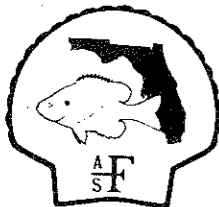


ANNUAL AFS MEETING
AUGUST 12-16, 1984
CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NY

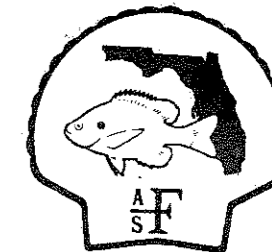
The first call for papers for the March 31-April 3 Symposium on the Role of Fish Culture in Fish Management has been distributed. The Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri. The meeting is being organized by AFS Fisheries Management and Fish Culture Sections. Address correspondence to Delano Graff, Chairman, AFS Symposium, 450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823-9616 or phone (814) 359-5154.

J. Tilmant
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the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



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FROM OUR PRESIDENT: ABOUT OUR PROFESSION

First of all, I'd like this opportunity to share with you some of the information generated by our membership survey.

Nine out of every ten of our members work for the State or Federal Government, or within the State University system. We average 36 years of age. Our membership is divided evenly between those working in marine and fresh water systems. We have all received at least 4 years of college education, and eight out of every ten members have earned advanced masters or doctorate degrees in the fields of biology, fisheries science, or marine science. Our members have been employed as professional scientists for an average of 10½ years, working primarily in the fields of fisheries research, management, and environmental protection. Seven out of every ten members of the Florida Chapter are also members of the parent Society, and have belonged to the Society for over 10 years. Three members out of every ten have received Professional Certification as Fisheries Scientists by our parent Society. Three out of every ten members have also been elected to membership in the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. In addition, our members belong to 18 other recognized professional scientific organizations.

The survey showed that, by far, our primary concern lies in the area of environmental protection. This is consistent with sentiments presented in last years Symposium on Aquatic Habitat and Fisheries Resources; I think we all acknowledge that the quality of aquatic habitat largely dictates our fisheries potential. This concern was followed closely by improving our own professional standards, status, and public image. Other major areas included political action, publication of "White Papers" or position statements on fisheries issues, and improving communication between fisheries professionals and the public.

Two other interesting surveys have crossed my desk in the last few months. I think that you'll be stimulated by their findings, and by some comparisons between fisheries and other in-state industries.

The first study, "A National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation," was conducted jointly by the U. S. Department of Commerce and Department of the Interior as an adjunct to the 1980 national census. Florida ranked third in the nation (behind California and Texas) in number of resident anglers (2,127,000); this figure represented over 25% of our state's population. In addition, an estimated 1,278,000 tourist anglers fished in Florida in 1980. Residents and tourists spent a total of 65,500,000 man-days fishing in our state, and generated direct sport fishing oriented expenses of nearly \$1.4 billion. Florida ranked second in the nation (behind California) in this last category.

Not included in this survey, and in addition to sportfishing, Florida's commercial fishermen harvested fish and shellfish with an estimated wholesale value of \$175 million. At retail prices, and in seafood restaurants, this figure is estimated to exceed \$1.24 billion. Even if we use the lower wholesale value, Florida's sport and commercial fisheries have a minimum combined value approaching \$1.6 billion per year.

For comparative purposes let's look at some other in-state industries. The Florida Phosphate Council reports that their industry produces products with a wholesale value of \$3 billion per year. The Florida Department of Agriculture estimates that our state's citrus industry generates a base wholesale value of \$1.2 billion per year, including costs of picking and harvesting. Production of beef cattle is a \$311 million a year business at the wholesale market level, as reported by the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

It was a real shock to find out that our industry, fishing, outproduces citrus and cattle ranching combined as a source of revenue to the State of Florida. In addition to monies entering private business (again estimated at a minimum \$1.6 billion per year), recreational fishing alone could generate up to \$70 million in state sales tax revenues annually. Taxable retail sales of fish products through restaurants and other outlets would add substantially to this figure.

