

*American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter ~*

*Celebrating Twenty-Five Years!*

**Volume 26, Issue 2**

**Summer 2011**

## Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Great Success

**By Leonard Machut**

The Tidewater Chapter (TWC) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) held its annual, and silver anniversary (25<sup>th</sup>), meeting Mar. 10-12, 2011 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Va.— just across the river from historic Yorktown and its Revolutionary War battlefields.

The three-day meeting, organized by VIMS fisheries scientist and incoming chapter president Leonard Machut, brought together close to 85 researchers from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and even Delaware, as well as from

16 different academic institutions, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental groups, to share findings from their studies of fish and fisheries. Research ranged in subject matter from headwater streams of the Appalachians, to the Chesapeake Bay, to the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

A Thursday evening poster social held in VIMS Waterman Hall kicked off discussions. Talks concluded on Saturday around noon leaving plenty of time to visit local points of interest or to begin travels back home.

A full day of talks on Friday

was followed by a late afternoon TWC business meeting. Ron Klauda, awards committee chairman, presented non-paper awards. Awards for best student oral and poster presentations followed at the evening social at the Freight Shed on the Yorktown waterfront. (See inside awards spread.)

Thanks go to our meeting sponsors—the Virginia Sea Grant, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and the VIMS fisheries science department, staff of which also deserve thank you's for volunteering their time to put this meeting together. See you all this March in North Carolina!

### *Opportunities:*

The National Sea Grant College Program is seeking applications for the 2012 National Marine Fisheries Service—Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowships in Population Dynamics & Marine Resource Economics. Materials should be submitted to state Sea Grant programs by Jan. 20, 2012. Find more information at: [www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/rfp.htm](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/rfp.htm) l#nmfs.

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## Boyd Named Tidewater Chapter President-Elect

**By Sara Mirabilio**

Jacob Boyd, a fisheries technician for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF), has accepted the post of Tidewater Chapter president-elect. He will join Leonard Machut (president), Mike Luisi (past president), and Stephanie McNerny (secretary/treasurer) as Chapter officers.

Jacob was born and raised in New Bern, N.C. and earned his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). He spent his final semester off campus immersing himself in the study of estuarine ecology, and coastal law and policy at see **Boyd** page 8

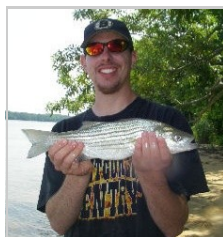
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RULIFSON LAB WEBSITE



## President's Corner



**By Leonard Machut**

Greetings to all! I hope the summer field season proved rewarding for all. I managed to keep my head above water, though my office desk certainly strained under the weight of worked placed upon it. Well-familiar to you, Tidewater Chapter members, the hours often are long, and the pay, never quite equal to what we think we are worth. But, there are many moments that make working in fisheries enjoyable; nay, fantastic! One of those notable moments occurred to me earlier this summer.

As many know, I am the co-principal investigator for the Virginia juvenile striped bass seine survey, a program that monitors juvenile reproduction of one of the sentinel species of our Tidewater region. In recent years, there has been increasing concern regarding stripers in Chesapeake Bay. Maryland has had lower than average annual recruitment, while Virginia's numbers have been average.

Along the coast, recreational anglers are experiencing decreased catches and voicing concerns about the species' health and sustainability. Disease remains a concern.

During the first round of this year's monitoring, I boated up to a seine location on the Pamunkey R. wondering what this year was going to be like. My team and I had found considerable numbers of striped bass in both the Rappahannock and James rivers, but the York R. watershed index sites always bring us back to earth. Hopping out of the boat, I pulled the seine downstream and then hauled out. My crew and I stood dumbfounded. The net was a shimmering mass of flopping, vibrant fish. We counted over 2,500 juvenile striped bass. To put this into perspective, the previous high catches for the forty-plus year old survey were around 240 striped bass. To say I was giddy was an understatement. And lest you determine this was just an outlier, other stations suggest that, although it is still early, this is going to be a good year for striped bass recruitment.

This story is not meant solely to trumpet the striped bass, but rather, to exemplify

how enjoyable it can be to get away from news reports about failing economies and political strife and to get onto the water to do a job we all love—to protect, to conserve, and to enhance fisheries resources along our waterways, and to get one heck of a tan while doing it.

While in our jobs we sometimes get caught up in some things we do not particularly care for—reasons to bang your head against the keyboard—remember to look up and around at the good occasions your job has brought or hopefully will bring you, be it a mess of fish in a seine net, a somewhat goofy looking but proudly hung Chapter toadfish plaque, or just good colleagues. Here is to hoping each one of you has your striped bass moment!

In closing, since this is the first newsletter following our annual meeting in March, I would like to take one more opportunity to thank our meeting sponsors, as well as all the individuals at VIMS and throughout the Tidewater Chapter community for their essential help in making the meeting a success. See you all this coming March in North Carolina!

## University of Maryland Eastern Shore Student Subunit News

**By Jamila-Dawn Payton**

This past six months members of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore American Fisheries Society Student Subunit were incredibly busy in the field, lab and classroom.

