem that we are trying to address for oyster restoration down here,” said Jim Wesson, who oversees oyster restoration efforts for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Wesson said rays are not only an impediment to restoration, but also to aquaculture. New fast-growing strains of native oysters can be placed in the water and reach market size before succumbing to disease, but many oyster growers worry their investment will be wiped out by rays. “You could possibly have the private industry pour money into oyster restoration so it is not depending so much federal and state support,” he said. But other scientists believe the solution being cooked up may be just as bad. If humans develop a taste for cownose rays, they say, it could result in taking too big of a bite out of the ray populations. Dean Grubbs, program manager of the Shark Ecology Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, called efforts to create a fishery “a really bad idea.”

Rays are slow-maturing fish: Females don't reproduce until they are 7 or 8 years old, and males are typically 6 or 7. Further, females produce just one live pup per year. That, combined with the late maturity rate, is a recipe for overfishing, according to Grubbs and some of his colleagues. A closely related species that lives off Brazil, *Rhinoptera brasiliensis*, which was targeted in the 1980s to supply a ray market in Korea was quickly overfished—and completely eliminated in some areas. The IUCN, an international scientific organization, recently warned the population may be “critically endangered.” The IUCN has expressed similar concerns about the species found here. “If a fishery for the cownose rays is ever established, it could be devastating to the population without proper monitoring,” it said. Cownose rays range from Brazil to New England, spending winters in warmer areas then migrating north in the summer. But no agency is responsible for managing the fish. As a result, no one knows the size of the population—or the number that enter the Chesapeake each year.

But concerns about cownose rays got a boost earlier this year when a study published in the journal *Science* blamed the

overfishing of sharks along the East Coast for a booming ray population which, in turn, was causing declines in scallops, clams, oysters and other shellfish in the mid-Atlantic. Cownose rays, the authors said, had increased by “an order-of-magnitude” since the 1970s, adding that the coastal population may number more than 40 million. The paper said the “hyperabundant” cownose ray population consumes “a large quantity” of commercial and noncommercial bivalves. They estimated the cownose ray food demand in the Chesapeake alone was 840,000 metric tons of shellfish during their roughly 100-day occupancy—the 2003 Virginia oyster harvest was only 300 metric tons, the authors stated. Others question whether the ray population has boomed. Grubbs and others are skeptical of the conclusion that cownose rays increased because sharks declined, saying the link between the species is not clear-cut. They say diet studies have not shown that rays are a significant portion of shark diets. And in the mid-Atlantic, most sharks don’t eat rays.

There are no surveys that effectively target cownose rays in the Bay or along the coast, they said, so evidence of a huge cownose ray increase is largely anecdotal. With its slow reproductive rate, they said a massive ray increase would have been difficult. “The cownose ray situation is far from clear,” said John Musick, a professor of marine science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), and an expert on sharks. “I’ve been hearing anecdotal accounts that rays are up in the Bay since 1980. It depends on whose ox is gored.” Grubbs and Musick said cownose rays could seem to be a bigger problem for oysters and grass beds simply because important foods such as razor clams, soft shell clams, oysters and other species are at, or near, record low abundances. So are underwater grass beds, which rays are blamed for destroying in their search for clams. “If we hadn’t screwed up everything already, we wouldn’t be talking about this,” Grubbs said. “In a natural situation, they wouldn’t be a heavy enough predator to really worry about.” Bob Fisher, a commercial fisheries specialist with the Virginia Sea Grant College Program at VIMS, said ray populations may be on the rise, but because of the decline of commercial fishermen—not necessarily sharks. Many fisheries which take rays in bycatch have been reduced over the years, both in the Bay and along the East Coast.

Complaints about rays have been rising not only in the Bay, but in other areas along the coast. “I’ve been hearing more and more from people in New Jersey and on the Eastern Shores of Virginia and Maryland of increasing problems with rays,” he said. Tommy Leggett, an oyster fisheries scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), said the solution may not be a new fishery, but new restoration tactics. After losing so many oysters in the Piankatank project, the foundation and some others shifted gears to plant “spat on shell” oysters, where shells are placed in a tank so oyster larvae, or spat, settle on them. When placed in the water, the shell provides a structure where the spat is protected from rays. A test last year involving the CBF, VIMS, and a commercial grower, the Bevins Oyster Company, planted 260 bushes of spat-on-shell, using native oysters bred to have some disease resistance and grow fast. It produced 775 bushels of market-size oysters. “A cownose ray fishery may not be the best answer,” Leggett said. “Maybe the best answer is the restoration strategy using spat on shell. Rays have always been around, and they certainly didn’t devastate oyster reefs way back when—but then, our oysters grew in a reefy structure where rays couldn’t do harm to the oyster.” Other solutions may be possible. Fisher has been working with techniques which, in effect, create a magnetic field that repels rays.

Nonetheless, Fisher supports having a cownose ray fishery—he’s researched potential markets since 1990. But he said the goal should not be to reduce predation on oysters because rays are highly opportunistic feeders, so that may never happen. “A fishery should be developed for the cownose ray, but as a useable resource, something where management has to come in and impose strict requirements on its sustainability,” he said. A well-managed cownose ray fishery, he said, could provide a new income for watermen and a new product for the seafood industry. Right now, Virginia’s cownose ray fishery is limited to the bycatch caught in other fishing gear. Instead of tossing them overboard, fishermen would have a market to sell rays. Also, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for the first time is requiring fishermen to report their cownose ray catches to gather information. With such a limited fishing effort, Wesson said it’s unlikely that rays will be overfished anytime soon. Spotter planes, used by the menhaden industry to find schools of fish, report seeing “millions and millions” of rays swimming into the Bay, he said. “It will take a number of years before we even approach getting cownose ray populations down to where there is a problem.” The whole issue is moot, though, unless people are willing to eat rays. Unlike many other fish, cownose ray meat is dark. It has little fat but also little flavor—marketing efforts refer to it as “sauce friendly” because its taste largely depends on how it is prepared. “People are very hesitant to try it,” Fisher said. “But once they try it, we’ve had 90 percent-plus liking it.” The VMRC has supported marketing efforts aimed at enticing chefs to offer cownose rays on their menus. Some have begun offering the fish, usually as Chesapeake Ray—“cownose ray just doesn’t sound very enticing,” noted Shirley Estes, of the Virginia Marine Products Board. Over time, she said, “Chesapeake Ray” could find more acceptance at the dinner table. “Twenty years ago,” she pointed out, “no one was eating sushi.” But scientists worry that more emphasis has been placed on developing a market than gathering information needed to manage a fishery. That could change. The draft recommendations of the state’s Blue Ribbon Oyster Panel, which includes state officials, scientists, industry representatives and others, not only calls for building a market for rays, but also gathering more information to improve ray management. “There was universal agreement that we’re not going to get very far with oyster restoration unless we figure out what to do with cownose rays,” said Jeff Corbin, assistant secretary for natural resources in Virginia. But he agreed that even the most basic information about rays is lacking.

“It is kind of hard to set up a fishery on something when you don’t know how many fish you are going to be able to catch,” Corbin said. “Right now, they seem like a nuisance species, but when you are talking about something that only gives one birth a year, that is a situation where you can overfish that population pretty darn quick.”

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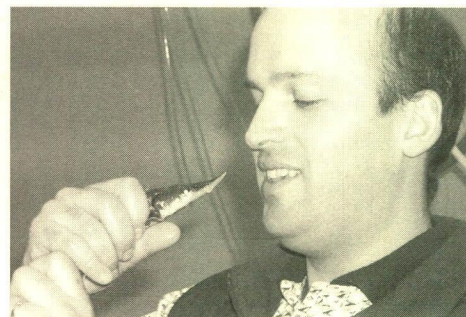
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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2007

... BRIEFS ...

Thompson Award to Nitlitschek Best Student Paper Published in 2005

Dr. Edwin J. Nitlitschek, a recent graduate of the University of Maryland and currently an associate researcher at the Universidad Austral de Chile, has won the W.F. Thompson Award for the best student paper published in 2005. His paper, co-authored with Dr. David H. Secor of the University of Maryland, is entitled Modeling Spatial and Temporal Variation of Suitable Nursery Habitats for Atlantic Sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay. It was published in *Estuarine, Coastal, and Shelf Science*, Volume 64, Number 1. One of the reviewers wrote, "This paper contains some possible consequences of environmental change - and for better defining essential fish habitat for Atlantic sturgeon. The authors draw on data from extensive laboratory experiments, field data, juvenile Atlantic sturgeon distribution in the Chesapeake Bay, and water quality data from the Chesapeake Bay Program to calculate total suitable habitat, in terms of potential production rates, during different months of the year for 1993-2002. ...These kinds of studies and approaches are very important in helping to identify special refuge areas for restoration of certain species."



Nitlitschek and friend

A total of 11 papers were submitted for consideration for this award, and 34 scientists reviewed one or more of these. Most of the papers were reviewed by three to five people. All of the submissions were high-quality papers published in prestigious journals, and most of them were praised by the reviewers.

*Submitted by Bill Bayliff
Thompson Award Committee Chair*

Send Nominations!

Best Student Paper Published in 2006

Nominations are open for the W.F. Thompson Award, which is given by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (AIFRB) to recognize the "best" student paper in fisheries science published during 2006. The award will consist of a check for \$1000. The requirements for eligibility are as follows: (1) the paper must be based on research performed while the student was a candidate for a bachelor's, master's, or Ph.D. degree at a college or university in the western hemisphere; (2) the paper must be in English; (3) the student must be the senior author of the paper. Nominations may be submitted by professors or other mentors, associates of the students, or by the students themselves. The deadline for receipt of nominations is April 15, 2008. The nominations should be sent to the Chairman of the W.F. Thompson Award Committee, Dr. William H. Bayliff, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, California 92037-1508, (email wbayliff@iattc.org). Each nomination must be accompanied by a copy of the paper (unless it is easily available on the internet) and a resume. The paper will be judged by knowledgeable reviewers selected by the Chairman and the members of his committee on the basis of contribution to fisheries science, originality, and presentation.

Additional information about the W.F. Thompson Award, including a list of previous winners of the Award, can be found on the AIFRB website, www.aifrb.org

*Submitted by Bill Bayliff
Thompson Award Committee Chair*

President's Thoughts - Post BOC Meeting

We had a very successful Board meeting and reception in San Francisco and extensive plans were made for the coming year.

Our AIFRB-hosted reception was a great success. Thanks to Tom Keegan for getting people there and organizing it. We raffled off some donated items, flash drives and t-shirts and had great energy in the room during the evening. We made presentations for the Outstanding Achievement Award, a donation to the World Fishery Congress for 2008 Congress, introduced Research Award recipients, and announced The Distinguished Service Award for next year (Tom Keegan), and the Kasahara Award winner. It was a very successful night.

Some of the highlights of our Board of Control meeting were: We will focus on recruitment of new members this year, with a goal of increasing net membership by 10%. We will develop a new program of reviewing pre-submission manuscripts for students and early career members as a way of mentoring them; Jack Helle agreed to take the lead in developing this program. We had unanimous agreement on John Magnuson for the Outstanding Achievement Award. We selected a paper for the W.F. Thompson award. For those who encourage more freshwater emphasis, most of the papers considered for this award this year (there were 11) were freshwater. Dick Beamish has agreed to develop a new symposium, which may again have financial support from agencies if the topic is agreeable.

For those who could not attend, you were missed and hopefully you can be in Ottawa next August. To all those who worked so hard at the meeting, my thanks and appreciation. We got a lot done in a short time and had a great reception. Many, many thanks to Tom Keegan and his crew for all the arrangements. They did a great job! The AIFRB and its activities are generating great interest. We just need to personally ask our colleagues to join.

