

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

***By NED President Jim Armstrong***

Greetings all, from the extreme southern reaches of the Northeastern Division (Delaware). The office of President has an annual term that begins officially, albeit quietly, at the AFS Business Meeting. Unofficially, but with far more ceremonial pomp and circumstance, individuals serving in various Division offices rotate up, and/or out at the Division's Annual Business Meeting. Therefore, at our most recent meeting, in Saratoga Springs, Past President Phil Downey exited the active officer ranks, President Randy Jackson assumed the office of Past President, I (Jim Armstrong) moved up from President-Elect to President, John Cooper became President-Elect, and Kristen Ferry joined the officer ranks as our new First Vice-President. Secretary-Treasurer, Chris Millard, also known as the guy who does all the work, remained in his position which has a two year term.

I think I speak for all the officers when I say that there is an impressive array of challenges facing the Division this year. Centermost is our involvement in the Annual AFS Meeting which will be held within Division boundaries this year in beautiful Quebec City. The meeting organizers, AFS staff, as well as Division and Society Officers have been conferring regularly and frequently, as we look forward to this exciting event. For those of you who did not get a chance to be at the previous meeting in Quebec City eleven years ago, it was successful on many levels. The city, itself, is very popular even when AFS isn't in town, so our presence there will only add



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to the “Joie de Vivre”. Our ranks will be strengthened this year as the Annual AFS Meeting serves as the venue for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Larval Fish Conference.

Although meeting logistics are being handled by the local folks, the Division is being tasked with important fundraising duties as well as oversight of contributed papers and posters – actually the Atlantic International Chapter is doing the posters. As a newbie to the whole fundraising gig, I would like to take this opportunity to make the following statement on the subject, “HELP!” Seriously, if you are reading this and you have any information or even a vague hunch on prospective donors, no matter the size of the company or organization, please do pass that information along to me or to Kristen Ferry.

Another challenge facing the Division this year is overhauling the Division’s website, which will be all the more do-able with assistance being offered from AFS Bethesda. When Doug Austen, a thoroughly credentialed “fisheries guy” took over as Executive Director for AFS in 2013, he made development of a communications plan one of his top priorities. In our monthly Division conference calls, the Chapter Presidents have enthusiastically embraced the idea - the website overhaul is available for all AFS Units. The PA Chapter has already implemented theirs. In the past, Unit websites have served as a signpost basically stating that a Unit exists and providing some basic descriptive information. The next phase will be a much more interactive web presence better serving

the central means by which the Society functions, which is communication.

Other challenges: Financial issues are never settled, and the Division’s investment holdings need to be improved through modification to our existing portfolio, and work is underway to address that. The venue for our Annual Division Business Meeting for many years has been the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. This year, however, we will not be joining them at the Portland, ME Conference because we are conducting our meeting at the Annual AFS Meeting. It remains to be seen if further venues will be explored in subsequent years, but I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our appreciation for the many years of support and friendship that have been extended to the Division by NEAFWA.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Division Officers, Chapter Presidents, and others who are contributing to the Division’s efforts this year to improve and remain relevant to its members. We are not done yet. If anyone has any thoughts or constructive ideas about how the Division can do a better job, please feel free to contact me. Until next time (à la prochaine), adieu.

*Jim Armstrong, NED President*

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## ***\*Upcoming Meetings & Workshops\****

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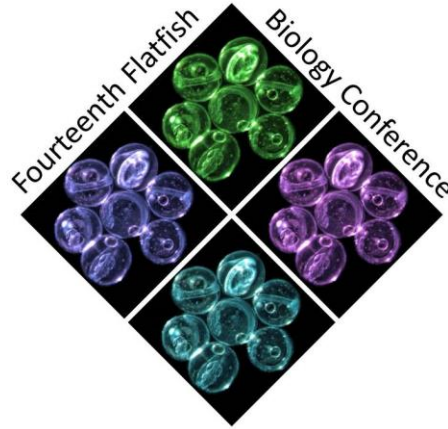
*New England Lakes Conference  
June 13-14, 2014  
“Green Ideas for Blue Lakes”  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT*

The annual regional conference, held in a different New England state each year, is NEC-NALMS' main activity each year, and how we engage our members and provide information and an exchange of ideas. Please consider sharing your ideas by presenting a workshop, presentation or poster at this year's conference.

The 2014 New England Waters Conference will be hosted by the Connecticut Federation of Lakes June 13 & 14, 2014, at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. With the theme of "Green Ideas for Blue Lakes" we are focusing on what homeowners and lake users can do to protect the lakes they love. Bob Kirschner, Director of Restoration Ecology, Chicago Botanic Garden, will share landscaping issues that are lake friendly, solve real problems AND look great!

We are seeking abstracts on a wide range of lake and watershed topics, but are particularly interested in information about lakeshore property maintenance, including septic system and storm water management, sustainable nearshore habitat, and fostering communication and outreach to local groups.

*For more information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/necnalms/>*



*14th Flatfish Biology Conference*  
*December 3rd & 4th, 2014*  
*Water's Edge Resort*  
*Westbrook, CT*

The Flatfish Biology Conference offers a unique opportunity for professional and student researchers to come together to share their findings via oral or poster presentations. If you would like to receive conference mailings or attended in 2012 and would like to update your email or mailing information, please contact Renee Mercaldo-Allen by email ([renee.mercaldo-allen@noaa.gov](mailto:renee.mercaldo-allen@noaa.gov)) or phone (203-882-6549).

Additional details concerning this conference will be issued shortly, including registration fees, hotel reservation information, sponsors, and details on submitting abstracts for talks and posters.

For more information, please visit: <http://nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/Milford/flatfishbiologyworkshop.html>



## ***Save the Date!***

**70th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference  
Holiday Inn By the Bay - Portland, Maine  
Sunday, April 13 - Tuesday, April 15, 2014**

***“Building on the Past to Ensure the Future”  
Leadership, Partnership & Communication***

The annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference attracts over 500 natural resources professionals in the fields of wildlife biology, fisheries and fisheries management, information and education and law enforcement. The event provides opportunities for education, discussion, and exchanging of ideas. Highlights include: over 50 workshop sessions, keynote speakers, poster displays, and social networking events.

