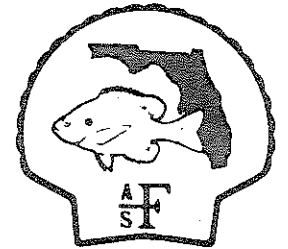


The Shell-Cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Vol 3 (2)

November 1983

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

No matter which way we look we see Florida AFS on the move. If you are reading the Shell-cracker for the first time, we welcome you to membership and thank Ed Joyce for his efforts to recruit new members. We look forward to continued growth of the Chapter.

If you are a veteran of our three-year-old society, you will recall the highlights from last year's annual meeting of 120 fishery professionals. We hope that we'll have an even better turnout February 6-8, 1984 when the program organized by Vince Williams gets underway.

The book we are going to publish from the 1983 meeting is in revision. We are working on an educational slide show which will be in draft form for your annual business meeting. A draft paper for chapter development is in progress. In these and other ways Florida AFS seeks to contribute to our profession.

Nineteen hundred and eighty-three has been a year of building membership and visibility for Florida's AFS Chapter. Join us in Brooksville for a professionally rewarding experience shared with colleagues from all across the state, working in freshwater and marine habitats. - Bill Seaman

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The membership committee headed by Ed Joyce, has put together an attractive Florida Chapter membership information brochure. This brochure was mailed to known prospective individuals as well as to all chapter members (to be passed on to colleagues). These efforts have netted about 50 new chapter members to date. Thanks, Ed Joyce, for greatly increasing the visibility and effectiveness of our organization in Florida.

FLORIDA CHAPTER PUBLICATION Revision of the seven chapters to be published as an FAFS book, "Florida Aquatic Habitats and Fishery Resources" is nearing completion and we have received a \$2,000 contribution from Florida DNR toward publication costs. Barring extensive editing delays, this book should be out prior to our 1984 meeting.

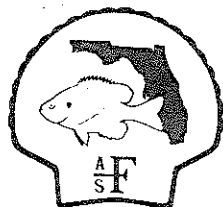
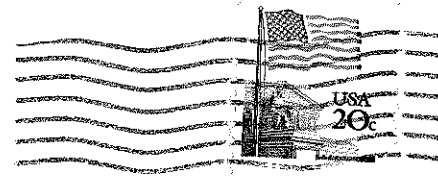
Bill Seaman reports that he has finished editing the script and is putting together slides to be professionally narrated and synchronized as a tape/slide show on habitats and fishery resources. The slide show will eventually be available as a public information/education tool for Chapter members.

DATES SET FOR ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING

The 1984 meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held February 6-8, at the Division of Forestry Withlacoochee Environmental Center in Brooksville. The theme this year will be "Growth issues of concern to fishery professionals." While many of us are familiar with growth impacts on fishery resources, we are less conversant with other political, social, and economic impacts which affect our state. A panel discussion which should be highly informative in this regard is scheduled for February 7. The following persons have agreed to participate on this panel:

- Mr. Nathaniel Reed, Board Member for the South Florida Water Management District, will be the keynote speaker. He will discuss impacts of growth on surface water resources, including prioritizing of user needs.
- Mr. Bill Partington, Director of the Environmental Information Center, will address growth from an "environmentalist" point of view.
- Mr. Jim Warnke, the Mayor of Boynton Beach, will speak on impacts on municipal services, taxes, and quality of life.
- Mr. Henry Swanson, former Orange County Agricultural Extension Agent, will discuss impacts on groundwater resources.

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

When is the last time you, as an aquatic scientist, faced an identity crisis? How many times have people confused you with game wardens, marine patrol officers, or fish hatchery workers? How many times have you had to explain to people just what it is that you do for a living?

Let's face it; only a very, very small segment of the general public is aware of the contributions we make to our society. While the public has been bombarded through movies and television with role models for doctors, lawyers, teachers, policemen, etc., how is our role model portrayed? Jaws I, II, and III, ad infinitum, ad nauseam.

It's no wonder that our status ranks far below other "professionals" such as real estate agents, bartenders, and used car salesmen. This might be considered humorous by some of our members, until they realize that salaries tend to be commensurate with "status", and that none of us are overpaid for what we do. We have such a low public image that the parent society, in 1971, could not convince the postal service to issue a stamp commemorating our 100th anniversary!

