

Minutes of the 2005 Marine Fisheries Section Business Meeting
Anchorage, Alaska
13 September 2005

Prepared by Debra Murie (President-Elect) on behalf of Lee Benaka (Secretary-Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order by MFS President, John Hoenig, at 6 p.m.

I. Introductions, additions to agenda

Introductions were made along with affiliations. There were no new items added to the agenda.

II. Minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting

Minutes of the 2004 MFS Business Meeting were not available for approval. John Hoenig will post them to the website when available.

III. President's Report

III. A. Annual Meeting Format and Cost

The MFS met jointly with the Estuaries Section for the first time. The MFS had their business meeting first, followed by the Estuaries Section business meeting, which was then followed by a joint awards presentation at the social. Maximum cost for this joint meeting was \$1,116, which was to be split two ways for a total of \$558 per section, although these costs may ultimately be covered by a donor. The social had an allotment of free drinks and hors d'oeuvres for all attendees, plus a cash bar. The joint meeting was successful with common interests between the two sections obvious in both the topics covered in the business meetings and the social that followed. Attendees agreed to hold a joint meeting at the next annual meeting in Lake Placid, which will further boost attendance and promote networking.

III. B. AFS Governing Board Meeting

John Hoenig presented news from the AFS Governing Board Meeting, including:

- i) Turnaround time for AFS journal articles is now down to around 48 weeks due to the manuscript tracking procedure;
- ii) Transactions of the American Fisheries Society back to 1872 will be available online in ~1 month. AFS also plans on putting the Progressive Fish Culturist articles online (prior to the takeover by the AFS). Online articles will have cross-links to cited articles.
- iii) AFS now has a Mexico Chapter, which is ~70% marine/coastal and the majority of those members are Western.

- iv) AFS Parent Society, which was in bad financial shape a few years ago, is now financially healthy. The MFS, as well as other Sections, however, have shown a steady decline in membership over the past years. The problem appears to be a lack of student participation in the Sections.

Suggestions on how to improve Section involvement included: 1) Everyone who pays dues to the parent society gets two Section memberships as part of their membership benefits; and 2) Students can form student subunits within a Chapter or Section. AFS President Chris Kohler (incoming) favored option 1, whereas Executive Director Gus Rassam favored option 2. However, Gus was not opposed to option 1 and thought that the AFS Parent Society could afford it. A third suggestion was to produce a brochure, or a series of brochures, describing the activities of the Section(s).

- v) Most of the Society's funds come from publication sales, not membership fees.
- vi) The idea of having a marine fisheries journal was floated; Estuaries Section President Steve Jordan suggested it be a journal of marine and coastal fisheries and that generalization met with favor.

III. C. Review of MFS Activities

- III. C1. Student Travel Grants:** Russ Brown (Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole) chaired the student travel grant committee, and along with Anne Richards and Lee Benaka, reviewed 17 applications for our four travel awards. The recipients this year included: Mikaela Bergenius (Ph.D. Candidate, James Cook University, Australia), Adrian Jordaan (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Maine), Michael R. Lowe (M.S. Candidate, Auburn University) and Kathy Mills (Ph.D. Candidate, Cornell University).
- III. C2. Newsletter:** Cory Saryk, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, is the new editor of the MFS Newsletter. Email: cstaryk@vims.edu with any ideas and news.
- III. C3. AFS Special Committee on Offshore Aquaculture:** The MFS was requested to recommend two people to participate in an AFS Special Committee on Offshore Aquaculture. An email notice was sent out in August to everyone currently on the MFS mailing list that had a working email address. Based on the statement of interest and expertise of the seven members that indicated an interest to participate, the MFS excom recommended Churchill Grimes and Mark Drawbridge. Churchill and Mark will keep the MFS informed of activities related to this new committee.

