

the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



<http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/fafs/>

July 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good Day to the Florida Chapter! Well, Brooksville has come and gone once again. If you missed it, I'm sorry to say that was your loss. Over 100 chapter members attended one of the most interesting meetings of recent memory. "IMPACTS OF HARMFUL ORGANISMS ON FLORIDA FISHERIES" turned out to be a great symposium. My thanks to Donna Turgeon, Karen Steidinger, Jan Lansberg, Brian Bendis, Randy Edwards, Andrew Chapman, Chris Williams, John Burns and Perran Ross for their enlightening presentations.

The contributed papers and posters were outstanding as well. Check out the web for all the winners (mug shots included) <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/awards.html>. Oh, and way to go Laura Jenkins, our first two time winner of the lampshade. Too bad Russ couldn't give it to himself.

Congratulations to Jeff Hill and Tom Glancy, this year's Rottman Scholarship winners. From what I gather, this was one of the best fields of applicants ever. It's great to see the Chapter increase its commitment to this award by giving two each year. And to all of the rest of you students out there, the guidelines for the Rottman as well as Travel Scholarships are on the web. Check it out!

As I'm sure everyone is aware, we are hosting the 2001 Southern Division Meeting in Jacksonville. This will take the place of Brooksville for 2001. It's only seven (7) short months away. Larry, Debra and Mike have done an excellent job preparing for this one, but they can't do it alone. Volunteers are needed. The best way to stay in touch is to go to our Home Page. You can register your e-mail address and Larry and Watt will use this to keep everyone up to speed on the planning. If you'd like to volunteer your services, please get in touch with Larry. I'm sure there's a job for you.

(Continued on page 2)

Southern Division American Fisheries Society 2001 Midyear Meeting Report

Larry Connor

Some of you may wonder where we stand with the Southern Division American Fisheries Society's 2001 Midyear Meeting and there may be some new members who are wondering what is being planned. For anyone who hasn't heard, the Florida Chapter voted at its 1999 annual meeting to host the Southern Division Midyear Meeting in 2001. This meeting will take the place of our annual meeting next year although the chapter will hold a short business meeting as required by our by-laws.

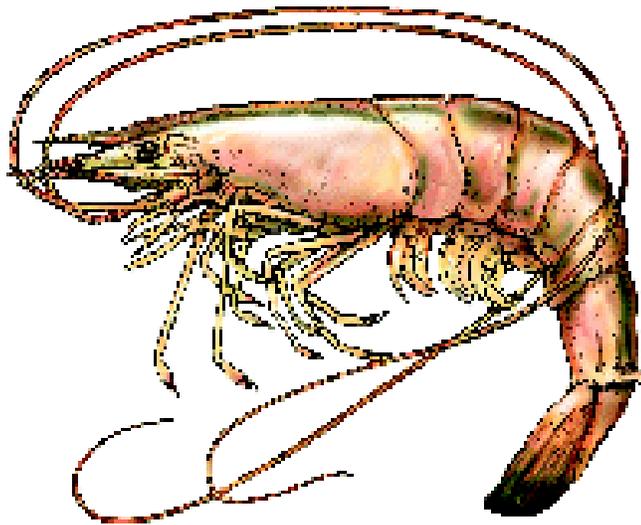
(MEETING Continued on page 7)

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

2001 SOUTHERN DIVISION MIDYEAR MEETING

22-25 February 2001
Jacksonville Hilton and Towers
Florida, USA

(See page 3)



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(Continued from page 1)

I'm sure you've noticed that I've mentioned the WEB at least three times so far. That's because you need to go there. Watt has done an extraordinary job building and maintaining the chapter's web site. Everything is online. Log on, and get active.

Finally, I had several other points that I wanted to cover in this letter, but due to my delay in getting it to our editor, some have already gone by the wayside. So, I'll end with a bit of news. Your illustrious President, former Raffle Man Supreme (that's me) is leaving Florida to take a position with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. I know, I'll miss you guys too, though there are some that are probably cheering. Anyway, I've checked the bylaws, and I can remain your President, barring Impeachment. I will continue to work with the EXCOM on the day-to-day activities of the chapter until such time as it becomes impractical for me to do so. Assuming this is kosher with everyone, I look forward to seeing you all in Jacksonville. Until then, let's all join in to show the Southern Division what a great Party Florida can throw. Hey, how about a "Bonfire in the Ballroom!!!"

