

Tidewater Press

Newsletter Of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 20 Issue 4

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2005 Tidewater AFS EXCOM

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President's Corner



By the time this newsletter reaches you we will only be a couple of weeks away from our 20th Annual Tidewater AFS meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. Anthony Overton, our President Elect, is doing an outstanding job planning and

organizing this milestone meeting (and earning the coveted oyster toadfish award). Anthony has informed me The Sheraton Resort and Hotel Convention Center is a top notch facility and he has arranged for an excellent banquet dinner followed by live entertainment for the Friday evening social. Now all we have to do is keep up our end of the bargain and supply membership support for the meeting in the form of attendees and presentations. If you don't have anything to present at this time I invite you to attend anyway. You may make some important connections or at the very least you'll hear and see some quality presentations. Anthony will have more on the meeting later in this issue.

The annual meeting is also the time when our chapter instates our newest slate of officers. In order for this to occur we must first hold an election. Bios on our nominees and a brief on our polling system will follow in our Nominating Committee Chair's report. Turnout for our elections is historically horribly low so don't forget to vote! It is important and your vote does count.

Quite a bit has happened within the chapter over the past year. We have two new Student Subunits up and running (UMD and UNCW). We've had members of the EXCOM vacate their positions to pursue other opportunities and others jump right in and volunteer their time for the benefit of the chapter. We've even had people from outside our core geographic area join the chapter and offer to take on significant roles because they thought our chapter was a good fit with their professional interests. As a chapter president, I find these events encouraging.

I find it hard to believe that my year as TWC President is nearly over. I am thankful for this opportunity and have enjoyed my time as President. It has been very rewarding both personally and professionally. I will admit, however, that it involved more time than I anticipated. I've had the opportunity to interact with many of you and am continually amazed at the level of dedication our members exhibit in the pursuit of chapter growth and development. This is, of course, one of the things that keep our chapter productive. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to support the chapter and hope to see many of you soon in North Carolina.

-- Hank Brooks, TWC president 2005



Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Secretary Report:

There is nothing really new to report, except that I will be leaving the post of Secretary/Treasurer for the Tidewater Chapter after 3 years of service. It was becoming very difficult to attend the mid-year and annual meetings this last year as I was feverishly trying to finish my dissertation work. So thanks to those who stepped in and helped me out at those meetings that I did not attend. Unfortunately, I am still trying to finish my dissertation, which is quite hard being 700 miles away from campus. Note to self, when estimating time to complete dissertation from abroad multiply by 3. I am currently living in Rhode Island where I am working for NOAA-Fisheries as an Endangered Species Specialist reviewing the status of Atlantic sturgeon and other species.

As for accomplishments made as Secretary/Treasurer, nothing too spectacular...accounting is pretty boring. I guess my biggest achievement was researching the best way to invest our money. After literally a year of research, paper work, and meeting with financial advisors, a portion of Tidewater's money will be put into a mutual fund that will hopefully increase our interest rate 20 fold, averaging 14% gains last year and 26% over the last 3 years.

So good luck in 2006 Tidewater Chapter, you are in good hands with your incoming executive members; I am very honored to have served as your

Secretary/Treasurer for the last 3 years, thank you for the opportunity.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking:	\$5,745.95
Savings:	\$2,502.83

Sincerely,

--Wes Patrick, Tidewater Secretary/Treasurer
AFS Tidewater Chapter

IT'S HERE!!!!

20th Tidewater AFS Annual Meeting Atlantic Beach, NC January 26-28



Hello to all and Happy New Year! We are making final preparations for the 20th annual meeting in **Atlantic Beach, North Carolina at the Sheraton Hotel 26-28, January 2006.** The meeting's theme is ***"Ebbing Tides and Shifting Sands: The***

changing fisheries mosaic". We have had a tremendous paper and poster abstract submission this year, so we expect a terrific program and a very good attendance. **Please remember to make your hotel reservations ASAP before the special meeting rate is no longer available.** Also please visit the meeting website (<http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/afs2006/website/home.htm>) for updates.

Other highlights of our meeting will include a Thursday evening **Poster Session** and **Student/Professional Mixer**. Thursday night a **Fishing Tournament** hosted by the East Carolina University Student Subunit at the Sheratons private beach and pier. Our **Annual Banquet** will be held on Friday night at the hotel. There will be **Contributed Paper Sessions** all day Friday and Saturday morning. Our meeting will conclude by noon

on Saturday. The University of Maryland Student Subunit will be selling the 20th anniversary Tidewater Chapter t-shirts this year, so make sure you arrive early and snag one before they gone!



