



VOLUME 9 (1)

AUGUST 1989

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had an excellent annual meeting this February thanks to a tremendous effort by Ken Haddad and all of the participants. Many members commented on the outstanding quality of the technical presentations this year.

Since the annual meeting, we have had a busy spring. With help from the Legislative Committee, I tried to stay informed of the progress of fishing license bills in the Florida legislature. We supported both the creation of a new saltwater fishing license and increases in freshwater license revenues. "Key" legislative committees members (e.g., Natural Resources Committee) were contacted by letter to support our views. Examples of these letters are included in this <u>Shellcracker</u> (p. 13).

As suggested by our AFS executive director, Carl Sullivan, we began to educate the public about Wallop-Breaux. Danny Roberts, FMRI, and myself gave an update on the Wallop-Breaux amendment, along with a presentation on the importance of Wallop-Breaux to Florida's fisheries programs, to the annual meeting of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association (FOWA). I also wrote a follow-up letter to all FOWA members to encourage them to write some articles about Wallop-Breaux. One reason for educating the angling public is to have more informed "grass roots" support of Wallop-Breaux if (or when) the program runs into political problems in the future (e.g., the \$100 million federal cap that had been proposed for FY 1990).

Over thirty interested Florida Chapter members have been asked to serve on committees this year. My goal is to get as many people involved with Chapter activities as we possibly can. We are working on a Chapter manual that will facilitate member involvement and will hopefully make the Chapter run more efficiently and professionally in the future. Additionally, we have started to readvertised and sell the second printing of Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources.

Wes Porak

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING CONTEST!!!!!!

To boost our Florida Chapter membership and to have some fun, we are having a contest! The contest will run from now until our annual meeting in February. Any new memberships will be good through 1990 (or until our annual meeting in February 1991). Prizes for the top three recruiters are as follows:

- 1. Surf-casting rod and reel, 2000 yards 14-lb test line
- 2. \$25.00 cash prize
- 3. The most prestigious book on Florida's fisheries: Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources

The surf-casting outfit was donated by Larry Nielsen (First-Vice President of AFS). Thanks a lot Larry!!!

New members should send their name, address, telephone number, \$10.00 membership fee, and the name of their recruiter, to the membership chairman:

Dave Clapp
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Post Office Box 1903
Eustis FL 32727-1903
904/357-6631

It may not take too many new members to win one of the three prizes so start recruiting!!! New members are eligible to start recruiting and can win the prizes.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will hold its next annual meeting in Brooksville some time during February 1990. Although specifics of the program are yet to be worked out, all members wishing to contribute to the technical papers session should submit a title and abstract before 1 January 1990 to:

Jim Tilmant
South Florida Research Center
Everglades National Park
P.O. Box 279
Homestead, Florida 33030

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Because of the generous support from several chapter members this Newsletter contains recent news from fisheries projects being conducted throughout the state. Keep those contributions coming.

1990 RAFFLE:

If we expect to have a raffle that rivals last year's we need to get started!!! Members who wish to help obtain some raffle prizes please contact Jim Tilmant 305/245-5266.

Special thanks to sponsors who contributed to our 1989 fund raising raffle:

Floy Tag & Manufacturing, Inc Florida Wildlife Magazine	
Tru-Turn, Inc	.Soft Pac "Tackle Box" with hooks
Clearwater Beach Hilton	.Weekend Get-Away .Electric Screwdriver
Sea Escape	Plano Tackle box
Cedar Creek Publishers	Wildlife art prints
Kennedy Space Center, Howard Johnson	antine.
Berkley, Inc	.Tri-Max and Big Game Fishing Line (dozen large
Forestry Suppliers, Inc Florida Sportsman Magazine	spools Hip Boots (Certificate) Four (4) caps, Four (4) T-shirts and two fishing
Buck Knives	books Folding hunting knife Culprit Rubber Worm packs-24 Culprit Jig and Grub
H.C. Cook Co., Inc	packs-24 ."Pal" Fish Scalers-12
Ducks Unlimited	Reel-12
Bill Coleman	.Two (2) Mudbug Fishing
Ron Taylor Florida Chapter AFS	lures .Fisheries Print (framed) .AFS Tie & Lapel pins, Wildlife Limited Edition Art Print, Grouper Post- er, Shark T-shirt
	or, chara r chara