The two agencies primarily charged with management of our state's fishery resources are the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Florida Department of Natural Resources. In fiscal year 1983-84, these agencies had a combined budget of \$8.5 million earmarked for fisheries research and management. Freshwater fisheries programs (\$3.8 million/year) are totally funded through the State Game Trust Fund, which receives monies from fishing licenses, permits, federal aid, and other miscellaneous sources. No general revenues are appropriated to this funding base. Marine fisheries programs (\$4.7 million/year) received \$3.6 million from general revenue and \$1.1 million from trust fund revenues. Overall, the state returns from general funds to fisheries programs less than 5½ cents for each dollar of the approximately \$70 million of sales tax revenue generated.

It can often be an educational exercise comparing the costs of various government projects. Already \$118 million have been spent to rebuild the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg; the completed cost will approach or exceed \$200 million. Another highway project, State Road I-10 in the Panhandle, has experienced "design problems" and the road surface is prematurely deteriorating. The estimated cost of repairs; another \$150 to \$200 million. Combined, these two transportation projects will cost more than has been spent for fisheries research and management since the state began funding these programs over 40 years ago! The City of Orlando and several outlying communities completed construction of the Iron Bridge Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1981; its final cost of \$67 million is over eight times the amount spent annually by the State of Florida on fisheries management and research. A proposed project to "restore" Lake Apopka in 1977 carried a price tag of \$20 million, two and a half times the current annual statewide budget for all fisheries work. It didn't get past the planning stage.

The second report you might find useful is entitled "Compensation in the Fields of Fish and Wildlife Management," published by the National Wildlife Federation in Washington D. C. It's interesting to note that while we, as professional scientists, are responsible for managing the second most valuable fishery resources in the nation, entry level salaries for state service are ranked approximately 47th out of the 50 in the United States. Top of grade salaries for fishery biologists ranked 48th out of 50. Overall, state salaries for fishery biologists are 22% below the national average. Our conservation law enforcement personnel fare little better, ranking 40th out of the 50 states. By comparison, Florida's public school teachers are well off; a recent U. S. Department of Education report ranked their average salary as being 32nd nationwide.

In a yet to be published update of our national Society's salary review (last printed in the 1979 issue of Fisheries), Florida is listed as one of the ten states having "the most desperate need of substantial salary increases" for fisheries professionals. In this report "average" salaries for state biologists, adjusted for a state-by-state cost of living index, placed Florida in 43rd position, a place we have held since at least 1977, when the first salary review was conducted.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1. University of Wyoming, tenure track Assistant or Associate Professor of Fisheries Science. Starts August 1985, requires Ph.D., includes teaching, research and graduate student supervision. Send letter of application, resume, representative reprints, and letters of recommendation to Dr. Harold Bergman, Box 3166, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071.
2. Old Dominion University, tenure tract faculty position beginning August 1984, Ph.D. required with experience in math modelling, data processing, and fisheries statistics desirable. Salary and rank negotiable. By April 15, send resume and names of 3 references to Chairman, Fisheries Search Comm., Dept. of Oceanography, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23508.
3. Alaska Fish and Game is recruiting for their Commercial Fisheries Division Director position. The program employs 170 full-time and 430 part-time people, with an \$18 million budget. Only highly experienced and well-qualified people need apply. Send resume to Commissioner Don W. Collinsworth, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, AK 99802 or call (907) 465-4100.
4. The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) is looking for a permanent Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer. Headquarters is Edinburgh, Scotland. The purpose is to promote conservation, restoration, enhancement, and rational management of salmon stocks. Requires minimum BS and strong experience in fisheries management research and international relations. Send curriculum vitae by May 1 to Allen E. Peterson, Jr., U. S. Commission to NASCO, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

The goal of the National Wildlife Federation's visiting scholar program is to provide an opportunity for distinguished professionals to serve for up to one year in residence in Washington, D.C. working with NWF staff. Interested fish or wildlife professionals should write Dr. Alan Wentz, NWF, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (202) 797-6849 for details.