Our conference hotel, the **Sheraton Atlantic Beach Ocean front hotel**, offers first class accommodations, including great rooms, an indoor heated swimming pool, and a fully-equipped exercise room. For more information, please visit their web site at www.sheratonatlanticbeach.com.

The Sheraton Hotel and TWC-AFS have negotiated very special room rates for our conference:

Oceanview	\$59.75
Oceanfront	\$89.00
Oceanfront Suite	\$129.00

Please call 800-214-0258 or 252-222-4032 Direct Line and make your room reservations today! Be sure to tell them that you are with the "Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society". Room availability at these special rates can only be guaranteed until January 5th. Act now! For more information visit the meeting website:

<http://www.sdaafs.org/tidewater/afs2006/website/>

-- Anthony Overton, President-Elect



The Sheraton Hotel Atlantic Beach is the site for the 20th Annual Tidewater Meeting, January 26-28, 2006. Get your reservations in ASAP!

VOTE FOR TIDEWATER OFFICERS NOW!
Election results will be announced at the Tidewater Annual Meeting.

By now you should have received via email a voting ballot from James Morris. If not, please contact him immediately at james.morris@noaa.gov so that you can participate in the process. The candidates for Chapter offices, and their biographies, are listed below:

December 31	Call for nominations close.
January 9	Electronic ballots will be sent to members via the Tidewater Listserv.
January 20	Election closes.
January 27	2006 officers installed during Tidewater Chapter business meeting

Anthony Overton - President



I was raised outside of Washington, D.C., in Hyattsville, Maryland. I attended South Carolina State University on a golf scholarship, where I earned my B.S. in Biology in 1994. In 1995, I gained my first fisheries experience working as a fisheries technician on numerous projects at the Georgia

Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Georgia (UGA) under Mike Van Den Avyle. I've been hooked on fish ever since then. While at Georgia, I was a member of the Georgia Chapter of AFS and also the UGA student subunit. In 1997, I earned my M.S. in Fisheries Management from the School of Forest Resources at UGA. My thesis title was "The Effects of Temperature and Salinity on Growth and Condition of Juvenile Striped Bass".

In 1997 I moved to Salisbury, Maryland, and worked as a research assistant at the University Of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) with the Maryland Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. It was here where I first joined the Tidewater Chapter of AFS. In 1998, I entered the Ph.D. Program at UMES and completed the program in 2003. While at UMES, I helped to establish the University of Maryland Student Subunit Chapter of Tidewater AFS. I served as president from 2000 to 2002. In 2002, I moved to Greenville, North Carolina, and worked as a Research Assistant at East Carolina University (ECU) under the direction of Roger Rulifson and completed a post doc with Roger upon my graduation from UMES. Currently, I hold a tenure-track position in the Department of Biology at ECU. I teach several classes including Introduction to Marine Biology, Statistical Applications in SAS, and Fisheries Management. Currently I have two graduate students working in my laboratory.

Dewayne Fox – President Elect



which I still maintain today. I continued my education

Growing up in southern California I was exposed to fishing at an early age. After high school I enrolled at Fullerton Community College eventually earning my Associate's degree in Agricultural Science. During this time I secured my first job as a deckhand on a charter boat fishing from both San Pedro and San Diego. Eventually I earned enough sea time and tested for my Masters USCG License

at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where I earned my Bachelors degree in Environmental and Systematic Biology. At Cal Poly I gained my initial fisheries research experience working under Royden Nakamura on a project focused on the ecology of Pacific hagfish (aka slime eels). At this point I chose to make a career of fisheries and continued my education at the University of Washington earning a Master's degree working on recruitment dynamics and age and growth of YOY Pacific hake with Bruce Miller.

Deciding that working on larval and juvenile fish was trying my eyesight, I started my PhD working with Gulf sturgeon at North Carolina State University under Joe Hightower. During this time, I spent half the year in northwest Florida and southern Alabama working on rivers and nearshore Gulf waters and the remaining time taking classes in Raleigh, NC. It was during my years at NCSU that I attended my first Tidewater meeting. My next position was as a Post-Doc at the Rutgers University Marine Field Station working under Ken Able. My work at Rutgers focused on the ecology of estuarine fishes, specifically bluefish-striped bass interactions.

I took a tenure track position at Delaware State University in Dover, DE in the fall of 2003. Since moving to Delaware I have attended the past two Tidewater meetings and would like to become more involved in Chapter activities. I feel that my work and the work of my students will directly benefit from the interactions gained through the Tidewater Chapter. Because of this, we are hoping to host the 2007 Tidewater Chapter meeting in Lewes, DE in a joint effort with the University of Delaware.

