



## ***President's Message***

Greetings American Fisheries Society (AFS) Northeastern Division (NED) members, I hope this winter finds you doing well in both your personal and professional lives. I was officially installed as your NED President at the conclusion of the AFS Annual Meeting held in September in Nashville, Tennessee. I have been an AFS member all my professional life, and have spent most of my 37 year career working in marine fisheries research and/or management. I am a lifelong avid freshwater and marine fisherman, and I am honored to serve as your NED President. I look forward to having a productive year and interacting with the NED's officers, chapters, and membership to make our AFS memberships a worthwhile and positive experience.

To that end, I encourage you to attend your local chapter meetings, the Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference (NEFWC) April 25-27, 2010, in Newton, Massachusetts, and the AFS Annual Meeting, September 12-16, 2010, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The NED business meeting is held in conjunction with the NEFWC so please attend the conference and come to our business meeting where important matters for AFS are discussed, and where complementary food and drink are offered. For this year's NEFWC, the NED is sponsoring a striped bass symposium and many other interesting freshwater and marine presentations will be given. For the AFS Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, the NED Rivers and Streams Technical Committee may be planning some presentations. The mission of this committee is to foster information-exchange on technical issues pertaining to

rivers and streams, including coldwater and warmwater systems in the Northeast Region. This committee is currently designed for information-sharing and addressing charges from the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Directors or Northeast Fisheries Administrators (NEFAA), and is jointly operated by NEFAA and AFS-NED. If you are interested in participating in the actions of this unique committee contact Larry Miller at [larry\\_m\\_miller@fws.gov](mailto:larry_m_miller@fws.gov)

I would like to make you aware of a great AFS product available this year produced under the sponsorship of the NED. It is the recently published book resulting from the AFS Symposium 69, *Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment*. It is an excellent resource for anyone interested in species whose life histories bridge the gap between the fresh and marine environments. I encourage you to buy a copy for yourselves or your organization. Special thanks are due to Alex Haro, who headed up the symposium steering committee and editorial committee for the book, and to the many NED members and others who worked very hard to make the symposium and book a success.

As your NED president, I am asking you to take a few minutes to talk to other fisheries professionals, young professionals, and students to encourage them to join AFS, and to take some time to mentor others in their efforts to become effective fisheries professionals. This is how I was "roped in" years ago, and throughout my many years with AFS, and through the mentorship of other AFS members, I have attended

interesting meetings, and have strengthened my personal fisheries network. Because of AFS I have been encouraged and inspired by others in the fisheries profession, presented my work, organized valuable fisheries workshops, developed fisheries policies, served on local and national committees, and, most of all, met the many interesting people who populate the fisheries profession. At a recent AFS meeting, I fully enjoyed leaving my marine fisheries world behind and listening to some of my new found freshwater friends explain how they now have to watch out not to get hit in the head by a flying carp! It was an very entertaining conversation that gave me a new appreciation about how invasive fisheries species issues are becoming more and more prominent, and one that I would not have fully appreciated if I had not attended the AFS meeting.

As part of my NED Officer duties, I take part in the discussions and decisions that affect AFS at the national level. Recently AFS has developed a new 5 year strategic plan that provides direction to the society to be more international in scope and to form more partnerships to accomplish its mission to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. To view the new strategic plan go to [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org) and select "About us".

Our NED website has been updated and I encourage you to go to <http://www.fisheries.org/units/ned/> to check out the site. If you click on "Chapters" there is a new feature that gives a quick update of the important activities of the individual NED chapters with a link to each chapter's own website. Also, for all NED officers and committee members, the NED Procedures Manual is on the website under

"Documents". This document includes the description of NED procedures with details on officer and committee member duties. All NED members, especially Division and Chapter officers, should read the first section of the Procedures Manual called – PROLOGUE MUSINGS OF EDWARD C. RANEY. This voice from the past gives advice on how to be an effective AFS member and fisheries professional, and has many relevant suggestions for today's fisheries professionals.

A last reminder about the NEFWC, make plans now to attend if you can. The date and location are - April 25-27, 2010, at the Marriott Boston Newton, Newton, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit <http://www.neafwa.org/>

The NED annual business meeting will be held on **April 26, 2010** during the NEFWC so I hope to see you there. Please feel free to call or email me about anything regarding the NED or AFS. I am here to serve you!

Paul Perra  
[paul.perra@noaa.gov](mailto:paul.perra@noaa.gov)



### ***AFS Mission Statement***

*The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.*

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## ***In this issue:***

<b><i>Upcoming Meetings</i></b> .....	3
<b><i>Notices and Reminders</i></b> .....	5
<b><i>Recent Publications</i></b> .....	9
<b><i>Fisheries in the News</i></b> .....	11
<b><i>Division Leader Contact List</i></b> .....	22
<b><i>NED Annual Business Meeting Minutes</i></b> .....	25

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## ***\*Upcoming Meetings\****

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The Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society Jointly Organizes Fisheries Sessions at the Northeast Fish and Wild Conference in Associated With the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Consider Attending the Conference

The website for the meeting and to enter abstracts is at--- [www.neafwa.org](http://www.neafwa.org)

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **66th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference**

Sunday, April 25 - Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Newton, Massachusetts, Marriott Boston Newton

*Hosted by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife*



#### **Conference Theme**

Climate Change and Wildlife Conservation - Adaptation and Mitigation

To advance the understanding of global climate change impacts to Northeast ecosystems; to develop adaptation strategies for fisheries and wildlife conservation; and to respond to the challenges and opportunities offered by mitigation measures.

#### **NEAFWA**

NEAFWA is comprised of 21 northeastern state and Canadian provincial fisheries and wildlife agencies. The Annual Conference attracts over 500 natural resource professionals in the fields of wildlife biology, fisheries and fisheries management, information and education, licensing and administration, law enforcement, conservation engineering, and geographic information systems specialists.





Fellow AFS NED members, we are pleased to announce that the 2010 national meeting will be held in the Northeast Division in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The following announcement advertises the meeting and hopefully you can plan to attend. We are still looking for volunteers to help with program planning so if you have the interest and the time, please contact the meeting's general chair Leroy M. Young, Jr., Director, Bureau of Fisheries, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, 450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823, 814-359-5177 (Office), [leyoung@state.pa.us](mailto:leyoung@state.pa.us) to volunteer.

## Welcome AFS 2010 Attendees!

There's no place like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the 140th meeting of the American Fisheries Society.

