



President's Message

The Northeastern Division held its annual meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania this April during the 65th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. Budget shortfalls have led to restrictions on travel for many state agencies, and the Conference was shortened by a day to two and a half days, Sunday, April 26 through Tuesday, April 28. The Division did succeed in reaching a quorum at our annual business meeting, however.

Awards Chair and Past-President Scott Decker announced that the Division awarded the Dwight Webster Award of Merit to Carolyn A. Griswold, recently retired from the Narragansett Laboratory of the Northeast Fishery Science Center, NMFS. Kenneth Sprankle received a Special Achievement Award for his initiative in organizing symposia for the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee at recent Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conferences. The Walking Stick Award, presented to the oldest continuous member of the Division, passed from Dr. Saul Saila to Dr. John Forney. The recipient has been a member of AFS since 1953, and he shall retain the walking stick until 2012.

Recent elections for the Division officers resulted in election of Paul Perra (MA) as President, John Arway (PA) as President-Elect, Phil Downey (VT) as First Vice-President and John Cooper (NY) re-elected to Secretary-Treasurer. Brian Murphy (CT) was elected as the Division representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

Our Secretary-Treasurer, John Cooper, presented information that showed our financial reserves have declined due to both stock market declines and also to the fact that our expenditures have been exceeding our income. Discussion of this situation at the meeting included a proposal from the Finance Committee Chair, Des Kahn, to invest the NED holdings in bond mutual funds (the Division had pulled out of stock market funds last year) and to try to restrict expenditures to the dues and dividends from the bond fund holdings. As the Division gains funds, for example from sales of our forthcoming publication with AFS of the proceedings of our 2007 Diadromous Fishes Conference, we will build up our holdings in the bond funds, thus increasing the income stream. Incoming President Paul Perra has ideas for future publications that can produce funds for the Division.

The John Moring Student Travel Award was presented by Chairman Dewayne Fox to three students, all from Pennsylvania State University: Jonathan Freedman, Devin DeMario and Doris Mason. All three presented papers at the Conference, and Devin also received an award for best student paper at the conference, for her talk titled, "Evaluation of Panfish Enhancement Regulations in Pennsylvania Lakes". Shawn Rummel, also of Penn State, received the award for the best student poster for his poster titled, "Dispersal and Residency of Three Species of Domestic Trout in Two Pennsylvania Streams".

During the Conference itself, the Division’s Program Chair, Dave Miko of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission organized a schedule which contained two symposia, one lasting a day-and-a-half on Rivers and Streams Habitat and a second organized by Rich Seagraves (DE) on the Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization. The Plenary Session on Monday morning presented talks on general conservation issues, problems and positive options for everyone working on fish and wildlife. The session on Freshwater Fisheries was a full day. Besides the Magnuson-Stevens Symposium, there were several other talks on Marine Fisheries

A new development on the NED website (available through the AFS website) is a section where each Chapter in the Division can post news. These postings also provide links to each chapter’s website. Thanks to Greg Kozlowski, our webmaster, for developing this.

Keep your eyes peeled for publication of the new book published by AFS in cooperation with the Division. This volume will contain the proceedings of the Diadromous Fishes conference conducted in Halifax in 2007. This is a follow-up to the widely read 1987 volume by Dadswell et al., “Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes,” AFS Symposium 1.

I hope to see you in August in Nashville.

Desmond Kahn

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.

- WEBSITE -

Check out the new feature on the Northeastern Division website. Go to the Division website at -

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/ned/> - select Chapters and click on a chapter. There will appear a short write up about the chapter, some news of upcoming chapter events, and a web link to the chapter’s own web site for more detailed information on the chapter. This feature was set up to allow Division and Chapter Officers, and the Division’s individual members to quickly survey the major upcoming events taking place in all the Division’s chapters. Contact Greg Kozlowski at gekozlow@gw.dec.state.ny.us if you have questions or suggestions about the Division’s website.

