Newsletter of the Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society September 2007 Volume 23 Issue 2 eds. Fernandes, S. and Gardner, C.

President's Message

It has been an honor and pleasure serving the membership of the Northeastern Division (NED) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Through my experience of serving on the NED Executive Committee (EXCOM) I have had the opportunity to work with some of the most talented, hard working, and dedicated fisheries students, scientists, and managers that I have ever met during my 30 years studying and working in the field of fisheries science and management. As I reflect back, I can not help but think that we are all fortunate to have such a fine group of leaders serving the AFS membership at the Chapter, Division, Section, Parent and Administrative Staff levels of AFS.

<u>Awards</u> – This year I had the pleasure of presenting the Dwight Webster Memorial Award to Dr. Kenneth Sherman of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center in honor of his lifelong contributions to fisheries science, management, and the profession at the local, national, and international level. The Meritorious Service Award was presented to Douglas Stang of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for his exemplary leadership and service to AFS, and the NED. The Best Student Presentation Award was given to Eric Palkovacs of Yale University, and the Best Student Poster Award was given to Brianna Hutchison of Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Saul B. Salia Professor Emeritus, University of Rhode Island retained, for an additional year, the

Honorary Walking Stick Award which recognizes long standing NED membership and service. Next year the NED will honor the next most Senior Member of the NED with the transfer of the Walking Stick (which was hand carved by NED member Bob Carline).

<u>Chapters</u> – The NED Chapters were very active over the past year holding many annual and special meetings, symposiums, and workshops. A number of chapters are working with university faculty, staff and students to develop Student Subunits within their chapter area. Many chapters supported student travel to AFS meetings and recognized student accomplishments with presentation awards. Chapters also financially supported relief efforts for AFS members and Units affected by the hurricanes of 2005, and also helped sponsor the 2007 NED Diadromous Fish Symposium. Our NED chapters were and will continue to be the most vital and active component of the NED family.

<u>Newsletter and Website</u> – The Editors of the Newsletter "The Northeast Fish Rapper" have done and excellent job again this year. I would like to thank the University of Maine Student Subunit, and Editors -Stephen Fernandes, Cory Gardner and Chris Holbrook for a job well done. We have had our difficulties with the NED Website this year despite the heroic efforts of Webmaster Greg Kozlowski. Greg migrated the old site to free hosting on the AFS server, but had problems updating and accessing our website which was originally developed by a contractor using a website development software that has proved difficult to learn and manage. After many frustrating attempts to update the site Greg is redesigning it in a more common and easier to use format that should allow us to update the website on a regular basis. I have introduced a resolution for consideration at this year's AFS Governing Board Meeting in San Francisco to direct the AFS to develop a basic website template for use by the AFS Units, draft a simple users guide for webmasters, and provide help desk support for administering and updating Unit websites. I hope this service will lead to more active and up-to-date websites for our membership.

Rivers and Streams Committee - This year I authorized the formation of a new special committee titled the NED Northeast Rivers and Streams Committee (NED-NRSC) and appointed David Day of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as the Chair. The NED-NRSC will work collaboratively with a similar committee formed through the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) to address fisheries habitat and management issues that pertain to rivers and stream in the northeast. The collaborative effort is focusing on fish passage, large rive sampling, and resource management. A long term goal is to develop rivers and streams symposiums for the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conferences, and provide reports and other publications for use by fisheries managers, researchers and students. David Day will act as NED's liaison with the NEAFWA committee. I invite you to volunteers to serve on the NED-NRSC. One major value of the NED-NRSC will be improved communication among NED Chapters and membership; and governmental, private, and academic fisheries personnel who work on northeast rivers and streams issues.

management and research. Anyone interested in the NED-NRSC should contact me or David Day (ph. 717-346-8137; email: davday@state.pa.us).

In closing out my final President's Message I would like to personally thank the members of the EXCOM that served with me over the past year: NED Officers- Scott Decker (President-Elect), Desmond Kahn (First VP), Paul Perra (Secretary-Treasure), and Margaret Murphy (Immediate Past President); Chapter Presidents – Steve Shepard (AIC), Chris Nack (SUNY-ESF), Patricia Hamilton and Rich Wong (MAC), Michael Flaherty and Emily Zollweg (NYC), John Arway, Dave Argent and Jason Detar (PC), and Ruth Haas-Castro and Justin Davis (SNEC). I would also like to thank all Standing and Special Committee Chairs and Appointments: Norman R. Dube, Carolyn Griswold, Rick Jacobsen, Bill Hyatt, Roy Miller, Stephen G. Rideout, Ellen Marsden, Ron Essig, and Dustin Edwards (and anyone else I may have overlooked). Last, but not least I would like to thank the NED Membership who gave me this wonderful opportunity to serve as their President over this past year.

Good Fishing, Great Fisheries and Cheers!

Larry Miller



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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- WEBSITE-

The NED AFS has a website – <u>www.nedafs.org</u>. 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 <u>gekozlow@gw.dec.state.ny.us</u>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS



33rd Annual Meeting of the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society September 23-25, 2007 Holiday Inn Hotel & Resort Fredericton 35 Mactaquac Road French Village, New Brunswick



64th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference

April 27-30, 2008 Galloway, New Jersey www.neafwa.org



NOAA Celebrates 200 Years of Science, Service, and Stewardship ... read more

From September 21-23, the NOAA 200th Celebration and the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center will come together to celebrate maritime heritage and NOAA products and services in Gloucester, MA. The event is free and open to the public and will feature activities and exhibits for all ages. On Saturday, September 22, the official opening ceremony of the three-day event takes place at 10:00 when a NOAA geodetic marker will be installed and dedicated. An event website has been established and will be populated soon and updated regularly. Please check that site often: www.gloucestermaritimecenter.org/familyfundays.html.