Join us downtown **September 12-16, 2010**, at the spectacular Westin Hotel and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Pittsburgh is renowned for its arts, entertainment and recreational opportunities. With fabulous dining, world-class museums and innovative art galleries, Pittsburgh is one of the top travel destinations in the world. Sporting opportunities are diverse. Pittsburgh is home to Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers, Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins and the Pittsburgh Pirates. On the water, enjoy fishing along Pittsburgh's river banks for bass and other game fish.

Explore beyond the city. You will find solace in the mountains of western Pennsylvania for hiking or native brook trout fishing. Try white water rafting in the rapids of the Youghiogheny River.

With so much to see and do, you'll find Pittsburgh is a city with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you in September 2010.

Link for AFS 2010 meeting: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs10/index.php>

Links for symposia submission: <http://afs.confex.com/afs/2010/cfp.cgi>

Link for contributed abstract submission: <http://afs.confex.com/afs/2010/contributed/cfp.cgi>

## 2010 Annual Meeting New York's Fisheries Heritage

February 10th-12th, 2010

As professionals dedicated to the conservation and management of New York's aquatic resources, we are constantly confronted with new challenges and threats to our fish and fisheries. New York State possesses an incredible diversity of aquatic habitats, which support a diverse fish fauna and sustain quality fisheries for a wide variety of species. The 2010 Annual Meeting theme will focus on the rich heritage of our State's resources and the accomplishments of those who work to conserve and manage them. This year we will take the time to examine the heritage of our native fishes, the diversity of their communities and the roots of recreational and commercial anglers.

We are also excited to announce our keynote speaker Dr. Robert A. Daniels, Curator of Ichthyology at the New York State Museum and Assistant Director of Research and Collections. For additional information please checkout our web site: <http://www.newyorkafs.org/>

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### *\*Notices and Reminders\**

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#### **AFS MEMBERS, AFS needs your help!**

Do you know a student in a natural resources curriculum or a young professional in your organization? Introduce them to the benefits of membership in the oldest, largest and most influential associations of fisheries professionals in the world:

- Free subscription to AFS monthly magazine Fisheries.
- Reduced rates on journals and books.
- Reduced registration fees at Annual Meeting and symposia.
- Ability to apply for Associate or Certified Fisheries Professional certification at reduced rates.
- Access to AFS's Jobs Bulletin on the Web.

All of these benefits and more for \$40 annually for young professionals (young

professional membership extends for three years after graduation).

For \$20 annual membership, students also receive all of these great benefits and, in addition, full access to all AFS journals online: *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, *The North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* and *North American Journal of Aquaculture*. Students also get full access to Fisheries InfoBase, the online catalog of all articles published in AFS journals from 1872 through 2001.

#### **Registration is easy!**

NEW MEMBERS CAN JOIN AT:

[www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org)

*Click on the JOIN tab and following the form instructions.*

**Get the word out today—Support your society and do your colleagues a favor by introducing them to AFS.**



## **Southern New England Chapter**

The Southern New England chapter held their summer meeting at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office in Hadley, Massachusetts on June 10, 2009. At the meeting, Carrie Byron from the University of Rhode Island won the Saul Saila best student presentation. The chapter also gave out two student travel awards to David Stormer from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and

Ivan Mateo of the University of Rhode Island. Other awards handed out at the meeting included the Award of Excellence to Francis Juanes from UMass, Amherst as well as the Lesa Meng Aquatic Conservation Award to the Falmouth Association Concerned with Estuaries and Saltponds (FACES) and the Outstanding Organization Award to the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association. More information on these awards as well as a call for nominations can be found on the chapter's website ([www.snec-fisheries.org](http://www.snec-fisheries.org)). The chapter will be holding their winter meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point.

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## **Applications Now Being Accepted for The John Moring Student Travel Award**

Financial support is available for students to attend the AFS Northeast Division Annual Meeting and the associated 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference to be held Sunday, April 25, through Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at the Marriott Boston Newton (MA).

These awards are competitive. Priority is given to (1) students presenting either an oral or a poster presentation, (2) students who are AFS members, and (3) students who are members of AFS's Northeast Division. The deadline for submission of abstracts to the Conference is January 15,

2010. Visit the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' website (<http://www.neafwa.org/2010/index.html>) for more information about the Conference and to submit a presentation abstract.

View details, application procedures, and all competition criteria about the Student Travel Award online at [http://www.fisheries.org/units/ned/PDFs/NED\\_Procedures\\_Manual\\_final\\_Oct2009.pdf](http://www.fisheries.org/units/ned/PDFs/NED_Procedures_Manual_final_Oct2009.pdf). Deadline for submission of the Travel Award application is March 15, 2010.

For additional information, contact the Chair of the John Moring Student Travel Award Committee, [Deirdre.Kimball@noaa.gov](mailto:Deirdre.Kimball@noaa.gov) (telephone: 978-281-9290, fax: 978-281-9117).



## Summer courses at The University of Iceland

The University of Iceland is pleased to offer a series of intensive, graduate-level summer courses to students pursuing a degree in fisheries science, marine ecology, or biological oceanography. It is a great opportunity to experience the magic of the long summer “nights” of midnight sun and the natural wonders of Iceland while taking courses that will prove useful in your graduate studies and beyond. Please take a moment to check out our 2010 Graduate Summer Program.

We will be offering our popular course Fisheries Ecology: Management and Conservation of Marine Resources in a Changing Ocean (<http://www.marine.is/fisheco.html>) taught by University of Iceland faculty as well as visiting professors, such as Dr. Steven Campana and Dr. David Conover. We also have added two new courses entitled: Introduction to Hydrodynamic Modeling and Ecological Modeling (<http://www.marine.is/grad.html>). No tuition, only a moderate registration fee and all courses are offered in English. For further information, visit our web site <http://www.marine.is> and see all of the exciting things that Iceland has to offer.



American Fisheries Society  
Atlantic International Chapter

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/aic/index.htm>

## Call for newsletter submissions!

**Background:** The Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is comprised of 5 eastern Canadian provinces and 3 New England American states (Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont). The purpose of the Chapter is to foster communication and the exchange of applied information and techniques (as well as theory) within the Chapter area.

**Newsletter:** In addition to providing information about the 2010 meeting and a summary of a recent membership survey,

the spring AIC newsletter will feature photos, announcements and short informational pieces submitted by members.

With this we're hoping to provide a snapshot of recent and interesting research findings, management/restoration activities and/or fisheries/aquaculture techniques being used within the Chapter area.

