The Northeast Fish Rapper

Newsletter of the Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society
August 2013 Volume 29 Issue 2 ***ed. Megan Altenritter***

President's Message

By NED President Randy Jackson

Having completely and irresponsibly failed to register the importance of all calls for contributions to the last newsletter, this will be my first and last message as President of the Northeastern Division. It is traditional to extend thanks for the opportunity to act in this role, so I do want to let you know I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the Division and its Chapters. Throughout my cycle through the offices culminating in President I have been extremely impressed by the vitality of the Division's Chapters. The diversity of workshops, student activities and the success of the meetings reassures me that Division members are offered quality opportunities to meet, learn and grow as professionals at the Chapter level. Divisions, as I see them, occupy a hard to define role within the structure of the Society. Members of Chapters and the Society itself actively choose to join, yet Division membership is comprised simply of Society members within a given geographic area. As such, I've found the role that Divisions play in the minds of their members can vary widely both across and within Divisions. The Southern and Western Divisions both hold annual, stand alone meetings while the Northeastern and North Central Divisions meet annually in conjunction with regional Fish and Wildlife Conferences. A sense of identity with one's Division varies with the importance of the Division's meetings in allocating

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limited travel funds. My sense is that members of the Northeastern Division by and large relate to AFS at the Chapter and Society level, but less so at the Division level. Fisheries was well represented at this year's meeting of the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Saratoga Springs, New York, with four contributed technical sessions and three fisheries-themed symposia, as good a showing as I've seen in years. Yet our Division's Business Meeting attendance was barely enough to meet quorum requirements. As you probably know, the Division's finances suffered from the recent economic difficulties, and we have been adhering to an austerity program in an effort to increase our assets. We have discussed a different model for our annual business meeting, which might include meeting in conjunction with the Chapters to allow more access of our members to the officers and a clearer opportunity for member input into Division activities and priorities. These discussions are still ongoing and I welcome all to share their thoughts with me via email. I can say that 2014 will represent a one year change. We will shortly be formalizing a Division role in the conduct of the Society's 2014 Annual Meeting in Quebec City, and as part of that agreement will be holding our Annual Business Meeting in Quebec City in conjunction with the AFS meeting rather than with the 2014 NEAFWA. This will be a good test of whether an alternate venue can increase participation in our own meeting, and I encourage everyone to try to make it to Quebec City, and plan to take a little time to attend our Business Meeting there.

Finally, I would like to close by putting out a plea that more of you consider running for office in your Chapters and at the Division level. I realize no one is looking at a whole lot of free time in which to fit in these activities, but can assure you that serving is a generally rewarding experience. Membership in any organization has its returns, and it is a truism that one more often than not gets back in proportion to what they put in. The best way to make the Division more relevant to you is to have some influence in its activities through participation – so please give some thought to serving at any level in your Chapter and the Division. I have no regrets, and doubt that you will either.

Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

39th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

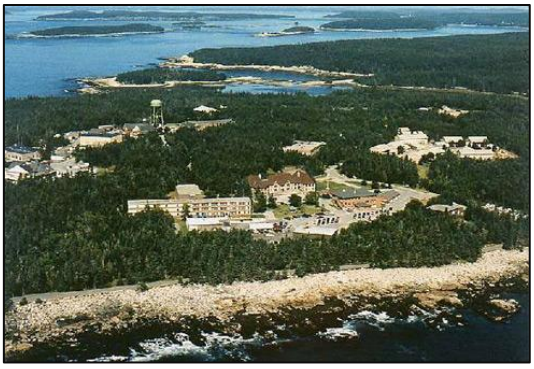
September 22-24, 2013
Schoodic Education and Research Center
Acadia National Park, Maine

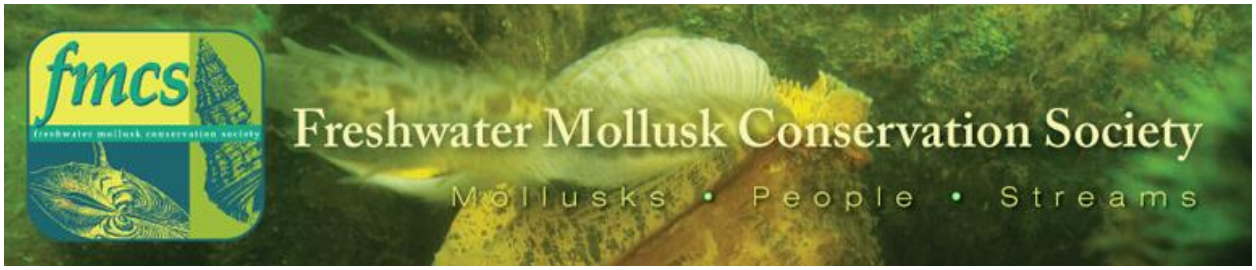
Come, smell the salt air! The 2013 annual Atlantic International Chapter meeting will be held in Downeast Maine this September at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) (http://www.sercinstitute.org). This is a great opportunity to share findings from current research and network with colleagues from our region while enjoying some of Maine's picturesque coastline. The meeting will be held on September 22nd - 24th and will provide an informal session and social, technical sessions and our annual business meeting. We welcome both AIC members and nonmembers in what should be a very successful meeting.

ACCOMMODATIONS

To reserve a room, please call SERC directly at 207-288-1337, or visit their website for more information. Price per person including gratuities is $250 USD for 2 nights and all meals and breaks. Commuter package is all days, but no sleeping accommodations. No pets are allowed on the campus. Cell phone service is spotty, and long distance calls from your room must be made with calling card. WIFI is available on the entire campus. For Sunday dinner (which is NOT included in the package), we recommend you eat prior to arriving at SERC. There are a number of restaurants in Ellsworth (about 50 minutes west of SERC) or in Machias (about 1 hour 15 minutes east of SERC) for dinner. Here's the link to the conference registration on the AIC site; http://www.fisheriessociety.org/aic/conference-registration.html. Hope to see you there!

The **deadline to register for lodging at SERC is August 28, 2013**.
If you cannot register by that deadline, please contact John Magee at 603-271-2744 or john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov.





2014 FMCS Workshop announcement

"Mussel Studies and Regulatory Process Associated with Dam Removals"

HOLD THE DATE!

The next FMCS workshop will be held in beautiful coastal Maine next spring, **April 24-25 in Portland, Maine.**

For a variety of reasons, there has been increasing interest and success in the removal of a number of large and small dams in recent years. Dams are often associated with negatively affecting mussel populations so the expectation is that dam removal will improve aquatic habitat and freshwater mollusk communities in the affected reaches. In some cases where reservoirs are small or riverine, freshwater mussels may be abundant and the removal and restoration of the stream may affect existing resident mussel communities. It is also important to have a good understanding of the state and federal regulatory process involved in dam removals to facilitate planning. Some states have developed a regulatory permitting process specific to dam removals, or have guidelines on both pre- and post dam removal environmental studies, including mussel studies.

The intent of this workshop is to provide a "lessons learned" from past studies and removal efforts and to help guide efforts for future dam removals and the protection and restoration of mussel populations. For example, mussel studies associated with two mainstem Penobscot River dam removals will be presented and a site visit to the removal locations will be offered if of interest as well as other dam removal projects that have been conducted.

Please contact Mary McCann (207-239-3873 mary.mccann@hdrinc.com) or Alan Christian (617-287-6639; alan.christian@umb.edu) if you have information you'd like to share on mollusk studies associated with a dam removal.

Holiday Inn by the Bay, located in Portland Maine is the venue. The hotel is in walking distance of the Portland's Old Port area and working waterfront. The hotel also provides free shuttle service from the Portland airport and free parking. Portland is a vibrant community and is known for its many local breweries and eateries, and for lobster and seafood of course! Hope to see you all there!

