

**2007 Marine Fisheries Section Business Meeting
San Francisco
3 September 2007**

The meeting opened with attendees introducing themselves.

President Deb Murie moved to amend agenda so that student awards could be presented at the beginning of meeting.

President Murie also moved to accept 2006 business meeting minutes as written. Both motions passed.

President Murie presented the 2007 Student Travel Grant Awards to the following students:

- Nathan Bachelor, North Carolina State University
- Bernice Bediako, University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
- William Smith, University of North Carolina - Wilmington
- Justine Woodward, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

President Murie reported news from the Governing Board meeting, including that AFS journals are available online dating back to 1872. She also described ongoing IT challenges for the Section and AFS. In addition, she reported that the new marine and coastal journal is moving forward with Jim Cowan as Developmental Editor, with AFS providing resources to support development efforts as well as hiring a staff person to help produce the new journal. President Murie solicited ideas for journal articles and will meet with Jim Cowan in Bethesda in October 2007. The new journal will be online only and open access.

Des Kahn asked whether the Section will have ongoing input into the new journal. President Murie replied that she and Steve Jordan were appointed to an AFS committee to represent the views of the Marine Fisheries and Estuaries Sections. AFS President-Elect Mary Fabrizio added that they were both on the committee for three years, so let them know what you want. In addition, the journal is starting from a “clean slate” and is not based on other journal models. President Murie asked President-Elect Fabrizio how AFS makes money on journals like this. President-Elect Fabrizio replied that there are fees.

Estuaries Section President Syma Ebbin described the membership initiative proposed by the Marine Fisheries and Estuaries Sections, which was rejected by the AFS Governing Board. However, the Governing Board did recently amend the AFS constitution to allow sections with over 50 members to vote at Governing Board meetings. At its recent meeting, the Governing Board also discussed the issue of support for Governing Board representative travels to Governing Board meetings. Steve Jordan asked about the Governing Board objections to the membership initiative. AFS President-Elect Mary Fabrizio replied that, in general, AFS sections need to make themselves more relevant. President Murie added that sections can raise fees to generate additional revenue.

President Murie discussed problems with AFS management of section lists. She is the manager of the list, but she is unsure of the current membership at any time. President Murie would like to ask AFS how long it takes to get new members onto these membership lists. She also solicited volunteers for Section webmaster and newsletter editor. No one volunteered.

President Murie updated attendees on progress with the Section brochure. She requested photographs of Marine Fisheries Section events. She will try to obtain member feedback on the brochure, which will be used to recruit new members.

President Murie reported that the Section sponsored the Diadromous Fish Symposium, and the symposium went well. The Section also is sponsoring two symposia at this AFS meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Lee Benaka reported on the Treasury (report attached). Doug Vaughn reported on Beverton Notes sales, including six copies sold at AFS 2006 Annual Meeting and numerous copies being donated to libraries affected by hurricane Katrina.

Des Kahn announced that Robert Francis of the University of Washington is the recipient of the 2007 Oscar Sette Award.

President Murie described her program of work for 2007-2008, including continuing the close partnership with the Estuaries Section, focusing on the launch of the new journal, and facilitate the recruitment of symposia for the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa.

President Murie then asked for ideas for Ottawa symposia. Jon Brodziak suggested a symposium on fecundity. President Murie suggested a joint Estuaries and Marine Fisheries Section symposium to highlight the new journal and honor some fisheries scientists who had recently passed away, including Steve Berkley.

Jennifer Cuddy, on behalf of Roger Rulifson, highlighted a spiny dogfish research network (see www.spinydogfish.org). John Boreman suggested that fishers should be involved with the dogfish effort due to their historical skepticism of dogfish-related science.

Tom Bigford suggested a symposium on estuary-dependent fish.

Des Kahn expressed concern about peer review of stock assessments and suggested that uniform standards could be useful for peer review processes. Des asked whether the Section would like to examine this issue. Jon Brodziak mentioned that there are terms of reference for West Coast groundfish stock assessments that address issues of fairness, among other things. Churchill Grimes mentioned that the Center for Independent Experts provides reviews for stock assessment processes, and that organization might have stock assessment guidelines. Des moved that a Section subcommittee would investigate issues with peer reviews and develop criteria or standards for reviews. This motion passed

unanimously. John Boreman volunteered Steve Brown to help with this effort, and a student at the business meeting also volunteered to help out.

President Murie solicited nominees for Section President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer for upcoming elections.

The meeting was adjourned.