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****UPCOMING MEETINGS****



139th Annual Meeting of the AFS

August 30-September 3, 2009
Nashville, TN

The 139th Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Registration information, deadlines and an overview of activities may be found on the meeting website at www.fisheries.org/afs09/



6th INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES OBSERVER & MONITORING CONFERENCE



Portland, Maine, USA

July 20 - 24, 2009

6th International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference

July 20-24, 2009
Portland, ME

Please visit www.IFOMC.com for conference information.

Diadromous Species Restoration Research Network Science Meeting 2009

July 22-24, 2009
University of Maine, Orono, ME

Please visit <http://umaine.edu/conferences/DSRRN> for more information.

****AWARD RECOGNITION****



Ken Sprankle receives the Special Achievement Award from President Desmond Kahn at the 2009 Business Meeting.



2009 NED Officers (L to R) 1st Vice President-elect Phil Downey, 1st Vice-President John Arway, President-Elect Paul Perra, Immediate Past-President Scott Decker, President Desmond Kahn, Secretary-Treasurer John Cooper.



The Walking Stick Award, presented to the oldest continuous member of the Division, passed from Dr. Saul Saila to Dr. John Forney (pictured). The recipient has been a member of AFS since 1953, and he shall retain the walking stick until 2012. A brief summary of Dr. Forney's career can be found at <http://www.sdafs.org/fmsafs/hoeforney.html>.

Notices and Reminders

Fish Biologist Vacancy Announcement

POSITION TITLE: Fish Biologist

AGENCY/LOCATION: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Division, Hadley, MA

MAJOR DUTIES: As a Fish Biologist, you will administer grants to State fish and wildlife agencies involving aquatic species research, survey and management, and fish hatchery operations and maintenance as authorized by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, as amended, and the State Wildlife Grant Program. You will have primary responsibility for freshwater fisheries and other aquatic resources grants in 13 States and the District of Columbia, with additional responsibilities for anadromous fisheries grants in several States, depending on their organizational structure. In addition, you will provide direction, guidance, training, technical assistance, and oversight to States in developing and conducting grants supported by Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration and State Wildlife Grants.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

1) Knowledge of theory, principles and methods of freshwater and anadromous fish biology and fisheries management; 2) Skill in administering an aquatic species research and survey program, including planning, implementation and evaluation of management actions; 3) Knowledge of field and analytical techniques for collection and analysis of life history and population data for assessing the status for freshwater or anadromous fish species; 4) Ability to

communicate effectively and establish and maintain positive, effective working relationships with representatives of government agencies, private organizations and individuals; and 5) Knowledge of State fish and wildlife organizations, administrative procedures, and operations as they affect accomplishment of programs funded by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

QUALIFICATIONS: This is a permanent, full-time position open to all both inside and outside Federal government. U.S. citizenship is required and you must meet U.S. Office of Personnel Management qualification requirements including specific educational coursework.

SALARY: GS-12/13, Range \$74,276 - \$114,825

CLOSING DATE: July 20, 2009

CONTACT: Ron Essig (ron_essig@fws.gov or 413-253-8504). More information on the position and how to apply can be found starting July, 2009 by searching for Job Announcement Number PH-NM-09-262512 at USAJobs (<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>).

American Fisheries Society's new Draft Strategic Plan

Don't forget to review the American Fisheries Society's (AFS) new Draft Strategic Plan. The plan is out for review to AFS membership through publication in the May issue of Fisheries Magazine (Volume 34, #5, May 2009 pages 242-248). Comments on the Draft Strategic Plan can be sent by going to the AFS website

www.fisheries.org/forum. Comments must be received by July 15, 2009. Following the comment period, the plan will be updated and reviewed by the AFS Governing Board. If approved by the Governing Board, it will be presented to the AFS membership for acceptance either through electronic ballot or at the AFS Annual Business meeting in Nashville Tennessee September 1, 2009.



Items for DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives US Fish and Wildlife Service

With spring, sometimes spring cleaning follows. As Keeper of the museum collection and archives at DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, Spearfish, SD, I ask you to think about history as you are filling that dumpster or getting ready for a big bonfire. Is there something that should be saved? Now, DC Booth does not want ALL your garbage, but we might like some of it. If it might be significant to the history of fisheries management, we might be interested. Age is relative. If you are replacing old, out-dated equipment, it could fit in to a progression of equipment in the collection. Did you invent something, or make your own out of parts lying around the shop? Old stocking

records? Lab or field equipment?
Photographs?

