

TIDEWATER PRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
TIDEWATER CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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President's Corner | *Jessica Thompson*

Greetings Tidewater Chapter members! I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer and spending plenty of time on the water. This summer has been particularly busy for me as I'm preparing to take on a new professional position. Beginning in the fall, I will be working part-time in my department and part-time as inaugural director of my university's new Center for Effective Teaching, offering resources to our faculty to aid them in being more effective and innovative instructors. Although it seems like a momentous task to get the Center going, I'm also excited for the opportunity because engaging students in the classroom is one of my passions, and I look forward to sharing this passion with faculty at my institution.

This story highlights the fact that we all wear many different hats in our professional lives. While most of us would identify first and foremost as fisheries scientists, we are also writers,



artists, communicators, teachers, social scientists, boat mechanics, and statisticians. Our Chapter is stronger because of the diversity of skills and passions of our members, and I would encourage each of you to think about what you might offer the

Chapter. Do you have ideas to make the annual meeting even better, to improve our services to students, to enhance our scientific and professional networking, or to better communicate our science to the public? Please speak up, and share your ideas with the Tidewater EXCOM. We welcome your input!

To help the Tidewater membership share their ideas and to improve communication within the Chapter, one of the main goals of the EXCOM this year is to update and improve the Chapter listserv. We're considering alternatives to our current listserv that would allow the Chapter leadership more flexibility in updating the member

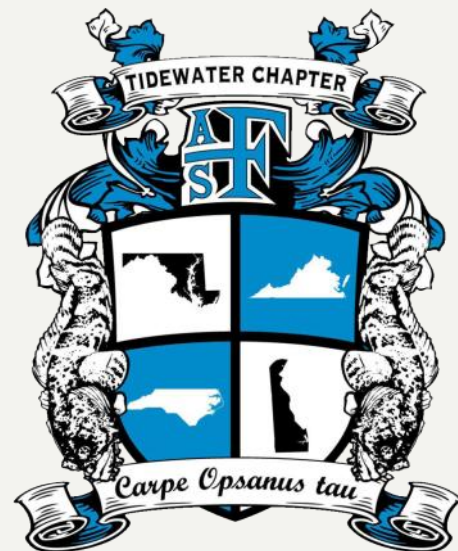
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*President's Corner, continued
from page 1*

list while letting us share documents and conduct other Chapter business as needed. We hope that these changes will create a lean, mean communication machine for the Tidewater Chapter! Keep an eye out for more information in the early fall. We plan to make any changes to the listserv prior to the late fall when information on the 2015 annual

meeting will be disseminated.

I'd like to conclude my first *President's Corner* by thanking all those individuals who have agreed to serve as officers and EXCOM members for the Tidewater Chapter in 2014. It has been such a joy working with this group over the past year, and I would encourage anyone who feels that "AFS Chapter leader" is a hat they could wear to submit their name when the call for officer nominations comes out in the fall!



Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Meeting Highlights | Jessica Thompson

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its 28th Annual Meeting in Newport News, Virginia, on March 21-23, 2014. We had 70 meeting attendees, evenly split between students and professionals, representing 26 academic, government, non-profit, and private organizations from five states: North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey.

The meeting kicked off on Friday afternoon on the campus of Christopher Newport University with Laura Lee's ever-popular continuing

education class on comparing and selecting growth models. The meeting moved into the beautiful ballroom in CNU's student center



for the poster social that evening. Although we only had seven posters this year, the quality of the posters was high, and the small number

gave everyone the opportunity to speak with the presenters while enjoying good company. Some of us also had the opportunity to relive

our undergrad days by being chastised by university staff for switching the projection system over to the score of the UNC basketball game.

Oral presentations were held all day Saturday, as well as Sunday morning, on CNU's campus. The talks were truly excellent and covered topics ranging from traditional

fisheries mainstays such as spawning, diet, movement, and habitat selection to quantitative

Continued on next page

Meeting Highlights, continued

management tools such as tag returns and trophic dynamic models. The diversity was just as broad in the fishes discussed, which included flounder, tuna, river herring, sturgeon, menhaden, brook trout, and more.

Saturday also featured the student-mentor lunch, attended by eleven mentors and thirteen students with catering provided by the Chapter, as well as the afternoon awards ceremony and business meeting. The awards ceremony included a special presentation in which several past presidents of the Chapter received a gavel plaque, a

Chapter tradition that had been suspended when the Chapter fell on hard financial times that have now passed thanks to the excellent work of our treasurer, Stephanie McInerny. Thanks to Ron Klauda, our awards committee chair, for organizing the awards ceremony and ensuring that all of our past presidents receive the recognition they deserve for their service.

