



## *President's Message*

As I close out my year as President, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide an update on recent Northeastern Division (NED) activities and to say thanks to those members who worked on them. Most of these activities were initiated at a NED Executive Committee (EXCOM) retreat that we held last September in Turners Falls, MA.

Annual Meeting Symposia – Two symposia were organized and sponsored by the NED and a third was organized by a former NED EXCOM member at the 2004 annual meeting in Ocean City, MD. President Elect Paola Ferreri and Ron Klauda organized the symposium entitled “New Directions in the Use of Multimetric Indicators to Assess Biological and Habitat Conditions in Rivers and Streams.” First Vice President Margaret Murphy organized the second NED sponsored symposium entitled “Watershed Restoration: Assessment and Implementation.” The final fisheries symposium “Management Issues of the Restored Stock of Striped Bass in the Chesapeake Bay: Diseases, Nutrition, Forage Base, and Survival” was organized by Past Mid-Atlantic Chapter President Desmond Kahn. Thanks to the fine work of these session organizers, all three of these symposia were well attended and generated a great deal of discussion at the meeting.

Future Annual Meetings – A more complete article on the topic of future annual NED meeting scheduling is included later in this newsletter. The current status is that the

NED will continue to meet at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference as long as open communication with the host State and active NED involvement in the fisheries program planning occurs as in the last two years. We will continue the dialogue with Northeast State Directors that began at their Ocean City meeting on ways to maintain a strong fisheries presence at the Conference.

Awards – The NED was successful in presenting awards in all available categories during the past year. This is a tribute to the hard work of Award Committee Chair Ken Beal, Student Presentation Awards Chair Neil Ringler, and Student Travel Awards Chair Ellen Marston. In Ocean City, I had the honor of presenting the most prestigious NED award, the Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award of Merit, to Dr. Saul Saila, Professor Emeritus at the University of Rhode Island.

Newsletter and Website – You are reading the second issue of our revitalized NED newsletter thanks to Editors Artie McCollum and Jay Caponera at the University of Maine. It seems like our NED website is continually in need of updating, but Patty Thompson always seems to come through when it counts.

Bylaws Changes – The EXCOM will be recommending several bylaws changes to improve operations that will ultimately benefit members. The principal change would involve broadening the pool of candidates willing to serve as NED officers. Currently, nominees for First Vice President



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must have attended at least one of the previous three annual business meetings. The new approach would also provide an option that a past NED committee chairs or Chapter Past President who didn't attend a previous business meeting could also be eligible to serve. Other bylaws changes strive for improvements in NED committee structures. Stay tuned for a draft version of the revised bylaws which will need to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership at our annual meeting.

Liability Insurance – This is an important issue that unfortunately we didn't make as much progress as we would have liked. It involves insurance coverage at Chapter or NED meetings and training sessions. Planned on-the-water continuing education sessions by at least one Chapter had to be cancelled due to the high cost of liability insurance. We attempted to secure coverage for events NED-wide, but we were only able to add onto an AFS policy to insure meetings in relatively secure locations like buildings.

Fisheries Conservation Foundation – As the NED representative on the AFS Management Committee, I helped review proposals for funding through this new AFS

foundation whose mission is to broadly disseminate scientific information on large-scale fisheries issues. To date, two projects have been funded. One is for an Aquatic Resource Conservation Electronic Library which will include a set of PowerPoint presentations on a variety of fisheries conservation topics. The second funded project is a Coral Reef Conservation Workshop to develop an action agenda for conserving coral reefs.

It's been a great year working with the other NED officers and Chapter Presidents. I continue to be amazed at the dedication of these folks to AFS in spite of increased demands of their real jobs, staffing shortages, travel restrictions, etc. We are truly fortunate to reap the benefits of their contributions toward continuing NED's fifty-plus years of service toward fisheries resources and the fisheries profession in the Northeast. Thanks also to all of you who volunteer with AFS at any other level, whether it is a Student Subunit, Chapter, Section or Society. Whether you realize it or not, your efforts do make a difference in providing scientific information and opportunities for networking that allows all of us to do our jobs more effectively.