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report to the AFS Governing Board, September, 2007

Date: August 13, 2007

I. Motion Report

(A) Recommended Motion:

The Northeastern Division moves that the AFS secure the services of a professional website developer (contract or staff position) to develop a website site template for use by interested AFS Subunits (i.e., those that do not have a website but wish to have one, or those that wish to update their current website). The developer should consult with various AFS Units to develop the basic content of a standard website site template (i.e., Officers, Bylaws, Newsletter, Archives and Annual Meeting pages, and AFS, Units, Sections or other links). The development of the website template should include drafting of an easy to use and understand user guide for use in customizing the website to the needs of an AFS Unit (i.e., cover banners, page and link updating). In addition, the developer should provide follow-up support to any AFS Subunit that needs help using the website site template for at least one year following release of the website site template.

(B) Minority View:

None sought, none expressed.

(C) Background for Motion:

The internet and its use have become almost as commonplace as use of the telephone as a means to communication. It has the advantage over the telephone, or other media (e.g., newsletter) because of its capability to communicate instantly with a large number of individuals, at any time of the day or night, and over great distances. One of the most useful tools of the internet is a well designed website. With a well designed website information on an entity or subject is available whenever the user needs it. With a well designed website the owner of the website can instantly update information and stay current of developments and new information.

AFS has recognized this and invested heavily in developing internet services for its members (i.e., information technology staffing, new web servers, database development, information management software, AFS website development). This investment is beginning to pay off. However, many of the AFS Subunits have been struggling with development and management of websites due to the volunteer nature of their Web Masters (i.e., they have other jobs and responsibilities, frequent changes) and the rapidly changing website software, and hosting requirements (i.e., security issues). Development of a standardized website template and support in its use through a friendly user manual and availability of consulting service would provide great value to many Subunits, their membership and fulfilling the mission of the AFS.

II. Activity Report

(A) Charge or Annual Program of Work: NED Plan of Work 2007 (appended)

(B) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan with the appropriate goals, strategies, targets referenced

Aquatic Stewardship

Goal AS 2, Stewardship Education

Strategy AS 2.3 Increase the number of conferences, symposia, and books focusing on holistic management practices and aquatic biodiversity, and how these concerns

relate to fisheries and aquatic resource management.

Target AS 2.3a. AFS Units hold conferences or symposia on aquatic stewardship topics.

- The NED sponsored the "Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment 2nd International Symposium on Diadromous Fishes" held June 18-21, 2007 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This symposium was a follow-up to the successful symposium held in 1986 in Boston, MA, and will had more emphasis on human activity and the sustainability of diadromous fishes.
- The NED is working with AFS to publish the proceedings of the "Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment -2nd International Symposium on Diadromous Fishes". There were 45 oral presentations, and 60 posters presented at the symposium on a diverse range of topics in six sessions, including; Dynamic Nature of Diadromy, Climate Change and Anthropogenic Influences, Ocean Environment and Migration, Linkages With Ecosystem Energetics, Population and Habitat Restoration, and Management and Governance of Diadromous Fishes.

The New York Chapter provided considerable support to the AFS 136th Annual Meeting held in September, 2006 at Lake Placid, New York. The meeting dealt with a number of aquatic resource topics

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2007 Northeastern Division (NED) American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Business Meeting Minutes Mystic, CT – April 23, 2007

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

President Larry Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Ron Essig served as Sergeant-at-Arms and determined that a quorum was present.

Recognition of Past Presidents and Guests

Larry recognized NED past presidents Paola Ferreri, Ken Beal, Bill Hyatt, Ron Essig, Linda Bireley, Carolyn Griswold, Rick Jacobson. Distinguished guests were AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam, AFS President Jennifer Nielsen, and AFS Past President Ken Beal.

Guest Remarks

AFS President Jennifer Nielsen Remarks: Jennifer Nielsen reported that the society was in good shape financially, and that discretionary funding will be used to improve infrastructure and support a new Information Technology (IT) Committee. The Society is progressing into creating a marine fisheries and coastal journal, and is actively looking for an editor. The journal will be electronic, free, and the editor will receive a stipend. There have been problems with AFS IT services, but there has been progress in correcting this. The new IT Committee will help define what more can be done. Student membership has increased with the low \$19 student membership fee, and free electronic access to AFS journals. This trend should increase as students sign up for this year's AFS Annual meeting in San Francisco, and if members focus on student recruitment.

Executive Director Gus Rassam's Remarks:

AFS has had IT problems when it first took over operating its membership data base. Most problems are now corrected. The new data base should allow AFS regions and chapters to maintain membership information, and AFS will host sub-unit web-sites for free. There has been controversy with healthy debate over the creation of the new marine journal. However, AFS is going forward with the journal, and, in the long run, it will be good because with the new journal the society will not be viewed as a freshwater society. The journal editor will have the job of developing format and content of the new journal which may have commentary as well as science articles.

The AFS Hutton Student intern program has reduced funding from the last two years, but is still doing well with about 34 internships expected this year. AFS is looking into changing the program somewhat and partnering with other societies to make it a natural resource internship program.

Division President's Remarks:

Larry said the NED had to deal with IT issues such as its membership data base, and bring on a new NED website. Now that the NED website is finished, it will be hosted by AFS for free, but the NED will have to maintain it with a web-master who will post information on the site as needed. There is concern about the SUNY-ESF Chapter because of its apparent inactivity. Larry and Margaret Murphy intend to contact them to see if they have continued interest in

maintaining at the Chapter level or becoming a student sub-unit to the New York Chapter. As President, he is encouraging the creation of student subunites and is willing to travel to colleges or universities to help them get started. Larry thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as President.

Minutes of the 2006 Business Meeting

The minutes of the 2006 annual business meeting in Burlington, Vermont were approved. Carolyn Griswold moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ken Beal.