### **Request for Related Meetings:**

The request for related meetings form should be used by Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies committees and working groups, universities, organizations, agencies, and others interested in holding a meeting or social function in association with the conference. Space is limited. [Click here](#) to download the Related Meetings Request Form.

**Note:** The plenary session is scheduled for Monday morning and concurrent sessions begin Monday afternoon and run through Tuesday. Associated meetings will not be scheduled during the general session or during full group social events.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.neafwa.org/>

**Registration & Abstracts Now Open!!!**

**SEA LICE 2014**  
**@ PORTLAND, MAINE USA**

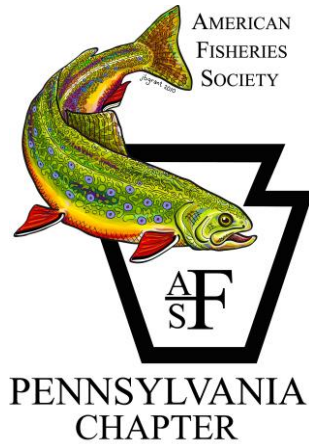


**31ST AUGUST -**  
**5TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

Hosted by:



Location: Holiday Inn By The Bay & Westin Portland  
Harborview Hotel in Portland, MAINE, U.S.A.  
Visit our website at: <http://sealice2014.businesscatalyst.com>



***Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2014 Spring Technical Workshop & Meeting  
April 25th 2014***

***H.R. Stackhouse Training Center - Bellefonte, PA***

**Featured Workshop: “Improving Skills in Professional Communications”**

This workshop is geared towards young professionals and graduate students who have had some experience making public presentations. Upper level undergraduates conducting research and professionals looking to improve communication skills are also encouraged to attend. The workshop will focus on three areas: (1) planning and designing PowerPoint presentations, (2) guidelines for effective oral presentations, and (3) designing technical posters. Approximately 1.5- 2.0 hours will be devoted to each of the areas of emphasis. Attendees will have the opportunity to make short presentations with the aim of improving design and delivery skills.

**Call for Speakers:**

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce a call for oral presentations for the Chapter’s annual spring technical meeting. The Chapter is seeking individuals in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to provide 20-minute presentations on related topics.

If you are interested in presenting at the biannual meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter, please contact Chapter President Steve Means at [smeans@pa.gov](mailto:smeans@pa.gov) or at 570-337-5971.





***Wild Trout XI: Looking Back and Moving Forward***  
***September 22-25, 2014***  
***Holiday Inn***  
***West Yellowstone, Montana***

The Wild Trout Symposium brings together a broad and diverse audience of governmental agencies, non-profit conservation groups, media representatives, educators, anglers, fishing guides, and business interests associated with trout fisheries to exchange technical information and viewpoints on wild trout management and related public policy. Held every three years, each symposium has led to innovative wild trout management approaches.

Wild Trout XI offers a unique forum for professionals and anglers to interact, where participants are exposed to the latest wild trout science, technology and philosophies. This conference will equip participants to better manage, preserve, and restore these significant but declining resources.

The symposium plenary session will begin by looking back on the history of wild trout research and management, both in terms of past science and the nearly four-decade lifespan of the Wild Trout Symposiums themselves, and wrap up with a look forward to where wild trout management is headed.

### **Call for Papers**

Unfortunately, the federal government shutdown in October 2013 resulted in the postponement of the Wild Trout Symposium until 2014. Most individuals selected to provide presentations and manuscripts in 2013 have agreed to participate in 2014; however, several open positions remain in the program.

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: April 1, 2014**

**For more information, please visit: [www.wildtroutsymposium.com](http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com)**



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## ***\*Notices and Announcements\****

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### ***2014 Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Workshop***

#### ***“Mussel Studies and Regulatory Processes Associated with Dam Removal Projects”***

***April 24 – 25, 2014  
Portland, Maine***



The 2014 Workshop is to be held on Thursday and Friday, April 24-25 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. This workshop will focus on mussel studies and regulatory processes associated with dam removal projects.

The first day of this Workshop (Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>) will be devoted to invited oral presentations of field studies conducted pre- and post- dam removal from projects in various regions of the country. Speakers will share their experience and lessons learned, in particular where freshwater mussel studies were conducted. Such studies may not be limited to mussel surveys, but other environmental variables that may affect aquatic habitat and thus the restoration capacity for mollusks. Speakers will provide recommendations for others currently dealing with active or potential dam removals or refurbishing. On Friday morning (April 25<sup>th</sup>), the workshop focus will shift to state and federal regulatory processes involved in dam removals. Some states have developed regulatory processes specific to dam removals, or have guidelines on both pre- and post- dam removal environmental studies, including mussel studies. Panel discussions will follow each session. A poster session relevant to these topics will be held during an evening reception on the 24th. Poster abstracts are still being accepted.

Two optional events are offered on Friday afternoon: a site visit to the Penobscot River site of two recent dam removals, and a hands-on mussel identification workshop instructed by Dr. Art Bogan.

**Please see the FMCS website for additional information and list of speakers**  
([http://molluskconservation.org/2014Workshop/2014\\_FMCS-Workshop.html](http://molluskconservation.org/2014Workshop/2014_FMCS-Workshop.html)).

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **AFS EMERGING LEADER MENTORSHIP AWARD PROGRAM**

The American Fisheries Society requests applications for the Emerging Leader Mentorship Award (ELMA) Program. The purpose of the ELMA Program is to develop future leaders of the Society, and the fisheries profession as a whole, by providing selected candidates an opportunity to participate for one year in activities of the Society Governing Board. Participants in the Program are selected based on their level of involvement in AFS, as well as their potential for assuming leadership of Society units in the future.

