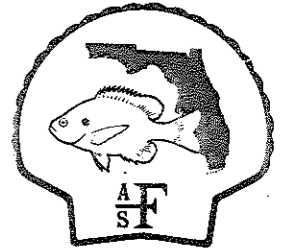


The Shell-Cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



VOLUME 6(2)

OCTOBER 1986

7TH ANNUAL MEETING ISSUE

Plans for the 7th Annual Florida Chapter meeting have been arranged. The meeting will be held from Tuesday, 3 February 1987, to Thursday, 5 February, 1987, at the Withlacoochee Training Center in Brooksville. The topic of this year's symposium session is "The role of Florida's Aquatic Biologists." The program committee is arranging to have this topic addressed by speakers from a variety of backgrounds. Contributed papers will also be presented. See the enclosed sheet for the tentative meeting agenda and registration form. Directions to the training center are provided on the reverse side of the agenda sheet.

As in the past, meals and dormitory-style lodging for members requiring accommodations will be provided for a minimal fee. The total meal and lodging package costs \$41, but for those who cannot attend the entire meeting, partial packages are available. Please check the appropriate blocks on the registration form and send the form with the \$20 registration fee to Wes Porak no later than 15 December 1986. It is not necessary (but it would be appreciated) to remit the package fees or the chapter membership fee at this time, but your registration fee is needed to reserve your place at the training center. Reservations are accepted on a first pay--first served basis.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 7th Annual Meeting will host a contributed papers section from 0930-1200 hours on Thursday, 5 February. Persons willing to make an oral presentation of their work must submit an abstract not exceeding 200 words by 31 December 1986 to: Barbara Hoffman, Florida Department of Natural Resources, 100 8th Avenue, S.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Speakers will be allotted 12 minutes for presentations and three minutes for questions. Student papers are welcomed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thus far this year, the Florida Chapter is progressing well. Through the work of Barbara Hoffman, Stan Moberly, and Dennis Renfro, all AFS members in Florida were contacted and asked to join our Florida Chapter. This membership drive has netted over 30 members, raising our current membership to 141. Although this is the highest total in the past three years, we still must actively recruit new members while persuading old members to renew their memberships. A membership application is enclosed in this newsletter. Speaking of membership, I would encourage anyone in the Florida Chapter who is not an AFS member to join. Annual dues are only \$37, a bargain for any national organization, especially one as professional as AFS. The Florida Chapter will always be glad to utilize the services and input of non-AFS members. However, starting this year, only AFS members will be able to hold

(Continued on p.2)

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William Loftus
FAFS Newsletter Editor
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Message (Cont.)

an office in the Chapter and vote in Chapter elections. These rules are clearly stated in AFS guidelines for Chapters. Another reason for joining AFS is to be eligible for certification as an Associate Fisheries Scientist or Certified Fisheries Scientist. The state of Mississippi has already approved a 5% salary increase for those fisheries biologists who are Certified Fisheries Scientists. Vince Williams and Paul Shafland are looking into the possibility of similar raises in Florida for Certified Scientists. Applications for certification will be available at our annual Chapter meeting in February.

Orders for our Chapter publication, "Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources" continue to arrive. We have sold about 240 books so far and have approximately 500 left. The books have been very well received and offer something for everyone interested in learning more about Florida's aquatic environment. Wes and I are now attempting to have the book accepted for use as a reference book in Florida high schools and a textbook in colleges. Bill Seaman will use the book as a textbook this year in one of his classes at UF. I hope many more professors will take Bill's lead and require this book for their classes too. Word-of-mouth advertising is still one of the best ways to make other people aware and interested in the book, so spread the word.

Begin planning for our annual meeting in Brooksville this February. The program Barbara Hoffman is preparing appears very promising and challenging. Two exciting raffles with many prizes are also being planned. Depending upon the status of our treasury, Florida Chapter caps and patches may be available.

Finally, congratulations go to Joe Dillard of Missouri who was elected Second Vice President of AFS this year. Our best wishes and luck goes to Joe in his new responsibilities.

Marty Hale

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FAFS - President Marty Hale, President-Elect Barbara Hoffman, and Secretary/Treasurer Wes Porak in attendance:

There was considerable discussion about financing the Chapter's book "Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources," since we owed approximately \$6,800 and had a combined total of only \$3,133 in the treasury and GFC trust fund. Plans were made to finance, pick up, and distribute the books.