Linda

Board of Control Meeting - 2007

San Francisco, September 1-2

(Minutes abridged by Editor)

Attending: Dick Beamish, President Elect Steve Cadrin, New England District Director Charles Cole, Past President Peter Haaker, Southern California District Director Jack Helle, Southeast Alaska District Director Linda Jones, President Tom Keegan, Membership Committee Chair Joe Margraf, Northern Alaska District Director Michael McGowan, Northern California District Director Dick Schaefer, Past President Alan Shimada, Treasurer Morris Southward, Arizona/New Mexico District Director Doug Vaughan, AFS-AIFRB Liaison, Vidar Wespestad, Capital Management Committee.

- The Board discussed the value of an AIFRB social for recruitment and maintenance of current membership. Dick Beamish suggested that we should try to solicit sponsorship for the social.

- There were comments from several members that more research assistance awards should be budgeted. Specifically, it was agreed that the Fredin donation will be used to provide additional Research Assistance awards in his memory. There was discussion about criteria for naming special awards. Vidar volunteered to draft criteria for categorizing different levels of donations.

- Advice from Capital Management Committee (Wespestad) – recommended management of budget to promote growth from donations and dividends of investments. *Moved to request a proposal from John Jolley to manage AIFRB Founders Fund (Wespestad moved, McGowan 2nd, unanimous)*

- Adoption of Authorization for Treasurer (Fiscal 07-08) – *Wespestad moved, Haaker 2nd, unanimous*

- Report of Membership Committee (Keegan)

- a. There were 24 new members last year (5 students, 3 associates, 11 members and 5 fellows). There were 6 advancements in membership status.

- b. The Board noted that the process for applying for membership was not clear, and should be made easier (e.g., the information used to determine membership that is needed in CVs is now posted on the AIFRB website).

- c. The Board discussed a new policy in which CVs of new members will be sent to the Board, and District Directors, who will contact new members. A letter will be sent by the Membership Chair to the new member's employers or academic advisors with congratulations.

- d. New AIFRB brochures were distributed. Feedback included using standard colors of the AIFRB seal; deleting the 'membership application' section, substituting instructions for submitting a CV and more detailed information to include in CVs; including photos in the brochure.

- e. A table of numbers of members who are delinquent was distributed. There is a large number of Emeritus members who have not paid dues and a suggestion to make Emeritus membership free was discussed. The Board decided to have District

Directors contact delinquent members and assess reasons why people are not renewing membership before taking further action on this.

f. Dick Beamish presented his review of membership. There are currently 675 members. Two areas where recruitment efforts should be targeted are Canada and Mexico. The Board felt that some new initiatives are needed to change trends in membership and recruitment. The challenge is establishing an appeal to young people. The benefits of membership should be clearly advertised.

g. Several ideas were discussed to promote recruitment:

1. Include recruitment as a responsibility of District Directors, to be reported as a component of each district's annual report. *Motion to set a goal of a net 10% increase in membership within each district, with a description of efforts to promote recruitment of young professionals and membership-level advancement in annual District reports (motion Beamish, 2nd Cadrin, unanimous);* 2. *Motion to budget \$1,500 to support recruitment efforts within Districts, with Districts providing matching funds (motion Shimada, Haaker 2nd, 10 in favor, one opposed);* 3. Peer review for members -- Dick Beamish proposed offering technical review of manuscripts (i.e., an editorial committee) as a service to members who may need assistance in publishing, particularly young professionals and those for whom English is a second language. Review of experimental methods, funding proposals, list of members & expertise. *Jack Helle was appointed to coordinate this type of review of submitted manuscripts by members for one year;* 4. Networking - Providing meetings at which young scientists can network should also continue. For example, the Board social should continue, Student judging at regional or national conferences may be a productive way to reach out to students; more AIFRB symposia should be planned on the District and Institute levels (topics suggested: Managing fisheries in a changing climate; the use of non-professionals in fisheries science); 5. Maximize output from 50th anniversary symposium, such as publishing some of the contributed posters in the e-journal, posting the trip report from Marty Golden and Ron Rinaldo as well as the summary from Mike Sissenwine; 6. Meetings, workshops, white papers; 7. Sponsor meetings -- add value to meetings organized by other organizations by sponsoring a symposium or district meeting; 8. The Board felt that greater impact can be gained from awards by presenting awards at AIFRB events, with presentations of current research by award winners, -- bigger splash Expand this: advertising awards and the winners more widely, and having articles in *Briefs* written by winners

- A proposal to support an AIFRB volunteer network was discussed in which members post volunteer opportunities (e.g., field work, conferences). The Board felt this could be a valuable service to young members.

- Report of W.F. Thompson Award Committee (Bayliff) - *see lead article*

- a. *Motion to approve the revisions to qualifications proposed by the Committee (Cadrin moved, Margraf 2nd unanimous) - see Briefs July-August*

- Report of Research Assistance Award Committee (Jones for Ault)

- a. Following up on discussions of the treasurer's report, a proposal was discussed to increase the number of awards (e.g., from four \$500 awards in 2007 to five \$500 awards in 2008).

- b. *Moved to increase the number of research assistant awards in 2008, with the additional award granted in memory of Mike Fredin (Keegan moved, Cadrin 2nd, unanimous)*

- Report of Outstanding Achievement Award Committee (Fox)

- a. *Motion to grant 1-year membership if the awardee is not already a member, at the appropriate level, as decided by the membership committee (Keegan moved, 2nd Haaker unanimous).*

- b. Nominations (group) for 2008 -- there were no nominations for a group award.

- c. Presentation of 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award (individual) to Dr. Moyle was made at the AIFRB social in San Francisco.

- Distinguished Service Award (Jones)

- a. *Motion to grant the 2008 Distinguished Service Award to Tom Keegan (unanimous)*

- Report of Kasahara Award Committee (Cadrin) - The first Kasahara Award to Jamal Moss, will be announced at the AIFRB social.

- Report on *Briefs* (Jones for Huntsman) - The current editor has been preparing the *Briefs* for 12 years now and has suggested it may be time to think about transitioning the editorship. The Board suggested that Doug Vaughan, Mike Prager, Kyle Shertzer be requested to help transition the editorship of newsletter and look at how to coordinate with the web development to a more web-based newsletter. It was noted that the deadline for the next *Briefs* issue is October 20.

- Report on Productions (Jones for Merriner) - The number of archived copies will be reduced per the Chair's suggestion. If anyone has old *Briefs*, please send them to Kate Myers.

- Report on Website

- a. Need a new chair for this committee

- b. Guidelines for postings on District web pages will also be developed soon. The District Directors will be responsible for keeping their webpages up to date, and including pictures of people and events.

- Update on proceedings publication from Celebration 2006 (Beamish) - Seven authors are delinquent in submitting manuscripts for the publication. All submissions must be to the publisher by the end of the year. The price of the book is still

uncertain, but will likely be approximately \$50.

- Update on E-Journal (Cadrin for Friedland).

- a. Kevin Friedland is looking for candidate manuscript for a dry run through the proposed review system.
- b. AFS is publishing an e-journal on marine and estuarine research that is planned to start next year. Perhaps one way of distinguishing the AIFRB journal from the AFS journal is a focus on publishing symposia and reviews.
- c. Some Board Members felt that page charges should be similar to those charged by AFS, but no decision was made to change the original policy. The Board supported Dick Beamish's offer to present these views to the AFS publications committee as the opportunity arises, and he will report back on the discussion.

- Member Concerns

- a. The Board felt that the problems identified in recent editorials in *Briefs* are widely recognized by AIFRB leadership and noted that critical views are invited, particularly if they offer constructive solutions.

1. Recruitment and retention of members – As demonstrated by the earlier discussion in the membership item, this has been a central issue for AIFRB

2. More involvement of members

The practice of having District officers (e.g., Director, past-Director, Director-elect, Secretary, Treasurer) was discussed as a way to actively include more District members help; Solicit for help in *Briefs*. There was agreement that the Districts should elect these officers; Fresh water emphasis – The Board felt that freshwater researchers are included (e.g. many papers considered for the WF Thompson award) but perhaps some effort should be focused on increasing membership in that sector of the field. One idea that was discussed was to develop a symposium on genetic applications that bridge freshwater and marine issues. Ethics standards – The Board clarified that the AIFRB code of ethics was thoughtfully developed and is sent to all new members. However, it was noted that there is little way to enforce the code. The Board discussed publishing the code in *Briefs* as a reminder for the long term members.

- Next Symposium – Dick Beamish volunteered to develop a theme for the next symposium, with the aim of publishing another book on the chosen topic and he will ask Brian Rothschild to work with him. The Board felt that the next symposium should be on the east coast. Beamish agreed to present a topic at the 2008 Board meeting.

- Procedures Manual – The Manual needs to be updated. Linda solicited information from the Board and Committee Chairs for any revisions to Procedures Manual so we can have it updated by the next meeting.

- Review of reimbursement at annual Board meetings (Jones) – Board members have been reimbursed up to \$400 per meeting upon request. The Board agreed to continue that policy for the next Board meeting.

- Review of committee assignments (Jones) – suggestions needed for the computer committee. Bern Megrey was suggested as a possible Chair. Linda reappointed all Committee Chairs for the next year.

- Next meeting plans. The next Board meeting will be August 16-17 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. DFO may host an evening reception for 100th anniversary of St. Andrews and Nanaimo marine stations. Linda will ask Joe Rachlin to coordinate AIFRB events and fundraising for the AIFRB social.

- Dick Beamish proposed that the Board of Control be renamed, e.g., the AIFRB Executive Committee. This would require a bylaw change. A proposed bylaw change will be prepared for the next Board meeting.

- Appointments (Jones)

- a. Regional Directors for 2007-2008: Joe Rachlin, Northeast and eastern Canada; Tom Schmidt, Southeast; Dora Passino-Reader, Central; Mike McGowan, Southwest; Kate Myers, Northwest; Joe Margraf, Alaska and western Canada

- b. Officers and/or Interim Directors – Linda reappointed the current Officers.

- c. Standing Committee Chairs – Linda reappointed Chairs with a new web Chair being sought.

