

# Tidewater Press

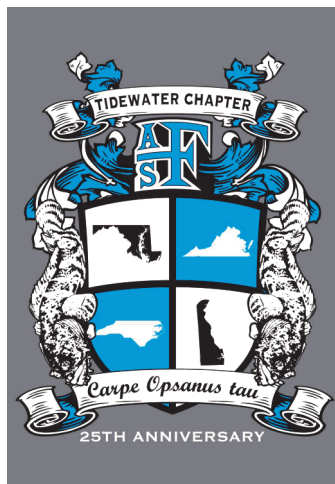
Newsletter of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

## Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Heads to Virginia

By Leonard Machut

Fellow followers of the toad-fish, the 2011 American Fisheries Society (AFS) Tidewater Chapter (TWC) annual meeting will be Mar. 10-12 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Va. Constituting the silver (25<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the TWC, we are planning for a gala event minus the formal wear!

Being held at the Loews Annapolis Hotel, its central location in historic downtown Annapolis—the capital city of Maryland—allows for an array of leisure experiences. Take a boat tour of the Chesapeake Bay, walk the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy, or dine at one of the city's many fantastic restaurants. Everything you will need is within walking distance, including the Ram's Head Tavern, a locally favorite brew pub which sports great



McINERY

*To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AFS Tidewater Chapter, T-shirts with a special anniversary logo will be for sale during the meeting.*

happy hour prices made even better when enjoyed in the beer garden.

The Thursday night welcoming poster social will be held at the Navy-Marine Corps Me-

morial Stadium, located just minutes from the hotel. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to read about some of the new and exciting fisheries research TWC members are conducting. After a day of talks on Friday, the awards/dinner social will be hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at their Philip Merrill Environmental Center—right on the shores of the Bay. The fare will be local barbeque and beverages.

Are you hooked? Have you decided that this is one meeting you cannot miss? With less than two months to go, now is the time to start making your meeting arrangements.

A block of rooms at the Loews Hotel has been secured for meeting attendees. The reduced room rate is \$99 per night (plus taxes), and reservations must be booked before see **ANNUAL** page 6

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### Opportunities:

Submit your papers to the new American Fisheries Society international, open-access, online journal *Marine and Coastal Fisheries*. Submit new manuscripts and associated correspondence at: [mcf.alltrack.net](http://mcf.alltrack.net). Or, you may also access the manuscript submission site through the American Fisheries Society's Web site: [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org).

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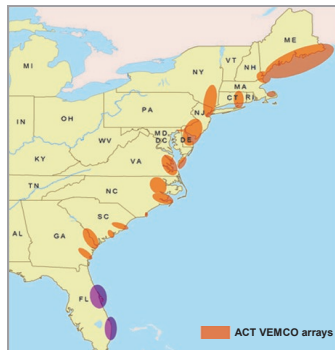
## Chapter Researchers Collaborating and Sharing Data

By Sara Mirabilio

The Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry (ACT) Network is working to maximize productivity and to ease data sharing among the region's users of passive acoustic receivers. Currently just shy of 4,000 active tags, the ACT is helping to better understand migratory behaviors and habitat usage of

*To date, the Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry (ACT) Network consists of 26 research groups from the Bay of Fundy to the U.S. Virgin Islands with receiver arrays spanning small river drainages to large coastal systems.*

35 fish species. New funding is allowing for web-portal creation. Consider sharing your transmitter code! Contact Dewayne Fox, [dfox@desu.edu](mailto:dfox@desu.edu).





## President's Corner



**By Fred Scharf**

Hello everyone! Time certainly has flown since our last newsletter, and I hope each of you had a productive field season and made it through the fall with-

out contracting the swine flu. Here in Wilmington, N.C., the flu epidemic has subsided a bit, only to be replaced by numbing cold weather, the likes of which is not often seen in this area!

The onset of the spring semester signals that our annual meeting is just around the corner. This year's meeting will be held Mar. 18-20 in Annapolis, Md. Be sure to thank Mike Luisi and staff for hosting and organizing this year's event.

Speaking of meetings, I heard that many Tidewater Chapter members participated in several—the Parent Society annual

meeting held in Nashville, Tenn., and the AFS Early Life History Section held concurrently with the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists meeting in Portland, Ore. I was not able to attend any; instead, my student, Nikolai Klibansky, and I traveled to Cadiz, Spain to participate in a workshop on gonadal histology of fishes. It was a great experience to network with and to learn from some of the leading researchers in the field of fish reproductive biology. Small, focused workshops provide an interactive experience that cannot be matched in a large conference setting, so take advantage of future workshop opportunities in your chosen research areas.