Ron Essig

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LEADERS August 2003 – August 2004**

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## *60<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference*

The American Fisheries Society (AFS), Northeastern Division (NED) held its 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference on April 25-28, 2004 in Ocean City, Maryland. Fisheries technical sessions at the meeting were particularly strong, with a wide range of contributed papers and posters and three featured symposia. "New Directions in the Use of Multimetric Indicators to Assess Biological and Habitat Conditions in Rivers and Streams" was a day-long symposium supported by the NED and organized by President Elect Paola Ferreri and Ron Klauda of Maryland DNR. Bookend presentations by Paul Angermeier and James Karr, respectively, opened and closed this session which featured a variety of work in systems ranging from headwater streams to tidal portions of rivers. The second symposium sponsored by the NED and organized by First Vice President Margaret Murphy was "Watershed Restoration: Assessment and Implementation." This half-day session included a broad spectrum of presentations from relatively pristine systems in Vermont to highly impacted systems near the Baltimore-Washington Airport. The final fisheries symposium, entitled "Management Issues of the Restored Stock of Striped Bass in the Chesapeake Bay: Diseases, Nutrition, Forage Base, and Survival," was organized by Mid-Atlantic Chapter Past President Desmond Kahn. It featured presentations and a lively panel discussion on the effects of disease and forage availability on this important fish species. NED officers installed for annual terms starting with the AFS meeting in August 2004 were President Paola Ferreri, President Elect Margaret Murphy, and First Vice President Larry Miller. Scott Decker will continue his exemplary service as NED Secretary-Treasurer for a fourth year.

## *2004 Flatfish Biology Conference*

Individuals with an interest in flatfishes are invited to present their research or attend the Flatfish Biology Conference to be held on December 1-2, 2004 at the Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, CT. This meeting will be the ninth of its kind since 1986 and each has attracted fisheries scientists throughout North America. Among the suggested topics for discussion are physiology, biochemistry, pathology, immunology, growth and reproductive processes, aging, behavior, movements, culture methods, stock enhancement, environmental effects, and habitat requirements. At this time, the conference is co-sponsored by the Southern New England Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the National Marine Fisheries Service. For additional information, please contact Renee Mercaldo-Allen, NMFS at 203-882-6549 or [renee.mercaldo-allen@noaa.gov](mailto:renee.mercaldo-allen@noaa.gov). Conference information will also be available on the NMFS-Milford Laboratory website: [www.mi.nmfs.gov](http://www.mi.nmfs.gov).



## *AFS 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*

The 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Our Wisconsin Organizing Committee has planned a fun-filled extravaganza. Come join us for some important work, informative sessions and last but not least the famous brats and beer of Wisconsin. The Management Committee will meet on Thursday, August 19. We will conduct a Governing Board Retreat on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum and will meet at Monona Terrace, on Saturday, August 21. The success of these events depends on your participation and preparation. In addition to these activities, an overview is



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provided of all the activities to help you in your planning. All information about the meeting, including registration, is in the supplement in the June issue of Fisheries and on the AFS web site at [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org). Pre-register before July 23 and save \$100.

## *Atlantic International Chapter Annual Meeting*

The 30th Annual meeting of the AIC will be held Sept. 19-21st at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont. The AIC boasts a membership of approximately 265 from 5 Canadian Provinces and 3 States. The theme of this year's meeting is "**Axis of Evil?: Perceived and Real Issues Regarding Species Interactions.**" The 2nd call for papers is out and abstracts are invited on any topic related to species interactions, with an emphasis on Alosids. Species interactions range from predation to symbiosis. With increasing levels of invasive and non-native species, and fundamental shifts in fisheries management philosophy, species interactions have increasingly been moving to the forefront of fisheries biology. Anyone interested in attending or presenting a paper or poster can find further information on the AIC website in the March and July newsletters – visit <http://www.fisheries.org/aic>. All members of the NED-AFS are cordially invited to join with the AIC for this meeting.

## *Future NED Annual Meeting Venues*

The Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference (NEFWC) has provided a unique, cross-disciplinary venue to hold the annual meeting of the NED of AFS for over 50 years. However, NED leaders and members have expressed concerns over the years on the logistics of the NEFWC and involvement in planning the fisheries technical sessions. Some major concerns:

- April timeframe conflicts with anadromous species fieldwork and trout stocking, limiting the number of members that can participate in the annual meeting;

- MD, VA and WV meetings are outside the geographic range of the NED and members have trouble justifying travel to these areas to attend the meeting;

- Meetings are not held in eastern Canada which is within the geographic range of the NED;

- Registration and lodging costs are typically high at the larger facilities; and

- The NED has not been actively involved in fisheries program planning, resulting in programs that are not always attractive to NED members.