- d. Special Committee Chairs – no discussion, Adjournment (*Motion Southward, 2nd Beamish, unanimous*)

Submitted by Steve Cadrin September 2, 2007

Treasurer's Report FY2007

Allen Shimada
(abridged by Editor)

	FY 2006	FY 2007
Cash Receipts		
AIFRB Service Contract	0.00	0.00
Founders/Capital/Unrestricted Funds	1,950.00	13,830.00
Member Dues	15,334.92	16,221.00
Capital Gains (Reinvested '06/'07)	2,596.18	1,267.30
Investment Income (Reinvested '06/'07)	4,386.08	4,179.83
50th Symposium Funds Transfer	3.31	3,647.14
United Bank/PayPal Interest	30.24	27.74
Total Cash Receipts	24,300.73	39,173.01
Cash Disbursements		
AIFRB 50th Symposium	0.00	647.14
AIFRB Reception	0.00	3,110.70
AIFRB Awards		
Achievement Award Expense	0.00	2,018.30
Research Assistance Award	2,000.00	2,000.00
W. F. Thompson Award/Expense	500.00	0.00
Board of Control	1,822.71	2,300.00
Bridge Loan	0.00	0.00
BRIEFS Newsletter	6,947.64	6,589.55
Collection	0.00	0.00
Donation (5th World Fish Congress '07)	0.00	1,000.00
District Recruitment	0.00	0.00
Foreign Tax ('06/'07)	0.43	0.00
Honorarium/Memorial	0.00	0.00
License Fees	0.00	0.00
Membership Expense	56.20	1,375.75
Other (WebPageDevelopment)	750.00	3,000.00
President's Expense	0.00	0.00
Production Editor (Bulk Mail Permit)	160.00	0.00
Reinvestments (CapGains/Div/Int)	6,920.11	5,447.13
Reimbursement	0.00	0.00
Service Charges (Checking/Equity Accounts)	55.08	35.30
Service Contract	0.00	848.34
Secretary's Expense	0.00	436.85
Transfer Funds	1,916.00	13,095.00
Travel Display	0.00	0.00
Treasurer's Expense	588.05	661.05
Total Cash Disbursements	21,716.22	42,565.11
Net Change	2,584.51	-3,392.10
Beginning Cash Balance	3,324.83	5,909.34
Estimated Cash at End of Year	5,909.34	2,517.24

*Minor adjustments occurred for the period 31 July 2007 - 30 August 2007

EQUITY ACCOUNT: INTERIM SUMMARY FOR BOC (7/31/07)

EQUITY ACCOUNT INTERIM SUMMARY FOR DOC (7/31/07)							
		Market Value (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Unrealized Gain/Loss (\$)	Unrealized Gain/Loss (%)	Annual Yield (%)	Annual Income (\$)
Combined Accounts							
	Stocks	121,932.66	102,027.10	19,905.56	19.51%	3.8%	4,635.04
	Cash	1,285.35	-	-	-	4.8%	61.25
FY 2006 EOY	Total	\$123,218.01	\$102,027.10	\$19,905.56	19.51%	3.8%	\$4,696.29
		Market Value (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Unrealized Gain/Loss (\$)	Unrealized Gain/Loss (%)	Annual Yield (%)	Annual Income (\$)
Smith Barney							
	Stocks	134,336.09	120,259.75	14,076.34	11.70%	3.92%	5,265.79
	Cash	652.02	-	-	-	4.85%	31.30
(as of 31 July 07)	Total	\$134,988.11	\$120,259.75	\$14,076.34	11.70%	3.92%	5,297.09
FY06/FY07	YOY	\$11,770.10	\$18,232.65	(\$5,829.22)	-7.81%	0.1%	\$600.80

			FY07 Market Value (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Realized Gain/Loss (\$)	Realized Gain/Loss (%)
Transactions						
12/27/2006	100 PIV	Sold LT	1,576.95	1,586.50	-9.55	-0.60%
4/26/2007	115 PFE	Sold LT	2,979.32	2,992.89	-13.57	-0.45%
6/1/2007	180 MFST	Sold LT	8,420.72	7,130.30	1,290.42	18.10%
	Total		\$12,976.99	\$11,709.69	\$1,267.30	10.82%

Cash Withdrawal from Smith Barney
12/13/2006 \$1,000 Dr. Richard Kra 2004 WFT Award

Herbert W. Graham: Happy 102nd Birthday!!

by Bernard Skud

With the completion of AIFRB's 50th Anniversary, it seems appropriate to recognize the Founders of the organization – this is a tribute to Herbert W. Graham, the oldest surviving member of that group. The other two (based on the current membership role) are Albert Collier and Roy Hamilton. (*See previous Briefs for biographies of other founders*)

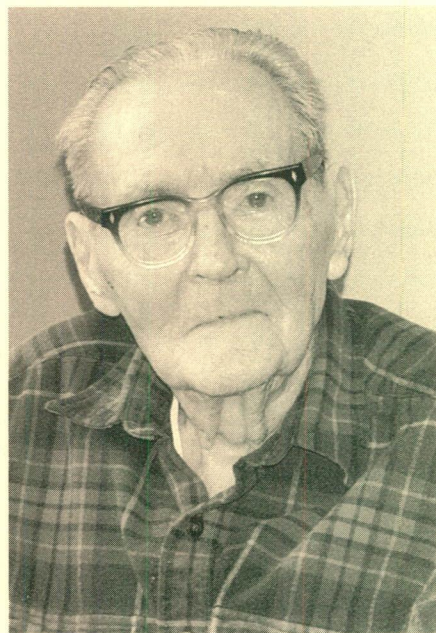
Herbert William Graham was born in New Brighton, Pennsylvania on December 18, 1905. He graduated as valedictorian from high school in Ambridge, PA and still praises the teacher who got him interested in science. On a field trip with the Western Society of Botanists, he met a professor from the University of Pittsburgh who offered him a scholarship. While a student at Pitt he worked in the Botany Department of the Carnegie Museum and participated in field trips to Minnesota and Arizona. Herb played trumpet in a local professional band as well as in the University band. He got his B.S. in June of 1929 and had a Graduate Fellowship to study phytoplankton in Lake Erie. This work was interrupted when he received an appointment from the Carnegie Institute to join the scientific team aboard the *Carnegie* in the South Pacific.

At that time, the *Carnegie* was the only sea-going non-magnetic observatory for obtaining geophysical data. Herb conducted chemical analyses of the hydrographic samples and collected and examined plankton samples, particularly the dinoflagellates. In Samoa, on November 29, 1929, Herb and two others left the vessel to collect some specimens while it was being refueled. There was an explosion aboard and the vessel burned to the water line. Several scientists and crew were severely burned – the Captain and cabin-boy died. All this is documented in a book published in 1932: *The Last Cruise of the Carnegie* by J. Harland Paul, the surgeon on the vessel. (Herb's duties and activities are mentioned in the book. He was 24 at the time and may now be the sole survivor of that cruise.)

In 1930, having fortuitously escaped the catastrophe, Herb made two momentous decisions. He married Ruth, a partnership that lasted 67 years, and decided to go to graduate school at Stanford. He studied at the Hopkins Marine Laboratory and following interests stimulated aboard the *Carnegie*, his PhD research was on dinoflagellates. While at Hopkins, he had the good fortune to spot a sea otter – the first seen in Monterey Bay for decades. He was fortunate too, to rent a cottage from and become a close friend of John Steinbeck. He also befriended Ed Ricketts, co-author of *Between Pacific Tides*. After receiving his PhD (1938), he taught for a year at Texas Christian University. Herb moved back to California in 1939 and taught at Mills College for Women, where he was a Professor of Biological Sciences until 1949. He was Chairman of the Zoology Department from 1941 to 1943. During WWII, his students included women in training as nurses. He was an advisor for pre-med majors and taught courses in zoology, animal ecology and parasitology and continued his research on dinoflagellates.

Herb joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1949 as an oceanographer in the Philippine Fishery Program based in Manila. This assignment ended in 1950 when he was asked to take the Directorship of the Red Tide laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. In 1951, he was appointed Director of the FWS (later BCF and NMFS) Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He was responsible for developing new research programs relative to growing international fisheries and to the renewed interest in marine fisheries, i.e. the Saltonstall/Kennedy Act. During his tenure as Director, Herb was instrumental in acquiring a new research vessel, *Albatross IV*; a new laboratory building, and a public aquarium. He was able to strengthen the Service's contacts with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole through his friendship with Mary Sears, who had been with the Office of Naval Research when he was with the Carnegie Institute.

Among other duties, Herb was a U.S. representative to the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), that held two of their annual meetings at Woods Hole. Special visitors to the laboratory included Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Hurricane Carol (1954). Herb published papers in books and journals on a wide variety of subjects. Fishery papers mainly concerned Gulf of Maine groundfish and topics such as mesh size of trawls. He was among the earliest to discuss ways to manage multi-species fisheries. In an unpublished report (WHLRD 55:04) he described special problems in the New England groundfish fishery and suggested a seasonal change in "fishing habits" as one means of minimizing the incidental catch, while maintaining the annual value to the fishermen. (A change of this type was implemented in the Bering Sea during the 1970's and was successful in reducing the incidental catch of halibut by foreign vessels with no loss in the annual catch of their target species.) In addition to papers concerning the *Carnegie* collections and those relating directly to fisheries, he wrote about plant succession, sedentary marine organisms, respiratory mold allergy, chlorophyll in marine plankton, and climatic trends.



Herb retired as Director of the Woods Hole Lab in 1970. He remained active as a charter member of the Barnstable County Beekeepers Association and taught children the art of beekeeping. He helped design and build his son's house. He was an avid gardener and still enjoys local band concerts. Herb regularly attends luncheons of retirees from the laboratory. Discussions at these meetings cover a broad spectrum. On a day when the topic was mudpuppies, it was Herb who could recall the generic name.

I visited with Herb and his son, David, in late September 2007 at his home in Woods Hole and I learned several new things about his career as well as reminiscing about our contact in the past. Some of these are reiterated here:

At a meeting in St. Andrews, N.B., Canadian scientists introduced the U.S. visitors to an evening of curling. None of our group had ever curled before, but all of us were athletically inclined and had the self-assurance that we could master the game. Herb, the oldest, had the slightest build, but was very adept at handling the curling stones and not only out-performed his U.S. colleagues, but held his own with the expert Canadians.

Herb's interest in bee-keeping began when he was ten. When he left Pennsylvania with Ruth to attend Stanford (1930), he drove across the country in a Model A Ford with a bee hive on the running board. When he taught at Mills, the students in his Biology class were given an "open-hive demonstration" and for 40 years Herb has given these demonstrations for school children. Herb and I attended an ICNAF meeting in Poland in 1969. While driving in the country-side, he spotted some bee hives in a farmyard and decided to investigate. The farmer didn't speak English, but understood sign language. Herb found out all about the operation and learned that the hives were constructed with newspapers. Herb's son David has set up a hive outside the picture window at Herb's house for him to watch. Herb's passion for bees, as well as for marine biology, is as keen as ever. His reply to the frequently asked question of the secret of his long life is: "Eat honey and wheat germ and have pure thoughts."

Bernard E. Skud

I am indebted to Herb's son, David, for his assistance in gathering information. I submit this tribute as a toast to Herb as a Founder of AIFRB and hope those who read about his full life and successful career will toast him too. Bernie

AIFRB Volunteer Network

Steve Cadrin

One of the strengths of AIFRB is the opportunity to interact with a diversity of professional fishery biologists. In the Board's discussion about promoting recruitment of young scientists, one idea that was proposed was a volunteer network. Many members are in positions that offer volunteer opportunities that are valuable to people whose careers would benefit from a diversity of professional experience. An excellent example of the mutual benefits of a volunteer network was demonstrated by the 2007 Gulf of Alaska Survey.

Last May, Allan Shimada forwarded a message from the NMFS Alaska Center with an "urgent need for people with the interest and energy to fill spots in the NMFS scientific party aboard chartered fishing vessels participating in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl surveys over the summer." The UMass School for Marine Science is lucky to have a large group of first-year graduate students, and four of them took advantage of the opportunity. I asked each of them to share their perspectives on the experience.



Sally Roman

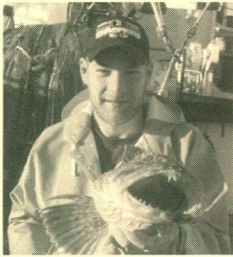
Sally Roman - I was on Leg 2 departing from Sand Point and landing in Kodiak from June 12th to July 1st on the F/V Gladiator. The cruise was great because I have experience as a fisheries observer on commercial boats, but had never participated in a survey before. Also, my fisheries experience is limited to the east coast so getting to travel to Alaska and see the different species of fish was exciting. The crew of scientists and fishermen that I met were friendly and it was great to get a different perspective.

Adam Barkley - I was aboard the F/V Gladiator during leg IV. I found that being part of research on the West Coast gave me a better appreciation for the complexity of fisheries management. I got a closer look into how scientists on the other coast of the United States were handling management of over fished populations and areas. I also got a glimpse of the process of fishing on the West Coast. I found that the fisherman we work with in New Bedford as well as those aboard the F/V Gladiator were all interested in the science backing management decisions. I enjoyed the fellow scientists onboard and was very surprised to find that many of the problems that we are faced with on the East coast are also problems on the West coast. This was definitely an experience I will never forget, and will indefinitely help me with my future career in fisheries science.