The Chapter Executive Committee held a mid-year meeting via conference call in November. We closed the books on the 2009 annual meeting, thankfully breaking near even. The meeting costs almost entirely were covered by registration fees and sponsor support.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have instituted a new membership dues structure, which took effect in January. Annual dues are now \$10 (still free for student members of our subunits) and can be paid at the annual meeting. Due to an oversight, if you paid only \$7 when renewing your membership through the Parent Society, you simply can pay the additional \$3 at this year's annual meeting. There also is the new lifetime membership option at \$150—a good deal for young professionals. I encourage many of you to consider this option.

We still are seeking nominations for officers, particularly President-Elect, and for awards; so, please consider stepping forward to serve the chapter.

Lastly, check out the redesigned chapter Web site if you have not done so; it looks great! Thanks to Chad Smith for the nice work! Looking forward to seeing everyone in Annapolis!

## University of Maryland Student Subunit News

**By Jason Robinson**

The fall semester is finally over and once again our members have been extremely productive. We would like to congratulate Kari Fenske, Jason Edwards, and Deanna Hanks on successfully completing their master's degrees this fall. We also would like to thank outgoing president, Adam Peer, and welcome new members Amanda Colton, Chris Conroy, Jennifer Humphrey, and Brian Morris to the subunit.

In August, our subunit was well represented at the Parent Society annual meeting in Nashville. Maude Livings, Adam Peer, and Kari Fenske gave oral presentations of their research, and Jennifer Barkman presented a poster. As we usher in the spring semester, we are looking forward to the upcoming Tidewater Chapter meeting in Annapolis and this year's Parent Society meeting in Pittsburgh.



SAMANTHA MAIS | UM

**University of Maryland subunit members at the Chesapeake Biological Lab holiday party.**

The three-day, AD Model Builder (ADMB) workshop that our subunit has been planning finally happened this past August at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, Md. The workshop focused on ADMB as a tool for fisheries stock assess-

ments, as well as the statistical and mathematical concepts that the software is based on. The workshop was well-attended and was extremely worthwhile. We would like to thank sincerely Assistant Professor Mike Wilberg for taking time out of his schedule to teach the workshop.

In 2010, the subunit is planning on sponsoring a speaker for the seminar series at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. We also will be helping out at the March chapter annual meeting in Annapolis.

If you are interested in getting involved with the subunit, please feel free to contact me. New membership is always welcome!

Jason Robinson, president  
UM Center for Environmental Science  
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory  
1 Williams St, Solomons, MD 20688  
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## East Carolina University Student Subunit News

By Cecilia Krahforst & Katie Kleber

The summer and fall semesters have been exciting ones for our subunit. We adopted the theme of diversity in the hopes of attracting students and faculty from a variety of coastal disciplines. Towards this end, we had Dr. Alex Manda from the Geology Department present at



JENNIFER CUDNEY-BURCH | ECU

***Ocean Adventure Campers (ages 9-11) learned how to measure, weigh and identify some common, coastal North Carolina fish. They also used dissecting microscopes to look at fish scales and otoliths.***

our October business meeting. He spoke on the hydrogeography of coastal systems and the important connection between the surface geology and the fishery. For our November meeting, Dr. Charlton Godwin from the NC Division of Marine Fisheries explained the differences between freshwater and marine stock assessments and their applications.

In July, the labs of Drs. Luczkovich and Rulifson were hosts to the Ocean Adventure Camp. The campers (ages 9-11) learned about the ecology of fish. They looked at fish food, learned some internal and external anatomy, and aged a fish. They also had the opportunity to weigh and measure fish, listen to fish sounds, and learn about how researchers use active acoustics to follow spiny dogfish migrations.