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Conservation Training Center

Training Announcement

Fish Identification

CSP 2220

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop participant fish identification skills and knowledge of regional freshwater fish species. Participants will learn an overall system for identifying fish. Characteristics of major taxonomic groups within each family will provide the basis to approach species-level identification. Although emphasis will be placed on the families Cyprinidae, Percidae, Centrarchidae, Catostomidae, and Ictaluridae, specimens from 25 North American freshwater fish families will be available for study. This course is "hands on" and lab-intensive. Field exercises will provide fresh specimens for identification.

Matthew Patterson (USFWS)

Date
November 4 – November 8, 2013

Location
NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV

Instructors
Stuart Welsh (WVU)
Dan Cincotta (WVDNR)

Who Should Attend
Natural resource professionals needing fish identification skills for tasks such as ecological research projects, predator-prey studies, or assemblage-level biomonitoring using fish.

Course Length
4.5 days

College Credit
2 semester hours

Tuition
Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. Tuition is $1,195.00 for participants from other agencies and organizations.

To Register
DOI employees: Log In to DOI Learn, enter the course title in the search box, click scheduled classes, click submit request.
Non-DOI employees: Contact Marilyn Williams for a paper application.
Marilyn Williams, 304/876-7940
marilyn_williams@fws.gov

Course Contact
Matthew Patterson, 304/876-7473
matthew_patterson@fws.gov

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

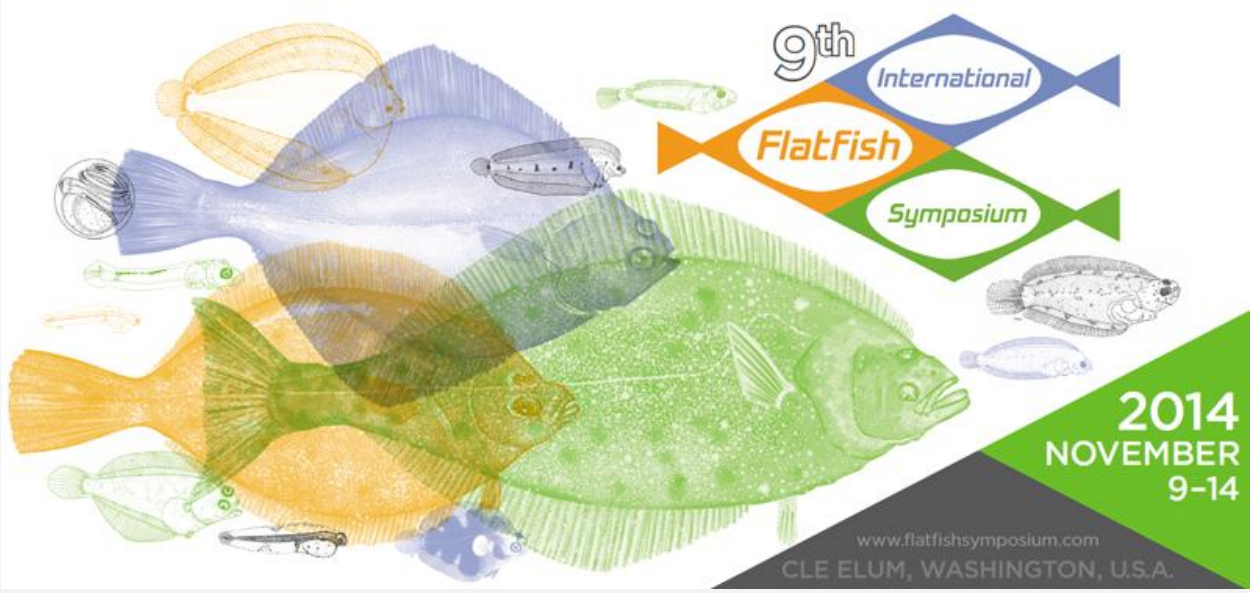
- ✓ Identify unknown fish by following methods as described in the course;
- ✓ Use proper fish collection labeling and preservation techniques;
- ✓ Discuss the benefits of using a combination of reference sources for fish identification;
- ✓ Use distributional maps as an aid to fish identification;
- ✓ Use dichotomous keys;
- ✓ Discuss identification tricks-of-the- trade; and
- ✓ Correctly obtain morphometric information needed for fish identification.

Student Comments about Fish ID

"This class changed the methodology that we use to monitor our eel restoration sites. After taking this class we feel much more confident in our ability to ID fish."

"Fantastic course, the instructors were excellent"

"Great balance of lecture, lab and field components"



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the International Pacific Halibut Commission are pleased to invite participants to the

9th International Flatfish Symposium

Cle Elum, Washington, USA
November 9th to 14th, 2014

Objectives
The 9th International Flatfish Symposium will:
Present emerging research on the ecology and biology of flatfish species across the globe
Quantify linkages between flatfishes, atmospheric, oceanographic, and other biological components of the ecosystem;
Explore management tools for assessing and improving stock assessments of flatfish populations.

Topics
The overall theme of the 9th International Flatfish Symposium is Life History Relationships
Contributions are encouraged on:
Biology: e.g., physiology, growth, reproduction, survival, genetics;
Ecology: e.g., distribution, abundance, behavior, predator-prey dynamics;
Bio-physical processes: e.g., transport, climate forcing, coupled models;
Fishery management strategies that aid in sustainable resource use.
Please refer to Symposium Program for a more complete description.

Participation
The symposium is open to all interested participants. Those who wish to attend the symposium without making a presentation are welcome. Students are encouraged to participate.

Gadoid Fisheries:
The Ecology and Management of Rebuilding

ICES/NAFO symposium

15-18 October 2013
St Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada

Objectives

This ICES/NAFO symposium will:

- Address historical dynamics and current status of gadoid stocks (gadiformes) in both Northern and Southern hemispheres including cod, haddock, whiting, pollock, hake, grenadiers, etc.
- Present new scientific findings on the biology and ecology of these species that can be used to improve fish stock assessment and fisheries management.
- Link biological and environmental changes that can be used to forecast species distribution and productivity in relation to climate change
- Present and appraise the effectiveness of management strategies and actions in the absence, under and after rebuilding.

Theme sessions

This Symposium addresses the biology, ecology and management of gadoids through six theme sessions:

- Session 1: Effects of life history on productivity and stock rebuilding
- Session 2: The ghost of fishing past: effects of fishing on recovery potential
- Session 3: Climate change and stock rebuilding
- Session 4: Case histories of successful or failed rebuilding
- Session 5: Community ecology and stock rebuilding: effects of predators, prey and competitors
- Session 6: Stock assessment and fisheries management

Topics

Contributions are encouraged on:

- Biology: e.g., physiology, genetics, growth, reproduction, survival.
- Ecology: e.g., distribution, abundance, behaviour, predator-prey interactions.
- Bio-physical processes: e.g., transport, climate forcing, coupled models
- Among stock and species comparisons.
- Fishery management strategies that aid in sustainable resource use.

Participants

The Symposium is open to all interested scientists, managers and stakeholders. Students are encouraged to participate.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Conservation Training Center

Training Announcement

Coldwater Fish Culture

CSP 1100

Course Description

Coldwater Fish Culture is an introductory course developed to explore all husbandry activities associated with coldwater fish culture. The curriculum follows the entire life cycle of a fish lot in a hatchery setting. Students will explore the various techniques and calculations most often used in the aquaculture industry including egg enumeration and handling, egg incubation, hatching methods, sac-fry care, managing fish from fry to catchable size, methods in brood stock management and fish stocking. Topics affecting fish behavior also will be investigated including; biological and environmental conditions, stress and pathogens, basic water chemistries, and various units utilized for egg incubation and fish rearing. Students will calculate egg and fish inventories, determine rearing capacities, project fi parameters affecting fish distribution and stocking. The course curriculum will include a balance of applied fisheries science and the practical art of fish culture.