Greg DeCelles - I flew in to Anchorage on July 17th. After a two hour drive through the beautiful Kenai Fjords National Park, I met the boat at Seward and we departed the next day. After the first haul I was already amazed at the quantity and variety of fish and invertebrates in the Alaskan waters. My excitement continued throughout the trip as we came across a salmon shark, several giant halibut, salmon and many other species that I had never



Adam Barkley



Greg DeCelles

seen before. I was also struck by the incredible scenery and beautiful sunsets throughout the trip. While at anchor in Sea Otter sound we were treated to a private show by a pod of four humpback whales. After twenty days at sea and two stops in Yakutat and Sitka we arrived in Anchorage at the end of the trip. While I was relieved to be back on dry land, I was also reluctant to leave behind my new favorite place.

Jess Melgey - My experience on the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Survey was an excellent opportunity to meet scientists and fishermen from the Northwest and learn a new ecosystem. From examining stomach contents of commercially important species with experienced scientists to discussing policy and comparing notes between fisheries in the Northeast and the Northwest United States with a knowledgeable captain, it was an invaluable chance to meet people and widen my scope of knowledge in the field as I pursue a graduate degree.



Jess Melgey

These four experiences are just recent examples of an AIFRB network that facilitates volunteer opportunities. Barbara Warkentine's students have been volunteering on NMFS Northeast Center surveys for years. The next time you have volunteer opportunities, please use the AIFRB network to spread the word.

Review Service Available

The American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists now offers free pre-publication reviews of papers that AIFRB members intend to submit to peer-reviewed journals. Members simply need to email their paper to Jack Helle (Jack.Helle@noaa.gov) attached as a Word document. Jack will contact appropriate experts who will review your paper and return comments directly to you. Our records will record only that a review was requested, the title of the paper, and the list of editors.

If you know of colleagues who would be interested in this service and would like to become a member of AIFRB, would you please pass on this announcement to them.

This is an important new activity for AIFRB and I hope you all will encourage early career members to submit their papers for this review process. The goal is to mentor these members and promote excellence in published papers.

Linda Jones

NOAA History Maker (and AIFRB Fellow) Fred Utter Recognized at Genetics Symposium

On September 17-18, over 200 people attended "Six Decades of Fishery Genetics" a public symposium sponsored by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and University of Washington. During the event, Director Usha Varanasi, Dr. Robin Waples and others presented a special award to one of NOAA's History Makers, Dr. Fred Utter. Fred began his research at the Montlake Laboratory over 50 years ago and has contributed pioneering research in the field of genetics that transformed the management and conservation of fishery resources. The groundbreaking research conducted by Fred and his colleagues spawned new fields, such as forensics science, that are now well known to the public and greatly enhanced appreciation for NOAA's innovative products and services. Congratulations, Fred!

Science Under Scrutiny I: Most Science Studies Appear to Be Tainted By Sloppy Analysis

By Robert Lee Hotz

We all make mistakes and, if you believe medical scholar John Ioannidis, scientists make more than their fair share. By his calculations, most published research findings are wrong. Dr. Ioannidis is an epidemiologist who studies research methods at the University of Ioannina School of Medicine in Greece and Tufts University in Medford, Mass. In a series of influential analytical reports, he has documented how, in thousands of peer-reviewed research papers published every year, there may be so much less than meets the eye.

These flawed findings, for the most part, stem not from fraud or formal misconduct, but from more mundane misbehavior:

miscalculation, poor study design or self-serving data analysis. “There is an increasing concern that in modern research, false findings may be the majority or even the vast majority of published research claims,” Dr. Ioannidis said. “A new claim about a research finding is more likely to be false than true.” The hotter the field of research the more likely its published findings should be viewed skeptically, he determined.

Take the discovery that the risk of disease may vary between men and women, depending on their genes. Studies have prominently reported such sex differences for hypertension, schizophrenia and multiple sclerosis, as well as lung cancer and heart attacks. In research published last month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. Ioannidis and his colleagues analyzed 432 published research claims concerning gender and genes. Upon closer scrutiny, almost none of them held up. Only one was replicated.

Statistically speaking, science suffers from an excess of significance. Overeager researchers often tinker too much with the statistical variables of their analysis to coax any meaningful insight from their data sets. “People are messing around with the data to find anything that seems significant to show they have found something that is new and unusual,” Dr. Ioannidis said.

In the U.S., research is a \$55 billion a year enterprise that stakes its credibility on the reliability of evidence and the work of Dr. Ioannidis strikes a raw nerve. In fact, his 2005 essay “Why Most Published Research Findings Are False” remains the most downloaded technical paper that the journal *PLoS Medicine* has ever published. “He has done systematic looks at the published literature and empirically shown us what we know deep inside our hearts,” said Muin Khoury, director of the National Office of Public Health Genomics at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “We need to pay more attention to the replication of published scientific results.”

Every new fact discovered through experiment represents a foothold in the unknown. In a wilderness of knowledge, it can be difficult to distinguish error from fraud, sloppiness from deception, eagerness from greed or, increasingly, scientific conviction from partisan passion. As scientific findings become fodder for political policy wars over matters from stem-cell research to global warming, even trivial errors and corrections can have larger consequences. Still, other researchers warn not to fear all mistakes. Error is as much a part of science as discovery. It is the inevitable by-product of a search for truth that must proceed by trial and error. “Where you have new areas of knowledge developing, then the science is going to be disputed, subject to errors arising from inadequate data or the failure to recognize new matters,” said Yale University science historian Daniel Kevles. Conflicting data and differences of interpretation are common.

To root out mistakes, scientists rely on each other to be vigilant. Even so, findings too rarely are checked by others or independently replicated. Retractions, while more common, are still relatively infrequent. Findings that have been refuted can linger in the scientific literature for years to be cited unwittingly by other researchers, compounding the errors. Stung by frauds in physics, biology and medicine, research journals recently adopted more stringent safeguards to protect at least against deliberate fabrication of data. But it is hard to admit even honest error. Last month, the Chinese government proposed a new law to allow its scientists to admit failures without penalty. Next week, the first world conference on research integrity convenes in Lisbon.

Overall, technical reviewers are hard-pressed to detect every anomaly. On average, researchers submit about 12,000 papers annually just to the weekly peer-reviewed journal *Science*. Last year, four papers in *Science* were retracted. A dozen others were corrected. No one actually knows how many incorrect research reports remain unchallenged.

Earlier this year, informatics expert Murat Cokol and his colleagues at Columbia University sorted through 9.4 million research papers at the U.S. National Library of Medicine published from 1950 through 2004 in 4,000 journals. By raw count, just 596 had been formally retracted, Dr. Cokol reported. “The correction isn’t the ultimate truth either,” Prof. Kevles said.

From: Wall Street Journal, September 14, 2007

Science Under Scrutiny II: Experts regroup on restoring rare fish

By Judith Kohler, Associated Press Writer

October 11, 2007

DENVER — State and federal biologists, still smarting from research showing that they may have been protecting the wrong fish the past 20 years, are regrouping in their efforts to restore the rare greenback cutthroat trout to Colorado waters. State biologist Tom Nesler had hoped to see the fish removed from the endangered species list during his career. He concedes that might not happen if it turns out some of the greenback populations biologists thought they were saving are actually the similar but more common Colorado River cutthroat trout.

A three-year study led by University of Colorado researchers, published in August, found that out of nine fish populations believed to be descendants of original greenbacks, five were actually Colorado River cutthroat trout. The recovery effort was thought to be near its goal of establishing 20 self-sustaining greenback populations. “Hey, science happens,” said Nesler with a shrug as he discussed the findings. Not that Nesler, chairman of the greenback recovery team, takes the study lightly. He and

other members of the team — which includes four federal agencies, agencies from three states, an Indian tribe and a conservation group — are doing further testing and review.

Greenback cutthroat trout were historically found in the drainages of the Arkansas and South Platte rivers in Colorado, east of the Continental Divide, and a small part of Wyoming. The Colorado River cutthroat trout is native to the upper Colorado River basin, west of the divide. Greenbacks were declared extinct in 1937 due to overfishing, pollution from mines and competition from nonnative fish. But researchers said remnant populations were found in tributaries in the 1950s. The fish was added to the federal endangered species list in 1978. Under the state-federal recovery program, biologists used fish they believed to be descendants of pure greenback cutthroat trout as brood stock. New fish, raised in hatcheries, were released in different waters, Nesler said, not where the remnant populations were.

As team members huddle to chart the course forward, they're also trying to explain why what they thought were greenbacks weren't. In a letter to the state natural resources chief, four Colorado legislators denounced "this significant scientific blunder" as a waste of taxpayer dollars. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has spent an average of \$320,000 annually for the past five years to restore the greenback. Most of the money has come from state lottery revenue; no state tax dollars have been used. In 1998, officials projected it would cost \$634,000 to restore the greenback, with the money coming from a variety of sources. It's not clear how much of that has been spent. Figures for the recovery project before 1998 weren't available.

Biologists and researchers have suggested that the Colorado River cutthroat trout once thought to be greenbacks might have been stocked in various spots in the late 1800s or early 1900s by early settlers. The team will recommend to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for endangered species, how to proceed. Meanwhile, it has been thrown another curve. Tests on a batch of fish not examined during the study produced results Nesler said he can't explain: two tests showed they were Colorado River cutthroat trout — but a third showed they were greenbacks. The results could be an anomaly or say something about either the testing or the fish. They hope to have the answer after testing more fish. "As a scientist, I know this kind of stuff happens," Nesler said. "That's why we didn't immediately rush to embrace this (research), but we didn't throw it out."

Nesler and Bruce Rosenlund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the recovery team has taken measured steps all along. The state and federal agencies helped pay for the university study and have always worked with outside scientists. It also was the first time that geneticists told the team that DNA tests could tell greenback and Colorado River cutthroat trout apart, Nesler said. "Up until a year ago, no one could tell us the difference between the two," he said. University of Colorado professor Andrew Martin, the study's principal investigator, said he believes some of the previous science the team relied on wasn't the best, but he didn't give examples. "I think overall the (Colorado Division of Wildlife) and Fish and Wildlife Service did a superb job in what they were trying to do," Martin said. "The problem was with some of the science and how the science was evaluated." Robert Behnke, a retired Colorado State University professor and expert on trout, said he has questions about the new research. "The genetic work might be superb," he said, but the study claims to sweep "doubt and uncertainty under the carpet." "Science is not about proof and certainty, it's about testable hypotheses," he said.

North Carolina finalizes herring plan

The NC Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) recently finalized a River Herring (*Alosa aestivalis* and *A. pseudoharengus*) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that will continue a harvest moratorium until river herring stocks show improvement. The plan calls for zero harvest of river herring statewide in coastal waters, except for 7,500 pounds per year set aside for research and to supply some local fish for cultural events. The moratorium went into effect by proclamation for the 2006-2007 fishing season after the Commission tentatively approved the plan last fall. NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Director (and AIFRB Fellow) Dr. Louis Daniel said it was not an easy decision to make. "But it was one that had to be done to give river herring any chance of recovery," he said.

The division developed the plan at the direction of the MFC and with input from an advisory panel. Public meetings on the plan were held up and down the North Carolina coast. River herring fishing in northeastern North Carolina is a long-standing tradition dating back to colonial times. However, despite increasing regulations designed to help the fishery recover, commercial landings have continued to decline since the mid 1980s. River herring stocks are classified as depleted, and scientists do not know all the reasons why. Even with a fishing moratorium, river herring stocks may not recover within 10 years, as required by law.

In addition to regulatory measures, the plan calls for intensive monitoring and research of river herring populations. The plan also calls water quality improvements and the removal of dams and other man-made structures that block river herring migrations. The NC General Assembly took steps toward answering these calls by funding two new positions and operating expenses to implement the plan. The legislature also appropriated \$100,000 to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuarine Program for river herring research. This money, along with state and non-governmental partnerships, will begin the process of river herring recovery.

