



FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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AFS/FL Business

The First Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society, was held on February 3, 1981, at the Port Paradise Motel, Crystal River, Florida. A total of 68 persons (35% of the Florida AFS membership) registered for the meeting, including representatives of the USFWS, NOAA-NMFS, USFS, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC), Florida Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Central Florida Community College (CFCC), and the University of Florida (UF). Interest and support for the Chapter were superb!

The one-day program included the presentation of nine papers in marine and fresh water fisheries sciences; a business meeting; and an optional boat tour to observe the manatee population in King's Bay. Papers were given by Jim Zuboy (NOAA-NMFS); Buddy Powell and Jim McCann (USFWS); Vi Stewart (DNR); David Yeager, David Cox, and Dennis Hammond (GFC); and Jerry Shireman and Lourdes Bielsa (UF).

The business meeting was called to order by Rich Gregory at 11:10 A.M. The acting officers of the Chapter, Rich Gregory (USFWS)--President, Gray Bass (CFC)--Vice President, and Ron Labisky (UF)--Secretary-Treasurer, were unanimously elected as the Chapter's permanent officers for 1981-82. The membership elected to adopt the procedure that the Vice President advances to the office of President in the succeeding term; consequently, the annual election process will involve only the offices of the Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer.

The minutes of the organizational meeting of the Chapter, held in Gainesville, Florida on May 19, 1980, were read and approved.

The time, place, and frequency of Chapter meetings was discussed. The consensus of opinion was that, at least initially, the Chapter should meet once each year, preferably in February, at a "rustic" location in central peninsula Florida. A one-day (all day) meeting agenda was favored, to be preceded by a social hour/informal banquet on the previous evening.

The goals of the Chapter were addressed at some length with no finite decisions being reached, except that the cross-blending of marine and fresh water disciplines and of all agencies, institutions, and organizations be maintained as a Chapter trademark.

The Chapter membership favored the publication of a Chapter Newsletter as a means of enhancing communication within the professional fisheries community in Florida. Tentatively, two issues of the Newsletter are planned for 1981-82. In addition, the pre-meeting distribution of abstracts of the papers to be presented at the annual meeting was considered desirable and will be implemented in 1982.

Committee and editorial appointments for 1981-82 included: Vince Williams (GFC),

Chairman, Time and Place Committee; Jim Zuboy (NOAA-NMFS), Chairman, Nominating Committee; Gray Bass (GFC), Chairman, Program Committee; Gordon Sloane (USFS), Newsletter Editor; and Scott Willis (DNR), Associate Newsletter Editor.

AFS Dues - Based upon approval of the membership in the 1979 annual mail balloting, AFS dues will be increased \$3.00 per year in 1982 to cover the last 12 months increase in the consumer price index. The actual amount of the dues increase is rounded down to the nearest 50 cent increment. Membership fees will be \$30.00 for active members and \$15.00 for Student and Retired Members.

AFS Transactions - In order to attract more good manuscripts, the present \$50.00 page charge will be reduced to \$30.00 in 1982. To help make TRANSACTIONS self-supporting, and to increase the number of pages, member subscription costs will be raised to \$15.00 in 1982. Future changes in page charges and subscription costs will depend on cost changes and the impact of the Society's new management journal on the number of TRANSACTIONS subscriptions.

North American Journal of Fisheries Management - The first issue of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management is expected in August with a second in November or December. Only 2 issues will be published in 1981, but 4 per year thereafter. First issue goes to everyone with a blank subscription form. Members wishing to subscribe will be asked to pay \$5.00 for two (2) issues this year, and \$10.00 per year beginning in 1982.

D-J Expansion Bill - Congressman John Breaux reports that his House Subcommittee on Fish, Wildlife and the Environment will be holding hearings on H.R. 2250 in July. We anticipate that the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue will hold its own hearings on the bill this summer. We will keep you advised on specific dates and testimony needs.