The banquet social was held Saturday evening at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. Attendees enjoyed good company, delicious BBQ, and abundant beer while having the opportunity to tour

the museum collection, which includes an amazing diversity of maritime artifacts. The banquet social also featured the presentation of awards for the best student poster and oral presentation, as well as awarding of the raffle prizes.

Thanks to all those who attended the 2014 Annual Meeting, as well as our meeting sponsors: Virginia Sea Grant, Christopher Newport University, Harris Teeter, The Mariners' Museum, Wicked Oceans, Mrow Studios, and Irihana Arts. I look forward to another great Tidewater meeting next year in North Carolina!

2014 Tidewater Chapter Awards | Ron Klauda

Student Presentations

Student presentations once again carried a successful TWC meeting. A total of 23 presentations were evaluated and scored by the judges (6 posters and 17 oral papers).

In the poster category, the judges selected these winners:

- **First Place:** Jason Peters (North Carolina State University)—“Potential ‘spill-in’ of oyster larvae to marine reserves”
- **Second Place:** Cameron Luck (North Carolina State University)—“Encysted trematodes *Stomachicola magnus* in the stomach linings of weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*): frequency of occurrence and effects on conditions”

- **Third Place:** Christi Linardich (Old Dominion University)—“Preliminary results from an extinction risk assessment of bony fishes of the Gulf of Mexico”

In the oral paper category, the judges selected these winners:

- **First Place:** Lauren Nys (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)—“Effects of nursery habitat conditions on young-of-the-year summer flounder”
- **Second Place:** James Kilfoil (Delaware State University)—“Hooked on shark fishing: the impacts of U.S. recreational fisheries on recovering shark populations”
- **Third Place:** Matt Siskey (University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory)—“Age

structure of Atlantic bluefin tuna from the North Carolina winter fishery”

Special Awards

The **Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award** is presented periodically to one or more outstanding graduate students who are currently enrolled in a fisheries science or closely-related curriculum and who have displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional endeavors, and public education, outreach, and community. This award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, a long-time member of the American Fisheries and fourth President (1989) of the Tidewater Chapter.

This year, ‘Eileen Awards’ were

Continued on next page

Awards, continued

given to two worthy applicants.

The First Place Eileen Award went to David Kazyak. He expects to receive his PhD from the University of Maryland in December 2014. His thesis advisor is Dr. Robert Hilderbrand. Dave's research goal is to forecast alternative futures for brook trout operating under the basic premise that vital population rates are impacted by environmental change and angling. One key question he is addressing is, "What management strategies are best suited to enhancing western Maryland brook trout populations?" In addition to being an AFS and Tidewater Chapter member, Dave previously served as Vice President and President of the University of Maine Student Chapter when he was working on his Master's degree. Dave also volunteers regularly on several environmentally-themed projects.

The Second Place Eileen Award went to Chad Smith. He is pursuing a PhD degree in Coastal Resources Management at East Carolina University and expects to graduate in December 2014. His thesis advisor is Dr. Roger Rulifson. The goal of Chad's research project is to determine if citizen-science projects focused on water quality can provide robust data to government agencies and also implement effective educational campaigns. Chad has been an active member of AFS and the Tidewater Chapter since 2003, when he joined the ECU Student Subunit—where he served as President in 2004-2005 and their webmaster for 10 years. He currently serves as webmaster for the Tidewater Chapter.

The **Meritorious Service Award** is given periodically to a Chapter member for their unswerving loyalty, dedication, and service to the Chapter over a long period of time and for their exceptional commitment to the program, objectives, and long-term goals of the Tidewater Chapter.

This year's Meritorious Service Award went to Bob Murphy. He currently serves the Chapter as the Maryland Member-at-Large, a position he has filled since 2005. And he was just re-elected to another one-year term. Bob attended his first Tidewater Chapter meeting in 1998, and won a first place award for his oral student paper presented at the 2005 meeting. Over the years, Bob has helped the Tidewater Chapter in numerous ways: with revisions to the By-Laws, finding outside support for annual meetings, recruiting new members, participating in student-mentor lunches, and judging student presentations.

The **Conservation Award** is given periodically by the Tidewater Chapter to an individual, resource management agency, corporation, or non-profit organization that has distinguished themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

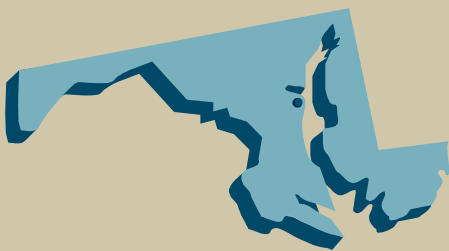
This year's Conservation Award was presented to Bill Goldsborough. Bill is a Senior Scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, MD and Director of their Fisheries Program—a position he's held since 1998. In his current job, he serves as an advocate for fishery resources in Chesapeake Bay; participates in legislative and regulatory

matters at the state, regional, and federal levels; and works to restore and maintain productive sustainable fisheries and a healthy estuarine ecosystem. Bill led a recent effort at ASMFC to apply effective conservation measures to the Atlantic menhaden fishery, including a 20% reduction in recent catch levels.