Date
January 6 – January 17, 2014

Location
Phoenix, AZ

Who Should Attend
Fishery biologists, fish culturists, biological technicians, aquatic animal husbandry caretakers and other non-supervisory hatchery employees with less than 5 years work experience.

Course Length
8 days

College Credit
2 semester hours

Tuition
Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. Tuition is $2,390.00 for participants from other agencies and organizations.

To Register
DOI employees: Log In to DOI Learn, enter the course title in the search box, click scheduled classes, click submit request.
Non-DOI employees: Contact Marilyn Williams for a paper application.
Marilyn Williams, 304/876-7940
marilyn_williams@fws.gov

Course Contact
Matthew Patterson, 304/876-7473
matthew_patterson@fws.gov

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- ✓ enumerate both green and eyed eggs
- ✓ recognize the signs of over-feeding and under-feeding
- ✓ identify normal and abnormal fish behaviors
- ✓ manipulate fish growth to achieve a desired size on a given date
- ✓ calculate and develop a 90 day feed order
- ✓ calculate density index and flow index and utilize them to predict when to thin a lot of fish
- ✓ utilize basic genetic principles to develop a captive brood stock
- ✓ recognize the signs and causes of stress in fish
- ✓

5th International Otolith Symposium 2014 (IOS2014)

20-24 October 2014
Mallorca, Balearic Islands
Spain

Strategic objective

The aim of the symposium is the exploration of the use of calcified tissues as tools to support management and the formulation of a definition of indicators at environmental, community, population, and individual levels.

Scope

Implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to marine management points to several shared objectives between conservation and fishery management that require better knowledge of the life history of the exploited resources, elucidation of the information encoded in the calcified tissues (otoliths, scales, bones, shells, and corals) of marine and freshwater organisms, and support for knowledge-based, sustainable ocean management and use.

Host institution:
IMEDEA (UIB/CSIC), Spain

Conveners:
Beatriz Morales-Nin (Spain) and Audrey Geffen (Norway)

Local organizing committee:
Ignacio Catalán, Miquel Palmer (IMEDEA), and Enric Massutí (IEO Baleares)

Technical support:
ICES Secretariat

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Conservation Training Center

Training Announcement

Introduction to Fish Health

CSP 1150

Two courses offered in 2014

Course Description

This course is a beginning level, introductory program that familiarizes participants with the signs, causes, control and prevention of infectious and noninfectious fish diseases.

Matthew Patterson (USFWS)

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to identify:

- ✓ Recognize and identify the external or gross signs of the more common fish diseases and parasites;
- ✓ Stain slides for preliminary identification of common disease organisms;
- ✓ Isolate and culture some disease organisms;
- ✓ Calculate dosages or treatment levels;
- ✓ Properly care for and package moribund or dead fish as specimens for shipment to diagnostic laboratories; and
- ✓ Describe the causes and effects of fish diseases.

Dates
January 27 – January 31, 2014
February 3 – February 7, 2014

Location
La Crosse Fish Health Center

Who Should Attend
This course is designed for fisheries biologists, hatchery managers, fish health biologist, or wildlife biologist interested in fish health techniques.

Course Length
4.5 days

College Credit
2 semester hours

Tuition
Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. Tuition is $1,195.00 for participants from other agencies and organizations.

To Register
DOI employees: Log In to DOI Learn, enter the course title in the search box, click scheduled classes, click submit request.
Non-DOI employees: Contact Marilyn Williams for a paper application.
Marilyn Williams, 304/876-7940
marilyn_williams@fws.gov

Registration Deadline
Please apply no later than **December 16, 2013**. If the minimum number of applications has been received at that time, additional applications will be accepted as space is available. If the course is full you will be placed on a waiting list.

Course Contacts
Corey Puzach, 608-783-8445
corey_puzach@fws.gov

Matthew Patterson, 304/876-7473
matthew_patterson@fws.gov

Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Call for Presentations - Fall Technical Meeting

October 25, 2013
5:00 to 9:00 PM
H. R. Stackhouse School
1150 Spring Creek Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce a call for oral presentations for the Chapter's annual fall technical meeting. The meeting theme, "Innovative Tools and Monitoring in Fisheries Management" will foster a shared understanding of the direction and potential tools used to accelerate responsible management of Pennsylvania's fisheries resources. The Chapter is seeking individuals in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to provide 20-minute presentations on related topics.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to novel approaches in:

- Community engagement and utilization to achieve management goals;
- Dam removal projects and proposals;
- Impacts of energy exploration and extraction;
- Native species conservation;
- Exotic/invasive species: challenges and solutions;
- Aquaculture enhancement programs and monitoring approaches;
- GIS innovations and adoption efforts for fisheries management;
- Habitat improvement programs;
- Innovative habitat structures;
- Priority species management in Pennsylvania;
- Statewide fisheries and aquaculture research priorities;
- Innovative acid mine drainage reduction and remediation efforts; and
- New approaches towards rapid assessments of water bodies;

Participants and potential presenters are encouraged to offer further topics.

This call is open from August 12 through October 15, 2013.

If you are interested in presenting at the biannual meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter, please email pachapterafs@gmail.com for a submission form

PA AFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chapter President: *Steve Means*
President Elect: *Aaron McNevin*
Past President: *Fred Brenner*
Secretary / Treasurer: *Rebecca Dunlap*
Executive Committee: *Brian Ensign, Jordan Allison*
Student Representative: *Chad Lauer*

SEA LICE 2014
@ PORTLAND, MAINE USA

31ST AUGUST - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Hosted by:

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AQUACULTURE Research Institute

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING Institute of Aquaculture

Location: Holiday Inn By The Bay & Westin Portland Harborview Hotel in Portland, MAINE, U.S.A.

Visit our website at: http://sealice2014.businesscatalyst.com

Register Now! Accepting posters!

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUMMIT

"How Members of the Commercial Fishing Industry Assist with Data Collection to Support Stock Assessments"

Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday, October 1st and 2nd, 2013
Location: The Village Inn and Conference Center, Narragansett, RI

The International Summit brings to the Northeast scientists and fishermen from other countries who are working together collaboratively to improve the information upon which sustainable harvest levels of commercial fish species are determined. The main goals of the summit are:

1. Provide an education opportunity for summit participants to learn about successful collaborative fisheries research efforts underway in other countries; and

2. Begin a discussion on how such methods and approaches can be applied in the Northeast, with particular focus on industry involvement in data collection.

Case Study #1: Collaborative Lobster Research, Assessment, and Management - Nova Scotia
Case Study #2: Short-lived Species Science and Management (Squid) - Falkland Islands
Case Study #3: Industry-Based Data Collection - Norwegian Reference Fleet - Norway

Poster Presentations: The partners invite submissions for poster presentations about industry-based data collection projects in the Northeast USA. Posters will be displayed throughout the summit for participants to browse and discuss. Poster guidelines are as follows:

- Posters must present industry-based research conducted within the Northeast USA.
- Preference will be given to posters highlighting collaborative research that provides data for stock assessments.

For registration information & poster submission details, please visit:
http://cfrfoundation.org/summit

Sponsored in Partnership By: The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries Service, The Walton Family Foundation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Conservation Training Center

Training Announcement

Fish Physiology

CSP 1353

Course Description

Fish Physiology is the study of the anatomy and physiology of fish and how fish adapt to environmental conditions. After an introductory overview to fish physiology, emphasis will be placed on the major physiological systems including sensory, digestive, circulatory, nervous and endocrine. Other topics covered include osmoregulation, swimming/movement, reproduction, development, populations and human impact on aquatic environments. Laboratory exercises include bleeding fish and analyzing blood for hematocrit, glucose and chloride. The goal of this training is to develop and enable participants to effectively use fish physiology information in research and management decisions.

