

1986 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

Last spring, chapter members were asked to vote on the location of the 1986 annual meeting. Eric Prince, Florida chapter president of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, had proposed a joint meeting of our groups to be held at the Newfound Harbor Marine Institute on Big Pine Key. Of the 70 members who responded, 57 voted in favor of the joint meeting in the Florida Keys. Therefore, our 1986 annual meeting will convene at Newfound Harbor Marine Institute on Wednesday, 5 February 1986, and end at noon on Friday, 7 February 1986.

The symposium title of this year's meeting will be "Fisheries Management by Regulation." Invited speakers with a variety of backgrounds will present their experiences and points of view on this topic. Two sessions for contributed papers (see notice below) will be held on Thursday and Friday. A tentative agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

As in past years, pre-registration is required. If you plan to attend, please complete the enclosed registration form and return it with the \$15.00 registration fee by 1 January 1986. Note that there will be a \$5.00 late fee for registrations not postmarked by that date. The Marine Institute will provide food and dormitory-style lodging for participants at a very reasonable rate. The facility will not provide bed linens; please bring your own sheets and pillowcases. Participants who wish to camp, or to find other offsite accommodations, will find a variety of campgrounds and motels in the lower keys.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

The program committee is soliciting technical presentations for the annual meeting in Big Pine Key. Because of the anticipated increase in papers submitted, an extra session for technical papers will be incorporated this year to accommodate this increase. As with past year's programs, written papers are not required. Oral presentations should last no longer than 12 minutes, to be followed by a three minute question and answer session. Papers in any subject related to aquatic science or fisheries will be considered for presentation. Please submit an abstract of your presentation no later than January 1, 1986 to:

Marty M. Hale
P.O. Box 1903
Eustis, FL 32727-1903

Contributors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by January 15, 1986.

James Tilmant and William Loftus
FAFS Newsletter Editors
South Florida Research Center
Everglades National Park
P.O. Box 279
Homestead, FL 33030



FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

OFFICE OF SECRETARY-TREASURER.

Barbara Harris was designated as secretary/treasurer for 1985. AFS national rules have been changed so that in 1986, we must nominate and vote on nominees for the office. For 1986, we have a candidate for this office:

Wesley F. Porak

Wesley Porak received his B.S. degree in Biology in 1975 from the University of Illinois and M.S. degree in Fishery Biology in 1980 from Tennessee Tech University. His diverse background includes cooling lake studies with the Illinois Natural History Survey (1975-77); stream acid drainage research with Tennessee Tech University (1978-80); and Great Lakes research with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1980-82). Wes has been employed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission since February 1982. His current research involves population dynamics and regulation of largemouth bass populations in Florida.

Wesley has been an AFS member since 1976, is a Certified Fisheries Scientist and served on the National AFS Membership Committee in 1984.

We will vote for new secretary/treasurer at the Annual Meeting in February 1986.

ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE FLORIDA Chapter members, Charlie Wooley, has left the Apalachicola for the wide waters of Chesapeake Bay. Charlie wishes to stay in touch with happenings in Florida. His new address is:

Charlie Wooley
USFWS c/o Fisheries Division
Tidewater Admin, Maryland DNR
C-2 Tawes Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (301) 269-3558

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Florida Chapter's annual membership dues remain a bargain at \$3.00. There are two ways you can maintain membership in 1986. One way is to register for the annual meeting, either by mail or in person. For persons not attending the annual meeting, however, the renewal blank printed below should be used. Rather than make a separate mailing, this is our one and only notice for 1986 dues.

Please renew on time, or if you've already signed up, why not recruit a colleague? Our strength as a successful, effective chapter lies in our participation in chapter activities as individuals.

1986 FLORIDA AFS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Position: _____

Organization and Business Address:

Telephone: _____

Checks for \$3.00 dues are payable to Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society. Send to Ms. Barbara Harris, 100 Eight Ave., S.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