A candidate must be a Society member in good standing and an application must be endorsed by an AFS member in good standing (preferably a member who has held or is holding a leadership position in AFS). The application package must include a: (a) personal statement prepared by the candidate that explains why s/he wants to participate in the Program (not to exceed one page); (2) a curriculum vita; (3) at least one letter of support from AFS member in good standing (preferably a member who has held or is holding a leadership position in AFS), and (4) a letter from a current Governing Board member willing to serve as a mentor.

Candidates selected must attend the Management Committee meeting, Governing Board meeting, and the Governing Board retreat, and the AFS leadership training session(s), all of which are scheduled during the 3-d period immediately preceding the annual meeting; attend as many other sessions as possible at the annual meeting associated with the Governing Board (e.g., Incoming Governing Board Breakfast) and other meetings (e.g., Journal Editors meeting, Fisheries Science Editor breakfast) with their assigned mentor when possible; participate in monthly Conference calls of the Management Committee, as time allows; and prepare a report to the Governing Board prior to the mid-year meeting that summarizes her/his experience in the ELMA Program during the past year and provide recommendations for improving the Program. For additional information about the Program and requirements, please see the [AFS ELMA Program Procedures for Application and Selection of Candidates](#) in the AFS Policy and Procedure Manual.

Due to limited funds to support this program (\$500 per awardee to cover costs of attending AFS governance meetings immediately preceding the annual meeting), applicants should be those that already intend to attend the annual AFS meeting. Applicants should inform their Division President with their intent to submit an application, submit their application directly to the ELMA Program Chair (Jim Bowker at [jim\\_bowker@fws.gov](mailto:jim_bowker@fws.gov)), and cc: their Division President. Division officers are encouraged to contact AFS Units in which the applicant is a member to seek matching funds to further support the applicant.

**Applications must be received by April 1 of each year.**



## SYMPOSIUM

### *Roads and Rivers: Reconciling Access to Land and Integrity of Riverine Ecosystems*



#### Organizers:

Elsa Goerig, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, [elsa.goerig@ete.inrs.ca](mailto:elsa.goerig@ete.inrs.ca), 819 228-9869  
Doug Peterson, US Fish and Wildlife Service, [doug.peterson@fws.gov](mailto:doug.peterson@fws.gov), 360 425-6072 (302).  
Laura Wildman, AFS Bioengineering section /Princeton Hydro

#### Description:

Roads, for better or worse, result from the human need to interact with the environment for commerce, resource management, or recreation. Historically, roads have often been located adjacent to rivers and may intersect them several times along their route, requiring the establishment of road crossings. These can alter the geomorphic processes of rivers and streams, and harm aquatic species. Rivers are dynamic and need to erode, transport sediments and stay connected with their floodplains. These fluvial processes may run counter to the long term stability of static structures such as roads, resulting in risk management issues. The adoption of river regulation and mitigation measures to address human concerns can alter aquatic habitats by increasing fine sediment load, modifying the thermal regime and reducing habitat diversity. For biota, the loss of connectivity can harm migratory species that need extensive access to rivers to complete their life cycle. Habitat homogenization and degradation resulting from human actions to mitigate risks from stream-road interactions affect not only migratory species, but those whose life cycles play out over smaller spatial scales. The objective of the symposium is to bring together professionals from various disciplines interested in links between road and riverine ecosystems in order to share ideas and science about the following issues:

- Effects of roads on physical characteristics of rivers and impacts on riverine habitats.
- Consequences of roads and road crossings on aquatic organisms and fish species.
- The concept of a freedom space for rivers and its challenges.
- Response of fish populations and communities to restored longitudinal connectivity

The symposium will bring an interdisciplinary perspective on the interactions between road and drainage networks in order to better understand the above processes, to develop an integrated approach to road and river management to minimize impacts on fish populations, and to understand how aquatic biota respond to restored connectivity.



***Aquatic Summer Courses at Eagle Hill Institute  
Steuben, Maine***

**Species Identification and Assessment of Northeastern Freshwater Fish  
Assemblages. June 1 - 7, 2014.**

Instructor: David Halliwell.

Course description: <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/seminar-flyer-pdfs/2014Halliwell.pdf>

**Lakes and Rivers: Environment, Ecology and Water Quality. July 13 - 19, 2014.**

Instructor: Marilyn Mayer

Course Description: <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/seminar-flyer-pdfs/2014Mayer.pdf>

**Freshwater Mollusks of the Northeast: Ecology, Distribution and Identification. July  
20 - 26, 2014**

Instructor: Arthur Bogan

Course Description: <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/seminar-flyer-pdfs/2014Bogan.pdf>

**Applied Aquatic Entomology: The EPT Taxa: Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and  
Trichoptera. July 27 - Aug 2, 2014**

Instructor: Steven Burian

Course Description: <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/seminar-flyer-pdfs/2014BurianEPT.pdf>

**Natural History of Freshwater Invertebrates. August 3 - 9, 2014**

Instructor: Steven Burian

Course Description: <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/seminar-flyer-pdfs/2014BurianFreshwaterInvertebrates.pdf>





**May 24, 2014**

## **Connecting Fish, Rivers, and People**

*World Fish Migration Day 2014 (WFMD) is a one day global initiative, with local events worldwide, to create awareness on the importance of open rivers and migratory fish. WFMD is held to improve the publics' understanding of the importance of open rivers and migratory fish and their needs.*

### **What is the problem?**

Free migration for fish is crucial to achieve healthy fish stocks. While most fish are migratory to some degree, some species like salmon, sturgeon, trout, dourada, shad, lamprey, giant catfish and eel migrate thousands of kilometers to complete their life cycles. If they can't migrate, the population will die out. This has happened with many species in different places around the world already.

Secondly, in many regions of the world, like in the Mekong river basin, millions of people rely on migratory fish as a food source. A collapsing fish stock has a devastating effect on the life of local people. We have built so many barriers in the rivers and on the coast that it is very hard for migratory fish to reproduce. In the current situation, migratory fish are threatened and fish stocks are declining rapidly around the world. They are particularly threatened by barriers such as weirs, dams and sluices, built for water management, hydropower and land drainage.

