

# The Shell-Cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



VOLUME 8 (1-2)

DECEMBER 88

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Florida Chapter has had some major accomplishments since it was founded nearly nine years ago. The Chapter's book and slide show has been our most noteworthy success. Stan Moberly, our parent society's past-president, proudly took our chapter's book to various meetings around the country last year to show other AFS members what chapter's are capable of doing! Also, chapter members actively participated in a drive to increase state fishery biologist's salaries just a few years ago. The Florida Chapter has also taken a positive stance on some major environmental issues that would impact Florida's fisheries. Our annual meetings have consistently been outstanding ... with very pertinent and timely issues that concern the fishery biologists in the State of Florida.

Future achievements can only be made with the type of member support that we got at our annual meeting last year. I appreciate all the help that we got at our meeting and the efforts that have been made over the last few months. I strongly encourage all members to get involved with Chapter activities. Once book sales begin again, our Chapter will be financially solvent for the first time in a few years. There have been ideas "kicked around" for another major symposium and other educational projects. We hope to make some of these ideas a reality over the next two years.

In the meantime, Ken Haddad is in the process of organizing our chapter meeting this year that will include, most likely, a session on fisheries research in Florida. This session should "dovetail" nicely with a joint workshop on fisheries recruitment that will be sponsored by Florida SeaGrant. In addition, I can guarantee another excellent technical paper session to update biologists on various projects around the State of Florida. I hope to see you all there!

Wes Porak

## Executive Committee

A committee meeting was recently held this October in Punta Gorda. In accordance with a change in our bylaws three years ago, the member have just switched offices. Thus, officers that were elected last February have just started their terms. This late transition has confused a lot of chapter members since the election was held so long ago. The rationale behind this "seemingly" ridiculous scheme was to synchronize with the parent society of AFS who changes their officers during the annual meeting in September. However, Barbara Hoffman is inquiring with AFS as to whether it is now mandatory to change chapter officers at this time. If not, it would be much more sensible for our chapter officers to change following the annual meeting in February. This is even confusing to me as I write this. Hopefully, we will get this matter straightened out by our annual meeting!

Current officers are: President--Wesley Porak, President-elect--Ken Haddad, Past-President--Barbara Hoffman, Secretary-Treasurer--Jim Tilmant. Elections will be held at our annual meeting. Please contact Ken Haddad if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate a colleague before the meeting.

Other items discussed at this meeting are presented below.

## Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources

The second printing of our "Florida Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources" is being ordered following a drive for financial sponsorship. An additional 750 copies will be ordered for \$6,897.00. David Oakey and Marty Hale requested contributions from more than 100 potential sponsors. Judy Chadwick and Sally Turner, secretaries at the Eustis Fisheries Lab, provided a lot of help with this undertaking. Financial support has come from Shell Offshore Incorporated, Suwannee River Management District, and Southwest Florida Water Management District. Two other state agencies are looking into contractual agreements to help finance the production of the book. Vince Williams also obtained a large donation from the Disney World Company. The financial support will cover a majority of the printing costs. Any proceedings from book sales will be "earmarked" for future symposiums and fisheries educational programs. Future promotions will be required to sell the second printing, so spread the word! If you have any ideas for promotions, please let any of the officers know about them.

## Legislative Committee

The legislative committee drafted a letter supporting additional funding for the SWIM Program during this past legislative session. The letter was signed by our president and distributed to all legislators by Ken Haddad.

A proposed statement of the "Purpose, Responsibilities, and Activities" for the legislative committee was drafted by Curtis Watkins and reviewed by Vince Williams. This draft is now being held up in the "bureaucratic shuffle" of the executive committee!

#### Technical Paper Committee

This committee was formed two years ago to judge and award the best technical presentation at the annual meeting. This was done to encourage more people to submit papers for presentation and to enhance the quality of the presentations. A plaque and cash award is given for the best presentation each year. Chuck Cichra is currently trying to improve the judging system by incorporating different ideas used by similar committees around the country.