Date
December 9 – December 13, 2013

Location
NCTC

Instructor
Pat Mazik, WVU

Who Should Attend
Biologists with an interest in fish physiology.

Course Length
4.5 days

College Credit
2 semester hours

Tuition
Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. Tuition is $1,195.00 for participants from other agencies and organizations.

To Register
DOI employees: Log In to DOI Learn, enter the course title in the search box, click scheduled classes, click submit request.
Non-DOI employees: Contact Marilyn Williams for a paper application.
Marilyn Williams, 304/876-7940
marilyn_williams@fws.gov

Course Contact
Matthew Patterson, 304/876-7473
matthew_patterson@fws.gov

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to identify:

- ✓ how fish see, hear and sense their environment;
- ✓ prey detection, predator avoidance and feeding behaviors;
- ✓ fish vascular system and respiration;
- ✓ the digestion system and absorption of nutrients;
- ✓ osmotic and ionic regulation of freshwater and seawater fish;
- ✓ body form, swimming and how fish move through water;
- ✓ reproduction, spawning and environmental controls;
- ✓ human impacts on aquatic environments
- ✓ proper care and shipping of moribund or dead fish to diagnostic laboratories

Notices and Announcements

Best Student Paper Awards from the 2013 Meeting of the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was held in Saratoga Springs, New York April 7-9, 2013. By all measures, the meeting was a resounding success and included four sessions of contributed fisheries technical papers and three special fisheries-related symposia. Nearly a dozen students presented at the meeting, and as always, their talks represented the highlights of the sessions. Student paper judges had a difficult time selecting the best papers from the student talks, but are proud to announce the following winners:

BEST STUDENT PAPER:

Using Natural Tags to Determine Marine and Freshwater Habitat Use by Juvenile Blueback Herring (Alosa aestivalis)
Molly L. Payne-Wynne, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern Maine; Karen A. Wilson, Department of Environmental Science, University of Southern Maine

SECOND PLACE:

Quantifying Angler Impacts in the Catch and Release Era: Identifying the Proportion and Frequency of Bass Captured in a Northeastern Lake by Tournament Anglers During a Fishing Season
Jan-Michael Hessenauer, Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Connecticut; Jason Vokoun, Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Connecticut; Justin Davis, Inland Fisheries Division, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Robert Jacobs,Inland Fisheries Division, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Eileen O'Donnell, Inland Fisheries Division, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

HONORABLE MENTION:

Using Occupancy Models to Evaluate Gear Bias: Quantifying Detection Probabilities of Bridle Shiner When Using a Seine and Backpack Electrofishing Units
Kasey C. Pregler, University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Neal Hagstrom, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division; Jason Vokoun, University of Connecticut, Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

Thank you to all the judges, and to the students for their high quality contributions.

- Randy Jackson

William T. Hornaday Gold Medal Awarded to Robert J. Sousa, Ph.D.

At the just completed National Boy Scout Jamboree at the Bechtel Reserve Summit in WV, Dr. Robert J. Sousa of Bristol, RI was awarded the William T. Hornaday Gold Medal. This National level award is the most distinguished adult conservation recognition bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America. The Hornaday Gold Medal, first granted in 1914, is the oldest continuous conservation award by any organization in the United States. Dr. Hornaday was director of the NY Zoological Park, founder of the National Zoo in Washington, DC and was a leader in saving the American bison and several other species from extinction. To date, fewer than 55 Gold Medals have been presented with the likes of Aldo Leopold receiving the second medal. It is among the rarest honors in Scouting and is often compared as the Olympic Medal bestowed by the Earth! Recipients must demonstrate unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period exceeding 20 years. Bob is very likely the first Rhode Islander to ever receive the Hornaday Gold Medal.

Bob, a Vietnam veteran, is a Ph.D. fishery biologist and Certified Fisheries Scientist (American Fisheries Society). He retired from an extensive and productive career spanning more than 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was instrumental in the development of the Wallop Breaux amendments to the Sport Fish Restoration Act that provides matching grant funds to states for boating access and fisheries enhancements.

Bob has fly fished in many countries throughout the world and holds several angling world records. Bob is an international subject expert in angling and specifically fly fishing. He has taught many thousands of scouts to cast a fly rod helping them catch their first fish on a fly. His enthusiasm for angling is very catchy!

Bob's passion for fishing means giving back. He has served on the Board of the Future Fisherman Foundation, is a Master Instructor in Massachusetts Aquatic Resources Education Program, a Certified Angler Instructor with the International Game Fish Association and is Vice Chair of the Fishing Committee of Boy Scouts of America.

He continues to be active in helping youth and adults learn the concepts of fishing and conservation. Bob originated the Fly Fishing Merit Badge for BSA and contributes editorially to the Fishing Merit Badge, Wildlife Management Merit Badge and Ranger Fishing Awards. He has written

counselor guides for each of these awards. Bob leads the fly fishing venue at National Boy Scout Jamboree and has done so for the past 6-7 Jamborees. He has also participated in teaching fly fishing at several National Order of the Arrow Conferences. Bob has been instrumental at enhancing fly fishing programs at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Northern Tier Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota and the Sea Base High Adventure camp in Florida. He initiated and taught at BSA Fishing Camp Schools throughout the country.

Using his many years of teaching fly fishing to many thousands of people, his first non-BSA book, **Learn to Fly Fish in 24 Hours** (McGraw-Hill) was written to take the intimidation factor out of learning this life-long sport. His latest book, **24 Greatest Flies You Don't Leave Home Without** (Husking Bee Books), picks up on the same simplicity theme and describes how an angler can catch most fish, most places, most of the time with a few simple fly patterns. Bob's goal is to simplify the lifetime sport and encourage more people to get out of doors and become responsible stewards of our woods and waters.

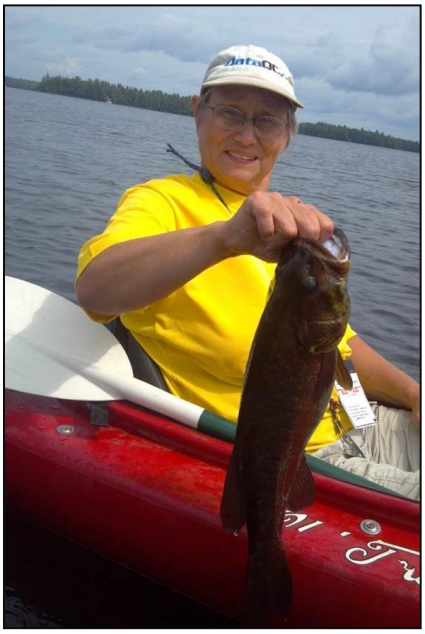
The NED Awards The Moring Student Travel Award

The Northeastern Division awarded Mr. Jan-Michael Hessenauer the John Moring Travel Award to attend the 69th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY on April 7-9, 2013. Mr. Hessenauer presented a paper on *Quantifying angler impacts in the catch and release era: identifying the proportion and frequency of bass captured in a Northeastern lake by tournament anglers during a fishing season.*

NED Past-President, Phil Downey, presented Mr. Jan-Michael Hessenauer the Moring Award at the 2013 NED Business meeting.