Moving into fall, the subunit participated in several volunteer activities. In September, we sent volunteers to Morehead City,



CHAD SMITH | ECU

***East Carolina University subunit members and volunteers work together to plant a rain garden in Morehead City, N.C., in Sep. 2009.***

N.C. to plant rain gardens. The subunit once again organized the annual Big Sweep river clean-up on Oct. 3. Turnout was excellent, with 75 people from campus and the local community volunteering their time. We removed 1,100 pieces of trash see **ECU** page 6

## Duke University Student Subunit News

By Jennifer Bruce

This fall proved to be a very busy one for the "DukeFish" subunit, as we launched our "Walking Fish" community-supported fishery (CSF) initiative. The pilot share, which ran from August to December, delivered over 6,000 pounds of North Carolina-caught seafood to 400 members. Members received a variety of species over the 12 weeks, including familiar species like flounder and clams, as well as local favorites like spot and jumping mullet. Members also received weekly recipes from a local restaurant, a filleting demonstration, and a reusable insulated bag. We have been overwhelmed by the positive response—fall shares sold out within three weeks, and over 800 people have expressed interest in signing up for our spring share. Walking Fish has been featured in local newspapers and on a local

NPR station, and has received the 2009 Sustainable North Carolina "Spark" Award.

DukeFish has pursued other activities in addition to our CSF initiative, such as sending six members to the Parent Society an-



UNKNOWN | DUKEFISH

***DukeFish president, Nick Mallos, introduces flounder to some young Walking Fish CSF members.***

nual meeting in September. In October, DukeFish raised money for Carteret Catch, a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting North Carolina seafood, by selling seafood tacos at the North Carolina Seafood Festival in Morehead City. The fish tacos also allowed us to educate customers on the benefits of local and sustainable fish. Finally, DukeFish sponsored two movie screenings, one of which discussed overfishing, while the other highlighted the success of the Port Clyde Fresh Catch CSF.

The coming spring promises to be equally busy, as we continue to meet with local fishermen and processors to set up the Walking Fish CSF spring share, targeted to start in March or April. Additionally, DukeFish is organizing a Duke University Marine Lab spring lecture series focusing on the state of North Carolina fisheries see **DUKE** page 6



## University of North Carolina Wilmington Student Subunit News

By Nikolai Klibansky

The fall meeting series started off strong for the University of North Carolina Wilmington student subunit thanks to a fascinating talk on the invasion of lionfish in the southeast given by Dr. James Morris of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Lab in Beaufort, N.C. Attendance was high, and Dr. Morris' presentation was well-received as evidenced by the barrage of questions that followed. We eventually had to cut off the flow of questions to let our speaker go, but not before he piqued the interest of all who attended.

Later in the fall semester, subunit members assembled in Friday Hall one evening to talk more informally about fish over pizza and various sugar-based beverages. The casual setting allowed newcomers to meet veteran subunit members, and an outgrowth was planning together the logistics for a beach seining trip at Wrightsville Beach, N.C. The following Saturday morn-

ing, an unseasonably cold October day, we suited up and pulled a seine through sheltered waters of the Intracoastal Waterway. A dozen or so species were caught in manageable numbers, so several members got their first experiences with beach seining and their first look at what lives in the shallows.

For our final meeting of the semester, members Nikolai Klibansky, Joe Facendola, and Jon Vanderfleet led a food habits workshop, open to non-members. Partici-



NIKOLAI KLIBANSKY | UNCW

***A UNC Wilmington subunit beach seining trip to Wrightsville Beach, N.C., ended with members catching nearly a dozen estuarine species like pompano and permit shown above.***

pants learned how to locate the stomach of species like black drum, southern flounder, and bluefish, and attempted to identify the contents. Expertise of participants varied broadly, and though some may have learned that they never want to look at fish guts again, the overall response was very positive. Thanks to the NC Division of Marine Fisheries for providing us with fresh specimens to work with!

Finally, we congratulate members Hillary Lane, Janie McAuliffe, and Adam Branson for successfully defending their master's theses.

To become involved or to see upcoming events, visit: <http://student.uncw.edu/org/AFS>. Or, contact:

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Department of Biology and Marine Biology  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
601 S. College Dr, Wilmington, NC 28405  
Em: [nk5371@uncw.edu](mailto:nk5371@uncw.edu)

## Delaware State University Student Subunit News

By Johnny Moore

The fall semester at Delaware State University (DSU) has been very exciting and productive. Students from DSU attended the Mid-Atlantic Chapter annual meeting held Oct. 1-2 at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

On the heels of this, the subunit again participated in the University of Delaware's annual Coast Day held at the Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Del. on Oct. 4. Coast Day gives visitors the opportunity to learn the importance of natural resources found in and around Delaware's coastal waters, while offering fun and exciting exhibits. The day was a great success, and we enjoyed telling people about the fun and exciting research we conduct at DSU. Subunit members currently are studying a broad range of species, including sand tigers, oysters, Atlantic and Gulf sturgeon, Ameri-



BRAIN RECKENBEIL | DSU

***Delaware State Univ. students listening to a poster explanation during a poster session at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Educational Partnership Program Fifth Education and Science Forum held in Washington, D.C. at Howard University from Nov. 12-14, 2009.***

can eel, weakfish—even, diatoms.