Stephanie A. McInerny - Secretary/Treasurer



degree (B.S.) in Biology with a Marine Biology

I was born in Chicago, IL but have called Carteret County my home for my entire life. I graduated from West Carteret High School in Morehead City, where I first found marine science. At East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, I earned a Bachelor's

concentration in 2002. While at ECU, I worked under Dr. Roger Rulifson at the Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources on a larval fish project funded by Weyerhaeuser, participating in extensive lab and field work. I was very active in the ECU Student Subunit of AFS and served as historian for one year.

After graduation, I moved back to good old Carteret County and volunteered at the NOAA-NMFS lab in Beaufort, NC working under Jennifer Potts on age and growth of reef fish. I completed an aging project on Gulf of Mexico red drum and am the primary author on an age and growth manuscript in review. After close to a year of volunteering at the lab, I was hired on contract and started aging red snapper. I was accepted into graduate school at the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2004, where I am working towards a Master's Degree (M.S.) in Marine Biology as well as an Advanced Statistics Certificate. My thesis work consists of age and growth of red snapper and includes a sample of 5400 fish from the years 1977-2004. While in school, I continue to work full time on contract for NMFS and am also participating in a fisheries research grant looking at the status of reef fish stocks on three different sites off the coast of NC.

At UNCW, I am working with Fred Scharf and Tom Lankford to initiate an AFS Student Subunit on campus, in which we have already had a couple of informational meetings and have bylaws in campus review. Official status as a student organization should be completed in the near future.

I am very interested in being involved with the chapter to become more familiar with AFS as a whole, and as a way of networking with other fishery biologists and students. I believe my involvement with the Tidewater Chapter will also help give the UNCW subunit a strong start.

Bob Murphy -Maryland Member-at-Large



Born in Washington, DC and raised “inside the beltway” in Chevy Chase, MD, I have been a lifelong resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. My

interest in coastal ecology and all things aquatic was born out of long summers spent “chicken-necking” for blue crabs along the Atlantic coast where my grandparents had a summer cottage. Having completed high school in DC, I attended Villanova University outside of Philadelphia for two years prior to transferring to the University of Maryland, College Park. There I received my Bachelor's degree in marine biology in 1993. While at UMD, I worked in the protozoology lab of Dr. Gene Small, culturing various strains of ciliates and staining and mounting specimens. Shortly after completing my degree, I landed a job at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. I was hired as a seasonal contractor for DNR to assist with sampling for the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS). In addition to learning freshwater ecology, this was also my first exposure to the interaction of policy-making and biology as surface water health was assessed and decisions made based on biological indicators.

I left MD DNR and took a job at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, a regional nonprofit organization where I worked on habitat restoration projects throughout the Bay watershed. Initial work focused on stream classification and restoration and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration. This work accelerated my growing interest in the interaction of habitat and utilization by aquatic organisms, particularly fish. My focus shifted entirely to SAV and oyster restoration work in brackish waters where I undertook a long term study to evaluate how fish communities responded to SAV restoration over varying salinity regimes. This work eventually led me to return to school to pursue a graduate degree. I entered the MEES program in 2001 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (UMD) under the guidance of Dr. Dave Secor. My initial research project focused on the basic ecology of the lined seahorse (*Hippocampus erectus*) in Chesapeake Bay and how the species utilized eelgrass beds and other structures. I won a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) fellowship through VIMS to conduct this research in the York River. After two and a half years of small sample sizes (advice to prospective grad students: pick a species of relatively large population size) and lack of data, I was forced to reconsider my thesis topic. Fortunately for me, I had an alternative project that would serve as a nice thesis. I conducted a multivariate community analysis of the fish assemblages inhabiting the coastal bay complex of Maryland with an emphasis on spatial and seasonal variation. This work was of particular interest to me as

it included several ecological factors including habitat availability, eutrophication, and spatial differences in relatively confined systems. I completed my degree (while still working full time at ACB) in June 2005. In August 2005, I left the Alliance to form a new nonprofit organization, Ecosystem Solutions, whose focus is on habitat restoration and assessment using biological indicators (fish and invertebrate community structure) in aquatic systems. This area of work allows me to continue applied research in fish ecology and habitat restoration that can ultimately improve the condition of our living resources.

I have enjoyed my involvement as a member of the Tidewater chapter over the years as it is an excellent venue for managers, researchers, and NGO staff to share information on the state of coastal ecosystems and how this pertains to fisheries. I am especially interested in bringing an ecological perspective to fisheries science as more and more resources are allocated to multispecies management and habitat conservation. This is particularly important for students and I hope to further engage students and other potential stakeholders to become more involved with the chapter. Hobbies include fishing (like most fishery professionals), kayaking, basketball (playing), cooking, and brewing.