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 \$91,165. Since 1999, there has been almost a steady drop in NED assets each year with a resulting 44 percent reduction of assets from \$163,000 to \$91,1650. It was noted that a \$ 4,000 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.

Website Report

Greg Kowslowski (NED web-master) reported that he will be working with the contractor of the newly developed NED website to migrate the site to AFS for hosting. AFS will host the site on their server at no cost, and he will maintain and update it. Anyone with interesting items for the site should send them to him. (gekozlow@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

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, 2007. 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 stocks:bonds:cash and equivalents is now 57.7:25.5:16.8 which is a fairly significant departure from the stated (1999) NED policy of 45:40:15.

Awards: Past President Margaret Murphy 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.

Continuing Education: No report.

Environmental and Resource Issues: No report.

Finance: Desmond Kahn had reviewed the investment strategy for the NED. He and Paul Perra will be making some recommendations on investment strategy for the next few years. The NED is looking for members to serve on an active Finance Committee, and the NED will have the option in the future to include its funs for investments within the AFS parent society's investment portfolio.

Membership: Desmond Kahn submitted a written report that as of December 1, 2006 Division membership stands at approximately 1,176 members, an increase of 395 over last year. This increase was attributed to an increase in student and young professional memberships (in part likely due to new lower rates for these member levels), and an increase in regular membership. The overall Division membership increase is likely due to the AFS Annual Meeting being held in New York in 2006.

Nominating: Chair Margaret Murphy reported that the following Executive Committee Officers were elected: Scott Decker (NH) President, Desmond Kahn (DE) President-Elect, Paul Perra (MA) First Vice President, and John Cooper (NY) for the two-year Secretary-Treasurer position.

Program: Bill Hyatt reported that a successful effort by all involved has resulted in an excellent program.

Resolutions: Larry Miller read a resolution prepared by Roy Miller thanking the host state of Connecticut and the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for organizing the 2007 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, and recognizing those involved for putting on an excellent meeting. Linda Bireley moved and David Day seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Roy informed the membership on two other resolutions that will be coming before AFS at its annual meeting in San Francisco. One was to condemn the teaching of creationism as an alternative to evolution and the another was to support the formation of a southeast aquatic partnership.

Student Presentation Awards: Scott Decker reported that he was leading the activities to select this year's student award

recipients. The NED is looking for a volunteer to Chair this Committee. (Notefollowing the meeting Eric Palkovacs, Yale University was selected for best student presentation, and Brianna Hutchison, Penn State University was selected for best student poster. Both will receive \$200 NED awards).

John Moring Student Travel Awards: Larry Reported there were no applications for this year.

Chapter Reports (Note - information provided at meeting and/or excerpted from annual chapter reports to AFS)

Atlantic International Chapter (AIC): In the past year, the Chapter held it's annual meeting in Lake Placid in coordination with the AFS annual meeting. At that time, Mr. Steven Shepard (Aquatic Science Associates, Inc.) was officially installed as President, Ms. Alison Johnson (AMEC Earth & Environmental) was named vice president and Mr. John Magee (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department) was named Secretary/Treasurer. The AIC supported student attendance at that meeting and met with members of the New York chapter.

The AIC continued efforts to recruit young professionals working in the fisheries and aquatic sciences fields and to support student involvement in the Chapter. This year the AIC will provide stipends to up to five students to attend the Anadromous Catadromous Meeting in Halifax and up to five student stipends to attend the AIC annual meeting in New Brunswick. The AIC continues to operate its web site which has recently been reconstructed on the AFS server. It can be found at http://www.fisheries.org/units/aic/index.htm. The website includes the current newsletter, an archive (descriptions of past meetings, newsletters, and photos), information

regarding the AIC upcoming annual meeting (venue, registration forms and the program) and general information such as research summaries and job openings.

SUNY-ESF Chapter: No report submitted.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter: The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held its fall meeting November 9, 2006 in Tuckerton, New Jersey. At the meeting, the Chapter heard 7 good presentations, held a raffle to raise funds, and donated \$250 to the anadromous/catadromous symposium. The Chapter will be helping on a coolwater fish workshop. The Chapter also held a joint meeting with the Tidewater Chapter in February 2007. There were 54 presentations and/or posters. Steve Murawski from NMFS was the keynote speaker.

New York Chapter (NYC): In September 2006, the NYC hosted the parent society meeting in Lake Placid. This was one of the best attended meetings ever. The weather was cool, but the welcome was warm and the food was excellent. The NYC is still recovering its energy from that meeting, and have a dearth of t-shirts. If anyone would like a souvenir, they are available!

In February the NYC held its annual meeting at West Point, NY where the focus was on "Fisheries Management from Mountaintop to Sea: Lessons from the Hudson River Basin." The meeting was well attended with over one hundred people registered. There were many interesting talks and a mini-symposium on viral hemorrhagic septicemia. NYC plans for 2007 include a GIS workshop and planning for the 2008 annual meeting in Canandaigua, NY.

Pennsylvania Chapter (PAC): The PAC held its fall meeting in November 2006. Dr. David Argent (California University of Pennsylvania) was officially installed as

President and Mr. Jason Detar (PFBC) was named vice president. Mr. John Arway was formally recognized for his contributions during his tenure as President as was Mr. Mike Hendricks, who served as the Chapter's secretary/treasurer for nearly 10 years. The fall meeting focused on IBI developments within Pennsylvania and the northeast, with presentation from Dr. William Kimmel, Mr. John Arway, and Mr. Lou Reynolds. The spring meeting was cosponsored with the West Virginia Chapter of the AFS. Its theme was Large River Ecology, and was held March 9-10, 2007 in Morgantown, WV. The meeting included: Four keynote speakers who have extensive experience with the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers as well as those who have experience with environmental policy; two continuing education workshops; and a technical session with posters and oral presentations.

