



**Membership Dues 1982 (\$3.00)**  
**Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
 (make checks payable to Florida AFS)

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**1983 Annual Meeting Announcement**

The third annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of AFS is scheduled for sometime in February 1983. Exact dates will be given in the next newsletter. In addition to a session of contributed technical papers, there will be a special symposium on "Florida Habitat and Fisheries".

Invited papers by experts from agencies and universities will deal with the fishery trends and habitat of Florida's lakes, rivers, bays, salt marshes, mangroves, and territorial sea. Presentations at the symposium will summarize the papers and include time for discussion. A proceedings volume will be published. Joining the AFS as co-sponsors are the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Florida Department of Natural Resources, and the Florida Sea Grant College.

The meeting will be held in Brooksville, Florida. It will open with an evening reception, followed by the symposium, an evening bar-b-que, and on the last day of the Chapter business meeting and a session of contributed papers.

The audience targeted for the symposium includes fishery biologists, aquatic resource scientists, water planners, academic and agency researchers, graduate students, and governmental policy specialists and decision-makers. The symposium will treat each habitat system in a consistent format to provide attendees with a comprehensive review of Florida fisheries.

For more information contact program chairman Dr. William Seaman, University of Florida, Gainesville, (904) 392-5870.

**Membership**

**Help!** The Florida Chapter of AFS is young and growing fast, but not fast enough. We need your \$3.00 annual dues to continue to grow and provide services (technical meetings, symposia, newsletter) of benefit to the entire Florida fisheries community. Send in your membership application today.

**Tampa Bay**

The Tampa Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium or BASIS was held May 3-6, 1982 at the University of South Florida. The main goal of the symposium was to summarize all existing scientific information on Tampa Bay. Invited and contributed papers were presented on the physical, chemical, geological, meteorological, biological, anthropological, and economic aspects of the Tampa Bay System and the immediate Bay area. Symposium proceedings will be published and should be useful to both technical and non-technical persons. BASIS will provide a "State of the Bay" document of use to management agencies. Copies of the proceedings which should be available Fall 1982 may be obtained by contacting: Tampa BASIS c/o Dr. Joseph Simon, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.

**DJ - Expansion**

A special thanks to Florida AFS members who have written their Congressmen concerning DJ - Expansion. Your letters are appreciated. For readers who haven't written, it's not too late as Congress has not yet acted, your letter could make the difference.

## Apalachicola River and Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary

The Apalachicola River and Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary is the largest of 12 established Estuarine Sanctuaries. When the program is completed, there will be 30 of these sanctuaries. The sanctuary encompasses 192,758 acres consisting of 135,680 acres of submerged lands, a portion of the lower river flood plain and a portion of the barrier islands. Proposed acquisition could increase the size to just over a quarter million acres.

Apalachicola Bay, the most productive bay in the northern hemisphere, is characterized by a series of rivers, bays, bayous, tidal creeks, marshes and barrier islands, each essential to the integrity of the system. The drainage basin boasts 116 species of plants (many endangered, threatened, or rare) and an equal number of fish species. The basin has the highest diversity of amphibians and reptiles in the northern hemisphere, with the possible exception of Mexico. The bay supports major fisheries for oysters, shrimp, crab, and finfish.

The purposes of the sanctuary are research and education, and its role is a quest for knowledge and understanding. The sanctuary serves as a guardian to those parameters deemed essential to the survival of the system.

## Tropical Fish

The Florida Tropical Fish Farmers Association, FTFFA, will hold its annual convention, trade show, and professional fish show October 21-23, 1982 in Tampa. The convention highlights include educational seminars, guest speakers, fish farm tours and the awards luncheon which follows the fish show judging. Seminars include Ed Taylor "Breeding Rare Fish", Joanne Norton on "Genetics and Rare Livebearers" and Dr. John Gratzek on "Fish Diseases". Preregistration is advised and more information can be obtained from, FTFFA, P. O. Drawer 1519, Winter Haven, FL 33880 (813) 293-5710 contact David Boozer.

## Habitat Loss

Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of Marine Resources received a grant from the Office of Coastal Zone Management to study estuarine habitat loss in Charlotte Harbor and Lake Worth. In conjunction with the Department of Transportation's Remote Sensing Bureau, DNR staff will compare historical photographs (ca 1950) with current imagery for assessment of cumulative anthropogenic alterations of tidal, intertidal, and upland land use and vegetation. All photos and maps will be digitized on a USGS 7½ minute quad base and made available as overlays. The digital geographic data base from the two time periods will be run through a computer program to detect historical changes in land use and vegetation. Changes will be mapped and correlated with changes in yield of associated fisheries. Potential areas for restoration will be identified.