Jim Gartland - Virginia Member-at-Large



I was born and raised in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area, and spent my early years developing my interest in marine science on the back waters of Barnegat Bay in New Jersey. From there, I went on to receive my BS in marine science and biology from the University of Miami in 1999. In 2002, I earned a MS in marine science from the College of William and Mary, School of Marine Science (Virginia Institute of Marine Science – VIMS) in Gloucester Point. My masters thesis was entitled, “Diet composition of young-of-the-year bluefish, *Pomatomus saltatrix*, in the lower Chesapeake Bay and Virginia’s coastal ocean.” I am currently the project manager of the Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAAP)

Trawl Survey at VIMS, as well as the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) pilot survey. If you would like to contact me, my telephone number is (804)684-7564, and my email address is jgartlan@vims.edu. My mailing address is, Jim Gartland, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

Charlton Godwin – North Carolina Member At-Large



Charlton is a native of Bertie County in North Eastern North Carolina. After graduating from Ridgecroft School in 1990 Charlton worked in various fields, including restaurant management, machinist at Gregory Manufacturing Co., feed mill operator with Perdue Farms, and carpentry. He entered East Carolina University in 1997 and completed his Bachelor’s of Science degree in biology in 2001. He continued his education at ECU and completed his M.S. degree in biology under the mentorship of Roger A. Rulifson in 2004. For his thesis research, Charlton investigated fish passage through passive water control structures at Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County, NC. His thesis is titled “Performance Assessment of Retrofitted Water Control Structures at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, NC.” Charlton became involved with AFS early in his academic career and served as Vice President, President, and Co-Historian of the East Carolina University Student Subunit of AFS. Charlton is currently employed with North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as the striped bass *Morone saxatilis* biologist in the Northern District, and is based in Elizabeth City. Charlton contributes much of the success in his new career (a.k.a. finding a job out of college!) to his involvement in the ECU Student Subunit of AFS, and is currently an active member in the Tidewater Chapter. Charlton can be reached at charlton.godwin@ncmail.net.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!! PLEASE DO IT ON/BEFORE JANUARY 20!

Communications Committee

Website Reminder – don't forget to update your expertise database on the Tidewater website, www.sdafs.org/tidewater.

Tidewater Chapter ListServ - The Tidewater Chapter ListServ is up and running through East Carolina University. Here is the brief set of controls needed to subscribe or modify your subscription to TAFS ListServ:

- **To subscribe** -- E-mail to: <listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu> and enter SUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.
- **To send a message** -- E-mail to: tidewafs@ecumail7.ecu.edu.
- **To unsubscribe** -- E-mail to: <listserv@ecumail7.ecu.edu> and enter UNSUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.

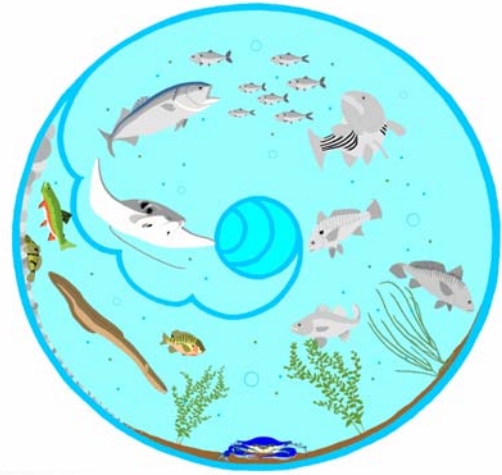
Student Subunit News



University of Maryland by Lisa Kerr

The University of Maryland AFS Student Subunit had a productive fall and we are looking to take this productivity into 2006. We are scheduling many exciting events for 2006, including a continuation of the student-run Fisheries Seminar Series hosted at UMCES-Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, with guest speaker Dr. Rob Latour (VIMS) kicking off the first seminar of the year. We are also planning a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and we are excited about attending the upcoming Tidewater Chapter 20th Annual Meeting. The subunit is also looking forward to its first major fund raising event, selling t-shirts at the Tidewater meeting. Adam Peer, UM Student Subunit Treasurer, did a great job on the t-shirt design (shown below). We wish the best of luck to student-members Laurie Bauer, Ryan Woodland, Jody Callihan, Bob Murphy, and Brandon Puckett, who recently received their Masters degrees from Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

If you are interested in getting involved in the subunit, or would like to order a t-shirt, please contact me.



Lisa A. Kerr
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East Carolina University by Dee Dee Barry.