In other news, Pittsburgh, PA will host the national AFS meeting in 2010. Dr. Douglas Austen, Executive Director of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, is assembling a team to lead planning and coordination efforts for this meeting.

Southern New England Chapter (SNEC): The SNEC continues to have two one-day long meetings each year (January and June) which are well-attended by a mix of professionals, students and interested parties. In the past year, these meetings have been attended by of 90-100 people, with students comprising up to 50% of participants. For the past couple of years, meeting registration is offered free for student. This has increased attendance by students and their advisors. SNEC also holds two Board of Directors (BOD) meetings each year with an average of about 10 members in attendance at each meeting. At its June meeting, SNEC members voted to amend the SNEC By-laws to include recognition of a University of Connecticut

Student Sub-unit. The University of Connecticut students have 20 members in the sub-unit. SNEC has also instituted a student travel award to regional or national meetings. SNEC is transitioning to a more electronic medium for information exchange. An electronic Listserve is now used to communicate with members. Meeting and job information is posted on the SNEC (website www.snec-fisheries.org), and eventually the SNEC newsletter will also be on the website.

Proceedings from the a 2003 joint SNEC/ New England Estuarine Research Society meeting were published recently, and SNEC continues to support the Biennial Flatfish Ecology Conference with monetary donations and in-kind services.

Installation of Officers

Larry Miller was recognized as incoming Past President and escorted to the podium by Linda Bireley and Paola Ferreri, Scott Decker was elected President and was escorted to the podium by Carolyn Griswold and Ken Beal. Desmond Kahn was elected President Elect and was escorted to the podium by Rick Jacobson and Paola Ferreri. Paul Perra was elected First Vice-President and was escorted to the podium by Ron Essig, and Bill Hyatt.

Incoming Presidents Remarks

Scott Decker thanked Larry for getting him involved with AFS and the membership for selecting him, and said he will be preparing a plan of work that will include improved student involvement, and is looking forward to a great year working with the AFS NED membership. Scott provided an AFS appreciation plaque to Larry Miller for his service as NED President, and Larry provided an AFS appreciation plaque to Paul Perra for his 2 years service as NED Secretary-Treasurer.

Larry thanked everyone for there great help and said AFS's strength is through its army of volunteers. Also, he noted that the NED had lost two Past Presidents. Charles Thoits and Ken Warner both passed away in the last year, and will be missed.

New Business Rivers and Streams

David Day (PA) reported that the Northeast Administrators Association was forming a Rivers and Streams Committee, and the NED will be invited to participate/partner in the Committee's endeavors. It is envisioned that the committee would operate as a joint Administrator's/NED Committee and set up workshops and symposia. Some activities may be planned for the AFS 2010 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

AFS Hutton Student Program

A \$ 4,000 donation was approved unanimously for the AFS Hutton Student Intern Program (Ken Beal moved to approve the donation and it was seconded by Ron Essig).

Adjournment

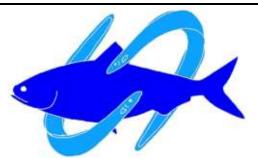
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m..



Annual Report of the Atlantic International Chapter

The Atlantic International Chapter submits this annual report to the Northeast Division and the Parent Society. The AIC is continuing our professional and educational activities, primarily through the annual Chapter meeting. The 2007 Chapter meeting will be in New Brunswick. At that time, we hope to continue our discussion regarding the formation of a student sub-unit at the University of New Brunswick campus in Fredericton. The Chapter continues to operate our web site which has recently been reconstructed on the AFS server. It can be found at

http://www.fisheries.org/units/aic/index.htm. The website includes the current newsletter, an archive (descriptions of past meetings, newsletters, and photos), information regarding our upcoming annual meeting (venue, registration forms and the program) and general information such as research summaries and job openings.



AFS-NED Sponsored Diadromous Fish Conference Held in Halifax

On June 18, 2007, over 200 biologists, fisheries scientists, and managers convened at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront Hotel in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia to attend the four-day international symposium, Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society Northeast Division. Building upon the very successful 1986 symposium, Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes, the 2007 symposium focused on new aspects of biology, life history, migration, energetics, and population dynamics on this unique group of fishes, with a special emphasis on anthropogenic impacts and management in a changing global climatic environment. Presenters and attendees from over 20 countries heard over 40 talks on a diverse range of topics in six sessions, including: Dynamic Nature of Diadromy, Climate Change and Anthropogenic Influences, Ocean Environment and Migration, Linkages With Ecosystem Energetics, Population and Habitat Restoration, and Management and Governance of Diadromous Fishes. Two excellent plenary talks were given by Dr. Robert McDowall of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. Christchurch New Zealand and Dr. Thomas Quinn of the University of Washington, who, as attendees of the original 1986 meeting, also provided additional perspective in wrap-up talks at the end of the meeting. An extensive poster session featured over 60 posters, enough to support two poster socials!

Proceedings from the meeting will be published in the AFS Symposium series, to include full papers and extended abstracts from posters. Details of the meeting, including abstracts of both presentations and

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER REPORT

The PA Chapter of the AFS held its fall meeting in November 2006. At that time, Dr. David Argent (California University of Pennsylvania) was officially installed as President and Jason Detar (PFBC) was named president-elect. John Arway was formally recognized for his contributions during his tenure as President as was Mr. Mike Hendricks, who served as the Chapters secretary/treasurer for nearly 10 years. The fall meeting focused on IBI developments within Pennsylvania and the northeast, with presentations from Dr. William Kimmel, John Arway, and Lou Reynolds. During this meeting a proposal was put forth to the membership to co-sponsor a spring technical meeting with the West Virginia Chapter of the AFS. The spring meeting, whose theme was Large River Ecology, was held March 9-10, 2007 in Morgantown, WV. The meeting included: four keynote speakers who have extensive experience with the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers as well as those who have experience with environmental policy; two continuing education workshops; and a technical session with posters and oral presentations. The Chapter held its summer social meeting on July 14, 2007 at Lock Haven University's Sieg Center on Fishing Creek, Clinton County. About 25 members attended. Jason Detar was officially installed as president and Geoff Smith (Clearwater Conservancy) as president-elect.