III. C4. Beverton Lecture Notes I and II: Summary provided by Doug Vaughan, CCFHR, Beaufort, NC, 28516, doug.vaughan@noaa.gov

BEVERTON NOTES (MFS No. 1) SALES AS OF AUGUST 2005

Report to Marine Fisheries Section

Annual AFS Meeting, Anchorage AK, September 11-15, 2005

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF SALES

Sales through Beaufort Laboratory:

Most in conjunction with new book!

		Copies	Sales
1994		182	\$2,845
1995		50	\$805
1996		15	\$270
1997		2	\$40
1998		20	\$305
1999		8	\$115
2000		0	\$0
2001		2	\$30
2002		4	\$60
2003		15	\$155
2004		4	\$40
2005		1	\$10
	Subtotal	303	\$4,675

Copies provided to AFS Trade Show booth (should be copies remaining):

1999	Hartford	36
2000	Charlotte	68
2001	Phoenix	32
2002	Baltimore	0
	Quebec	
2003	City	0
2004	Madison	0
	Subtotal	136

Additional copies sold in 1994 at the NEFSC, NWFSC, AFSC, and SWFSC during Dr. Beverton's grand tour, additional copies provided to Dr. Beverton and donated to AFS raffles (approx count):

300

Tally of remaining copies:

3 unopen boxes	204	
partial boxes	57	
	Subtotal	261
	Grand Total	1000

Note: Grand total matches copies printed (1000). Number distributed at Hartford during MFS meeting is approximate, as is number sold at other labs in 1994. Funds from AFS Trade Show have generally gone straight to MFS Treasurer.

IV. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Presented by Debra Murie on behalf of Lee Benaka

**AFS Marine Fisheries Section Treasurer's
Report
1 July 2004 - 8 September 2005**

Balance on 1 July 2004	\$9,555.75
Receipts	
Dec-04 Members' Dues	859.00
Mar-05 Members' Dues	948.00
Mar-05 Sales from Beverton Notes (I and II)	220.00
Jul-05 Sales from Beverton Notes (I and II)	45.00
Total Receipts/Credits	2,072.00
Disbursements	
Aug-04 AFS plaques and certificates	100.00
3 AFS 2004 student travel awards	
Aug-04 (M. Staudinger, J. Walter, T. Idhe)	1,500.00
Sep-04 Sette Award plaque	25.00
Feb-05 AFS Membership for T. Idhe	88.00
AFS Cooperative Research Symposium	
May-05 (Anchorage 2005)	500.00
Jul-05 4 AFS 2005 student travel awards	
(M. Bergenius, A. Jordaan, M. Lowe, K. Mills)	2,000.00
Aug-05 AFS student travel award plaques	100.00
Sep-05 Marine Fisheries Section reception	
(Anchorage 2005)*	416.00
Total Disbursements	4,729.00
Balance on 8 September 2005	\$6,898.75

*Note that the NMFS Office of Habitat of Conservation may reimburse the Marine Fisheries Section for some or all of this expense.

As of 19 August 2005, there were 400 members in the Marine Fisheries Section.
Lee Benaka, Secretary/Treasurer, Marine Fisheries Section

V. Oscar E. Sette Award

The Oscar Sette Award recognizes meritorious contributions to the field of marine fisheries. For 2005, the Oscar Sette Award Committee announced that the recipient was Dr. Dick Beamish of the Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Dr. Beamish is world renown for his pioneering work on aging of fish, with his research leading to the discovery that many fishes live much longer than previously estimated.

Comment [DM1]: John, do you want to add another sentence here?

VI. New Business:

VI. A. Marine and Coastal Fisheries Journal

There appeared to be strong support for an AFS Marine and Coastal Fisheries Journal from the AFS Governing Board, and general support from both the MFS and the Estuaries Section. Aaron Lerner from AFS Publications also thought that it was a good idea. Some discussion ensued over whether there was the potential to take on a cooperative venture with NMFS (now NOAA Fisheries) and the publication of Fishery Bulletin, which is under discussion. Both sections, however, decided to proceed with a scoping committee for a new journal. This committee would develop a statement and motion that could be presented at the Governing Board meeting in March 2006. The committee would also look at the format and content of a new marine and coastal fisheries journal.