THE 1989 ANNUAL MEETING IN LIVE OAK

A large contingent from the Chapter was able to enjoy an excellent meeting at the Episcopal Camp in Live Oak. The meeting was highlighted by excellent presentations during the Symposium--"Fisheries Restoration and Enhancement". Ken Haddad should be congratulated for organizing a fine show. The technical paper session was outstanding as topics ranged from studies of king mackerel landings to the ecology of blackchin tilapia. Kevin Peters and Bob McMichael were awarded the best paper certificate and prize for their talk on "Early life history of black drum in Tampa Bay, with comments on recruitment and distribution of other sciaenid species". The meeting also offered interesting talks during a plenary session on "Fisheries Recruitment in Florida waters toward a predictive capability" -- which we co-sponsored with Florida Sea Grant.

The business meeting included visits by Bob White, AFS President and Gene Huntsman, Southern Division President. In a tight election, Grant Gilmore was elected Secretary-Treasurer-elect while Jim Tilmant had a cakewalk on his way to President-elect.

Outside the meeting, activities enjoyed by all included a canoe tour of the Suwannee River, bonfires, raffle and socials in the "Hay barn", and lake canoeing. Wes Porak noted that beer consumption was up this year. More data is needed to determine whether this is a trend so plan to attend the next meeting at Brooksville ... see enclosed call for papers.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE MARINE AND ESTUARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND TIDEWATER CHAPTER MEETING

This meeting will be held during the 1989 Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on 31 October. Papers concerning any aspect of marine and estuarine fisheries science and/or management are welcome. Progress reports and reviews are also welcome. Please send title and abstract to:

Rick Monaghan
Division of Marine Fisheries
PO Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557

No later than 6 September 1989

NOTES FROM CHAPTER MEMBERS

The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (GFC), in conjunction with the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) is attempting to establish a red drum fishery within the Farm 13 reservoir. This 6500 acre reservoir is located in the headwaters of the St. Johns River near Fellsmere, Florida. Water quality and forage within the reservoir appear suitable for red drum based on reports from Texas researchers.

This spring, 1609 redfish fingerlings, averaging 5" (TL) were produced by the FMRI Port Manatee Hatchery and were subsequently stocked in the impoundment by GFC personnel. Continued stocking of this desirable sportfish will occur as production at FDNR Hatchery permits.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has initiated a habitat enhancement program on Lake Monroe, near Orlando, Florida. Lake Monroe, a 9,500 acre lake, is part of the Lake Chain in the St. Johns River System.

Lake Monroe lacks aquatic macrophytes over large areas of potential littoral zones. Causes for the lack of aquatic littoral vegetation in these areas is unknown but it is believed that an early aquatic weed control program for water hyacinth (<u>Eichhornia crassipes</u>) may have been partly responsible. Natural establishment is thought to have been inhibited by frequent dense algal blooms.

To improve fish and wildlife habitat, a revegetation program was developed and implemented. Plants being transplanted are: giant bulrush (<u>Scirpus californieus</u>), eelgrass (<u>Vallisneria americana</u>), Illinois pondweed (<u>Potamogeton illinoensis</u>), Maidencane (<u>Panieum hemitomon</u>), and pickerelweed (<u>Pontederia cordata</u>). Over 95,000 plants are to be established at four sites covering a 685-acre area. Two sites have been completed to date.

For further information contact Tom Rosegger at 813/644-9577 or Lawson Snyder at 904/985-5282.

