

President's Message

I can't believe a year has passed since I took office as president of the Northeastern Division. It's been a busy but productive year and I'd like to thank all those who have volunteered on various committees over the past year. Some highlights of our accomplishments include an updated website, a revised (almost finalized) procedure manual, the 2006 annual meeting in Lake Placid, and sponsorship of the 2007 diadromous fish symposium. We are working on bylaws changes and should have those out for membership review before the end of the year. Without the committee chairs' and executive committee's hard work, many items would still be on the "to do" list. If you want to feel a sense of accomplishment and work with some really dedicated people – consider joining or chairing a committee.

I've also been involved with the 2006 planning committee as co-chair of the student activities committee. This has been a lot of fun planning the various activities for students and I look forward to a successful Student Activities day on September 12, 2006. It's great to have the meeting within

the Division and the entire planning committee is working hard to make this a great meeting. Please visit the website for more information and to register (www.afslakeplacid.org).

We will be holding another retreat prior to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April 2007. At our last retreat we determined that we should hold one every 3-4 years to help maintain continuity between executive committees. We will be developing an agenda in the coming months – please let us know if there are any issues you would like us to focus on.

Thank you for letting me serve you this past year. It is truly an honor to work with and represent such a dedicated and diverse group of fisheries professionals.

Margaret Murphy

-NEW WEBSITE-

The NED AFS has a new website – www.nedafs.org. While it is still a work in progress, please check it out and give us your feedback. Greg Kozlowski has agreed to be our new webmaster, and he can be contacted at gekozlow@gw.dec.state.ny.us (but please wait until after the annual AFS meeting as he is in charge of that website too!).

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Save the date!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AFS 136th Annual Meeting

Sept. 10-14, 2006
Lake Placid, NY



The 136th Annual Meeting is fast approaching.

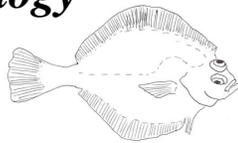
Our New York Organizing Committee has planned a fun-filled change from the big city meeting. Come join us in Lake Placid for some important work and informative sessions. Take a ride down the bobsled run or a gondola ride up Whiteface Mountain. Registration information and an overview of activities may be found in the supplement in the June issue of Fisheries and on the meeting website at www.afslakeplacid.org. Hope to see everyone there!

Attention Students!

Student employees are needed at the Annual Meeting in Lake Placid. Pay is \$10/hr. If interested, email Mark Cornwell at Student2@afslakeplacid.org.

10th Flatfish Biology Conference

Nov. 29-30, 2006
Westbrook, CT



Individuals with an interest in flatfishes are invited to present their research or attend the Flatfish Biology Conference at the Water's Edge Resort, located on Long Island Sound in Westbrook, CT. The conference welcomes oral presentations and posters addressing all aspects of flatfish biology and ecology. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.mi.nmfs.gov/flatfishbiologyworkshop.html> or contact Renee Mercaldo-Allen by email (renee.mercaldo-allen@noaa.gov) or phone (203-882-6549).

63rd Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

April 2007 – Mystic, Connecticut

The American Fisheries Society (AFS), Northeastern Division (NED) will hold its 55th annual meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April 2007 in Mystic, Connecticut. We are looking for someone willing to organize a session on fish culture/fish health/transgenics for the meeting. If you are interested please contact Margaret Murphy at mmurphy@qeallc.com. More information on the meeting will be coming soon.

2nd International Symposium on Diadromous Fishes



June 18-21, 2007 –
Halifax, Nova Scotia

This symposium will review the current state of scientific knowledge with respect to biology, ecology, and conservation of diadromous fishes (including anadromous, catadromous, potamodromous, and amphidromous species). The symposium theme will build upon that of the very successful 1986 American Fisheries Society symposium, **Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes** (*Dadswell et al. 1987. Am. Fish. Soc. Symp. 1*). However, emphasis will be shifted to address how recent alterations to the environment and human activity has affected diadromous fishes with respect to their sustainability and role in aquatic ecosystems. See the website for more information <http://www.anacat.ca>

2006 Northeast Division AWARDS

The Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society annually presents several awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to fisheries, to the Division, and to AFS. These awards were presented at the American Fisheries Society Northeastern Division's 54th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference on April 23-26, 2006 in Burlington, VT.

Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award

This is the most prestigious Award given by the Northeastern Division. This award is presented annually for lifelong contributions or meritorious service to fisheries science and the profession in the Northeast, significant academic or technical accomplishments, or long-term service in the NED as an AFS member.