Senior Maine Atlantic Salmon Scientist Retires

Ernie Atkinson
Maine department of Marine Resources



Joan Trial retired from the Maine Department of Marine Resources on Wednesday July 31st, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. after a long and productive career. Joan earned her B.S, M.S. and PhD at the University of Maine at Orono. Throughout her career she held many positions from teacher to researcher with both state and federal agencies and academic units. Joan began her career in state government working as a Planning and Research Associate for the Maine Department of Transportation. She then moved on to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a Fishery Research Biologist. There she developed statistically sound sampling protocols intended to increase the knowledge of the ecology and management of Maine freshwater fishes in streams and lakes.

In 2000, Joan was promoted into the Senior Biologist position with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission which later became the Division of Sea-run Fisheries and Habitat within the Maine Department of Marine Resources. In this capacity, Joan supervised the assessment, research, and management activities surrounding endangered populations of Atlantic salmon managed by ME-DMR. In this role she represented Maine nationally on the U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee and internationally on the ICES Working Group on Atlantic salmon and the International Joint Commission, St. Croix River Board.

As if that wasn't enough she also holds an appointment to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Maine. There she is involved with the Maine Cooperative Research Unit and Department of Biology graduate student projects related to cold water fisheries, salmonids, and fish communities.

Joan has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society holding several positions in both the Atlantic International Chapter and the Northeast Division. Joan served the AIC as Vice-president and President 1986 – 1988 and the NED as 2nd Vice President (2000), 1st Vice President (2001), and President (2002). She has also served on several committees, chaired several sessions, presented papers, and generally entertained the assembled groups.

Joan was recently awarded the Dwight A. Webster Memorial award for lifelong contributions to fisheries science and the profession in the Northeast. (Story follows, *ed.*)

Joan plans to continue working on Atlantic salmon on her own schedule and is looking forward to training a new puppy next spring. We in Maine can be glad that there is a bag limit on woodcock and ruffed grouse since there will be no limitation on Joan's hunting time in October.

She can be reached at: trial@midmaine.com if you would like to wish her well.

Dr. Joan Trial: The 2013 Webster Award Recipient

The Northeastern Division selected Dr. Joan Trial, to receive the NED's most prestigious Award, the Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award, at the April 2013 NED business meeting. The recipient is recognized for any (or all) of the following achievements:

• Lifelong contributions to fisheries science and the profession in the Northeast or while working in the Northeast;
• Meritorious/prestigious service to the profession and fisheries;
• Significant academic or technical accomplishments; and,
• Long-term service in the Northeastern Division as an AFS member.

The 2013's honoree, Joan Garner Trial, has made significant contributions in all of these areas of achievement. Joan's enthusiasm for fish, aquatic biology, and science is obvious and infectious.

Joan received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in biology/zoology from the University of Maine and is a AFS Certified Fisheries Professional. Currently, Joan is a Senior Biologist III for the Maine Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat. She is a member of the U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee and one of three U.S. representatives to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon and represents Maine on the International Joint Commission, St. Croix River Board. In addition, Joan is part of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Maine Cooperative Research Unit and Department of Biology.

Joan has been instrumental in the conservation and informed management of Maine and Northeast fisheries resources throughout her career. From work with conserving wild brook trout and their fisheries in small Maine ponds to protecting U.S. Atlantic salmon in international waters, Joan has always brought science and scientific integrity to the forefront. She always let the numbers and statistics guide her throughout her career.

Her volunteer spirit and energy dedicated to AFS is matched only by her professional energy. Joan's commitment to the Atlantic International Chapter, the Northeastern Division and the parent American Fisheries Society is the epitome of long-term service to the NED and AFS. She has held many offices/committee positions within AFS including being a Past-President of both the AIC and the NED.

As one member who nominated Joan stated 'Joan is the heart and soul of the Atlantic International Chapter of AFS. She has helped organize chapter meetings and gladly acts as the Chapter's "institutional" knowledge base.' Many chapter presidents sought Joan's advice and consul for organizing chapter meetings and keeping the chapter's business flowing smoothly. Joan's efforts were also instrumental in the Atlantic International Chapter being recognized as the 'outstanding' chapter by the parent Society.

The NED is pleased to recognize Joan's achievements throughout her distinguished career with the Webster Award.

The award will be presented to Joan at the September Atlantic International Chapter meeting.

A new free online resource! The Fish Passage Community at UMass Amherst

Developed by UMass Amherst, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Geological Survey, supported by ASCE, AFS, and other industry sponsors, and administered by the UMass Libraries, the Fish Passage Community at UMass Amherst serves as a virtual host for the International Conference on Engineering and Ecohydrology for Fish Passage, a new Fish Passage Technical Report Series, and the Joint EWRI-AFS Fish Passage Reference Database.

Fish Passage Community

The Fish Passage Community at UMass Amherst is an affiliation of scientists, engineers and other professionals from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey's Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Members of this community and their partners work cooperatively towards the development and application of the science of fish passage through involvement in applied and theoretical research, engineering and technical services, and outreach and teaching.

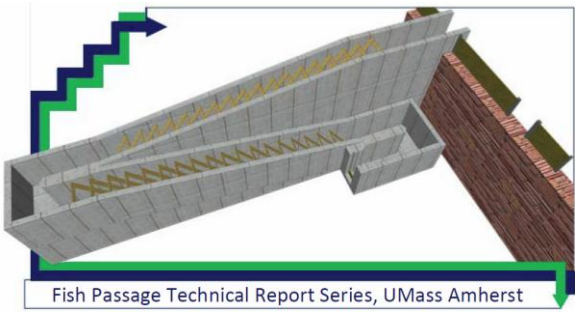
http://scholarworks.umass.edu/fishpassage/

Reference Database

The Joint EWRI-AFS Fish Passage Reference Database site serves as a portal to access citations of current and historic literature on fish passage engineering, biology, design, and relevant disciplines. It is an open resource for fishery biologists, managers, engineers, and the public and private sectors to find information on fish passage that is both published and unpublished, and a clearinghouse for new literature as it becomes available. The database was conceived, designed, and funded through the efforts of the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE/EWRI) – American Fisheries Society Bioengineering Section (AFS/BES) Partnership Development Ad Hoc Committee in June of 2011 as part of its goal to develop initiatives for new projects to assist fish passage information and technology transfer.

Conference Archive

The International Conference on Engineering & Ecohydrology for Fish Passage (ICEEFP) is a three-day conference with concurrent sessions in engineering, biology, and management and social issues. Originally developed jointly in 2011 by UMass Amherst's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, and the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the conference now rotates annually to different venues offering a uniquely focused forum for researchers and practitioners to exchange findings and experiences on fish passage issues.



Technical Reports

The Fish Passage Technical Reports Series is administered by the UMass Libraries and provided by faculty, staff, and students

affiliated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and their partners. The series is aimed at providing engineering and biological guidance to users by transferring skills, knowledge, technologies, and methods related to fish passage and protection to the larger fish passage community. In June, a technical report entitled "Fishway Inspection Guidelines" was released. This free technical report provides guidance for engineers, biologists, operators, regulators and dam owners involved in the inspection of fishways at dams.

The 2013 President's Award Presented to Mr. Stephen Perry

The President' s Award is presented to an individual who is selected by the NED Past-Presidents and the incumbent President. The 2013's President's award honoree, Stephen G. Perry, has made significant contributions in all of these areas of achievement. In more than 35 years of his professional career, Steve has made significant contributions to many areas of fisheries management.

Steve received his B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from Michigan State University. Currently, he is the Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. As Chief, his responsibilities include the management of 48 professional, technical and support staff and the oversight of the three million dollar annual operating budget. Steve was certified as a Certified Fisheries Scientist by AFS in 1991.

As a professional, Steve has been a member of the Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association, including chairing the association in 2005-2007. Steve has been a member of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation which he has chaired since 2010.

Steve has supported the AFS. Steve is a Past-President of the Atlantic International Chapter of AFS and encouraged and supported his staff to participate in all levels of AFS.