Florida DNR has also been contracted to develop a computerized geographic information system based on systems and software developed by NASA. Initially, satellite imagery will be used for synoptic assessments of coastal Florida environs. This system will also be used for shellfish management, red tide predictions and research, location of oceanic current boundaries and pelagic fishes, and for accessing geographic data files developed by DOT Remote Sensing Bureau.

## Gag Grouper

Through environmental control of photoperiod and water temperature in closed seawater systems, staff at the Florida DNR Marine Research Laboratory in St. Petersburg successfully conditioned gag grouper, *Mycteroperca microlepis*, and induced spawning in early January 1982. Efforts are presently being directed to refining these parameters for continued spawning success. This ongoing project will be updated in the next newsletter as data collection permits.

## Florida's Game and Fish Advisory Group

The Non-Native Fish Advisory Group was established by the Florida Game and Fish Commission in 1981 in order to (i) review Commission regulations dealing with non-native fishes and to make specific recommendations regarding them; and (ii) establish lines of communication between concerned parties. The Advisory Group is made up of representatives from the Florida Tropical Fish Farmers Association, Tropical Fish Importers Association, Florida Universities, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Commission staff.

To date the major accomplishment of this Group was the recommendation and subsequent Commission adoption of a prohibited non-native fish list. Prohibited fishes were judged sufficiently harmful to man and environment that their possession in Florida should be prohibited. These fishes were electric catfishes, electric stingrays, African tigerfishes, airbreathing and candiru trahiras and all tilapias except blue, Mozambique and Wami tilapias. For further information contact Paul L. Shafland, Chairman, Non-Native Fish Advisory Group.

## Aquaculture

The Land Pavilion of Walt Disney World's Epcot Center will include an exhibit of controlled environment raceway aquaculture featuring species of proven and potential importance. Species to be cultured initially are channel cat, sunshine bass and Tilapia. Small scale demonstration tanks will also be included with other species. For further information contact: Peter Cook, Epcot Center, The Land Pavilion, P. O. Box 40, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830, 305-827-7256.

## Newsletter Items

Readers with meeting announcements, job announcements and other newsletter items are encouraged to submit them to The Shell-Cracker editors; Gordon Sloan, 1551 Umatilla Road, Eustis, Florida 32726; Scott Willis, 100 8th Avenue, S.E., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701; or Mark Hudy, 117 Newins-Ziegler Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. The Shell-Cracker will be published at least twice a year.

## Red Drum

DNR Marine Research Lab biologists have begun investigating the biology of the red drum, *Sciaenops ocellata*, (redfish, channel bass), focusing on life history and ecology of the species during the first four years when they reside in the coastal estuaries. After age four or five they occur less often in the estuaries and reside mostly in the offshore area. Their longevity apparently exceeds 20 years. In the Tampa Bay estuary, MRL staff are conducting plankton net and seine sampling to determine spawning areas and times, methods of larval transport, recruitment, growth rates and habitat preferences of young-of-the-year. From the sub-adult fishes (ages 1-4) they are collecting otoliths, gonads, and length frequencies to investigate age, growth, mortality, reproduction, and potential yield in both Mosquito Lagoon and Tampa Bay. Finally, staff members are collecting karyotype electrophoretic data to determine whether separate stocks exist on each coast and/or within estuaries along each coast. Future plans include sampling older fish residing offshore.

## Aquaculture

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has a relatively new project within its Commercial Fisheries Section which is entitled the Aquaculture Investigation Team. This team is conducting an inventory of the scope and status of the aquaculture industry in Florida. Future plans for the project are to provide technical assistance to the developing aquaculture industry in the state.

## Meeting Reminders

September 22-25, 1982 - The 112th Annual Meeting of AFS. Hyatt on Hilton Head Island, Hilton Head, South Carolina. For information: Carl R. Sullivan, Executive Director, AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Land, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

October 31 - November 3, 1982 - Annual Meeting of the Southern Division of AFS. Sheraton at St. John's Place, Jacksonville, Florida. For information: Dennis Holcomb, 620 S. Meridan Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.