2006 Recipient: **Dr. Barbara Knuth** was recognized for her achievements as a fisheries scientist as well as her contributions to AFS. Dr. Knuth has been a faculty member of the Department of Natural Resources of Cornell University since 1986 and is currently Professor of Natural Resource Policy and Management, Chair of the Department, and Co-Leader of the Human Dimensions Research Unit. Barb also has been active and held leadership positions at every organizational level of AFS, culminating as President of AFS from 2004-2005.

John Moring Student Travel Award

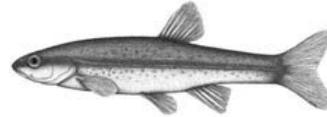
This is a competitive award for students that present a poster or oral presentation at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference and students who attend the conference to carry out the Division's business. There was one award winner from the 2006 meeting: **Aaron Aunins**, School of Marine Science, William and Mary College. Students are encouraged to apply for this award for 2007.

NED Best Student Paper Award

2006 Winner: **Aaron Aunins** (School of Marine Science, William and Mary College) for his presentation "The Migratory Behavior of American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) in the James River, Virginia."

NED Best Student Poster Award

2006 Winner: **Thomas Kehler** (Penn State University) for his poster "Year-class Assessment of Juvenile Atlantic Sturgeon within the lower Hudson River."



62nd Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

The American Fisheries Society (AFS), Northeastern Division (NED) held its 54th annual meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference on April 23-26, 2006 in Burlington, Vermont. Fisheries technical sessions at the meeting were particularly strong, with a wide range of contributed papers and posters and several symposia. "Black Bass Special Session" was a two part symposium devoted to seasonal regulations and black bass virus supported by the NED and organized by Ken Sprankle. The Marine Cooperative Research Symposium was a half day session organized by NED Secretary/Treasurer Paul Perra. There were also sessions on the National Fish Habitat Initiative, Sea Lamprey Management in Lake Champlain, and an Aquatic Nuisance Species Rapid Response Workshop.

NED officers installed for annual terms starting with the AFS meeting in September 2006 were: President Larry Miller, President Elect Scott Decker, and First Vice President Desmond Kahn. Paul Perra will continue his exemplary service as NED Secretary-Treasurer for a second two-year term.

MINUTES

2006 Northeastern Division (NED) American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Business Meeting Burlington, VT – April 24, 2006

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

President Margaret Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Angelo Incerpi served as Sergeant-at-Arms and determined that a quorum was present.

Recognition of Past Presidents and Guests

Margaret recognized NED Past Presidents Paola Ferreri, Ken Beal, Bob Carline, Bill Hyatt, Ron Essig, Doug Stang, Donna Parish, Charles Thoits, and Barb Knuth, who is also the current Past AFS President. Distinguished guests were AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam, AFS President Chris Kohler, and AFS Past President Carl Burger.

Guest Remarks

AFS President Chris Kohler remarks:

Chris reported that the society was in good shape financially, and that there are two new initiatives: 1. The Society is looking into creating a marine fisheries journal, and 2. An AFS hurricane relief task force is being formed to donate funds, books, and fisheries supplies to those in need to help fisheries professionals who have been negatively affected by hurricane disasters.

Chris also mentioned that plans for this year's AFS annual meeting in Lake Placid, New York are progressing well. There are 30+ symposia and 1,200 abstracts accepted.

Executive Director Gus Rassam's remarks:

The new student AFS membership fee of \$19 has been implemented, and a number of students are taking advantage of the rate. Student members have free electronic access to AFS journals, along with the INFOBASE search program.

AFS is converting its membership data base, and the new membership data base should go on line

next week. The new data base should allow AFS regions and chapters to maintain membership information.

AFS Annual Meeting Report:

Ed Woltmann thanked the NED for contributing funding to the meeting. There have been 1,200 abstracts accepted. The meeting will have 162 posters, 250 student presentations, and 32 symposia, and there will be 12 continuing education workshops. The meeting will be student friendly, and Tuesday will have a number of student activities. A general social will be held Sunday, Wednesday night there will be an Oktoberfest, and the meeting will continue for a full day on Thursday. Guests can partake of many additional activities in Lake Placid such as fishing, summer bob sledding, visiting the ski jump, and hiking. A full description of the meeting will be in the June issue of the AFS Fisheries Magazine. Registration is \$295, \$395 after August 4th, and \$95 for students. Hotel rooms should be booked soon, and students can stay at a \$14 a day camp site.