Due to cost over-runs on the book and resulting deficit in the Chapter's budget, it was decided to increase annual membership dues to \$10 for 1987-88. It was felt that \$10 was still very reasonable.

Student membership dues were set at \$5 to encourage student participation. In addition, Marty Hale plans to contact fisheries professors prior to the annual meeting to further encourage student involvement.

Salary adjustments for state biologists were discussed. Future efforts to make salaries competitive with neighboring states will include pushing for salary increases for biologists that are certified professionals through AFS (or other professional organizations such as the Wildlife Society).

Since our Chapter is an affiliate of the parent society of AFS, Marty Hale stressed that our group must abide by the by-laws of AFS. In particular, all committee members agreed that current AFS membership should be required to be a voting chapter member or to be a chapter officer.

Initial plans were discussed for the 1987 annual meeting. Barbara Hoffman is planning an agenda (with invited speakers) to help biologists improve the practical application of their research results when dealing with environmental concerns.

Caps or embroidered patches with the Florida AFS insignia are being looked into and may be ordered for the 1987 meeting.

FAFS CHAPTER SYMPOSIUM VOLUME "FLORIDA AQUATIC HABITAT AND FISHERY RESOURCES" edited by Bill Seaman is now available. To order a copy, send \$15.00 to Wes Porak, FAFS Treasurer, P.O. Box 1903, Eustis, FL 32727-1903.

"MANUAL ON SHARK FISHING". Copies of this booklet are available for \$2.00 by writing Florida Sea Grant Extension Program, 6022 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

"THE PADDLEFISH: STATUS, MANAGEMENT AND PROPAGATION", Special publication #7, has been published by the North Central Division of AFS. This book is the first attempt to collect all basic information on paddlefish in one volume. Copies may be ordered by sending \$9.00 to Joe Dillard, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 1110 College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201.

"A GUIDE TO APPROVED CHEMICALS IN FISH PRODUCTION AND FISHERY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT" is a publication that provides factual information on products that have been approved by regulatory agencies in selecting a needed compound and/or deciding whether or not to use a given chemical. To receive a free copy, contact: Technical Information Officer, National Fishery Research Laboratory, Box 818, LaCrosse, WI 54602-0818.

"THE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF INTERIOR STOCKS OF CUTTHROAT TROUT" is now out and headed through the AFS FISHERIES review process. Copies at \$10.00 are available from J.S. Griffith, Department of Biological Sciences, Box 8007, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID 83209.

"THE TIDEMARSH GUIDE TO FISHES" is a wholly unique arrangement of all the coastal freshwater and saltwater fishes from amphioxus and anchovies, to stripers, sturgeons, trouts, and tomcod. Contact: Mervin F. Roberts, One Duck River Lane, Old Lyme, CT 06371. \$10.95 ISBN 0-9615047-0-6.

Editor's Note: I have tried to include all recent publications by chapter members in the above section. If you have a recent publication that would be of interest to chapter members, please send me a reprint or citation so that I can mention it in the next newsletter.

"RESERVOIR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, STRATEGIES FOR THE 80'S" is the proceedings of the 1983 National Symposium on Managing Reservoir Fishery Resources. This hardbound, 327-page volume was produced by the AFS Southern Division Reservoir Committee, and edited by Mike Van Den Avyle. Copies are available from AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, for \$15.00.

RECENT PAPERS BY CHAPTER MEMBERS

Clugston, J.P. 1986. Strategies for reducing risks from introductions of aquatic organisms: the federal perspective. Fisheries 11: 26-29.

Kushlan, J.A., S.A. Voorhees, W.F. Loftus, and P.C. Frohring. 1986. Length, mass, and calorific relationships of Everglades animals. Florida Scientist 49: 65-79.

Seaman, W., Jr. (Ed.). 1986. Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources. Publ. Florida Chapter of AFS. (Papers authored by many chapter members).

Shafland, P.L. 1986. A review of Florida's efforts to regulate, assess, and manage exotic fishes. Fisheries 11: 20-25.

Wattendorf, R.J. 1986. Rapid identification of triploid grass carp with a Coulter counter and channelizer. Prog. Fish-Culturist 48: 125-132.

