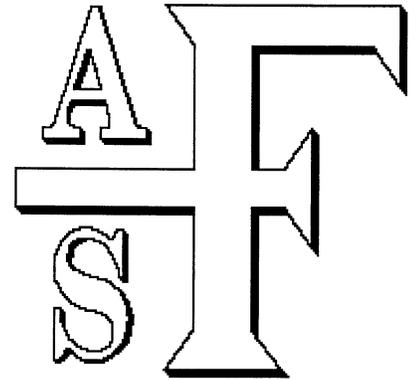


The Newsletter of  
the Texas Chapter of  
the American Fisheries Society



Volume 23 (1)

Spring Issue

February 1997

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Ramos

The winter is speeding past us, I think, and we are all overwhelmed by all of the things that needed to be done yesterday. Even with all of the other demands in our lives, the Texas Chapter is still moving forward. For most of our members the newsletter is a quarterly reminder that things are happening within the organization. I am really proud of the efforts, behind the scenes, made by all of the committee chairs and ExCom members to keep us moving on. We are entering the technological era with regards to communication. The last issue of the newsletter went out via e-mail for the first time and we now have a home page on the information super highway. Kudos go to Charlie Munger and Fred Janssen for taking us to this new level. As with anything new there will be a period of adjustment and we welcome suggestions from the membership at large to make things their best.

Speaking of the membership at large, I was excited to see that those interested enough to vote on the proposed dates for the annual meeting took advantage of the available technology.

Continued on Page 4

## JANUARY EXCOM MINUTES

by Debbie Wade

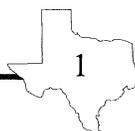
A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on January 30, 1997 in Waco, members in attendance were Bruce Hysmith, John Moczygema, Steve Poarch, Kirk Pratas, Kathy Ramos, Debbie Wade, Charlie Munger, and Malcolm Johnson.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the last newsletter.

The Treasurer's report was read as submitted by Dave Terre. The Chapter's assets as of 12/31/96 were \$30,547.73. Assets have increased 6.5% during the 1996 calendar year. Investments are on solid ground. Dividends earned during 1996 totaled \$2,353.27, a 27.3% increase over dividends earned in 1995. Total assets include a checking account balance of \$3,587.77. Major expenditures during the months of November were for newsletter printing, plaques and certificates for awards and deposits incurred for the upcoming Mid-Year meeting. Sources of income were from memberships and interest.

Dick Luebke was not present to report on the latest information on the Mid-Year Meeting in San Antonio. Kathy reported that during her last conversation with Dick that registrations were coming in at a good rate and submissions for presentations were high. Excellent student participation is expected. The trade show will be held in the same area where coffee breaks and the student/professional mixer will be located.

John Prentice was unable to attend but sent a written report. He has gathered information at possible areas for the next annual meeting but is not able to go any further until the



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meeting date issue is settled. The areas he has looked into include Dallas/Fort Worth, Athens, Temple/Waco and Galveston.

Charlie Munger reported that 400 copies of the last issue were mailed at a cost of \$1.00/copy for printing and postage. Thirty-seven copies were sent via e-mail. He currently has sixty-one e-mail addresses which will save \$61.00 on the next issue. Bulk mailing was investigated and determined that the savings would be minimal especially with the shift toward electronic distribution. The publishing format has been changed to Microsoft Word which is easier to work with and results in a similar quality product.

Publicity/exhibits co-chairs Steve Poarch and Kirk Pratas reported that TCAFS merchandise will be available at registration during the upcoming Mid-Year meeting. Support in collecting items for the annual meeting auction is requested from other regions of the state. Some donations have been received. Exhibitors will not be contacted until a meeting date is selected. They are requesting that every member donate or solicit an item to the raffle/auction to increase support and participation in the event. Plans are to sell tickets in advance of the meeting for a large item such as a two man boat. Proceeds from the fund raiser could be used to support more continuing education opportunities or to contribute to AFS 2000. Efforts to have new Guadalupe bass T-shirts remade before the Mid-Year meeting were unsuccessful.

John reports that there has not been much activity for the Nominating Committee but he is seeking nominees for President-elect.

Membership chair Debbie Wade reports 125 regular members and 13 students. This does not include those who paid their dues through the parent society.

Bruce Hysmith has agreed to take on a new ad hoc committee on continuing education. He has proposed a workshop on genetics in fisheries. The workshop would be geared to cover the basics of genetics and applications in fisheries management. There were several suggestions for possible speakers. Aquatic Vegetation identification of easily misidentified vegetation and software available for fisheries management were also proposed. Charlie suggested contacting the AFS Computer User section for suggestions on speakers for this topic.