CHANGES IN COMMERCIAL FISHING LAWS FOR SPANISH MACKEREL

DNR staff members Roy Williams, Mike Murphy, and Bob Muller recently conducted an assessment of the Spanish mackerel stock(s) in Florida and presented it to the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) at their May 30 meeting in Miami. There was very little published information available to analyze, but using the NMFS 1979 to 1984 recreational data base and the commercial landings data for 1951 to 1983, they came to the conclusion that Spanish mackerel stocks show symptoms of heavy exploitation. Consequently, they took a conservative approach in their yield analysis (i.e., more likely to error on the side of fish than on fishermen), and concluded that Spanish mackerel are probably overfished, especially on the Florida east coast. The analysis indicated that yields would probably increase by increasing age at entry to the fishery and decreasing the rate of fishing. At the very least, it was clear that there was an allocation problem along the lower east coast of Florida, where southwardly migrating fish are heavily harvested around Ft. Pierce and Port Salerno, leaving few fish to be harvested along the Palm Beach to Dade County coastline. The MFC responded by voting to increase minimum mesh size to 3.5 inches during the winter months and to close down the Palm Beach to Dade County coastline to large scale gill net boats. Further restrictions are likely to ensue at the MFC's September meeting in Tampa.

SNOOK HATCHERY PROGRAM

The 1985 legislature recently appropriated \$800,000, a budget item introduced by Senator Pat Neal (D-Brandenton), to fund a finfish stock-enhancement research and hatchery facility. The project is a joint effort between the Florida Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Marine Research (DNR, St. Petersburg) and Mote Marine Laboratory (MML, Sarasota). The facility will be composed of research ponds, production ponds, laboratories, and storage sheds, with the intent of determining whether snook can be raised successfully and cheaply enough to impact recreational fisheries. Dan Roberts (DNR) and Dr. Kumar Mahadevan (MML) will head the project.

Because of one or all of three threats - overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution - the Florida snook fishery has declined. The snook hatchery project will attempt to counteract these threats by raising snook from postlarvae through their most vulnerable period. They will be released at four to five inches in length as tagged fingerlings which hopefully, can better cope with real world perils. Subsequent recapture data will enable the researchers to determine age, growth, and project success.

In addition to raising snook, the hatchery is tentatively scheduled to raise other important dwindling fishery species, such as red drum. During late fall and early spring, snook will have been released, leaving a vacated hatchery and space for another species.

For further information, contact Jean Smith (813-896-8626) or Allen Horton (813-388-4441).

MEETING AGENDA - REGISTRATION FORM

AN AFS DELEGATION TO MANILA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND TAHITI has been planned for 1986 and participants are now being recruited. The cost of the May 25 - June 17 trip must be paid by each participant and is expected to be \$4339 for transportation, hotels, and breakfasts. Other meals will be extra. The first 5 days will be devoted to attending the First Asian Fisheries Forum. If you or an AFS friend is interested, call this office (301) 897-8616.

VERNACULAR AND SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF NORTH AMERICAN MOLLUSKS will soon be ready for publication by the AFS Names of Invertebrates Committee under Bob Hutton. The American Malacological Union and other shellfish organizations have cooperated fully in the compilation of the list, and support its publication. The AFS staff will help search for publication funding.

1986 CALL FOR PAPERS IS OUT. The 1986 meeting will be in Providence, Rhode Island, September 14-18. Full details of the call will be found in the Sept./Oct. FISHERIES. Program Chairman Roy Stein is asking each section to sponsor and organize a symposia.

FLORIDA FISHERIES NEWS
STONE CRAB SYMPOSIUM

A symposium on the biology and fishery of the commercially valuable stone crab (Menippe mercenaria), sponsored jointly by the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Sea Grant and Mote Marine Laboratory, will be held at Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota on 24-25 April 1986. The symposium coordinator, Dr. Teresa Bert, DNR Bureau of Marine Research, 800 Eight Ave. S.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701, 813-896-8626, may be contacted for further information.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR FISH BIOLOGY, D.A. Pollard of Cronulla, New South Wales has written that he is quite agreeable to "seeking a better line of communication" between our organizations. We will begin exchanging newsletters and other publications. The Australian Society, founded in 1971, now has 450 members and holds an annual meeting in August. The proposed AFS delegation visit to the May/June 1986 Asian Fisheries Conference in Manila and subsequent tour to Australia, New Zealand, and Tahiti, should enable us to strengthen our Australian ties. Members interested in this self-funded trip should contact this office.

A LISTING OF NON NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE to this continent will soon be produced by the Names of Fishes Committee chaired by Dick Robins. A 400- to 500-page book is contemplated. The AFS staff will work with the Committee in the search for adequate funding.