EMPLOYMENT/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

GRADUATE RESEARCH POSITION IN MARINE BIOLOGY - TOXICOLOGY is available at University of West Florida for qualified MS candidates. Position lasts up to 12 months, pays \$10,000 stipend, and involves work on estuarine organisms and toxicology. Applicant will complete coursework at the University and conduct thesis under Dr. F. L. Mayer at EPA Environmental Research Lab in Gulf Breeze, FL. Contact Dr. Charles D'Asaro, Department of Biology, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514-5751, or call (904) 474-2750.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LAB, CORVALLIS, OR, is accepting application for one or more positions with research teams working on air pollutants on lakes, streams, wetlands, watersheds, crops, and forests. Appointments generally two years. Salary negotiable. Three specific positions are: (1) limnologist/aquatic ecologist/aquatic chemist/environmental scientist; (2) watershed scientist/hydrologist/ecological modeler/soil scientist; (3) forest ecologist/ecologist/ plant ecologist. Contact Dr. Robert T. Lackey (502) 757-4806 or FTS 420-4806.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE KANSAS FISH AND GAME COMMISSION is the title of a small, newly-published booklet. The brochure describes the Commission, its organization, and its purposes. It discusses job classes, gives job descriptions, qualifications, salaries, fringe benefits, and promotion opportunities, etc. For a copy write Mike Theurer at Box 54A, Rt. 2, Pratt, KS 67124.

TRAVEL GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE for full-time students from schools within Southern Division boundaries. Applications for grants of \$100 each, from the Southern Division, may be obtained by writing to R. Don Estes, Unit Leader, Coop Fishery Research Unit, Tennessee Tech. University, P.O. Box 5114, Cookeville, TN 38505.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR A WOMAN Ph.D. FISHERIES SCIENCE STUDENT was initiated at the annual meeting during a caucus of Women in Fisheries organized by Brenda Norcross (804) 642-7082. The scholarship will be known as the Dr. J. Frances Allen Scholarship in honor of Dr. Allen, who pioneered women's involvement in AFS. Gil Radonski announced that the Sport Fisheries Research Foundation had authorized "seed money" of \$2,500 with additional allocations planned during the fund's initial years. At its final meeting, AFS Excom voted unanimously that all proceeds from the 1987 annual meeting raffle be directed to the new fund.

DIRECTOR, FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DIVISION, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION. Direct issues action with state and federal resource agencies, Congress, courts, conservation organizations; extensive administrative functions and supervision of staff biologists and attorneys. Require Ph.D. or M.S. in Wildlife Management and minimum of 5 years experience beyond Ph.D. or 8 years beyond M.S. Applications accepted until November 15, 1986. Send letter of application, resume, and names of three references to: Lynn A Greenwalt, Resources Conservation Department, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 637-3714.

A RESOURCE SPECIALIST IS BEING RECRUITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES for assignment in Washington. Applicants require M.S. in Fisheries or Wildlife Management (Fisheries preferred to balance staff) or B.S. with four years experience with state natural resource agency. Will provide staff support to Executive Vice-president and prepare bimonthly newsletter. Salary negotiable, starting date about January 1. Call (202) 639-8200 for information.

"Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources"

IT FINALLY ARRIVED!! The Chapter's book is an excellent publication due to the tremendous effort by editor Bill Seaman and the numerous committee members, authors and reviewers. Sales have been steady, now totaling about 240. An additional 1,000 advertising brochures were ordered to distribute to all libraries and school districts in Florida.

Printing and distribution had to overcome some major financial obstacles. Substantial editing after the "galley proof" stage of the book's printing required additional typing, layout artwork, and re-photographing of pages. Unanticipated charges raised the printing/typing cost \$5,029 from \$7,563.22 to a final cost of \$12,592.22 (detailed costs for production are available from Wes Porak). Since our meager treasury could not absorb these overrun charges, a \$3,000 "non-obligation" loan was secured by our President from an "AFS Chapter Assistance" fund of the Southern Division of AFS. Book sales will hopefully cover the remainder of the Chapter's deficit. However, all 750 books need to be sold to finish paying the word processing charges and Southern Division loan.

Please help by passing the word about our book! Copies are available for \$15 from Wes Porak.

If you attended the 1983 Chapter meeting and have not received your copy, contact Wes at (904) 357-6631. Books sent to several people who attended that meeting have been returned marked "Addressee Unknown." If anyone reading the newsletter knows the whereabouts of the following people, please send Wes their addresses so that he can mail their copies to them:

Judith Applegate	Paul Schmidt
Cindy Poltz	Mike Burton
Christina Newhouse	Eric Goldring
Steve Travis	James Michaels

Treasury Report

We currently have a \$162.85 balance in our account. We recently paid the last printing bill (\$1,134) for the book, but we owe about \$180 for advertising brochures. We also owe \$1,492.46 to F.S.U. for word processing charges and we hope to eventually pay back the \$3,000 grant from the Southern Division of AFS. There is presently \$300 owed to us for book sales from government agency purchase orders.