The East Coast Commercial Fishermen's Expo at the Ocean City (Maryland) Convention Center the end of January is another event that DSU students and staff are planning to attend. This event affords us an opportunity to interact with local commercial and recreational harvesters.

We would like to congratulate several DSU graduates on successfully completing their master's coursework, but particularly, active member Naeem Willett, and we extend a warm welcome to the new faces in our program. We look forward to the New Year and experiencing the exciting challenges that our research and classes give us, as well as presenting our research at upcoming meetings.

If you would like to become involved, contact Johnny Moore, president, at: [johnny\\_mo85@yahoo.com](mailto:johnny_mo85@yahoo.com).







## In Memoriam: Dr. John Olney, VIMS Professor

(Adapted from Daily Press 01/13/10)

Dr. John Edward Olney, professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), passed away Jan. 11, 2010, at his home in Gloucester, Va., after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 62.

Professor Olney was first employed at VIMS in 1972 and joined the faculty in 1979. During his 36-year career, he specialized in zooplankton ecology, fisheries science, and the early life history and evolution of fishes. He was widely known as an expert in the identification of young stages of fishes and published and taught extensively in this field. During the course of his career, he published 75 papers in technical journals, including numerous book chapters.

He headed the VIMS Anadromous Fishes research program and was a well-known expert on the biology and conservation of American shad. Along with his students and collaborators, he published 25 papers on American shad and was prin-



DAILY PRESS WEB SITE

**Dr. John Olney, Virginia Institute of Marine Science professor and long-time Tidewater Chapter member, passed away Jan. 11, 2010.**

and offering his knowledge and expertise to many students at VIMS and other institutions. His service to college governance was extensive and included appointments to the Academic Affairs, Planning and Resources, and Executive Committees of the William & Mary Faculty Assembly. Within the School of Marine Science, he served as

principal advisor to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on decisions related to shad management in Virginia.

Professor Olney was a respected teacher and advisor, serving as major professor to 22 graduate students

Chair of both the Academic Council and Educational Policy Committee, and was a member of the Academic Status and Degrees, Library Advisory, and Admissions Committees. He served as Fisheries Science Department chair from 2006 to 2009.

Active in numerous professional organizations, John Olney is the only person to receive all three of the American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter's special awards—Conservation Award (2003), Excellence in Fisheries Education (2005), and Meritorious Service (2008).

Friends, family and colleagues valued his culinary talents. For years, he cooked for VIMS students at their fall fundraiser, as well as for faculty at their annual seafood fest. Springs brought promise of morel mushroom hunting in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a ritual that he practiced for over two decades.

He is survived by his wife, Lee Larkin; son, John Olney Jr.; daughter, Susan see **OLNEY** page 6

## In Memoriam: Dr. Edwin Cooper, Past AFS President

(Adapted from Centre Daily Times 11/06/09)

Edwin L. Cooper, 90, died at Omega House in Houghton, Mich., Nov. 3, 2009. Edwin was born in Utica, Mich., on Aug. 31, 1919. He was united in marriage to Margaret E. Simmons on Dec. 20, 1941. In 1945, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after serving the medical administrative corps in Iceland during World War II.

He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan. He was the director of the Pigeon River Trout Research Area near Gaylord, Mich., from 1948 to 1952, and the chief aquatic biologist at the Wisconsin Conservation Department in Madison from 1952 to 1956.

He joined the faculty of the biology department at the Pennsylvania State University as an associate professor in 1956, and



COURTESY OF JOHN COOPER, SON

**Dr. Edwin Cooper, president of the American Fisheries Society in 1971 and long-time Tidewater Chapter member, passed away on Nov. 3, 2009.**

numerous professional

he was promoted to professor in 1962. He retired in 1983.

A specialist in the study of fish, especially trout, he and his colleagues produced the first computerized data bank on the fishes of Pennsylvania. They also assembled and preserved a collection of the fish of Pennsylvania.