In other news, Pittsburgh, PA will host the national AFS meeting in 2010. Dr. Douglas Austen, Executive Director of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, is assembling a team posters, can be found at the symposium website:

www.anacat.ca

Or contact the Symposium Chair, Alex Haro, at Alex_Haro@usgs.gov. to lead planning and coordination efforts for this meeting.

President Dr. David G. Argent California University of Pennsylvania 250 University Avenue California, PA 15419 Ph: 724-938-1529 argent@cup.edu

NEW YORK CHAPTER REPORT

It's been a busy year in New York! In September 2006, we hosted the parent society meeting in Lake Placid. This was one of the best attended meetings ever. The weather was cool, but the welcome was warm and the food was excellent. As usual there were tough choices between talks scheduled for the same time. We are still recovering our energy from the meeting, and have a derth of t-shirts. If anyone would like a souvenir, they are available! In February we held our annual meeting at West Point, where the focus was on "Fisheries Management from Mountaintop to Sea: Lessons from the Hudson

River Basin." The meeting was well attended with over one hundred people registered. There were many interesting talks and a mini-symposium on viral hemorrhagic septicemia. Best paper awards went to Dana Warren in the student category for talking about "Timing and magnitude of spring flooding and its influence on salmonid year class strength in temperate forest streams" and Randy Jackson in the professional category for

speaking on "The relationship between gill net catches and abundance of walleye and yellow perch in Oneida Lake, New York." Best student poster award went to William Fetzer for "Is over-winter mortality of gizzard shad (Dorosoma cepedianum) decreasing in Oneida Lake, NY?"

Our plans for 2007 include a GIS workshop and planning for our 2008 annual meeting in Canandaigua, NY.

Emily Zollweg Senior Aquatic Biologist NYS DEC- Warrensburg 232 Golf Course Rd. 12885 518-623-1264

UCONN American Fisheries Society: From Beginning to Present

In October, 2005, myself along with three other UCONN undergraduate fisheries students gathered for the first time to discuss creating an AFS subunit on campus. It was decided that weekly meetings were necessary in order to complete the process with UCONN as well as the Southern New England Chapter. Before long a set of bylaws were drafted and UCONN recognized us as an official organization in December, 2005.

We finally narrowed everything down to the point where we could host our first chapter meeting in early February, 2006. The first active semester during the spring of 2006 proved to be filled with more planning. With semi-monthly meetings and ideas of fundraisers on the table, planning was all we had going. In late April, 2006 a group of us attended the NEAFWA conference in Burlington, VT. This was our first actual event and it turned out very well. In June, 2006, all of our planning paid off as we successfully hosted our first fundraiser. "The First Annual Student Support Fishing Tournament" was held at Pachaug Pond in Griswold, CT for largemouth bass. With \$500 seed money from SNEC and some donations from local and larger sporting goods businesses we pulled off a great first tournament. The day started with torrential rain, but we still managed to pull in a small profit.

Coming into the fall of 2006, we had a small sum in our account for the next event. Six members attended the 136th Annual AFS meeting at Lake Placid where four of us presented research. Luckily, our chapter funds were not needed to cover any cost thanks to UCONN Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering, and the American Fisheries Society for their generous scholarships.

Throughout the fall of 2006 our chapter attempted, and failed miserably, at having weekly fishing trips. Something about each date marked on the calendar and heavy rain seemed to coincide. Nevertheless we made it out at least once, briefly, before the lightning started. By the time winter finally came our luck had turned and we managed several successful ice fishing trips, including one unforgettable day of Yellow Perch fishing on Mashapaug Reservoir. Our chapter also assisted the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in planting riparian vegetation on the Mt. Hope River at a stream restoration site.

Now here we are ending the late spring semester with 3 semesters under the UCONN Subunit belt. This spring was particularly eventful. We began with a couple planning meetings and then the fun began. We hosted speakers from the CT DEP and the New England Outdoor Writers Association and made a trip to the Conte

Anadromous Fish Laboratory in Massachusetts. We visited the same stream restoration site 6 months after helping to replant the riparian zone with DEP to look at the site and discuss the stream restoration process. We assisted with the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources (CCNR) where we made another small profit on a silent auction. We have also successfully conducted our first new officer nomination/election process and regretfully retired the original officer panel, all of which graduated from UCONN with a degree in Natural Resources on May 6th.

So what now? The new officer panel and the rest of the chapter have to complete the Second Annual Student Support Fishing Tournament, once again on Pachaug Pond, scheduled for October 7th, 2007. Many members want more fishing trips and hopefully they can get better weather than we had in the fall of 2006. Our new EXCOM and chapter members for the fall of 2007 are enthusiastic and motivated to make things happen. One of the primary goals of the new officers and members is to boost membership numbers. I am sure everyone is as excited as I am to see how things turn out. Maybe in the spring of 2008 the UCONN Subunit President about to step down will have a similar, much too wordy article for the SNEC Newsletter with as many details of events and trips as this one.

Brad Trumbo Past UCONN AFS President 06-07

AFS EDUCATION SECTION CONTEST

Some time ago, I issued an invitation to play a game with the Education Section of AFS. I posed the question, "What is the largest bony fish known to science?" Hey, we're fish squeezers, we're supposed to know this sort of stuff, right?