### **The WFMD on the 24th of May 2014**

Events will be organised locally, under the umbrella of WFMD, to create awareness about open rivers and free fish migration routes. Our aim is to have more than 250 events around the world on WFMD; starting in New Zealand, following the sun and ending as the sun sets on the west coast of North America. The WFMD will bring global attention for the need for open rivers and free routes for fish migration. It will deliver international press coverage and a global petition will also be developed.



**For more information, please visit: [www.worldfishmigrationday.com](http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com)**



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## ***\*Chapter and Subunit Updates\****

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### **Southern New England Chapter Update**

*Don Danila*



*Erin Adams (right) accepts the Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award on behalf of Greg DeCelles from Karina Mrakovcich.*

The Southern New England Chapter winter meeting was held on January 29 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office in Hadley, MA. Total attendance was 104, which included 15 students. By virtue of their registration, a considerable number of attendees who were non-members became affiliate members of the Chapter. We hope that each will consider full AFS membership this year. Sean Lucey of NOAA Fisheries-Woods Hole put together a program consisting of sixteen oral presentations and fourteen posters, although one of each was not presented due to a change in the meeting date resulting from a winter storm the previous week. Six oral and five poster presentations were given by students. The presentations represented a diversity of topics, including subjects involving

freshwater, anadromous, and marine fishes; marine invertebrates; sampling design and statistics; and watershed restoration.

Abstracts of all the papers and posters may be found on the Chapter's website, found at [www.snef-fisheries.org](http://www.snef-fisheries.org).

The Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award was presented to Greg DeCelles, whose presentation was given at the summer 2013 Chapter meeting and entitled "Dispersal of Winter Flounder Larvae in Coastal Waters of the Gulf of Maine". Greg is affiliated with the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth School of Marine Sciences and Technology.



*Student paper and poster presenters at the winter 2014 Southern New England Chapter meeting included (left to right) Crista Bank, Alexa Kretsch, Connor Capizzano, Ryan Knotek, Jan-Michael Hessenauer, Alyssa Turner, Catherine Durand, John Tabb, Rachael Weiter, and Sara Turner.*

Students were urged to apply for the SNEC Student Travel Awards of \$500 (paper or poster presenter) or \$200 (meeting attendee) for the Parent Society Annual Meeting, which can be made through the Chapter website through late spring. These grants are to be used to defray the cost of travel and other expenses associated with the 2014 AFS Annual Meeting in Quebec City. The forthcoming June Chapter meeting will be held in Connecticut with the time and place to be announced at a later date. Chapter

members were reminded that nominations for Secretary-Treasurer will be needed prior to this meeting. Please contact any of the current officers to make a nomination, to volunteer for this office, or to join the Chapter's Board of Directors. Members were also requested to nominate deserving individuals and organizations for various Chapter awards. These include the Award of Excellence, Irwin Alperin Outstanding

Member Award, Lesa Meng Aquatic Conservation Award, Outstanding Organization Award, and the Special Achievement Award. For more details and descriptions of the criteria applicable to these awards please visit the Chapter website. Send all award nominations to the Chapter Professionalism Chair Bill Duffy at [William.Duffy@noaa.gov](mailto:William.Duffy@noaa.gov)



## SUNY-ESF Chapter Update

*Luke Gervase*



*Club ice fishing event with SUNY Oswego and Cornell University students at Oneida Lake.*

For the rest of the semester the SUNY-ESF chapter plans to hold a few events including volunteering. A club potluck dinner is planned as well as helping a local hatchery stock trout in local waters. Other activities discussed are installing a club sponsored aquarium on campus, holding a demo day for electrofishing techniques, and touring some of the other local hatcheries of central New York. Meetings are held every other Wednesday. New officers for the upcoming academic year of 2014-2015 have been elected. President Erik Hazelton ([ejhazelt@syr.edu](mailto:ejhazelt@syr.edu)), Vice President Michael

Longacre ([mlongacre10@gmail.com](mailto:mlongacre10@gmail.com)), and Secretary/Treasurer Austin Demarset ([ajdemare@syr.edu](mailto:ajdemare@syr.edu)).



*Club ice fishing event with SUNY Oswego and Cornell University students at Oneida Lake.*



*Nice fish caught at the SUNY Oswego and Cornell ice fishing event.*



## UMaine Student Subunit Update

*Andy O'Malley*

The UMaine Student Subunit has had an exciting fall and is looking forward to what the spring holds. Last semester, the subunit hosted Maine State Biologist Wes Ashe as he spoke about his management work with landlocked salmon in a central Maine lake. Additionally the subunit hosted club member Jeffery Vieser who presented a portion of his masters work on the fish community of Coobscook Bay, Maine. On January 17<sup>th</sup> Dmitry Gorsky of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and sub-unit founder, spoke on lake sturgeon restoration in the great lakes. I will be hosting Jacob van de Sande of the Downeast Salmon Federation who will be speaking about smelt restoration in Washington County on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The subunit continued its long standing tradition of making connections with other professional organizations as the traditional bowling night and annual free fishing day derby were held with the UMaine Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters. Despite blustery snowy conditions, members Rebecca Fontes and Ruleo Camacho won largest pickerel and black crappie, respectively. Only a few weeks prior, a jigging rod building workshop was held, interspersing fishery education with the art of rod craft. Later on this semester, members are looking forward to a smelting trip on the Kennebec, an introduction to R workshop, fly tying, and plans are being made to attend and assist

with the AFS Quebec conference in August. With so many programs, the Maine Subunit's membership is active and excited for the future!