Malcolm Johnson reports that the Pond Management Guidelines publication was circulated to the committee during past summer and scanned onto diskette. TAMU extension staff agreed to review the document. Graphics are being collected to replace the originals. Once graphics are replaced the committee will submit the document to the ExCom for further action. In return for editorial review, staff at TAMU will be allowed to include with their Extension Service Publications. ExCom will then determine the format in which it will be published. Once this project is complete the committee will need another project. Proposals were made to produce a list of pond management consultants and to

conduct a basic pond management continuing education workshop.

Joe Fries reports that the Editorial Committee received 1 manuscript for publication in the proceedings. The problem of the proceedings being a gray vs. non-gray publication was discussed. The proceedings may become abstracts only due to lack of support.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Kathy reported the results of the voting on the proposed annual meeting dates.

Results: total of 25 votes (11% of the membership) were cast

September 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	3
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	6
January 4 <sup>th</sup> week	9
February 1 <sup>st</sup> week	6
February 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	1

Because there was not a 2/3 majority vote of the membership at large, the decision falls to the elected officers (Kathy Ramos, Mark Webb, John Prentice, and David Terre). They will meet during the upcoming Mid-Year meeting and render a final decision.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Kathy reported that members of the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society may be interested in

having a joint meeting with TCAFS. The society which has approximately 40 members usually meets in October. No decisions were made but the group will consider the proposal for the future. The possibility of a joint meeting with the Texas Aquaculture Association was also discussed.

The next ExCom meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 22, in Waco.

ADJOURN - A motion was passed to adjourn

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### **FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS**

This is the first call for papers for the 1997 TCAFS Annual Meeting. Submitted abstracts should follow AFS and TCAFS guidelines and submission procedures. If you are interested in presenting and/or publishing your research, submit your abstracts to: Joe Fries, 500 East McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666 or fax them to (512)353-0856.

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**1997 Southern Division AFS  
Mid-Year Meeting  
February 13-16, San Antonio, TX**

**Program Schedule**

**Thursday February 13, 1997**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Technical Committee Meetings

**Friday February 14, 1997**

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. AFS-SD EXCOM  
GIS Workshop (No Cost)

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. AFS Leadership Training  
Instream Flow Workshop (\$40)  
Student Career Development  
Workshop (No Cost)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Student - Professional Mixer

**Saturday February 15, 1997**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Point/Counterpoint

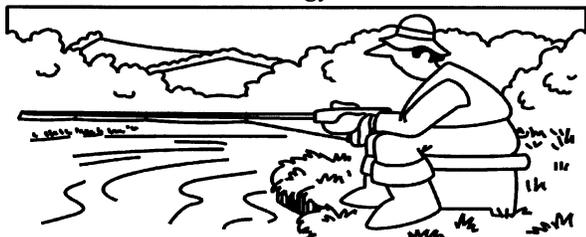
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Technical Sessions & Symposia  
Instream Flow  
Human Dimensions of Fisheries  
Morone Biology and Management  
Atchafalaya River Basin Ecology  
Fish Assemblages  
Intensive Management of Small  
Impoundments  
Reservoir Fishes Biology and Management

7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Lone Star Brewery Social

**Sunday February 16, 1997**

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Technical Sessions & Symposia  
Reservoir Fishes Biology and Management  
Marine Sciaenid Biology and Management  
Instream Sand & Gravel Mining  
Biology & Management of Stream & River  
Fishes  
Other Topics

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Technical Sessions & Symposia  
Marine Sciaenid Biology and Management  
Instream Sand & Gravel Mining  
Catfish Biology and Management  
Pollution Biology



**Workshops**

**Student Career Development Workshop**  
1-5 PM Mahnke Room

**Career Development, Job Applications, and Interviews**

- 1:00 Written Communications R. Droke & R. Boyles  
St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX  
Interviewing, Career Services, Dress and Image,  
Networking
- 1:40 Graduate School Elise Irwin  
Alabama Cooperative FWRS  
Auburn University
- 2:00 State Jobs Loraine Fries  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
San Marcos, TX
- 2:20 Federal Jobs Stuart Jacks  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Corpus Christie, TX
- 2:40 Internships Mike Reed  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Mathis, TX
- 3:00 Consulting Fred Heitman  
American Aquatics
- 3:20 BREAK