I think part of the problem lies in the fact that we, as fishery professionals, are engaged in many different pursuits encompassing such various areas as environmental protection, genetic engineering, population dynamics, "shellfish" research, commercial and recreational fisheries utilization, etc. Obviously, there is no way that standardized certification could be developed which would be recognized by our state legislature or the federal government as being comparable to the Bar Examination, AMA Certification, or Professional Engineer licensing. We do, of course, have our Certified Fisheries Scientist criteria from National, as well as various categories of AIFRB membership, but I am unaware of any instance where these certifications have been used as conditions of employment, or to create a higher "professional" ranking and increased salary for their recipients.

I feel very strongly that several of our major goals for the Florida Chapter should be: 1. To educate the public concerning various facets of our work; 2. To improve the professional image and status of our members; 3. To inform the legislature of disparity in pay scales when comparing fishery biologists with other professionals.

In order to accomplish these goals we need to first define our membership and then "sell" ourselves. Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire for all members; please fill this out and return it to me as soon as possible. Information collected will be used to compile what could loosely be termed a demographic survey of our members.

As you know, Bill Seaman is in the process of compiling and editing a slide series based on last year's Aquatic Habitat and Fisheries Resources symposium. This will be screened during our business meeting in February. We need to produce a second slide series showing our members at work, and the various disciplines of aquatic science that are involved. Please send me from 4 to 6 original slides, with 2 to 3 sentences of narration for each, showing what you do. I would like some of the slides to depict "action", such as hauling nets, using field survey gear and laboratory equipment, measuring and weighing fish, teaching, scuba diving, etc. Others could include such items as photomicrographs of plankton, algae, etc. Write your name and address on the slides if you want them returned. Remember that these should project a professional image - if we look like a bunch of slobbers that is how the public will perceive us.

With your cooperation we should be able to finish this project by next August, and have copies of the series and taped narrative available to members late next year. - Vince Williams

CHAPTER PURCHASES SHARE OF AFS HOME OFFICE

Acting on a motion passed by the general membership during our last annual meeting, the Florida Chapter has made a contribution to the AFS permanent home fund sufficient to purchase 3 square feet. The following certificate was received from the parent society as tangible proof of our contribution.

FREEBIES

To promote exchange of ideas among the AFS and its chapters, Florida AFS is adding to its complimentary distribution list for the Shell-cracker the presidents of all southern division chapters plus key people in the parent society.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Program Committee is soliciting technical presentations for the annual meeting in Brooksville. The contributed papers session will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on February 8. As with past years' programs, written papers are not required. Oral presentations should last no longer than 12 minutes, to be followed by a 3 minute question and answer session. Papers in any subject related to aquatic science or fisheries will be accepted. Please submit an abstract of your presentation no later than December 15 to:

Charles Wooley
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1612 June Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

Contributors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by January 15, 1984.

1984 Annual Meeting

The 1984 meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held February 6-8, at the Division of Forestry Withlacoochee Environmental Center in Brooksville.

The Center will provide dormitory-style lodging and meals for those participants requiring overnight accommodations. Pre-registration is required. Please indicate the appropriate cost for lodging and meals that you desire. Fees for food and accommodations will be collected upon your arrival at the Center. Please return this form along with a check for the \$10 registration fee no later than December 15, 1983. There will be a \$5 late fee added to registrations received after this date. If the number of registrants exceeds the overnight accommodation capacity of the Center (76), reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Off site accommodations will be arranged for "overflows".

Please send the completed registration form and the registration fee to:

Mr. Ed Moyer
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Fisheries Field Office
207 West Carroll Street
Kissimmee, FL 32741

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

February 6 - Evening Meal and Room (\$10.00) _____

February 7 - Three Meals and Room (\$20.00) _____

February 8 - Breakfast (\$2.00) _____

Registration Fee \$10.00 (Remit by December 15th)

Late charge - \$5.00 extra after December 15th

WHATS HAPPENING IN FLORIDA

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION CREATED. Legislation creating a seven member Marine Fisheries Commission recently passed in Florida. The legislation was the result of a two year effort by the Saltwater Fishery Study and Advisory Council, chaired by Senator Tom McFearson, (D-Ft. Lauderdale). "The stated purpose of the commission is to preserve the marine life we now have through proper management." He further stated, "Florida would face economic disaster in tourism as well as in its large recreation and commercial fisheries industry if its marine life continues to disappear."