#### Chapter's Slide Presentation

A slide show on "Florida's Aquatic Habitat and Fishery Resources" was created a few years ago along with the chapter's book. Bill Sargent is currently getting a video produced from the slide show. He is also getting complete prices from reproduction and sale of both the video and slide show. An advertising brochure will be inserted in each copy of our book that is sold.

#### AFS Raffle

The raffle at the annual meeting of the Florida Chapter has raised more than \$1,500.00 over the last two years. It has also been both fun and rewarding for most ticket holders. However, many sources of contributors have "dried up"! We don't know if we will be able to get any "diving smooos" or "mudbugs" this year, unless we get some additional help. If you can help with prizes for this years raffle, please let Ken Haddad know. Even one or two raffle prizes will be helpful!

#### The Shellcracker

A commitment has been made to send the newsletter out quarterly this next year. The newsletter can be a means to let other fisheries professionals know what is going on with your particular project or about a local fisheries issue that might have statewide interest. If you have anything that you would like to contribute, please contact our newsletter editor, Mike Murphy. (Florida Marine Research Institute, 100 Eighth Avenue, SE; St. Petersburg, FL 33701, 813/896-8626).

**\*Note From Ken Haddad\***

I have been preparing the Agenda for this year's meeting. My original plan was for a session on Fresh and Saltwater Stock Enhancement. Unfortunately, the World Mariculture Society and Aquaculture '89 are meeting the same week and this has presented a problem for agenda speakers. We wanted to get this newsletter out, and I have not progressed enough with the new agenda to include details. I assure you the subject will be pertinent to both fresh and saltwater fisheries scientists. We will send the detailed agenda as soon as it is prepared.

I would also like to announce that we are co-hosting a workshop sponsored by Florida SeaGrant that will "dove-tail" with our Annual Meeting. The Workshop theme is Fishery Recruitment in Florida Waters: Towards a Predictive Capability. The Workshop will begin on February 15, after lunch, with a plenary session that will conclude our Chapter Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in this workshop and further details will be included with the detailed chapter agenda. The workshop will conclude either at 5:00pm, February 16 or Noon February 17. All members will receive further information as soon as it is available.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

February 13th	12:00 Noon	Meet for canoe tour on Suwannee River
	3:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration
	6:00 pm	Dinner
February 14th		
	8:00 am	Breakfast
	9:30 am	break
	10:00 am	Opening of Session (to be announced)
	12:00 noon	Lunch
	1:00 pm	Session continued
	2:30 pm	break
	3:00 pm	Session continued
	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Raffle
February 15th		
	8:00 am	Breakfast/Business Meeting
	9:30 am	Beginning of Technical Presentations
	10:00 am	break
	10:30 am	Presentations
	12:00 noon	Lunch
	1:00 pm	Plenary Session: <u>Fisheries Recruitment in Florida</u>
	5:00 pm	End of AFS Meeting

# ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

We have scheduled our annual meeting for Tuesday and Wednesday, February 14-15, 1989.

We are meeting at the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida. This beautiful lakeside conference center is located off I-10 just west of the I-10 and I-75 interchange. Take the Wellborn exit (off I-10), just west of the interstate interchange, and go south on Highway 137 to U.S. 90. Go west on U.S. 90 approximately 5 miles to Ingram Road on the southside of U.S. 90. Ingram Road will take you to the Conference Center.

**SEE ENCLOSED MAP**

The facilities are outlined in the enclosed pictorial map. There are double occupancy motel rooms and cabins. The motel space is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis when you send in your pre-registration. You have the option of bringing your own linens (sheets, towels, pillows and pillowcases, blankets, etc.) or incur an extra \$5.00 charge for their provision.

Jerry Krummrick is organizing a canoe tour on the Suwannee River for Feb. 13th in the afternoon; meet at the Conference Center at 12:00 noon. He expects a \$5-6 charge per person. Please indicate on the Registration Form whether you plan to participate. Bring fishing gear if you desire. (Please be prepared to pay at the canoe outpost).