A gut reaction for some was to suggest the whale shark *Rhincodon typus*. This could have been reinforced by the April 2006 cover story from Natural History entitled, "The Biggest Fish, Unraveling the Mysteries of the Whale Shark" (Wilson 2006). Chen et al. (1999) reported that *R. typus* can reach a maximum length of 20 m and a maximum weight of approximately 34,000 kg, but this is not the correct answer to our question. Sharks after all, are cartilaginous, not bony fishes.

Two species, *Arapaima gigas* from the Amazon and *Pangasius gigas* from the Mekong would be good guesses. They are *gigantic* by most standards. However, these two are both shorter than the oarfish *Regalecus glesne* at approximately 11 m (Eschmeyer et al. 1983) and lighter than the ocean sunfish *Mola mola* at approximately 2300 kg (Novak 1982). So what is the answer?

I hope you consider this a *thought* question, rather than a *trick* question. A clue to the answer is the phrase "known to science." Fossilized remains of *Leedsichthys problematicus* were excavated from a clay pit in Peterborough, England beginning in June 2002. This Middle Jurassic species from the family Pachycormidae was first estimated to have grown to more than 20 m (Martill 1986). Jeff Liston, dig leader for the excavation, conservatively estimates the size

of the newest specimen to be approximately 15 meters. This estimate is based on morphometric ratios, and the newly hooded Dr. Liston points out that such an estimate does not really indicate the maximum size to which *L. problematicus* could have grown. Regardless of the exact length, it seems clear that *Leedsichthys problematicus* is the largest bony fish known to science. Congratulations to those who knew the answer or took the trouble to find it!

The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society strives to improve the quality of education for fisheries students and scientists and to promote exchange of education information, techniques, and materials among educators and among educational institutions. The Section also recognizes the importance of continuing education and professional development. If you embrace these goals, perhaps you should consider becoming a part of the Education Section.

Steve Lochmann, Membership Chair

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FISHERIES IN THE NEWS

ANR Confirms First Northeastern U.S. Infestation of 'Didymo'

Aquatic nuisance discovered in northern Connecticut River

Waterbury, Vt. - The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources today confirmed that the aquatic nuisance algae known commonly as "didymo" or "rock snot" has invaded the northern reaches of the Connecticut River, marking the first official report of *Didymosphenia geminata* in the Northeastern United States.

Believed to be native to far northern regions of Europe and Asia, didymo has been expanding its range and tolerance for warmer, more nutrient-rich water conditions during recent years in Europe and North America. Accompanying this expansion have been increasing reports of massive blooms that reach nuisance levels, forming thick mats of cottony material on the bottoms of rivers and streams that can potentially smother aquatic plants and destroy fish habitat.

"Dense mats of didymo can harm populations of aquatic insects which form an important source of food for fishes, including trout," said Steve Fiske, a biologist with the agency's Department of Environmental Conservation. "Also of concern are the potential effects of dense accumulations of these algae on the shells of the dwarf wedge mussel, a state and federally listed endangered species found in New England only in the Ashuelot and Connecticut rivers."

The suspected didymo population was reported June 25 to fish and wildlife officials by an alert fishing guide who spotted the algae growing on rocks in the Connecticut River near Bloomfield, Vt. Dr. Sarah Spaulding of the U.S. Geological Survey - a leading expert on the species who is based in Denver - confirmed today that what the fishing guide found was indeed didymo.

There are currently no known methods for controlling or eradicating didymo once it infests a water body. "Spread prevention is our best, and really our only, defense against the harmful effects of this species," said Angela Shambaugh, an algae expert at the agency's Department of Environmental Conservation. Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic algae cling to fishing gear, waders, boots and boats, and remain viable for several weeks under even slightly moist conditions. Decontamination requires soaking clothing and equipment in hot water containing detergent, or a 2% bleach solution. Thoroughly drying clothing and equipment for a minimum of 48 hours can also be effective, but only if absolutely complete dryness is maintained. She also cautioned that even if didymo isn't visible, it could still cling to clothes and equipment.

"To be safe, everyone should begin using this procedure everywhere - particularly downstream of known didymo sites - as part of general spread prevention," Shambaugh said.

In the past several years, didymo has expanded its range in the Western United States and has infested rivers and streams in several southeastern states, including Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. This is the first report of didymo in the northeastern United States.

In 2004, didymo was discovered in New Zealand. Within 18 months it had spread to 12 rivers on the South Island, forming nuisance blooms at several locations. New Zealand Biosecurity has instituted severe penalties for intentional spread of the algae, and is intensively researching control and prevention methods.

The agency is urging anglers and other water recreationists to institute New Zealand's recommended procedures for preventing the introduction and spread of didymo: Check, Clean and Dry.

• Check: Before leaving a river or stream, remove all obvious clumps of algae and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the affected site. If you find any later, do not wash them down drains; dispose all material in the trash.

• Clean: Soak and scrub all items for at least one minute in either hot (140 degrees F) water, a two percent solution of household bleach or a five percent solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent.

• Dry: If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.

For more information, please visit the following resources on the Web:

EPA

http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosp henia/

Biosecurity New Zealand

http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo

Global Invasive Species database

<u>http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecolog</u> <u>y.asp?si=775&fr=1&sts</u>

Fisheries management doing fine in Del.