Keep short pieces concise (100-300 words). Photos should be high resolution and include a caption (they can accompany a short piece or be stand-alone).

If you have announcements for upcoming events, please provide the full event name, date/location, contact information and links if available.

Email submissions to Katrina Mueller at [mueller.katrina@gmail.com](mailto:mueller.katrina@gmail.com) by February 15.

Thanks in advance for your participation and feel free to forward this to any of your peers/colleagues/students that might be interested in participating in AIC!





Save the Date! The following fish seminar (week long course) will be offered at Eagle Hill in Steuben, Maine during the week of June 20-26, 2010.

**Applied Field and Laboratory  
Identification of Northeastern  
Freshwater Fish**

Freshwater fish in the northeastern United States number over 150 species, inclusive of native and introduced forms, resident to ponded and flowing waters of varying habitats and water quality. Sport-fish species (trout, salmon, bass, pike and perch) are most recognizable, while many of the vast minnow (one-third of the fish fauna) and non-game species are more difficult to identify, particularly in the field. This seminar will focus on the taxonomy and field/laboratory identification of 28 different freshwater fish families, inclusive of diadromous (migratory) species. Through lectures, actual field sampling (minnow trapping, beach seining, and backpack

electrofishing), examination of fresh and preserved specimens and use of technical keys, participants will gain an understanding of the taxonomy, morphology, and ecology of freshwater fish in the northeastern United States. Fish origins, distribution and conservation status will be emphasized and development of Indices of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) reviewed. A listing of historical and current scientific literature will also be provided. This seminar will be of great interest to aquatic-wildlife-conservation biologists-scientists, environmental consultants, natural historians and others who wish to learn more about freshwater fish and the science of ichthyology.

**Dave Halliwell**

([david.halliwell@maine.gov](mailto:david.halliwell@maine.gov)) is a certified AFS Fisheries Professional with a Ph.D. in Fishery Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, specializing in fish conservation, aquatic habitat classification, and vertebrate taxonomy.

For further information, contact Dave or visit:

<http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/nhs-calendar.shtml>



*Art Courtesy of David Kazyak*

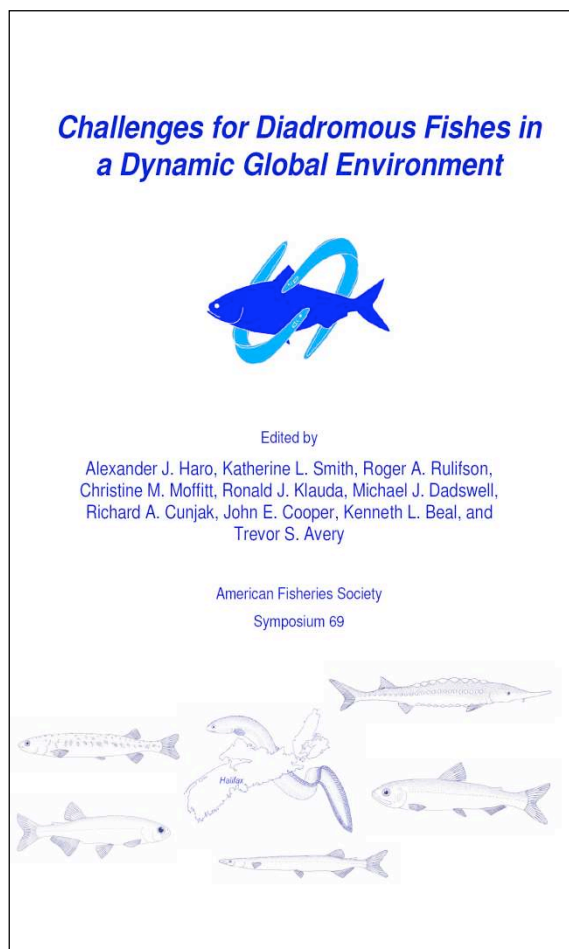


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## ***\*Recent Publications\****

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### ***Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment***



Based on a 2007 international symposium, this book reviews the biology, ecology, human importance, and management and conservation of Diadromous fishes with the goal of providing innovative interpretations and opportunities for sustainability. Because Diadromous fishes use different environments and migration corridors to complete their life history in ocean and freshwater environments, they are particularly vulnerable to direct and indirect consequences of human development and global climate change. Also presents new ecological and evolutionary concepts and experimental and modeling tools that advance understanding of the significance and resilience of diadromy life history strategies within ecosystems. Considers creative approaches for habitat protection and restoration to sustain stocks in the future.

**To order:** [www.afsbooks.org](http://www.afsbooks.org)

**943 pages, hardcover List price: \$69.00**

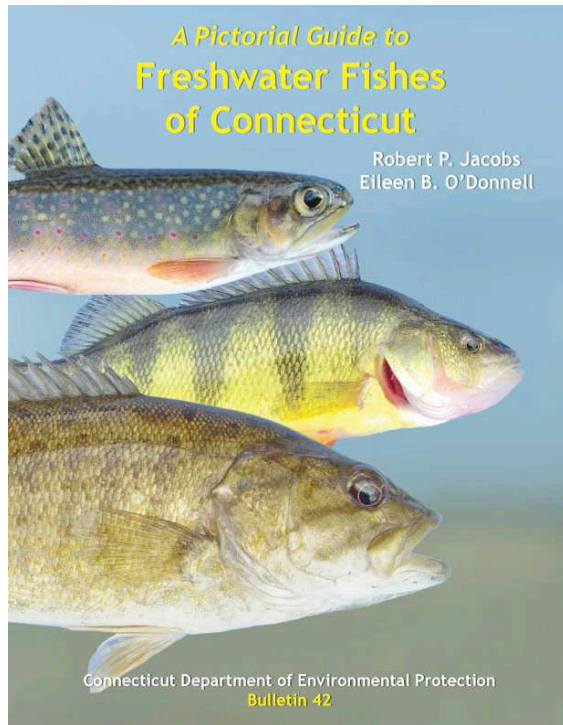
**AFS Member price: \$48.00**

**Item #: 540.69C**

**Published August 2009**

*This last August the Steering Committee for the international symposium, Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment, (sponsored by NED) was pleased to produce the published Proceedings for the symposium as AFS Symposium 69. The Steering Committee wishes to thank NED for its full support of the symposium throughout its development. It's unclear at the moment whether another diadromous fish symposium will be organized within the near future, but interest appears to be there and hopefully it will not take another 20 years to organize a third symposium! The Proceedings consists of two plenary papers, five chapters, 42 full papers, 24 extended abstracts, and 33 poster abstracts. AFS publications has printed 1000 copies of the book, and if most of the printed books sell, NED should make a small profit on book production.*

## **A Pictorial Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Connecticut**



**List price: \$19.95**

**Available at:**

**<http://www.ctdepstore.com/main.sc>**

**Item#: 661**

Ever see or catch a fish that you couldn't identify because it didn't look like any of the tiny photos or line drawings in your field guide? For New Englanders, those times are over. Written by DEP staff Robert P. Jacobs and Eileen B. O'Donnell, *A Pictorial Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Connecticut* is the first publication to present multiple, high resolution, full-color photos of most New England and all Connecticut freshwater fish species, including all anadromous species and occasional visitors from salt water.