The NED produced a white paper, describing pros and cons of meeting in conjunction with the NEFWC, and distributed it to members for input. It also suggested an alternate approach of holding meetings in conjunction with Chapter meetings or AFS meetings held within the NED's geographic area. This alternate approach could start as early as August 2006 with the AFS meeting in Lake Placid, NY. Feelings were generally very strong one way or the other. Most respondents wanted to try holding meetings separate from the NEFWC. Several members suggested a compromise approach involving separate NED annual meetings in those years when the NEFWC is held outside the NED geographic area (i.e., MD, VA and WV). If you didn't provide comments on this topic already, feel free to email them to [ron\\_essig@fws.gov](mailto:ron_essig@fws.gov).

NED officers secured time on the agenda of the Northeast State Directors and Fisheries Chiefs meetings at the 2004 NEFWC to discuss this topic. The initial feedback received from the Directors indicated a desire to maintain a strong fisheries presence at the NEFWC. However, when presented with several possible NEFWC modifications such as scheduling the meeting no later than mid-March to avoid conflicts with fisheries field work or holding the meeting in Canada, they were reluctant to make changes. Regarding meeting timing, they felt that the NEFWC could not precede the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference that is typically held the third week in March. The Directors were interested in further dialogue with the NED on this issue with the anticipation



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of this being a topic again at their next meeting in the fall.

After consideration of member and State Director feedback, the current feeling of the EXCOM is that we will continue to hold our annual meetings in conjunction with the NEFWC. That is, as long as there continues to be open communication with the host State and active NED involvement in the fisheries program planning. However, there is support by several EXCOM members for holding separate NED annual meetings, perhaps in Canada, in those years when the NEFWC is held outside the NED geographic area. But this would not be considered until after the 2005 meeting in Virginia Beach, VA.

Ron Essig

## **MINUTES 2004 Northeastern Division AFS Annual Business Meeting Ocean City, MD – April 26, 2004**

### Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

President Ron Essig called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Bill Hyatt served as Sergeant-at-Arms and determined that a quorum was present.

### Recognition of Past Presidents and Guests

Ron recognized past presidents Ken Beal, Bob Carline, Ed Cooper, Saul Saila, and Bill Hyatt. Distinguished guests included Bill Taylor (a past AFS President), current AFS President Ira Adelman, and AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam.

### Guest Remarks

Ira Adelman and Gus Rassam gave informative presentations on the status of AFS. Highlights included:

AFS is doing well and is financially sound.

The Fisheries Conservation Foundation is up and running. Of the 36 pre-proposals submitted, 10 were approved by the Management Committee. Recently, two projects have been approved for funding and three are pending.

North America hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Conference for the first time (Vancouver, BC). AFS played a major role in securing funding for 40 third world fisheries scientists that attended. Funding was from the World Bank.

Fisheries Infobase now has many of the older AFS journal articles in digital format and can be

accessed for a fee from the AFS website. There will be an attempt to digitize out of print AFS books. All scientific articles from Fisheries magazine have also been digitized.

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program is in its third year and the number of students participating has increased each year. This summer 70 minority students will be mentored by fisheries professionals across the country at a cost of \$5,000 each (\$3,000 to student, \$2,000 for administrative costs).

### Division President's Remarks

Ron introduced the current Division Officers. Paola Ferreri (VP), Margaret Murphy (1<sup>st</sup> VP), and Scott Decker (Secretary/Treasurer).

The Division re-started the newsletter with the help of the new University of Maine Student Chapter taking on the editorial duties. Ron thanked the U-Maine students for their hard work in getting the newsletter going again after a brief hiatus.

The Division also recently updated the website and many thanks to Patty Thompson at SUNY-ESF for working on this.

The Executive Committee held a retreat at the Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory in Turners Falls, MA last September. Three past Division Presidents also were able to attend. Many organizational issues were discussed but the main focus of the retreat was to plan for future annual meetings and decide what type of format they may take.