Our largest recent acquisition is a good sized, oval tank stocking truck, once used at the Leadville, CO hatchery. It joins a 1959 FWS Chevrolet Apache pickup and a 1963 Studebaker dump truck (which still has the original FWS paint and lettering). We hope to have a new display area for these in a few years. We also received some electroshocking gear, water quality equipment, publications, and old uniforms from Colorado.

DC Booth, located at the old Spearfish Station of the US Fish Commission, collects the history of fisheries management. We use the 1899 hatchery building as a museum. The archives are open to researchers. Contact us if you have something you think we might be interested in, for more information, for a copy of our want list, or if you have a research question. Randi Smith, Curator, 605-642-7730, ext. 215, or randi_smith@fws.gov. Let me know if you will be in this area and would like a special tour. <http://www.fws.gov/dcbooth/>

Fisheries - In the News

Northeast Multispecies Groundfish Management Moves Into Sector Management

*Maggie Mooney-Seus,
NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Region*

The New England Fishery Management Council is considering the creation of new fishing sectors, and the modification of the two existing sectors, in Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. As many as 17 new sectors may be operating in FY 2010. Currently there are two sectors in the northeast, which have been operating successfully for several years, which prove the benefits of this management technique. NOAA's Fisheries Service is supportive of efforts to transition the New England multispecies fishery from input controls to a catch share (sectors) management allocation system to help ensure the long term sustainability and profitability of these fisheries. Catch share programs allocate specific shares of the total fishery catch to individuals, cooperatives, communities, or other entities and includes more specific programs such as Limited Access Privilege Programs, Individual Fishery Quotas and Individual Transferable Quotas. A sector is a group of persons holding limited access vessel permits that voluntarily enter into a contract and agree to certain fishing restrictions for a specified period of time, and are granted a Total Allowable Catch. Under Amendment 16, which is being developed by the Council, 19 new or revised northeast groundfish sectors are proposed, so far made up of about half the eligible vessels in the fleet (i.e., up to approximately 650 vessels). Vessels not in a sector would remain in a common pool, managed under

the existing effort controls including limits on the number of days that can be used to fish. During the April meeting of the Council, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco announced that NOAA was committing \$16.7 million to help get sectors up and running. The President also requested \$18.6 million for NOAA to continue this effort in 2010.

Salmon protection extended to three Maine rivers

By Kevin Miller
Bangor Daily News
June 16, 2009

AUGUSTA, Maine — Federal officials announced Monday that they plan to add Atlantic salmon populations in the Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers to the Endangered Species List.

The decision significantly expands the previous "endangered" designation for Gulf of Maine salmon to include much of the watersheds of the state's three largest and most heavily industrialized rivers. Salmon reared at two federal fish hatcheries also will be protected beginning next month.

Salmon from eight smaller Maine rivers and the lower stretches of the Penobscot and Kennebec have been listed as endangered since 2000.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration plan to designate 12,000 miles of river, stream and



Mitch Simpson, a biologist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, hands off an Atlantic salmon to Dave Pert, also a Marine Department of Marine Resources biologist, at the Veazie Dam on Monday. By mid-afternoon, the biologists measured and took fin and scale samples from 69 salmon that were caught that day in the Veazie Dam trap. The salmon were loaded into a tank truck and taken to the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in Orland. Salmon reared at Maine's two federal fish hatcheries also will be protected when the designation takes effect, likely sometime next month.

estuary habitat and 300 square miles of lake habitat in Maine as critical habitat for salmon. Such a designation means any projects within that area receiving federal permits or federal money must undergo additional oversight.

The designation is not expected to affect recreational fishing for other species within the watersheds, federal officials said.