*Photos from the annual ice fishing derby.*

# PA AFS Update

*Steve Mean*

Registration is now open for the 2014 Spring Technical workshop and meeting scheduled for April 25th at the H.R. Stackhouse in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania! WORKSHOP 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Improving Skills in Professional Communications

*Instructors:* **Bob Carline**, retired Leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and **Jim Finley**, Ibberson Professor of Forest Resources Management, Director of the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, and Pennsylvania Extension Forester

*Synopsis:* This workshop is geared towards young professionals and graduate students who have had some experience making public presentations. Upper level undergraduates conducting research and professionals looking to improve communication skills are also encouraged to attend. The workshop will focus on three areas: (1) planning and designing PowerPoint presentations, (2) guidelines for effective oral presentations, and (3) designing technical posters. Approximately 1.5-2.0 hours will be devoted to each of the areas of emphasis. Attendees will have the opportunity to make short presentations with the aim of improving design and delivery skills.

Space is limited! **Registration is required by April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

MEETING 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

*Call for Speakers:* The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is

pleased to announce a call for oral presentations for the Chapter's annual spring technical meeting. The Chapter is seeking individuals in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to provide 20-minute presentations on related topics. If you are interested in presenting at the biannual meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter, please contact Chapter President Steve Means at [smeans@pa.gov](mailto:smeans@pa.gov) or at [570-337-5971](tel:570-337-5971).

*Students:* The Chapter welcomes your research posters! Contact Rebecca Dunlap, chapter Secretary / Treasurer at [pachapterafs@gmail.com](mailto:pachapterafs@gmail.com) or at [570-367-8519](tel:570-367-8519) for more information.

Latest PAAFS Newsletter can be found at <http://pa.fisheries.org/newsletters/>

## **2014 PA AFS Newsletter Feature:**

The chapter is excited to announce that it is promoting a new **fisheries photo corner** in its newsletter. Bob Ventrini, newsletter editor *extraordinaire*, wants your pictures. Send Bob your "Survey Photos", "Angler Photos", and "Student Research Photos" for possible feature in our next edition at [rventorini@pa.gov](mailto:rventorini@pa.gov).

## **Current 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*

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

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### **MSA Reauthorization National Workshops: Seattle Kickoff Great Success**

On Tuesday, February 11, the Center for Sustainable Fisheries (CSF) and National Fisherman magazine kicked off their National MSA (Magnuson-Stevens Act) Reauthorization tour in Seattle. Representatives from CSF included President and CEO, Brian J. Rothschild, and Chief Operating Officer Kate Kramer. Jessica Hathaway, Editor-in-Chief took part in the workshop on behalf of National Fisherman. Many highly respected fisheries experts represented the North Pacific fisheries community, including federal and local public office holders, NOAA representatives, members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, members of the fishing industry, marine scientists, and attorneys.

Hathaway discussed the need to find a balance between conservation and the economic needs of fishing communities. She noted that improving scientific data collection through cooperative research and assessment methods is a necessary step and means to achieve this goal. Fishermen are environmentalists who want healthy resources to pass on to future generations. Rothschild discussed the scientific reasoning behind the organizations' proposed rewritten National Standards. As he explained, the National Standards are the backbone of the MSA and fisheries management. As a result, the standards are a key component to maintaining balance and flexibility in fisheries management programs. The interaction among the National Standards must be discussed during this re-

authorization. The House of Representatives discussion draft was also a prominent topic at the workshop.

Attendees inquired about how some proposals may affect the successes the North Pacific has achieved in management, such as minimal stocks that are classified as overfished and thriving economic communities. There was concern about scientific research, the effects of the natural environment and natural mortality on fish stocks, the use of the term “overfishing”, and an increase in national dialogue between fisheries management councils.

As Mayor Stanley Mack of the Aleutians East recalled, when he moved to Alaska as a young boy in the 1930s, his father, who was a cod fisherman, woke up one day and found there were no cod to catch. He attributed this to increased natural mortality, not fishing, because the fishing gear at the time was not capable of diminishing the stock. If the MSA, as it is written today, was in existence in the 1930s, the cod fishermen would have said to be “overfishing.” The overfished classification probably would have been an inaccurate classification. More research into natural mortality, population mobility, and identification of the correct cause of stock decreases are necessary.

High expectations and standards of transparency and collaboration should be a high priority of the MSA. A national dialogue among regions is necessary to ensure best practices are being shared, and issues that occur across regions are resolved collaboratively. There has been improvement over the last five years, with national SSC and Council meetings, but

sharing of information regarding advances and struggles in management is important and should increase.


CSF and National Fisherman are pleased at the success of the workshop. The workshop was a positive start to a comprehensive national discussion on the MSA re-authorization among fishing regions.

CSF is compiling an overview of the meeting, which will be made available to

attendees for review and then posted on CSF's website for public viewing.

CSF and National Fisherman will also be hosting workshops in Boston, New Orleans, and Washington D.C. CSF and National Fisherman look forward to continuing the conversation around the country in the coming months.

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### **SRBC Monitoring Staff Confirm Second Occurrence of Invasive Diatom in the Pine Creek Watershed, Pennsylvania**



*Photo: Tim Daley PA DEP*

Monitoring staff at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC; [www.srbc.net](http://www.srbc.net)) have documented the second occurrence of the aquatic invasive species *Didymosphenia geminata* (didymo or 'rock snot') in the Susquehanna basin. Didymo was found in the West Branch of Pine Creek in Potter County, PA on October 16, 2013. It is a highly invasive algae that has caused ecological harm in many high profile

instances worldwide. The massive blooms and mats resulting from the spread of didymo have the potential to choke aquatic life in the basin's high quality, cold-water streams and rivers.

“The Commission takes very seriously one of its core functions of monitoring the health of the Susquehanna Basin's aquatic ecosystems,” said SRBC Executive Director, Andrew Dehoff. “The second discovery of didymo in the basin causes concern with regards to the potential threat it poses to the sensitive habitats found within the more pristine waters of the basin.”

The first occurrence of didymo in the Susquehanna basin was documented by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection biologists in June 2013 in the main stem of Pine Creek in Lycoming County, near Waterville, PA. Prior to that, such occurrences were documented in the Upper Delaware Watershed in Pennsylvania and New York as well as in several watersheds in southwestern Pennsylvania, western Maryland, and portions of West Virginia.