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## Call For Technical Presentations

Once again we would like to ask for your participation in our technical presentations session. It should be emphasized that this is oral only and can be on any subject of your work. It can be on preliminary findings, project descriptions, or final results. We are all interested in what other members are doing in their fields. Please submit an abstract, not to exceed 200 words, describing your proposed presentation.

Submission Deadline, January 15, 1989. You will be notified by January 20th.

Please send your abstracts to Ken Haddad, FMPL, 100 8th Avenue, SE, St. Petersburg FL 33701-5095.

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\*Note From Ken Haddad\*

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## Introducing the Florida Lake Management Society

A Florida State Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society has recently been formed and is seeking members from the private, government and scientific sectors.

The new Chapter called the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) will act as a clearing house for information and communication between the professional lake management /or researcher and the concerned public or homeowner.

Areas in which FLMS will benefit homeowner groups or individuals include:

1. Providing a 'self-help' support system. One of the major problems facing individuals is how to effectively organize and address problems. As FLMS members, those interested in organizing a local group can benefit from the experience and advice of our members who have already done so.

2. Providing technical assistance. We expect that many FLMS members will be professional in the field of lake management. They should be able to help you solve your problems.

3. Referral Service. There are so many federal, state and local agencies to deal with that it's easy for the general public to be confused over which ones to deal with on particular problems. The FLMS will help you 'learn the ropes'.

4. Strength through numbers. We hope that statewide FLMS Chapter will be able to provide a unified voice for all citizens concerned about our lake resources. Passage of last year's landmark Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Act by the state legislature was a positive step, but only a beginning, in reversing the deterioration of our surface waters.

Persons seeking more information about FLMS may contact Richard Coleman, President, at 203 Lake Pansy Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33880.



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# EXCERPTS FROM THE AFS DIARY

VOLUME 3, NO. 2 OF SEA GRANT ABSTRACTS is available and is crammed with references to fascinating fisheries science reports and publications, all produced by the nation's Sea Grant Colleges. Sea Grant Abstracts is sent at no charge to qualifying institutions, associations, and businesses. Use institutional letterhead to request a subscription and include your name, title, and position. Single back issues may be ordered at \$2.00 each. Make checks payable to Sea Grant Abstracts and send orders to P. O. Box 125, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

THE FISH CULTURE SECTION REGISTRY provides background information and expertise for over 700 members involved in various areas of aquaculture. The biographic information includes: (1) business or agency; (2) business address and telephone number; (3) title or position held; (4) educational background; (5) and work experience. Copies of the 176-page registry may be purchased at \$10.00 from Fish culture Section, c/o Nick Parker, 503 Bibb Street, Marion, AL 36756.

WALLOP-BREAUX'S 5-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION (1989-1994) merits letters of commendation to the following congressional leaders. It couldn't have been done without them and a letter from you will help guarantee the future of this 200-million-dollar-a-year investment in the nation's renewable aquatic resources.

The Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chairman  
Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John B. Breaux  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert W. Davis, Minority Leader  
Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Malcolm Wallop  
United States Senate  
237 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Appreciate  
Support  
Reauthorization

Few months  
but  
late

Back Congressmen  
Ways & Means

returned users  
8  
Millions

N.  
Sam Gibbons  
Ways and Means  
2nd person  
TAMPA  
each year to

AN EXCELLENT HANDBOOK FOR COMMON CALCULATIONS IN FINFISH AQUACULTURE has reached us from Gary Jensen, association aquaculture specialist at the LSU Cooperative Extension Service, Knapp Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, phone (504) 388-4141. It's an invaluable 50 page reference that every practical fish culturist should have on file. Copies are available at \$3.60 each by writing Ms. Dixie Irwin, Publications, Room 128 at the above LSU address.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AQUATIC RESOURCE EDUCATION will be held February 5-9, 1989, at the Marriott River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. Sponsor will be the Aquatic Resource Education Council which includes AFS. Dr. John Nickum represents AFS and the Education Section on the Council. For particulars contact the National AFS Office.