Spring 2011 saw members head to Virginia to attend the American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting in Gloucester Point, Va. Subunit member Whitney Dyson fetched second place for her poster on *Hematodinium* sp. presence in Maryland coastal bays.

The subunit proudly hosted on Apr. 1, 2011 the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Aquatic and Fisheries Science Symposium at the Paul S. Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center located near As-

sateague Island. This year we worked to grow the annual event over last year's successful meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center Research Day.

Later in April, the subunit embarked on a new avenue to get younger students interested in fisheries by hosting a youth fishing derby and presenting various hands-on activities for kids who were not fishing, such as water quality testing and species identification. We garnered support from the Girl Scouts of America, Chesapeake Bay Council, and Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP).

There were many research projects going on in the coastal bays during the

summer. A MCBP intern assisted subunit member Rehab Elfadul, a doctoral student under the direction of Dr. Ali Ishaque, collect fish and water samples. Rehab is conducting research on the effects of pharmaceutical chemicals in the coastal waters.

Looking to the fall, the Maryland Coast Day and Assateague Island Cleanup will be Sep. 17, 2011. We hope, yet again, to join other local environmental groups in removing garbage off the beach. We also hope to showcase our fish collection.

For more information regarding subunit goings-on, contact Jamila Payton, president, at: [jamiladawn.payton@gmail.com](mailto:jamiladawn.payton@gmail.com). Or, at: [afs.umes@gmail.com](mailto:afs.umes@gmail.com).





## University of North Carolina Wilmington Student Subunit News

**By Nikolai Klibansky and Steve Midway**

The University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) student subunit ended the 2010-2011 academic year with strong attendance at both regional meetings and subunit activities.

On Feb. 9, 2011, we hosted speaker Bryn Tracy from the N.C. Division of Water Quality's Stream Fish Community Assessment Program. Mr. Tracy spoke about his work documenting rare, endemic North

Carolina fish.

A number of students traveled to Virginia in March for the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Tidewater Chapter annual meeting March, including Steve Midway, who won awards in both the poster and oral presentation categories.

In May, we were honored to host the AFS Early Life History Section's Larval Fish Conference. Faculty advisor Dr. Fred Scharf was on the local organizing commit-

tee, and UNCW approved the subunit's request for four student registrations!

Looking to the future, we unfortunately have to put the subunit on hiatus due to membership attrition. We will not be meeting regularly and have no subunit plans for the upcoming academic year.

Steve Midway, the last president, will continue to serve as the contact person and to manage the Listserv, etc. He can be reached at: [srm8757@uncw.edu](mailto:srm8757@uncw.edu).

## East Carolina University Student Subunit News

**By Annie Dowling**

The New Year ushered in not only new leadership for East Carolina University's Student Subunit (ECU-AFS), but a new logo, as well! But in keeping with the "old," the spring semester brought the annual February ECU-AFS banquet—now in its twelfth year! The annual banquet provides a great opportunity for students to network with fishery professionals, professors, alumni and students, and is open to the public. A poster session where student members present their research is followed by a catered meal and guest speaker. We were privileged to have Dr.

Casselman, from Queens University, who is an expert in conservation physiology and an all-around great guy!

Also in February, ECU-AFS partnered with the ECU chapter of The Coastal Society to co-sponsor a campus-wide screening and panel discussion of the film "Sun Come Up" by filmmaker Jennifer Redfearn. This film focuses on the inhabitants of Pacific islands that are threatened by climate change.

We exhibited strong representation at local and national meetings and conferences. Ten ECU-AFS members attended the Tidewater Chapter annual meeting held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, Va. Four members delivered oral presentations while four others presented posters. Plus, at the annual Chapter business meeting our very own Jacob Boyd received the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship and was elected Chapter president-elect. We also helped send a few members to several other great conferences, some of which specialized in elasmobranchs and larval fish.

In the spring, we had a table with fun fishy facts and games at an ECU event called "Barefoot on the Mall." A pre-exams stress relief campus "party," the event is a great opportunity for campus groups and organizations to educate students about



ECU-AFS WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY

**Many members of the East Carolina University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society attended the Tidewater Chapter annual meeting Mar. 10-12, 2011 in Gloucester Point, Va.**

what they do and recruit members.

The subunit also continued to carry out its mission of service and outreach with participation in the Grifton Shad Festival where we provided for "fishing" in our kiddie pool and answered questions about fisheries science, as well as volunteering at the local food bank. This summer, the Take A Kid Fishing Day provided a chance to inform both children and their parents of our research on recreational fishing. We helped encourage catch-and-release and explained that fisheries management regulations are important for preserving resources for future generations.

see *Awards* page 8



*The new logo for the East Carolina University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society designed at the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year but as unveiled at their annual banquet held Feb. 11, 2011.*