Anglers, boaters, or anyone coming into contact with an infected waterway can unknowingly spread this microscopic alga, which can cling to fishing gear, waders, boots, and boats. Studies indicate that

didymo can survive outside of a stream in a cool, dark, damp environment for at least 40 days, and only one cell is needed for it to spread. Those coming into contact with an infected waterway are encouraged to disinfect their gear to prevent further spread. To find out more about didymo, the threats this aquatic invasive species poses to the Susquehanna basin, and detailed information about disinfection procedures, please visit the following websites:

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
didymo information  
[https://www.fish.state.pa.us/water/habitat/ans/didymo/faq\\_didymo.htm](https://www.fish.state.pa.us/water/habitat/ans/didymo/faq_didymo.htm)

Pennsylvania Sea Grant didymo information  
[http://www.paseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Didymo2013\\_reduced.pdf](http://www.paseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Didymo2013_reduced.pdf)



## Maine Div. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Proposes New “Heritage Fishing Waters”

Maine's native and wild brook trout populations are recognized for their ecological, economic, cultural, and aesthetic values. The primary intent for managing wild brook trout in lakes and ponds is the protection and conservation of these self-sustaining fisheries, without resorting to stocking brook trout. With this in mind, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife proposed merging A-List and B-List trout fishing waters into a list of “State Heritage Fishing Waters” to renew the focus on protecting Maine’s most outstanding brook trout resources and recognizing the cultural and economic value of these fisheries. Listing waterbodies will allow for special habitat protection and restoration

regulations, law enforcement details, education and outreach programs, and research. The list would include all lakes and ponds with self-sustaining brook trout populations that are sufficiently high in abundance to sustain fishing quality and are readily captured by anglers and scientific sampling surveys. Heritage fishing waters would not include any water bodies with active stocking programs or any water bodies that allow use of live baitfish. The list of lakes will be revisited as new biological information becomes available. For further information, please find the full report at

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/aboutus/pdf/B%20List%20Management%20Plan%20with%20Appendices%2002112014.pdf>.



*Photo: Yoichiro Kanno, Clemson University*



## The extinction of Sandy Pond (Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, Canada).



Photo: Vale Inco Inc.

R. John Gibson ([rjgibson@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:rjgibson@nf.sympatico.ca))

Recently, Canadian Federal and Provincial governments gave permission for Vale Mining to use Sandy Pond, Newfoundland, as a tailings impoundment area. Sandy Pond was a 37.83 ha, post-glacial lake with an ecosystem that included rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*).

In 2010, the Sandy Pond Alliance to Protect Canadian Waters (SPAPCW), a group of concerned Canadian citizens, challenged the industrial use of Sandy Pond under Schedule 2 of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and the new Fisheries Act. Our legal case was based on the premise that the guiding principle of the Fisheries Act of Canada is conservation, and that regulatory changes under “subsection 35(2) of the Fisheries Act allow[ing] the Minister to authorize the alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat under any conditions he deems appropriate” are beyond the parliamentary intention of the Act.

Dams have created a new reservoir of 74 ha for permanent toxic waste, including small adjacent lakes, destroying 45 ha of natural

waters. Vale was required to make up for 18.11 ha of lost habitat. The main compensation for loss of Sandy Pond was opening a partial barrier of vegetation at the outlet of Forest Pond on Salmon Cove River, Conception Bay. This purported to compensate for 12.12 ha of the 18.11 ha. Further proposed compensation includes 7.4 ha from enlarging some small bog ponds, and 0.2 ha from the Salmon Cove River enhancement.

On October 31, 2013, Justice Elizabeth Heneghan gave her decision that the SPAPCW was incorrect in asserting that conservation is the paramount purpose of the Fisheries Act.

Under fairly recent changes to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and the Fisheries Act it is now legal, by decision of the Minister of the Environment to allow companies to discharge toxic wastes. The new regulations have the potential to destroy numerous valuable fish stocks throughout Canada (Hutchings and Post 2013).

Since Sandy Pond and another lake in central Newfoundland have been given as subsidies to mining companies, 23 other lakes are under threat for destruction (Nelson 2013).

The Sandy Pond Alliance is working to restore protection of such lakes, as was available under the prior Fisheries Act, by informing citizens of this unnecessary destruction of our natural heritage. And, following the advice of Justice Heneghan that “the will of the people with respect to legislation can be expressed at the ballot box,” we will continue to rally to bring pressure on our politicians to stop this destruction.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sandypondalliance.org>

## Maine IFW Addresses Plastic Lure Concerns

Soft plastic lures (SPLs) are popular tackle among many sport fisheries in North America. Discarded SPLs have been documented in many Maine lakes by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) and other groups; anglers and fisheries managers have expressed concern about the ingestion of SPLs by salmonids. To address these concerns, IFW has extensively searched for relevant data and information regarding the impacts of SPLs on freshwater fishes, fish health, and the environment.

Phthalates are a chemical that is frequently used in SPLs to keep them flexible. They have been documented to negatively affect aquatic life and may concentrate in some organisms. Manufacturers are not currently required to list the ingredients of SPLs, making evaluating the effects of SPLs on aquatic biota difficult. Some SPLs are marketed as biodegradable, but there are no established standards for biodegradation. Thus, there is very limited information on the time period necessary for specific SPLs to biodegrade. During a study of a sinking minnow SPL advertised as 100% biodegradable, the SPLs showed no signs of degradation after eight months of water exposure. Most SPL manufacturers contacted for information by IFW did not respond; however, Pure Fishing Inc. said they are still testing the rate at which their products break down and what the products break down into.