The **Excellence in Fisheries Education Award** is presented periodically to a Tidewater Chapter member who has achieved excellence in teaching and student advising in the field of fisheries science and who also encourages student participation in Tidewater Chapter, American Fisheries Society, and other fisheries-related meetings.

This year's Excellence in Fisheries Education award went to Dr. Jack Musick. He is the Marshall Acuff Professor Emeritus in Marine Science at the VIMS, College of William and Mary, where he was a faculty member since 1967. Jack earned his BA in Biology from Rutgers and his MA and PhD degrees in Biology from Harvard. He is well known for his research on shark conservation, marine fisheries management, and sea turtle ecology. So far, Jack has published more than 150 scientific papers and co-authored or edited 22 books, including a new field guide to the fishes of Chesapeake Bay published last year by Johns Hopkins University Press. While at VIMS, he taught courses in Ichthyology, Conservation Biology, Deep Sea Biology, Marine Fisheries Science, and Biological Oceanography. Along the way, Jack mentored 37 Masters and 49 PhD students.

Maryland State Update | Bob Murphy



Choptank River Habitat

Two sites in NOAA's North Atlantic Region have been selected as Habitat Focus Areas under NOAA's Habitat Blueprint. The Choptank River complex in Maryland and Delaware and the Penobscot River watershed in Maine are the new areas where the agency will focus resources to support habitat conservation and restoration. Both areas have experienced habitat degradation and face challenges from pollution, development, overfishing, invasive species, and barriers to fish passage. This has reduced the resilience of fish, degraded water quality and habitat health, and affected public use and tourism. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is already working in the Choptank River complex. The Choptank is the largest river on the Delmarva Peninsula, emptying into the Chesapeake Bay. Most of the watershed is currently used for agriculture.

NOAA conducts mapping and acoustic survey work in the Chesapeake Bay, including the Choptank River watershed, to support native oyster restoration. Areas in several tributaries in the Choptank River were designated as oyster sanctuaries by the state of

Maryland. This affords an excellent opportunity for intensive oyster restoration on an unprecedented scale.

Diamond Jim

The *Diamond Jim* component of the 2014 Maryland Fishing Challenge kicked off when DNR biologists and members of the Maryland Youth Fishing Club caught, tagged, and released the first round of striped bass into the Chesapeake Bay. One of these tagged fish is the official *Diamond Jim*, worth \$10,000 to the angler who catches it. The other tagged "imposter" rockfish are worth at least \$500 each if caught and registered before midnight on Labor Day, September 1, 2014. Each month that Diamond Jim goes uncaught, the reward increases from \$10,000 in June, to \$20,000 in July, and \$25,000 in August. With a \$25,000 guaranteed payout, if Diamond Jim is not caught by midnight Labor Day, the cash will be split equally among those who catch imposters. Last year was the first time in the contest's nine-year history that the official Diamond Jim was caught. The angler, Blair Wheeler, 25 of Herndon, VA, walked away with the \$25,000.

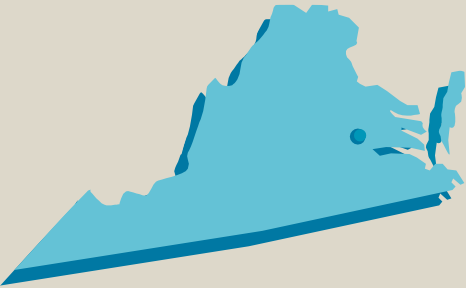
Yellow Perch

Researchers have found reproductive abnormalities in yellow perch in three Maryland rivers that are either heavily suburbanized or rapidly developing, which they say helps explain why the fish are not thriving in those

Chesapeake Bay tributaries and may be linked to toxic pollution.

Significant numbers of eggs produced by spawning female perch in the Severn and South rivers in Anne Arundel County and in Mattawoman Creek in Charles County failed to develop completely, according to a three-year survey conducted by federal and state researchers. Male perch in those rivers also displayed more abnormalities than did their counterparts from two mostly rural rivers in the upper bay. Although no specific pollutant has been identified, researchers say they suspect the abnormalities may stem from exposure to pharmaceuticals, heavy metals or polychlorinated biphenyls, a group of toxic chemicals once widely used in electrical equipment. The study, appearing in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, comes on the heels of a federal report that found that toxic contamination remains widespread throughout the Chesapeake. Nearly three-fourths of the bay's tidal waters are "fully or partially impaired" by hazardous chemicals, the report said, with problems severe enough in areas like Baltimore's harbor to warn people to avoid or limit their consumption of fish caught there.