By far, the highlight of the Fall semester for the ECU Student Subunit was hosting the 5th Annual Student Colloquium from November 4-November 6. Sixty-eight students from ECU, University of North Carolina-Wilmington,

North Carolina State University, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, West Virginia University, Auburn University, Delaware State, Tennessee Tech and University of Missouri descended upon Greenville for the weekend. There were 23 oral presentations and 14 posters of original research by both undergraduate and graduate students. Bob Curry, President-Elect Southern Division, Dr. Joseph Love from UMES and Drs. Roger Rulifson, Anthony Overton and Joe Luczkovich from ECU participated in a panel discussion where students

asked questions regarding grades and research/work experience when applying for graduate school, internships and jobs, as well as opening a discussion about hurricane impact on fisheries along the Gulf Coast. The subunit is grateful for the generous donation of \$200 the Tidewater Chapter made toward the colloquium. We believe it was a tremendous success and will soon accept application packages from subunits wishing to host the 6th Annual Colloquium.



Photographs from the 5th Annual AFS Student Colloquium opening social.

Our November business meeting welcomed Bob Barwick from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Department of Inland Fisheries. He spoke to us about “Striped Bass Spawning Assessments: Neuse River, NC”.

The ECU-AFS 7th Annual Meeting was held on December 2. Thomas Bigford from NOAA-Silver Spring Habitat Protection Division was the guest speaker with Anthony Overton, President-Elect, Tidewater Chapter and Bob Curry, President-Elect, Southern

Division were invited speakers. Mr. Bigford spoke about “Emerging Habitat Issues Affecting Marine Fish” and entertained many questions afterward.



Mr. Tom Bigford from NOAA Silver Springs gave the Banquet address for the ECU-AFS 7th Annual Meeting and Banquet December 2, 2005.

ECU Alum Lee Paramore joined us for our December business meeting. He is a Marine Fisheries Biologist with the NC Division Marine Fisheries and spoke to us about “Red Drum Research and Management in NC”.

The subunit will host a fishing tournament at the 2006 Tidewater Annual Meeting in Atlantic Beach in January. We will also accept registrations for the meeting as our own Wes Patrick, the Tidewater Treasurer, headed north for a fulltime position with NOAA. Meeting information is available on the Tidewater homepage.

The Spring semester will be much quieter than the Fall, which will allow our members to continue their research and studies. We look forward to monthly business meetings with guest speakers (Tar River Keeper Heather Jacobs in January and Dr. Jeff Buckel from CMAST in March) as well as participating in the campus fair, Barefoot on the Mall, in April. We are also trying to organize a trip to the Georgia Aquarium over Spring Break to see the two whale sharks, Ralph and Norton.

Please visit the ECU-AFS website, www.ecu.edu/org/afs, to gain additional information regarding monthly meetings, and upcoming events. You can also take a look at our growing photo album!

If you are interested in attending a meeting, holding a forum with ECU students, or presenting your research, please contact the student subunit!

We look forward to hearing from you!
-- Dee Dee Barry, President, ECU-AFS
dbb0315@mail.ecu.edu

UNC-Wilmington By Stephanie McInerny

Janie A. McGregor, a junior majoring in Marine Biology at UNCW, has been awarded a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship for 2005-2006.

The scholarship is designed to: (1) increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education and foster multidisciplinary training opportunities; (2) increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy; (3) recruit and prepare students for public service careers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other natural resource and science agencies at the federal, state and local levels of government; and (4) recruit and prepare students for careers as teachers and educators in oceanic and atmospheric science and to improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

Ms. McGregor's award provides a tuition scholarship for full-time study during her junior and senior years, and includes a 10-week, paid summer internship which she will spend at a NOAA facility.

Ms. McGregor's career interests involve the biology, ecology and conservation of marine fishes. Her undergraduate studies in UNCW's Department of Biology and Marine Biology have included a Directed Individual Study project with Dr. Tom Lankford in which she is examining the habitat ecology and recruitment patterns of marine fishes in estuarine and surf zone environments of southeastern North Carolina. She is looking forward to interacting with NOAA ocean scientists and policy makers, and learning about the process of ocean stewardship.

Students interested in learning more about the Hollings Scholarship Program will find information and application materials at
<http://www.orau.gov/noaa/HollingsScholarship/>.
(Submitted by Tom Lankford)

-- Stephanie McInerny, UNCW

Delaware News for AFS-Tidewater Chapter Newsletter by Dewayne Fox, Delaware State University - Dover, DE

Delaware: "It's good being first!" a greeting from the First State.