There are two excellent symposia that are part of this year's NEFWC that were put together by the Division and Ron recognized Paola Ferreri, Brian Murphy, and Margaret Murphy for their dedication in organizing these symposia.

### Minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Scott Decker provided a written report and oral highlights. Significant issues regarding Division 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 Division treasury to be \$113,668 (up 3 percent from last year's balance).

#### 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 reported that an audit was conducted on February 12, 2004. The committee found the financial records to be complete and



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accurate with acceptable evidence of authorization or justification of, and proper receipts/vouchers for, disbursements made. The records are managed with Microsoft Money software.

Continuing Education: Chair Doug Nieman reported that little activity has occurred at the Division level during the past year. The results of a poll of Chapter Presidents regarding needs were published in the newsletter. More activity regarding continuing education has been occurring at the society level of AFS.

Environmental and Resource Issues: No report.

Finance: Chair Bob Sousa reported that the Division investments are doing very well. Current yield is approximating use meaning that investment gains are keeping up with Division expenses. The committee recommends the Division use of funds should be Fleet Checking (no interest) first, Prime Money Market (very low interest) second, and Corporate Bond Fund (low interest) third. The committee also recommends that the Ultra Fund (equities) be allowed to grow. At the end of the year, a review should be made to determine if there is a need to rebalance the portfolio. Bob will be passing on the committee chair to someone else.

Membership: Chair Margaret Murphy reported that the committee did not have any activity in the past year. Division membership stands at approximately 1000 members. She encourages chapter members who are not members of AFS to join.

Nominating: Chair Steve Perry reported after extensive recruitment efforts Larry M. Miller was the sole candidate for the office of First Vice-President and Eric Palmer (VT) and Dr. Robert M. Ross were selected as candidates for the Division's Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Mail ballots were sent to all NED members via the newsletter and balloting was completed by March 31, 2004. In addition to the candidates that ran unopposed, Robert Ross was elected as the Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

Program: Chair Desmond Kahn reported that a successful effort by all involved has resulted in an excellent program. The members applauded the committee's efforts.

Resolutions: Roy Miller read a resolution thanking the host states of Maryland and Delaware and the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for organizing the 2004 Northeast Fish and

Wildlife Conference, and recognizing Alan Heft, Desmond Kahn, and members of the Program Committee for putting on an excellent meeting. No other resolutions were drafted by the committee or submitted to the Division.

Student Presentation Awards: Chair Neil Ringler reported on last year's award recipients. Best paper award went to Laura Skrobe from the University of Rhode Island and Best Poster went to Bradley Kirr of California University of Pennsylvania. This year the NED will evaluate 10 papers and 7 posters.

## Old Business

1. 2005 Annual Meeting: Fred Leckie from Virginia encouraged the NED to organize the fisheries sessions for next year's meeting in Virginia Beach. He would like to have abstracts submitted by early December and a final program ready by early February. Ron thanked Fred for his warm reception and offer to the NED to develop the fisheries program for the 2005 meeting.

## Installation of Officers

Paola Ferreri was elected President and was escorted to the podium by Bill Taylor and Bob Carline. Margaret Murphy was elected Vice-President and was escorted to the podium by Ken Beal and Roy Miller. Larry Miller was elected First Vice-President and was escorted to the podium by Bill Hyatt and Neil Ringler. Paola Ferreri presented outgoing President Ron Essig with a certificate of appreciation for his leadership and contributions during the last year.

## Incoming Presidents Remarks

Paola thanked Bob Carline and Bill Taylor for escorting her to the podium. She informed the group that she will be committed to continue the discussion regarding the format of the annual meeting. Paola also encouraged members to submit ideas for the annual meeting, and presented outgoing President Ron Essig with a certificate of appreciation for his leadership and contributions during the last year.

## New Business

1. Hutton Program Donation – Ken Beal moved and Bill Hyatt seconded a motion to donate \$5,000 to the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology program. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Changes to Walking Stick Award – Ed Cooper moved and Margaret Murphy



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seconded a motion to change the tenure of the walking stick award from a lifetime award to 3 years. The motion was based on a proposal presented by Ed Cooper, the first recipient of the award from the 2002 annual meeting, who felt that the cane should be passed down to the next longest member of the Division after 3 years.