**Mock Interviews & Networking**

- 3:40 Graduate School W. Fisher and C. Paukert  
Oklahoma Cooperative FWRC  
Oklahoma State University
- 4:00 State Jobs Karen Meador  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Rockport, TX
- 4:20 State Jobs L. Robinson and B. Balboa  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Seabrook, TX
- 4:40 - 5:00 **Open Discussion**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Unfortunately there were not enough votes for the required 2/3 majority. This places the matter back in the hands of the ExCom for a decision. It is always difficult to come to decisions that will please all of the members but we will attempt to come up with the solution that will address the needs of the majority.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Mid Year meeting in San Antonio. Things are shaping up to be the best meeting yet. The number of submissions and special symposia indicate that the meeting is providing an important opportunity for information exchange. The schedule for the Career Development workshop will give participants a wealth of information on succeeding in this increasingly competitive field. I applaud Fran Gelwick for her efforts in putting this workshop together. Please make an effort to visit with the participants and offer any advice or guidance that will help them.

As I draw this message to a close I have to reflect on the diversity of fisheries professionals that make up our membership. Each of us has an important contribution to make to the success of the organization as a whole. The challenge is to rise above our own agendas and look at the big picture. Overcoming human nature and stretching our boundaries to include those we are working beside can be difficult but always worthwhile.

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## DEADLINE

The deadline for manuscript submissions for the 1996 Texas Chapter Proceedings is 1 April 1997. To date only one very short manuscript has been submitted. To all of you who presented papers, please consider submitting them for publication. Remember, our proceedings are no longer GREY literature so if you want a refereed, peer-reviewed publication, submit your papers.

## WEBSTER'S WORDS

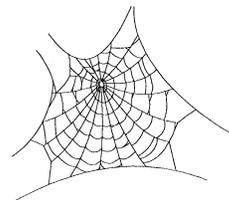
### WEB SITE REVIEWS

With this issue, we'll be spending some time "down under" with reviews from Australia and New Zealand. Both sites reviewed are long on text and short on graphics.

### ***Australian Society for Fish Biology*** ***<http://www.scu.edu.au/resscila/sfb/>***

If you want to find out about fisheries anywhere in the world, you need to visit this site. The ASFB site has the most extensive listings of Fishy Web Sites, Fishy E-mail Lists, and Events and Conferences I have ever seen. The listings are worldwide and concern everything that might even remotely involve fish.

Specific information about the society is rather mundane. There are membership applications and information, listings of Office Bearers, and just the minutes and committee reports from their newsletter (along with info on the cost of advertising in the newsletter). The Gossip and Rumour section had a lot of inside information about what is happening within the fisheries related organizations throughout Australia including who's moved where and how departments are reorganizing. The News section had an fun file on science quotes from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders (included elsewhere in this issue).



### ***Ministry of Fisheries*** ***Home Page*** ***<http://www.fish.govt.nz/>***

This is the home page site for the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries. This page has fewer links and much longer available texts. There is a lot of information about who they are and their purpose. If you work with commercial saltwater fisheries, this site could provide a lot of useful information about how other countries manage their fisheries and use ITQ's. All the saltwater commercial and recreational fishing regs can be found here along with a warning that the regs presented here are just a summary (this warning is written in NZ Maori, Samoan, Cook Island Maori, Chinese, Vietnamese, Niuean, and Tongan). The site also contains the entire texts of the Fisheries Act of 1996 and the document Towards Fisheries 2010 which outlines the goals of the Ministry and the 12 founding principles for their fisheries management program.

## **NOTICE**

### ***Nominations now being taken for MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD***

***The award will be presented to an individual AFS member for unswerving loyalty, dedication, and meritorious service to the Society of a long period of time; and for exceptional commitment to the programs, ideals, objectives, and long-term goals of AFS.***

***Closing date for nominations is 15 June, 1997***

***Nomination forms available from:***

***Carolyn Griswold  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Narragansett Laboratory  
28 Tarzwell Drive  
Narragansett, RI 02882-1199***

***Phone (401)782-3273  
Fax (401)782-3201  
Email carolyn.griswold@noaa.gov***

## **Help Needed on Publicity/Exhibits Committee**

*Steve Poarch*

It will be a tough act to follow, but Kirk Pratas and I have taken on the responsibilities of the Publicity/Exhibits Committee. At past TCAFS meetings, the highlights have always included the raffle/auction and the exhibitors' booths. As most of us know, the money raised from the raffle/auction has gone to support our scholarship endowment fund. In the future, there is a possibility that some of the money will be used for other items as well, such as continuing education, registration waivers, etc. The importance of a successful raffle/auction goes well beyond the fun that is shared during the event.