This is my first contribution to the Tidewater newsletter and my goal is to provide a measure of overview for research activities that are taking place in Delaware. Hopefully down the road I will be able to incorporate some input from our state management agency (DNREC) as well. Both Tim Targett (University of Delaware) and I feel that our research programs, as well as those of some of our colleagues will benefit through increased interactions with the Tidewater Chapter. This has lead to us being jokingly called "separatists" by some of our Mid-Atlantic counterparts. We are not trying to break away but merely attempting to build upon the interactions that we currently have with like-minded Tidewater types (or "Tidies" as Tim refers to you). To this end, if approved by the Tidewater Chapter, we are planning to co-host the 2007 Annual Meeting hopefully somewhere near Lewes, DE.

Delaware State University: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries

The primary focus of the work in my lab is on questions related to habitat selection, reproduction, and population dynamics with an emphasis on diadromous fishes. Most of this work is field based and utilizes telemetry (both radio and sonic). I have spent the past couple of years getting things up and running since arriving at DSU in the fall of 2003. This has involved the purchase of two bay-ocean capable skiffs and the required sampling equipment. Along with Tim Targett's group we have developed a working relationship with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve and are providing guidance for their aquatic research activities.

Both Gulnihal Ozaby and Dennis McIntosh are also involved in fisheries research at DSU. Work in Gulnhah's lab focuses on shellfish feeding ecology and harmful algae. Dennis McIntosh serves as the aquaculture extension specialist for DSU in addition to his research activities. His current marine-estuarine focus is on weakfish production and early life history. In addition he has been collaborating with researchers from MD on striped bass nutrition and energetics. Much of Dennis and Gulnihal's work is conducted at our

campus based Aquaculture Research and Demonstration Facility. Our facility includes 34 well-fed ponds (1/8-1 acre), five independent recirculating marine systems (tanks up to 5K gallons), an algal culture facility (currently maintaining 9 spp.), and over 6,000 square feet of climate controlled lab space.

We are currently developing a website for our program which should be operational in early January (<http://cars.desu.edu/aqua-sci/>)



T. Targett Lab and the UD, Graduate College of Marine Studies facility in Lewes, DE

Much of the work in my lab involves investigations of the physical and

biological environmental factors which impact habitat quality (particularly estuarine nursery ground quality) for young fishes. This research consists of both laboratory and field work, with emphasis on controlled laboratory experiments designed to isolate potentially important environmental parameters and examine, in detail, their individual and synergistic effects on feeding, growth, and survival. See

<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/cms/ttargett/>. Work in Chuck Epifanio's laboratory focuses on the biology of marine larvae and early juveniles. He is particularly interested in the physical and biological factors that drive year-to-year variation in populations of ecologically and commercially important fish and crustaceans. His work involves a combination of field observation, laboratory experiments, and mathematical modeling. See

<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/cms/cepifanio/>.

There are four primary buildings on the Graduate College of Marine Studies (CMS) campus in Lewes, DE. See the CMS website at <http://www.ocean.udel.edu/>. These facilities contain research laboratories, offices, classrooms, a library, shops and support services on our 132 acre site at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Both major research buildings have large temperature controlled recirculating seawater systems serving several wet laboratories.

About 60% of the CMS faculty (~35) and graduate students (~100) work at the Lewes campus, with the rest on the main university campus in Newark. The Lewes campus is home to our new 140 foot research vessel, the R/V *Sharp*, which is scheduled to arrive in January 2006. See

<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/ships&facilities/rvchreplacment/index.html>. The new ship will replace UD's long-sailing flagship, the 120 foot R/V *Cape Henlopen*, which has been in continuous service to the oceanographic community since 1976. There are also several small boats, including the 26 foot R/V *Captain White*, available for work in shallow water environments.



Maryland News from Erik Zlokovitz

Farewell Message:

This will be my final newsletter contribution as Maryland Member-at-Large. I have enjoyed serving as MD MAL since 1999, and have met many great

biologists and friends at our annual Tidewater meetings. The time has come for me to "pass the torch" on to another Tidewater member who will continue to maintain Maryland's connection with the Tidewater Chapter.