The typical field guide format illustrates only one photo per animal which cannot express the variation in form and color that is common among fish species. This guide presents an

assortment of large, color photos for most fish species to aid in identification and illustrate the variety to be found in freshwater lakes, ponds and rivers. Most photos are portraits taken of fishes caught in Connecticut that show what a fish looks like "in the hand." In addition, aquarium shots are presented for some species because colors and patterns look different underwater. Also included are photos of juvenile fish, which can look very different from adults of the same species.

This field guide also simplifies the process of fish identification for beginners. Included is an easy-to-see graphic, "Guide to Families of Connecticut Freshwater Fishes." Readers can easily find the correct "fish family" on the graphic, which will direct them to a section of the book with photographs where they can narrow down the field and make identification easy and fun. For those more scientifically inclined, the book also contains a standard taxonomic key to fish families and species. Besides the photos, detailed information is presented for each species on identification, distribution, size, abundance, habits, how to observe and catch them, and what's unique about them. It also includes special sections on how to catch and observe fish in nature, including tips on angling and snorkeling and how to keep freshwater fish in aquariums.

The book is dedicated to the late Walter R. Whitworth, who wrote the definitive work on our state's fishes, *Freshwater Fishes of Connecticut*. This new book is not designed to replace this publication, but to act as an update, supplement and companion to his work.

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## *\*Fisheries in the News\**

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### **Atlantic sturgeon eyed for listing as threatened**

By Kevin Miller  
Bangor Daily News Staff  
January 2010



An Atlantic sturgeon is prepared for release by researchers at The University of Maine.

AUGUSTA, Maine — Federal officials announced Thursday that they are considering whether to designate the Atlantic sturgeon as a protected species throughout its range, which includes the Gulf of Maine and several of the state's larger rivers.

Atlantic sturgeons are large, prehistoric-looking fish that spend most of their lives in salt water and return to freshwater rivers to spawn. Achieving lengths of up to 14 feet and weights of more than 800 pounds, Atlantic sturgeons are much larger than their smaller cousin, the short-nosed sturgeon, already listed as an endangered species.

An earlier study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recommended protecting specific sturgeon populations in the mid-Atlantic. The latest review, however, also will include Atlantic sturgeons in the Gulf of Maine, marine ecologist Lisa Manning with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service said Thursday.

Both Atlantic and short-nosed

sturgeons are known to inhabit or spawn in the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers in Maine. Manning said that because short-nosed sturgeons already are protected under the Endangered Species Act, and because the two types of fish favor the same types of habitat, she would not anticipate that a federal listing of Atlantic sturgeon would have major impacts on Maine.

"I don't know that it would affect industries [along the rivers] to any greater extent than they are already under the short-nosed sturgeon," Manning said.

But Commissioner George LaPointe with the Maine Department of Marine Resources said Thursday he believes it would be unnecessary to add the Atlantic sturgeon to the Endangered Species List.

LaPointe said fishing for Atlantic sturgeons has been banned in Maine for a decade or more, and the state is actively working to restore habitat for both types of sturgeon.

LaPointe agreed that an endangered

or threatened listing of Atlantic sturgeon might not have dramatic impacts because they typically inhabit the same rivers as the already-protected short-nosed sturgeon. But that is not a reason for NOAA to expand the listing to Atlantic sturgeons, he said.

"The question is just because they can, should they. And my answer would be no," LaPointe said.

Last summer, NOAA also designated Atlantic salmon populations in the Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin

rivers as endangered despite opposition from state officials.

NOAA has been studying the potential need to list the Atlantic sturgeon since 2007 but launched the most recent review in response to an October 2009 petition from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

From the: [www.bangordailynews.com](http://www.bangordailynews.com)

By Kevin Miller

Bangor Daily News Staff

January 2010



## Group asks Snowe for help in protecting Maine fishermen

By Cindy Williams

**PORTLAND, Maine (NEWS CENTER)**

--A citizens group is calling on Maine Senator Olympia Snowe to begin congressional hearings on the federal government's "catch shares" commercial fishing policy.

Under that program, the catch is divided into shares with the goal of maintaining a sustainable fishery.

Once the shares are distributed, their owners can lease or trade them for profit.

The group "fair fish" says the program favors large commercial fishing operations from out of state.

It also says this could be a first step toward privatizing commercial fishing...And possibly giving groups or corporations control over access to an entire fishery.

Fair fish delivered signed postcards on behalf of 558 constituents to Senator Snowe's Portland office.

Source:

WCSH6.com

By Cindy Williams

11/2009

<http://www.wcsh6.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=111527&catid=2>



## **The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted 8 to 6 Monday against a plan that would have opened the door to bigger catches in Chesapeake Bay.**

Maine sport fishermen are hailing regulators' decision to reject a plan to expand commercial fishing for striped bass. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted 8 to 6 Monday against a plan that would have opened the door to bigger catches in Chesapeake Bay and other areas south of Maine, according to the Portland Press Herald.

The proposal would have allowed states with commercial striped bass fisheries to carry over unused quotas from year to year. Scientists told regulators that the striped bass population is healthy, but anglers in Maine told the paper that they're seeing fewer of the sport fish.

Maine doesn't allow stripers to be fished commercially, but last year, Maine sport fishermen caught about 49,000 stripers, a 31 percent drop from the previous year. Anglers told the paper they had a hard time catching the fish this year.

Some blame that on commercial fishing for stripers in Chesapeake Bay, the primary spawning and nursery ground for stripers caught in Maine, the paper reports. Stripers in the bay have also been hit with an unknown bacterial disease that's been linked to a decline of the fish.