Division President's Remarks

Margaret thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as President and also thanked the officers, committee chairs, and chapter presidents for their work during her term as president of the NED as it has been a rewarding experience.

The NED provided \$2,500 to the AFS Annual meeting, and this will support student activities at the meeting. The NED is supporting the 2007 anadromous and catadromous symposium, updating the procedures manual, has a new website, and Greg Kozlowski (NY) has agreed to be the new webmaster. The bylaws have been updated, and will be going to the general membership for their approval. They should be ready for full AFS approval in Lake Placid.

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FISHERIES *IN THE NEWS*

Rare fish tagged and tracked in Penobscot River, Maine

June 21, 2006

Teri Frady, NOAA Fisheries Service
David Munson, University of Maine

University of Maine researchers have placed acoustic tags inside five rare shortnose sturgeon on the Penobscot River in eastern Maine, and documented the presence of even more. Fish with the acoustic tags can now be tracked by both portable receivers and a series of moored receivers already operating on the river. The fish are the first recorded catch of shortnose sturgeon in the river since 1978.



Stephen Fernandes holds a shortnose sturgeon from the Penobscot River.
Photo by Kevin Lachapelle.

Graduate student Steve Fernandes caught the fish last week during a scientific gillnet survey. “Our research is actually designed to find Atlantic sturgeon, but what a bonus,” said Fernandes. The river is believed to encompass important habitat used by both Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, and to have historically supported populations of both species.

Fernandes’ project is funded by NOAA’s Fisheries Service as part of the agency’s effort to learn more about the presence and seasonal abundance of the Atlantic sturgeon in Penobscot

River. Atlantic sturgeon are not presently listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, but are a species of concern, and the subject of an ongoing biological status review. The shortnose sturgeon has been designated as endangered since 1967.

“The rediscovery of shortnose sturgeon is good cause for optimism about prospects for recovery and the likelihood that Atlantic sturgeon are currently using similar habitat in the river,” said Kim Damon-Randall, NOAA project manager for sturgeon recovery in the northeast.

“One or two fish could represent strays from another river system, but the numbers we are now encountering bodes well for a remnant shortnose population that spawns somewhere in the Penobscot. It’s great!” said Dr. Mike Kinnison of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Maine in Orono. Kinnison co-directs the project with Dr. Gayle Zydlewski of the University’s School of Marine Sciences, in collaboration with local NOAA and USGS personnel.

Shortnose sturgeon generally stay within a river system throughout their lives, moving into the estuary seasonally to feed. Atlantic sturgeon spend more of their lives in ocean waters, returning to their natal rivers every one to five years for spawning. It’s still early for Atlantic sturgeon in the areas where Fernandes is working. “We’ll have a higher chance of getting some as the water warms, and then in the estuary late in the summer,” he said.

Next up for Fernandes and his team are more weeks of intensive net sampling and, they hope, tagging. That’s followed by an equally grueling period of listening for the fish carrying transmitters. “If we get upward of 20 tagged,” said Kinnison, “then there will be many busy days of tracking the fish this year, and a better chance of following some on their way to potential breeding grounds next spring.”

Source: NOAA Fisheries Service

Cornell finds deadly fish virus in the Northeast is spreading to other species

July 7, 2006

Sabina Lee, Cornell University

Cornell researchers have found that a deadly fish virus detected in the northeastern United States for the first time in June in two species has probably spread to at least two more. But they have yet to determine whether the virus is responsible for the death of hundreds of fish in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in recent weeks.

Over the past month, Cornell's Aquatic Animal Health Program at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been sent some 300 fish for evaluation. The frozen samples are from the fish that have been dying since late May and early June in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Last week, an estimated 1,000 dead fish washed up on the shores of Lake Ontario in just one morning.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) was detected and confirmed for the first time in the Northeast in round gobies and muskellunge in June. To date, Cornell researchers also have tested for the virus in smallmouth bass, burbot, lake sturgeon, brown bullhead, rock bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed and black crappie. VHSV causes fatal anemia and hemorrhaging in many fish species but poses no threat to humans or other animals.

"The situation right now is that we still have fish dying in Lake Ontario," said Geoffrey Groocock, a postdoctoral associate at Cornell's Aquatic Animal Health Program.

"We have detected the virus in other fish species in the region, which may be contributing to the continuing fish mortalities. We are continuing to test samples as we receive them from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and State University of New York College of Environmental Science

and Forestry Thousand Island Biological Field Station to try and get a clearer picture."