I will continue to be an active member of the chapter, and will stay in touch with chapter events and my good friends in the Tidewater region and along the mid-Atlantic coast from Delaware to North Carolina. However, I will not be able to attend the upcoming annual meeting in North Carolina, because I will be offshore on the 19th Annual Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, along with Dr. Roger Rulifson of ECU and biologists from USFWS, NCDMF, and ASMFC. The research vessel Oregon II will depart from Morehead city, NC on or about January 16th and return January 30th, 2006. We will be tagging as many striped bass and spiny dogfish as possible, on their overwintering grounds off the NC Outer Banks. We will also be collecting stomachs on numerous marine species in a diet study being lead by VIMS. This will be my third consecutive cruise, and some would consider me to be a glutton for punishment, since we often work in sub-freezing temperatures and rough seas. But I love

working offshore, and I always jump at an opportunity to work on the ocean off NC in wintertime, when it is teeming with a variety of fish, diving seabirds (including my favorite: the Gannet), and marine mammals.

MDDNR Striped Bass Project:

Striped Bass Stock Assessment (SBSA) Project staff is currently conducting checkstation sampling of the Chesapeake Bay commercial winter gillnet fishery, which runs from December 1st to the end of February. Approximately 1200 striped bass, per month, are measured, weighed, and sampled for scale ageing. Many watermen have moved their boats south of Annapolis, in anticipation of icing in the upper Bay, and have reported large catches near Solomons in the lower Bay. Gillnetting tends to be most productive during severe winters because the fish tend to concentrate on the bottom along the deep channel edges. The fish are most catchable with gillnet gear fished on the Bay bottom under these conditions.

Striped bass biologists will initiate the spring gillnet survey on or about April 1st. Crews will deploy multi-panel experimental drift gillnet on the upper Bay and Potomac River. The main purpose of this study is to estimate spawning stock biomass and also tag as many striped bass as possible. A survey of the recreational spring trophy striped bass fishery will begin on the third Saturday in April, which is opening day of the “Trophy Rockfish” season in Maryland.

MDDNR Matapeake Field Office, Kent Island:

Staff biologists at the Matapeake, Kent Island Field Office are conducting an upper bay winter trawl survey. This survey typically runs from mid-December to late January and uses otter trawl gear to track winter abundance and distribution of yellow perch, white perch, catfish, and striped bass in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Otoliths will be collected from yellow and white perch for ageing purposes.

In late January or early February, Matapeake staff will begin sampling the Nanticoke and Choptank river systems with experimental fyke nets. These nets are used to collect biological data and age structures on a variety of anadromous species, including yellow perch, white perch, blueback herring, alewife herring, hickory shad, American shad, and striped bass.

-- Erik Zlokovitz, MD Member-at-Large

Virginia News from Jim Gartland

VMRC – Changes to the 2006 Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament

The 49th annual Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament opened on January 1, 2006, with several changes to its Citation program. A commercial hook-and-line fishermen participating in a recreational fishing trip is now eligible to earn Citation awards, as long as the individual possesses a valid Virginia saltwater recreational fishing license and no fish taken during the trip are offered for sale or barter. These anglers were prohibited from participating in the tournament from 1995 (i.e., the year that the Virginia commercial hook-and-line license program was implemented) through 2005. Claude Bain, the Director of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, stated that this rule change now “allows everyone enjoying a recreational fishing trip to participate in Tournament programs, subject to the recreational licensing requirements.”

Several changes have also been made to the minimum qualifying standards for Citations in 2006. To earn a Citation for sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), the minimum weight was raised from 9 to 10 pounds, while the minimum length for a released fish is now 24 inches rather than 22 inches. These changes are due to the growth of the recreational fishery for sheepshead as well as to the increase in the number of citations issued for this species in recent years. The minimum Citation weight for Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) has been decreased to 4 pounds, and longfin tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) weighing at least 40 pounds now qualify. Release awards for black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*), dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*), king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), Spanish mackerel, spot (*Leiostomus xanthurus*), and wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) have been eliminated, while the Junior, Expert, and Master Angler programs all remain in place.

For more information, contact Claude Bain, mrcswt@visi.net, the Director of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing License information is available at http://www.mrc.state.va.us/regulations/recfishh&l_licensing.shtm.

VIMS – Dr. Mary Fabrizio Joins the Fisheries Science Faculty

Dr. Mary Fabrizio, former Chief of the Behavioral Ecology Branch at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), joined the faculty of the VIMS Fisheries Science Department as an Associate Professor specializing in finfish population dynamics on October 15, 2005. By filling the faculty position vacated by Dr. Herbert Austin, who retired this summer after 28 years of service at VIMS, Dr. Fabrizio becomes the principal investigator of the VIMS Juvenile Fish and Blue Crab Trawl Survey as well as the VIMS Striped Bass Seine Survey, both of which provide juvenile indices of relative abundance used to formulate fishery management plans for Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coastal ocean.