THE FLORIDA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION TOOK TESTIMONY RECENTLY FROM THE SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE. The Commission met on March 6 regarding the economic ramifications of designating redfish as a gamefish.

In the state of Florida, where fishing is as common as good weather, the proposed designation of redfish as a gamefish is an important economic issue. The Commission learned that the average retail value associated with commercial redfish was \$3.60 per pound, while the average per pound retail expenditure of a sport caught redfish was \$27.85 per pound, almost nine times the amount for a commercially landed fish. The expected net economic gain to the State of Florida if redfish were to be designated as gamefish would be \$25 million in retail sales expenditures above commercially caught redfish.

After taking testimony, the Commission voted 5-2 in favor of prohibiting the commercial sale of redfish. Despite the Commission's vote, the road to gamefish designation for redfish is not over. A draft rule must be created and the Cabinet and Governor of the State of Florida then must give their approval. In addition, the commercial fishing lobby will probably challenge the decision.

FIRST STEP TAKEN TOWARDS IMPROVING SALARIES FOR FLORIDA'S FISH SCIENTISTS

A significant first step towards alleviating severe salary inequities for Florida's Fish/Wildlife Scientists was approved by this year's State Legislature. The critical class adjustments of 12% plus the 5% given to all state employees represent the first positive indications that state government is willing and able to do something about this situation. While all that is needed was not achieved (particularly in light of the fact that Florida's salaries ranked 47th in the nation), this year's salary adjustments are nearly 300% greater than those received during the past 8 years or so. Unfortunately, this falls far short of the increases needed for Florida to become competitive with Alabama and Georgia, or even other Florida governmental agencies and private sector employers.

The purpose of this note is to recognize and thank those individuals who helped secure these increases, to encourage others to take time to thank these people individually, and to remind everyone that now is the time to start working towards having these inequities eliminated during the 1987 Legislative Session. Based on this year's success and the encouragement received from the Legislature to go for it again, even greater progress could be made next year. Florida's Fish/Wildlife Scientist salaries must be made competitive if the state is to attract and retain employees equal to the challenges facing them. As such, this issue should be a priority item for any individual or group concerned with the fish/wildlife resources of this state.

Credit for salary increases in 1986 goes primarily to Col. R. M. Brantly, who identified and made this issue the Game and Fish Commission's Number One priority; without this designation, little legislative attention would have been given to the issue. Furthermore, the entire Commission administrative staff, particularly Jerry Banks and Ken Stivers, worked long and diligent hours to secure passage of these adjustments.

AFS Florida Chapter President Robin Lewis and past-president Vince Williams wrote more letters and bent more ears on this topic than probably anyone else. Important support and assistance was also given by DNR's Drs. Gissendanner, Ed Joyce, and Karen Steidinger. Last, but certainly not least, are those individuals who took of their own time and initiative to write their legislators and/or who contact people in an effort to gain their support.

Of course, the bottom line on salary adjustments comes from the Legislature. Several legislators and their staffs went far beyond the call of duty in supporting salary increases, and a letter of thank you is certainly due to them. Among the most supportive legislators, in alphabetical order were: Senators--Betty Castor, Harry Johnston, George Kirkpatrick, Franklin Mann, Gwen Margolis, Pat Neal (Subcommittee Chairman), and Pat Thomas; Representatives--Marilyn Evans-Jones, Gene Hodges (Subcommittee Chairman), Tom Gallagher, W. W. Gardner, Elaine Gordon, Carol Hanson, Thomas Hazouri, Jon Mills, and Herbert Morgan. Many of these legislators will be back next year and certainly they represent the nucleus from which future efforts should be directed if Florida is ever to elevate the salaries of their Fish/Wildlife Scientists to a level commensurate with their socio-economic and biological importance.

While those mentioned above all played critical roles in obtaining this year's salary increases, it is by no means a complete list of those who worked hard to gain these increases (e.g., many Legislative Aides and Staff Analysts worked hard on this issue, often times having to hand carry it step-by-step through the Legislative process). Certainly, there are names I inadvertently or unknowingly omitted, but no less a sincere thanks is intended on their behalf.

(Continued on p. 8)

Salary (Cont.)