Until then. . . **Doug**

Spring 2000 Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship

Chuck Cichra

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (FAFS) established the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Roger Rottmann, one of the charter members of the Florida Chapter and the first fisheries biologist ever hired by the State of Florida University System. Roger conducted fisheries and aquaculture research for more than 20 years at the University of Florida, producing numerous scientific journal articles, educational publications and videos.

The scholarship was established to recognize outstanding students of fisheries and aquatic sciences enrolled in Florida universities and colleges. Prior student recipients were Robert Humston (University of Miami RSMAS - PhD), Daniel Willis (University of Florida - MS), Joel Carlin (University of Florida - PhD), and Bonnie Whitlock (University of West Florida - MS).

Application for this scholarship required students to 1) complete an application requesting information

(Scholarship Continued on page 6)

UPCOMING MIDYEAR MEETING IN JACKSONVILLE HOSTED BY THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Mark your schedule for the 9th annual Midyear Meeting of the Southern Division of AFS. This meeting promises to be an outstanding forum for the exchange of ideas, presentation of research papers (completed and in progress), to conduct technical committee and Division business, and other professional interactions. The Meeting will be held in the Hilton and Towers Hotel, which is located in Jacksonville, Florida. Rooms, single through quad capacity, are quoted at a rate of \$82.00 per night plus tax. Details regarding accommodations, reservations procedures and meeting registration will be announced in the Winter 2000 Division Newsletter.

Schedule for the upcoming Midyear Meeting is as follows: Thursday, Technical Committee meetings; Friday, EXCOM and continuing education workshops; and Saturday and Sunday (until noon), Technical Sessions, Symposia, and Posters.

SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND SYMPOSIA

The Program Committee is soliciting proposals for half-day or full-day special sessions that can be included in the Midyear agenda. Proposals for sessions should be submitted to Mike Allen and Debra Murie, Cochairs, Program Committee, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, The University of Florida, 7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653 (352)392-9617 msal@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu, dmurie@ufl.edu **DUE DATE: 15 AUGUST 2000.** Session organizers will be notified regarding acceptance of proposals by 1 September 2000. Symposia may be scheduled in 2-hour time blocks ranging from 2 hours to day-long sessions and may include individual presentations, panel discussions, and other innovative formats designed to achieve the organizers' goals. The Program Committee urges organizers to schedule individual presentations in multiples of 20 minute blocks including discussion to remain synchronized with other sessions. Proposals should state symposium objectives, format, amount of time required, a tentative list of participants and topics they will cover, and visual aids required. Slide (2x2") projectors will be provided, overhead projectors will be available upon request. Sessions having broad appeal and relevance to fisheries will receive highest priority.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING CONTRIBUTED PAPERS AND POSTERS

Individual desiring to present research and management results or progress with ongoing work should submit abstracts to Mike Allen and Debra Murie, Cochairs, Program Committee, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, The University of Florida, 7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653 (352)392-9617 msal@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu, dmurie@ufl.edu . **DUE DATE: October 15, 2000.**

Presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes, 15 minute presentation followed by 5 minute question/answer period. Moderators will encourage a lively discussion during the 5-minute period after each presentation. Moderators will strictly enforce the time limit. Slides (2x2", horizontal orientation) are preferred.

Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail attachments or diskette (WordPerfect, Word, or ASCII). Indicate on abstract if this is a poster or platform presentation. Abstracts should include (in the following order), the paper's title, author names and addresses and text. It will be assumed that the first author listed will be the presenter unless otherwise noted. Students competing for the "Student Best Paper Award" should be indicated by a superscripted asterisk after their name. The text should be a 200-word or less statement of objectives, principal results and conclusions. If the principal contact person for correspondence regarding the abstract is someone other than the presenter, please so specify. A compilation of abstracts will be distributed at the meeting.