Early in his career as a regional fisheries biologist, Steve was instrumental in establishing a New Hampshire Fish and Game Department policy recognizing the contribution of rainbow smelt as forage for salmonids. As chief of the NHFGD inland fisheries management Steve continued his keen insight into salmonid biology, initiated quality and wild trout programs.

Steve's contribution didn't stop with the biology of the fish species, but also recognized the integral role that high quality aquatic habitat plays in effective fisheries management. During his career, he has played a major role in the advancement of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture expanding this joint venture into several National Fish Habitat programs. As a result of these efforts, Steve was the recipient of the 2008 National Fish Habitat Exceptional Vision Award.

In recognition of his promotion of fisheries management throughout the Northeast, Steve was presented the Northeastern Division's President's Award by Past-President, Phil Downey, during the 2013 business meeting.

Why Does the Northeastern Division Need So Much Money?

John E. Cooper, Vice-president

This question came up after the business meeting at the 69th Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Saratoga Springs. It is a serious question and deserves consideration by all Division members. The answer to this question lies in the mission of the Division, which is to (a) advance the conservation, development and wise use of fishery resources for optimum use and enjoyment by all, (b) gather and disseminate information on fisheries science and management, and (c) promote and evaluate the educational, scientific and technical aspects of the fisheries profession.

The first part of the mission, advocacy for conservation of fishery resources, does not require a great deal of money but does require time and effort from the many volunteers, and paid staff, that make AFS a vibrant organization. Research on resolutions and policy statements requires expertise developed through education and experience and time to compose and communicate the results.

The second and third parts of the mission do require money for symposia, workshops, and publications. Fostering student participation is a primary part of the mission as they will be the fishery advocates of the future. Some examples of how the Division has used money for these goals are illuminating. The Division has sponsored at least 10 symposia and workshops since 1973 (Fig.1), many of which required a financial investment. Some of these have resulted in a significant improvement to the financial health of the division although that was not the primary objective. Our financial records do not provide specific information as to the financial performance of these activities in all cases. In promoting the profession and fostering student participation, the records are more specific (all dollar amounts are totals from 1998 to 2012): the Division has contributed $28,000 to the Hutton award (summer mentoring for fisheries science high school students), $11,877 for the John Moring student travel award, $5,800 for paper and poster awards at the annual NED meeting, and $20,023 to AFS and affiliate organizations for student travel and meeting expenses. These donations have been made possible by the accumulated financial returns on investments and sponsored symposia. There also have been financial losses to the investments, notably in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2010. Losses are as much a part of investing as are gains (Fig. 1) so the Division's investments need to be large enough to recover from losses.

The Division also has to meet certain procedural requirements: NED officers are required to attend the AFS Mid-year Governing Board and other governing functions at the AFS annual meeting, some occurring prior to the official meeting time and some afterward. The NED is encouraged to reimburse the officers for these expenses if funds permit but is not required to. The Division has also reimbursed the AFS President for expenses in attending the NED annual meeting, and that of the AFS Executive Director (when AFS funds were quite low): the Executive Director's expenses have not been reimbursed since 2008. The total for these expenditures for 1998 to 2012 was $51,630.

How much money does the Division need? That depends on what we want to do. If it is enough to hold an annual meeting, pay for Chapter insurance, and fund the newsletter then the Division would need an income of about $3,000: this amount would be covered by the AFS membership rebate and any amount from investments would be extra. However, this scenario eliminates any reimbursement of expenses to the NED

officers and the AFS President; and eliminates all student funding and awards, conference calls between the officers and Chapters, and donations to support AFS meetings and other groups. This clearly leaves out two of the mission objectives and would make finding members to serve as officers more difficult than it is now.

The goal of the Executive Committee has been to increase the Division's investments to $60,000 so as to fund a basic level of activity, including student funding (excluding the Hutton award), officer reimbursements, and conference calls. These expenses average about $6,400 per year, and combined with the AFS rebate, leaves a deficit of about $2,000, which would come from investments if we have a minimum return of 4.5%. The intent is to be able to fund all of the planned activities without reducing the principal. Spending more money than comes in will lead inevitably to a point where the Division cannot function, but maintaining an adequate level of investments will provide stability in planning Division activities.

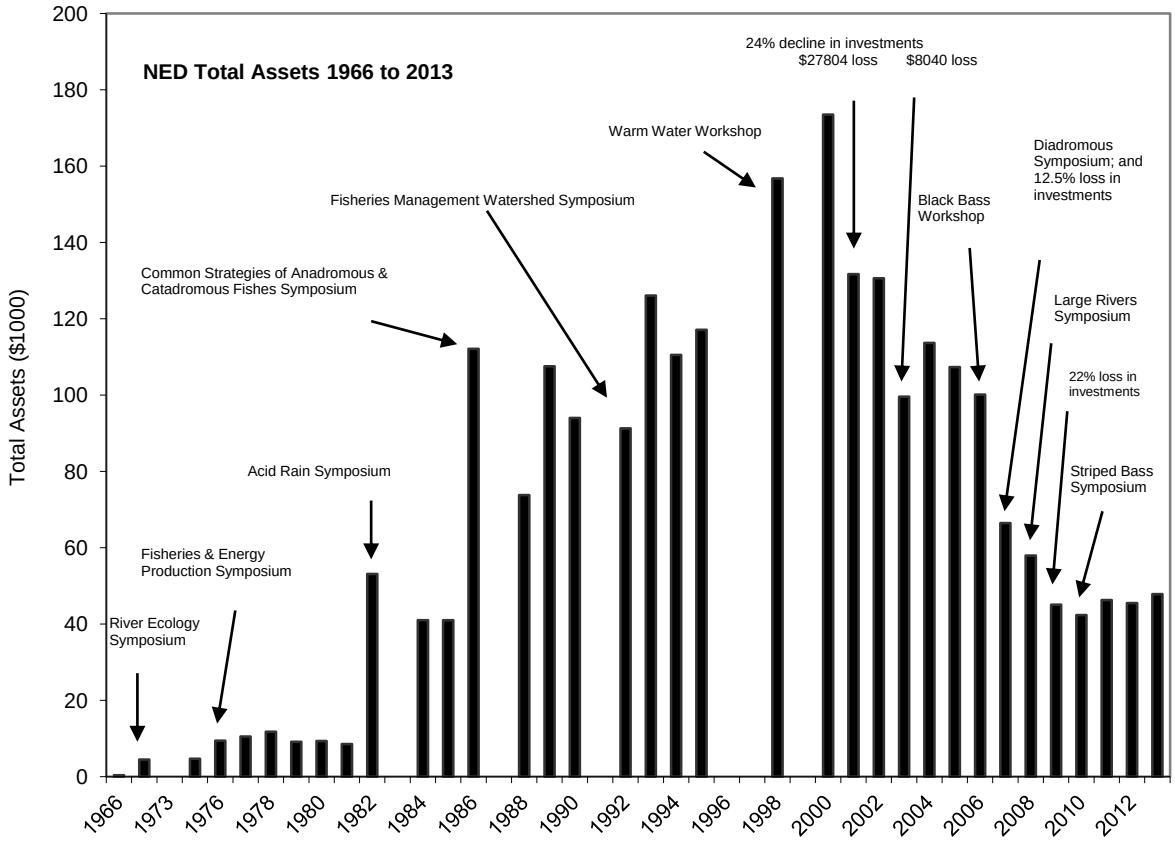


Figure 1. Total assets of the Northeastern Division from 1966 to 2013. Years with no values did not have adequate records available.

Chapter and Subunit Updates

Southern New England Chapter Update:

Greg Skomal of MDMF gave an animated keynote address on white sharks.