Virginia State Update | *Willy Goldsmith*



Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs in a Depleted State: New Rebuilding Strategy to Begin this Summer

The annual population of spawning-age female blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay declined by over 50% from 2013's assessment and is currently in a depleted state, according to the 2014 winter crab dredge survey, whose results were released in April. The survey, conducted jointly by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR), is the primary tool used to assess the population of blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay and has been conducted annually since 1990. While harvest rates remained below the target removal rate for the sixth straight year, the drop in spawning female numbers from 147 million in 2013 to 69 million in 2014—below the minimum safe level of 70 million—will necessitate a further 10% reduction in harvest. Extreme cold water temperatures during the 2013-2014 winter were likely a major contributor to the drop in the numbers. The cold was responsible for an estimated 28% of all adult blue crab deaths in the Maryland portion of the Bay,

highlighting the sensitivity of the blue crab population to fishery-independent effects. While the number of juvenile crabs was 199 million, a 79% increase from the record-low 2013 value, the juvenile population remains at levels similar to those prior to 2008, when a Bay-wide stock rebuilding initiative commenced.

To increase blue crab reproductive potential, the three jurisdictions responsible for managing Chesapeake Bay blue crabs—the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), MDDNR, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission—will adopt a novel rebuilding strategy that addresses the low population levels of both spawning females and juveniles. “We, along with the other jurisdictions, recognize a link between juvenile cohorts and spawning-age cohorts that needs to be connected,” said VMRC natural resources manager Rob O’Reilly. Toward that end, each management body will adopt regulations on harvest this summer to protect this year’s low spawning female population, while fall regulations will protect juveniles that will in turn overwinter and spawn in 2015. These actions represent the first effort to simultaneously manage two size-based cohorts of blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay. Specific regulations will be decided for each management jurisdiction, with input from fisheries scientists and crab

fishery stakeholders.

\$500,000 Grant from The Nature Conservancy to Help Fund Piankatank River Oyster Sanctuary Construction

The construction of an oyster sanctuary in the Piankatank River received a big boost on May 30, 2014, when Virginia Governor Terry McCaulliffe announced a \$500,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Construction of the 20-acre sanctuary, located near Fishing Bay in Middlesex County, began on May 26, 2014, and is the first step in a \$3.8 million joint restoration project for the Piankatank River among the VMRC, TNC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). “The Piankatank River produces few large oysters due to oyster disease,



Shell-sized ground concrete, shown here, will be dispersed throughout the Piankatank River Oyster Sanctuary to facilitate oyster settlement. Project leaders hope that the concrete will serve as a realistic, cost-effective substitute for oyster shell. Photo courtesy of Jim Wesson (VMRC).

Virginia, continued

but it is a really valuable river for producing oyster seed, which we can harvest, transplant, and grow up to market size in other locations,” said Jim Wesson, who heads the VMRC’s shellfish replenishment department. A natural gyre within the river, he explained, retains oyster larvae as much as 100 times more effectively than neighboring rivers. Oysters within the sanctuary will thus not only provide ecosystem services within the Pianktank but will provide seed that the VMRC can harvest in areas adjacent to the sanctuary for use in future repletion efforts.

The project represents the first effort to use shell-sized ground concrete as a substrate for oyster settlement. “With oyster shell becoming increasingly valuable and hard to come by, our hope is that shell-sized concrete will be a realistic substitute that can rebuild the interstitial spaces characteristic of natural oyster reefs and facilitate settlement,” Wesson explained. 12,500 tons of the concrete will be dispersed throughout the sanctuary with the help of 33 local employees.

Fisheries Professionals Attend Workshop to Improve Fishery-Independent Survey Estimates

On May 2, 2014, Mary Fabrizio (VIMS) and David Eggleston (North Carolina State University) hosted a workshop at VIMS entitled “Improving the Accuracy of Fishery-Independent Survey Indices.” The goal of the workshop was to share



VIMS' newest research vessel, the 43-foot R/V *Tidewater* (left), will replace the 29-foot R/V *Fish Hawk* (right) as the primary platform for VIMS' juvenile fish and blue crab abundance surveys. *Tidewater* photo courtesy of David Malmquist (VIMS). *Fish Hawk* photo courtesy of Mary Fabrizio (VIMS).

information about modeling approaches useful in addressing issues of changing catchability. Researchers and fisheries managers from Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina attended the one-day meeting, which featured presentations by Verena Trenkel (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea [IFREMER], Nantes, France), James Thorson (NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA) and Eric Ward (NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA). Participants were introduced to various modeling techniques and geostatistical approaches to detect, predict, and properly adjust fisheries data in the presence of random and environmental variability. The workshop was funded by NOAA Sea Grant.