Authors will be notified regarding acceptance of presentation in early November 2000. The final program, pre-registration, and other information will be distributed with the Winter Southern Division Newsletter.

FL AFS Member Survey Results

Bob Wattendorf

Introduction

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society routinely has 250 to 300 members; however, members drop in and out each year. Moreover, our annual meetings are typically attended by only 80 to 120 members, including the one-day registrants. This survey was intended to learn more about current and potential members and to determine what they expect from the Chapter and Chapter functions so that the Executive Committee can better serve member needs.

The survey was initiated by past-President Bob Wattendorf, with approval of the members attending the 1999 business meeting. It was distributed twice via the newsletter, posted on the chapter web site and included with the registration packet at the 20th Annual Meeting in Brooksville.

A total of 60 responses were received representing roughly 20 to 25 percent of our membership. Of those, most responses came from the meeting (34) or newsletter (16) inserts. The survey itself and a complete tabulation of the results is posted on our web site <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/> as a link from the July 2000 newsletter.

Summary

The first series of questions sought to better describe the general fisheries interests of our members. It determined that most (63%) were research or management (18%) oriented, with significantly fewer members involved in education, commercial fisheries, or administration. A third each were focused on freshwater, saltwater/estuarine, or other habitat areas (e.g., estuarine only, saltwater only, freshwater/estuarine or general).

Multiple answers were allowed about species focus and professional interests. Recreational species led the list with 52%, followed by general with 47%, individual species such as largemouth bass or snook were the focus of 27%, and commercial (18%), aquacultural (13%), invertebrate (12%), and threatened-and-endangered (8%) rounded out the responses.

The other category was selected by more than half of our members as one choice for their professional specialization. Of specialties listed regulation management (36%), habitat enhancement (28%), behavioral studies (19%) and statistical analysis (16%) were the most typical replies.

Our by laws do not require Chapter members to be members of the parent society, but do require Chapter officers to join the parent society. Roughly, two-thirds of our members indicated they are current dues-paying members of the American Fisheries Society. Respondents to the survey tended to be those with the most longevity, with 42% indicating they had been a member for more than five years. On the other hand, one-quarter of the respondents had never previously attended a Chapter meeting.

We then asked a series of questions pertaining specifically to our Chapter meetings, since this is one of the major services/opportunities we provide to our members. The satisfaction rate on a five-choice scale was very high. Less than 2% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, and 93% were satisfied or very satisfied (50%). Concern had previously been expressed that the bunk-house arrangement and isolated nature of the Brooksville Forestry Training facility may be preventing some members from attending, so we specifically asked about the venue. The result was that more than two-thirds of the respondents wanted to stay at Brooksville, but almost a third suggested periodically rotating locations. Similarly, we were interested in determining if there was a better time of year to have the meeting, but three-quarters of the respondents liked March. The 18% who indicated another time of year provided a range of replies that did not offer a single good alternative time period.

The AFS certifies fisheries biologists and is now requiring continuing education to maintain certification. We found that only 10% of our respondents were currently certified, but that almost 60% thought our providing continuing education courses in conjunction with the annual meeting was a good idea (these would of course be open to both certified and uncertified members). Most felt the CE workshops should be immediately prior to the Chapter meeting.

(SURVEY Continued on page 6)

NEWS BYTES FROM THE WEB

MARINE FISHERIES

TX Shrimp. On June 27 through July 20, 2000, the TX Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Dept. has scheduled a series of public hearings on its Shrimp Fishery Proclamation, proposing increased regulation of the fishery. The Proclamation has 5 major components dealing with 1) protection of smaller shrimp through deferred harvest, 2) additional harvest efficiency and opportunities, 3) increased spawning success of adult shrimp entering the Gulf, 4) acceleration of a voluntary shrimp license buyback program, and 5) restrictions to conserve other marine life affected by shrimp trawling. The TPW Commission is scheduled to consider the new proposals at its Aug. 31, 2000 meeting. [Houston Chronicle]