INDEXED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT is available. The FS Intermountain Region, recently issued a 1988 revision of this bibliography. It includes over 1,350 citations on structural stream habitat improvement. This was a cooperative effort with the Sport Fishery Research Foundation and Utah State University. Copies are available from Librarian, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322-5210; phone (801) 750-1332; cost per copy is \$6.50.

DR. ROBERT B. DITTON, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, WILL CHAIR the proposed AFS/USFWS International Symposium and Workshop on Creel and Angler Survey Techniques in Fisheries Management. The proposed 1990 workshop will cover needs, planning, design, and administration of both traditional and non-traditional survey techniques. Dr. Ditton's phone number is (409) 845-5777.

THE FIVE MOST CRITICALLY IMPORTANT HABITAT ISSUES in fresh water as well as in the marine environment were chosen for AFS action by the participants in the Toronto Excom Retreat. the issues chosen by the AFS leadership were as follows:

Fresh Water Habitat Problems

Non point source pollution  
Acid rain  
Riparian habitat loss  
Toxic substances  
Wetland loss (tie)  
Instream flows (tie)

Marine Habitat Problems

Wetland loss  
Ocean dumping  
Coastal development  
Estuarine anoxia  
Bottom alteration

A MARINE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL prepared and research by the Marine Fisheries Section won unanimous approval. Marine wilderness areas would be unique or representative ecosystems with geographically defined boundaries which would be protected for nonconsumptive uses. In the near future the proposal will be published in Fisheries with a request for member comment. Hopefully, the initial study/report will lead to a formal AFS position statement on this issue.

THE AFS DIRECTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENTIST will be reprinted in 1989 provided fifty percent up-front financing can be arranged. Funding prospects are good so we're looking forward to updating and expanding the 10,000 names, addresses, titles, professional talents, and phone numbers now included in the directory.

THE SIXTH SYMPOSIUM ON COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT entitled Coastal Zone 89 will be held July 11-14, 1989, in Charleston, SC. Send abstracts to Orville Magoon, Coastal Zone 89, P. O. Box 279, Middletown, CA 95461. For general information write Delores Clark, NOAA, Office of Constituent Affairs, Rockville, MD 20852.

AFS/TWS JOBSource KEEPS PLUGGING AWAY and is available to help you find a first time job, a better job, and if you're an employer, it will help you find the best employee. Call the toll free number (800) 727-JOBS, for details. Costs are sharply reduced for AFS members.

YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT. I'm talking about Carp Fisher, the magazine of The Carp Society. The summer 1988 issue contains 148-pages that include a great many spectacular color photos, 56 pages of carp fishing advertisements (the variety and complexity of tackle is mind boggling), carp fishing feature stories, news of the Carp Society, and even information about carp fishing in Norway and Spain. For information, write The Carp Society, 33 Covert Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex, Great Britian.

IT'S MEXICO IN 89 for the AFS Early Life History Section. they will meet in Merida, Mexico, on May 21-27. For details, write Andrea Frank, Mote Marine Lab, 1600 City Park Island Park, Sarasota, FL 34236.

### Florida Lab Series #3

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF MARINE RESOURCES  
FLORIDA MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE\*  
100 Eighth Avenue, S.E.  
St. Petersburg FL 33701-5095

The State of Florida Department of Natural Resources' Florida Marine Research Institute is charged by State statute to conduct marine resource research in Florida's territorial seas and contiguous waters. Research programs are designed to produce the information needed for fisheries, habitats, and other living marine resources for management options. The main laboratory in St. Petersburg, Florida, and field station are located in Jensen Beach, Tequesta, Marathon, Fort Myers and Hobe Sound.