Florida Marine Research Institute flounder systematics—A preliminary study by Mark Leiby and Eddie Matheson at FMRI showed that two types of the flounder <u>Bothus robinsi</u> occur sympatrically in the western Atlantic Ocean. Based on caudal fin pigmentation and meristic data, the southern type called <u>Bothus</u> sp. was easily separable from <u>Bothus robinsi</u>, Topp and Hoff, 1972 based on morphometrics.

They have not concluded if this a new species or a geographic variant of \underline{B} . $\underline{robinsi}$, however, they are presenting these results at the ASIH meeting in San Francisco, and plan to continue their research to include more specimens from the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

The GFC's Aquaculture Project is cooperating in a technical advisory role to evaluate the feasibility of integrating native freshwater crawfish culture with commercial rice production at the Lake Harbor Waterfowl Management area in the Everglades Agricultural Area. The project proposal reflects a growing interest in the 680,000 acre EAA to convert conventional farming acreage, primarily sugarcane, into aquatic crops in order to reduce soil subsidence rates and increase on-site retention of nutrient-rich irrigation water to mitigate the effects of backpumping into Lake Okeechobee. GFC personnel in the Aquaculture Project, Division of Fisheries, are cooperating with the Division of Wildlife to begin evaluation of the ecological and technical compatibility of integrating crawfish production into the existing multi-use rice/waterfowl management system. In addition to soil conservation and irrigation water retention benefits, conversion to aquatic crops may provide farmers with management options for double cropping on available EAA lands.

The U.S. Forest Service is currently conducting monitoring activities in the three Florida National Forests to determining effects of lime and fertilizer on the fish populations of typical sandhill lakes. Most of the water bodies in these forests are extremely acid pH, 4.0 to 5.0, and very low in nutrients, total alkalinity is less than 2 mg/liter.

Preliminary results have been encouraging. The bass population of a small lake in the Ocala National Forest that was treated with lime and fertilizer in 1986 has increased to an estimated 53 pounds per acre, with an average of 1 trophy bass exceeding 10 pounds per acre.

Game and Freshwater Fish Commission chemists Homer Royals, Ted Lange, and Jake Carpenter have been testing fish from throughout the state for mercury contamination. Increased Hg levels were first detected in piscivorous fish (largemouth bass and warmouth) from Conservation areas 1, 2A, and 3 in South Florida. HRS has since issued health advisories, based on GFC sampling, for consumption of fish from a number of other water bodies throughout the state. Future direction for GFC research will be decided after sampling in northwest Florida is complete.

Two new biologists recently began work at the GFC's Eustis Lab. Steve Cottrell, from the University of Central Florida, and Ray Watson, from Auburn University, joined the Oklawaha project. They will be working primarily in conjunction with St Johns River Water Management personnel on a rough fish (shad) removal project in Lake County's Lake Denham. This project will test the

theory that removal of zooplanktivores will improve water quality in the highly eutrophic lake system. Results may be applied in the future to the Lake Apopka restoration effort.

The National Park Service funds several research and monitoring projects within Everglades National Park that are carried out by personnel of the South Florida Research Center, sometimes in cooperation with scientists from collaborating agencies or universities. Most studies investigate the structure and function of freshwater and saltwater ecosystems to provide baselines against which the effects of fishing harvest and natural or anthropogenic environmental changes may be measured. The park is charged with managing its natural resources to protect those resources from human damage. Threats to park resources stem mainly from activities outside park boundaries that result in a reduction in the quantity and quality of waters delivered to the park, and from development on adjacent lands. The results of research and monitoring studies enable the park to base management decisions on a solid foundation of data. Current research and monitoring projects in marine and aquatic sciences include:

