



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With 120 professionals in attendance at our Chapter's third annual meeting in February, a tremendous boost was given to the development of American Fisheries Society efforts in Florida. The Symposium theme, "Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources," was extremely well-executed by the authors of the papers that reviewed lakes, rivers, salt marsh, mangroves, bays, and the ocean. Eleven contributed presentations nicely balanced this and illustrated the diversity of our membership. The presence and kind remarks of AFS president, Bill Lewis, added to our meeting and certainly provide encouragement to the new officers, whose names are listed in this newsletter.

Florida AFS will find strength in the diversity of its membership. We must, when you consider that the State's population is forecast to add 4 million people by the year 2000. What will fishery professionals do to keep pace with these trends?

The challenge to Florida's AFS is to fill a niche that not only complements the roles of agencies, academia, and public and private interests, but also requires leadership appropriate to a professional society. If you were mailed a copy of this newsletter, as a new, former, or prospective member of the Chapter, then you probably ought to be part of meeting the challenge. Our goals for 1983 include continuing to build membership, developing ways to recognize and support student excellence, publishing our first monograph, expanding newsletter service, preparing and presenting to key officials a "super slide show" that summarizes symposium issues and trends, and organizing the 1984 meeting to address some of the key opportunities that we'll face professionally. Join us.

Bill Seaman

WITHLACHOOCHEE A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 120 persons attended the 2-day annual chapter meeting at Withlatchoochee State Forest on February 8-9. All enjoyed an excellent program. A state perspective on research and management needs was provided by Ed Joyce and future challenges facing the Game and Fish Commission were

discussed by Smokie Holcomb. A series of papers comprising a symposium on Florida Aquatic Habitats and Fishery Resources filled the first day's session. Formal papers on the second day included studies of both freshwater and marine species with contributors from the DNR Marine Lab, University of Florida, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service Co-op Unit, Florida's Gulfarium, and the State Marine Advisory Program. The pleasant atmosphere, good food, and ample opportunities for socializing at Withlatchoochee helped to make this a particularly good meeting for Florida fishery biologists and managers.

Highlights of the chapter business meeting included:

-election of officers and appointed committee members. New officers and committee members are:

President

Dr. William Seaman

President-Elect

Mr. Vince Williams

Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Ed Moyer

Committees:

Membership

Mr. Edwin Joyce, Jr. (Chairman)

Mr. Scott Andree

Nominating (Co-chairman)

Mr. Paul Shafland

Dr. Karen Steidinger

Chapter Development

Mr. Smokie Holcomb (Chairman)

Mr. Robin Lewis

Dr. Al Jones

Information/Education

Mr. Vince Williams

Mr. Gray Bass

Dr. Al Jones

Mr. Robin Lewis

Dr. Bill Seaman

Mr. Gary Camp

Program

Mr. Vince Williams

Newsletter

Mr. James Tilmant

- a resolution for the Chapter Development Committee to investigate establishing an award for the best student paper annually and supporting this person to the national meeting.
- a resolution to recommend a state member for national AFS committee work.
- a contribution of \$210 to the parent society's permanent Home Fund.

CHAPTER NEWS

- An executive committee meeting was held at the DNR Lab, St. Petersburg on May 4. Topics discussed were the chapter's Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources monograph and slide show, next year's program, membership drive, and newsletter review.
- Ed Joyce has developed a membership brochure to mail to prospective members.

134 MILLION NEEDED FOR FISHERIES RESOURCES

During 1982 the American Fisheries Society conducted a funding need survey of the 63 state freshwater and marine fisheries agencies in the United States. The objective of the survey was to determine the extent and nature of funding problems faced by the state agencies which have responsibility for managing the nation's sport fishery resources. Responses were received from all 63 agencies contacted and were compiled by Dr. Raymond Johnson who coordinated the survey for AFS. The agencies reported that their 1982 fiscal year budgets totaled \$286 million and that they have urgent needs for an additional \$134 million per year to meet present management responsibilities.