#### **Organizational Structure**

Currently, the Institute is divided into seven research sections by topic: Vertebrate, Invertebrate, Botany and Technical Sciences, Experimental Culture and Physiology, Fisheries Statistics, Resource Recovery and Assessment, and Marine Mammals. Direct administration and supervision is by those experienced and trained in biology or fisheries. In addition to the research sections, there is an Administrative Services Section that handles fiscal, purchasing, facility, and personnel matters.

#### **Current Research**

Marine research conducted at the Institute encompasses studies in nine broad programs as summarized below:

Fishery Stock Assessments - to determine population abundance, recruitment, fishing, and natural mortality and other aspects of selected species stocks for management recommendations.

Fisheries Statistics - to (a) obtain recreational and commercial fisheries catch, area, effort, gear, and user data through licensing, trip tickers, and surveys for stock assessment and trend analyses, and (b) monitor juvenile and subadult abundance for recruitment.

Life History Studies - to identify developmental stages of certain fishes and invertebrates, and to determine when and where they spawn, at what age they become reproductive, at what age and size they enter the fishery, sex ratios in nature, migration and dispersal patterns, nursery areas for juveniles, and feeding strategies.

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\* Florida Marine Research Institute was formerly known as the Bureau of Marine Research, the Bureau of Marine Science and Technology and the Marine Research Laboratory.

Coastal Hydrography and Red Tide Studies - to (a) determine the feasibility of predicting outbreaks of red tide (toxic plankton blooms) via satellite remote sensing based on hydrographic features and the delineation of seeding areas, and (b) to correlate hydrographic features with fisheries, e.g., larval transport, recruitment, and migration patterns;

Culture and Rearing of Marine Animals - to (a) artificially spawn and rear selected species for life history and propagation data, (b) refine culture technology for application to fisheries management and aquaculture, and (c) assess the costs and benefits of stocking selected estuarine-dependent fishes, e.g., snook, into appropriate coastal waters;

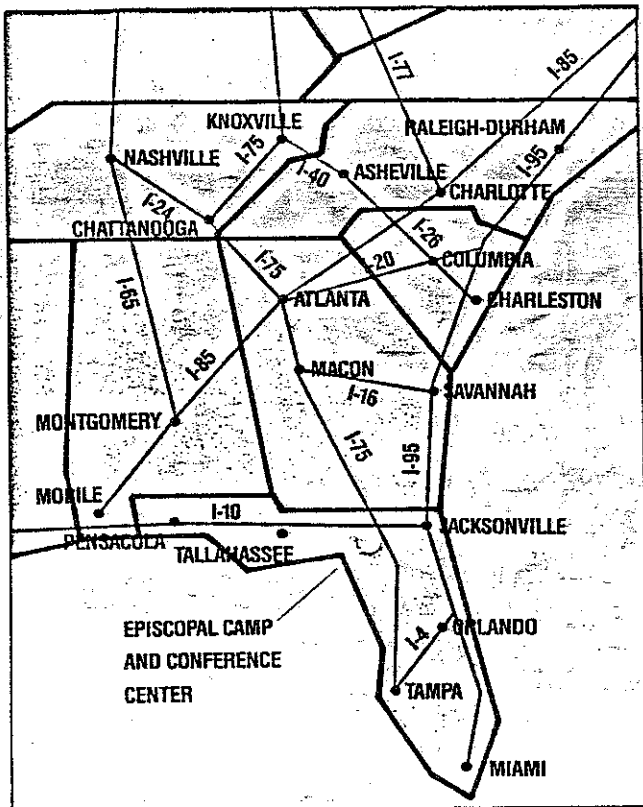
Habitat Characterization and Restoration - to (a) develop new techniques for supplying young seagrasses and mangroves for coastal vegetation and habitat restoration programs, (b) document coastal habitat loss and land use changes over time and correlate to fisheries yield, and (c) assess feasibility of determining carrying capacity of different habitats under different conditions;

