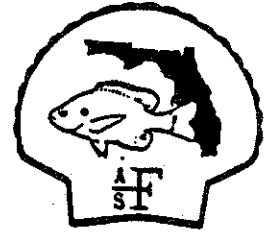


The Shell-Cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



VOLUME 9 (2)

NOVEMBER 1989

CHAPTER KUDOS

Many AFS chapters have been active with annual meetings, special symposia, environmental issues, education, and activities involved with National Fishing Week. At the Southern Division meeting, the Florida Chapter was recognized for its involvement with "Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources", our symposia, our promotion of Wallop-Breaux, addressing legislators about the saltwater license, and the Florida Chapter procedure manual. There will be an outstanding chapter award given at next years Southern Division Meeting...let's make a good showing in 1989-90!

Wes Porak

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will holds its next annual meeting in Brooksville during early February 1990. A symposium is being developed around the theme, "Heavy metal contamination in Florida fishes". This topic will be a timely one given the recent discoveries of high mercury levels in some fishes from South Florida. All members wishing to contribute to the technical papers session should submit a title and abstract before 1 January 1990 to:

Jim Tilmant
South Florida Research Center
Everglades National Park
P.O. Box 279
Homestead, Florida 33030

--REMINDER--
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING CONTEST!!!!

To boost our Florida Chapter membership and to have some fun, we are having a contest! The contest will run from now until our annual meeting in February. Any new memberships will be good through 1990 (or until our annual meeting in February 1991). Prizes for the top three recruiters are as follows:

1. Surf-casting rod and reef, 2000 yards 14-lb test line
2. \$25.00 cash prize
3. The most prestigious book on Florida's fisheries:
Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources

The surf-casting outfit was donated by Larry Nielsen (First-Vice President of AFS). Thanks a lot Larry!!!!

New members should send their name, address, telephone number, \$10.00 membership fee, and the name of their recruiter, to the membership chairman:

Dave Clapp
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Post Office Box 1903
Eustis, FL 32727-1903
904/357-6631

It may not take too many new members to win one of the three prizes so start recruiting!!! New members are eligible to start recruiting and can win the prizes.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

At press time the Nominating Committee was hard at work getting a slate of candidates together for our next meeting. If you have any suggestions please call the nominating committee chairman, Bill Loftus, (305) 245-5266. FTS 350-4653.

Southern Division
American Fisheries Society
Annual EXCOM and Business Meeting
St. Louis, Missouri
29 & 30 October, 1989
Updates submitted by Wes Porak

Gene Huntsman, Southern Division AFS President, stressed his commitment to improve the quality of the Southern Division technical paper sessions. Joe Dillard, AFS President, stated that his goals in 1989-1990 were to increase professionalism, environmental activism, and student involvement. Joe also commented that Carl Sullivan announced his retirement which is planned for 1991.

The Student Affairs Committee indicated that fourteen fisheries students were presented \$100.00 each to supplement their travel expenses to the meeting.

Awards were presented to Carl Sullivan, I.B. "Buck" Byrd, Monte Seehorn and R. Don Estes for outstanding achievements in fisheries science within the southeast.

Newsworthy items can be sent to the Virginia Tech Chapter who will continue to edit and publish the Southern Division Newsletter.

Attempts are still being made to work with the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to increase the number of technical fisheries presentations at the annual meeting. For the first time, two special sessions were held at the 1989 meeting in St. Louis. Gene Huntsman, NMFS, has successfully increased participation of marine scientists by expanding the Marine and Estuarine Resources Committee. This committee sponsored a full-day paper session on topics that varied from chemically marking flounder otoliths to population dynamics of reef fish stocks along the Florida coast.

Technical committees have sponsored numerous publications and special symposia! A summary of these can be obtained from Wes Porak (904/357-6631).

Three resolutions were voted on at the Southern Division business meeting. The two that were passed supported a facility for in-stream flow research for Auburn University and a recommendation to the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission to amend tagging identification requirements for aquaculture produced striped bass for marketing purposes. A resolution for considering adoption of common nomenclature of hybrids of striped bass was voted against.