IFW conducted field assessments and data reviews to determine if quantifying discarded SPLs in Maine's lakes and ponds was possible. Discarded SPLs were documented at higher occurrences in Region

A than Regions B and C. Multiple piles of discarded SPLs were observed at public boat ramps, indicating that some anglers purposely dump used SPLs after fishing and prior to trailering their boats. Some SPLs contained coated hooks that did not degrade (i.e. rust). SPLs were documented in 5.2% of lake trout from Sebago Lake and 3.2% of lake trout from Sebec Lake. IFW also documented SPL ingestion by other salmonids and largemouth bass in 22 southern Maine waters. Bass tournament organizers reported losing 310 SPLs during fishing by 500 boats in 2013. However, there was an active effort by tournament anglers and organizers to collect and recycle SPLs. Over 12 pounds of SPLs were submitted for recycling in 2013. The Maine Bass Anglers Sportsmen's Society Nation (B.A.S.S.) provides recycling containers to all B.A.S.S. members and services recycling canisters at several boat launches in Maine. Collected SPLs are melted down, remolded, and provided to youth fishing clubs at no charge.

As a result of their findings, IFW recommends extensive outreach to anglers' groups about proper discarding and recycling of SPLs. Additionally, IFW plans to encourage retailers to sell locally manufactured (recycled) SPLs and encourage national manufacturers to use 100% biodegradable alternatives to plastics, such as gelatin, plant/mineral/fish oils, etc. IFW also plans to consider new tournament permits requiring SPL collection and recycling during permitted tournaments.

For more information, or to view the full report please visit <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/pdfs/FINAL%20Report%20to%20the%20Joint%20Standing%20Committee%20on%20Inland%20Fishes%20and%20Wildlife%20CT%20AE%20DD%20edits12-13-13.pdf>.



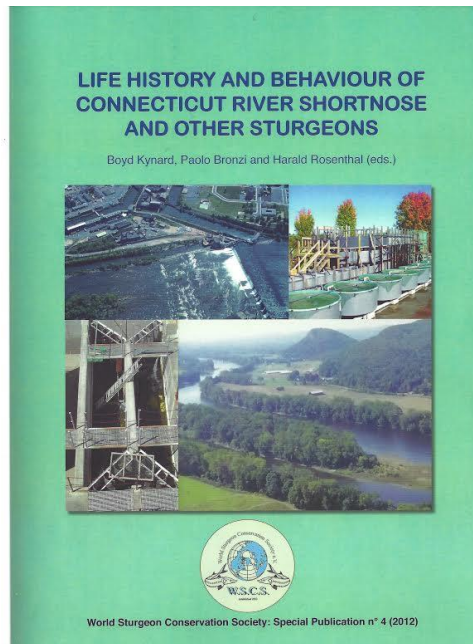
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## ***\*Recent Publications\****

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### ***Life History and Behavior of Connecticut River Shortnose and Other Sturgeons***

*Edited by: B. Kynard, P. Bronzi, H. Rosenthal*

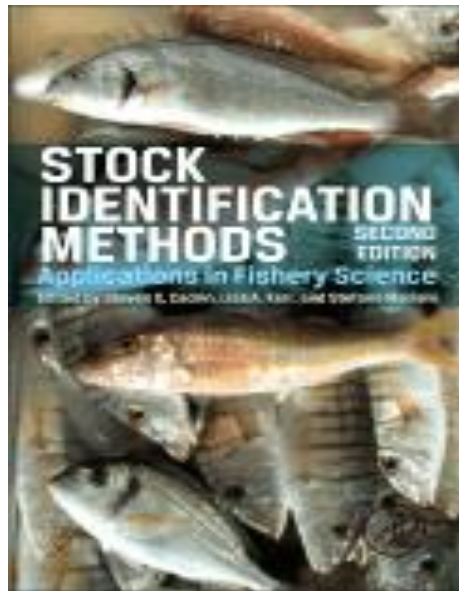


Not too many research books come from fish researchers in the Northeast but here is one published in 2012 by USGS Conte Lab staff, and UMass-Amherst and Cornell University professor, grad students, and staff.

The peer-reviewed book is 12 Chapters (each a research paper) of 320 pp. The chapters are unpublished research on behavior of shortnose, pallid, green, lake, and Gulf sturgeon. The book has chapters on effects of hydrodams on sturgeon, wintering behavior, movements and migrations, turbine mortality of adults, fish passage of adult shortnose sturgeon, and long-term effects of external and internal telemetry tagging on shortnose sturgeon. The book is available from the World Sturgeon Conservation Society for \$65 USD (shipping included) by contacting Boyd Kynard (presently the supplier in N. America)

## ***Stock Identification Methods***

*Edited by: Steve Cadrin, Lisa Kerr, and Stefano Mariani*



This second edition publication offers a central resource for understanding the merits and sensitivities of 18 approaches to stock identification. Additional features of this book are reviews of “benchmark case studies, general protocols, and the strengths and weaknesses of each identification method.” There is a focus on challenges faces in managing mixed-stock fisheries and data interpretation.



### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

#### **Officer Candidates: 2014 Northeastern Division of American Fisheries Society Elections**

This year we will be running the election through surveymonkey to see if we can generate higher voter turnout. Within the next few weeks, under separate email, you should receive the link for voting. Please take the few seconds required to vote. We are including brief bios from the two candidates for Vice-President in the newsletter for your advance consideration.

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### ***Candidates for Vice-President:***

#### **Jason Vokoun**

Jason Vokoun is an Associate Professor of fisheries and Director of the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Connecticut (UConn). His team's research program sets out to fill information gaps and answer questions relevant to the conservation of fish populations and their habitats. Taxonomically, the research focus is broad and he works both with 'non-game' native fishes (often of conservation concern) and 'sportfish' species that are pursued by anglers.

The common thread is an applied ecological approach that investigates how life histories, population dynamics, and habitat requirements interact within coupled human-natural ecosystems to provide relevant information to natural resource managers.