## **AFS AWARDS**

The Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society annually presents several awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to fisheries, to the Division, and to AFS. These awards were presented at the American Fisheries Society Northeastern Division 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference on April 25-28, 2004 in Ocean City, Maryland.

### **FIRST-TIER AWARD**

#### **DWIGHT A. WEBSTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

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

**2004 Winner: Dr. Saul B. Saila** was recognized for his long and distinguished career as a researcher, educator, and mentor. His scientific contributions to the field of fisheries modeling and population dynamics are extensive. Dr. Saila's graduate students number among the top fishery biologists and administrators in the country. Saul received a Purple Heart during World War II and is among an elite group of 48 individuals who have been AFS members 55 years or more. In accepting the Webster award, Saul acknowledged its special importance to him since he was Dwight Webster's second graduate student at Cornell University in the early 1950's.

### **SECOND-TIER AWARDS**

#### **PRESIDENTS' AWARD**

This award is presented to an individual who is selected by Past-Presidents and the incumbent President.

**2004 Winner: Michael Fogarty** for his marine fisheries stock assessment work with NMFS and his chairmanship of the US GLOBEC Scientific Steering Committee.

#### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

This award is presented to an individual for any or all of the following: leadership and service to the profession and/or AFS; substantial achievements for AFS and the fisheries resource; and, significant long-term service to the NED.

**2004 Winner: Robert Sousa** for his long-time Federal Aid achievements in the Northeast and his role in developing the Boy Scouts fly fishing merit badge.

#### **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This award is presented to an individual or group acting as a team or committee for any or all of the following special accomplishments: notable contribution(s) in conservation and/or the fisheries profession within the Northeastern Division; and administrative or project-related accomplishments.

**2004 Winner: Daniel Schick** for his many years of northern shrimp research and his role in introducing the Nordmore grate into that fishery to reduce bycatch.

#### **STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS**

There were five award winners from the 2004 meeting: **Steve Coghlan** (SUNY-ESF), **Lara Hedwick** (West Virginia University), **Adam Kaeser** (The Pennsylvania State University), **Jay Killian** (Maryland Dept. Natural Resources), and **Abby Jane McLean** (University of Rhode Island).



**NED BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD**

**2004 Winner: Justin Davis** (University of Connecticut) for his presentation “Population Structure and Reproductive Indices of Anadromous Alewife in Connecticut: Historical and inter-location Comparisons.”

**BEST STUDENT POSTER AWARD**

**2004 Winner: Jay Killian** (University of Maryland) for his poster “Spatial Variability of Stream Fish Assemblages: Implications for the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI).”



NED President Ron Essig presents **Dr. Saul B. Saila** with the Dwight Webster Memorial Award of Merit at the NEFWC banquet

**NED Chapter Updates****Atlantic International Chapter:**

President Kathryn Collet provided a report with highlights including the chapter hosting the 133<sup>rd</sup> AFS meeting in Quebec City, the development of student Subunits at University of Maine and University of New Brunswick, and providing technical review of AFS’s “Study Report on Dam Removal”. The Atlantic International Chapter continues to encourage student participation at annual meetings. The AIC met the Illinois Chapter challenge of \$500 in support of the 2004 World Fisheries Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia. The contribution supported attendance at the

Congress by international scientists who lack financial support.

**New York Chapter:**

The New York Chapter’s winter meeting was held February 4-6 in Corning, NY. The meeting’s theme was “Emerging Fishery Challenges: Proactive Approaches for Aquatic Nuisance Species and Fish Diseases.” This successful meeting had 116 registered attendees, including 25 students from eight different colleges. In addition to the invited presentations, attendees were challenged by talks by Barbara Knuth, AFS President Elect, and Ron Essig, NED President, at the business meeting.

The Chapter’s Executive committee last met on April 13, in Syracuse, NY. Items discussed included: 2005 chapter annual meeting planning, 2004 NED and AFS annual meeting chapter participation, planning for 2006 AFS in Lake Placid, 2005 workshop and various committee reports.

The chapter’s next annual meeting, scheduled for February 2-4, 2005 in Syracuse, will be a Tri-Society event (NYS fisheries, wildlife and forestry chapters). Tentative theme for the meeting is: Integrated Restoration of Natural Ecosystems at the Watershed Scale: Incorporating Management Efforts to Restore Wetlands, Wildlife, Forests and Fisheries at the Land-Water Interface.