DESMOND M. KAHN

Reader The recent article titled, "Our marine life in peril" and the editorial, titled, "Current regulations won't end overfishing, but new approach may," presented an alarming picture of some of Delaware's important marine fish and fisheries. The article stated that "Nearly all species are in peril." The editorial purported to see evidence of overfishing "everywhere," including in Delaware waters. Overfishing was mentioned as one of the causes of a decline in abundance of weakfish, the state fish. The article mentioned or depicted four species of fish or invertebrates that have been caught in Delaware waters: weakfish, striped bass, summer flounder and horseshoe crabs. The article went on to discuss complaints people had about fisheries management and finally presented some current research on weakfish tagging that the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife is conducting in cooperation with Delaware State University. The only one of the four species that is currently estimated by scientific analysis to be undergoing overfishing, however, is summer flounder. Management measures have reduced fishing mortality significantly,

however, so that, as the chart accompanying the article showed, summer flounder has been increasing, not decreasing. The National Marine Fisheries Service has set the threshold for "overfishing" at a relatively low level and has set the definition of a restored stock at a relatively high level, some would say an unrealistically high level. Federally mandated cuts in the summer flounder fishery have been planned for the coming year, including in Delaware, to meet the federal stock rebuilding target. By the end of the 1990s, the Division of Fish and Wildlife enacted restrictions on the horseshoe crab fishery, which had been unregulated. There has been no decline of horseshoe crabs observed since then, and abundance of juvenile crabs has increased, which will eventually produce increased adult abundance.

Striped bass are at unprecedented high levels of abundance, as the article's chart clearly shows. There has been no overfishing since the 1970s and early 1980s, when overfishing caused a marked decline.

In the mid-1980s, the coastwide fishery management plan for striped bass was given mandatory status by federal law, so any state that is out of compliance with the fishery management plan is subject to a federal closure of its fishery. The Delaware River spawning stock, one of the three major spawning stocks of striped bass, was officially declared restored by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in 1998.

Weakfish, also known as sea trout, have undergone a severe decline. As the chair of the Weakfish Stock Assessment Subcommittee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, I led a two-year effort to assess the status of weakfish stocks on the Atlantic coast. The subcommittee found that overfishing had occurred back in the 1980s and early 1990s. In the mid-1990s, however, a mandatory coastwide fishery management plan went into effect and ended overfishing.

Although weakfish abundance and catches increased initially in response to the fishery restrictions, by 1999 abundance started to decline because natural mortality increased. We found that the increased abundance of striped bass was the most likely cause of the weakfish decline, via predation of weakfish and possible competition for menhaden. There is extensive published scientific documentation of striped bass predation of weakfish. They have similar seasonal migratory patterns. An increase in predation in one area can affect abundance in other areas, just as overfishing in one state can affect the abundance of fish available to another state.

Ironically, success in restoring abundance of one managed fish species seems to have caused decline in a second desirable species. Finally, the two people who complained about fisheries management in the article had opposing complaints. One complained that managers were too slow to restrict fisheries, while the other complained that managers have imposed too many restrictions too quickly. Despite complaints, however, fisheries

management in Delaware does have a largely successful track record in managing fisheries for sustainability.

Desmond M. Kahn is a biometrician with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife He also is first vice-president of the North Eastern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the professional association of fishery biologists and managers.

Wilmington Delaware News-Journal 3/21/2007

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

ANNUAL REPORT, continued:

- and management, and was a great success with nearly 2000 registrants from around the world attending.
- The New York Chapter held its annual meeting in February at West Point, NY. The theme was "Fisheries Management from Mountaintop to Sea: Lessons from the Hudson River Basin." The meeting was well attended with over one hundred people registered. There were many interesting talks and a mini-symposium on viral hemorrhagic septicemia.
- The Atlantic International Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting in French Village, New Brunswick, Canada. The theme is "Challenges to Fish Habitat " and will look at emerging issues and trends, and the methodologies being used by fisheries managers to address challenges to native freshwater and marine fish habitat.
- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the AFS held its fall meeting in November 2006 and focused on fish assessment approach for an Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) that could be used to assess water quality and aquatic resource health within Pennsylvania and the northeast.
- The Pennsylvania Chapter of the AFS held its spring technical meeting in conjunction with the West Virginia Chapter of the AFS. The theme was *Large River Ecology*, was held March 9-10, 2007 in Morgantown, WV. The meeting included: four keynote speakers who have extensive experience with the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela

rivers as well as those who have experience with environmental policy. The meeting included two continuing education workshops; and a technical session with posters and oral presentations.

- The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held a joint meeting with the Tidewater Chapter in February 2007. There were 54 presentations and/or posters. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held its fall 2006 meeting at the Jacques Cousteau Education Center on Nov 9, 2006 in Tuckerton NJ. Seven oral presentations were given by professionals and students from NY, NJ, PA, and DE. The spring 2007 meeting was held at the University of Delaware Virden Retreat Center on Feb 1-3, 2007 in Lewes DE. This meeting was a multi-day, joint chapter conference held with the Tidewater AFS Chapter. The meeting hosted 26 posters and 27 oral presentations, with participants attending from NY to NC. The plenary speaker was Dr. Steven Murawski of NOAA, who spoke of the future of U.S. fisheries management.
- The Southern New England Chapter offers two one-day long meetings each year (January and June) which are well-attended by a mix of professionals, students and interested parties. In the past year, these meetings have been attended by of 90-100 people, with students comprising up to 50% of the participants. During the past couple of years the chapter offered free student registration to the meetings which has increased attendance by students and their advisors. The chapter also holds two Board of

Directors (BOD) meetings each year. We have a very active BOD with an average of about 10 members in attendance at each meeting.

Goal AS 3, Promotion of Stewardship

• The NED sponsored three speakers for the Black Bass Workshop held at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April 2006 in Burlington, VT. The proceedings for the conference have been received by the NED and will be uploaded to the website in the near future.

Information Transfer and Outreach

Goal ITO 1, Visibility

• The NED is working to improve its website and is attempting to reach out to state and federal agencies, non-governmental natural resource organizations, and universities to explore the possibility of developing collaborative links to each others websites in the hopes of increasing visibility, collaboration, and information exchange in the fisheries and aquatic community.