In addition to maintaining these juvenile indices, Dr. Fabrizio plans to provide insight into the behavior of individual fishes in Chesapeake Bay and the Virginia coastal ocean, especially with respect to their responses to habitat changes, using the aforementioned sampling platforms in combination with some additional field studies. This is an area of fisheries research that Dr. Fabrizio helped pioneer as Chief of the NEFSC Behavioral Ecology Branch, when she and her research team used ultrasonic tags and moored receivers to individually track several summer flounder and black sea bass disturbed by the deposition of dredge spoils off of the New Jersey coast. These types of studies “could help explain fish movement or dispersal in relation to changes in the environment or habitat,” and “can lead to a better understanding of larger scale patterns in distribution and habitat use,” states Fabrizio. Finfish behavior and habitat issues have become increasingly important in fisheries management, and it is likely that current population modeling efforts in support of fisheries management can be improved by the incorporation of these types of data.

Dr. Fabrizio served as the President of the American Fisheries Society’s Marine Fisheries Section from 2002 to 2004. She currently serves as the First Vice-President of the American Fisheries Society and is scheduled to become the President of the organization in 2007. For additional information about Dr. Fabrizio and her research, email her directly (mfabrizio@vims.edu).

--Jim Gartland, VA Member-At-Large

North Carolina News from Charlton H. Godwin

The big news in North Carolina is that Charlton Godwin is a new father! Mr. and Mrs. Charlton (Dorothy) Godwin had a baby girl for the holidays. Charlton is taking some timeoff for parental training

19th Annual Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise

The 19th annual Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, which is conducted in the Atlantic Ocean off North Carolina and Virginia, is ready to set sail right during the Tidewater Chapter meeting. So please wave to the scientists and crew aboard the NOAA R/V Oregon II as they steam out of Morehead and make their way north for two weeks of rest and relaxation. Personnel from many agencies and institutions along the east coast of the U.S. and Canada have participated in past cruises. The cruise is conducted annually to tag Atlantic sturgeon, horseshoe crabs, red drum, striped bass and spiny dogfish in partnership with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and others.

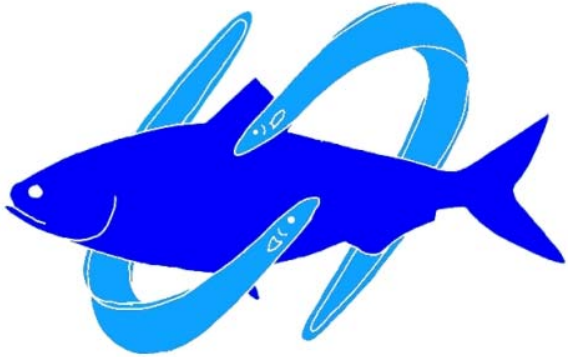
The 2006 cruise [OT-06-01 (268)] is scheduled to take place January 17 through January 30. The ship will be the NOAA research vessel OREGON II, embarking from and returning to the North Carolina State Port in Morehead City, NC.

Many of those onboard are Tidewater members. This year’s scientists include Dr. Wilson Laney (USFWS); NC Division of Marine Fisheries staff Sara Winslow, Steve Taylor, Eric Gowdy, Jeff Ferrence, and Lara Jarvis; Roger Rulifson and Kelly Register (ECU), Dr. Clif Tipton (USFWS, MD); MD DNR staff Erik Zlokovitz, Beth Versak; and Lydia Munger (ASMFC).

-- Charlton H. Godwin, NC Member-at-Large

Announcements

Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment



June 17-24, 2007, Halifax, Nova Scotia

The ANACAT II Symposium will review the current state of scientific knowledge with respect to biology, ecology, and conservation of diadromous fishes (including anadromous, catadromous, potamodromous, and amphidromous species). The symposium theme will build upon that of the very successful 1986 American Fisheries Society symposium, **Common Strategies of Anadromous and Catadromous Fishes** (*Dadswell et al. 1987. Am. Fish. Soc. Symp. 1*). However, emphasis will be shifted to address how recent alterations to the environment and human activity has affected diadromous fishes with respect to their sustainability and role in aquatic ecosystems.

The meeting will be organized as a 4½ day formal scientific symposium with 6 plenary presentations, ~40 invited/contributed papers, and a poster session.

Papers will be organized into 6 general topic areas:

- ***Climate Change & Anthropogenic Influences***
- ***Population and Habitat Restoration***
- ***Dynamic Nature of Diadromy***
- ***Contribution of Diadromy to Ecosystem Energetics***
- ***Ocean Environment & Migration***
- ***Social Ecology of Diadromous Fish Management***

A symposium Proceedings will be published through the American Fisheries Society, including full papers of the presentations and abstracts of the posters.

For more information, contact:

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