With that in mind, Kirk and I decided it would be in the best interest of the chapter (and our sanity) if we recruited some help. Besides, a committee usually consists of more than two co-chairmen. We are looking for help in two different ways. First, we would like to have some representatives on the committee from areas other than East Texas. We see the responsibilities of these committee members as being regional contacts for securing donations, collecting and storing donated items, contacting potential exhibitors in that region, and assisting with the planning of the raffle/auction itself. Second, we have set as one of our goals, to have each active member of TCAFS donate, or at least solicit and secure, one item for the raffle/auction. It doesn't take much to go to your local tackle or hunting supplies store, Wal-Mart, neighbor who does craft work, etc. and ask for a donation. It doesn't have to be a big item. Also, in recent years some of our best items, have been donated by our own Chapter members. If the majority of our members will participate in this way, the raffle/auction can't help but be a success.

If you would like to serve on the committee, donate an item, or just give us the name of a potential contributor or exhibitor, please contact Kirk Pratas or Steve Poarch at (903) 593-5077 or FAX at (903) 531-0109. Thanks!

## **Kids Say the Darndest Things**

These quotes were gleaned from essays, exams and class discussions. Most are from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

A vibration is a motion that cannot make up its mind which way it wants to go.

Genetics explain why you look like your father and if you don't why you should.

We say the cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on. To most people solutions mean finding the answers. But to chemists solutions are things that are still all mixed up.

Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it gets big enough to be called a drop, it does.

Humidity is the experience of looking for air and finding water.

We keep track of the humidity in the air so we won't drown when we breathe.

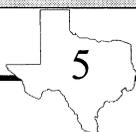
Rain is often known as soft water, oppositely known as hail.

One horsepower is the amount of energy it takes to drag a horse 500 feet in one second.

In some rocks you can find the fossil footprints of fishes.

Water freezes at 32 degrees and boils at 212 degrees. There are 180 degrees between freezing and boiling because there are 180 degrees between north and south.

The wind is like the air, only pushier.



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## FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Dr. G. Joan Holt's Lab at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. Joan Holt teaches in the Department of Marine Science (most recently using a video link between Port Aransas and Austin) and conducts research in the following areas:

- Larviculture and high density grow-out studies of marine species in closed systems aimed at the developing a mariculture approach to the conservation of natural resources
- Biochemical measures of fish condition to evaluate the condition or growth potential of lab cultured or natural populations of fish larvae
- Larval fish transport and recruitment to estuarine nursery grounds to determine the role of biological and physical factors in growth and survival of natural populations of estuarine dependent fishes

Specific studies, designed to understand the role of marine fish larvae in aquaculture and in population recruitment, are conducted with her graduate students and colleagues. A sampling of our research is presented here:

1. Mariculture development throughout the world is hampered by the lack of reliable rearing systems and practical diets for the larvae. For example, high yields of red drum depend upon feeding the larvae live prey for one to several weeks. In order to reduce the requirement for live prey, feeding and nutrition studies are focused on understanding the developing digestive system and nutrient requirements for larval sciaenids. Currently Juan Pablo Lazo and I are exploring the possibility of using digestive enzyme to enhance the utilization of artificial diets. The goal is to determine essential nutrients for larvae and the best means for supplying those nutrients.

2. Culture of tropical reef fish and shrimp would function to conserve natural reef resources by offering alternatives to wild capture. We have successfully spawned seven reef species and reared the larvae of three: cubbyu (*Equetus umbrosus*), yellow-tail snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*) and the peppermint shrimp (*Lysmata wurdemanni*). We are just beginning a study of the cleaner shrimp (*L. amboinensis*). Using the techniques we developed for rearing the larvae, together with micro-zooplankton culture it is possible that many coral reef species can be grown in captivity.

3. Several biochemical measures are under investigation including RNA-DNA ratio, lipids, and MPF (Mitosis Promoting Factor). The RNA-DNA ratio has been examined in larvae raised in the laboratory under various feeding, salinity and temperature conditions, and in natural population of red drum. The measure is a good indicator of recent history of feeding and perhaps temperature conditions. Studies by

Claire Fernandez are investigating further the effect of temperature history on the RNA-DNA ratio.

4. In a collaborative study with Scott Holt we are identify critical periods during the transport of red drum and other sciaenids from spawning sites to estuarine nursery grounds. The role of physical factors and vertical positioning on transport of eggs and larvae through the Aransas Pass has been examined in several studies. We found that larval sciaenids could use modified tidal stream transport to reach estuarine nursery areas, by staying in near- bottom water in the pass on ebb tide and moving up on flood tide. Vertical movement was not associated with feeding since larvae feed only during daylight hours and flood and ebb cycles do not follow a strict diurnal pattern. The objectives of an ongoing study are to determine the temporal pattern of spawning, estimate density of larvae, and determine birth date distribution of young fish that successfully recruit to the sea grass beds with the goal of quantifying physical and biological conditions that result in high survival. Studies by Jay Rooker and Andy Soto are examining how feeding, growth and condition of larvae in the sea grass beds are affected by habitat and competition.