One side benefit of this year's Legislative deliberations involving Fish/Wildlife Scientist salaries is that nearly every legislator left with a better awareness and greater respect for our profession and its importance to the State of Florida. Every Fish/Wildlife Scientist should and can be proud of these accomplishments but much remains to be done before our profession achieves the status it truly deserves.

Paul L. Snafland

In his usual self-effacing manner, Paul Snafland failed to list his own contributions to this salary issue. Paul, along with other GFC biologists, was responsible in large part for drafting GFC recommendations concerning salaries. During the legislative session, he was often called to Tallahassee to assist in educating individual legislators on the magnitude of the problem we, as fishery biologists, face with regard to salaries and professional recognition. He spent many evenings away from his wife, kids, and other responsibilities to represent our needs. He did an excellent job for both DNR and GFC employees, and deserves your thanks. He can be reached at (305) 391-6409.

Vince Williams

NATIONAL FISHERIES NEWS

A GRANT OF TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS HAS COME FROM THE SHELL COMPANIES FOUNDATION for the AFS publication of "A list of common and scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates from the U.S. and Canada - Mollusca." Under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert F. Hutton, the Names of Invertebrates Committee has completed the manuscript which includes common and scientific names of more than 5,700 molluscan species. The 5-year committee effort was accomplished in close cooperation with the American Malacological Union and the National Shellfisheries Association. Dr. Donna Turgeon recently replaced Dr. Hutton as chairperson of the Committee on the Common and Scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates. Donna has been a principal contributor to the work of that committee and will follow-through on the work which Bob Hutton organized and set in motion.

AFS IS SEARCHING FOR FUNDING for the November 1987 International Reef Research Conference in Miami, Florida. It's an ambitious effort of Florida Sea Grant College and a committee chaired by Bill Seaman, Jr. If you have suggestions, questions, or comments, call or write Bill at (904) 392-5870, Building 803, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

PLANS FOR AN OFFICIAL AFS FISH COOKBOOK are developing under the leadership of Joe McCraren at the National Fisheries Center, RD #3, Box 41, Leetown, West Virginia 25430 (304) 725-8461. Preliminary plans call for a much more comprehensive publication than just a list of recipes. You'll be hearing much more in the months ahead, but meanwhile I urge you to contact Joe with your ideas and comments.

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION is establishing a committee to track accomplishments and status of the Wallop-Breaux projects and funding by states. President-Elect Jim Adis (Wisconsin) will chair the committee. The committee hopefully will be able to provide the Executive Director of AFS with up-to-date information on Wallop-Breaux in preparation for the 1988 reauthorization of the legislation.

INTRODUCED SPECIES TERMINOLOGY AND THE AFS POSITION STATEMENT ON INTRODUCED SPECIES, both recently published in FISHERIES, were unanimously approved by the Excom with a minor editorial change to delete examples. The two statements appeared in July-August 1984 and March-April 1986 issues of FISHERIES, respectively.

A PLAN FOR AN AFS-SPONSORED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE will be developed by the staff with the proposal and estimated cost reported to the Excom at its March '87 meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/COURSES

Florida

January 13-16, 1987

11th Annual Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fisheries Technological Conference. Holiday Inn, Tampa International Airport, Tampa, Florida. For info: W.S. Otwell, 207 Food Science Bldg., Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

February 3-5, 1987

Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of AFS. Brooksville Training Center, Brooksville, FL. Information is presented elsewhere in this newsletter. For additional info, call Barbara Hoffman, (813) 896-8626.

National

November 9-14, 1986

22nd Annual American Water Resources Association Conference. Marriott Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, GA. For info: Dr. Phillip Greeson, U.S.G.S., 75 Spring St., S.W., Atlanta, GA (404) 221-5174.

November 10-14, 1986

39th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. Princess Hotel, Hamilton, Bermuda. For info: Frank Williams, 4600 Rickenbacker Cswy, Miami, FL (305) 361-4191.

November 11-14, 1986

13th Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop. University of Moncton, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. For info: Prof. J. Lakshminarayana, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Moncton, Moncton, N.B., Canada. (506) 858-4323.

November 18-20, 1986

Fish larvae in fresh water. A short course on ecology sampling of freshwater fish larvae will be presented at Colorado State University University, Ft. Collins, CO. For info: Call (303) 491-5089.

November 20-23, 1986

Annual Meeting of the AFS Southern Division/40th Annual Conference of the S.E. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Baltimore, Maryland. For info: Gene Deems, Maryland D.N.R., Tawes State Office Bldg., Annapolis, MD. (301) 269-3776.