Active in numerous professional organizations, he

served as president of the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists from 1968 to 1970 and as president of the American Fisheries Society in 1971. He is the author of numerous publications in scholarly journals and of the book *Fishes of Pennsylvania and the Northeastern States*.

He and his wife Margaret moved to the Bluffs in Houghton, Mich., in 2006. He is remembered by his family and friends for his sense of humor and generosity. Edwin is survived by his wife, Margaret; his daughter, Marilyn, of Houghton, Mich., his son John, of Constantia, N.Y., and two sisters, Evelyn Ayres, of Waterford, Mich., and Anita Mundy of Lake Orion, Mich., as well as by nieces and nephews and his many friends. In lieu of flowers, friends may make a donation to Omega House, in Houghton, Mich.



## Treasurer's Report



### By Stephanie McNerny

The Tidewater Chapter (TWC) checking account balance is \$7,393.98, which includes a \$500.00 withdrawal for the 2010 annual meeting poster social deposit. The Chapter's mutual fund currently is valued at \$978.40. This reflects a rise in value since March 2009. The mutual fund valued at below \$600 at that time, but by June it was near \$800. It is still the decision of the TWC Executive Committee not to pull the money out of the stock market while we are at a loss.

The 2008 taxes have been filed, and the 2009 taxes will be filed around April 2010. TWC student subunits do not need to file a tax return, because they do not have their own Tax Identification Number (TIN). They are considered part of the Chapter's in-

come. If they get a TIN for themselves, they will need to file a separate return. If the subunit presidents have questions about tax returns, please e-mail me at: Stephanie.McNerny@ncdenr.gov.

As of Jan. 1, 2010 dues have increased from \$7.00 to \$10.00 annually, and a lifetime membership is being offered for \$150. The chapter currently is working on getting this change updated on the Parent Society's Web site. If you already have paid your TWC 2010 dues at the time of Parent Society renewal, you still will owe \$3.00. This can be tendered at the TWC annual meeting Mar. 18-20 in Annapolis. If you are not attending the meeting and would like to pay your dues difference or new dues in total for 2010, please e-mail me at the address above, and I will give you the address for your payment. Checks should be made payable to "Tidewater Chapter AFS."

If you are not currently a member of the

Chapter but would like to join, visit the TWC Web site at: [www.sdafs.org/tidewater](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater), click on the "Membership" tab, and download a membership form. Or, again you can e-mail me.

### Financial Report Summary:

Checking:	\$7,393.98
Mutual Fund:	\$ 978.40
Total:	\$8,372.38

### Signed up for Chapter LISTSERV?

1. To subscribe — E-mail to: [TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU) and enter **SUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS** in the body of the e-mail.
2. To send a message — E-mail to: [TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU).
3. To unsubscribe — E-mail to: [TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:TIDEWAFS@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU) and enter **UNSUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS** in the body of the e-mail.

### ECU continued from page 3

from Green Mill Run (a tributary of the Tar River) and the surrounding landscape.

The subunit continues to help send students to national conferences. In August, three students attended the Parent Society meeting in Nashville, Tenn., two of which presented their graduate work. Cecilia Krahforst received the John E. Skinner Memorial Award for travel to the conference. In October, two students attended the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation conference in Portland, Ore. One student presented research on food web analysis of Core Sound, N.C. We are looking for-

ward to this spring's AFS Southern Division and Tidewater Chapter meetings.

On Jan. 15 we held our annual banquet with featured guest speaker Dr. Nathan Brennan from Mote Marine Laboratory. Approximately 60 people attended, including subunit members, faculty and staff, and various professionals from state and federal agencies. Several students presented their research at the poster session held prior to the formal dinner. We would like to thank East Carolina University's Biology Department for their support!

Please visit our Web site for further details and periodic updates, as well as to join our LISTSERV: [www.ecu.edu/org/afs/](http://www.ecu.edu/org/afs/).

### DUKE continued from page 3

and bycatch alternatives.

To find out more about DukeFish events, visit our Web site: [www.dukefish.org](http://www.dukefish.org). Or, contact President Nick Mallos at: 717/576-1083 or [njm15@duke.edu](mailto:njm15@duke.edu).

### OLNEY continued from page 5

Napiecek; brother, Willard Olney; sisters, Sylvia Kelley and Amelia Hellman; and grandchild, Andrew Blatnik. Memorial gifts can be made to the VIMS Foundation/John Edward Olney Endowment.