Red Snapper. On June 9, 2000, NMFS proposed the indefinite continuation of almost all current red snapper sport and commercial regulations. Limited changes include an adjustment to the starting date of the fall commercial season and a minor change in the allocation of the commercial quota. Public comment will be accepted through July 10, 2000. [Fed. Register]

Grouper Seizure. On June 6, 2000, personnel from the Coast Guard Cutter Marlin boarded a fishing vessel off the FL coast. The vessel occupants were illegally fishing with cut grouper and shark as bait, so their catch, gear, and bait was seized and the vessel escorted to Fort Myers for possible NMFS prosecution. [personal communication]

Navy Dredging. On May 30, 2000, the U.S. Navy signed an agreement with federal, state, and Jacksonville, FL, city government officials to launch a project called XL/ENVEST, wherein sediment dredged from the Mayport Naval Station harbor and fly ash from the Jacksonville Electric Authority's coal-fired electricity generating facility will be recycled into construction building blocks. Dredged sediments, without fly ash, would be recycled into artificial reef materials. [Florida Times-Union]

Shark Quota. On May 30, 2000, NMFS announced that it was adjusting the second 2000 semiannual quota for large coastal sharks (lowering the quota from 642.5 metric tons dressed weight to 542.5 metric tons dressed weight) to account for over-harvest during the first 2000 semiannual season. The fishery was estimated to be able to harvest this quota during a season scheduled to be open from July 1, 2000, until Aug. 15, 2000. [personal communication, Fed. Register]

Marine Reserves/Protected Areas. On May 26, 2000, President Clinton signed an executive order directing federal agencies within the Dept. of the Interior and Dept. of Commerce to work together to create a comprehensive network of marine protected areas (MPAs) that encompass diverse ecosystems and include ecological reserves where fishing, oil drilling, and other consumptive uses are prohibited. A Marine Protected Area Center would be established within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to coordinate this effort. On June 19, 2000, NMFS implemented regulations to prevent over-fishing of gag, black, and red grouper in the eastern Gulf of

Upcoming Meetings

JULY 2000

23-26, **International Congress on Biology of Fish**, Aberdeen, Scotland

AUGUST 2000

20-24, **130th AFS Annual Meeting**, St. Louis, MO
Black Bass 2000 Symposium

OCTOBER 2000

3-5 **FL Aquatic Plant Mgmt. Society** - Cocoa Bch.

28-Nov 1, **South. Div. AFS Ann. Meeting**, Baton Rouge

31-Nov.2, **FSU/Mote Symposium - Targets, Thresholds, & Burden of Proof in Fisheries Mgmt.**, Sarasota

NOVEMBER 2000

5-10, **24th Ann. Larval Fish Conf.**, Gulf Shores, AL

6-10, **53rd Ann. Gulf & Caribbean Fishereies Inst.**, Biloxi

DECEMBER 2000

JANUARY 2001

FEBRUARY 2001

22-25, **So. Div. AFS Mid-Year Mtg**, Jacksonville

MARCH 2001

Mexico, including closing two grouper aggregation areas, totaling 219 square miles, to all fishing except for highly migratory species. [White House press release, Fed. Register, NOAA press release]

Jellyfish Joint Venture. On May 24, 2000, two companies, Pristine Oyster.com from FL and Shandong Chisan Aquatic Group Ltd. from the People's Republic of China, announced the formation of a joint venture to harvest, process, and market cannonball jellyfish and other seafood products from the Gulf of Mexico. A research effort in FL during August and September 2000 will evaluate jellyfish operations. [Pristine Oyster.com press release]



(Scholarship Continued from page 2)

on their prior awards and honors, work experience, publications, presentations, service to youth and community, past AFS involvement, current research, career goals, and planned use of the scholarship funds, 2) write a 500 to 1,000-word essay explaining their views or philosophy on “The role of fisheries scientists in managing Florida’s aquatic resources”, and 3) provide college transcripts and two letters of recommendations.