## Student Presentations Carry A Successful Chapter Annual Meeting

By Ron Klauda

Student presentations again carried a successful Tidewater Chapter annual meeting. Not surprisingly, 54 percent of attendees were students. A total of 29 presentations—13 posters and 16 oral papers—were evaluated and scored by six, volunteer judges. Criteria included importance to the fisheries profession (45 points), verbal presentation (25 points), audiovisual presentation (15 points), discussion stimulation (5 points), Abstract and Title (5 points), and other considerations (5 points). The judges scores were summed to determine the best presentation. In both the poster and oral paper categories, the judges selected first-, second- and third-place winners. The winners were:

**First Place Poster: Brandon Rowan**, Old Dominion University (Dr. Gauthier, adviser), for his poster entitled, "Finding Animal Reservoirs in Chesapeake Bay for the Striped Bass Pathogens *Mycobacterium pseudoshottsii* and *Mycobacterium shottsii*"

**Second Place Poster: Whitney Dyson**, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (Dr.



JOHN COOPER | COOPER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

(l to r) **Christian Conroy**, **Amanda Colton**, **Steve Midway**, **Jennifer Martin** and **Whitney Dyson**, student poster and oral presentation winners at the 2011 Tidewater Chapter annual meeting in Gloucester Point, Va., Mar. 10 - 12, 2011. **Brandon Rowan** not pictured.

**Pitula**, adviser), for her poster entitled, "A PCR-based Assay for Detection of Hematodinium sp. in Sediment and Water from the Maryland Coastal Bays"

**Third Place Poster: Steve Midway**, University of North Carolina Wilmington (Dr. Scharf, adviser), for his poster entitled, "Determining Intra-ovary Developmental Differences in Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*"

**First Place Talk: Christian Conroy**, University of Maryland (Dr. Secor, adviser), for his talk entitled, "Diversity of Early Life History Habitat Use by Age 0 Striped Bass Collected in Tidal Fresh Habitats in the Patuxent River Estuary, Maryland, USA"

**Second Place Talk: Amanda Colton**, University of Maryland (Dr. Miller, adviser), for her talk entitled, "An Evaluation of Synchronization in the Dynamics of Blue Crab Populations in the W. Atlantic Using Fishery Dependent Data"

**Third Place Talk: Steve Midway**, University of North Carolina Wilmington (Dr. Scharf, adviser), for his talk entitled, "Updating Size and Age at Maturity Schedules for Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*, North Carolina"

In addition, Jennifer Martin (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) received an Honorable Mention award for her artistic presentation in delivering her oral paper entitled, "Ethnotaxonomy of Lampridiform Fishes in Japan: Lost Without Translation".

A special "thank you" to our six judges!

## Boyd Awarded Fourth Ever Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship

By Ron Klauda

The Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship is awarded periodically to an outstanding graduate student currently enrolled in a fisheries or closely related curriculum who has displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional endeavors, and public outreach/community service. The award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton—a long-time member of the American Fisheries Society and fourth president (1989) of the Tidewater Chapter.

Recipients receive an engraved plaque and \$250. The award is presented periodically at the Chapter annual meeting. This year, the award went to Jacob Boyd, a M.S. candidate in Biology at East Carolina Uni-



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**Awards and Scholarship Committee chairman, Ron Klauda (R), presents Jacob Boyd (L), East Carolina University, with an Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship at the annual meeting Mar. 10-12, 2011 in Gloucester Point, Va.**

versity. His major professor is Dr. Roger

Rulifson. Jacob's graduate research is focused on the "Maturation, Fecundity and Spawning Frequency of the Albemarle/Roanoke Striped Bass Stock". In addition to taking graduate courses, carrying out his research project, and volunteering for numerous education and outreach events, Jacob also works full-time at the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in Morehead City.

Applications for this coming year must be received by Jan. 27, 2012. Please send an application and recommendation forms to Ron Klauda,

c/o MD Department of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue, C-2  
Annapolis, MD 21401

For more information, contact Klauda, 410-260-8615 or rklauda@dnr.state.md.us.



## 2011 Tidewater Chapter Awards; Call For 2012 Nominations

**By Ron Klauda**

The Awards and Scholarship Committee presented awards to several deserving individuals at the American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter (TWC) annual meeting Mar. 10-12, 2011 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, Va. Specific awards given were:

This year's Conservation Award recipient was Jack Travelstead. The award is given periodically to a TWC member, resource management agency, corporation, or non-profit organization who has distinguished themselves through notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities. Jack is Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Fisheries Management with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. He has been with VMRC since 1981 and Fisheries Chief since 1984. Jack's department is



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*Awards and Scholarship Committee chairman, Ron Klauda (R), presents Jack Travelstead (L), V.A. Marine Resources Commission deputy commissioner and Fisheries Management chief, with a Tidewater Chapter 2011 Conservation Award at the annual meeting Mar. 10-12 in Gloucester Point, Va.*



JOHN COOPER | COOPER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

*Awards and Scholarship Committee chairman, Ron Klauda (R), presents Dr. Don Kelso (L) Professor Emeritus at George Mason University, with a Tidewater Chapter 2011 Excellence in Fisheries Education award at the annual meeting Mar. 10-12 in Gloucester Point, Va.*

responsible for the management of Virginia's saltwater fisheries, both finfish and shellfish, recreational and commercial. His department also manages Virginia's artificial reef system, water access projects, and the popular Saltwater Fishing Tournament. In addition to serving as Virginia's designated state representative to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Jack also takes time to visit various academic institutions to lecture students on fishery management practices, promote habitat conservation, and encourage students to pursue fisheries management based on sound science. Jack was one of the 23 founding members of the Tidewater Chapter back in late 1986.