The researchers are using a classical cell culture technique to perform the initial stage of the diagnostic testing. This technique can take two to four weeks to yield results. Cornell researchers are developing a molecular-based test for VHSV based on a specific gene sequence in the virus. Once available, the new technique will cut the turnaround for confirmation to three to five days.

Groocock said the high number of dead fish reported recently may be due to the increased presence of vacationers on the lakes in summer, as well as the increased awareness since reports of mortalities earlier in the season. Also, recent storms and heavy winds may have washed up more fish from deeper waters. Groocock added that while more species of fish are dying, absolute numbers of fish mortalities do not appear to be changing.

"There is no cure for VHSV in fish in an ecosystem as large as the Great Lakes Basin. Given this, it is likely that management practices designed to limit the spread of the virus will be put in place," said Groocock.

Although no management decisions have yet been made, the DEC could recommend that boaters clean their boats before traveling from one body of water to another and not dump bait minnows into open water after a day of fishing.

VHSV was first reported in 1988 in the United States in spawning salmon in the Pacific Northwest. It was reported in North American freshwater fish in 2005 in muskellunge in Lake St. Claire, Mich., and in freshwater drum from the Bay of Quinte, Lake Ontario, Canada.

Source: Eureka Alert

*For the Latest News from the
NMFS Northeast Regional Office
Check out their new website:
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/>*

2006 Minutes, *Continued*

NED funding reserves are going down, but there is still a significant amount of investment funds. Some lower limit should be set on the amount of funds to keep available. The finance committee may be charged with working on this. Newly elected Officers will officially take office in September.

Minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting

The minutes of the 2005 annual business meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia were made available. They were corrected to change Ron to Paola in the second paragraph. Barb Knuth moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Carline. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Paul Perra provided a written report and oral highlights. Significant issues regarding NED funding made via e-mail and conference calls were included in the Secretary's report.

The Treasurer's report showed the total value of the NED treasury to be \$102,000. Since 1999, there has been almost a steady drop in NED assets each year with a resulting 37 percent reduction of assets from \$163,000 to \$102,000. It was noted that a \$5,000 donation will be given to the AFS Hutton Student Program. According to Robert's Rules, the Treasurer's report did not require a vote for acceptance.

Committee Reports

Archives: Chair Norm Dube provided a written report. All pertinent materials received have been duly archived and all requests for archived material have been fulfilled in a timely manner.

Audit: Chair Carolyn Griswold provided a written report. She reported that an audit was conducted on March 7, 2006. The committee found the financial records to be complete and accurate with acceptable evidence of authorization or justification of, and proper receipts/vouchers for, disbursements made. The records are managed with Microsoft Money software. The committee noted that the allocation ratio among

-UPDATED BYLAWS-

The NED has been busy updating its bylaws! You should have received an e-mail in early August explaining the bylaws revisions. Members have 30 days to review the changes and vote to approve them or not.

stocks:bonds:cash and equivalents is now 69:25:6 which is a fairly significant departure from the newly stated (1999) NED policy of 45:40:15.

Awards: Past President Paola Ferreri served as chair of the committee this year. Requests for nominations were sent out to Chapter officers, Division officers, Division committee chairs, and past NED Presidents. NED Past Presidents voted on nominees. Award selections included:

Dwight Webster Mem. Award – Barbara Knuth
Presidents' Award – None
Meritorious Service Award – None
Walking Stick Award – None

Continuing Education: No report.

Environmental and Resource Issues: No report.

Finance: No Report

Membership: Scott Decker submitted a written report that Division membership stands at approximately 781 members, an increase of 73 over last year.

Newsletter: Two editions of the Northeast Fish Rapper were produced and distributed electronically to the membership.

Nominating: Chair Brian Niewinski submitted a written report. A total of 111 members submitted ballots. Larry Miller (ME) was nominated for President, Scott Decker for President Elect, Desmond Kahn (DE) for First Vice President. All three ran unopposed with write-in candidates allowed. Steve Rideout (MA) and Mike Millard (PA) were nominated for the Division's Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Desmond Kahn (DE) was elected First Vice-President, Scott Decker (NH) President Elect, Larry Miller (ME) President, and Steve Rideout (MA) was elected as the Division's Representative

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2006 Minutes, *Continued*

to the AFS Nominating Committee. Paul Perra (MA) will continue the second year of this two-year Secretary-Treasurer position. In addition the NED ballot included a vote for a new logo. Logo #1 was selected.

Program: Rod Wentworth reported that a successful effort by all involved has resulted in an excellent program, and thanked all for helping.