Although widely expected, the endangered decision was nonetheless denounced by Maine's congressional delegation, which worried the announcement could diminish the spirit of cooperation among parties. Gov. John Baldacci, who had been pushing for a less-restrictive designation of "threatened," said the state will explore all options, including legal action.

"This federal action ignores Maine's strong track record in species management and our need for a flexible approach which will enable us to use all our tools to work with stakeholders to manage Atlantic salmon," Baldacci said in a statement. "The extreme approach chosen by the federal government hamstring the state's ability to use creative

conservation efforts that have been successful in the past."

Federal officials acknowledged Monday that the designation will affect hydropower facilities, development and other industries located throughout the three watersheds. But they pledged to work with the state and businesses to minimize those impacts.

In some cases, dams will need new or improved fish ladders or lifts to allow the salmon to pass upstream unharmed. Some dams will likely have to apply for "incidental take permits" to protect them from legal action if salmon are trapped or harmed.

Current conservation efforts, including an unprecedented \$50 million project under way to remove two Penobscot River dams and bypass a third, were taken into consideration. But federal officials believe more protections are needed.

"Our goal and our responsibility under the law is to help the Atlantic salmon recover from the brink of extinction," Marvin Moriarty, acting deputy director for the USFWS, said during a conference call with reporters. "The state of Maine is a long-term partner of ours, and we will continue to work with them closely."

Moriarty said recreational fishing for other species in the Penobscot and its tributaries should not be affected unless the agencies start to see those fisheries affecting salmon.

The state can receive a permit to shield recreational anglers — such as those vying for smallmouth bass in the Penobscot — from any penalties should they accidentally hook a salmon.

The days of catch-and-release fishing for sea-run salmon on the Penobscot are likely gone, however. Maine officials abruptly canceled a monthlong spring season near Bangor due to the impending decision.



Maine Department of Marine Resources biologists take scale samples from Atlantic salmon caught in the Veazie Dam trap on Monday. That same day, the Atlantic salmon of the Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers and their tributaries were added to the federally protected endangered Gulf of Maine population, which have been listed as an endangered species for nine years.

“I think closing that door is not a wise choice for the federal agencies given the fact that anglers have done so much for conservation on the Penobscot,” said Andy Goode, vice president for U.S. operations at the Atlantic Salmon Federation, which had preferred a “threatened” designation. Labeling the fish as endangered, Goode said, could ostracize the community that has worked hard to protect salmon habitat and raise money for conservation.

Nonetheless, Goode added, “we recognize that the species is in trouble. We think the listing is warranted.”

During public hearings, several conservation and sporting groups testified in support of an endangered designation.

Before industrialization, salmon returned every year by the hundreds of thousands to New England rivers. But dams, pollution, overfishing and, more recently, low at-sea survival have virtually wiped out wild Atlantic salmon stocks in the U.S.

The lone glimmer of hope is the Penobscot. More than 2,000 salmon returned to the Penobscot in 2008, and this year’s run is keeping pace with last year.

Even those promising figures, however, are only about 10 percent of the number biologists say is needed for salmon to survive on their own. And the vast majority of the sea-run salmon that return can be traced to the Green Lake and Craig Brook salmon hatcheries.

“The goal of the Endangered Species Act is to have natural, self-sustaining populations,” said Mary Colligan, director of protected resources with NOAA’s northeast fisheries service.

But Patrick Keliher, director of Maine’s Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat, contends that the decision on Maine’s salmon appears to be driven, in part, by policies adopted in response to lawsuits over salmon on the West Coast. Keliher said that cooperation among all parties, not regulation, is the best option in Maine.

“We look at this as a population that is without a doubt threatened and that could become endangered if we don’t work cooperatively on the conservation of the species,” Keliher said.

Don Foster, a past president of the Penobscot Salmon Club and a member of the Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, personally believes that a threatened designation would have kept the angling community enthused while protecting the fish. Now, Foster worries the salmon clubs that have played such a large role in recent conservation efforts could go the same way as the fish.

“I really fear this may be the end as we know it for salmon clubs because there is no more hope for fishing for many of the members in their lifetimes,” Foster said.



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Sept. 2008 –Sept. 2009

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