An Aquatic Biology Postdoctoral Research Associate opening is available at SUNY, Brockport, NY 14420. It requires a Ph.D., research/publication, biostatistical/computer experience. Write Dr. James Haynes, Dept. of Biological Sciences.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Branch has a vacancy for a Biologist II. Minimum requirements include two years experience in fisheries research development, execution, analyses and reporting, plus a B.S. Degree in fisheries management, limnology and/or aquatic biology. Send applications to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Personnel Branch, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, (512) 479-4954.

An excellent employment opportunity is available with the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission. The job, Executive Administrator for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, is located in Odanah, Wisconsin. Candidates must have executive, administrative, and technical ability and should submit resumes to Henry M. Buffalow, Jr., Executive Administrator, GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

Two Chief Scientists are needed by the Brazil Commission for Marine Resources for research projects on spiny lobsters (*Panulirus gray*) and the Caribbean red snapper (*Lutjanus purpureus*). Interested persons should contact Professor Melquiades Pinto Paiva, Rua Visconde de Inhauma, 134 s/1102 10.091 Rio de Janeiro - RJ - Brazil. Professor Pinto Paiva is an AFS member.

MEETINGS

The annual Midwest Fish Disease Workshop, sponsored by the AFS Fish Health Section and others will be held July 10-12, 1984, at the Little Rock, Arkansas Sheraton Inn where a \$28.00 single rate has been negotiated. For details, contact Fish Disease Section, Fish Farming Experiment Station, USFWS, P.O. Box 860, Stuttgart, AR 72160.

A recently introduced bill (H.R. 4778) which would establish a Marine Angling License, has been introduced into the House of Representatives. I have asked Marine Fisheries Section President, Kirk Beiningen, and Fisheries Administrators Section President, Kim Erickson, to appoint a joint committee to develop an AFS position on the bill. Although perhaps not expected to pass this year, it is a sign of the times and should it not be acted upon this year it will doubtless be back next year.

A series of environmental studies are conducted or contracted for by the U. S. Minerals Management Service as part of their OCS development responsibility. AFS has been somewhat critical of past studies because of what we perceive to be insufficient attention to fisheries considerations. An opportunity to influence future studies has come with my appointment as Chairman of FY 86 Environmental Studies Committee for the mid-Atlantic region. The Committee meets soon to make recommendations and I will do my best to persuade others that fisheries issues deserve more consideration.

A BLM/USFS briefing on the new grazing fee formula was held on April 13 for the purpose of compiling a set of criteria against which the current fee formula and alternatives can be measured. Criteria for the present formula does not include fish and wildlife values sacrificed. I strongly stressed this omission during the briefing and both the FS and BLM staff agreed that fish and wildlife value criteria should be a consideration in the new fee formula and that they would make such a recommendation. Several other conservation groups supported the proposition. The present grazing fee expires next year and the two major public land agencies will make their new fee formula recommendation to Congress very soon.

From the FWS - The soon-to-be completed Gainesville, Florida, Lab should be funded at a minimum of \$500,000, authorized a staff of at least ten persons, and directed to conduct the in-depth exotic species programs which have been envisioned.

We apologize to all life members for failing to include them in the state-by-state listing in the back of the new AFS Directory. All are listed in the alphabetical section, but somehow our computer service company failed to include them in the state listings and we didn't catch the omission in time.

The Acid Rain Information Clearing House (716) 546-3796, has asked for a copy of FISHERIES (Vol. 9, No. 1) noting that the proceedings of the AFS Symposium on Mitigation Techniques for Acidified Surface Waters is of great interest to them.

AFS has been asked to join a select group of conservation organizations who will open up new dialogue with top EPA administrative staff. Initial subjects for discussion are acid rain and non-point source pollution. Volunteer Advisory Staff member and past AFS president, Ray Johnson, will represent us at the initial meeting.