Also included in the legislation is a provision requiring that all persons selling saltwater products be licensed. The revenue generated by sale of the \$25.00 resident license is earmarked for marine research, saltwater products promotion, and partial funding of the Marine Fisheries Commission.

SIZE LIMITS that maximize yield per recruit have become a major management tool of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils; however, fish caught in deep water experience expansion of gases in tissues which often causes mortality. If this occurs in a high percentage of cases, establishment of minimum size limits would not protect yield but would cause unnecessary loss.

The National Marine Fisheries Service Southeastern Fisheries Center Beaufort Laboratory has been conducting experiments off Daytona Beach, Florida to determine survivability of hook and line caught fish. In one experiment in March 1982 which focused on red snapper, NMFS biologists determined that 79% of red snapper less than 400 millimeters long (a likely size limit) survived at least 10 days at 22 meter depths after recapture.

BAN IMPLEMENTED ON SNOOK FISHING IN FLORIDA. The State of Florida has recently implemented a ban on catching snook during January-February and June-July. The rationale for the ban in January-February is that these largely tropical fish are lethargic during the cold winter months and easy prey to illegal netting operations. The June-July ban is aimed at increasing recruitment by limiting catch during the spawning period. In recent years, the stocks of snook in Florida have declined significantly and the Florida Department of Marine Resources has implemented this pro-

gram to aid in stock recovery. A second statewide snook symposium will be held November 19. (See Meetings listing).

NATIONAL AFS MEETING IN FLORIDA. Promotion of bringing the 1987 or 1988 Annual AFS Meeting to a coastal state in the Southeast (Florida). The Governor of Florida, with the assistance of Ed Joyce, has written the necessary invitation to AFS, but the regional rotation schedule does not call for a meeting in this area for what seems like a long way off.

NATIONAL AFS NEWS

AFS HAS TAKEN A FORMAL STAND AGAINST THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATIONS GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT in North Dakota. In letters sent to all 100 U.S. Senators we focused our concern on the project's adverse fisheries impacts, particularly the inevitable transbasin movement of "exotic" fish from the Missouri to the Hudson Bay watershed. Also of concern is the reduction in water quality, loss of wetlands, stream channelization and Missouri River water loss. The AFS position was developed following extensive communication with members and AFS subunits in the affected portions of the U.S. and Canada. The immediate goal is to convince Congress not to fund the billion dollar plus project.

THE TENNECO OIL CO. ARTIFICIAL REEF, located 22 miles off Pensacola, Florida was visited by Bill Lewis, AFS President, on May 14 courtesy of the Tenneco Company. Several persons, who represented fisheries organizations, were invited to sample the fishing around the 6-month-old "rig reef." Bill reports fishing was excellent and apparently has been so since very shortly after the September 1982 installation.

JIM MALONE APPOINTED PERMANENT HOME FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. The funding drive to acquire money to purchase the AFS portion of the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation Office Building as a permanent home office has been on the "back burner" for some months now. To get this drive moving again, Bill Lewis asked Jim Malone (Lonoke, Ark.) to serve as Chairman.

OCTOBER 26-29, 1983: FISH EXPO '83. For the first time, the American Fisheries Society will be participating in Fish Expo, an international trade show held annually in either Boston or Seattle. The Marine Fisheries Section has obtained booth space, along with

more than 500 other exhibitors, at this year's Seattle show. Over 16,000 are expected to attend, representing the fishing, processing, marketing, financial, consulting, marketing, and other maritime sectors. Cost to AFS will be minimal, as the booth is complimentary, and the section recently took possession of a complete display panel set from an anonymous donor.

AN AD HOC RESERVIOR RESEARCH PRIORITIES COMMITTEE has been organized through AFS with one or more representatives/contact persons from the following organizations:

American Fisheries Society
Army Corps of Engineers
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Extension Service, USDA
International Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Wildlife Federation
Soil Conservation Service
Sport Fishing Institute
Tennessee Valley Authority
The Wildlife Society
Wildlife Management Institute

The broad goals of the Committee are to determine, describe, and prioritize the nation's reservoir research needs and to develop and publish a "white paper" on the subject. The target date for the draft "white paper" is late March of 1984 at the time of the North American Wildlife Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Principal staff work will be performed by Gordon Hall of Norris, Tennessee who is recently retired from TVA.