VIMS Begins Paired-Tow Calibration Experiments for New Trawl Survey Program Vessel

VIMS recently purchased a new research vessel, the R/V *Tidewater*, whose primary mission is to conduct monthly assessments of juvenile fish

and blue crab abundance in Virginia's estuaries. The *Tidewater* will replace the R/V *Fish Hawk*, which has been in continuous use by the VIMS Trawl Survey program since 1990. The program, which began in 1955, is currently directed by Mary Fabrizio and managed by Troy Tuckey at VIMS. As of May 2014, both vessels have been fishing the waters of Chesapeake Bay and the James, York, and Rappahannock rivers in a paired-tow experiment that will permit calculation of calibration factors for the major species of interest. These calibration factors are critical to ensuring the long-term continuity of recruitment surveys in Virginia. The study is funded by NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office, the VMRC, and VIMS.

Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife Center Develops New Protocols for Freshwater Mussel Propagation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland

Virginia, continued

Fisheries have pooled their resources to rebuild populations of freshwater mussel populations in rivers that drain into the Atlantic Ocean by establishing the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife Center (VFAWC) at Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery in Charles City, VA. The VFAWC is a cooperatively-managed facility focused on developing protocols for culturing declining and imperiled freshwater mussel species endemic to Atlantic Slope rivers.

Freshwater mussels are important filter-feeders essential for maintaining good water quality in rivers, which ultimately benefits estuaries downstream. "Many freshwater mussel populations have declined over the past century or more due to land use practices, pollution, stream fragmentation, and other negative impacts," explained Michael Odom, USFWS Manager of Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery. "There's an identified need to develop propagation techniques for producing mussels for recovery and restoration actions, including reintroduction of species to areas where they have been extirpated," he said.

The challenge is that for many of the species endemic to the east coast, culture techniques have not been developed. The VFAWC was established to address this need to produce large numbers of tagged sub-adult mussels for stocking. Tagging entails gluing an external tag to the mussel's shell once it reaches a length of ≥ 30 mm to identify the individual



Each freshwater mussel produced at VFAWC, such as these alewife floaters (*Anodonta implicata*), is labeled with an external tag prior to release into the wild. Photo courtesy of Rachel Mair (USFWS).



VFAWC biologists found that American eels can serve as hosts for larval Carolina slabshells (*Elliptio congaree*), enabling the propagation of adults, shown here. Photo courtesy of Rachel Mair (USFWS).

as being of hatchery origin.

Freshwater mussels have a complex parasitic breeding strategy that relies on fish hosts to enhance upstream dispersal of larval mussels (glochidia), thus maintaining the species' geographic position in the river. In addition to upstream transport, the fish hosts provide needed nutrients for the glochidia to transform into free-living juveniles. The parasitic stage can last from a few days to several weeks, depending on the species and on water temperatures.

Of particular interest to members of the Tidewater Chapter may be the work that VFAWC has done with mussels that use diadromous fishes as hosts. VFAWC has developed a successful protocol for propagating the alewife floater (*Anodonta implicata*). When VFAWC began working with this mussel, its only known host fish was the alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*). VFAWC identified that other fish species could serve as a host for this mussel,

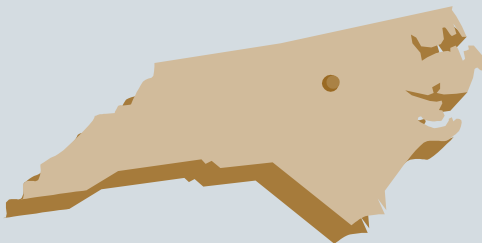
including blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*). This spring's production of alewife floaters at VFAWC (using blueback herring as a

host) has been well in excess of one million juveniles, which are now being grown out at the hatchery for eventual release in the wild.

The Carolina slabshell (*Elliptio congaree*) is a mussel of southern rivers that is often absent above dams, which led malacologists to suspect that a migratory fish may be its host. Because at least one other member of the *Elliptio* genus is known to use the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) as a host, VFAWC biologists did an initial small propagation attempt this spring using elvers as a host and were rewarded with transformed juvenile mussels. Staff at VFAWC will expand trial efforts with larger eels, which have proven to be better hosts for the eastern elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*).

"It's exciting to uncover new knowledge," Odom said. "I continue to be amazed at the ecological links among species. Diadromous fishes benefit from improved water quality provided by these mussels, and the mussels are dependent on the diadromous fishes for reproduction."

North Carolina State Update | Jacob Boyd



Striped Bass Stock Status

The Albemarle/Roanoke (A/R) striped bass, *Morone saxatilis*, stock has been reclassified to the stock status of "concern". The stock is currently not being overfished but with trends in landings falling since 2004 and several years of poor recruitment classes, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) is concerned with the viability of the stock. The new A/R striped bass stock assessment is scheduled to be approved at the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in August with reductions in harvest limits necessary to stay in compliance with the Fishery Management Plan.