- (1) Aquatic Food Web Study This project continues the collection of long-term fish and macroinvertebrate data from freshwater marshes in a study of the effects of hydroperiod on aquatic food webs. Data are used to evaluate ongoing water delivery experiments to suggest marsh restoration options, and to provide information on the status of the wading bird prey base.
- (2) <u>Coral Reef Resources Inventory and Monitoring</u> A cooperative study between NPS scientists and other agencies that is establishing monitoring techniques and baseline data for all NPS units with coral reef resources. Florida study sites are located in Biscayne National Park and Fort Jefferson National Monument.
- (3) <u>Seagrass Die-off Study</u> A cooperative effort of Ever-glades National park, Florida Marine Research Institute, the universities of Georgia and Virginia, and Florida International University to study the causes and effects of seagrass mortality in Florida Bay. The project evaluates the extent and continuance of mortality, impacts on associated biota, and prospects for recovery.
- (4) Oceanographic Monitoring A monitoring network has been designed and placed in Florida Bay and adjacent waters to provide continuous data for salinity, water level, temperature, wind, and tides.
- (5) <u>Fisheries Monitoring</u> Weekly creek surveys and boat traffic surveys provide data on fishery harvest by sport fishermen to allow an assessment of catch rates and fishing pressure. Those data are used in managing park fisheries through the establishment of bag limits.

In addition, previous research projects are being analyzed or prepared for publication. These include studies of exotic fish ecology, saltwater sportfish biology, and population dynamics of pink shrimp, and freshwater fishes and macroinvertebrates.

It's been almost one year since the Florida Alligator Management Field Office began operation in Eustis. A number of fisheries biologists have assisted alligator biologists Al Kinlaw and Ron Seiss on night surveys of alligator populations in north and central Florida management areas. These counts were used to set quotas for the upcoming recreational harvest. The alligator crew also conducts nest counts, egg harvesting, farm inspections, hide verification, and public education operations in the central region. Alligator and fisheries work appears to have much in common - it promises to be a beneficial association between the two Eustis GFC offices.

EXCERPTS FROM THE AFS DIARY

The National Sea Grant Program is entering its third decade and has elected to highlight their mission and programs in a report entitled Oceans of Opportunity which focuses on the program's accomplishments in marine biotechnology, ocean engineering, fisheries science, aquaculture, and technology transfer. The attractively designed report is available from the National Sea Grant Office of NOAA, 6010 Executive Blvd, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443-8923.

The premier issue of the <u>Journal of Aquatic Animal Health</u> went to press last month, and we expect to mail it in August. Manuscripts for the second issue are in the final editing stages and will be sent for typesetting shortly. Editors Bill Rogers, John Plumb, and John Grizzle are working on additional papers and all four issues of this new quarterly AFS journal should be published by the end of 1989. Thereafter, scheduled publication months will be March, June, September, and December.

Certified Fisheries Scientists, for information about professional certification contact: Toni Brome, American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2199 (301) 897-8616.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux: The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program Handbook. This newly revised handbook is now available!! It summarizes all aspects of the "Wallop-Breaux" Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. Contact: The Sport Fishing Institute, 1010 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Ste 100, Washington DC 20001, Phone: 202/898-0770

Testimony concerning reauthorization of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act was prepared by Marine Fisheries Section President Bill Fox. It was submitted to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and to the Senate Commerce Committee. The testimony is an excellent piece of work and makes seventeen recommendations for improving the Act. We have requested that AFS be given another opportunity to elaborate on the prepared testimony during committee field hearings. Bill Gordon, chairman of the Federal Fisheries Responsibility Committee presented oral testimony of a more general nature at the May 8th field hearing in Boston. Anyone desiring copies of either testimony may call Jennifer Gallivan.