THE AFS LETTER URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ESTUARINE SANCTUARY at Currituck Sound, North Carolina, has been endorsed by the Sport Fishing Institute. The letter, developed by the AFS Volunteer Advisory Staff (VAS) was addressed to Rear Admiral K.E. Taggart of NOAA.

THE FUTURE OF THE USFWS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH UNIT PROGRAM was the subject of an August 25 meeting between the Fish and Wildlife Service and selected natural resource and professional societies. The AFS position at that meeting was basically, (1) the Unit Program is a unique and extremely valuable effort which must be protected, sustained, and perhaps expanded; (2) reorganization of the unit program is not an end unto itself, but rather the challenge (and in our view, the most practical approach) is to solve any problems within the present structure so that program functions as it should.

AOO - For the past three years, AFS has been a corporate member of the American Oceanic Organization. Our annual dues were paid for by Atlantic Richfield. We are now on our own and there is some debate as to whether our membership should be continued at the annual rate of \$300. The Marine Fisheries Section probably has the most to gain by continued membership by the parent organization, but perhaps we can remain active and informed at a less expensive level? MFS would like to know if any member knowledgeable of AOO would let us know if, and how, AFS might continue its relation with AOO. The request also includes suggestions for relations with other maritime organizations having some involvement with marine fisheries. Contact Kirk Beiningen.

AFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Executive Committee met in Milwaukee August 16 & 17 prior to the Annual AFS Member Meeting. The following actions were taken:

- Mrs. Janice Hughes took over the AFS presidency from Dr. Bill Lewis.
- A \$25.00 price was set for AFS members purchasing the new Fisheries Technique Manual (see new publications listing). The Fisheries Educators Section received authorization and 25,000 support for production of another AFS publication to be entitled Biology of Fishes Field Manual.
- A new interest-discipline section, Fisheries Economics, was authorized. This now makes a total of eleven such sections.
- Page charges were increased to \$50.00 per page for Transactions, NA Journal, and Fisheries.

- President Hughes is appointing a steering committee to develop an AFS grass roots conference for exchanging fisheries information and philosophy with John Q. Resource User.
- In response to recommendations that the AFS make a stronger commitment to "improving the professional status of its members", a new "Professionalism Committee" will be established to develop specific action goals in support of better definitions of what a "professional" is and what constitutes "fishery science".
- The Excom acted on recommendations of the 1983 AFS Carp Exploitation Committee and authorized the establishment of a "1983-84 Carp Promotion Committee." This committee will develop an AFS sponsored Carp promotional publication ("The American Fisheries Society's Book on Carp") and will distribute a questionnaire to all state and provincial management agencies to help obtain information necessary for the publication.

Note: The current AFS position on the promotion of carp is somewhat controversial among its members and deserves all members consideration.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A CONTRACT FOR THE PRINTING OF "FISHERIES TECHNIQUES" has been let to Southern Printing Company in Blacksburg, Virginia. When completed, the book will be roughly 600 pages in hard cover. It is a monumental volunteer achievement by editors Larry Nielsen and Dave Johnson. Publication costs have been underwritten by CONOCO, and copies should be available late this year. The cost will be \$25.00 to AFS members. The book has strong promise of becoming a standard text in fisheries education circles.

THE MANUSCRIPT, "IMPROVING MULTIPLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES" has been edited by John Reintjes and expertly "polished" by AFS Editor, Bob Kendall. It will go to a printer as soon as final competitive bids are received. The cost will be \$7.00 to members and \$9.00 to non-members.

FAO CONFERENCE ON VARIABILITY OF FISH STOCKS. An "Expert Consultation to Examine Changes in Abundance and Species Composition of Neritic Fish Stocks" was convened recently by Gary Sharp and Jorge Csirke of FAO. The consultation was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, April 19-29, 1983, under the auspices of FAO and UNESCO. During the first week, approximately 50 papers covering a wide range of topics were presented. These papers are being prepared for publication by UNESCO. The second week consisted of four concurrent working groups: (1) resource study and monitoring, (2) social and economical implications of varying fishery resources, (3) environmental studies and monitoring, and (4) fisheries management, implications, and interactions. The reports of these working groups are intended to provide scientific input to a world meeting of fishery managers in late 1983 and will be published by FAO.