This year's Excellence in Fisheries Education award went to Dr. Don Kelso. The

award is given periodically to a TWC member who has achieved excellence in teaching and in student advising in fisheries science, and who encourages student participation at TWC annual meetings. Don is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. During his long career in Fisheries Education, Don established an impressive track record as an educator and mentor. He served as a major professor for more than 40 students, and on scores of master's and doctoral committees. In addition, he advised, trained and inspired hundreds of students in his classes that focused on biological oceanography, ichthyology, ecology and coral reefs. Don's influence on his many students is best captured in this statement from the person who nominated him for this award, "His teaching style embraces both experiential learning in ecological studies and the iterative nature of field activities. His students at once embrace his high standards for learning and his gentle, respective nature. For those students who have gone on to become educators themselves, Don continues to inspire them to bestow a deep understanding of ecological principles and to provide their students the opportunity to get their hands dirty in the pursuit of science."

The Meritorious Service award—given periodically to a TWC member for unswerving loyalty, dedication and service to the TWC, and for their exceptional commitment—see *Awards* page 8

## Nominations Also Sought for Tidewater Chapter President-Elect

The American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter is seeking nominations for a member, preferably from Maryland, to serve as president-elect. This person chairs the Program Committee and oversees all arrangements for the annual meeting. The president-elect assumes the presidency upon expiration of the current president's

term, so nominees must be willing to serve on if elected.

Candidate bios will be in the winter newsletter. Voting will be through the Listserv. Officer installation will be at the March Chapter annual meeting.

Send the name of your nominee, a brief bio, and a description of why they are de-

serving to be president, to Nominating Committee Chairman Michael Luisi, [mluisi@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:mluisi@dnr.state.md.us), by Dec. 16, 2011.

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.





## Twenty-Five and Going Strong: Chapter Celebrates “Silver” Anniversary

**By Sara Mirabilio**

The Tidewater Chapter (TWC) – composed of members of the fisheries community from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina – is celebrating its silver (25<sup>th</sup>) anniversary in 2011!

The TWC of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) began as a seed of an idea in 1985 with creation of a steering committee, under the leadership of Paul Anninos, appointed to investigate the feasibility of a Southern Division subchapter that would address the informational needs of students and professionals working in coastal waters of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. The temporary slate of officers consisted of President Paul Anninos, Vice President Roger Rulifson, and Secretary-Treasurer George LaPointe.

In September of 1986, the AFS general membership gave approval to form the TWC at the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Providence, R.I. There were 50 original members, each paying \$3 to join. These Founding Members included from Maryland—Mary Ellen Dore, Robert Early, Virginia Fay, Margaret Johnson, Stephen Jordan, Larry Lubbers, James Martin, Steven Minkinen, Richard Morin, Charlie Wooley; from Virginia—Paul Anninos, Sarah Bellmund, Eleanor Bochenek, David Byrd, Jane DiCosimo, William DuPaul, Greg Garman, Mark King, George LaPointe, Jon Lucy, Maurice Lynch, Roger Mann, Ronda Mansour, Brenda Norcross, Mitchell Norman, Wally Parolari, Michael Prager, Ed Sismour, Ron Southwick, Gary Swihart, Jack Travelstead, Beverly Weeks, David Wyanski; and from North Carolina—Sandra Burk, Tony Capehart, Linda Clements, John Cooper, Laura Cowan, Doug DeVries, Bill Hettler, Sean McKenna, E. Sturgis Payne, Allyn Powell, Jeff Ross, Roger Rulifson, Joseph Smith, Mike Street, Lynn Russell Weaver, Sara Winslow, and Charles Wilson.

Since those inaugural efforts, TWC members have worked to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by ad-

vancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

Founding members arranged for the first annual meeting in 1987 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Va. Not a single year since then has been missed. And interestingly, VIMS continues to lead the way, surpassing all other institutions, in hosting the annual meeting five times!