Does anyone have a fisheries contact in Peru? Carl George, long-time Northeastern Division stalwart is going there in July, but AFS has no members in Peru. If you can help, call him at (518) 370-6330.

PUBLICATIONS

The preparation of a procedural manual for AFS Symposia is being explored by Joe Dillard, Tim Modde, Roy Stein, Stan Moberly, Neil Armantrout, and AFS Managing Editor, Bob Kendall. Anyone having specific interest or experience to offer such an effort should communicate with Bob Kendall or one of the above.

Transactions Editor, Bob Kendall, received 261 new manuscripts during 1983, the most ever in a single year. Of these, 59 were related to three symposia that will be published in 1984: the "Seventh Larval Fish Conference," "Rhythmicity in Fishes," and "Striped Bass: Environmental Risks in Fresh and Salt Water."

An order for more than 4,000 copies of "Stream Obstruction Removal Guidelines" has been received by the AFS from the Soil Conservation Service, which plans to put one in every field office. Developed and endorsed by AFS, The Wildlife Society and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Guidelines should also be in every fish and wildlife field office and in every fish and wildlife resource classroom. Copies are \$1.00 each with a minimum order of two.

The home office reports they are down to their last 3 copies of the book, "A Review of the EPA Redbook: Quality Criteria for Water" by the AFS Water Quality Section. They are not accepting any more orders for this publication.

A listing of worldwide aquaculture journals has been prepared by Mary Joe Lewis and will be published in FISHERIES. Meanwhile, copies of that list are available upon request from the Home Office.

A publication - Contemporary Fisheries Research in Louisiana has been produced by the Louisiana AFS Chapter and a copy thoughtfully supplied to the Central Office. Send questions or requests for one of a limited number of copies to Barton Rogers, Secretary/Treasurer, LA Chapter AFS, 245 Parker Ag Coliseum, LSU, Baton, Rouge, LA 70803.

There are about 121 fishery biologists in state employment; the direct cost of upgrading their salary scale to the top 25% nationally would be \$550,000, an increase of 6.5% in existing State agency fishery budgets. Vince Williams.

CHAPTER SUBMITS POSITION STATEMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has received your proposed rules 17-6.080 and 17-6.300 and offers the following comments.

First, we strongly support the total ban on nutrient discharges directly to lakes or within tributary streams at a point less than 24 hours flow time from a lake.

We offer the following changes based on your Workshop draft #3, dated April, 1984.

On page 2, line 2, we recommend that state of the art phosphorus reduction be required. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this is a .2 mg/l measured as total effluent phosphorus. We request that you change the existing figure of 1.0 mg/l to .2 mg/l, as was in your first draft of this rule, to reflect this change.

With regard to page 3, line 11, we recommend that the words "including fish populations" be added following the term "fauna." Since nearly all of our lakes are currently Class III Waters, the best uses of which are defined by law as recreation and propagation of fish and wildlife, we feel this would be consistent with the intent of the rule.

Also, on page 3 we recommend that lines 11 through 13 be rewritten as follows: "The affirmative demonstration may be satisfied by a showing of predictive changes of 10% or greater in either numerical abundance, species composition, and diversity, or the primary productivity of the lake as measured by chlorophyll a." This language would set a definable level of predictive change for organisms other than algae, for which your agency already has established a maximum allowable change of 10%. The addition of the term "numerical abundance" is a critical part of this change, since this would allow the use of individual species as indicators of nutrient pollution and eutrophication, rather than fish populations as a whole. Lakes can become highly degraded while at the same time showing little change in species diversity, although numerical abundance of individual species may change drastically.

Basically, we feel that your proposed rules 17-6.080 and 17-6.300 will afford additional necessary protection to fisheries resources beyond water quality standards contained in Ch. 17-3. We generally feel that provisions allowing discharge to tributary streams are still weak, but that this rule, in general, merits our strong support.