CULTURIST REGISTRY AVAILABLE. A registry of fish culturists has been compiled and published by the AFS Fish Culture Section. The Directory contains the names, addresses, phone numbers, areas of expertise, and educational background for approximately 700 professionals in the field of aquaculture. Copies are free to Fish Culture Section members and available to all others at \$10.00 per copy. Chief architects of the Directory are Bob Piper, Nick Parker, and Vicky L. Adriance.

BARANS, C.A. AND S.A. BORTONE EDS. 1983. The visual assessment of fish populations in the southeastern United States: 1982 Workshop. S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, Tech. Rept. 1 (SC-SG-TR-01-83). 52 p. Available from C.A. Barans, S.C. Marine Resources Res. Inst., P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, S.C. 29412.

PRITCHARD, P.C.H. ET AL. 1983. Manual of Sea Turtle Research on Conservation Techniques. Second edition edited by K.A. Bjorndal and G.H. Balazs. Center for Environmental Education, Washington, D.C. Available from WATS Sea Turtle Manual, c/o NMFS, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149. Mea culpa.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SAIL-ASSISTED COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS: PROCEEDINGS. 458 pp. A collection of 25 papers presented at the International Conference on Sail-Assisted Commercial Fishing Vessels held at Tarpon Springs, Florida on May 15-18, 1983. Photos, drawings, charts, and tables accompany many of the papers (\$10 each - For Sale Only). Florida Sea Grant Report No. 58.

MEETINGS

DECEMBER 5-7: A National Workshop on Computer uses in Fish and Wildlife Programs will be held at Virginia Polytechnical Institute. The workshop will review computer uses in fish and wildlife programs highlighting innovative computer technologies for research, teaching, extension, and management. Emphasis will be on practical applications. The workshop will include invited papers, trade shows, poster sessions, work groups, and time for informal discussions. For information write: Dr. Gerald H. Cross, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University Blacksburg, VA 24061.

DECEMBER 6, 1983: Paddlefish - A Threatened Resource? A Symposium to present current life history, distribution, threats, current management practices and future needs of paddlefish in the United States. Symposium to be held in conjunction with the 45th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Sheraton-St. Louis Hotel, St. Louis, MO, sponsored by the N.C. Division of AFS. For information, contact Joe G. Dillard, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 1110 College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201 (314-449-3761).

EMPLOYMENT AND SALES CHARACTERISTICS OF FLORIDA'S RECREATIONAL BOATING INDUSTRY. 36 pp. Describes the growth of boat manufacturing and boating retail trade in Florida during the period 1970-1981. Trends in sales, employment and the number of firms in the sector are presented along with more detailed socioeconomic information on the boating retail market in Florida and the wage structure. (Single copies free - Multiple copies \$4.00 each). Florida Sea Grant Report No. 52.

Note: Sea Grant reports are available from:

Marine Advisory Program
6022 McCarthy Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Acid Rain/Fisheries - Proceedings of the June 1981 Cornell Acid Rain Symposium. 357 p. Available from AFS at \$25.00 per copy.
Aqua culture Audio-Visual Films Catalog - How to rent, borrow, or buy fish cultural films, slides, and video tapes. Available from AFS at \$2.00 per copy.
Fish Hatchery Management - Most comprehensive "how-to" hatchery manual ever produced. 500 p. Available from AFS at \$20.00 per copy.
Freshwater Marshes. Ecology and Wildlife Management - Milton W. Weller. Univ. Minn. Press. Minneapolis. 146 p. \$8.95 (paper) \$22.50 (cloth).
Design of Water Intake Structures for Fish Protection - Am. Society of Civil Engineers, NY 163 p. \$18.50 per copy.
Water Quality Criteria for Freshwater Fish - 2nd Ed. J.S. Alabaster and R. Lloyd. Butterworth's Inc., Woburn, Mass. 361 p. \$49.95.