On behalf of the NY Chapter, Bill Gordon attended the 2004 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference held during April in Ocean City Maryland. John Homa (Chapter Secretary) will represent the Chapter at the 2004 American Fisheries Society Annual Conference in Madison, WI.

An ad hoc committee charged with planning for the 2006 American Fisheries Society Annual Conference in Lake Placid, NY, was formed with Web Pearsall as chairman.

A workshop entitled “Georeferencing Your Biological Data: An introduction to the use of Geographical Information Systems for the



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Fisheries Professional” is planned for 2004, pending an increased show of interest. Contact for this workshop is Dick McDonald at: [dmcDonald@usgs.gov](mailto:dmcDonald@usgs.gov).

## **Pennsylvania Chapter:**

Bob Ross (for President J.R. Holtmaster) provided highlights of chapter activities. The Pennsylvania Chapter held a fall technical meeting on October 24, 2003 at Clarion University. Forty-seven attendees included three speakers and nine posters. The spring technical meeting, on April 2, 2004, was held at Fisherman’s Paradise in State College, PA and recognized students with best poster awards given at the fall technical meeting, and recognized long-time member Del Graff with an award (Fish Management Section Hall of Excellence).

## **Mid-Atlantic Chapter:**

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held its fall meeting on November 24, 2003 at Brandywine Creek State Park in Delaware. The theme of the meeting was toxics in fishes. Presentations were given New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection staffers, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held its spring meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at Assunpink Wildlife Management Area Conservation Center in NJ. The theme of the meeting was tagging and movement of fishes. Talks were given by Tucker Jones (NJDEP), Thomas Grothues (Rutgers University Marine Field Station), and Mary Fabrizio (NMFS). In addition to talks, speakers also gave demonstrations of their tagging techniques which included surgical implantation of sonic tags in bluefish and black sea bass, and injection of microwire tags and acrylic paint in *Fundulus*.

## **Southern New England Chapter:**

President Grace Klein-MacPhee provided a report on the chapter with highlights including holding a winter technical meeting on January

21 with 117 in attendance, providing 7-10 free student memberships, and offering free registration for students at their annual meeting. The featured speaker was Vince O’Shea, the Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, who discussed interstate fisheries management.

The SNEC held its annual summer meeting at the University of Rhode Island’s Coastal Institute on June 9. Total attendance was 57, including 16 students. Papers were presented on a wide variety of topics in fisheries research, including growth of Atlantic salmon and discriminating their origin among river reaches by scale pattern analysis, movements of silver-phased American eels past a hydroelectric facility, documenting the decline of the Atlantic tomcod, soniferous fishes of the Hudson River, fecundity of the horseshoe crab, bay scallop habitat assessment, and histopathological lesions in sharks as indicators of environmental stress. Boze Hancock, currently with NOAA Fisheries in Narragansett, RI, presented the keynote address by describing the workings and management of the abalone fishery in his native Western Australia.

## **SUNY ESF:**

President Steve Coghlan reported on several Chapter initiatives. The chapter helped with a survey of the Allegheny River, conducted flycasting and fly tying clinics, and conducted a stream survey for spawning rainbow trout. Steve mentioned the importance of volunteers in conducting chapter functions. The SUNY ESF Chapter held meetings featuring graduate student presentations on their aquatic-related research and held an ice fishing derby in mid-February to raise funds.





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## **New faculty member**

There is a new faculty member in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut. Jason Vokoun has filled a position in Fisheries at the Assistant Professor level. Dr. Vokoun comes to UConn from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received both his PhD (2003) and MS degree (1999). His dissertation was entitled "Movement and Habitat Use of Flathead Catfish in Missouri Interior Streams". He has expertise in statistical modeling of animal movement and habitat use, and geographic information acquisition and analysis. For the past year he has taught an undergraduate discussion class entitled Controversial Issues in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Welcome to the Northeastern Division, Jason!