The annual summer meeting of the Southern New England Chapter was held at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI on June 19. Attendance totaled 79, 30 of whom were students. Following opening remarks by Chapter President Bill Duffy, the meeting began with a series of presentations, eight of which were given by students. Topics included utilizing video analysis to evaluate longfin squid behavior in otter trawls, linking satellite oceanography and biotelemetry with basking shark habitat selection, larval ecology of the Atlantic silverside, a synopsis of the Ecosystem Monitoring Program of the NEFSC, changes in size and age of maturity of tilefish, modeling connectivity and recruitment variability of bay scallop in Buzzards Bay, factors affecting ocean sunfish stranding on Cape Cod, freshwater fish assemblages in Rhode island streams and rivers, dispersal of winter flounder larvae spawned in coastal Gulf of Maine waters, internal tag size affecting brook trout swimming and physiology, environmental factors associated with longfin squid catches in Nantucket Sound, a device to reduce winter flounder bycatch in large-mesh trawls, and validating black sea bass ages using oxytetracycline marking and marginal increments. Abstracts of all papers are available on the Chapter's website, found at www.snec-fisheries.org. Greg Skomal of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries gave the meeting's keynote address on new insights made about the ecology of white sharks in North Atlantic waters.

Steve Medeiros (left) receives the Lesa Meng Aquatic Conservation Award from Sean Lucey.

At the annual business meeting Treasurer Heidi Fitzpatrick reported that the Chapter has about $15,000 in available funds. Professionalism Chair Sean Lucey noted the importance of members nominating individuals or organizations for the various Chapter awards. Students can also apply for Chapter travel awards through the Chapter website The Chapter recently held a very successful scientific writing workshop given by Fred Serchuk of NEFSC that was attended by 43 persons. Student attendees reviewed the book used at the workshop, entitled *Scientific Communication for the Natural Resource Professionals,* which will appear in a

forthcoming *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. Chapter members were urged to contact the Board of Directors with other potential workshop topics. Forty-four responses were received in a recent poll on the Chapter conducting a 2-day meeting. The majority favored the current format with many noting they would be unable to attend a multi-day meeting. Hence, future Chapter meetings will remain scheduled as is. Members were urged to become more involved in Chapter activities and can volunteer for any committee by contacting any member of the Board of Directors. About one-quarter of the meeting attendees completed a meeting evaluation form, generally giving high marks in all areas. Suggested changes include having a post-meeting cocktail hour, increased opportunities for networking, and receiving an automated email confirmation following registration.

Attendees from SMAST with the Outstanding Organization Award.

Several awards were given out at the annual Chapter business meeting. Andrea Bogolmoni of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and University of Connecticut was awarded the Best Student Poster Award for her poster presented at the Chapter's winter meeting entitled "A Collaborative Approach to Understanding the Ecological Role of Seals in the Northeast U.S.". The Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award was presented to Kasey Pregler of the University of Connecticut for her paper given at the Chapter's winter meeting entitled: "Using Occupancy Models to Evaluate Gear Bias: Quantifying Detection Probabilities of Bridle Shiner when Using a Seine and Backpack Electrofishing Units". Kasey and Amy Teffer of the University of Massachusetts also received Student Travel Awards to defray costs in attending the AFS National Meeting. Sean Lucey and Bill Duffy were presented Special Achievement Awards for organizing the recent scientific writing workshop.

Jerry Prezioso (left) accepts the Chapter's Award of Excellence.

Susan Inglis accepted the Outstanding Organization Award on behalf of the SMAST Marine Fisheries Field Research Group of the University of the Massachusetts Dartmouth, MA for its efforts in improving the knowledge and understanding of the sea scallop resource through use of video surveys. Steve Medeiros received the Lesa Meng Aquatic Conservation Award on behalf of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association for that organization's efforts in advocating for conservation and recreational fishing. Jerome Prezioso of NOAA Fisheries Narragansett, RI Laboratory was given the Award of

Excellence for his outstanding contributions to fisheries science, particularly in marine ichthyoplankton studies, student mentoring, and continuous service to AFS. The Irwin Alperin Award, which recognizes a Chapter member who has made outstanding contributions to the Chapter or Parent Society, including significant services, participation, and public awareness of activities, was presented to Karina Mrakovcich of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Karina has served for many years on the Board of Directors, particularly as Education Chair, where she has fostered activities and programs benefiting student members.

At the close of the business meeting, Syma Ebbin assumed the office of President. Her first action was to present the now Past-President Bill Duffy with an Award of Appreciation for his services while as President. Heidi Fitzpatrick ascended to the office of President-Elect and Glenn Chamberlain was elected as the new Secretary-Treasurer. The next Chapter meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on January 2014 at a location in Massachusetts. This meeting will include posters as well as oral presentations.

Syma Ebbin presents outgoing Chapter President Bill Duffy with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service.

Dr. Fred Brenner and Ashley Leing accept certificates of appreciation for their service to the Pennsylvania Chapter at the Chapter Summer Social.

Photo credit: Rebecca Dunlap

Fisheries in the News

The Effects of Superstorm Sandy on the Rutgers University Marine Field Station

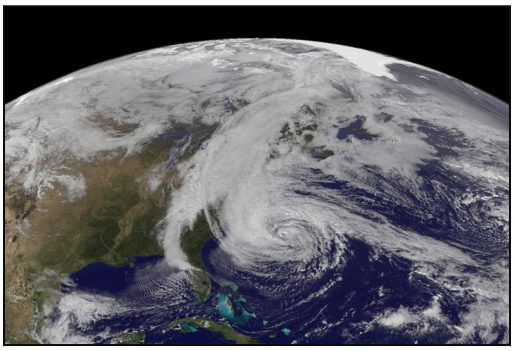


Photo credit: NASA Earth Observatory

The effects of this superstorm are still being felt but the problems could have been much worse. The center of this very large storm came ashore on 29 October 2012 at around 1900 hrs just a few miles south of the Station so that we were at the center of the wind and particularly the very high waters. An on-site tide gauge continued to operate until it topped out at 2.5 meters above mean water level. Our remote location just inside Little Egg Inlet in southern New Jersey and away from most centers of human habitation may have reduced the debris problem from collapsed and washed out buildings but this same remote location has made some repairs difficult.

We "battened down the hatches" for several days in anticipation of the storm and evacuated the Station buildings the day before the storm arrived. This included moving the two larger vessels (Arabella and Caleta) to more secure locations and pulling the small boats out of the water. Our high elevation (9 ft) above the marsh protected all of the buildings and laboratories from almost all storm damage, but anything that was lower got hammered by the high wind and waves. This included the lower portions of the causeway leading to the Station, all of our docks (including two equipment sheds), and the sea water intake pumps and piping. We also lost all regular power due to a downed telephone pole. The backup generator, which was clearly flooded, was started the day after the storm but died permanently on November 2. Part of the long road leading to the Station was washed away (but still passable) and closed to the general public until November 2. Subsequently, two of the five bridges leading to the Station were intermittently repaired. As further evidence of the ferocity of the storm, parts of our floating docks were found two and a half miles away. One of our small (18 ft) boats, which was on a railway away from the water's edge, disappeared and was eventually located several days later approximately six miles away. During the time that we had no power at the Station we worked at our dormitory and at the adjacent Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve in Tuckerton. Around Thanksgiving the power was restored to the Station and we moved back in on November 29, 2012, but many repairs were unfinished.

On the positive side, much of our field research was relatively unaffected. We had previously completed all of our field sampling for the year in the Mullica River – Great Bay estuary, Barnegat Bay, New York Harbor and Louisiana marshes. The backup generator worked long enough to keep samples frozen in all our freezers until they could be moved to more secure locations. Our time series collections were interrupted

for 1 – 2 weeks but the larval fish ingress (weekly for 23+years) and juvenile fish trapping (twice a week for 22 years) are back up and running on a regular basis.