Replies to the survey paint a grim picture of reduced staff, deteriorating hatcheries, curtailed fish stocking, interrupted research, decaying boating facilities, inadequate public access, obsolete equipment, habitat destruction, leaking impoundments, coarse fish domination, stream sedimentation, stunted fish populations, excessive harvest and other signs of a fisheries resource in trouble. The amount of funding shortfall, fueled by inflation, increased fishing pressure and declining state revenues, is growing at the rate of some \$20 million per year.

The American Fisheries Society is playing an active role in an effort to find a solution to

fisheries resource funding problems. The Society, incorporated in 1870, is the world's oldest and largest organization of fisheries scientists, technicians, and concerned laymen. For additional information write to the American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814.

NOTES FROM AFS DIRECTOR

- The Permanent Home Fund has reached \$177,000 which leaves just about \$100,000 to go.
- Printing costs for the 1983-84 Transactions will remain at the same rate as 1982. This is largely due to the fine editing of Bob and Sally Kendall. Clean, well-edited manuscripts keep costs down.
- A committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Educationers met in Washington on January 14 for the purpose of developing minimum suggested educational instruction and facility standards for B.S. and graduate degrees in fisheries and wildlife disciplines.
- The AFS maintains a fish photo collection at the National Fisheries Center, Leetown, West Virginia. If you have fish photos you are willing to contribute to AFS, the society would very much like to have them.
- A new membership directory will be published sometime this spring.
- The AFS volunteer advisory staff remains quite active and is providing important AFS representation on matters of acid rain, wetlands protection, Department of Agriculture programs, water quality standards, and funding need surveys.
- Severe cuts in the US Fish and Wildlife Service budget have prompted AFS members to ask what AFS is doing to prevent such cuts and associated loss of jobs and fisheries initiatives. Congress has the final say on all federal budgets and legislators respond to the voters at home. It takes grass roots efforts by the public fisheries constituency to move Congress. Every AFS member can play an important role in that game at the local level.

AFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The executive committee of AFS held its semi-annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on March 22-23. The following are some points of particular interest from this meeting:

RESOLUTIONS AGAINST FISHERIES BUDGET CUTS - Following a discussion of 1984 reductions in fisheries budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service,

the EXCOM unanimously approved resolutions condemning the fiscal treatment given the Cooperative Fisheries Research Units, the reservoir research program, the federal fish hatchery system, Sea Grant, aquatic habitat protection, the Fisheries Management Councils and other important aquatic resource programs of the U.S. Government. The EXCOM directed that copies of the resolutions be sent to all appropriate administrative and legislative leaders.

FISHERY BULLETIN - The news that the National Marine Fisheries Service had decided to accept the AFS Fishery Bulletin publication offer was discussed and was quite well received, particularly by the Marine Fisheries Section.

FISHERIES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY - The EXCOM gave unanimous approval to the computerized survey form and the data gathering plans of Chairman Dick Schaeffer and his committee. Survey forms will receive mass distribution in the near future with publication hoped for this year or early in 1984.

ANNUAL DUES - EXCOM members voted unanimously to increase 1984 active member dues from \$30.00 to \$34.00 and student and retired members dues from \$15.00 to \$17.00.

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION COSTS - Members rejected, in a somewhat narrow vote, proposals to (1) add \$5.00 subscription cost each to **TRANSACTIONS** and the **NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF FISH MANAGEMENT** and (2) add a \$5.00 subscription cost to **TRANSACTIONS** alone.

PAGE CHARGES - Members of the EXCOM voted unanimously to defer the proposed 1984 eliminations of **TRANSACTIONS** and **NAJFM** page charges for at least one year with the understanding that such deferral does not necessarily alter the EXCOM'S plan for ultimately phasing out all page charges. Thus both **TRANSACTIONS** and the **NAJFM** will again impose \$20.00 per page publication charges in 1984.