From: Carteret County (NC) News Times, September 19, 2007

Marine Reserves In South Atlantic

Amendment 14 Approved for Submission to the Secretary of Commerce

Amendment creates a series of eight deepwater marine protected areas in the South Atlantic region

"I've waited 16 years to say this," said Council member David Cupka. He followed with an emphatic "Yes!", as a roll call vote was conducted on a motion made by fellow Council member Susan Shipman to approve Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. His answer was part of a unanimous and precedent setting vote for approval of the amendment to implement a series of eight deepwater marine protected areas in the South Atlantic region.

The marine protected areas, ranging in size from 8 to 150 square nautical miles, have been designated to protect a portion of the long-lived, deepwater snapper grouper species complex and their associated habitat from directed fishing pressure. The areas have been designated as "Type 2" MPAs. This designation specifies that while the areas are closed to fishing for snapper grouper species, trolling for pelagic species such as tuna, billfish, and dolphin will be allowed. A provision in Amendment 14 will allow fishermen to transit the areas with snapper grouper species with specific regulations for stowing fishing gear while crossing the areas. The amendment also includes a provision to prohibit the use of shark bottom longline gear in the areas. "I believe the unanimous vote to forward Amendment 14 to the Secretary of Commerce is the right decision for this Council and is resultant from a long and open process," said Council Chairman, George Geiger. "The amendment is ultimately an action which will in some measure protect habitat of, as well as populations of deep water stocks...and ultimately aid in rebuilding these stocks. I am proud to have been on the Council during the final deliberations and vote."

A Long Road

As the two longest serving members on the current Council, both Susan Shipman and David Cupka have witnessed first hand the open, lengthy, and sometimes frustrating process that led to the unanimous approval of Amendment 14 at the Council's June meeting in Key West. The potential for using "marine reserves" in the South Atlantic region first originated in 1990 as the Council's Snapper Grouper Plan Development Team offered the approach as "the only viable option for maintaining optimum size, age, and genetic structure of slow-growing, long-lived species over the long-term". Public scoping meetings held in 1992 resulted in the creation of a Scientific Review Panel to review the concept. In 1994, the Council created the 92 square-mile Oculina Experimental Closed Area off the east coast of Florida and prohibited fishing for snapper grouper species.

By 1995, the Scientific Review Panel had concluded that properly designed marine reserves in combination with other management measures were an effective tool. Following recommendations from the Review Panel, the Council began a deliberative process to include stakeholders and constituents in identifying possible marine reserves. In 1998 the Council formed a Marine Reserves Advisory Panel and Committee (the term was later changed to Marine Protected Area) and by 2000, laid out a deliberative process involving constituents to determine if MPAs should be used as a management tool in the South Atlantic region. The process has included informational meetings, workshops, public scoping meetings, and a series of public hearings that culminated with the final vote.

Timing

Before approving Amendment 14, the Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the inclusion of the action to prohibit shark longlines in the amendment. Council member and Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Service, Dr. Roy Crabtree urged the Council to remove the longline prohibition from Amendment 14 and allow it to be addressed through NOAA Fisheries' Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division. The HMS Division is currently including alternatives for longline closures in the MPAs as part of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan. The amendment addresses overfishing for several shark species and includes reductions in the fishery.

Dr. Crabtree noted jurisdictional concerns (the Council does not manage sharks) and cautioned that including the shark longline prohibition in Amendment 14 would "significantly" delay the Secretarial review process until the HMS Division completed their process. "It seems to me that as a Council we want to make it clear what we want to do with regard to these MPAs - and that includes closing them to bottom longline gear," countered Council member Mark Robson. "The jurisdictional issue is separate from that, to a degree, and that's going to have to be sorted out. Somehow by modifying or taking it out of the amendment, we lose that position." After questioning Dr. Crabtree and discussing options, the Council agreed to leave the action to prohibit shark longlines in Amendment 14. Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan was submitted to Dr. Crabtree's office on July 18, 2007 for formal review and approval by the Secretary of Commerce. It is unknown at this time how long the review process will take and when the MPAs and other actions may be in place.

From: The South Atlantic Update, Summer 2007

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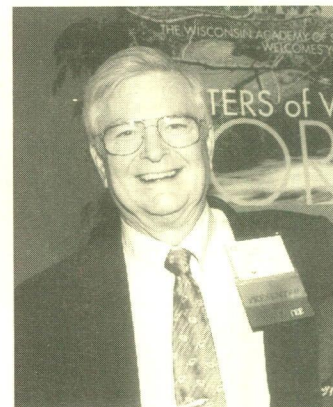
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NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2007

Magnuson Recipient of Outstanding Achievement Award

At their annual meeting in September 2007 the Board of Control following the recommendation of the Selection Committee named John J. Magnuson of Madison, Wisconsin as recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for 2007. The Institute's Outstanding Achievement Award is one of the continents, and probably the world's two most prestigious awards designated for fishery scientists. As recipient of our award Dr. Magnuson is recognized as belonging to the group of the most creative and productive individuals to grace our profession.



Fond Remembrances of a Life in Aquatic Science: Magnuson Recounts

by John J. Magnuson

Since July 2000, I have been an Emeritus Professor of Zoology and Limnology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Being Emeritus is perhaps the best position I have had from the times when I was a student at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul (BS 1956, MS 1958) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada (Ph.D. 1961).

Lloyd L. Smith Jr. mentored my master's research on the life history of troutperch in Lower Red Lake, Minnesota. This was part of intensive research by Lloyd and his students on the Ojibway fishery for walleye and yellow perch. My degree was in Fish and Wildlife Management. Lloyd helped transform my life from that of a Mid-Western young man to a fisheries-oriented, academic scientist who loves nature, waters, and fisheries, and to one with a bent for solving real world problems and a belief that policy and management informed by science is stronger and more robust.

Peter Larkin mentored my Ph.D. program at UBC with considerable help from Cas Lindsey and Bill Hoar. I settled into the Vancouver Public Aquarium and studied the ecological benefits and debits of aggression with the golden medaka, a small aquarium fish. Peter steered me away from a more applied fisheries project, advising that it would take too long and there was time for that after I was paid for a living. I majored in Zoology with a minor in Oceanography.

I recall only three positions that I might apply for on graduation: one, teaching comparative anatomy in a prairie province, and two, either in San Diego, California or Hawaii, researching the behavior of tuna with the hope of devising ways to capture them efficiently in the Central Pacific. I thought that after studies of aggression and territoriality, studying a schooling group of species would be broadening. Fortunately Jack Marr asked me to head up the tuna behavior program at the Honolulu Biological Laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF, now a National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory in NOAA).

My good colleagues and friends in Honolulu introduced me to the open ocean and to sea-going fisheries oceanography. These researches were backed by studies of live tunas at a tank facility at Kewalo Basin. Heeny Yuen and I experimented with viewing tuna at sea directly and with sophisticated sonar; Reg Gooding and I drifted in a raft with an underwater viewing chamber in the currents near the equator to find an explanation for the aggregation of fishes around drifting debris. Gene Nakamura and Bob Iverson impressed me with their abilities to measure visual and auditory capabilities of captive tuna. I studied tuna locomotion, feeding, and reproductive behavior and we all received tremendous help from Randy Chang.

The 1960s were great years for my family and me professionally. Norma Domian Magnuson and I had married (1959) in

Minnesota while I was a graduate student at UBC. Our daughters, Susan and Jenni, were born in a hospital at the edge of Waikiki that is now replaced by a large tourist hotel. Norma and I were both from the Midwest, and Hawaii expanded our horizons and views of the world.

I decided at some point that I did not want to be a world tuna expert and sought other positions that would broaden my perspectives. Arthur Hasler (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and I met at various international meetings and I had been attracted by Wisconsin that was adjacent to Illinois where I was born and Minnesota where Norma was born, both in 1934. I joined the Zoology Department and took up residence in the Limnology Laboratory on Lake Mendota late in 1968 and remained here to the present with an occasional year away. Wisconsin proved to be a good place to live a life of science, research, and undergraduate and graduate education; Madison was a great place for us to raise a family.

At Wisconsin I taught Ecology of Fishes and also Limnology-Conservation of Aquatic Resources. Essentially, I became a limnologist in an airplane flying from Honolulu to Madison. Art Hasler and I jointly taught Limnology and Ecology of Fishes until he retired in 1978. Then I taught Ecology of Fishes with Jim Kitchell and Limnology with Tom Frost.

I became active in the Wisconsin Sea Grant Program and the interdisciplinary Oceanography and Limnology Graduate Program. I fell in love with the lakes and forests in north central Wisconsin where our Trout Lake Research Station was located. It reminded me of the area around the Red Lakes where I had done my MS research and the northern lakes and rivers where my parents took us as children.

At Wisconsin I began to think of myself as a fish and fisheries ecologist rather than a specialist. During my first 20 years here most of the research that my graduate students, post docs, and I conducted was in the northern Wisconsin lakes and Lake Michigan. Usually the projects involved fish ecology. C. Clay and I jointly mentored a suite of talented students in fishery oceanography and biology using sonar and nets in the great and small lakes and at the Gulf Stream front off Cape Hatteras.

In the 1980s my research took a new turn. I successfully led an effort with the Oceanography and Limnology Graduate faculty to establish one of the first five Long-Term Ecological Research Sites funded by the National Science Foundation. This research initially focused on lakes in the northern forests around the Trout Lake Station; in the mid 1990s lakes in the Madison area with urban and agricultural watersheds were added to the mix. We began taking a long-term perspective of inter-annual and inter-decadal dynamics of fishes, crayfishes, and limnology. The North Temperate Lakes Long-Term Ecological Research Program has continued to the present and now is led by Steve Carpenter. We broadened the disciplinary mix to include social science and microbial ecology, and the spatial scale to include regional and global analyses.

Wilbur Clemens in British Columbia was the senior scientist who advised me that research is not done until the information or knowledge is transferred to others via publication. Art Hasler reiterated that message to me but added the idea that science is not done until the potential or actual applications of the science to society are made. These ideals constitute noble reasons to publish our research. So we publish; it is a valuable part of our science. Over my career to date there have been a total of 234 publications primarily in journals, and book chapters. I am amazed at how the numbers accrue over time. Of these, 7 are books if I include the NRC publications from the committees I chaired. WEB of Science provides a partial but informative view about whether anyone has read your valued works. One is pleased when a publication is used by others and amazed that only a handful of colleagues cited some of them, at least in the sources included in WEB of Science. What I learned in this manner is that almost all of the frequently cited papers were coauthored with students or colleagues, and that the types of science that have been cited most frequently for me have been on the community ecology of fishes and crayfishes, the thermal ecology of fishes, tuna behavior, climate change as related to aquatic ecology, and the long-term ecology of lake ecosystems.

Student mentoring provides us in the universities a second family based intellectually on common research and science and friendship. This intellectual family has many parallels with the traditional genetic family with ancestors and descendants. I often have students of my students come up to me and say they are my academic grandchildren. Graduate education has been an important part of my life. My first graduate student, Ron Berg, received his MS in 1969 and my last, Theo Willis, received his Ph.D. in 2003. I had the opportunity to mentor 67 graduate students of which 39 became Ph.D. students and received their degree. Of the 67, there were 19 women and 48 males, 9 internationals and 58 Americans. Some of these students were co-mentored with Tom Frost, C. Clay, and Marion Meyer.

These talented students led me in new directions and added joy to my life. Many, but not all, feel the same way about me. When I retired, my graduate students were characterized as a gathering of the lakes, tributaries, and rivers flowing to the Gulf of Mexico in a chart titled "The Academic Watershed." I occasionally get razzed for switching their names around, but I do know each one and am proud of each one. At the Hasler Limnology Laboratory where my office still is, I see my present colleagues mentoring new groups of students and that brings great personal pleasure to me.