Jason received a BS in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, with a Biology minor from the University of Nebraska in 1996. He then attended graduate school at the University of Missouri, receiving a MS in 1999 and a PhD in 2003 in Fisheries and Wildlife. He started as an assistant professor at UCONN in 2004 and was promoted to associate professor in 2010. In 2011 he became director of the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center. He was awarded the Donald M. Kinsman Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by junior faculty in 2009 and is part of the teaching exemplars network at his university. His former graduate students work in state and federal fisheries positions as well as academia.

His involvement with AFS has been a mix of local, regional and parent society service. Jason facilitated the creation of student sub-unit at UCONN in 2006, and has served as faculty advisor to the group ever since. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Southern New England Chapter since 2005 and was awarded the Irwin Alperin Outstanding Member Award from the chapter in 2006. He has served terms as the Northeast Division Representative for both the Education Section and the Fish Management Section, and has been a member and then chair of the Education Section's committee to select the recipient of the AFS Excellence in Fisheries Education Award. Jason was an associate editor at the North American Journal of Fisheries Management from 2004-2006, and has been serving as an associate editor at Transactions of the American Fisheries Society since 2010.

Jason is a year-round outdoors enthusiast, and tries his best to weave a little fishing, hiking, hunting, and paddling into life on a regular basis.

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### **Emily Zollweg-Horan**

My outdoor interests have always revolved around water- canoeing, swimming, checking out critters in the creek as a kid, so fisheries was a natural career choice. I graduated from Cornell University in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with a concentration in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. It was at Cornell that I was first introduced to the American Fisheries Society, where I attended a state chapter meeting, and a Northeastern Division meeting before I graduated. I was impressed not only by the diversity of topics to learn about at these meetings, but the camaraderie and professionalism of the attendees. In 1995, I moved on to Montana State University-Bozeman, to pursue a Master's degree in Fish and Wildlife Management. At MSU-Bozeman I was active in the student Fish and Wildlife Forum, organizing fundraising banquets and speakers for the monthly meetings and the state chapter of AFS, giving talks on my research and participating in continuing education workshops. I continued to participate in AFS related activities when I took a job with the USFWS in Michigan in 2000, attending state chapter meetings and Midwest Division meetings. As my career progressed, and I landed my dream job back in New York with the NYS DEC, I continued to attend AFS meetings at all levels, and participated as program chair for the New York State chapter, served a term as Chapter President, and continue my service today as Newsletter Editor.

Even twenty years later, I remain impressed by the dedication, and spirit of fisheries professionals and students at these meetings. The meetings continue to be great sources for

learning new things, meeting new people, and catching up with people we don't see as often. Even though technology makes it easier to exchange information electronically, it remains important to be able to interact with the speakers and poster presenters, asking questions, having discussions and making connections for future research and fishery management opportunities. Whether these conversations occur in person, via video chat, email, or by reading a book from a symposia, they all start in the same place: at a congregation of fisheries professionals coming together to exchange ideas. As travel budgets get tighter, it is important to find ways to keep these meetings relevant not just to the participants, but also to their employers. By continuing to attract people from diverse specialties, studying cutting edge techniques, and talking about research of practical use, as well as offering in depth symposia of regional interest, continuing education workshops and keeping meeting

costs down, we can continue to evolve as professionals and as a society. It is my hope that by serving as Northeastern Division officer, I can help to keep this fine tradition of getting together --moving forward.

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As per custom, current officers will run unopposed for the next office in their cycle:

President-Elect: Kristen Ferry

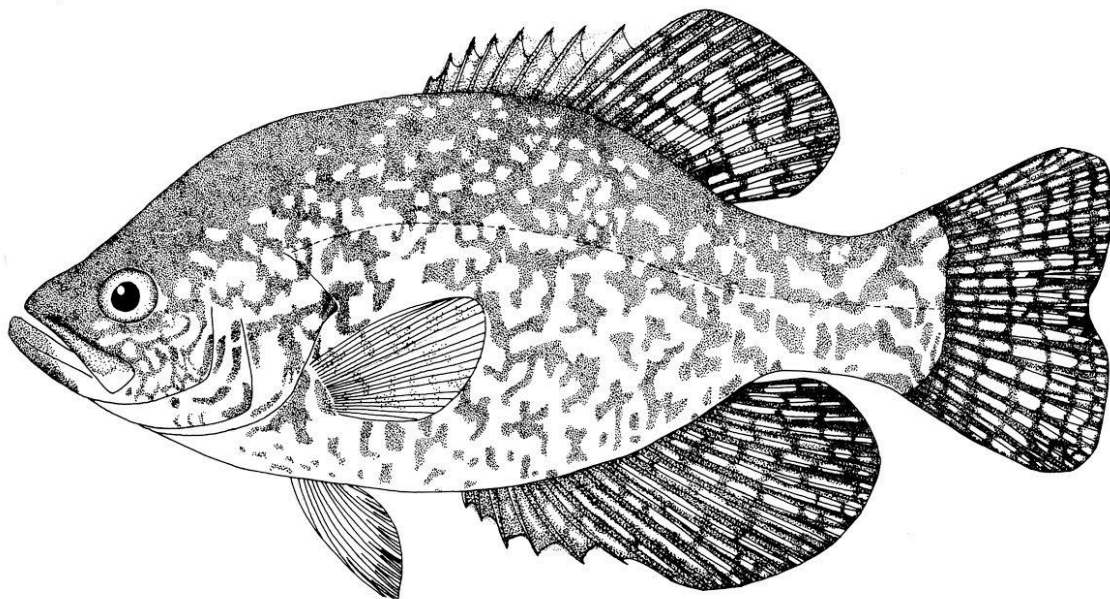
President: John Cooper

Secretary-Treasurer: Chris Millard

Thank you, and I look forward to a high turnout for our surveymonkey experiment.

*Randy Jackson*

*Past-president and Chair of Nominating Committee*



*Black Crappie (Promoxis nigromaculatus)*  
*Picture courtesy John Cooper*

# **NORTHEASTERN DIVISION AFS LEADERS**

(updated March 2014)

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Vacant

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Vacant

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**Moring Student Travel Award**  
Vacant