Benthic Community Studies - to (a) document, describe and analyze assemblages of organisms by habitat type, depth zone, or area (e.g., West Florida Shelf), and (b) assess human influence on Florida's unique and irreplaceable coral reefs;

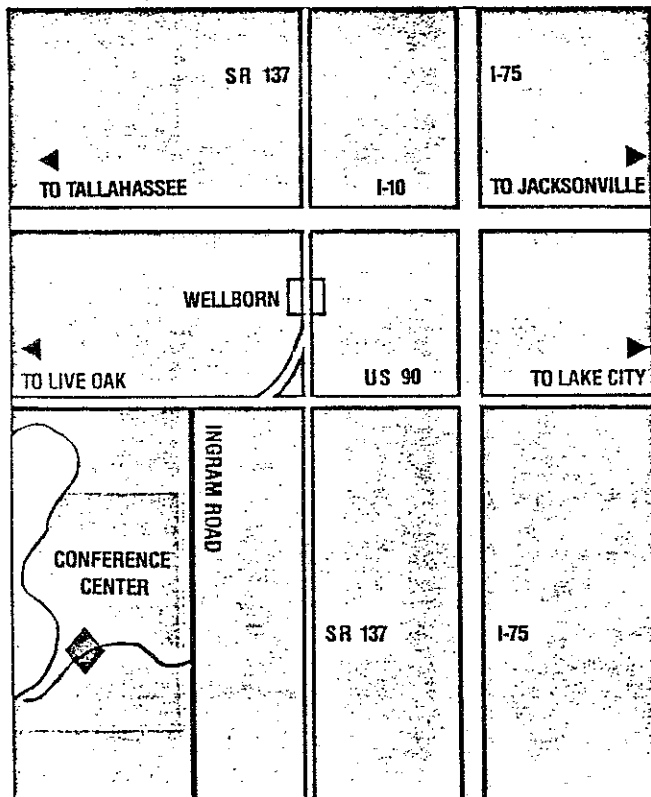
Endangered and Threatened Species - to (a) permit, coordinate and review Florida sea turtle activities, e.g., nest relocation, (b) evaluate population parameters, migratory routes, survival at sea, and nursery areas for sea turtles, and (c) manage and coordinate the State's manatee recovery program, including 1) determining population abundance, 2) determining causes and areas of mortality, and 3) establishing and maintaining manatee sanctuaries;

Marine Animals Health and Contamination - to (a) develop a reference collection of normal tissue for comparison to diseased tissue, (b) document, describe and analyze disease events, and (c) analyze diseases in closed artificial systems to develop preventative treatment for aquaculture systems.

In addition to the scientific and technical data published, Institute staff develop and present education material about Florida's marine life and coastal wetlands.



The Episcopal Camp and Conference Center is located centrally in the Southeastern United States, providing a beautiful setting for groups in a 5-state area. The conference center is conveniently accessible by major interstate routes.



You can find us by taking I-10 to the Wellborn exit located just west of the I-10 & I-75 intersection. Go south on highway 137 to U.S. 90 and go west approximately 5 miles to Ingram Road on the southside of U.S. 90.

**EPISCOPAL CAMP AND  
CONFERENCE CENTER**  
Rt. 3 Box 140  
Live Oak, Florida 32060  
Telephone: (904) 362-6633  
Joe Chamberlain, Manager

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Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

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- 2 CABIN
- 3 CABIN
- 4 CABIN
- 5 CABIN
- 6 CABIN
- 7 CABIN
- 8 CABIN
- 9 STAFF CABIN
- 10 MAINTENANCE SHED
- 11 BATHHOUSE/TENT CAMPING
- 12 CONFERENCE CENTER
- 13 ADMINISTRATION/REGISTRATION
- 14 DINING ROOM
- 15 INFIRMARY/SUMMER CAMP OFFICE
- 16 HAYBARN
- 17 WATERFRONT
- PRIMITIVE CAMP SITE
- KOPEL INURSE