Goal ITO 2, Collaboration

 The 2007 NED Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the 2007 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Mystic, Connecticut, April 22-25, 2007. This meeting was sponsored by the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Administrators and brought together state and federal fish and wildlife administrators and there staffs from fish, wildlife, outreach, and law enforcement disciplines to exchange information, share ideas, and network with their peers.

- NED chapters often hold joint meetings with other societies, such as the Society of American Foresters or The Wildlife Society.
- The Southern New England Chapter held its January meeting at the Connecticut DEP, in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and a June meeting at the University of Connecticut in conjunction with the American Institute of Research Fisheries Biologist meeting.
- The Atlantic-International Chapter provided logistical and administrative support for the NED sponsored 2nd International Symposium on Diadromous Fish.
- The Mid-Atlantic Chapter donated \$250, and will be providing in-kind support for the upcoming coolwater fish workshop. It also held a joint with the Tidewater Chapter from the Southern Division.
- The Southern New England Chapter donated \$1000 to the 2nd International Symposium on Diadromous Fish.
- The Pennsylvania Chapter held a joint meeting with the West Virginia Chapter from the Southern Division, the theme of which was "Understanding Large Rivers".
- The NED and its Chapters contributed \$700 to the SDAFS Disaster Relief effort in order to pay for shipment of Bob Carline's donated library and provide additional assistance to AFS

members within the areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Goal ITO 4, Information Network

- The Southern New England Chapter has utilized an electronic discussion and vote, to approve a donation to the 2nd International Symposium on Diadromous Fish being sponsored by the NED.
- The NED has used electronic voting and polling to successfully interact with its membership in a timely and cost effective manner.

Member Services

Goal MS 1, Professional Development and Recognition:

• The NED offers four awards of recognition: the Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award of Merit; the Meritorious Service Award; the President's Award; and the Special Achievement Award. Requests for nominations for these awards were sent to Chapter and Division officers, Division committee chairs, and Division past-presidents. A call for nominations was also sent to the membership via e-mail through the AFS and was published in the Division's newsletter which came out in March 2007. The NED received one excellent nomination each for the Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award of Merit and the Meritorious Service Award. No other nominations were received. The NED past-presidents voted on the nominees and selected Dr. Kenneth Sherman as this 2007

recipient of the Dwight Webster Award and Douglas Stang as the 2007 recipient of the Meritorious Service Award.

- The NED Awards Committee is actively seeking nominations for the Division's 2008 awards which will be presented at the Division's Annual Meeting in April 2008 at the Marriott Seaview Resort and Spa in Galloway, New Jersey.
- The NED provided a \$2,500 sponsorship for the Student Colloquium and Career Fair held at the AFS 2006 Annual Meeting held in Lake Placid, New York.
- Several chapters in the NED are working with area universities in hopes of developing student subunits.
- The NED has programs to recognize the best student fisheries presentation and poster (\$400) and support student travel (\$295) to its annual meeting held in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference.
- The NED has a program to recognize its most senior members for their long term commitment to the AFS and the NED through presentation of the honorary Walking Stick.
- The NED contributed \$500 to the Clemens-Rigler Fund to support graduate student travel to the Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research and the Society of Canadian Limnologists annual meetings.

- The NED contributed \$500 to the AFS Equal Opportunity Section (EOS) to support minority student travel to the 137th Annual AFS Meeting in San Francisco.
- The NED formed a special NED Northeast Rivers and Streams Committee, and appointed a Chair to act as liaison with the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Administrators, Rivers and Streams Committee to develop products to address fisheries habitat and management issues. The group is focusing on fish passage, large rive sampling and management. A long term goal that is being considered is to put on rivers and streams symposiums at a Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conferences, and/or AFS Annual Meeting, and then providing reports and proceedings to the AFS membership. The River and Stream Technical Committee is modeled after the one that currently exists in the North Central Division.

Goal MS 3, Online and Web Services

The NED is continuing to work on updating its website, which is experiencing difficulties with software and access, that has limited interfered with timely updates to the information on the website. An outside web designer was solicited to redesign the website and a new domain was purchased (www.nedafs.org). The NED's new webmaster is attempting to keep the website updated in order to provide a communication link for the NED membership. If difficulty continues with access to the existing website the NED will consider migrating to

The Northeast Fish Rapper

the newly updated AFS server for web hosting.

Goal MS 4, Diversity

- The NED made a \$500 contribution to the Equal Opportunities Section to support minority student travel to the 137th Annual AFS Meeting in San Francisco.
- The NED contributed \$4,000 to the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program.

Goal MS 5, Strategic Plan Implementation

- The NED reviewed and updated the Division's Procedural Manual and is in the process of distributing it to the all officers and making it available to the NED membership. As part of the updated procedures it will be the responsibility of each NED Past President to review the Procedural Manual and update it as needed at the end of his/her term.
- The NED bylaws have been revised, reviewed by the Constitutional Consultant, approved by the NED membership, and accepted by the AFS governing board at the 2006 AFS Annual Meeting.

Goal MS 6, Financial Security

• The NED is conducting a review of its investment portfolio in order to determine the best vehicle to generate revenue and meet the current and long range financial needs of the division.

The Northeast Fish Rapper

- The NED held a retreat at the 2007 Annual Meeting and discussed a number of alternatives to generate
- revenue for the Division. A committee will be formed to develop a proposal for future fund raising activities.

(C) Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration

The AFS should look into providing additional support to the Units regarding the development, use, and management of internet web based services and products including: websites, email services, database management, and internet conferences.



Northeastern Division Leaders

Sept. 2006

-Sept. 2007

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Resolutions

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Best Student Presentation Awards TBA

Continuing Education TBA Environmental and Resource Issues TBA

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The Northeast Fish Rapper

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Desmond Kahn, Ph. D., Biometrician, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife First Vice-President North-East Division of AFS

P. S. Professors and other members, please distribute this to students who are not members.