Production schedules for AFS journals are improving, though this is not yet apparent to subscribers. Increased manuscript submissions and faster movement of manuscripts through the review process, especially for <u>Transactions</u>, largely account for the gains. The four journals will be on schedule by the end of the year <u>if</u> we can send an issue to press every 10 days for the next five months. This is a tall order that we may nor be able to meet, but our goal is to have all 1989 issued in the mail this calendar year.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has evaluated the effect of 109 chemical pesticide compounds on 164 federally listed threatened and endangered species. Aquatic species are included in the biological opinions requested by the Environmental Protection Agency in the agency's September 30, 1988, request for Section 7 (of the Endangered Species Act) consultation. result of this request the Service constructed an aquatic species/pesticide risk assessment model that considered species exposure, pesticide toxicity, secondary impacts from pesticides and special concerns. The model was then used to assess effects on target and non-target species to develop alternatives and to prescribe mitigation measures. The format of the 600-700 page report will be: I. Assumptions; II. Affects of pesticides on species; III. Species profiles; IV. Maps or location descriptions (transmitted separately); and V. Chemical data sheets hazard data. The report should be of great value, not only for T&E species, but also for general evaluation of pesticide effects on aquatic systems. As a result of the study and report EPA will need to significantly change its pesticide labeling program - 23% of the species/pesticide combinations resulted in a jeopardy opinion.

The 1988-89 AFS Membership Directory should now have been received by all members. Its introductory pages contain a great deal of updated information about the Society, its subunits, its activities, and includes the Constitution and Bylaws. You'll find out who the Society's leaders are and their assignments. I urge you to take a few minutes to become acquainted with the directory for it has great utility in ongoing AFS activities.

The midterm Excom meeting was held in Corpus Christi, Texas, March 9-12, and was a very successful AFS leadership development event. The AFS staff, including Mary Frye, Bob Kendall, Janine Walker, and Beth McAleer arrived from the ice-covered northland to be greeted by clear sunny skies, gentle shore breezes and shortsleeve temperatures. What a welcome contrast! Joan Holt, local arrangements chair, had found us wonderful accommodations at the Marriott Hotel overlooking the waterfront. The evening of Wednesday the 8th, AFS officers met with the staff for a supper that was accompanied by a lively discussion of issues, project progress, and future opportunities.

Major actions taken by the Excom are as follows:

- o Library subscription rates were raised \$25.00 to \$340.00
- o All AFS technical journals will come under the Best Paper Awards Program.
- o <u>Fisheries</u> was approved to being publishing 12 issues per year with an insert of timely material. A network of AFS subunit reporters will be organized to provide material for the insert.
- o A procedure was established to require AFS officers and executive director review of requests for support of candidate political appointees and that their decision be published in <u>Fisheries</u>.
- o Professional Certification applicants will now be limited to a single appeal to present new evidence in cases where they have been turned down.
- o Distinguished Service Awardees were selected. Don Martin and Don Flescher will be presented awards at the Anchorage annual meeting.
- o The Marine Fisheries Section was directed to assess past practices under the Magnuson Act from a fish conservation perspective and to make timely recommendation to the Excom for use in supporting amendments to the Act.
- o The proposed AFS dues renewal form was approved with minor revisions. Requested telephone numbers will be for use by the Society only and the current year's costs of maintained membership will be summarized on the bill.
- o The 1989 Program Committee was authorized to plan as many concurrent sessions as needed to accommodate all high quality papers after Program Chair Randy Bailey announced over 700 papers had been submitted and it looked as if over 1500 members might attend the Anchorage meeting.
- An amended \$1,840,000 balanced budget for 1989 was approved.

All Excom members were provided recruitment packets and encourages to make efforts to recruit AFS Associate and Library members.

President White indicated in his address to the Excom that he plans to convene a 2 1/2 day facilitated workshop of the AFS officers and the executive staff to establish a process for implementing the Society's Long-Range Plan. The results of this workshop will be presented to Excom in Anchorage.

Fisheries/aquaculture video tapes available are listed below. Please order them directly.

Aquaculture: Its Time Has Come.

Douglas Tave or John Grover
International Center for Aquaculture
Auburn University, Alabama 36849
Phone (205) 826-4786

Florida Aquaculture

M. Ednoff

FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services
425 May Bldg.