A listing of past presidents includes:

*Paul Anninos*, Va. (Oct. 1985—Jan. 1987)  
*Roger Rulifson*, N.C. (Jan. 1987—Oct. 1987)  
*John Cooper*, N.C. (Oct. 1987—Jan. 1989)  
*Eileen Setzler-Hamilton*, Md. (Jan. 1989—Dec. 1989)  
*Ron Southwick*, Va. (Dec. 1989—Feb. 1991)  
*John Merriner*, N.C. (Feb. 1991—Feb. 1992)  
*Ron Klauda*, Md. (Feb. 1992—Jan. 1993)  
*Rick Eades*, Va. (Jan. 1993—Jan. 1994)  
*Chuck Manooch*, N.C. (Jan. 1994—Jan. 1995)  
*Ed Christoffers*, Md. (Jan. 1995—Jan. 1996)  
*Price Smith*, Va. (Jan. 1996—Jan. 1997)  
*Joe Luczkovich*, N.C. (Jan. 1997—Feb. 1998)  
*David Secor*, Md. (Feb. 1998—Mar. 1999)  
*John Olney*, Va. (Mar. 1999—Mar. 2000)  
*Chris Batsavage*, N.C. (Mar. 2000—Mar. 2001)  
*Jim Uphoff*, Md. (Mar. 2001—Feb. 2002)  
*Alan Weaver*, Va. (Feb. 2002—Feb. 2003)  
*James Morris, Jr.*, N.C. (Feb. 2003—Jan. 2004)  
*Ann Barse*, Md. (Jan. 2004—Feb. 2005)  
*Hank Brooks*, Va. (Feb. 2005—Jan. 2006)  
*Anthony Overton*, N.C. (Jan. 2006—Feb. 2007)  
*Dwayne Fox*, Del. (Feb. 2007—Mar. 2008)  
*Jack Musick*, Va. (Mar. 2008—Mar. 2009)  
*Fred Scharf*, N.C. (Mar. 2009—Mar. 2010)  
*Michael Luisi*, Md. (Mar. 2010—Mar. 2011)

The following is a summary listing of TWC non-paper award recipients since records started being kept in 1993. Except for the Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship (\$250), all awardees receive an engraved plaque.

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE

*John Cooper* (1996)  
*Rick Eades* (1998)  
*Bill Rodney* (2001)  
*Fred Harris* (2004)  
*James Morris, Jr.* (2005)  
*Roger Rulifson* (2006)  
*John Olney* (2008)

### EXCELLENCE IN FISHERIES EDUCATION

*Roger Rulifson* (1999)  
*Eileen Setzler-Hamilton* (2000)  
*Dave Secor* (2004)  
*John Olney* (2005)  
*Tom Lankford* (2006)  
*Ed Houde* (2010)

### CONSERVATION

*John Olney* (2003)  
*Ken Paynter* (2003)  
*Wilson Laney* (2004)  
*Beth Versak* (2004)  
*Ed Houde* (2005)  
*Mike Naylor* (2006)  
*Robert “JJ” Orth* (2007)  
*Karl Blakenship* (2010)  
*Jim Uphoff* (2010)

### SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL

*Joe Loesch* (1993)  
*John Cooper* (1993)  
*Ron Klauda* (1998)  
*Ron Klauda* (2003)  
*Roger Rulifson* (2004)  
*Erik Zlokovitz* (2005)  
*Bob Murphy* (2006)  
*Stephanie McInerny* (2007)

### EILEEN SETZLER-HAMILTON

*Jennifer Cudney* (2002)  
*Janet Nye* (2005)  
*Cecilia Krahforst* (2010)

Twenty-fifth anniversary t-shirts are still available for purchase for only \$10, which includes shipping. To place an order, e-mail Pres-elect Jacob Boyd at [Jacob.Boyd@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Jacob.Boyd@ncdenr.gov). Be sure to include your shirt size and mailing address. Payment instructions will then follow.







## Did you hear?

### SUMMER FLOUNDER DEEMED VIABLE

*Morehead City, N.C.*—The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries declared summer flounder “viable” in its 2011 Stock Status Report released this past summer. Summer flounder had been listed as “recovering” since 2009, and according to the latest assessment by the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Science Center, the stock is no longer overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Fishing mortality has steadily decreased and the stock has generally increased since the early 1990s. Fisheries managers are lauding this as truly a fisheries management success story. In other changes in stock status this year, striped bass in the Central/Southern Management Area moved from “depleted” to “concern” due to the lack of a useable stock assessment. However, the stock continues to show signs of low abundance and an absence of older fish, and the division believes regulatory restrictions need to continue. Also, bay scallops changed from “recovering” to “concern.” While bay scallop abundance has shown improvement from the no harvest period from 2006 to 2008 and seasonal openings have occurred in some areas since, the main harvest season did not open in 2011 due to limited availability. Finally, Atlantic menhaden changed from “viable” to “concern” based on a corrected version of a 2010 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission stock assessment that found that the coast-wide stock is not overfished but is experiencing overfishing.

Source: NCDMF Press Release 7/5/11.

### CHES BAY BLUE CRAB YET REBUILDING

*Newport News, Va.*—A new scientific assessment of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab population released indicates significantly more work needs to be done to fully rebuild the stock to sustainable levels. The new assessment from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reveals that, while the stock has increased substantially in response to three years of rebuilding efforts by Virginia, Maryland and the

Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the stock was more depleted than originally believed and will take longer to rebuild than had been expected. The new stock assessment sets a new healthy-species abundance level of 215 million female crabs, with overfishing occurring if 34 percent of the female crabs are harvested in a year. Put into context, this means that fishery managers have only come close to achieving this level of female abundance three times over the past 22 years - in 2010, 1993 and 1991.