Cooperative Research Units - Thanks to strong efforts by fisheries people such as yourself, the picture concerning funding for the Cooperative Research Unit Program is brighter. The House Subcommittee on Appropriations, Interior and Related Agencies approved appropriations of approximately 4.6 million for the upcoming fiscal year. The Senate Subcommittee will meet to approve the same appropriation on July 8. We need to continue to generate as much interest and mail as possible concerning the saving of the Coop Program. Below are two contact points for letters of support calling for full funding of the Units.

Sen. Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515
(Chairman, Senate Appropriations Comm.)

Sen. James McClure
U.S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515
(Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on
Appropriations, Interior and Related
Agencies)

General Notes of Interest: - Integrated Aquatic Systems, Inc. - Integrated Aquatic Systems, Inc. (IAS) is a non-profit, research and educational company that raises channel catfish in South Florida (15 miles outside of Immokalee). IAS is funded by CETA to provide education in fisheries biology and aquaculture to the prisoners at Hendry Correctional Institution. The Florida Department of Corrections subcontracts IAS to raise channel catfish as a food item for the inmates.

Rapid growth of channel catfish occurs at this low latitude. However, depredation of

the fish by double-crested cormorants and anhingas is a problem. Unfortunately, the Florida Game and Fish Commission refuses to issue permits to shoot these birds. These predatory birds accounted for a 64 percent loss of the catfish stocked in 1979. Collection of accurate growth data has not been possible due to the birds eating the data, but the survivors of the 6 to 8-inch fingerlings stocked out at the end of May 1979 averaged 2.26 pounds after 7 months of growth. The density at harvest was about 2000 pounds per acre.

Since the project began in April of 1979, 25,000 pounds of channel catfish have been harvested, processed, and served to the prison population.

This spawning season, 53 spawns, to date, have been collected from 500 two-year-old brood fish stocked in a 7-acre pond. The fry are raised to greater than one inch in raceways before they are stocked into ponds which are netted for protection from birds.

Visitors to the project site are welcomed. For further information contact IAS at - 813-657-3654 ext. 127, or Route 2, Box 13-A Immokalee, Florida 33934.

Aging Fish by Otolith Examination - Bruce Taubert (from Illinois Natural History Survey) gave a lecture and demonstration of an otolith aging technique on February 10, 1981, at the Eustis Research Lab. Several Florida largemouth bass and black crappie otoliths were examined. An otolith from a young-of-the-year largemouth bass collected in June was mounted and day rings were observed. Taubert reported that since day ring formation is dependent on photoperiod and not growth, the technique should be applicable in Florida. Further studies of known age fishes are also needed to be certain that no false annuli are produced. Bruce believes that the technique will allow the aging of 1+ fish to the year and y.o.y., prior to the cool water period (which probably begins around November), to the day of swim up stage. Therefore, the technique is potentially valuable in calculation of growth rates and determination of spawning dates.

Persons interested in the technique can either call Mike Wicker or Bill Johnson of the Eustis Research Lab (904) 357-6631. A more complete description of the procedure can be seen in J. Fish. Res. Board Can. (1977) 34:332-340.

Rock-Mining - The Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit is currently evaluating, in a two year study, fish and wildlife values of rock-mined areas in South Florida. The data collected at numerous rock pits on water quality, fisheries, and wildlife use will be useful in recommending mitigation techniques designed to enhance the fish and wildlife habitat of rock-mined areas.

Upcoming Events - AFS Southern Division - The annual meeting of the AFS Southern Division will be held at the Camelot Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 18-21. You are too late to submit a paper, deadline was July 1.

Message from the Editors - The next AFS Florida Chapter Newsletter will try to be published November, 1981. Items you wish to have included should be sent to either editor by November 1. The only way to have a strong chapter is to have input from all the people involved in the chapter. Your contribution of ideas and items of interest will be appreciated by all AFS - Florida Chapter members.

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