I want to highlight a few more pieces of my life at the University of Wisconsin as I progressed from Assistant, to Associate, to Full Professor. I will consider just a few administrative, intellectual, and fisheries items in which I take special pleasure.

When Art Hasler retired I worried for our future and the commitment of the University to maintain and grow our program in Limnology. The small limnology group at the Limnology Laboratory served the campus through two field stations and facilities and leadership. Yet, administratively we were entirely within a department that had a broad range of interests but different interests than ours. We negotiated with Dean David Cronin of the College of Letters and Sciences and Chair Seymour Abramson of Zoology to form a free standing Center for Limnology in the College. Faculty retained their tenure home in Zoology and did

their teaching through Zoology, but the research aspects of limnology became more broadly based at the college level. It was a healthy and needed change. I became the first director. Transfer of the Center for Limnology to Jim Kitchell's leadership when I retired was smooth and straightforward. We persist and have the formal structure to do just that.

In the area of fisheries science, the National Research Council and I had a productive symbiotic relationship that kept me involved with important fisheries issues of the day. I ended up chairing a number of NRC study committees. My view of why this happened is that I was known to the marine fisheries community, but had not been an inside participant since I left Honolulu in the late 1960s. Thus, I was viewed as impartial and fair enough to lead diverse sets of committee members through contentious issues. I had the opportunity to continue intellectual interactions with talented scientists and with NRC staff such as David Policansky who facilitated some of these studies. One pleasure I took from these committees was to deal with potential solutions to real world problems.

The five NRC committees I chaired resulted in the publication in 1990, "Decline of Sea Turtles: Causes and Prevention" that focused on the interaction between the shrimp fleet and sea turtle conservation; in 1994, "Improving the Management of U.S. Marine Fisheries" that focused on improving the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act; in 1994, "An Assessment of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" that addressed the issue of whether Atlantic bluefin should be managed by the US and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as two independent stocks or two interacting stocks; in 1996, "Upstream: Salmon and Society in the Pacific Northwest" that focused on the multifaceted components that led to the declines of Pacific salmon and how the issue could be addressed; and in 2006, "Dynamic Changes in Marine Ecosystems: Fishing, Food Webs, and Future Options" that focused on dealing with implications of managing food webs and fish communities in contrast to only managing populations.

Also for the NRC, I was a member of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries and the Committee on Managing the Columbia River Instream Flows, Water Withdrawals and Salmon Survival. I was a member of the Ocean Policy Committee and chaired its Fisheries Task Group, the Ocean Studies Board, the Diversitas committee, and Global Change Research committee.

Another rewarding activity was working on the 1995 and 2001 assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). I was a lead author of Chapters in Working Group 2 dealing with the impacts of climate change on freshwater ecosystems. I also worked on the ocean chapter in the 1995 Assessment report. Those of us who served in these activities are pleased that the IPCC has been awarded the 2007 Noble Peace Prize shared with Al Gore. Each of us has received a tiny piece of an important recognition.

Climate change is so pervasive and persistent that it is not possible to finish and walk away from it. A group of scientists including me wrote a multi-authored report entitled "Confronting Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region" under the auspices of the Ecological Society of America and the Union of Concerned Scientists. This report, published in 2000, brings the climate-change information and message home to the local or at least to the regional scale.

Rehabilitation of Laurentian Great Lakes ecosystems was a focus for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Joint Commission on Water Quality in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Henry Regier, George Francis, Bud Harris, Dan Talhelm and I led a synthesis and planning effort to frame an approach to rehabilitate Great Lakes ecosystems. Intellectual and visionary stimulation from the many colleagues with whom we worked was tremendous, but more importantly this effort led to the identification of what have become known as Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the Laurentian Great Lakes and a suite of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) that focused individually on these Areas of Concern. Our syntheses and planning initiated an approach that was broadly adopted to help improve water quality in the Laurentian Great Lakes. The approach is a reasonable model for other aquatic ecosystems.

A few other activities should be singled out before post retirement activities are considered. I was Program Director for Ecology at the National Science Foundation in 1975-1976, President of the American Fisheries Society in 1981-1982, Co-leader with Bob Naiman of the "Freshwater Imperative" for NSF in 1992-1995, and Lead Principal Investigator for the North Temperate Lakes LTER (Long-Term Ecological Research) Program from 1980-1999.

Finally, I want to discuss activities that have made my life as an emeritus professor rewarding. I mentioned a few already. First, my colleagues at the Center for Limnology have made me most welcome at the Center with an office and computers and staff services. I am greatly appreciative of Professors Jim Kitchell, Steve Carpenter, Emily Stanley, and Jake VanderZanden, and the many others who continue to interact with me. Second, I needed to do some of the things about which I had procrastinated. I have had the time to do what I never had time for when I was director of the Center for Limnology, and responsible for the LTER, a group of graduate students, and classroom teaching. Top among these was to complete the synthesis book on the first 20 some years of our Long-Term Ecological Research Program with co-editors Tim Kratz and Barbara Benson. We produced "Long-Term Dynamics of Lakes in the Landscape: Long-Term Ecological Research on North Temperate Lakes" published in 2006 by Oxford University Press. We focused the book on conceptual approaches to long-term research on lakes, drivers of dynamics, and history and synthesis. The cover is beautiful as well. The book was worth doing and has been well received through published reviews and sales. Second, I began to systematize, for the University Archives, the paper history of the LTER program, the establishment of the Center for Limnology, and for that matter my activities in general. We often do not get to this, but I believe it is worth doing and important.

I also continue to publish in the peer-reviewed literature. Research and a love of writing and thinking is often what bring us

into these kinds of professions. While some of my recent articles are detailed analyses, many are more essay like with perspectives that one believes should be passed on to future generations.

When I retired I also decided that it was time for payback especially at the local and state levels for living in a great community over the years but too busy to be a part of the local issues and scene. So I became more active locally especially in activities where my science would potentially be useful.

I became a Commissioner of the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission. I became a Trustee of the Wisconsin branch of The Nature Conservancy and Chair of its Science Advisory Committee. I accepted the Co-Chair role of the Wisconsin Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation between the State Department of Natural Resources and the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin. I became a member of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve that extends westward from the Hasler Laboratory of Limnology along Lake Mendota. I became a science advisor to the Friends of Lake Wingra; our home is in the watershed of this small Madison lake.

I am participating in an art and science integration on climate change in Northern Wisconsin called "Paradise Lost" that produced an art exhibit on climate change in Wisconsin; I give public lectures at some of the openings of this exhibit around the state. I helped plan a project of the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute entitled "Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region: Starting a Public Discussion" and gave several lectures around the state. With all of the interest in climate change, our long-term ecological research, especially of the decline of ice cover on lakes here and around the Northern Hemisphere, has become most relevant. I give a public or professional lecture usually titled something like "Climate change: lake ice, fishes, and waters of Wisconsin" several times each month beginning about a year and a half ago. I give plenary lectures at state or national meetings such as the American Fisheries Society, the North American Lake Management Society, Making a Great Lake Superior, and others. I am invited to workshops at the National Center for Ecological Synthesis (NCEAS), planning activities of other nations setting up research on climate change or long-term studies. In January I will participate in a science-planning workshop on climate change in EAWAG, a limnological laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland, and in another workshop with a developing long-term ecological research group in Lisbon, Portugal.

A few last items of recent activities as an Emeritus Professor have been especially important to me. I served as the chair of the LTER Network Science Council and LTER Network Board for the national network of 24 sites for 1.5 years during a period of rapid transition. I am proud of what we accomplished. We completely revised the governance structure of the LTER network of research programs and implemented the new structure as we were developing a scientifically based strategic plan for the next decade. A principal leader in this plan was Scott Collins at the University of New Mexico. The research plan that emerged is called "Integrated Science for Society and the Environment." I took on this role when James Gosz (University of New Mexico) resigned to go to NSF, and Phil Robertson (Michigan State) provided leadership when I stepped down in May 2007. I led, with Curt Meine, Stephen Born, and Patricia Leavenworth, a synthesis, planning, and visioning activity entitled "Waters of Wisconsin" sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters. Many participants were involved from all around Wisconsin to help clarify a future for our aquatic ecosystems and resources, and to make specific recommendations on how to achieve them. Our hope is that in 75 years Wisconsinites will be able to examine this WOW document and look back on their joint stewardship of the waters of Wisconsin.

A final comment: Life as an emeritus professor has turned out not to be boring, not to be useless, not to be just busy. Life as an Emeritus Professor has turned out to be challenging, rewarding, and, I believe, useful. It has been a wonderful way to continue one's career after retiring. I am thankful for my health and a brain that still works most of the time.

Many thanks to John for this highly personal description of his career. I greatly enjoyed reading it. Ed.

President's Message

A new year is starting and it is one that should be exciting for AIFRB. Our Annual Meeting and a Reception for members and guests will be August 16-17, 2008 in lovely Ottawa, Canada. Please plan to join us. We had a very successful reception last year and look forward to another this year.

In the past year, there were a number of significant events for AIFRB.

- The February symposium, the Future of Fishery Science in North America, was very successful and generated a lot of interest in AIFRB. It also generated new funds for the treasury, with a year end balance of \$36.5K, a much needed infusion of funding that will help AIFRB with new activities and planning another major symposium.
- We made the first award of the Kasahara Early Career Award to Dr. Jamal Moss, and will make the next award next year. Our deep thanks to Mrs. Kasahara for all her support of AIFRB.
- We began work on an new electronic journal.

I also want to thank Mrs. Hiroshi Kasahara who again made a very generous gift to AIFRB. These funds will be used to support the Kasahara Early Career Award.

In 2008, the symposium volume, *The Future of Fishery Science in North America*, will be published. The peer-reviewed papers in this volume present each author's vision of the future in a particular area of fisheries research. Authors were invited to speculate more than is normally allowed in peer reviewed publications, as it will be informative to future generations of researchers to read what they think will happen and needs to happen in fisheries science in North America. We hope the papers in this volume pique the interest of readers and accelerate new ideas for the future of fishery science and conservation.

A major focus for 2008 is completing the design and update of the AIFRB web site. Vickie Lingwood has been working with us to develop a dynamic web page. We appreciate your patience during the update and welcome your suggestions about improving the information on the web site. We are updating our membership information. If you have not done so, please send your email address, and any other information that needs to be updated, to Allen Shimada (Allen.Shimada@noaa.gov). We are lacking many email addresses so please help us out and send it to Allen.

There are, unfortunately, a number of members who are delinquent in their dues. A reminder: the bylaws require that a member who is three years in arrears be dropped from membership. We value you as a member so please send in your dues right away to Allen Shimada.

On behalf of the AIFRB Board of Directors, I wish you all a very happy and productive new year with many new accomplishments and exciting scientific discoveries.

Linda Jones, President

Treasurer Seeks Dues and Photos

Send \$\$ - a reminder that we are collecting dues for FY2008. Also, we need interesting photos for the new website, otherwise it will be all NMFS and all Marine Fisheries.

Folks can send them to me, *Allen Shimada*

Remember: Send Nominations!

Best Student Paper Published in 2006

Nominations are open for the W.F. Thompson Award, which is given by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (AIFRB) to recognize the "best" student paper in fisheries science published during 2006. The award will consist of a check for \$1000. The requirements for eligibility are as follows: (1) the paper must be based on research performed while the student was a candidate for a bachelor's, master's, or Ph.D. degree at a college or university in the western hemisphere; (2) the paper must be in English; (3) the student must be the senior author of the paper. Nominations may be submitted by professors or other mentors, associates of the students, or by the students themselves. The deadline for receipt of nominations is April 15, 2008. The nominations should be sent to the Chairman of the W.F. Thompson Award Committee, Dr. William H. Bayliff, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, California 92037-1508, (email wbyliff@iattc.org). Each nomination must be accompanied by a copy of the paper (unless it is easily available on the internet) and a resume. The paper will be judged by knowledgeable reviewers selected by the Chairman and the members of his committee on the basis of contribution to fisheries science, originality, and presentation.