This year, ten students (6 PhD and 4 MS) from three universities (FIT, FIU, and UF) applied for the scholarship. The quality of the applicants was outstanding. Like last year, the selection committee had a difficult time comparing PhD students with MS students. As a result, the committee suggested that separate scholarships be awarded at the PhD and MS level. Charlie Walker, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, tallied the judges’ scores.

The recipient of the PhD level scholarship was Jeff Hill (UF Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Chuck Cichra advisor). Honorable mention awards were made to Jackie Wilson (UF Department of Zoology, Craig Osenberg advisor) and Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli (FIT Department of Biological Sciences, Grant Gilmore advisor).

The recipient of the MS level scholarship was Tom Glancy (UF Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Chuck Cichra advisor). Honorable mention award was made to Kim Tugend (UF Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Mike Allen advisor).

A total of \$500 of interest was available for the scholarship from the Chapter’s scholarship fund. The committee divided the scholarship funds equally among the two recipients (\$250 each). The Chapter hopes that our base account will grow with donations and fund raising over time so that larger scholarships and possibly more scholarships can be awarded. Donations for the scholarship fund are tax deductible and can be sent to Larry Connor, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, P.O. Box 1903, Eustis, Florida 32727-1903. Checks should be made to the Florida Chapter AFS, with Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship written on the note line.



(SURVEY Continued from page 4)

Conclusions Drawn from the Member Survey

It would appear that we have a diverse membership representing a good cross section of fisheries professionals in Florida, at least among the government and university populace. On the other hand, we lack members from the commercial sector including outdoor writers, fishing guides, marina operators, aquaculturists, tackle manufacturers, commercial fishermen and others who might benefit from the research/management reports presented at the meetings, as well as the exchange of ideas and philosophies that is possible throughout the meeting and via the newsletter and website. I would encourage all of our members to solicit recruits from these other groups. Although we would like them to become dues-paying members and attend the meeting, an easy way to let them know about us is to have them visit our web site at <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/>.

The current meeting location and time seems to be the best we can do for the majority of members. However, it may be worthwhile to occasionally plan a meeting away from Brooksville and publish it heavily to see if we can recruit new members. One difficulty with the current survey is that the preponderance of responses came from individuals who typically try to attend our meetings or were there for the first time. The effort to get less active members to voice their preferences was only partially successful, so the results of the survey cannot be taken as an overall representation of our membership nor as a random sample.

I encourage future executive committees of the Florida Chapter to continue to reach out to our members and seek to customize our services to their diverse needs so that no one is excluded and everyone can benefit from exposure to new ideas. Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey and special thanks to Larry Connor for compiling the results.

(MEETING Continued from page 1)

The meeting location and dates are set. We will host the 2001 Midyear Meeting at the Jacksonville Hilton and Towers from 21 to 25 February. The Jacksonville Hilton is located in downtown Jacksonville on the south bank of the St. Johns River at the foot of the Main Street Bridge. You have easy access to the Riverwalk that runs about 1.5 miles along the river and provides access to several restaurants. Jacksonville Landing is a 10 to 12 minute walk across the Main Street Bridge or a water taxi ride across the river. The San Marco district with a number of restaurants and night spots is about 5 blocks to the South of the Hilton.

The Hilton has extended a conference rate of \$82 per night flat rate for single through quad occupancy. These rates will also be good for the nights of 20 and 25 February. This is a little more expensive than Brooksville, but is a good rate for a downtown conference hotel. Students and their advisors need to be aware that the Florida Chapter will have a number of travel grants available to students enrolled in Florida colleges and universities. The Southern Division also has a number of student travel grants available, but these are open to any student in the Southern Division. Finally, we will waive the registration fees for a limited number of students willing to work at the meeting manning A/V equipment, helping with registration, etc. Look for more information on student grants in future newsletters and on the Chapter's web site, <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~fafs/>, or the Southern Division's web site, www.sdafs.org.