NOTE: To accommodate financial hardship cases, the EXCOM voted to increase discretionary page charge waivers from the present 5% of all published papers to a maximum of 25%. The EXCOM also asked the staff to investigate some possible system of imposing differential page charges and prepare a report for their consideration.

A FISHERIES METRIFICATION FIELD BOOK - After examining the reviewed manuscript for a

pocket-sized fisheries field booklet of metrification conversion tables, the EXCOM endorsed its publication and asked the ad hoc committee on commercial advertising to solicit advertisements sufficient to cover the estimated \$1,300 cost of printing 2,000 copies.

LAND TRANSFERS

The Nature Conservancy has been active in acquiring and donating several tracts of Florida land for conservation purposes. Some of their more important recent projects include the following:

-Kings Bay - December 15, 1982, after two years of quiet negotiations and ten months of active fund raising, the Nature Conservancy purchased the 14 pristine islands in Kings Bay for inclusion in the Crystal River Manatee Sanctuary. The islands had been slated for single family home development, which would have destroyed the bay's vital manatee wintering habitat.

-Escambia River - The National Wetlands Conservation Project, a five-year, \$50-million private/public effort to conserve endangered water-related ecosystems in the U.S., was announced in New York on January 12, by the Nature Conservancy and the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

-The project's first acquisition will be a 17,000 acre purchase along 18 miles of the Escambia River near Pensacola, owned by St. Regis Paper Company. The property will be purchased for \$4,000,000 which is significantly less than its estimated \$7,000,000 fair market value. The Conservancy is making the acquisition on behalf of the Northwest Florida Water Management District which will repurchase the property with funds from the Save Our Rivers Program.

-Marianna Bat Cave - The Florida Chapter transferred ownership of the northwest Florida cave to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission on January 15. The cave is home for 100,000 bats, including 10,000 endangered Gray Bats. The Georgia Blind Salamander and the Daugherty Plain Cave Crayfish also call the cave home. The cave will be managed by the Commission's Division of Wildlife.

-Matlacha Pass - A Georgia house painter has donated 17 acres near Ft. Myers. The mangrove-covered peninsula is being held for transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Matlacha Pass National Wildlife Refuge.

MARINE FISHERIES SECTION - AFS

MARINE AND ESTUARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE of the southern division is continuing toward several goals to increase communication among fishery workers including fully cooperating with the AFS National Office to develop an up-to-date, dynamic listing of fisheries workers. Good listings exist for the state of Texas and for several AFS sections, but the many wide gaps can only be filled by a cooperative effort from everyone in the southeast. Please take a minute to fill out the short questionnaire which should arrive via mail in the near future, and pass a copy along to other fisheries workers. Thanks. (Contact: Mary Jo Lewis), 3255 NW Fillmore, Corvallis, OR 97330.

SYMPOSIA SYNOPSES - The MFS is looking for short (a couple of paragraphs) summaries of what went on and what papers or discussions of interest to MFS members happened at meetings you attend. This is for the MFS newsletter. Please include in your synopsis the name and address of the convener of the meeting so interested people have someone they can contact for further information. Submit these accounts to Gene Helfman, Zoology Department, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

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CALL FOR TECHNICAL PAPERS

37th Annual Conference of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held in Asheville, North Carolina November 6-9, 1983. Deadline for submitting papers is June 15. For information on fisheries paper contact Larry Wilson, University of Tennessee at 615 974-7165. The annual meeting of the Southern Division of AFS will be held concurrently.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- Jun 13-14 - NPS Gulf and Barrier Island Research Conf. Biloxi, Miss.
- July 17-22 - Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium San Jose, Costa Rica (contact Fred Berry, NMFS, Miami).
- Aug 14-20 - AFS Annual Meeting, Univ. Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
- Oct 22-26 - 7th International Estuarine Research Conference, Virginia Beach, VA.
- Nov 6-9 - Annual Meeting of Southern Division of AFS, Asheville, NC.

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