Tentative Agenda
Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society
6TH ANNUAL MEETING
Newfound Harbor Marine Institute, Big Pine Key
5-7 February 1986

Wednesday, 5 February 1986
Registration: 2:00 - 5:00
Dinner: 6:00 - 7:00
Thursday, 6 February 1986
Breakfast: 7:00 - 8:00
Symposium: 8:30 - 12:00
"Fisheries Management By Regulation"
Bill Coleman, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
Phil Chapman, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
Jerry Bruger, Florida Department of Natural Resources
Mike Murphy, Florida Department of Natural Resources
David Crowley, Florida Marine Fisheries Commission
David Paul Horan, Private Attorney, Key West
Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00
Contributed Paper Session: 1:00 - 2:30
Business Meeting: 2:45 - 3:30
Dinner: 6:00 - 7:00
Friday, 7 February 1986
Breakfast: 7:00 - 8:00
Contributed Paper Session: 8:30 - 12:00

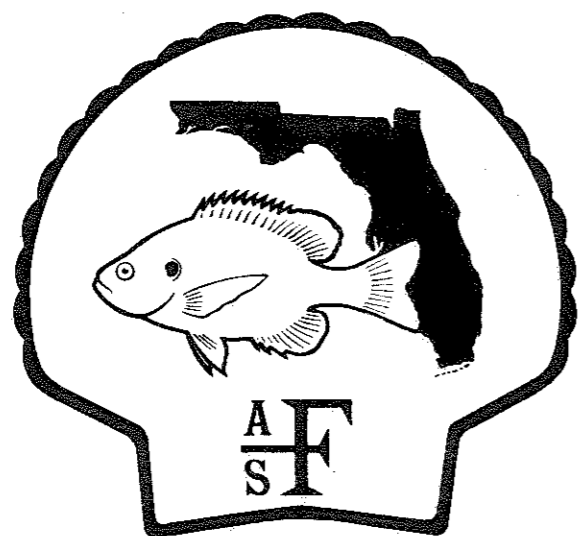
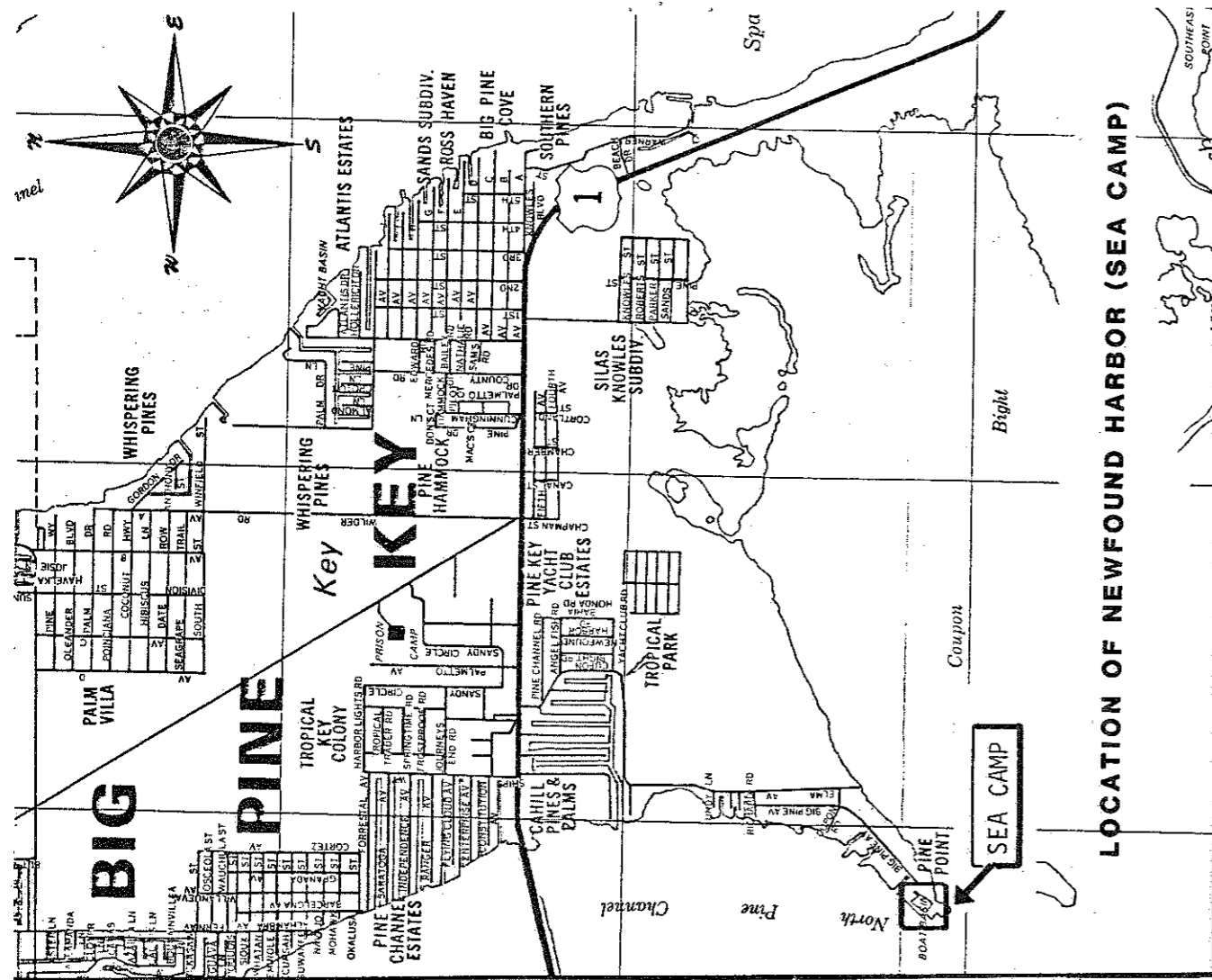
1986 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION: _____
AREA OF EXPERTISE: _____