Red Snapper Carcass Collection

The NCDMF collected red snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, carcasses again this year during the very limited recreational season to supplement the National Marine Fisheries Service's data being used for the upcoming red snapper stock assessment. The recreational season opened for three, three-day weekends in July and recreational fishermen were instructed to leave the carcasses in freezers with the head and tail

intact. Biological data that are lacking for this species such as age (otoliths), lengths, and weights are able to be assessed through this program. The need for this program and the lack of biological samples comes from the current moratorium on the red snapper fishery.

North Carolina Sea Grant Fellowship Program

North Carolina Sea Grant is offering a fellowship program to provide graduate students the chance to spend a year working with the NCDMF on a critical management topic facing important marine resources. Co-sponsored by NCDMF, the Marine Fisheries Fellowship is open to graduate students nearing completion of, or who have recently completed, their advanced degree program at southeastern universities and colleges from Maryland to Texas.

Specific fellowship projects provide a professional education and training opportunity while assisting the state on substantive marine fisheries management concerns. Patterned after the

Knauss Policy Fellowship, this opportunity is based in Morehead City.

Applications must be received by **5 PM, August 22 2014**. For more information, contact Jeff Buckel, N.C. State University, at 252-222-6341 or jabuckel@ncsu.edu or Michelle Duvall, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, at 252-808-8011 or michelle.duvall@ncdenr.gov.

New State Record Jack Crevalle

A new state record jack crevalle, *Caranx hippos*, was caught 65 miles off Wrightsville Beach, NC on April 2, 2014. The monster weighed 49 pounds and 1.6 ounces and measured 43 inches fork length with a 30 inch girth! This surpasses the former state record of 47 pounds but does not come close to the world record of 66 pounds and 2 ounces set in 2010. The fish was caught on a 6-foot Shimano Trevala rod with a Penn 7500 Spinfisher reel using a gold butterfly jig and 65-lb test braided line.



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North Carolina, continued**Helping Preserve the Rachel Carson Reserve**

As we all know habitat plays a crucial role in the estuarine ecosystem for all organisms including my favorite—fish! The Rachel Carson Reserve is a component of the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve in Beaufort, NC. It is a beautiful stretch of beach and salt marsh that is home to wild horses and provides habitat for fish, shellfish, and birds. I personally enjoy looking over at the reserve watching the horses run while enjoying a cold beverage on the

boardwalk in historic downtown Beaufort. In June 2014, a group of volunteers planted saltmarsh cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*, behind an oyster reef on the reserve that was constructed in 2012 to prevent erosion and help mitigate wave energy. The planting event was led by researchers from the reserve and NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science along with the North Carolina Coastal Federation and the University of North Carolina's Institute of Marine Science. The busy volunteers and partnering agencies planted 5,000 plants in one afternoon. I would say that was

a great success! For more information, contact Carolyn.Currin@noaa.gov.

<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/news/climate/volunteers-enhance-living-shoreline-rachel-carson-national-estuarine-research-reserve/>

University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Student Subunit Update | *Alex Atkinson*

The University of Maryland subunit has been quite eventful recently. First off, we must congratulate Sarah Rains for successfully defending her MS thesis, which evaluated the potential for sperm limitation in blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay. We also had some new faces take over executive duties; they are Alex Atkinson (President), Andrea Sylvia (Secretary), and Brian Gallagher (Treasurer). The AFS Tidewater meeting in Newport News, VA back in March was a resounding success, with subunit members Carlos Lozano, Brian Gallagher, Matt Siskey, Cara Simpson, Andrea Sylvia, Dave Kazyak, and Andre Buccheister all giving oral presentations about their recent research. Matt won third place (along with a nice plaque and a check) in the Best Student Presentation awards for his talk on bluefin tuna age structure in the North Carolina winter fishery. Four students received GEC travel funds to attend the meeting: Brian Gallagher, Matt Siskey, Cara Simpson, and Andrea Sylvia.

This spring, the subunit has met twice, each time discussing a recent paper in fisheries science, with another set to be evaluated this July. More recently, the subunit helped organize and set up a display at the

Bernie Fowler Wade-in on June 8th and the St. Mary's County Crab Festival on June 14th. At both of these events, we talked to folks about some of the research focuses here at the lab, particularly fish and shellfish in Chesapeake Bay. Similar to these events last year, we had a display tank which was full of fish (at the

how fish and shellfish tend to prefer structured habitats, where they can hide from predators. Kids especially had a good time trying to find all the fish or crabs that we had in the tank, as many of them were hiding in the nooks and crannies of our artificial oyster reef. In addition, the CBL seine survey, which has been run by

Dr. Dave Secor's lab for 16 years now, kicked off in May and will continue every week until October.