Source:

The Maine Public Broadcasting Network,  
11/5/2009

<http://www.mpbnet.net/Home/tabid/36/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3483/ItemId/9675/Default.aspx>

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## **Saltwater Angler Registry Comes On Line This Year**

Submitted by Paul Perra and Marjorie Mooney-Seus

To comply with federal law, unless states have a marine license or other program that supplies NOAA Fisheries Service with an accurate count of marine anglers, most saltwater anglers will need to register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry beginning January 1, 2010.

The Registry is an important part of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) which has been initiated by NOAA Fisheries Service to improve estimates of recreational fishing activity.

Anyone who is angling or spear fishing for anadromous species (such as striped bass or American shad) in tidal waters or for any fish in federal waters (3 to 200 miles from shore for the U. S. east coast) will have to register.

*Who doesn't have to register?*

Anglers will NOT need to register if they:

- Are under 16;
- Only fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats;
- Hold a federal recreational Highly Migratory Species or subsistence fishing permit; or
- Are fishing commercially under a commercial fishing license.

Charter/party vessels (commercial for-

hire vessels who take anglers fishing or spear fishing) will only need to register federally if they do not already have another federal permit or license for their for-hire activities.

*What does it cost to register?*

NOAA will not charge a fee to register in

2010, but expects to charge about \$15 to \$25 in 2011.

Fees collected will go into the U. S. treasury. State license fees may be directed by the state to supplement state fisheries management programs.

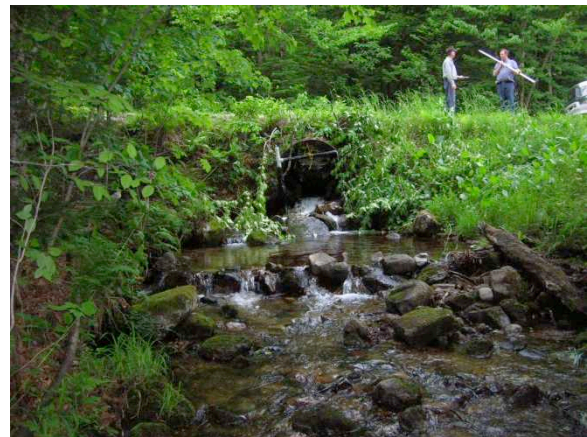
For more information on the Saltwater Angler Registry go to

<http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/mrip/>

## NH Habitat Happenings

John Magee, NH Fish and Game Department

*Nash Stream* – The Nash Stream Watershed is almost entirely within Nash Stream State Forest in northern New Hampshire. In 1969, a dam in the headwaters of the watershed breached, sending a torrent of water that scoured much of Nash Stream to bedrock and removed most of the riparian vegetation. NHFGD is working with its Project Partners, Trout Unlimited and the Division of Forests and Lands (landowner), to restore the aquatic and riparian habitat in the watershed, primarily benefitting wild brook trout and Atlantic salmon, but also restoring valuable wildlife habitat near the stream. We have assessed the aquatic and riparian habitat, water quality and fish populations of every major stream in the Nash Stream Watershed. Using this information, we have been able to determine what restoration opportunities exist and which activities would provide the biggest bang for the buck.



One of the Nash Stream crossings prior to improvement

As of June 2009, three culverts have been removed and the stream channels restored, two culverts were replaced with crossings that provide fish passage and do not cause erosion (one is a large culvert and the other a bridge), approximately 2,500 feet of instream and riparian habitat restoration has been completed, and final restoration plans have been developed for an additional 15,000 feet of Nash Stream. Instream and riparian restoration work will continue for the next several years, so if you see big yellow machines there, we are actively restoring habitat.



The same stream crossing after improvement

In addition to the restoration work, we have continued to conduct ground-breaking research with the USGS Conte

Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have learned that wild and hatchery brook trout can be highly migratory in the Nash Stream Watershed and the persistence of healthy populations appears to be predicated on the ability of individual fish to move throughout much of the Watershed. The stocking of hatchery fish appears to have had no effect on the genetic composition of wild brook trout in the Nash Stream Watershed; furthermore, in all of the fish surveys we have conducted, we have had survived in the Watershed for a full year.

## More NH Habitat Happenings

John Magee, NH Fish and Game Department

*Lake Horace Marsh* – Lake Horace Marsh lies immediately upstream of Lake Horace in Weare. The Lake's water level is drawn down about 4 feet from October through May each year to maintain the structural integrity of landowners' docks. This drawdown dewateres most of the 200 acre Marsh such that the emergent aquatic vegetation is comprised almost entirely of a single species, and there is little structural habitat and submerged aquatic vegetation. In addition, the winter draw-down likely leads to the death of many reptiles and amphibians that have prepared for winter by burrowing into the Marsh sediments in areas that subsequently become dewatered. The Piscataquog Watershed Association, The Town of Weare, the NH Department of Environmental Services

(NHDES), NHFGD, and the Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation provided funds to build a water control structure to create a more natural water level regime in the Marsh. In 2005, we conducted fish surveys in the Marsh, and found that some species of fish (most notably chain pickerel and yellow perch) do not use the Marsh for spawning because the winter drawdown precludes the establishment of suitable vegetation for spawning. The NHDES Dam Bureau completed the final engineering designs, and the structure was completed in December 2008. Post project fish surveys will be conducted to determine the benefit of the project to fish in Lake Horace Marsh, and the benefit of the project was immediately obvious when it was completed. The project is already providing valuable habitat for warmwater fish species and many wildlife species including waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians.

# Red tide killed fish at mouth of Kennebec

By John Richardson  
Portland Press Herald

The red tide that closed clam flats state-wide in July was so toxic that it killed more than a dozen sturgeon at the mouth of the Kennebec River, state officials said Friday.

It's believed to be the first time that red tide has killed fish along the Maine coast. And it's the first known case anywhere of the toxin killing shortnose sturgeon, which apparently ate contaminated clams.

The dead fish were found floating near the mouth of the Kennebec in July. At the time, coastal Maine was enduring its most intense red tide outbreak on record. Officials immediately suspected that the sturgeon, which are known to swallow shellfish, had been poisoned.

Federal test results released Friday confirmed high levels of the red tide toxin -- saxitoxin -- in the stomachs and other organs of three fish.

The same laboratory in South Carolina will now test for red tide poisoning in a sampling of about 20 eider ducks that washed ashore dead in Cape Elizabeth around the same time the sturgeon turned up, said Darcie Couture, director of the Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program for the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

Couture said she expects those results to be positive for poisoning.

"This was the worst year we've had. This year was just unbelievable," she said.

What worries her most is that it followed a series of other bad years.