Larry Neilsen, who chairs the steering committee for the World Fisheries Congress (1991), solicited the Southern Division for \$2000.00 to support the meeting.

NOTES FROM CHAPTER MEMBERS

Chuck Cichra has supplied the following list of Florida Fisheries and Aquaculture Extension Publications. Except for the SEAGRANT publication, all are available free of charge. Contact Chuck at:

University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agriculture Services
Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture
7922 N.W. 71st Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606

Alternative Enterprises for your Forest Lands: Forest Grazing, Christmas Trees, Hunting Leases, Pine Straw, Fee Fishing, and Firewood, by multiple authors including Charles E. Cichra

First Look at Florida Aquaculture, by Jerome V. Shireman and William J. Lindberg

Status and Future of Food Fish Production in Florida, by Michael V. McGee

Summary of Procedures for the Start-Up of Warmwater Aquaculture Ponds, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Fish Handling and Transport, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Raceway Production of Warmwater Fish, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Selected Conversions and Formulae Useful to Fish Farmers, by Michael V. McGee

Aquaculture in Florida: General Economic Considerations, by Charles M. Adams. Cost \$1.00 from Sea Grant Office, University of Florida

Catfish Farming in Florida, by Steven J. Walsh and William J. Lindberg

Basic Facts of Catfish Farming, by Michael V. McGee

Catfish Farming Production Review, by Michael V. McGee

Catfish Feeds and Feeding, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Fish Fingerlings: Purchasing, Transporting and Stocking, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Fish Suppliers in the Regional Area

Managing Florida Ponds for Fishing, by Charles E. Cichra

Grass Carp: A Fish for Biological Management of Hydrilla and Other Aquatic Weeds in Florida, by David L. Sutton & Vernon V. Vandiver, Jr.

Fee Fishing in Florida, by Charles E. Cichra

Enteric Septicemia of Catfish, by Ruth Francis-Floyd

Columaris Disease, by Ruth Francis-Floyd

Introduction to Fish Parasites and Diseases and their Treatment, by Frederick J. Aldridge and Jerome V. Shireman

Stress - Its Role in Fish Disease, by Ruth Francis-Floyd

Introduction to Fish Health Management, by Ruth Francis-Floyd and Thomas L. Wellborn

Water Quality and Algae Blooms, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Role of Aeration, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Understanding and Interpreting Water Quality, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Management of Water Quality for Fish, by Roger W. Rottman and Jerome V. Shireman

Water Quality - Its Importance in Pond Management, by Thomas L. Wellborn and Ruth Francis-Floyd

Principals of Water Recirculation and Filtration in Aquaculture, by Michael V. McGee and Charles E. Cichra

Weed Control in Aquaculture and Farm Ponds, by Daniel D. Thayer, William T. Haller, and Joseph C. Joyce
Bait Minnow Production Review, by Michael V. McGee
Guidelines for Conducting Live-Release Bass Tournaments, by Harold L. Schramm, Jr.
Keeping Your Catch Alive, by Harold L. Schramm, Jr.
Microworms: an Alternative Live Food for Fish, by Roger W. Rottman
Hormone Spawning of Tropical Fish, by Roger W. Rottmann and Jerome V. Shireman
Simple Procedure for Decapsulating and Hatching Brine Shrimp (Artemia sp.) Cysts, by Craig Watson
Culture of the Daphnia, Moina macrocopa, by Roger W. Rottmann

CLEAN LAKES CLEARINGHOUSE

The Clean Lakes Clearinghouse is an information resource on lake restoration, protection, and management. The Clearinghouse was initiated by the EPA's Clean Lakes Program to provide technical information to EPA/federal personnel, state and local lake managers/associations, and researchers.