December 7-10, 1986

Annual Meeting of the North Central Division of AFS. Red Lion Inn, Omaha, Nebraska. For info: Darrell Feit, P.O. Box 4558, Lincoln, NE. (402) 332-3901.

May 26-29, 1987

The Fifth Symposium on Coastal and Ocean Management: Coastal Zone 87 - a "Spotlight on Solutions". The Westin Hotel, Seattle, Washington. For info: Delores Clark, NOAA External Affairs, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

7th Annual Meeting
Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society

"The Role of Aquatics Biologists in Florida"
(What is it)?

February 4 & 5, 1987
Forestry Training Center, Brooksville
(9 miles north of Brooksville on U.S. 41)

February 4, 8:30-noon:

Invited speakers will discuss state and federal agency organization, their perspectives on the problems of environmental management, and where biologists fit in.

- 8:30-8:45 Opening remarks and introduction
- 8:45-9:10 Mr. Ed Joyce (Division Director, Division of Marine Resources, DNR)
- 9:10-9:35 Mr. Bob Wattendorf (Assistant Director of Fisheries, FG&FWFC)
- 9:35-10:00 Mr. Alan Burdette (Biologist, DER)
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-10:40 Federal perspective
- 10:40-11:05 Mr. Gus Muench (Founder, All-Release Sport Fishing Society of America)
- 11:05-12:00 Questions and discussion

February 4, 1:30-5:00:

A wide variety of speakers will discuss ways in which biologists can become more involved in resource issues and help alleviate some of the problems discussed in the morning session.

- 1:30-1:35 Introduction
- 1:35-2:00 Dr. Bernie Yokel (President, Florida Audubon Society)
- 2:00-2:25 Mr. Tom Reese (Attorney, Manasota 88)
- 2:25-2:50 Ms. Ann Whitfield (Florida Public Interest Research Group)
- 2:50-3:05 Break
- 3:05-3:30 Mr. John Mulliken (Journalist, Sun-Sentinel)
- 3:30-4:15 Mr. David Jemison (Producer, Media Rare, Inc.)
- 4:15-4:50 Questions and discussion
- 4:50-5:00 Closing remarks

February 4, 7:00-?: Social time (volleyball, ping-pong, beer, popcorn, good conversation)

February 5, 8:30-9:30: Business meeting

9:30-noon: Contributed papers

Fees

Registration.....\$20.00
Chapter dues.....\$10.00, \$5.00 student.
Meals and dorm-style lodging package*.....\$41.00

*Includes lodging on 2/3, 3 meals and lodging on 2/4, and breakfast on 2/5.
Partial packages also are available.

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Marty Hale

President-Elect
Barbara Hoffman

Secretary-Treasurer
Wesley Porak

Past President
Robin Lewis



November 26, 1986

Ed Joyce, Jr., Director
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Marine Resources
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Ed:

This letter is your official invitation to speak at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society. The conference will be held in Brooksville on February 4 and 5; your 25 minute talk is scheduled for early morning of the 4th. I have enclosed a tentative schedule for your review.

I have designed this meeting from a frustrated biologist's point of view. The morning session will discuss problems of management and the afternoon session will cover how biologists can alleviate some of the problems discussed in the morning. As we briefly discussed over the telephone, I am hoping your talk will cover three issues from a DNR perspective: 1) agency organization in terms of fisheries management, 2) the problems of management as related to agency organization, and 3) where biologists fit in. A 40 minute question/answer/discussion period will follow the morning session.

I also enclosed two posters that announce the meeting. May I ask you to place them in central locations where biologists can see them? Thanks, Ed!

I look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please call me.

Very sincerely,

Barbara A. Hoffman
President-Elect and Conference Leader
Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

BH:pm
Enclosures

7th Annual Meeting
 Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society
"The Role of Aquatics Biologists in Florida"
 (What is it)?

February 4 & 5, 1987
 Forestry Training Center, Brooksville

NOTES: 1. All meals will be served in the dining hall at these times:

7:00-8:00 Breakfast
 12:00 Lunch
 5:30 Dinner

2. Our meetings will be held in the Training Building.

3. The evening socials will be held in the Recreation Building and will begin at 7:00pm.

February 3:

5:30 Dinner
 7:00 Social Time (Recreation Building)

February 4:

7:00 Breakfast

8:30-noon: Invited speakers will discuss state and federal agency organization, their perspectives on the problems of environmental management, and where biologists fit in.