LETTER TO FLORIDA HOUSE AND SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The following letter was sent our state legislators by Vince Williams--

"Did you know that sportfishing in our state is a 1.4 billion dollar a year industry, and that sportfishing generates 200 million dollars more than our state's citrus industry each year? If you didn't, don't feel surprised. Very few people realize the economic impact that sport and commercial fisheries have in Florida.

By way of introduction, the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society currently has 140 members, all of whom are professional scientists, working in the fields of fisheries research, management, and environmental protection. The primary goal we have established for this year is to educate both the general public and our elected officials on the economics of Florida's industry.

Enclosed, for your information, is a message presented to our members at our annual meeting. Please find the time to read this as the content will be both informative and useful to you. We feel that after reading this, you will come to conclusions which parallel those of our membership. Basically, these are as follows:

First, fishing is one of our state's major industries. In addition to its economic impacts, fishing serves as a significant recreational resource for 25% of our state residents.

Second, state fisheries research and management programs are drastically underfunded in light of the revenues generated by this industry. A significant need exists to increase funding, preferably through legislative designation of 'dedicated' sources which would add to existing trust funds and license fees.

Third, a strong legislative commitment to our fisheries resources mandates that salary scales for Fishery Scientists employed by state agencies be upgraded. Florida must be able to attract and maintain a highly trained, motivated, and experienced professional staff capable of managing our fisheries.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and the attached material. Should you have any questions concerning any of these items, please feel free to contact me at my home (305-846-7827) or office (305-847-7293)."

Note: In addition to the above letter, Vince has also written to Dr. Grosindanner, Executive Director, Florida Department of Natural Resources, and Col. Brantly, Executive Director, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, concerning our salary issue. He cited information from the chapter and national surveys indicating the need for salary increases and provided several suggested changes in state classification and employment of fishery scientist. Included were:

1. Salary increases specific to fishery biologist.
2. Special classification series for fishery scientist.
3. Second classification of professional fishery scientist (modeled after professional engineer series). Criteria for this classification based on AFS Fisheries Scientist Certification.
4. Joint approach in classification and employment of fishery scientist by DNR and GFWFC.

Contact Vince if you would like a copy of this letter. JTT.

THANKS TO OUR PRESIDENT

The following letter was received from Jon Mills, Chairman, Florida House Representative, Natural Resources Committee:

RE: Wetlands Protection Act of 1984

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you very much for your time and your concern over recent weeks in helping us identify and address the special problems created for agricultural operations by certain provisions of the proposed Wetlands Protection Act.

As it is obvious, this legislative proposal has been one of the most controversial in recent years. Your help, and your willingness to sit down and discuss the seemingly countless options that we have studied has been of enormous value in getting this proposal where it is now.

I look forward to working with you in the future. Sincerely, Jon Mills, Chairman.

Thanks for representing us Vince!

NATIONAL NEWS

COOP RESEARCH UNITS

Though we are encouraged by initial Congressional response to the funding crisis in the Fish and Wildlife Coop Research Units, we are convinced that serious problems still exist. The \$3.7 million requested by the Administration is not adequate, and the allocation of the necessary 85-100 full time salaried positions is far from assured.

Every AFS (U.S.) member is represented by two senators and one congressman. If your representatives are members of the Appropriations Committee or Interior Subcommittee of either house, then you are implored to write them to ask that:

1. the Coop Units be funded at the \$4.7 to \$5.0 million level in fiscal year 1985;
2. the Appropriations bill include obligatory language providing for 85-100 full time equivalents (FTE's) in the Coop Unit system;
3. the State Coordinating Committee in each state be the body to determine when and if Units should be combined.

Please WRITE TODAY.