Call: Clean Lakes Clearinghouse User Support:
(202) 382-7111

Or Write: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Clean Lakes Program (WH-553)
Washington, DC 20460

**FISHERIES-VOLUNTEER
CONNECTION---MY VIEW**

BY

**JOE G. HALUSKY
NE FLORIDA SEA GRANT EXTENSION PROGRAM**

I'm sure most fisheries biologists would agree that no matter how comprehensive or long the study, the information collected is still incomplete. This is generally true because not always are there enough field biologists in the field. This situation especially applies to long-term programs to monitor gradual changes in fisheries habitats, such as what happens on artificial reefs.

Is there a remedy to this? Is there a way for fisheries research efforts to increase input from the field without significant increases in their budgets to their staff? Have you ever considered using trained VOLUNTEERS? After all the Audubon Society has been monitoring this nations bird populations through the Annual Volunteer Christmas Bird Count for years.

Since 1980, the North East Florida Sea Grant Extension Program has been training volunteer sport divers how to document and monitor offshore artificial reefs. Through this training, over 145 sport divers have learned to assist reef builders with proper reef site selection, bottom soils sampling and description, reef placement documentation and mapping, underwater scientific photography, invertebrate sampling, fish surveying and public relations. The Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Daytona Beach volunteers reef research divers have amassed a number of significant accomplishments. They are building a artificial reef archives of information, which state of federal agencies have been unable to do. Now, reef builders, local governments, commercial and sports fishermen and divers, as well as state and federal agencies are getting reliable, documented information about the fate of their offshore reefs. Its volunteers that are making this happen.

Volunteerism in the science is not a new concept. Archaeologists have been using volunteers for years to assist with "digs". They have even used volunteer in underwater excavation projects. The University of Hawaii Sea Grant in 1988 sponsored a "Marine Archeology Symposium" aimed at preparing sport divers to assist with marine excavations. The University of Rhode Island Sea Grant Program and the Environmental Protection Agency co-sponsored a National Workshop on the "Role of Citizen Volunteers in Environmental Monitoring" in May, 1988. This three day workshop identified a number of volunteer environmental monitoring efforts. Some groups are "Adopt a Stream", "Save a Bay", "Adopt a Beach" and "Adopt an Estuary".

The workshop concluded that "there was a groundswell of stewardship groups around the country..." and this effort was "really a method of channeling 'caring' into effective action".

Have these volunteers made a difference? In Rhode Island, shellfish bed closings are based on Pond Watchers data. Data from acid rain monitors run by volunteers have contributed to national legislation. "Adopt a Beach" programs have led to national plastic pollution legislation.

Closer to North East Florida, the organized volunteer reef research divers trained by the Sea Grant Extension Program, have had a major impact on the VOLUNTEER reef builders. Virtually all new reef site selections are made only after the volunteer divers have investigated the site. During and after reef placement, volunteer divers observe and document the activity with surface and underwater photographs, and scatter maps. They have verified a large percentage of the "old" offshore reefs which had been placed over the last 30 years. They have produced underwater videos and exhibits which have been shown to civic groups, sports fishing clubs, during fishing tournaments and school classrooms. They have co-sponsored with Sea Grant, a regional reef conference, and more recently, with the sportfishing club published a diver verified book of artificial reef maps having over 200 sites.

It is important to recognize, for volunteers to be able to gather scientifically credible data, they will need training from the scientific community. This is a role which can be served by professional fisheries biologists from the state and federal agencies, and the academic institutions. The first step must be a willingness from the scientific community to create educational programs aimed towards training volunteers for specific needs. The second step, is to encourage the volunteers by insuring the data collected is, in fact used, and useful to themselves and the scientists.

Volunteer Fish Watchers can make a difference. Citizens from all walks of life who have a genuine interest in the world of water, have not only the time, but also the motivation, sometimes even the resources and certainly the talents to observe and document what they see. In fact, it has been my experience that many volunteers when properly trained, can offer talents to scientific endeavors which are often not easily available to most scientists. These range from sophisticated video editing capabilities from commercial video productions, access to high quality printing, access to computer analysis and even to fabricating a stainless steel biological sampling device.

You say you're a fisheries biologist a little short on time and data, then train yourself some fisheries volunteers, you will be amazed what they can and will do!