Resolutions: Larry Miller read a resolution prepared by Roy Miller thanking the host state of Vermont and the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for organizing the 2006 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, and recognizing those involved for putting on an excellent meeting. Bob Carline moved and Barb Knuth seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

No other resolutions were drafted by the committee or submitted to the Division.

Student Presentation Awards: Margaret Murphy reported that she was leading the activities to select this year's award recipients since the Committee's Chairperson passed away. The NED is looking for a volunteer to Chair this Committee. (Note-following the meeting Aaron Aunins, from the School of Marine Science, William and Mary was selected for best student presentation, and Thomas Kehler from Penn State University was selected for best student poster. Both received \$200 NED awards).

John Moring Student Travel Awards: Chair J. Ellen Marsden provided a written report. One student, Aaron Aunins, from the School of Marine Science, William and Mary applied for and received a grant of \$175 plus registration costs.

Chapter Reports

Atlantic International Chapter: Chapter President Shawn Good provided a written report, but could not attend. Larry Miller reported that the Chapter held its annual meeting in Rangeley, ME in September, 2005. The meeting included salmon and brook trout sessions, and 10 of 35 presentations were student papers. The Chapter's next annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the AFS Lake Placid meeting. The student

subunit at the University of Maine continues to edit the NED newsletter.

SUNY-ESF Chapter: No report submitted.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter: President, Pat Hamilton provided a written report, but could not attend.

Desmond Kahn reported that the Chapter had spring and fall meetings, and provides awards for best student papers. The fall meeting was just held. It included sessions on Atlantic sturgeon and horseshoe crab. The Chapter also runs a raffle for fund raising.

New York Chapter: President, Michael Flaherty provided written and oral highlights of chapter activities. The Chapter held its Annual Meeting in February, and is involved in the planning for the AFS Annual meeting in Lake Placid. The student subunit will be selling T-shirts at the AFS Annual meeting to help pay for student registrations. The Chapter's next annual meeting will be in southeast New York so that more personnel who work on the coast can attend.

Pennsylvania Chapter: No report submitted. However, Chris Kholer mentioned that AFS is considering holding a future AFS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Southern New England Chapter: President, Christine Tomicheck provided a written report. Highlights included holding two meetings (January and June). Free attendance is now given to students who pre-register, and a new student subunit is being formed at the University of Connecticut.

Installation of Officers

Margaret Murphy was recognized as incoming Past President and escorted to the podium by Ken Beal and Angie Incerpi, Larry Miller was elected President and was escorted to the podium. Scott Decker was elected President Elect and was escorted to the podium by Ken Beal and Charlie Thoits. Desmond Kahn was elected First Vice-President and was escorted to the podium by Barbara Knuth. Paul Perra was recognized for his second year as Secretary/Treasurer and escorted to

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2006 Minutes, Continued

the podium by Doug Stang, and Bill Hyatt. Larry Miller presented outgoing President Margaret Murphy with a certificate of appreciation for her leadership and contributions during the last year, and Paola Ferreri presented Scott Decker with a certificate of appreciation for his past 4 years of contributions as Secretary/Treasurer.

Award Presentations

Dwight Webster Award of Merit – was presented to Barb Knuth at the business meeting, since Barb was unable to attend the banquet.

Old Business

None

Incoming Presidents Remarks

Larry Miller thanked the membership for selecting him, and said he was looking forward to a great year working with the AFS NED membership.

New Business

Ken Beal gave an update on the planning for the Anadromous/Catadromous Symposium. This symposium will review the current state of scientific knowledge with respect to biology, ecology, and conservation of diadromous fishes. The symposium theme will build upon that of the very successful 1986 American Fisheries Society symposium, Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes. However, emphasis will be shifted to address how recent alterations to the environment and human activity have affected diadromous fishes with respect to their sustainability and role in aquatic ecosystems.

The meeting is set for June 17-21, 2007 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A planning meeting will take place in Gloucester, Massachusetts, May 23, 2006. There will be a site visit to the host hotel in June, and a symposium website <http://www.anacat.ca/> is set up. The NED is the sponsor of the meeting providing startup funding which is expected to be repaid through profits from the meeting's publication.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken Beal and seconded by Ron Essig. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.



AFS Northeastern Division Leaders

Sept. 2006 –Sept. 2007

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Best Student Presentation

Awards
 TBA

Continuing Education

TBA

Environmental and Resource
 Issues

TBA

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES
 and POSITIONS**Division Representative to AFSNominating Committee

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NED Leaders, *Continued*

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