## **Continuing Education**

The Northeastern Division changed the principal duties of its Continuing Education Committee from organizing courses at NED meetings to providing support for and facilitating Chapter continuing education efforts. This includes submitting paperwork for Continuing Education Units, keeping records of past courses offered, and tracking course evaluations. New York Chapter President Web Pearsall sent a letter to the AFS Executive Director explaining the difficulties of holding continuing education events with very expensive premiums for liability insurance coverage. The Pennsylvania Chapter also had to purchase liability and property damage insurance to hold a meeting on a university campus. As one means of addressing this issue, the NED purchased insurance coverage for five of its Chapters and NED to hold "in-facility" meetings (does not cover outdoor events and workshops on or near water).

## **Help Wanted: NED Finance Committee Chair**

Is there anyone out there who has a knack for finance and investments? If so, the Division could use your help. We have about \$100K in stock, bond and money market funds that occasionally need rebalancing attention to reach our investment goals. Our recent Chair Bob Sousa has stepped down, but I'm sure would be able to offer transition advice. Please contact Ron Essig at ron\_essig@fws.gov or 413-253-8504 if interested.

## **NED FISHERIES IN THE NEWS STRIPED BASS RESEARCH AT MaCFWRU AND MDMF**

By Martha Mather

A recent study of the factors driving migratory striped bass distributions across Massachusetts estuaries was undertaken in conjunction with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. In the 1980s, natural and anthropogenic stressors led to the collapse of striped bass, an historically important component of marine fisheries and estuarine ecosystems. Although effective management and favorable recruitment resulted in the restoration of the coastal migratory stock in the mid-1990s, resource managers now face intense pressure to concurrently manage this restored top predator population for commercial and recreational yield while conserving important prey populations.

During the spring, summer, and fall of 1999, the study (a) compared striped bass relative abundance among 13 Massachusetts estuaries, (b) examined how factors affecting feeding success and growth are related to predator distribution, and (c) evaluated the relationship between striped bass predators and their prey.

Based on the diets of more than 2000 striped bass, researchers Martha Mather and Kristen Ferry found that across seasons, striped bass were consistently abundant in northern Massachusetts estuaries. In spring, the relative proportion of invertebrates and fish in the diet best explained variation in striped bass



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distribution, whereas in summer, temperature, diet components, and potential consumption explained up to 98% of variation in distribution. In fall, the proportion weight of fish prey was of key importance. The sand shrimp, *Crangon*, provided a diet staple for striped bass in all seasons, but in fall, menhaden was the primary diet item.

Ferry, after graduating from University of Massachusetts- Amherst in 2003, went to work for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Anisquam River Laboratory as a fisheries biologist. Mather works with the Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at UMass, Amherst. For more information, contact Mather and Ferry at the following addresses: Kristen Ferry, kristen.ferry@state.ma.us; Martha Mather, mather@forwild.umass.edu.

## **An Update on Atlantic Stocks in Maine**

by Cheri Domina, USFWS

As adult Atlantic salmon began their age-old spring migration up Maine's rivers from the sea, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Maine's Atlantic Salmon Commission wrapped up their 2004 Atlantic salmon stocking season. This April and May, state and federal biologists and volunteers released more than 668,000 smolts (6-inch salmon ready to head to sea), and 3.7 million fry (one-inch salmon) into rivers across Maine and New England. As always, the effort was cooperative – the Atlantic Salmon Commission (ASC) making recommendations on where and how many fish to stock, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at Craig Brook and Green Lake National Fish Hatcheries growing the fish. This partnership effort is part of a continuing program to boost populations of sea-run Atlantic salmon, a federally endangered species in eight Maine rivers.

"Distributing Atlantic salmon juveniles in Maine's salmon rivers is a key element in the cooperative efforts of ASC, USFWS, and NOAA-Fisheries to restore the species," said Joan Trial, senior biologist for Maine's Atlantic Salmon Commission. Both ASC and USFWS participate in the spring ritual of releasing the

young salmon by truck, by canoe or on foot, logging thousands of miles from the St. Croix to the Saco River and beyond. "The fish were in good shape and arrived at the release sites safely and happily, as did the staff and trucks," commented Jerry Marancik, manager of Green Lake National Fish Hatchery in Ellsworth.