### ANNUAL continued from page 1

Feb. 16 to guarantee availability and rate.

Registration and abstract submission is open until Feb. 19. All registrations received after this date will be charged a \$10 late fee. Registration fees for this year's meeting are as follows: \$90—full meeting (professional), \$70—full meeting (student), and \$45—one day (all categories).

To download a registration form, visit: [http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/fish/AFS\\_Registration\\_10/form.asp](http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/fish/AFS_Registration_10/form.asp). Other meeting details can be found on the TWC Web site: [www.sdafs.org/tidewater/AFSTidewater/Home.html](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/AFSTidewater/Home.html)

Please note that membership dues are not included in the registration fee for this year's meeting. You will be able to renew your membership at the meeting registration desk. An inventory will be available when you pick up your registration materials for ease in determining any dues owed to the Chapter. Also, due to a miscommuni-



## Did you hear?

### OYSTER RESTORATION IN MARYLAND

Annapolis, MD—Governor Martin O'Malley (D) recently announced Maryland's draft Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan, hoping to rebuild a sustainable native oyster population in significant portions of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. One of the big challenges in oyster fishery management is the establishment of a private oyster aquaculture industry, while maintaining a more targeted and scientifically managed wild oyster fishery. The average number of Maryland oystermen for the period 2005-2008 was 529; there were over 2,000 as recently as the mid-1980's. The reported oyster harvest in 2008-2009 was approximately 100,000 bushels, down from 2,000,000 in the 1980's, and as much as 14 million in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Part of the plan establishes expanded oyster sanctuaries, increasing the no-harvest reefs from 9% to 24% of restored reefs. Approximately 600,000 acres will be newly available for leasing (except for shellfish health closure areas, distance setbacks, shipping channels, etc.), including 95,524 acres of formerly off-limit natural oyster bars. Aquaculture leasing would not be allowed in the proposed public shellfish fishery areas. This proposal would maintain 167,720 acres of natural oyster bars for the wild oyster fishery, including 76% of the remaining quality oyster habitats. Source: Gov. Office Press Release 12/3/09.

### MARYLAND BREAKING RECORDS

Annapolis, MD—The year 2009 was a busy one for breaking state records, with a total of eight state records broken during this year's fishing season. Broken records include: rock bass (1.41 lbs) caught May 4 by Earl Jenkins, III; thresher shark (642 lbs) caught Jun. 19 by Brent Applegit; mako shark (876 lbs) caught Jun. 20 by Jim Hughes; cobia (72 lbs) caught Jul. 25 by Chris Toner; scalloped hammerhead shark (254 lbs) caught Aug. 5 by Jamie Gill; blue marlin (1,062 lbs) caught Aug. 5 by Robert Farris; and golden tilefish (62 lbs) caught

Oct. 22 by Steve Doctor.

Source: MD Fisheries 2009 Year In Review

### MARYLAND LICENSE BUY-BACK

Annapolis, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) has purchased and permanently retired more than 530 Limited Crab Catcher (LCC) commercial crabbing licenses through its LCC Buy-Back Program. To further reduce latent effort (fishing effort that is not currently deployed), the agency also is proposing a change in regulations governing the LCC License. The license program, which was launched in July, works on a first-come, first-served basis. With \$3 million in Federal disaster funding dedicated to the program, the agency will continue to pay \$2,260 per license until the budget is either exhausted or has reached 1,327 purchases, more than one-third of the 3,676 existing LCC licenses.

Source: [www.thebaynet.com](http://www.thebaynet.com) 11/2/2009.

### VIRGINIA LICENSE BUY-BACK

Newport News, VA—The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) will buy back 359 commercial crab licenses this year, which will remain permanently retired in the future. This is part of a rebuilding effort resulting in the removal of 75,000 crab pots from Virginia waters, a reduction of nearly twenty percent. Bids made from the fisherman for their pots will be paid by a 6.7 million dollar federal fund supported by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Source: VMRC Press Release 11/23/09.

### VIRGINIA STRIPED BASS OUTLOOK

Gloucester, VA—According to the Juvenile Striped Bass Seine Survey conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed will experience an average young-of-the-year recruitment of striped bass into the adult population for 2010. The Survey recorded an average of 8.4 stripers per haul in 2009, slightly higher than the historic average of

7.5 fish per haul. This is one of the longest running VIMS surveys, conducted annually since 1967. Source: Dave Malmquist, VIMS.