STATUS OF D-J EXPANSION BILL

Despite news reports to the contrary, the Senate has not yet passed D-J Expansion, though a giant step has recently been taken in that direction. What really happened was this:

At 5:00 a.m., on Friday, April 13, after an all night session and by a vote of 76 to 5, the Senate approved the Dole Amendment, a 1,300 page, 5-year, \$48 billion dollar "tax package" amendment to H.R. 2163. (H.R. 2163, as you recall, is the July 12, 1983, House-passed amendment to the Federal Boat Safety Act--our D-J Expansion Bill.) The Senate version of H.R. 2163 is not yet ready to go to conference with the House because work is continuing on a second Senate amendment to include \$25 billion over 5 years of spending cuts. The Senators will go to work on these spending cuts as soon as they return from Easter recess.

When the Senate has considered and passed the spending reduction amendment to H.R. 2163, they are expected to combine their tax and spending amendments and substitute them for the language of the recently passed House tax/spending bill, H.R. 4170. When this is done the House and Senate will appoint conference committee(s) to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of H.R. 4170. We have high hopes that the differences can be resolved without much difficulty, that both bodies will subsequently approve the compromise and that the President will then sign the bill into law.

With good luck, the process could be complete by the end of May.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TERMS OF OFFICE FOR ELECTED LEADERSHIP-The semiannual meeting reports by Division and Section Presidents disclosed excellent compliance with the EXCOM's request that all AFS subunits adjust officer terms to provide for August or September change of command. A few Chapters have declined, considering the change too disruptive to their operation. Hopefully, within a few years the annual term of service of all AFS subunits and Parent Society officers will nearly coincide.

FISH TUMORS - In response to what AFS EXCOM members perceive to be widespread public concern over fish tumors, the EXCOM issued a near unanimous request for the AFS Fish Health Section, (in consultation with other interested Sections), to prepare a report for the annual meeting concerning the significance of fish tumors with emphasis on making the report meaningful to the public.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS - Because of the increasing number of AFS journals, there is concern that Life Memberships might one day become a financial burden. To guard against this, the EXCOM voted that future Life Members will receive FISHERIES plus any two other journals of their choice.

POSTAGE AND JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICES - To compensate for recently announced postal increases in Canada and pending increases in the U. S. 1985 subscription prices for TRANSACTIONS and NAJFM were increased by \$1.00 for individual members and \$5.00 for Library Members.

PUBLICATION SALES - Because rising costs for storage, labor, postage, and handling can lead to selling publications at a loss, the EXCOM gave the staff authority as necessary to adjust publication prices so that the Society realizes a fair return.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION - The EXCOM directed the Professional Certification Committee to develop a proposed "Tiered Certification Procedure," to do so in close consultation with The Wildlife Society certification group, and to report back to the EXCOM at the August 1984 meeting.

SPORT FISHERMEN/FISHERIES SCIENCE CONFERENCE - The EXCOM endorsed the developing plans for the fall 1985 conference and urged Committee Chairman, Bob Wiley, to continue his detailed planning. The goal of the conference is better communication and understanding between fisheries resource users and managers.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, AFS

AFS has written to the Corps of Engineers to protest their recent proposal for a new mechanism for determining fish and wildlife effects of construction projects. Rather than continue the practice of transferring funds to the FWS to cover costs of such cooperative investigations, the Corps is considering building "in-house" capability or contracting with sources other than FWS. The AFS Volunteer Advisory Staff developed a carefully considered and hopefully persuasive response which was sent to Assistant Secretary of the Army Gianelli.

AFS monetary values and fish kill counting guidelines were recently used by West Virginia biologists to assess and collect a \$170,500 fine for an Ohio River fish kill, plus the \$8,650 cost of the investigation. For details write Bernard Dowler, Assistant Director, Wildlife Resources, WV DNR, Charleston, WV 25305.

A slide documented presentation entitled, "Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fisheries Resources" has been completed by the Florida Chapter and will be presented at the AFS annual meeting during the Leadership Lunch, to which all subunit officers are invited. The public oriented slide show evolved from the recent Chapter symposium and has been presented to a group of legislative leaders in the state capitol. Past President, Bill Seaman, and current President, Vince Williams, have played major roles and will be in attendance in Cornell.