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Do you have an e-mail address?

Then contact the editor at [cmunger@camalott.com](mailto:cmunger@camalott.com) and let him know you want to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

for the 1997 calendar year

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Field of Interest \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Send Dues to: 
**David Terre**  
**P.O. Box 947**  
**San Marcos, TX 78667**

Check the two that apply:

\_\_\_ Regular Membership (\$8/yr)  
 \_\_\_ Student Membership (\$5/yr)  
     (full time students only)

\_\_\_ AFS Member  
 \_\_\_ Non-AFS Member

If you have an interest in serving on a committee, check one (or more) of the following:

- |                        |                      |                                |                              |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ___ Awards             | ___ Editorial        | ___ Endowments                 | ___ Stocks at Risk           |
| ___ Issues             | ___ Membership       | ___ Nominating                 | ___ Pond Management          |
| ___ Publicity/Exhibits | ___ Newsletter       | ___ Exotic Species             | ___ Procedures Manual        |
| ___ Urban Fishing      | ___ Student Outreach | ___ Fisheries Worker Directory | ___ Fisheries Data Directory |

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT ..... Kathy Ramos  
 PRESIDENT-ELECT ..... John Prentice  
 PAST-PRESIDENT ..... Mark Webb  
 SECRETARY-TREASURER ..... Dave Terre

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

AWARDS ..... Gene Wilde  
 EDITORIAL ..... Joe Fries  
 ENDOWMENTS ..... Allen Forshage  
 ISSUES ..... Mike Reed  
 MEMBERSHIP ..... Debbie Wade  
 NOMINATING ..... Bobby Whiteside  
 POND MANAGEMENT ..... Malcolm Johnson  
 PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS ..... Jody Williams/Rick Ott  
 STUDENT OUTREACH ..... Fran Gelwick

**AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

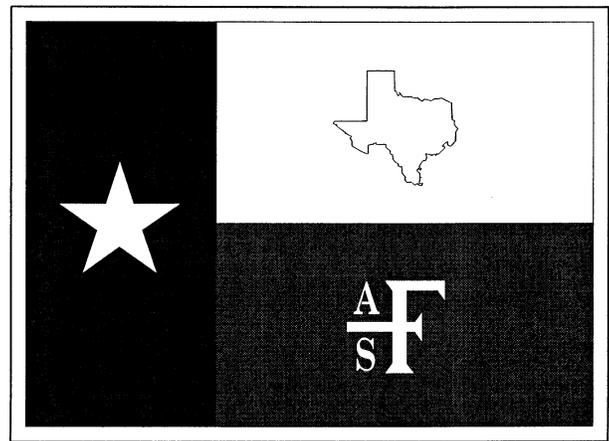
EXOTIC SPECIES ..... Stewart Jacks  
 FISHERIES WORKER DIRECTORY ..... Lance Robinson  
 FISHERIES DATA DIRECTORY ..... Fred Janssen  
 PROCEDURES MANUAL ..... Joan Holt  
 URBAN FISHING ..... Ray Whitney  
 STOCKS-AT-RISK ..... Gary Garrett

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

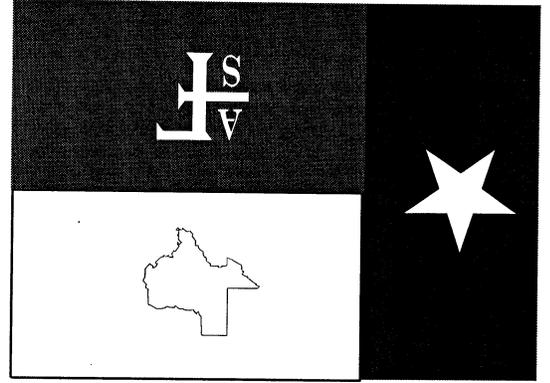
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**Next Newsletter submission deadline:**  
**April, 1997 .....Summer Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Both a hard copy and a **MS-DOS compatible** diskette should be submitted or emailed to the editor at **[cmunger@camalott.com](mailto:cmunger@camalott.com)**



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
OF THE  
TEXAS CHAPTER  
OF THE  
THE NEWSLETTER



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