We're hoping to be more active on our subunit blog in the coming months, and we hope to report



Brian Gallagher, Matt Siskey, and Jenna Luek posing with their new towels at the Patuxent River Bernie Fowler Wade-In event June 8, 2014.

Wade-in) or blue crabs (at the Crab Festival), with one half of the tank covered with oyster shells and vegetation and the other half bare. The idea here was to demonstrate

back soon with posts detailing the research currently being done by our subunit members. Stay tuned!

Duke University Student Subunit News | *Julia Livermore*

DukeFish, the Duke University student subunit of AFS, had a very busy spring semester, kicking off with Ocean Awareness Week and culminating with master's project presentations.

Duke's Ocean Awareness Week was a collaborative effort with three other student groups (The Ocean Policy Working Group, The Coastal Society, and the Student Association of Wetland Scientists) that featured a full week of educational events for Duke students and community members. DukeFish hosted the kickoff event, a screening of the award-winning documentaries *Ocean Frontiers I* and *II*, from which attendees learned about U.S. ocean stewardship, conservation, and offshore energy in New England. At our second event, Duke University Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab research scientist Dr. Andre Boustany spoke about the management, policy, and legal aspects of Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries. Students found Dr. Boustany's tagging research to be fascinating, spurring a captivating discussion about the future of Atlantic bluefin tuna management.

At the Duke University Nicholas School's Earth Day celebration, DukeFish hosted a fishing game to raise community awareness about the amount of bycatch associated with certain fishing gear. Durham community members were excited to try their

hands at 'catching' some 'fish' but were startled to learn that some real fishing methods are as indiscriminate as those in our game.

The semester culminated with some of our graduating members' master's project presentations, including talks on spinner dolphin conservation, baseline acoustics, wastewater injection wells, geospatial analyses of fisheries data, and much more.

For the fall semester, plans are well underway to return to the North Carolina Seafood Festival this October, where for the past seven years DukeFish has enjoyed great success interacting with the community and selling our renowned fish tacos as a fundraiser. Our locally-harvested seafood will be provided by Walking Fish, the Community Supported Fishery created by DukeFish members in 2008.

Incoming DukeFish officers are spread across the country this summer for a variety of internships. Megan Ware (Durham Vice President) is working for the Southern Environmental Law Center as their fish consumption advisory intern. Megan Rickard (Beaufort Vice President) and Caitlin Adams (Treasurer) are working as marine mammal protection and fisheries policy interns for the National Resources Defense Council in Santa Monica

and New York City, respectively. Jaya Ghosh (Secretary) is serving as the Ocean and Vessels Program intern for Friends of the Earth. Alexis Bolton (Historian) is the sustainable fisheries intern for the Environmental Defense Fund in Raleigh, NC. Julia Livermore (President) is working as the climate-fisheries research/ecosystem modeling intern at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Inquiries can be emailed to Julia Livermore at julia.livermore@duke.edu.

Introducing Tidewater's New President Elect | *Scott Baker*



commercial fishermen and the general public about fisheries observing with respect to stock assessments and protected species interactions.

Prior to joining Sea Grant, Scott worked primarily on Gulf of Mexico grouper and red snapper research projects, most of which involved collaborative research and monitoring with industry. He spent two years as a biological science technician with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Panama City, FL followed by seven years at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. Scott holds a master's in oceanography and coastal sciences from Louisiana State University and a bachelor's in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Scott is looking forward to hosting the 2015 Tidewater meeting at the NC Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores along with the generous planning assistance offered by local Tidewater Chapter members! In fact, the dates are already set for a return to the Thursday to Saturday meeting format, March 5-7, 2015. With the Aquarium as a backdrop and budget friendly accommodations at the newly renovated Hilton Doubletree Atlantic Beach just down the street, Scott hopes to break attendance records, or at the minimum, put together a great meeting for all.

Scott Baker has been a Fisheries Specialist with the North Carolina Sea Grant Extension Program since October 2003. Based at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, his primary responsibility is to create and deliver extension programming to address the needs and concerns of recreational and commercial fishermen in North Carolina and the South Atlantic region and "bridge the divide" between data producers, data users, and managers. Scott's programming has varied through the years and has included projects tailored to the specific needs of the marine fishing community. Past projects have included development of a text message based reporting approach for recreational anglers, evaluation of electronic video monitoring systems for the snapper grouper commercial fishery, and development of a series of workshops for NC seafood dealers to learn about direct and alternative marketing strategies. Current projects include development of a webinar series to replace the NC Marine Recreational Fisheries Forum and partnering with NC Division of Marine Fisheries to educate