Source: VMRC Press Release 8/9/11.

### NEW MD OYSTER FARM PERMIT

*Annapolis, Md.*—Long-awaited “streamlining” of the tangled state and federal red tape Maryland watermen must navigate for permission to establish oyster farming operations finally took effect Monday. Instead of seeking approvals from three separate state agencies and then the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, watermen now can file a single, joint state-federal application with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. While the Corps still must issue a separate approval, it has agreed to a simplified “Regional General Permit” that federal officials say should shorten the process.

Source: Baltimore Sun 8/15/11.

### OBAMA HONORS CHAPTER PAST PRES

*Washington, D.C.*—President Obama named 94 researchers as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. Awardees are selected for their pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology and their commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education, or community outreach. This year’s recipients included Dr. James A. Morris, Jr., located at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s

Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research in Beaufort, N.C. Dr. Morris is a past president of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (Feb. ‘03—Jan. ‘04) and a recipient of the Chapter’s Meritorious Service award (2005).

Source: White House Office of the Press Secretary 9/26/11.

### NC FISHERY RESOURCE GRANTS RFP

*Raleigh, N.C.*—The North Carolina Fishery Resource Grant Program, administered by N.C. Sea Grant, invites members of the fishing and research communities to submit proposals for funding in 2011. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 14, 2011. Proposals should include North Carolina citizens who are actively involved in commercial or recreational fishing, the charter boat industry, aquaculture/mariculture or the handling of fish products. E-mail applications should be sent to [srebach@ncsu.edu](mailto:srebach@ncsu.edu). Or, mail signed applications and support letters to: North Carolina Sea Grant, NC State University, Box 8605, 1575 Varsity Drive, Flex Lab Bldg. Module 1, Raleigh, NC 27695-8605. All principal investigators must participate in a pre-submission conference with a Sea Grant representative. Final award decisions will be made no later than April 30, 2011. For more information visit: <http://www.ncseagrant.org/home/research/grantsfellowships>.

Source: NCSG Press Release 10/13/11.



*While sharks are feared as being man killers, they only kill about six to fifteen people a year. This is far less than other seeming “safe” animals such as elephants (500 people a year) and deer (100 people a year). In*

*fact, more people are killed by Christmas tree lights and lightning than sharks.*





## Treasurer's Report



### By Stephanie McInerny

After all expenses for the 2011 annual meeting were paid, the Tidewater Chapter (TWC) checking account balance was \$12,479.98—well above our newly decided operating budget of \$7,500. Formerly \$4,500, this new base from which to operate accounts for the raised cost of hosting an annual meeting.

The checking account balance of does not include monies to be received or donated on future dates. Dues rebate checks in the amount of \$334 and \$64.80 should be on their way from the Parent Society in the near future and will be deposited once received. The Tidewater Chapter EXCOM will be discussing a \$500 donation to the Mississippi Chapter to help sponsor the 2012 Southern Division annual meeting in Biloxi, Miss., Jan. 26-29, 2012. Since the Chapter made money from our 2011 meet-

ing in Virginia, we should have plenty of money to make this donation.

At the last executive committee (EXCOM) meeting, I reported that the value of our mutual fund was remaining relatively flatline with only modest gains. The EXCOM still agrees that it would not be wise to pull money out when we are at a loss, so the mutual fund will stay open and continue to be monitored. We are exploring other options, such as a money-market account for new surpluses in monies; or, to even replace the current checking account. Financial advice welcome!

### Financial Report Summary:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Checking:    | \$12,479.98 |
| Mutual Fund: | \$ 1,142.27 |
| Total:       | \$13,622.25 |

Please do not forget to pay your 2011 TWC dues! Annual dues are \$10.00. A lifetime membership is available for a one-time fee of \$150.00. Checks should be made payable to "Tidewater Chapter

AFS." Please mail payment to:  
Stephanie McInerny  
TWC Secretary/Treasurer  
209 Brigantine Ct.  
Cape Carteret, NC 28584

If you are not currently a member of the Chapter but would like to join, visit the TWC website at:

[www.sdafs.org/tidewater](http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater) and click on the "Membership" tab to download a membership form. Or, you can e-mail me at [Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov).

.....  
• All memberships are for a  
• calendar year. Any payments  
• received later than September 1<sup>st</sup>  
• will be processed for  
• membership beginning January  
• 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Join  
• the AFS Tidewater Chapter  
• today!  
• .....

### Boyd continued from page 1

the Albemarle Ecological Field Site (AEFS) in Manteo, N.C. While at the AEFS, he completed an internship with NCDMF.

After graduating in 2006, he began working with NCDMF as a Fisheries Technician II. He worked on the Striped Bass Monitoring Program in Elizabeth City, NC where they conducted an Independent Gill Net Survey and juvenile seines and trawls. He currently works for NCDMF out of the Morehead City office in the ageing lab. He began his graduate degree in 2009 at ECU working with Dr. Roger Rulifson. His thesis work includes maturation, fecundity, and spawning frequency of the Albemarle/Roanoke striped bass stock. He plans on finishing by the end of the year. He resides in Beaufort with his wife Amanda, his son Benjamin, and their dog Ryder. He is an avid outdoorsman and Carolina basketball fan.