Debra Murie made a motion (inclusive of an amendment) that the Marine Fisheries Section and the Estuaries Section jointly form a scoping committee to look at the possibility of AFS starting a new journal in marine and coastal fisheries. Motion was seconded by Jon Brodziak.
Motion passed.

Selina Heppell, Russell Brown, and Jon Brodziak volunteered to serve on the scoping committee for the MFS. At the subsequent Estuaries Section business meeting, Steve Jordan and Anthony Overton volunteered to serve on this scoping committee for the Estuaries Section.

VI. B. Section Memberships as part of dues

Doug Vaughan proposed a motion that the MFS should form a committee to investigate the consequences of having the AFS parent society provide memberships in two sections as part of the benefits of membership in the Society. Motion was seconded by Joe Grist. Motion was amended by Mary Fabrizio to include the statement that the committee would work with the Membership Committee on this. Motion passed.

Comment [DM2]: John, this was Joe Grist? (you have Joe Gerst in your notes, so I needed to check with you).

VI. C. MFS List-server

Some sections are starting their own list-servers. Advantages of having a list-server include increased communication in a timely manner, as well as enabling the MFS to issue position statements on issues with the assurance that members have an adequate opportunity to voice their opinions and therefore have the MFS reflect the wishes of its membership. The main disadvantage of a list-server is the annoyance factor of receiving some unwanted emails. Discussion ensued over the various options involved in being on a list-server. The MFS members in attendance decided that the advantages outweighed the disadvantages and that MFS members could ask to be removed from the list-server.

VI. D. MFS Brochure

Production of a glossy, color brochure with photos that features the main activities of the MFS section, and what the Section can do for its members, was agreed upon. The brochure would be beneficial in not only informing members, but potential members, especially students. Debra Murie volunteered to take the lead on the brochure production.

VI. E. Relationship between the Estuaries and Marine Fisheries Sections

The mutual interests of the two Sections was recognized and discussed in general. It was decided that the MFS will meet jointly with the Estuaries Section in Lake Placid in 2006, with a similar type of format. The Tidewater Chapter and the newly-formed Mexico Chapter will be invited to the joint meeting. As a welcoming gift, Joe Grist made a motion that the MFS should present the Mexico Chapter with a gift of 50 copies of the soft cover Beverton book that the MFS published, which they could distribute to libraries within Mexico. Motion was seconded by Selina Heppell. Motion passed.

VI. F. Symposia for the 2006 AFS Annual Meeting in Lake Placid

Potential symposia for the 2006 annual meeting were discussed, including one being organized by Liz Brooks et al. on Hermaphroditic Fishes and their Assessment. Another idea for a symposium was to address the changes and issues involved in fish and fisheries as a result of large-scale perturbations, such as the hurricanes or the tsunami. The suggestion was that this latter symposium would be co-sponsored with the Estuaries Section. Marshall Adams was also going to talk to Steve Jordan about it.

VI. G. AFS Special Committee on Offshore Aquaculture

Debra Murie read a statement on behalf of Des Kahn, who could not attend the annual meeting, regarding the formation of an AFS Special Committee on Offshore Aquaculture. Des Kahn requested that a motion be made that the MFS take a position against an offshore aquaculture proposal. Debra Murie made this motion on behalf of Des Kahn, and it was seconded by Mary Fabrizio. Membership in attendance expressed their concern that the Special Committee was new and that the members did not actually have the proposal at this time. It was discussed that the MFS would need to see the proposal in its full form prior to a motion to take a position against it. Motion failed to carry. The membership in attendance agreed to revisit this issue at a later date.

VI. H. Translation of Baranov's materials

Alexei Sharov has agreed to look over the materials for translation. A committee will need to be formed to discuss how to publish and distribute the resulting book. John Hoenig will work with this committee.

VII. Adjourn: The MFS business meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.