Treasurer's Report | Stephanie McNerny

After finalizing expenses from the 2014 Annual Meeting in Newport News, Virginia, the Tidewater Chapter made over \$750, which included \$314 from the raffle. Virginia Sea Grant also made a generous donation of \$1,500 to help offset annual meeting costs. The current checking account balance includes a refund check from the AFS Parent Society (\$447), a rebate check from the AFS Parent Society (\$40.80), a refunded deposit check from the Mariner's Museum (\$300), and payments made to cover mailing costs of plaques to recipients not able to make it to the annual meeting (\$89.87). The Chapter was also able to cover the hotel and airfare costs of our Chapter President to represent the

Tidewater Chapter at the 2014 Southern Division meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

If you are not currently a member of the Chapter but would like to join, a membership form can be found on the Chapter website or you can email me at Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov. Annual dues for 2014 are \$10.00. A lifetime membership is available for a onetime fee of \$150.00 and should be sent to:

Stephanie McNerny
TWC Secretary/Treasurer
209 Brigantine Ct.
Cape Carteret, NC 28584

Please make checks payable to: "Tidewater Chapter AFS."

Current Financial Report

Checking:	\$14,328.56
Mutual Fund:	\$ 1,608.89
Total:	\$15,937.45

Current Tidewater Membership by State *

Delaware (2%)

Lori Brown

Timothy Targett

Maryland (23%)

P. Brice

Andre Buchheister

Brian Gallagher

Bill Goldsborough

Lonnie Gonsalves

Reginal Harrell

Edward Houde

David Kazyak

Ron Klauda

Jules Loos

Carlos Lozano

Thomas Miller

Mike O'Brien

David Secor

Suzan Shahrestani

Bradley Stevens

Marek Topolski

James Uphoff

E. Eugene Williams

North Carolina (20%)

Scott Baker

Samantha Binion

Jacob Boyd

Jeffrey Buckel

Jody Callihan

Tim Ellis

Ernie Hain

Todd Kellison

Evan Knight

Stephanie McNerny

Warren Mitchell

James Rice

Kyle Shertzer

William Smith

Thomas
Thompson

Douglas
Vaughan

New Jersey (4%)

Thomas
Grothues

Roland Hagan

Jenna Rackovan

New York (1%)

John Cooper

Virginia (7%)

Heather Harwell

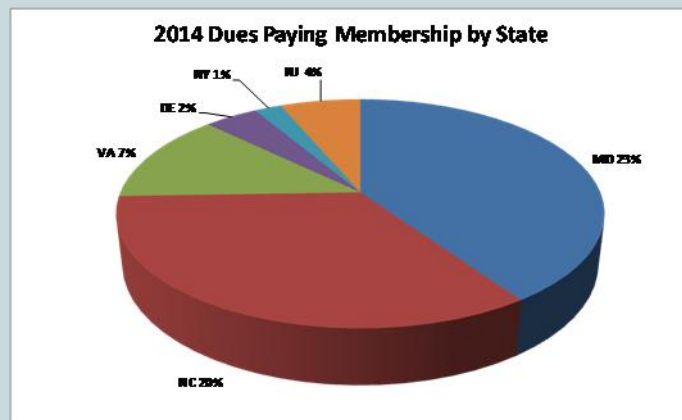
John Musick

Lauren Nys

David Rudders

Jessica Thompson

Alan Weaver



* Membership as of 3/23/2014. If you paid dues through the parent society after this date, you may not be included in this list.

AFS Tidewater Chapter Executive Committee

President: Jessica Thompson

President-Elect/ Program Committee

Chair: Scott Baker

Past President/ Nominating Committee

Chair: Mike Wilberg

Treasurer/ Secretary: Stephanie McNerny

At-Large Members

North Carolina: Jacob Boyd

Virginia: Willy Goldsmith

Maryland: Bob Murphy

Student Subunit Presidents

Duke: Julie Livermore

ECU: Nick Tolopka & Zach Gillum

UMCES CBL: Alex Atkinson

UMES: inactive

UNCW: inactive

Awards & Scholarship Committee Chair:

Ron Klauda

Webmaster: Chad Smith

Newsletter Editor: Laura Lee

2014 AFS Annual Meeting Heads to Québec City!

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Northeastern Division, the Atlantic International Chapter and the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the AFS, cordially invite you to attend the 144th Annual Meeting that will be held in Québec City from 17 to 21 August 2014.

Located on the bank of the St. Lawrence River, Québec is one of the world's most beautiful cities. The area's European appeal and North American lifestyle, complete with a storied history, thriving art scene, and vibrant French-speaking culture, make it truly one of a kind.

The "Joie de Vivre" and hospitality of Québec City's people is part of everyday life. Wherever you go, you'll be welcomed with open arms, and the proverbial warmth for which Québec City is famous.

A hop, skip and jump from downtown, visitors are already in another world – there's a whole outdoor playground to discover. Talk about nirvana for sports enthusiasts! In town or in the great outdoors, a pair of walking shoes will take you far.

Visit <http://afs2014.org> for more information.



Get updates via the Chapter **LISTSERV**



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