Tallahassee, FL 32379

New Zealand Greenshell Mussel
Robert Hickman
Fisheries Research
P. O. Box 297
Wellington, New Zealand

Aquaculture in Tasmania

Harry Shaw
Pacific Aquaculture
P. O. Box 55, Edjecliff
Sydney, North South Wales 2027, Australia
Phone (02) 32 5000 or FAX (02) 327 1912; (02) 32 2909

Return to the River - The Story of Kokanee Hatchery
Running Wild - Rebuilding Streams for Salmon
Clear Creek Fish Habitat Restoration
West of the Divide: Fish and Wildlife in Montana
Journey of the Kings
Bonneville Power Administration
Division of Fish and Wildlife - PJW
Publication Information Office
0. 0. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

Alligator Aquaculture

Catfish Aquaculture

Crawfish Aquaculture

Redfish Aquaculture

John Brooks

LA Cooperative Extension Service

128 Knapp Hall, LSU

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

(504) 388-2263

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FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ken Haddad

President Wesley Porak

Barbara Hoffman Past President Secretary-Treasurer

F. O. Box 1903 Eustis, Fl 32727-1903 (904) 357-6631

May 10, 1989

The Honorable Ann MacKenzie, Chairman Finance and Taxation Committee

Florida House of Representatives 223 Capitol

Fallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative MacKenzie,

offer the following general comments in relation to a saltwater fishing The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society would like license (Committee substitute CS 26);

- (1) Our organization strongly supports the concept of a saltwater fishing However, this support is contingent upon the continuation of general revenue Marine Patrol. Simply replacing general revenue dollars with license fees will provide no net positive gains for either the resource or the angling public. ilcense, and feels that a \$10.00 annual fee is appropriate and affordable. appropriations at current levels to DNR's Division of Marine Resources and
- (2) To avoid excess loss of revenue that could support marine fisheries programs, exemptions for license requirements should be limited only to persons that simply can not afford the license fee.
- (3) We strongly urge that at least 60% of the license fees be appropriated to marine fisheries research, management, and habitat restoration,

Representing the members of our chapter, we would like to obtain legislation that will benefit Florida's fisheries resources today and in the future. Thank you very much for considering our viewpoints.

Wesley F. Porak

Sincerely

President

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



President-Elect Ken Haddad President Wesley Porak

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Tilmant

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Barbara Hoffman

Past President

F. O. Box 1903 Eustis, Fl 32727-1903 (Phone 904-357-6631)

fay 10, 1989

The Honorable David Beggs, Staff Director Finance and Taxation and Claims Committee Florida Senate

426 Senate Office Building Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Beggs,

the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission that are designed to properly manage Florida's fisheries. Additional revenue is necessary to expand programs of fishery resources and their habitats, and to provide more opportunities We strongly support increases in fees for freshwater fishing licenses (Senate Bill SB 141). Increased growth and development in Florida and the rising popularity of sport fishing are placing tremendous demands on the public to use these resources.

ī,

Since 1979, the year the current \$7.00 resident fishing license fee went into effect, the Consumer Price Index has increased by 43.6% (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics). In order for each fishing license to generate the same amount of spendable revenue in 1989 as it did in 1979, the fee would need to be increased to \$10.00, the amount being proposed in current produced in 1972. The angling public is simply being asked to have their legislation. In other words, on a per-license basis, a \$10.00 fee would generate no additional expendable income in 1989 over what a \$7,00 fee license costs keep up with inflation.

We also support the concept of a bass stamp if the resulting revenue is directed specifically for the following: to increase largemouth bass populations, to improve fishing for largemouth bass, or for largemouth bass

To avoid excess loss of revenue that could support freshwater fisheries programs, examptions for license requirements should be limited only to persons that simply can not afford the license fee.

We strongly feel that increased revenues are essential to properly manage Florida's freshwater resources today and in the future.

Sincerply, Wesley F.,

President

Michael D. Murphy
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