"It definitely looks like something tripped and we're in this new

environment where we're subject to these incredibly strong" red tide seasons, she said.

Red tide is caused by a type of algae that lives offshore and spreads into coastal waters when conditions are right for summer blooms. No one knows exactly why or when the blooms occur, but winds that push the algae toward the coast and large flows of fresh water from rain appear to be important factors.

Red tide is dangerous to people who eat clams, mussels or other shellfish that ingest the toxic algae. Small doses can cause tingling or numbness, while larger doses can cause deadly paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Maine's clam flats were closed to digging for much of this summer as a precaution, and markets and restaurants had to go elsewhere to find fresh shellfish.

A woman on Swans Island got sick after eating clams she had dug.

She recovered, although officials warned that toxin levels were high enough in some areas to be lethal to humans.

The outbreak was so severe off New England this year that scientists saw patches of reddish brown water, a phenomenon that gives red tide its name but is extremely rare in this part of the world.

Last month, Gov. John Baldacci and Maine's congressional delegation requested federal disaster assistance for the Maine shellfish industry because of the red tide closures during the summer.

Baldacci wrote in his letter that the latest bloom was more severe and more costly than those in 2005 and 2008, both of which were declared disasters.

More than 1,500 Mainers are licensed to harvest shellfish, and the industry generates more than \$50 million a year, he wrote.



The death of the sturgeons has introduced a previously unknown threat to the endangered fish, say federal officials. But it's not believed to have threatened Maine's population of shortnose sturgeon, which is concentrated in the Kennebec River.

There were an estimated 9,500 shortnose sturgeon in the Kennebec in 2000, according to Gail Wippelhauser, a biologist with the Department of Marine Resources. Officials now think the population is larger because the fish have shown up in the Penobscot, Presumpscot and Saco rivers in the past few years.

The new test results are a clear reminder of the danger of red tides and the fact that the algal blooms are getting

stronger.

State officials and the shellfish industry have kept contaminated shellfish out of the market, which shows that the monitoring system is working, Couture said. But there is still a growing risk to people who collect their own clams and mussels during outbreaks.

"They just have to understand," Couture said, "it's getting worse every year."

Source:  
The Kennebec Journal  
11/14/2009

<http://kennebecjournal.maintoday.com/news/local/7098373.html>

## Studying Sand Tiger Movements in Plymouth-Kingston-Duxbury Bay

By Dr. Gregory Skomal, Shark Project Leader

The sand tiger (*Carcharias taurus*) is a coastal shark species that ranges from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of Maine along the east coast of the United States. Historically, the species has been fished throughout its range, but recent implementation of the Interstate Shark Fishery Management Plan now prohibits harvest in both state and federal waters.



Photo by Derek Perry, DMF

The large awl-shaped teeth of the sand tiger distinguish it from spiny and smooth dogfish.

In the past few years, an increasing number of juvenile sand tigers have been caught by recreational fishermen in Plymouth-Kingston-Duxbury Bay, a 10,200 acre tidal estuary located on Massachusetts' south shore. Most of these fish are in the size range of 3-4 feet, which indicates that this bay provides important nursery habitat for newborn sand tigers that move north from southeastern US pupping grounds.

Working with UMass School of Marine Science and Technology doctoral student Jeff Kneebone, *Marine Fisheries* has been tracking the behavior, movements, and habitat use of sand tigers in the Bay. Local fisherman Dave Lindamood has assisted Jeff and *Marine Fisheries* biologist John Chisholm to tag and release more than 60 sand tigers in the bay during the last two summers. Over half were outfitted with acoustic transmitters that allow researchers to track real-time movements of the sharks within the bay.

Transmitters emit a high frequency sound pulse that can be detected and logged

by any one of 25 receivers placed throughout the bay. By examining where and when sharks are detected after they are released, movement patterns may be defined as they relate to tide, temperature, depth, time of year, and location.

Ultimately, *Marine Fisheries* hopes to identify and quantify the characteristics of essential sand tiger habitat within the bay. In addition, this technology allows us to investigate the impacts of capture stress on behavior and survivorship after release, which is particularly important because release is mandated throughout the range of this species.

Results to date show that sharks remain within the bay during all tides and show fidelity to specific sites during most of the summer. By early October, sand tigers exit the bay and begin their migration to wintering grounds off North Carolina. One tagged sand tiger was detected in a receiver

array near the entrance to Pamlico Sound off Cape Hatteras, NC in January 2009. All of the sharks tracked to date survived the capture event, thereby demonstrating that catch and release could be a viable conservation tool.

This research is supported by Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration as well as a grant from the NOAA Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program. Jeff Kneebone is supported by Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute funds. Much of this work would not be possible without the logistical and hands-on support of the Jones River Landing Environmental Heritage Center, the office of the Duxbury Harbormaster, and numerous local fishermen.

Source: DMF News

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/publications/dmfng409.pdf>

## Multi-Stressor Assessment on Striped Bass in the Delaware Estuary

Greg Murphy

Scientists from URS Corporation (URS) are conducting a multi-stressor assessment on striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) in the Delaware Estuary. This assessment is part of a larger study designed to evaluate the current ecological conditions in the Delaware Estuary (Figure 1) and is being conducted under the DuPont Delaware Estuary Initiative. For additional information on the DuPont Delaware Estuary Initiative please visit [www.clearintothefuture.com](http://www.clearintothefuture.com).



Figure 1. Map of the Delaware Estuary and risk regions included in the striped bass assessment

Traditional fisheries management approaches typically rely on single species assessments but are evolving towards more comprehensive ecosystem based approaches due to the variety and complexity of environmental stressors influencing fish populations. The multi-stressor assessment developed for striped bass in the Delaware Estuary is based on the relative risk model (RRM) approach described by Landis and Wiegers (2005). The RRM approach is an adaptation of the traditional ecological risk assessment paradigm (USEPA 1998) that accounts for the interactions and impacts of multiple stressors and their sources in a given region.

Physical, chemical, and biological stressors incorporated in the striped bass assessment include water use, water temperature, salinity intrusion, suspended solids, habitat loss/degradation, barriers to fish access, chemical toxicants, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, impaired tributaries, reduction of local stocks, and oyster disease, while habitats include open water, wetlands, benthic substrates, and intertidal mudflats and sandbars. These stressors and habitats were used to guide the construction of a searchable, geodatabase of current environmental information for the Delaware Estuary (mainly 1997 to 2007). Presently over 1.3 million records are housed in the environmental database including information from various

categories such as streamflow, physiochemical, chemical, industrial/municipal water use inventories, and fisheries assessments.