8:30 Opening remarks

8:45 Mr. Ed Joyce (Division Director, Division of Marine Resources, DNR)

9:10 Mr. Bob Wattendorf (Assistant Director of Fisheries, FG&FWFC)

9:35 Mr. Alan Burdette (Biologist, DER)

10:00 Break

10:15 Mr. Ed Burgess (Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, NMFS)

10:40 Mr. Gus Muench (Founder, All-Release Sport Fishing Society of America)

11:05 Questions and discussion

Noon-1:30 Lunch

1:30-5:00 A wide variety of speakers will discuss ways in which biologists can become more involved in resource issues and help alleviate some of the problems discussed in the morning session.

1:30 Introduction

1:35 Dr. Bernie YokeI (President, Florida Audubon Society)

2:00 Mr. Tom Reese (Attorney, Manasota 88)

2:25 Ms. Susan Berryman (Florida Public Interest Research Group)

2:50 Break

3:05 Mr. John Mulliken (Journalist, Sun-Sentinel)

3:30 Mr. David Jemison (Producer, Media Rare, Inc.)

4:15 Questions and discussion

4:45 Closing remarks and raffle

5:30 Dinner

7:00 Social Time (Recreation Building)

200

February 5:

7:00 Breakfast

8:30-9:30 Business Meeting

9:30-11:15 Contributed papers: Smokie Holcomb, Chairman, Paper Session Committee

9:30 Steven J. Miller
"Population dynamics of black crappie in Lake Okeechobee following suspension of commercial harvest"

9:45 Wes Porak, Bill Coleman, and Steve Crawford
"Age, growth, and mortality of Florida largemouth bass determined using otoliths"

10:00 Break

10:15 Kristen Storms, Jeffrey Foltz, and Edward Wilde
"Upper thermal tolerance of early life stages of South Carolina and Florida largemouth bass"

10:30 Michael D. Murphy and Ronald G. Taylor
"Minimum exploitation rates, growth, and movement of Red drum, Sciaenops ocellatus, in Florida inferred from tag-recapture data"

10:45 Ernst Peebles and Greg Tolley
"Larval recruitment and growth of spotted seatrout: a comparison between two adjacent estuarine areas of south-west Florida"

11:00 Churchill Grimes, J.H. Finucane, and V.M. Pettigrew
"King mackerel early life stages in the Gulf of Mexico: possible association with the Mississippi River plume"

11:15 Final raffle

LARVAL RECRUITMENT AND GROWTH OF SPOTTED SEATROUT: A COMPARISON BETWEEN TWO ADJACENT ESTUARINE AREAS OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA. Peebles, E.B., and S.G. Tolley.

Recruitment and growth of larval spotted seatrout, Cynoscion nebulosus, were compared between Naples Bay and the Fakahatchee Bay area of southwestern Florida during the period of July 1983 through January 1985. Spawning occurred near or in the Gulf of Mexico from mid-March through mid-October, with major peaks in July and August. Larval spotted seatrout accounted for 0.3% of the total ichthyoplankton from Naples Bay and 1.2% of the total from the Fakahatchee area. Monthly larval densities were significantly higher in Naples Bay. A mid-summer depression in larval densities, possibly related to water temperature, was evident in the shallow Fakahatchee area. Positive correlations for larval density vs water temperature and larval size vs percent bottom frequency were found for the deeper, more stratified Naples Bay area. Larval densities decreased with distance from the Gulf of Mexico in both estuarine systems. A growth rate of approximately 0.4 mm/d was found for both areas.

Population Dynamics of Black Crappie in Lake Okeechobee
Following Suspension of Commercial Harvest

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Since suspension of the commercial harvest of black crappie from Lake Okeechobee, Florida in 1981, there has been a dramatic increase in relative abundance indices. Since 1981, catch-per-unit-effort values for quarterly otter trawl samples have increased approximately 1000 percent. This dramatic increase, also reflected by creel survey data, resulted from the recruitment of strong year classes in 1980, 1983, 1984, and 1985. In conjunction with an increasing population there has been a subsequent decline in growth rates to pre-commercial harvest levels. This decline in growth is attributed to increased intraspecific competition for fish prey. Based on trawl data, angler catch rates in 1987 should continue to be high but a decrease in the average size of fish harvested is expected.