Salmon smolts from Green Lake National Fish Hatchery are ready to head to sea when released, and will spend one to three years in the ocean before returning to Maine rivers as spawning adults. About 90% of Maine's returning adult sea-run salmon each year start life at Green Lake NFH. In 2004, Green Lake NFH grew smolts for the Dennys, Saco, St. Croix and Penobscot rivers in Maine, as well as Massachusetts' Merrimack River. The Penobscot River watershed got the lion's share of these smolts – about 547,000. Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery grew 1.8 million salmon fry in 2004 for tributaries of the Penobscot River, and another 1.8 million fry for six of Maine's rivers with endangered populations: the Dennys, Machias, East Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus and Sheepscot rivers. Biologists stocked more than 40 truckloads of these fry during the month of May into river headwaters, where they'll spend two or three years before heading out to sea. Craig Brook also stocked about 10,000 smolts this year in the Pleasant River.

Biologists received assistance raising and stocking salmon from private hatcheries, such as the Wild Salmon Resource Center on the Pleasant River in Washington County. Schoolchildren also raised Atlantic salmon fry in 131 classrooms statewide this year, while participating in Atlantic Salmon Federation's Fish Friends program or Craig Brook Hatchery's Salmon in Schools project. Students released more than 11,000 fry this spring at state-approved sites in their local watersheds – often assisted by sportsmen's clubs and watershed councils.

Biologists are still determining how good last fall's spawning season was. In the spring of 2003, the Penobscot saw its best salmon run since 1998, with 1,114 adult fish returning. On rivers without weirs and traps, however, the salmon run was harder to quantify. Spring stocking gives biologists another chance to look



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for clues to the abundance of wild salmon in Maine's rivers. "Last year's fall high water made redd counting difficult," said Trial. "Canoeing Maine's rivers to distribute Atlantic salmon fry allows biologists to look for redds (salmon nests) they may have missed when counting last fall. This spring we found additional redds on the Narraguagus and Dennys Rivers." As for this year's salmon run, about 820 adult sea-run salmon had returned to the Penobscot River as of July 1 – a level that exceeds figures for this date over the past several years, according to Carl Burger, manager of the USFWS Maine Fisheries Program Complex.

## **Draft Recovery Plan Issued for Maine Atlantic Salmon**

By Mark Minton and Marty Miller

Two federal agencies are seeking comments on a draft plan to recover endangered Atlantic salmon in eight Maine rivers. The plan complements current conservation efforts, particularly those described in Maine's Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan, according to staff with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission. All comments received from the public during the 90-day public comment period will be considered by the agencies during preparation of the final Atlantic salmon recovery plan. The agencies will hold two public meetings/hearings in Maine to discuss the plan with the public and to accept comments. A panel of independent experts will also review the plan.

Wild Atlantic salmon in the Sheepscot, Dennys, Machias, East Machias, Narraguagus, Ducktrap and Pleasant rivers, and Cove Brook were identified as an endangered distinct population and were afforded protection in 2000 under the federal Endangered Species Act. The population has continued to decline, with fewer than 100 adult fish returning to the eight rivers to spawn in 2003. The primary objective of the recovery plan is to halt the decline of endangered Atlantic

salmon. Initial recovery efforts will focus on reducing the most severe threats to the population's continued survival. These include acidified water, mixing of wild and farmed fish, take of adults and juvenile fish by anglers, predation and competition, and excessive or unregulated water withdrawals that may affect salmon habitat.

For full recovery, according to the plan, actions must also include protecting and restoring freshwater and estuarine habitat, supplementing naturally spawning fish with hatchery-reared salmon from the same rivers, conserving the population's genetic integrity, assessing the fish during key stages in their lives, promoting salmon recovery through outreach and education, and assessing and revising the recovery program over time.

The ESA requires the federal agencies to develop a recovery plan to identify specific management actions necessary for the conservation and survival of the species, as well as measurable criteria for determining when recovery is achieved. The plan must also provide time and cost estimates for recovery activities. As new information becomes available, the recovery plan could change.

Comments can be submitted by e-mail to [salmonrecovery@noaa.gov](mailto:salmonrecovery@noaa.gov), or by regular mail by September 15 to: Attn: Mark Minton, Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan Coordinator; NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. For further information, contact Mark Minton at NOAA Fisheries, phone 978-281-9328 x6534 or Martin Miller at USFWS, phone 413-253-8615. Information about Atlantic salmon and the Endangered Species Act is available online at the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Web site: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/atsalmon/> The recovery plan is available online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>