The assessment approach for striped bass uses a series of compartmentalized models to automate the data evaluation processes for stressors, habitats, and uncertainty. The models were constructed by merging the query and analysis capabilities of the environmental database with the RRM framework in the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) ArcGIS ModelBuilder application. This approach allows increased flexibility in the assessment and incorporation of new information with minimal reevaluation effort. Due to its importance, uncertainty of the models is being evaluated using Monte Carlo simulation.

Preliminary results of the assessment indicate that striped bass in the Delaware Estuary are influenced by an array of environmental stressors with no individual stressor being uniquely dominant over other stressors. Reduction of local stocks (e.g., commercial and recreational fisheries), habitat loss/degradation, suspended solids, impaired tributaries, and water use (e.g., impingement and entrainment) accounted for the majority of relative risk in the Delaware Estuary by stressor type (Figure 2).

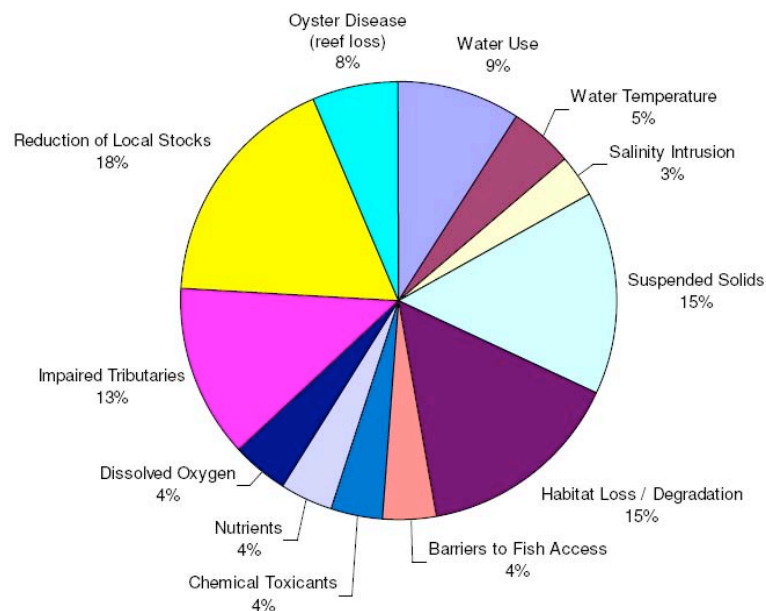


Figure 2. Percentage of relative risk to striped bass in the Delaware Estuary by stressor.

Of the risk regions evaluated in this assessment, the majority of relative risk occurs in Risk Region 4, which encompasses the main spawning grounds

for the Delaware River striped bass spawning stock (Fisher 2009), followed by Risk Region 5 (Delaware Bay) and Risk Region 3 (Figure 3).

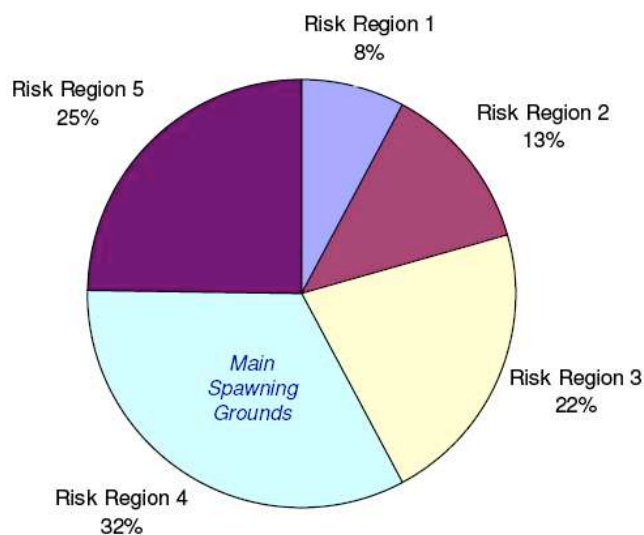


Figure 3. Percentage of relative risk to striped bass in the Delaware Estuary by Risk Region.



The flexibility of the approach developed for this assessment offers an array of potential applications for fisheries managers in the Delaware Estuary. At the basic level, fisheries managers may utilize the environmental database or individual models to evaluate spatial or temporal trends for specific stressors of interest, while more complex applications may include customized assessments for particular fish species or fish assemblages. For more information on this assessment please contact Greg Murphy of URS Corporation at (215) 367-2652 or [gregory\\_murphy@urscorp.com](mailto:gregory_murphy@urscorp.com).

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(updated  
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### Environmental and Resource Issues VACANT



## **Minutes**

### **2009 Northeastern Division Annual Business Meeting**

65th NEFWC, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 27 April

John E. Cooper, Secretary-Treasurer

#### **Call to order and determination of quorum**

President Desmond Kahn called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Ron Essig served as Sergeant-at-arms and determined that a quorum was present.

#### **Recognition of Past-Presidents and Guests**

Desmond recognized NED Past-Presidents Ron Essig, Larry Miller, and Margaret Murphy. Distinguished guest was AFS Second Vice President Bill Fisher.

#### **Guest remarks**

**AFS Second Vice President Bill Fisher:** Bill explained that he was representing the other officers of AFS who could not attend the meeting. Bill outlined several new initiatives from AFS:

1) The new AFS online journal *Marine and Coastal Fisheries: Dynamics, Management, and Ecosystem Science* is available from <http://afs.allenpress.com>.

2) AFS Governing Board members have financial support available for travel to the mid-year Governing Board meeting.

3) AFS has asked journal editors to solicit synopses of scientific papers, prepared by the respective authors in 'plain language,' that reflects important or current issues. These will be then issued as a press release.

4) AFS is participating in a science seminar in conjunction with NOAA to be presented to Congress on 27 April.

5) AFS Strategic Plan is currently being edited and should appear in *Fisheries* in the May issue. The Plan now reflects a more world view of fisheries and is a new business model for AFS, incorporating changes in the workforce and diversity, expansion of electronic distribution, policy promotion in fisheries, and member retention and recruitment. This new approach reflects the fact that the fastest growing segment of AFS is in the Student sub-units.

6) On-line review and voting for policy statements is being pursued to increase member participation; this will replace the restricted participation inherent in voting on policy statements at the AFS Annual Meeting.