### ECU continued from page 3

Looking to the fall, we will participate in Big Sweep which is an event conducted state-wide to clean up Tarheel watersheds. The ECU-AFS is responsible for organizing the clean up of Green Mill Run, a small stream that flows adjacent to campus.

To join or for more information about the subunit, contact President Annie Dowling at [dowlinga10@students.ecu.edu](mailto:dowlinga10@students.ecu.edu).

### Awards continued from page 5

ment to the programs, objectives and goals of the TWC—was not presented this year.

Please help the Awards and Scholarship Committee by nominating deserving individuals for these awards. Send nominations, complete with brief description of why you think they deserve the award, by Jan. 27, 2012 to Ron Klauda, chairman, at: [rklauda@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:rklauda@dnr.state.md.us).

## "UFOs": Unidentified Fragile Objects

### By Sara Mirabilio

John Cooper, Cooper Environmental Research, needs help in identifying worm-shaped objects collected from a stream riffle in northern N.Y. Five to seven millimeters long, these objects appear to be calcified. The original color was white; the

red comes from the sample preservation method and staining. More information is available at: [www.cooperenvironmentalresearch.com](http://www.cooperenvironmentalresearch.com).







## A Who's Who For The Tidewater Chapter

**By Stephanie McInerny**

At the time of newsletter printing, not all student subunits had tallied fully their membership with the onset of the fall semester, nor membership dues paid through the Parent Society fully accounted for. Thus, a total membership summary for the American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter is unavailable. Below lists attendees of the 2011 annual meeting, as well as those confirmed to have paid Chapter dues via the Parent Society. If you paid dues through the Parent Society, as well as attended the Chapter annual meeting, you will find your name under both categories. Please report errors to Stephanie McInerny, Chapter secretary/treasurer, at: [Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov).

### *Breakdown of 2011 American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting attendees.>*

#### **Annual Meeting**

##### *Maryland—*

Amanda Colton  
Belita Nguluwe  
Ben Gahagan  
Bhae-Jin Peemoeller  
Bob Murphy  
Bronwyn K Madeo  
Carlos Lozano  
Chris Conroy  
Colette Cairns  
Daniel Cullen  
Dave Secor  
Dr Bradley Stevens  
Karen Capossela  
Michael Luisi  
Mike O'Brien  
Nicole Mehaffie  
Ron Klauda  
Whitney Dyson

##### *North Carolina—*

Andrea Dell'Apa  
Brandi Salmon  
Chad Smith  
Chuck Bangle  
Daniel Zapf  
Deena Anderson  
Fred Scharf  
Jacob Boyd  
Jeff Dobbs  
Jocelyn Kim  
Joey Powers  
Jon Vanderfleet  
Lyndell Bade  
Mariah Bell  
Matt Butler  
Michelle Staudinger  
Nikolai Klibansky  
Roger Rulifson  
Sara Mirabilio

##### *Virginia—*

Adam Boddicker  
Alison Deary  
Allison Watts  
Andre Buchheister  
Ben Marcek  
Bob Greenlee  
Brandon Rowan  
Chris Bonzek  
David T Gauthier  
Debra Parthree  
Emily Loose  
Evan McOmber  
Filipe Ribeiro  
Hank Brooks  
Jameson Gregg  
Jan McDowell  
Jennifer Martin  
Jenny Greaney  
John Graves  
Justine Woodward  
Kathryn Sobocinski  
Kevin Spanik  
Kirk Smith  
Lauren Nys  
Leonard Machut  
MariCarmen Korngiebel  
Rosique  
Mark Henderson  
Mary C Fabrizio  
Melanie Chattin  
Patrick Lynch  
Peter Sturke

##### *Virginia—*

Adam Boddicker  
Alison Deary  
Allison Watts  
Andre Buchheister

##### *Delaware—*

Ben Marcek  
Bob Greenlee  
Brandon Rowan  
Chris Bonzek  
David T Gauthier  
Debra Parthree  
Emily Loose  
Evan McOmber  
Filipe Ribeiro  
Hank Brooks  
Jameson Gregg  
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Jennifer Martin  
Jenny Greaney  
John Graves  
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Kathryn Sobocinski  
Kevin Spanik  
Kirk Smith  
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Leonard Machut  
MariCarmen Korngiebel  
Rosique  
Mark Henderson  
Mary C Fabrizio  
Melanie Chattin  
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Debra Parthree  
Emily Loose  
Evan McOmber  
Filipe Ribeiro  
Hank Brooks  
Jameson Gregg  
Jan McDowell  
Jennifer Martin  
Jenny Greaney  
John Graves  
Justine Woodward  
Kathryn Sobocinski  
Kevin Spanik  
Kirk Smith  
Lauren Nys  
Leonard Machut  
MariCarmen Korngiebel  
Rosique  
Mark Henderson  
Mary C Fabrizio  
Melanie Chattin  
Patrick Lynch  
Peter Sturke