Additional information about the W.F. Thompson Award, including a list of previous winners of the Award, can be found on the AIFRB website, www.aifrb.org

Submitted by Bill Bayliff, Thompson Award Committee Chair

This Year's Thompson Award Winner Edwin J. Niklitschek: A brief biography

Dr. Edwin J. Niklitschek, a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, has won the W.F. Thompson Award for the best student paper published in 2005. His paper, co-authored with Dr. David H. Secor of the University of Maryland, is entitled *Modeling Spatial and Temporal Variation of Suitable Nursery Habitats for Atlantic Sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay*. It was published in *Estuarine, Coastal, and Shelf Science*, Volume 64, Number 1.

Dr. Niklitschek is a citizen of Chile. He received his undergraduate degree from the Universidad Austral de Chile, where he

studied marine biology, in 1990, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland, where he studied marine, estuarine, and environmental sciences, in 2001. He has won at least two other awards, the Biodiversity Conservation Fund Award from the Nature Conservancy and the Skinner Award from the American Fisheries Society. He has published several papers in prestigious scientific journals, and has others pending, mostly in topics related to species conservation and fisheries management. He is currently employed as an Associate Researcher for the Universidad Austral de Chile in Coyhaique, a pleasant small town in the beautiful Patagonian region of Chile. Dr. Niklitschek has four children, and his interests, other than his work and his family, include reading, hiking, wildlife watching, and camping.

Submitted by Bill Bayliff

A Loss

Donald E. Wohlschlag
625 East Avenue, Port Aransas, TX 78373

A Member at Work: Jerry Ault Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries: Jerald S. Ault, ed.

A comprehensive single-source reference

The core of a multibillion dollar sport fishing industry, tarpon and bonefish, two of the earth's oldest creatures, are experiencing obvious and precipitous population decline. Experienced anglers in the Florida Keys suggest a drop of approximately 90-95 percent for the bonefish population over the last 65 years. Despite the economic value of the industry and scientific value of these ancient fish, very little information is available about their movements and migrations, population dynamics, life histories, and reproductive habits to effectively sustain fisheries for these amazing species.

With contributions from some of the world's leading experts, *Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries* synthesizes existing scientific literature, presents new perspectives, and introduces original scientific research to guide fishery management and conservation efforts for building sustainable tarpon and bonefish fisheries. Divided into five sections, the book begins with an overview of the state of the world's fisheries for tarpon and bonefish. The second section reviews the biology and life history dynamics of these fish with contributions on conservation genetics, reproductive biology and early life development, as well as resolving gaps in evolutionary lineage and taxonomy. Covering population dynamics and resource ecology the third section discusses migratory patterns in the Atlantic and the use of tagging. Highlighting the lore and appeal of these fascinating sport fish, the book concludes by introducing a myriad of proposals designed to improve fishery sustainability by conducting census, enforcing catch-and-release programs, and supporting science-based management decision making.

Promoting a better understanding of the biological and fishery management issues that are paramount to the sustainable future of these valuable fishery resources, *Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries* provides a foundation for discussion and broad communication about the past present and future of these magnificent sport fish.

Features: Includes internationally-recognized researchers, managers and anglers as contributors; Gives the current status and historical perspectives on fisheries worldwide; Examines biology, resource ecology, and life history and population dynamics; Explores conservation impacts of programs such as catch-and-release fishing; Suggests future ecosystem monitoring, management practices, and research efforts towards sustainable use of these valuable fishery resources.

Contents: *World Fisheries for Tarpon and Bonefish* - 9 articles; *Biology and Life History Dynamics* - 6 articles; *Population Dynamics and Resource Ecology* - 4 articles; *Lore and Appeal of Fishing for Tarpon and Bonefish* - 4 articles; *Ecosystem-Based Management and Sustainable Fisheries* - 7 articles; Index.

Catalog no. 2792, August 2007, c. 432 pp.

ISBN: 978-0-8493-2792-6, \$119.95 / £68.99

CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group

AIFRB to Sponsor Symposium at Ottawa

John Hoenig, Paul Conn and Douglas Vaughan are organizing a symposium. "Tagging and its use in stock assessments" for the 2008 AFS meeting in Ottawa (Canada). They have received expressions of interest for 13 presentations, and they are well on their way to a full day symposium.

Description: Tagging studies are a major tool for assessing fisheries and studying population dynamics. Such studies often provide information about parameters that are otherwise difficult to estimate such as natural mortality and selectivity, and also allow researchers to model how catchability varies over time and space. These capabilities make tagging studies an ideal complement to traditional assessment approaches in that key assumptions may be relaxed to allow for more realistic models of stock dynamics. In recent years, there has been increased attention to statistical design of tagging studies, and to development of new statistical models for encounters of marked individuals. In addition, a number of studies have investigated the robustness of tag recovery and mark-recapture models to assumption violations, and have looked at how best to integrate tagging data with other types of fishery dependent and independent data. In this symposium, we attempt to synthesize this research through a variety of presentations that combine methodological descriptions with case studies. In particular, we shall emphasize recent advances that allow researchers to incorporate tagging information into the stock assessment process.

Submitted by Douglas Vaughan

NOAA Fisheries, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516

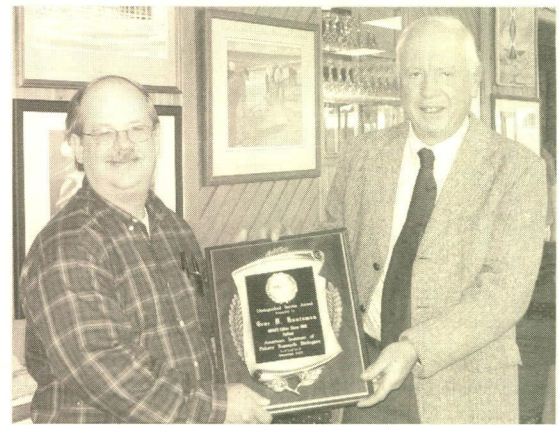
(252) 728-8761 / Fax (252) 728-8619

Huntsman Receives Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Gene Huntsman has been awarded the Institute's Distinguished Service Award for 2007. The Board of Control recognized Dr. Huntsman for his 12 years as the editor of the society's bimonthly 12-page newsletter, *Briefs*. Dr. Douglas Vaughan, representing AIFRB president, Dr. Linda Jones, made the presentation at a luncheon at the Sanitary Seafood Restaurant in Morehead City, NC on December 6, 2007.

Dr. Huntsman joined the AIFRB in 1974 and was promoted to the level of Fellow in 1984. Dr. Huntsman led the Reef Fish program for the National Marine Fisheries Service at the NOAA Laboratory in Beaufort, NC until his retirement in 1995. He also served as President of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, President of the Marine Fisheries Section of the American Fisheries Society and was an Adjunct Professor of Zoology at NC State University. He is very active in the Carteret County, NC Wildlife Club and in the "living history" programs of the Beaufort (NC) Historical Association.

While Huntsman's long tenure as editor might lead some to conclude that his recognition might be better termed the Too-Dumb-To-Quit Award, Huntsman prefers to view his accolade as a manifestation of the Moose-Dropping Pie syndrome. For those unfamiliar with that phenomenon, the Moose-Dropping Pie Syndrome derives its name from a story, almost certainly true, from a group of deer hunters (one of whom may have been Carlos Fetterolf) who annually shared a northern Michigan cabin. The group was made up of old friends who by and large gathered in great collegiality excepting one point of disagreement: the sharing of galley duty. The discord over the distribution of cooking and dish wrangling responsibilities seemed to grow annually with accusation and recrimination an increasing fraction of the dialogue. To one annual participant the prospect of another season of argument was so repugnant that he embraced a desperate but ingenious measure. He would, he resolved, volunteer at the very beginning of the gathering to take on all cooking duties, which while preventing him from deer hunting would preclude formation of the antagonistic atmosphere and garner for himself a position above reproach. However, he announced, he would only continue to cook until he received the first complaint. Given that his compatriots, although good fellows in general, were chronic complainers, our hero was certain that he would be almost immediately absolved of kitchen duty while retaining his elevated status as "the man who volunteered" and be quickly back on his deer stand. Day 1 proceeded surprisingly congenially with many compliments to the cook but without concern on his part because he was certain that his hypercritical associates would quickly revert to form, begin to complain, and release him to venatorial pursuits. However Day



Dr. Gene Huntsman (right) is presented the Institute's Distinguished Service Award by Dr. Douglas Vaughan

2 produced nothing but more “Good Food, Buddy!!” comments as did Day 3. Watching deer season dissolve into the steam of his simmering soups and stews our hero knew that desperate measures were needed if he were ever to hunt that season. After breakfast on Day 4 our cook-in-perpetuity repaired to the nearby woods and gathered a large kettle of moose droppings, a common commodity on the floor of the sub-boreal forest. That day the Chef-for-life threw his every effort into a magnificent pastry filled with a brown and rich gravy in which swam an entire evacuation of moose droppings. That pastry sealed at the top and baked to a golden brown was that evening presented with great ceremony to the ravenous and hitherto uncomplaining deer hunters. “Tomorrow, I hunt deer!” thought our patisseur. The pastry at first brought “oohs” of delight from the diners but as the odor of moose waste product began to seep to the assembled company the “oohs” subsided and looks of great skepticism appeared. The dish was passed from fellow to fellow, each politely affirming, “No, You first, good friend!” Finally one especially brave participant placed a scoop of the piece-de-resistance on his plate, then stuck in his fork, and reluctantly and tentatively placed a portion in his mouth. Our cook-in-chains knew that his deliverance was at hand. The eater grimaced, gagged, and then slowly choked out the words, “Golly, gee, wow (expletive sanitized for tender scientific ears), this tastes just like moose feces (also sanitized)———BUT GOOD!”

Thus Huntsman says that his plan has always been to continue as editor until he receives a serious complaint. That, in 13 years, no complaint serious enough to dislodge Huntsman has occurred suggests one of three explanations: the *Briefs* readership, suspecting the arrangement, is too intelligent to complain; Huntsman is too insensitive to notice the many complaints that have occurred; or (unlikely) Huntsman actually has done a creditable job as editor. When last seen, Huntsman was in the edge of the woods gathering small brown objects from the forest floor.

P.S. Many thanks for the recognition. It's been a labor of love. Ed

A Founder's Life: Clint Atkinson

Clint Atkinson was born in Boise, Idaho, in 1913. He had a life-long interest in fish, both rearing and catching. During his teenage years in Boise he raised fish in tanks in his parents' home. Clint lived about a half mile from my home in Boise and he was influential in my decision to attend the School of Fisheries at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. I am certain that I was not the first student that Clint directed to the fishery program at the University of Washington, nor was I the last. Clint had a reputation of helping students decide upon their life's work. Clint was a student at U of W in the School of Fisheries and graduated from there in 1937.

Clint had a long and distinguished career in fisheries. He worked for the International Pacific Salmon Commission from 1938 to 1948. Work in this period involved Hell's Gate studies which led to a fish ladder on the Fraser River. Dr. W. F. Thompson, who was Director of the Salmon Commission from 1937 to 1943, encouraged Clint to continue his studies of fisheries. From 1948 to 1952 he was Chief, Middle and South Atlantic Fishery Investigations, Beaufort, North Carolina: Bureau Commercial Fisheries/US Fish and Wildlife Service. Work in this time period involved shad and other regional fisheries.

