



NEWSLETTER

TEXAS CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



NUMBER 43

May 1988

1988 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar. The 1988 annual meeting will be held in Abilene on Friday and Saturday, October 7 and 8. A form for making hotel reservations is included at the back of this newsletter. More information concerning the annual meeting will be forthcoming in ensuing issues of the newsletter.

Call for Papers

Now is the time to give serious consideration to making a presentation at the October meeting in Abilene. Our editorial chairman, Ken Kurzawski, is anxious to get your input. Contact him soon at:

Ken Kurzawski
1004 E. 26th Street
Bryan, TX 77803
(409) 822-5067

Panel Discussion Topic

A topic for panel discussion at the annual meeting has been selected. It is, "Water Use in the '90s: impact on fisheries". It is an exciting and critical subject for all of us. The prospect of this discussion enlarges the importance of your attendance at the annual meeting.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

Some upcoming meetings you may be interested in are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| June 7-8 | National Recreational Fisheries Conference
Alexandria, Virginia Call (202) 343-6394 |
| September 9-15 | 118th Annual AFS Meeting. Toronto, Ontario.
Call (301) 897-8616 |
| November 6-9 | 42nd Annual Conference of the Southeastern
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
Hilton Head, South Carolina
Call (803) 734-3991 |

How Big is a Big Bass?

By modern-day standards, the 13lb 8oz largemouth bass caught in Medina Lake in 1943 that held the state record for over 37 years is hardly anything to get excited about. In fact, according to a recent list compiled by Allen Forshage (TPWD) that Medina Lake fish now ranks only 42nd in the "Top 50" list of big bass caught in Texas. It takes a bass well over 15 pounds to get in the top 10. Go get one!

A Master's Degree Needed

Frank Dunkle, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that he will require at least a master's degree when filling entry-level professional vacancies. Student members, take note.

Need a Fish Picture

Top quality color slides of 453 species are available from AFS Fish Photo Library. The committee's goal is to eventually offer slides of all 2,200 North American species. Price is \$1.50 each and a list of available species can be obtained from the central office.

Now That You Have Caught It ...

The University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Communications Office, 1800 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53705 has several publications available on what to do with fish after you catch them, including freezing, smoking, pickling, and canning.

Need a Scholarship?

The American Fisheries Society is accepting applications from qualified female Ph. D. students who are AFS members and whose research emphasis is in the area of fisheries science. Contact:

J. Frances Allen Scholarship
Attn: Dr. Brenda L. Norcross
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2199

National Recreational Fisheries Policy

by Victor Palma, ad hoc Committee Chairman

At our 1987 annual meeting, the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) formed an ad hoc committee to coordinate the Chapter's input into the development of the National Recreational Fisheries Policy. The following is a brief introduction to the Policy and an update on the Committee's involvement.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) began coordinating efforts to develop the Policy in April of 1987. During a meeting between the FWS and representatives from private-sector fishery resource constituency groups, industry, and state, tribal and federal governments it was agreed that the Policy should be "national policy" - that is, a policy which would apply to recreational fisheries on a national scale and would be developed within a broad forum of national participation. An initial outline was drafted by the FWS and distributed to over 65 agencies, groups, and individuals for review. Comments on the outline were received, a revised outline developed, and a final outline was produced by participants at an October 13, 1987 meeting. The final outline was used to write a preliminary draft Policy. This draft was used by a working group of Policy participants to develop the first public review draft.

TCAFS did not become involved with the development process until after the first public draft was written. The committee has since critiqued the first draft and formally submitted recommended changes to the FWS. The draft may be viewed in its entirety in the January 8, 1988 issue of the Federal Register.

As a policy level document, the Policy is not a strategic plan or an action plan. Actions to implement the goals and objectives are the responsibility of various groups involved in the development of the Policy. The Policy's guiding principles, goals, and objectives provide a conceptual foundation for each interest to build upon either individually or cooperatively and within the context of their respective roles and responsibilities. It is meant as an umbrella document that provides long-term common goals for conserving and enhancing the nation's recreational fishery resources. The Policy suggests this is most effectively accomplished through a cooperative process of government-to-public sector cooperation and coordination.

The FWS is preparing a final policy from all comments received on the first draft. The policy will then be adopted by participating groups as a part of a National Recreational Fisheries Conference to be held during the first week of June 1988. I will represent the TCAFS at the conference. Following the conference, the Policy will be advanced for national recognition and declared as the statement of common national goals and objectives for the conservation and enhancement of the nation's recreational fishery resources.

The following is an outline of the Policy:

I. Guiding Principles

- A. Recreational fisheries contribute significant social and economic benefits to the nation.
- B. Recreational fisheries depend on abundant fishery resources.
- C. Governments and the private sector must work in partnership to advance stewardship of recreational fisheries.
- D. Existing authorities and responsibilities of governments will be recognized.

II. Goals

- A. Increase the productivity of fishery resources.
 - 1. Promote the conservation and enhancement of fish stocks and their habitats.
 - 2. Promote, support, and conduct research and development in support of fisheries management.
 - 3. Develop and maintain biological, social, and economic data bases on recreational fisheries.
- B. Increase the quality and diversity of recreational fishing opportunities.
 - 1. Enhance and diversify recreational experiences.
 - 2. Increase access to recreational fisheries.
- C. Enhance partnerships between governments and the private sector for conserving and managing recreational fisheries.
 - 1. Develop structured forums for exchange of information and program coordination between government agencies and private forums.
 - 2. Develop and promote mechanisms for the private sector to participate in fisheries programs and projects.
 - 3. Increase public concern for and participation in fisheries conservation and improve angler ethics.
- D. Promote a healthy recreational fisheries industry.
 - 1. Maintain and enhance fishery resources.
 - 2. Provide goods and services and information on fishing opportunities.



ABILENE CONVENTION & VISITORS COUNCIL
325 Hickory • P.O. Box 2261 • Abilene, Texas 79604
818 877-7241



COMING SOON TO ABILENE

TEXAS CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
OCTOBER 7-8, 1988

BRING YOUR LUCKY CHARMS AND GET READY FOR CASINO NIGHT !!

HEADQUARTER HOTEL WILL BE THE BEAUTIFUL KIVA INN

-Two Restaurants

-Lounge

-9 Hole Putting Green

-Game Tables

-Hydro-Spa Whirlpool

-Sauna Baths

-Indoor and Outdoor Swimming Pools

To Make Reservations Mail This Form To:

CHECK ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED

SINGLES - 1 PERSON

\$31.00

DOUBLES - 2 PERSONS

\$38.00

TRIPLES - 3 PERSONS

QUADS - 4 PERSONS

EXTRA PERSON CHARGE

\$7.00

CHECK OUT TIME 1:00 P.M.

CHECK IN TIME after 3:00 P.M.



(915) 695-2150
Texas Watts 1-800-592-4466
5403 S. 1st ST ABILENE, TEXAS
79605

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEP. DATE _____

I will arrive before 5:00 P.M.

I would like to guarantee my reservations.

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE HELD UNTIL 5:00 P.M.
UNLESS GUARANTEED WITH DEPOSIT.

DEPOSIT - _____

GROUP CUT-OFF DATE - September 7, 1988

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

NAME OF CONVENTION Tx Chapter American Fisheries Society

DATES October 7-8, 1988