##### *Robert Latour*

Ryan Norris  
Ryan Schloesser  
Susanna Musick  
Todd Clardy  
Troy Tuckey  
Virginia Zakrzewski  
Wendy Lowery

##### *Miscellaneous—*

John Cooper/NY

#### **Parent Society**

##### *Delaware—*

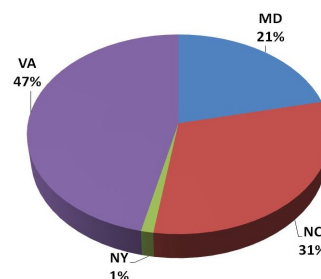
Edward Hale  
Timothy Targett

##### *Maryland—*

Andrew Loftus  
Benjamin Gahagan  
Bradley Stevens  
Charles Poukish  
Christopher Heyer  
Edward Houde  
James Uphoff  
Joseph Okoh  
Jules Loos  
Karen Capossela  
Marek Topolski  
Michael Wilberg  
Richard Bohn  
Ward Slacum  
William Goldsborough  
William Richkus

##### *North Carolina—*

Andrew Ostrowski  
Anthony Overton  
Brian Boutin  
Chris Taylor  
Daniel Zapf  
Douglas Vaughan



##### *Frederick Scharf*

James Rice  
Jeffrey Buckel  
Jocelyn Kim  
John Boreman  
Kyle Shertzer  
Maurice Crawford  
Michael Mabe  
Michael Street  
Reid Laney  
Samantha Binion  
Sarah Friedl  
Steve Midway

##### *Virginia—*

Jody Callihan  
John Musick  
Marcel Montane  
Mary Fabrizio  
Matthew Smith  
Todd Clardy

##### *Miscellaneous—*

Richard Balouskus/CT  
Matthew Yergey/NJ  
John Cooper/NY  
Peter Lattin/OR

*Get updates via the Chapter  
LISTSERV!*

1. To subscribe — E-mail to: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@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: [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ECU.EDU) and enter UNSUBSCRIBE TIDEWAFS in the body of the e-mail.



Registration for the Chapter annual meeting will go from Dec. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012. Register early & join us for a great meeting!

The Tidewater Chapter (TWC) 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:

President—Leonard Machut; lsmachut@vims.edu

President-Elect— Jacob Boyd; Jacob.Boyd@ncdenr.gov

Past-President—Michael Luisi; mluisi@dnr.state.md.us

Sec / Tres—Stephanie McInerny; Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov

At-Large Members:

MD—Bob Murphy; murphy@ecosystemsolutions.org

VA—Kevin Spanik; kspanik@vims.edu

NC—Paul Rudershausen; pjruders@ncsu.edu

Student Subunit Presidents:

ECU—Annie Dowling; DOWLINGA10@students.ecu.edu

UNCW— Steve Midway; srm8757@uncw.edu

Duke—Sharon Benjamin; slb59@duke.edu

UMCES-CBL—Nicole Mehaffie; mehaffie@cbl.umces.edu

UMES— Jamila-Dawn Payton; jamiladawn.payton@gmail.com

DSU Representative—Johnny Moore; johnny\_mo85@yahoo.com

UD Representative—vacant

Newsletter Editor - Sara Mirabilio; saram@csi.northcarolina.edu

Webmaster - Chad Smith; smithmich@ecu.edu

Awards & Scholarship Cmte - Ron Klauda; rklauda@dnr.state.md.us



## 2012 Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Plans Underway

By Sara Mirabilio

The upcoming American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting will be held Mar. 8 – 10, 2012 in historic downtown Beaufort, N.C. Our host, Pres-Elect Jacob Boyd, and his planning committee already have been hard at work reserving venues offering spectacular views of the Newport River for what promises to be an unforgettable meeting!

The Thursday night welcoming poster social will be held at the Beaufort Art Center in the heart of downtown. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and read about some of the new and exciting fisheries research being conducted by Chapter members. Friday and Saturday presentations will be held at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Center for



SOURCE UNKNOWN

**The 2012 American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting will be held along the historic Beaufort, N.C., waterfront.**

Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research on Pivers Island.

After a day of talks on Friday, the awards banquet will be held at the N.C. Maritime Museum, which offers a new Blackbeard exhibit with artifacts from his

flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*.

New this year, the Chapter will host a Continuing Education course the Thursday afternoon before the meeting start. Further details on this, as well as the meeting generally, will be posted on the Chapter Website and circulated via the Listserv.

A block of rooms are reserved at the Inlet Inn on the waterfront. This hotel boasts not only spectacular river views, but also, is within walking distance for both socials. Reservations can be made by visiting: [www.inlet-inn.com](http://www.inlet-inn.com). Or, phone and ask for the "TIDEWATER AFS" rate (\$90). The room block expires Jan. 31, 2012.

We still are seeking various types of sponsorship, as well as items for a benefit raffle. For more information on this, e-mail Jacob Boyd at [Jacob.Boyd@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Jacob.Boyd@ncdenr.gov). See you there!