During the forties and early fifties the Departmental Office of the School of Fisheries at the University of Washington and the office of the International Pacific Halibut Commission were housed in the same building on the U of W campus. The Halibut Commission had coffee every morning at 10:00 a.m. Clint had returned to Seattle by 1952 and was Chief, Pacific Salmon Investigations: US Bureau of Commercial Fisheries/US Fish and Wildlife Service. On many days Dr. Thompson would come to the Commission's office for coffee. He frequently would bring Clint Atkinson and sometimes other people. Harry Dunlop, Director of the Commission, Heward Bell, W.F. Thompson and Clint Atkinson would discuss the formation of the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists. Early on they were interested in the professional standing of fisheries biologists. Their conversations then moved on to the role that biologists in different agencies played in the overall picture of fisheries research. Clint took an active part in these discussions.

From 1957 to 1965 Clint was Director, Biological Laboratory in Seattle. This was part of the US Bureau of Commercial Fisheries/ US Fish and Wildlife Service. Research was mainly directed to high seas distribution of salmon and other problems associated with the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Clint completed a MS degree at the University of Washington, College of Fisheries, in 1964. He became active in the international fisheries scene as Regional Fishery Attache, American Embassy, Tokyo, Japan (1966-1973). His work there involved collecting information and reporting developments in high seas fisheries and initiating steps to avoid conflicts between the US and East Asian and Pacific Island countries. He retired formally in 1973, but he continued his fisheries activities as a Fisheries Consultant and Advisor from 1974 to 2002. There was a broad scope to this phase of his work including descriptive, academic, biological, economic and feasibility studies as well as marketing problems. He maintained a Data Bank of Japanese market statistics and related information.

In 1978 he joined the faculty at the University of Washington and taught an upper division graduate course in Fisheries of the World., summer quarter 1978. Between 1980 and 2003, Clint was a Visiting Scholar, University of Washington.

During his long and distinguished career, he received numerous awards. He received two Unit Meritorious awards for research on salmon and shad from the US Government. Japan granted three citations for assistance and contributions on salmon propagation and conservation. South Korea gave a citation for re-establishment of salmon runs in South Korea.

Clint was a Fellow in the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. He was also a Fellow in the International Institute of Fishery Economics and Trade. He was a member of the AIFRB Executive Committee and received our Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

His publications and reports spanned a period of over 60 years. The publication list is far too extensive to list here, but it covers a wide range of topics from academic questions to economic matters, aquaculture and then to discussion of high seas fisheries pursued by several nations. Clint was active in the local fishing industry in the United States and was instrumental in helping a number of young companies get started and connected in the international market.

Submitted by: Morris Southward

Send Nominees!

National Fish Habitat Awards

The National Fish Habitat Annual Awards will honor exceptional individuals or partner entities who have demonstrated a commitment to fish habitat conservation, science, or education through programs or projects. The awards celebrate those who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, innovation or excellence in aquatic resource conservation. National Fish Habitat awardees show how individuals can and do make a difference.

Awardees will be selected from nominations submitted by Fish Habitat Partnerships and the hundreds of organizations that make up the Partners Coalition. Nominations may be made in three categories:

- Exceptional Vision in support of Fish Habitat Conservation
- Scientific Achievement in support of Fish Habitat Conservation
- Outreach and Educational Achievement in support of Fish Habitat Conservation

An awards presentation will be made each April at the Casting Call event in Washington D.C. For more information go to FishHabitat.org.

Research Assistance Awards Available

**For beginning Scientists.
Contact Jerry Ault for details**

Two Important Meetings

8th International Congress on the Biology of Fish.

Portland, Oregon.

July 28 - August 1, 2008

www.fishbiologycongress.org

Reefs for the Future

11th International Coral Reef Symposium

July 7 - 11, 2008

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs

Europe's freshwater fish threatened

Two hundred of Europe's 522 freshwater fish species are threatened with extinction and 12 are already extinct, according to the Handbook of European Freshwater Fishes, published in collaboration with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and released on 1 November 2007. IUCN notes that the main threats to fish species stem from development and population growth and include water withdrawals, large dams, and inappropriate fisheries management that has led to overfishing and the introduction of alien species. Authors Maurice Kottelat, former president of the European Ichthyological Society, and Jorg Freyhof, scientist from Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology, noted that fish conservation should be managed by agencies in charge of conservation, and not as a crop by agencies in charge of agriculture. William Darwall, senior program officer with IUCN's Species Program, said the species "are critical to the freshwater ecosystems upon which we do depend, such as for water purification and flood control." For more information, visit the web site: <http://www.iucn.org>.

From: EOS, 88 (45) 6 November 2007

Gilchrest proposes 5-year ban on menhaden fishing in East Coast waters

US Rep Wayne Gilchrest has introduced legislation that would ban menhaden fishing in state and federal East Coast waters for five years while studies are completed to determine the health of the stock and to better understand the role it plays in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. "Menhaden are filter feeders, helping to rid the Bay of algae, which suffocates underwater grasses and causes 'dead zones' in the Bay," Gilchrest, a Republican from the Eastern Shore, said when introducing the bill in October. "The species is also an important source of food for striped bass and blue fish."

Measured by weight, menhaden constitute the largest fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Many recreational fishermen say there are too few menhaden left in the Bay to feed the abundant populations of striped bass, bluefish and other species. Stock assessments by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a multistate agency responsible for managing migratory species, indicates that the overall menhaden stock is healthy. Nonetheless, the ASMFC last year capped menhaden harvests in the Bay while studies are conducted to determine whether the small, oily fish suffers from "regional depletion." Gilchrest said that limit did not go far enough. "Although progress has made at the local and state level to at least prevent further growth of the fishery in the absence of sufficient scientific data, I believe that it is time for Congress to engage in the sustainable management of menhaden," Gilchrest said.

The menhaden catch became concentrated in and near the Bay over the years as most states have closed their waters to the fishing fleet operated by Omega Protein out of Reedville, VA. Fishing is also allowed in federal waters more than 3 miles off the Atlantic Coast. Omega, which is headquartered in Texas, processes large numbers of menhaden into dietary supplements for humans and other products. A spokesman for the company said the legislation lacked any scientific basis. "Congressman Gilchrest's bill to place a moratorium on the commercial fishing of Atlantic menhaden is a cavalier piece of legislation, given the precarious precedent it would set, the overwhelming contrary scientific data on the health and sustainability of the species, and the disastrous effect that would be felt by thousands of families," said Toby Gascon, Omega's director of government affairs. "We feel it is pandering, not sensible public policy."

The ASMFC last fall capped the annual commercial menhaden harvests in the Bay at 109,020 metric tons annually for five years, a number derived from the average of harvests from 2001-2005. Some recreational fishing groups argued that the cap was too lenient, in part because it has a provision allowing an under harvest in one year to be credited to the next year's harvest, not to exceed 122,740 metric tons. The number of small menhaden in the Bay has decreased sharply from historic levels, but scientists say it's uncertain that it is related to fishing in the Chesapeake as menhaden spawn in the ocean - where the stock appears to be healthy - and the fishery generally avoids catching small fish in the Bay.

Karl Blankenship

From: Bay Journal, November 2007

So, Who needs menhaden?

Plants genetically engineered to make fish oils offer a new approach to improving diet, say UK scientists. Experiments have proved that crops containing genes from marine organisms are able to produce omega 3 fatty acids normally found in oily fish. Adding the oil to animal feed would create omega 3-rich meat, milk and eggs. Researchers from the EU-wide Lipgene project say such food would help tackle public health issues like obesity. Concerns over dwindling fish stocks and marine pollution has led researchers to seek an alternative source of long chain omega 3 fatty acids; fats that have important health benefits, especially for the heart. The best source is oily fish, such as salmon, mackerel and herring, but most people do not get enough in their diet.

To read more: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7097094.stm> or <http://tinyurl.com/32mybz>

From: BBC News Online

Status of Crab Stocks

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council reviewed and approved the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (AI) King and Tanner crabs. The SAFE report summarizes the current biological status of fisheries, guideline harvest levels (GHLs), and analytical information used for management decisions or changes in harvest strategies. Of the six annually surveyed stocks, three remain under federally-approved rebuilding plans: Pribilof Islands blue king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab, and Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) snow crab. Of these stocks only Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains in an overfished condition while the other two stocks are in rebuilding phases. The EBS Tanner crab stock is now officially “rebuilt” and no longer under a rebuilding plan following a survey biomass estimate above B_{MSY} for the second year in a row. Of the two remaining surveyed stocks, biomass of Bristol Bay red king crab is well above the approved harvest threshold and thus is open for a directed fishery. Although at apparently high survey abundance levels, the Pribilof Islands red king crab stock remains closed due to imprecision of estimates and concerns about potential bycatch of blue king crab. Directed crab fisheries in 2007/08 will occur for the Bristol Bay red king crab, EBS Tanner crab, EBS snow crab and the AI golden king crab stocks. Copies of the SAFE report may be obtained through the Council office, or on-line at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/SAFE/SAFE.htm>. Staff contact is Dina Stram.

From: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, October 2007

More D.C., Low-Jinks! Reversal of Endangered Species Rulings

The reversals affect two amphibians: the Arroyo Toad and the California Red-Legged Frog.

By H. Josef Hebert

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday reversed seven rulings that denied endangered species increased protection, after an investigation found the actions were tainted by political pressure from a former senior Interior Department official. In a letter to Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., the agency acknowledged that the actions had been “inappropriately influenced” and that “revising the seven identified decisions is supported by scientific evidence and the proper legal standards.” The reversal affects the protection for species including the white-tailed prairie dog, the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse and the Canada lynx.

The rulings came under scrutiny last spring after an Interior Department inspector general concluded that agency scientists were being pressured to alter their findings on endangered species by Julie MacDonald, then a deputy assistant secretary overseeing the Fish and Wildlife Service. MacDonald resigned her position last May. Rep. Rahall, in a statement, said that MacDonald, who was a civil engineer, “should never have been allowed near the endangered species program.” He called MacDonald’s involvement in species protection cases over her three-year tenure as an example of “this administration’s penchant for torpedoing science.” Acting Fish and Wildlife Director Kenneth Stansell wrote Rahall that the cases were reviewed “after questions were raised about the integrity of scientific information used and whether the decisions were made consistent with the appropriate legal standards.” He did not refer to MacDonald specifically. Francesca Grifo of the Union of Concerned Scientists said the acknowledgment of seven instances of wrongdoing “does not begin to plumb the depths of what’s wrong” at the wildlife agency and its implementation of the Endangered Species Act. There are at least 30 cases “where we have evidence of interference” over the last seven years, maintained Grifo, director of the group’s scientific integrity program.

Problems were found in seven of the eight cases, taken up for review after MacDonald’s resignation. The wildlife agency said it will reconsider a petition to list as endangered the white-tailed prairie dog. The petition had been denied, but the agency said after its investigation “the Service believes this decision should be reconsidered.” It also said it will examine the continued listing of the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, as well as a separate ruling that had been made concerning the mouse’s critical habitat. The agency decision to take the mouse from under the protection of the Endangered Species Act was questioned after MacDonald’s involvement became known. Four other cases being reconsidered involved declarations of critical habitat for the Canada lynx, the Hawaiian picture-wing fly, the Arroyo Toad and the California Red-Legged Frog. The agency said it did not find any scientific evidence to warrant changes in another questioned critical habitat decision involving the Southwestern willow flycatcher, saying it was “scientifically supportable.”

MacDonald resigned in May after the Interior Department’s inspector general rebuked her for pressuring wildlife agency scientists to alter their findings about endangered species and leaking information about species decisions to industry officials. The IG found that she had broken federal rules by those actions. In her three years on the job, MacDonald also was heavily involved in delisting the Sacramento splittail, a fish found only in California’s Central Valley where she owned an 80-acre farm on which the fish live.

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