As of late January 2013, we are expecting complete repair of electrical and most plumbing within a week or two, but are still relegated to port-o-potties during this cold winter. The docks have been temporarily patched to make them useable, and we are looking forward to the repair of our seawater intake and walkways.

Whittenton Dam Removal Begins in Taunton

Mill River Dams Being Removed to Benefit Public Safety, River Ecology

TAUNTON, MA – Eight years after a near-tragedy brought public attention to this dilapidated structure, the Whittenton Dam is being removed, both to ensure public safety and to restore the ecological health of the Mill River.

"River restoration pays off for fish and people. Last year, the Hopewell Mills Dam was removed from the Mill River, an ecologically important tributary to the federally-designated Wild and Scenic Taunton River," said Mary Griffin, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.

"Now, with the removal of Whittenton Dam, we eliminate a long-time public safety threat and continue the important work to restore the habitat of the Mill River and Taunton River watershed," Griffin said.

In 2005, this dam made national news, when a portion of downtown Taunton was evacuated and a state of emergency declared, following heavy rains. Thousands of people were driven from their homes, with schools and businesses closed for several days, after the 170-year old wooden Whittenton Dam buckled and threatened to send a four-foot wall of water through this city.

The incident brought the risks posed by Massachusetts' 3,000 dams into sharp relief. Most of the Commonwealth's dams are more than a century old, and many long-obsolete dams have fallen into disrepair. Just 10 percent of the state's dams still provide energy, drinking water or flood control.

The Whittenton event prompted state leaders to action – first with a statewide effort to better document the safety of various structures – then, in late 2012, with state legislation that provided funding for dam removal and repair efforts.

A partnership of nonprofit groups and state and federal agencies has brought about the Mill River Restoration, a project that includes the removal of three dams and the instillation of a fishway at a fourth dam on this important Taunton River tributary, allowing migratory species like river herring and American eel to access an additional 30 miles of river habitat as well as upstream lakes and ponds. Whittenton Dam is the second dam to be removed as a part of this project, but it is the most deteriorated, and has, in fact, become representative of he problem with aging, dangerous dams.

"I am pleased to see that the crumbling Whittenton Dam will soon be removed after years of work on this important issue, and I want to thank the leaders from the Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, Save The Bay, the National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration and American Rivers for getting it done," said Senator Marc R. Pacheco, who chairs the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and authored the bill last legislative session promoting dam safety, repair and removal.

"The dam, as it sits, poses safety hazards to the public and environmental problems to the surrounding ecosystem. Freeing up the Taunton River from this deteriorating structure will protect our citizens, save them from footing expensive repairs, and promote biodiversity," Pacheco said.

The 2005 crisis prompted the formation of the Mill River Restoration partnership that has led the dam removal project, as well as legislative efforts to make the removal and repair of aging dams easier for Massachusetts communities.

Last summer and fall, the Hopewell Mills Dam, located just downstream from the Whittenton Dam, was removed and already, sea-run fish like river herring, are returning to the watershed.

"The Taunton has long been home to one of New England's richest fish runs, and removing this barrier will allow the river to provide habitat, flood control and other benefits that will serve nature as well as local people, " said Alison Bowden, director of freshwater conservation at The Nature Conservancy.

This spring, the first river herring in nearly 200 years was spotted upstream of the former Hopewell Mills dam site, making its way from Narragansett Bay to inland spawning areas. Searun fish play a major role in the ecology of the bay, and restoring the connections between these saltwater and freshwater ecosystems will bring benefits throughout the region.

"The health of Narragansett Bay depends on the health of our major tributaries. Restoring habitat for fish in the Mill River watershed will benefit predator species and improve recreational fishing in the Bay," said Rachel Calabro, Community Advocate at Save The Bay.

The Taunton is one of the only free-flowing rivers in New England, and restoring fish passage to a major tributary like the Mill River will have great significance for the river's famed herring run, which is already one of the largest in the region. Many more fish will then return to Narragansett Bay, where they will feed the groundfish that are so critical to New England's commercial fishing industry and culture.

"The Mill River has the potential to support one of the larger river herring runs in the state," said John Catena, Regional Supervisor for NOAA's Restoration Center. "Removing Whittenton Dam gets us one step closer to increasing these forage fish, and that means the possibility of more fish like cod, striped bass, and tuna in the coastal waters of New England."

With the Hopewell Mills Dam gone, a fishway installed at Morey's Bridge and Whittenton Dam scheduled to be removed by fall, the Mill River Restoration partnership plans to remove one more final dam from the Mill River next year, to complete the restoration of passage for native river herring and American eel to the Canoe River, Snake River, Lake Sabbatia and Winnecunnet Pond. This successful collaboration exemplifies many similar dam removal efforts taking place throughout the Commonwealth, New England, and the nation.

"Eight years ago, the Whittenton Dam helped to cast a spotlight on the decaying condition of so many of the nation's dams. Removing this dam is the most effective way to ensure it will never be a safety hazard again. This site is once again serving as a national example, this time showing that dam removals can benefit both river health and public safety," said Brian Graber, Acting Senior Director of River Restoration for American Rivers.

For more information about the Mill River Restoration Partnership:

- http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/massachusetts/explore/ma-rivers-run-free.xml
- http://www.americanrivers.org/newsroom/blog/bgraber-20130226-river-impossible-the-hazard-of-whittenton-dam-mill-river-restoration.html

Trout lilies by the Mill River. Photo credit: Tim Watts

American Association of Fish Veterinarians formed to advance fish medicine in North America

Photo credit: Aquarium of the Pacific

The American Association of Fish Veterinarians (AAFV; fishvets.org), founded in 2012, is an association of licensed North American veterinarians who practice fish medicine -either as part of their traditional practice; with or alongside their institutional employment; or as their main species group within their "fish practice." Fish medicine can be roughly divided into pet fish (e.g., tropical & pond species like koi), food and bait fish (aquaculture production), lab animal, and natural resource fisheries. Some of our members practice in all areas; others are more specialized in one or the other. A central function of this association is to advance the quality and stature of clinical fish veterinary practice.

The Mission of the AAFV is: a) to further the art and science of fish veterinary medicine by enhancing and promoting knowledge, proficiency, professional standards, and viability of fish medicine for veterinarians; b) to increase the value, visibility, and acceptance of fish veterinary medicine for our stakeholders; and, c) ultimately, to improve fish, human, and environmental health.

Interested veterinarians are encouraged to visit the AAFV website (fishvets.org) and/or to contact Dr. Roy Yanong (rpy@ufl.edu), Dr. Hugh Mitchell (hughm@aquatactics.com), or Dr. Stephen Smith (stsmith7@vt.edu) for more information.

University of Maine researcher Mike Pietrak looking for sea lice. Photo: Megan Altenritter

*NED Officers *

The Division officers were elected to their new positions prior to the recent NED meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY, held in conjunction with the 69th Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference. The officers start their term officially at the AFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

President Jim Armstrong (DE, right) is escorted by Past-President Scott Decker (NH, left)

President-elect John Cooper (NY) is escorted by Past-President Margaret Murphy (NY)

Kristen Ferry (MA) is new 1st Vice-President (not pictured)

Chris Millard (MD) is new Secretary-Treasurer (not pictured)

Past-President Randy Jackson (NY) accepts President plaque from President Jim Armstrong

Stephen Perry (recently retired from NH Fish & Game) accepts President's Award from Past-President Phil Downey (VT)

Graham Goulette (ME) accepts Webster Award for Joan Trial (ME) from Phil Downey

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(updated February 2013)

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