Wednesday, 21 February, is a travel day for those attending committee meetings. The Southern Division technical committees will meet on Thursday, 22 February. Friday, 23 February, will see continuing education workshops, the Southern Division's Executive Committee meeting, our Chapter's business meeting, and probably an AFS Fish Management Section meeting. Saturday, 24 February, will begin with a short Southern Division business meeting followed by technical sessions starting about 10:00 AM. There will be technical sessions in the morning on Sunday, 25 February. The meeting will adjourn at noon on Sunday. We are currently planning on five concurrent sessions per day. That will leave space for about 125 to 130 presentations, but this includes presentations in symposia and other special sessions. There will also be slots available in the poster session. Debra Murie and Mike Allen agreed to co-chair the program committee and we have published the first call for papers elsewhere in the newsletter, the Southern Division newsletter, and on our and the Southern Division's web pages.

Unfortunately, no bonfire bonding this year, since its doubtful the Hilton will agree to a fire pit in the middle of their pool deck :^) However, there will be socials on Friday and Saturday nights where you can meet with fellow scientists from around the southeast. There will be a mixer at the Hilton Friday night. Typically this has been a student/professional mixer where the students can meet with scientists working in the field, troll for jobs, make contacts with university faculty, solicit research ideas, etc. The Saturday social is still under discussion. Several previous midyears have had offsite socials while others were held at the hotel. The possibilities in Jacksonville are limited, but one is the Museum of Science and History. MOSH is about three blocks from and has hosted events with the Hilton in the past. If not there, the Saturday social will be at the Hilton.

Raffle? We may have to forego our "world famous Florida Chapter raffle," but, hopefully we will be able to hold some form of a raffle or silent auction. We are discussing a raffle for the meeting itself. Another possibility is a Florida Chapter raffle at the business meeting. (Well, we have to get you to come somehow don't we?) We haven't made any decisions about the raffle or auction yet, but we may need the usual help in soliciting prizes, selling tickets, etc.

There of course will be more to report later. Look for updates future newsletters and special mailings or on our web site.

AWARDS FROM THE SPRING 2000 ANNUAL MEETING

ABSTRACTS AND PICTURES AT THE WEBSITE [HTTP://NERSP.NERDC.UFL.EDU/~FAFS/](http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~FAFS/)

BEST PAPER :

Bruce Cooper and Wayne Bennett, “**Culture of Neotropical Pacu, *Colossoma bidden*, in Florida and its Potential for Exotic Introduction.**”

Honorable Mention : Mike Allen and William Pine, “Can Fishery Managers Detect Fish-Population Responses to a Minimum Length Limit?”

BEST STUDENT PAPER :

Andrij Hohdsky and Richard McBride, “**Growth and Mortality of Two Populations of Ladyfish (*Elops*) in East-central Florida.**”

Honorable Mention : A.P. Wheeler and Mike Allen, “**Habitat and Diet Comparison of Largemouth bass and Shoal Bass in the Upper Chipola River, Florida.**”

Honorable Mention : M. Fougerolle and R. G. Turingan, “**The Effects of Prey Type on the Feeding Biomechanics of *Archosargus probatocephalus*.**”

BEST POSTER:

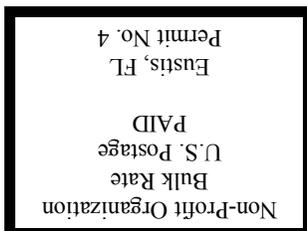
Rich McBride, J. Styer, and R. Hudson, “**Halfbeak *Hemiramphus* spp., fishing and spawning grounds in south Florida.**”

Honorable Mention: Pat O'Donnell and Todd Hopkins, “**Downstream Effects of Altered Freshwater Inflow on Fish, Shrimp, and Crabs of the 10,000 Islands Estuary of Southwest Florida.**”

BEST STUDENT POSTER:

Micah Bakenhaster, Richard McBride, and Wayne Price, “**The Life History of the Parasitic Isopod *Glossobius hemiramphi* and its Relationship to its Host *Hemiramphus brasiliensis*”**

Honorable Mention: Anthony MacWhinnie II, “**Life History and Population Dynamics of the Bearded Brotula, *Brotula barbata*, in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico”**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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