Age, Growth and Mortality of Florida Largemouth Bass Determined Using Otoliths

Wes Porak, Bill Coleman and Steve Crawford

Abstract

Age composition, growth and mortality of largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides floridanus) populations in 6 major Florida resources were determined. Most largemouth bass were in the first 4 or 5 year classes, however, 6 and 7 year old fish were not uncommon, and largemouth bass were collected up to 12 years of age. Females grew faster and exhibited greater longevity than males. Total annual mortality (A) estimated from catch curves ranged from 0.37 for the Suwannee River to 0.54 in Lake Weir and are within the range reported from other localities. Back-calculated lengths based on transversely sectioned otoliths did not differ significantly ($P < 0.05$) from empirical lengths for largemouth bass from Lake Kissimmee. Florida largemouth bass typically reached harvestable-size (>242 mm) during age 1+, but slower growing fish did not recruit into the sportfishery until age 2 or older. Trophy-size largemouth bass (>3.63 kg) ranged from 6 to 12 years of age.

Upper Thermal Tolerance of Early Life Stages of South Carolina
and Florida Largemouth Bass

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Abstract: Upper thermal tolerance limits (TL50's) for early life stages of Par Pond and Florida stocks of largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides intergrade and M. s. floridanus) were determined. Comparisons were made between three life stages (pro-larvae (non-feeding and feeding) and post-larvae), two initial temperatures (18 and 23 C), and instant vs. gradual (5 C/day) exposures to test temperatures between 18 and 38 C. Upper thermal tolerance limits did not differ between the two largemouth bass stocks, life stages or initial temperatures. Ninety-six hour TL50 was 32.8 C for instant exposures and 34.1 C for gradual exposures (5 C/day) to high temperatures. Percent survival for 96 hour exposures to high temperatures was significantly higher for gradual exposures than instant exposures for all life stages and both initial temperatures. Calculated Maximum Weekly Average Temperature (MWAT) to protect early life stages of largemouth bass is 28.1 C.

Minimum Exploitation Rates, Growth, and Movement of Red drum, Sciaenops ocellatus in Florida Inferred from Tag-Recapture Data.

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Since March 1984 Florida Department of Natural Resources staff have tagged and released 1536 red drum, Sciaenops ocellatus, in southwest and east-central Florida estuaries. Information from 299 tag returns has been used to estimate population characteristics such as minimum exploitation and survival rates, growth, and movement of subadult S. ocellatus in Indian River/Mosquito Lagoon, Charlotte Harbor, and Tampa Bay. Minimum estimates of exploitation rate were 6.0% in Mosquito Lagoon/Indian River, 14.8% in Charlotte Harbor, and 21.4-24.0% in Tampa Bay. Movement within estuaries was generally very limited with 50-85% of all returned fish recaptured within 10 km of their release site. Although fewer than 10% of returned fish moved more than 40 km some seasonal coastwide movements can be postulated. Estimates of mean growth rates for each year class tagged in Tampa Bay were 0.53 - 0.61 mm d⁻¹ for age I+, 0.37 - 0.42 mm d⁻¹ for age II+, and 0.18 - 0.32 mm d⁻¹ for age III+. A pooled estimate of mean growth in Charlotte Harbor was 0.55 mm d⁻¹. These rates of growth generally concur with those found for otolith-aged red drum, although a few of the older tagged fish grew faster than expected. Some implications for the fine-tuning of current yield analyses based on tag-recapture data will be discussed.

Grimes, C.B., J.H. Finucane, and V.M. Pettigrew, NMFS, Panama City Laboratory and J.T. Brucks and R.C. Herron, NMFS, Mississippi Laboratories. King mackerel early life stages in the Gulf of Mexico: possible association with the Mississippi River plume.

Historical Gulf of Mexico wide ichthyoplankton sampling has suggested that king mackerel spawn from May to September, and that early life stages are widely distributed but are not abundant anywhere. More recent surveys have indicated small concentrations off the Mississippi River delta. Therefore, we sampled the Mississippi River plume in September 1986 to determine if young king mackerel were associated with this oceanographic feature. Preliminary findings indicate that in general ichthyoplankton were highly concentrated in the plume, particularly in the frontal region. King mackerel larvae and post-larvae were not abundant, but they were considerably more abundant in plume collections than in wide area surveys, and were also most frequently collected at the frontal region. If hydrodynamic and/or biological factors account for concentrations of ichthyoplankton in the plume the strength, extent and persistence of this oceanographic feature could play an important role in determining spawning success and recruitment. Following this reasoning, we examined the relationship between Mississippi River discharge rates during summer from 1970-80 and Gulf of Mexico king mackerel catches (a crude proxy for recruitment) two years later and found them to be well correlated ($r = 0.71$).