EXCERPT FROM THE AFS DIARY

Dr. William A. Fox, Jr., has been appointed director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Bill have been an active member of the AFS since 1969. He currently serves the Society as president of the Marine Fisheries Section and member of the Executive Committee. Bill leaves the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) where he is a professor of biology and living resources. At RSMAS he conducted research on the population dynamics of tropical fishery resources and developed stock assessment methodology. He also taught a graduate-level course in fishery management science, directed the Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies, and served as the University's campus coordinator of the Florida Sea Grant Program. In addition to his university responsibilities, Bill has served as one of seven members on the State of Florida Marine Fisheries Commission since 1983 and as a Commissioner of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission since 1987. He was appointed chairman of the Marine Mammal Commission by President Reagan in 1988. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Miami, Bill spent twelve years with the National Marine Fisheries Service and its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. He has served as the scientific advisor on U.S. delegations to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

AFS is endorsing national beverage container legislation in keeping with the Society's position statement. AFS is one of 25 national conservation groups that are involved in the coalition to achieve passage of a recycling bill. The coalition has asked AFS to provide the name of subunit leaders who can become part of the state activist networks. These leaders will be hearing from the coalition and will be asked to voice their support for the legislation among members of local political delegations.

National guidelines for fishery management plans have been revised by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The revised guidelines are designed to relieve fishing pressure on stocks approaching an overfished condition, to ensure reproductive capacity of overfished stocks, and to rebuild depleted stocks so that economically viable harvests are possible. AFS members may contact Dick Schaefer at (301) 427-2334 to learn more about this important revision to Section 301 (a) of the Magnuson Act.

AFS contact with JOBSource will be terminated at the end of 1989 and alternative "in-house" employment service systems will be explored. Use of JOBSource by individuals has been lower than expected and, as a result, the present contracted cost is simply too high (\$150 per individual user).

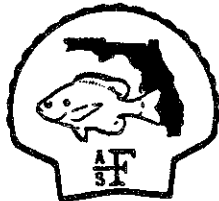
A copy of the USFWS Striped Bass Research Plan has reached the AFS front office from Gary Edwards, assistant director - fisheries. The plan emphasizes that the restoration of striped bass is a shared responsibility requiring the cooperative efforts of fisheries professionals within and outside the federal government. The plan also identifies the role that the Service's research organization will undertake in the restoration effort. For copies of the plan or answers regarding the plan, contact Gary Edwards or Dick Smith, Department of the Interior, USFWS, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 343-4266 or 343-6394.

What percentage of fisheries biologists are AFS members?
The best evidence suggests just over half. Recent figures from the Iowa DNR are instructive. Of 33 biologists, 21 are AFS members, 8 are "affiliated" only with the Iowa AFS Chapter, and 4 are not involved.

Would you like to co-editor of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management? The journal is receiving 200 manuscripts per year and requires strong editorial support which may be too much for one volunteer to handle. We wish to appoint half-time co-editors for the journal as soon as possible. The two new Management editors will succeed Doug Jester. Applicants should have a broad knowledge of fisheries science or management, good literary skills, an ability to work constructively with authors to improve manuscripts, and a commitment to high journal standards. Please have interested persons contact Managing Editor Bob Kendall at our editorial office in Bethesda (301/530-8502).

The First Call for Pages for the 1990 AFS annual meeting has been published in the September/October issue of Fisheries. Proposals for symposia, organized contributed paper sessions, and workshops are encouraged. All proposals must include a statement of purpose, brief description of the session, sponsorship (if any), tentative outline of paper titles, subject area, speakers (if known), relationship to the meeting theme (if direct), and time required. Please include names, addresses, and phone numbers of principal organizers. Send proposals to Steve Rideout, Program Chairman, 1200 S. Arlington Road, #305, Arlington, VA 22202, by December 8, 1989

Michael D. Murphy
FAFS Newsletter Editor
Florida Marine Research Institute
100 8th Ave. S.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2095



Max Porak
Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Com
P. O. Box 1503
Eustis, FL 32727-1503