### NCSU MARICULTURE FACILITY OPENS

Raleigh, NC—On Dec. 11, N.C. State University opened their new Marine Aquaculture Research Center near Marshallberg, N.C. Principal investigators include N.C. State professors Dr. Tom Losordo and Dr. Harry Daniels, as well as N.C. Sea Grant extension specialist Dr. Marc Turano. Staff will work cooperatively with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration researcher, Dr. James Morris. The lab will enhance the university's teaching capabilities on the coast, as well as offer opportunities for students to participate in ongoing research projects. Two funded projects will help to jumpstart the program—study of a new technology to treat salty effluent, a project funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Fishery Resource Grant program administered by N.C. Sea Grant; and study of the inclusion of soy in the diets of marine fish, funded by the N.C. Soybean Growers Association.

Source: NCSU Comm. Services 12/16/09.

### CAROLINA OYSTER RESTORATION

Belhaven, NC—The N.C. Coastal Federation has partnered with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries; scientists from N.C. State University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; N.C. Sea Grant and local contractors to revitalize oyster beds along the Pamlico Sound, N.C. Two large oyster sanctuaries, covering over 47 acres, will be created with 54,000 tons of stone. The reefs will not be harvested so as to serve as nurseries for oysters and valuable fish species. Scientists will measure a suite of ecological measures of "success": oyster density, size and frequency in existing and newly created habitat; settlement of oyster larvae on oyster shells over time; species diversity and reef use as habitat; and any positive correlation to recreational fishing opportunities (catch per unit effort). Source: *Washington Daily News* 11/22/09.



Check out the new Web site: [www.sdafs.org/tidewater](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater)

**Tidewater Chapter**  
American Fisheries Society  
Maryland - Virginia - North Carolina



The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

The Tidewater Chapter is composed of members of the fisheries community from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. The Tidewater Chapter membership is quite diverse with expertise ranging from inland to offshore fisheries.

SPOT CHECKING WEBSITE! SOME PAGES MAY NOT BE VIEWABLE!

Welcome to the new Tidewater Chapter Website! Take a look around to get familiar with the new layout. If you find dead links or errors, please contact me.

Become a Member  
AFS  
Join Today

AFS Tidewater Chapter Website | Developed and Maintained by Chad Smith | Updated: July 23, 2009



**Congratulations to President Fred Scharf for the birth of his baby boy, Lincoln Patrick, on Jan. 2, 2010!**

The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) encourages the exchange of information by those residing, working in, or having a professional interest in the estuarine and coastal fisheries of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the States of Maryland and North Carolina.

Tidewater Officers include:

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*Editors' Note: We welcome comments on the new newsletter and Web site formats!*



## Still Seeking Nominations for Chapter President-Elect

**By Sara Mirabilio**

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Tidewater Chapter is seeking nominations for a Virginia member to serve as President-Elect. This person chairs the Program Committee and would oversee all arrangements for the 2011 annual meeting to be held in Virginia. The President-Elect assumes the presidency upon expiration of the current president's term, so nominees must be willing to serve if elected.

Candidate bios and ballots will be in the registration packets at the upcoming Chapter annual meeting Mar. 18-20 in Annapolis, Md., so that officer installation can occur at the Business Meeting held in conjunction.

Send the name of your nominee, a brief bio, and a description of why they are deserving to be president, to President Fred



[HTTP://WWW.FIND WALDO.COM](http://www.findwaldo.com)

**The Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society still is seeking nominations for a Virginia member to serve as President-Elect. Main responsibilities will be hosting the 2011 annual meeting. Consider serving your chapter today!**

Scharf at [scharff@uncw.edu](mailto:scharff@uncw.edu) by Friday, Mar. 12. Remember that self-nomination is possible and often encouraged.

Also, we presently have members serv-

ing in each of the other officers' roles, many of which are willing to continue serving, but that should not preclude the nomination of another individual interested in serving the chapter. Ideally, we will have multiple individuals nominated for each position. Chapter officers consist of President, President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer may hold office for a period longer than one year, but the term of the other officers is one year. There also are At-Large members for each member state.

For more information about officers and duties visit the Chapter Web site at: [www.sdafs.org/tidewater](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater) and click on the "Bylaws" tab. A current listing of officers can be found under the "Officers" tab.