Registration Fee (remit by 1/1/86)	\$15.00	_____
(Note: \$5.00 late fee after 1/1/86)	\$ 5.00	_____
Food and lodging at Big Pine Key facility	\$64.75	_____
(This includes dinner on Wednesday, 3 meals Thursday, breakfast and lunch on Friday, and lodging Wednesday and Thursday nights. The facility provides beds only; please bring bed linens.)		
Total Enclosed:		\$ _____

Please send completed registration form and fees to:

Barbara Harris, DNR
100 Eighth Avenue, S.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701



EXCERPTS FROM THE AFS DIARY

TOTAL AFS MEMBERSHIP stood at 8,159 on 30 September. By broad, general categories, our enrollment is as follows:

Individual Members (except Students).....6,117
 Student Members..... 793
 Business Members..... 56
 Agency Members.....1,142

IMPORTANT CERTIFICATION CHANGE-At its September 1985, annual meeting, the AFS Executive Committee voted to implement the following recommendation of the Board of Professional Certification. Change the Biological Sciences academic requirement to read, "30 semester or 45 quarter hours in Biological Sciences (including four aquatics courses of which two must be directly related to fishery science). This change will become effective January 1, 1986.

THE LARGEST AFS SECTION is now the Fisheries Management Section, having barely surpassed the Fish Culture Section. The following membership table does not include the Computer Users Section which has only recently been formed and has not yet been a part of the Society's dues billing system. Nonetheless, approximately 150 members have already indicated an interest in joining the computer group.

Fisheries Management Section..	1006
Fish Culture Section.....	977
Water Quality Section.....	522
Marine Fisheries Section.....	478
Fish Health Section.....	474
Early Life History Section....	362
Fishery Educators Section.....	267
Bio-Engineering Section.....	264
Introduced Fish Section.....	193
Fisheries Administrators Section.....	177
Fisheries Economics Section...	136
TOTAL.....	4856

A SYMPOSIUM ON FRESHWATER WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE will be held in Charleston, South Carolina on March 24-27, 1986. In addition to contributed papers and posters there will be special sessions on (1) biogeochemical processes in freshwater wetlands, (2) limits on wetland ecosystem processes, (3) linkages between wetlands and wildlife, and (4) views on wetland management. Registration fees, including banquet and symposium volume, are \$110.00 in advance and \$145.00 at the door, with advance student registration set at \$65.00. For information write Dr. Rebecca Sharitz, Freshwater Wetlands and Wildlife Symposium, Savannah River Ecology Lab, Drawer E, Aiken, SC 29802, telephone (803)725-2472.

THE NATION'S NEWEST "RIGS TO REEF" DEVELOPMENT was put in place by Tenneco Oil Company on Thursday, October 3. The new reef is located just 1 1/2 miles offshore from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and as the huge barge crane was lowering the 5 rig sections to the ocean floor they made quite a contrast to the endless condominium complexes which line the shore. Tenneco brought the obsolete rigs from offshore Louisiana, around the tip of Florida, and up the east coast to their final resting place. A group of two dozen Washington-based conservation organization representatives took a chartered plane to the dedication ceremonies and participated in the pre-launch press conference. This new reef is expected to be one of the most heavily used structures of this kind in the world. Tenneco is to be congratulated for its clear leadership in the rigs to reefs movement.