7) Establishment of the Emmeline Moore Prize to recognize career achievement in the promotion of diversity in the Society, workplace, and education (see *Fisheries* 34(4): 193). The first award will be made at the AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville.

8) AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville has 32 symposia with about 1000 abstracts. The cost for the meeting is a concern with the current travel restrictions from many state and federal agencies. Meeting attendance might be lower than previous meetings. AFS and USGS are collaborating on a special symposium on the distribution of endangered species at Nashville; the result will be an online AFS publication.

9) Doug Beard is assisting in the planning of the World Fisheries Congress meeting in Scotland in 2012. There is also a meeting on Climate and Fisheries in Belfast, Ireland, in 2010.

**Division President Desmond Kahn:** Des expressed his thanks to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Program Chair Dave Miko for the excellent program which included the Rivers and Streams Symposium and a Marine Fisheries Symposium. Desmond reviewed the status of NED investments, explaining that the stock/bonds holdings were moved to bonds/money market funds in March. The level of NED funds is low at this point and our goal should be to use the income produced by the investments for operating expenses, and to add to the principle where possible. Des also expressed thanks to the Steering Committee members of the Diadromous Symposium. Several committee vacancies remain: the continuing education committee and the environmental and resource issues committee. The finance committee also needs additional members. Des suggested that all members should read the AFS Strategic Plan as it has many good ideas for Chapter activities as well as for higher levels of AFS.

### **Approval of the minutes of the 2008 business meeting**

The 2008 minutes were not available at this meeting. The minutes will be posted on the website for comment. An oversight by the Secretary-Treasurer but fault was accepted by President Kahn.

### **Secretary-Treasurer report**

John Cooper presented a brief summary of actions taken by the Executive Committee (details are available in the Secretary-Treasurer report):

The Executive Committee voted to provide funding for the following:

- AFS Education Section for the Skinner Travel Fund (\$500; student travel)
- travel expenses for the AFS President to attend the 65th NEFWC
- liability insurance for Chapter meetings, if requested (New York, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern New England requested coverage).

The Executive Committee voted *not* to provide funding for the following:

- AFS Equal Opportunities Section for student travel to Nashville
- Southern Division request for inland striped bass symposium

Expenses in 2008 exceeded income by \$8408, an increase of 36% over that in 2007. This rate of expenditures will result in the NED having only funds for the NED meeting after two years, and less than adequate funds for the meeting thereafter. This requires a drastic reduction in expenses. The Treasurer's report is available in the submitted report.

Roy Miller asked if investment dividends are reinvested. Des responded that they are at the present time, but that might change depending on income and expenses.

### **Chapter reports (all are compiled in the report package)**

Atlantic International Chapter: Ernie Atkinson reports that the report stands as written

SUNY-ESF: stands as written

Mid-Atlantic Chapter: stands as written

New York Chapter: stands as written; Margaret Murphy noted that the student subunit at SUNY-Fredonia has been approved by AFS

Pennsylvania Chapter: stands as written; Sue Thompson reviewed the arrangements made so far for the annual meeting in Pittsburgh in 2010; river boats with powerpoint capability will be available.

Southern New England Chapter: stands as written; Ken Sprinkle would like to collaborate with the Division for the meeting in Newton, Mass.

### **Committee Reports:**

Archives: no report

Audit: stands as written; John noted that an overcharge of \$0.03 has been recovered from Bank of America after a half-hour telephone conversation.

Awards: Scott Decker reported that the recipient of the Dwight Webster Award is Carolyn Griswold, and will receive the award at the next SNEC meeting.

Finance: Desmond Kahn reviewed the changes made to the NED investment portfolio, and noted that NED expenses must be reduced.

Membership: John Arway reported that membership has decreased for the first time in 10 years and the NED needs a plan to recruit new members, and retain

current members. Mary Fabrizio initiated a mentoring program to bring young leaders to AFS, but it is uncertain if this was directed to students, non-students, or a committed professional. Student members are increasing faster than other constituents of AFS; New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts are higher in memberships than other states/provinces.

Newsletter: stands as written, a June edition is planned.

Nominating: stands as written; Paul Perra was elected President, John Arway was elected President-Elect, Phil Downey was elected as First Vice President, John Cooper was elected as Secretary-Treasurer, and Brian Murphy was elected as Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. New officers will assume their duties immediately after the AFS Annual meeting (September 4, 2009).

Program: Dave Miko stated that there were 230 registrants, less than usual due to financial conditions; Dave will send a written report after the meeting concludes.

Resolution: Roy Miller read the resolution thanking the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as hosts of the 65th Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. Larry Miller moved for approval of the resolution, seconded by Ron Essig. Larry noted that Roy has written the resolutions for many years and will be retiring, but it is hoped that he will continue to contribute to the NED.

Rivers and Streams: stands as written; Larry Miller noted that Dave Day and Ken Sprankle deserve credit for the work they have done for the programs.

Student Presentation Awards: stands as written. This year's best paper and poster award announcements will be delayed due to scheduling.

Student Travel: three John Moring Student Travel Awards were given this year. Recipients were Devin DeMario, Jonathan Freedman, and Doris Mason, all from Penn State University.

Website: stands as written

**Old Business:** Scott Decker provided an update on the Diadromous Symposium noting that the publication of the proceedings is on track, and should be printed before the Nashville meeting.

#### **Installation of new officers:**

Paul Perra (President) was escorted by Ron Essig and Bill Fisher.

John Arway (President-elect) was escorted by Margaret Murphy.

Phil Downey (First Vice-President) was escorted by Larry Miller

**Officer remarks:**

Desmond Kahn presented the NED Special Achievement Award to Ken Sprankle. Des also noted that AFS will award the first Emmeline Moore Award at the Nashville meeting and that nominations are needed (see *Fisheries* 34(4): 193).

Paul Perra expressed congratulations to the Rivers and Streams Committee on the symposium at this meeting, and added that he hopes to generate additional symposia. The next Conference will be in Newton, MA, and will feature a marine striped bass symposium; the striped bass population recovery was not covered at the Diadromous Symposium. The NED also needs to concentrate efforts on the Pittsburgh meeting in 2010; a symposium is planned on marine ecosystem management.

Paul presented the President plaque to Desmond Kahn.

**New Business:**

Des reminded everyone of the next NED annual meeting in 2010 in Newton, MA.

Bill Fisher noted that the next AFS President could be from the NE Division.

John Arway reminded everyone of the AFS listserv that can be utilized by NED

**Adjournment**

Larry Miller moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Margaret Murphy, and passed without dissent. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.