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Happy Holidays!

What MFS is doing for YOU

By John M. Hoenig
President, Marine Fisheries Section

The Marine Fisheries Section is serving its members in many ways.

- To promote networking, we've teamed up with the Estuaries Section to hold our **annual business meetings** back to back followed by a catered reception with a cash bar, some **free drink** tickets, and an awards ceremony. Look for it at the 2006 meeting in Lake Placid!
- **Symposia** at the annual meetings. Each year the Section sponsors sessions at the annual meeting. Now is the time to start thinking about organizing a session for the Lake Placid meeting. We already have some ideas in the works.
- Marine Fisheries Section and the Estuaries Section formed a joint committee to investigate the formation of an AFS **marine and coastal fisheries journal**
- Marine Fisheries Section and the Estuaries Section have formed a joint committee to investigate having \$10.00 worth of **section memberships included in the price of AFS membership**. The parent society is financially healthy but most of the sections have had declining memberships over the last 10 years. This could strengthen the Sections.
- We're creating a **list-server** to improve communication among members. I think this is particularly important for advocacy work. The parent society calls on the Section to help formulate position papers and the Section leadership needs to know that it is representing its members' views.
- **Student Travel Awards**. This year we awarded four travel grants.
- **Oscar Sette Award**. This year's recipient was **Dr. Richard Beamish** from the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans Nanaimo Laboratory.
- **Publications**. Work is progressing on the project to reprint Ricker's 1946 translation of Baranov's 1918 and 1925 papers along with Ricker's 1972 lectures at the University of Washington on Baranov's work. Revenue from publications is a main source of funds for AFS,

and it is important for the Section as well.

- **Offshore aquaculture initiative.** AFS asked the MFS to provide two volunteers to work on an evaluation of an offshore aquaculture initiative.

I am quite pleased with the **section-sponsored socials** at the annual meetings. It started last year in Madison when then-President Fabrizio and I decided to “buy a round of drinks” for everyone who attended the Section’s business meeting. We arranged for a bar at our business meeting, gave out a bunch of free drink tickets, and after that it was a cash bar. We didn’t want to use Section funds for this without authorization from the members so we paid for it ourselves. Coincidentally, the Estuaries Section held their meeting nearby and had it catered with a bar. We decided that for the Anchorage meeting, we’d hold our business meetings back to back and then have a joint reception. Syma Ebbins, the incoming President of the Estuaries Section, arranged for a fabulous spread of hors d’oeuvres including smoked halibut and salmon. Steve Jordan, outgoing President of the Estuaries Section, arranged for a donation that covered a third of the cost so the bill was split three ways. We plan to repeat the process next year in Lake Placid.

The idea of AFS having a **journal devoted to marine and coastal fisheries** is exciting. It arose at the Society’s Governing Board retreat in Anchorage just before the annual meeting and, somewhat to my

surprise, there was widespread enthusiasm for the idea. This partly reflects the fact that the Society has been making good money on the sale of its publications. But, there seemed also to be an acceptance that a marine journal might make a great deal of sense (not just cents). Steve Jordan and I investigated what would need to happen to get the journal launched. Essentially, we need to make a motion before the Governing Board of AFS and have the Board vote on it. The next occasion for that would be the mid-year meeting in March. The success of the motion depends on the homework we do beforehand. We spoke to the people involved with AFS publications and to the Society’s Executive Director, Gus Rassam, and attended the meeting of the AFS Publications Overview Committee. Finally, at our business meetings, the Marine Fisheries and the Estuaries Sections passed resolutions to create a committee to work on developing and evaluating the idea. With hard work and some luck, we may have our motion for March.

The idea of including some **section memberships** in the price of Society membership also received a favorable reception at the Governing Board meeting. The way it would work is like this: when you pay your annual dues, you would have the option of checking off section memberships at no additional cost up to, say, \$10. Beyond that, you’d have to pay the difference. For example, if you wanted to join sections “A” (\$5.00) and “B” (\$3.00) those would be free because the total (\$8.00) is less than the \$10.00

allowance. If you also wanted to join section “C” (\$5.00) you’d have to pay \$3.00 because the total (\$13.00) exceeds the \$10.00 allowance. The Marine Fisheries and Estuaries sections formed a joint committee to work with the Membership Committee to develop and evaluate the idea. We hope to have a motion ready for the mid-year Governing Board meeting.

A project I’m keen on pursuing is to create a **list-server** for the Section. I know people are overwhelmed with email traffic, but I don’t think MFS traffic will be excessive and I think it is essential for promoting the Section’s projects. I envision it working as follows. Subscription will only be available to members of the MFS. That is, you can’t simply send an email to automatically get on the list. Messages will be broadcast to the list once a day (provided there is a message to broadcast!) Thus, on many days you’ll receive nothing. The advantages of having the list are as follows:

- Timely dissemination of information, e.g., job postings that go out immediately, reminders of deadlines (such as for submitting your proposal for a symposium at the annual meeting)
- Fairness – all members will be informed about calls for papers for symposia, about opportunities to serve on committees, etc.
- Representativeness – when the Section’s Executive Committee is asked to

formulate advice for the parent society, the Committee will be able to determine how (vocal) members feel about issues

The **Baranov publication project** is finally getting underway. We have electronic versions of some of the documents now, and Alexei Sharov has volunteered to look over the transcriptions to see if they track the original faithfully. We could really use a volunteer to help shepherd the manuscript through the publication process. Please contact Doug Vaughan (Doug.Vaughan@noaa.gov or 252 728-8761).

Section-sponsored Symposia in Lake Placid

Now is the time to think about organizing a symposium for Lake Placid. It’s really very easy to do. Decide what topic you want to cover, pick one or two colleagues (if you want) to help you organize the session, and then start calling people to ask if they’re interested. You can do a half day or a full day session (figure on 3 papers per hour, although it would be possible to have a keynote speaker who is allotted more time.) Contact the Marine Fisheries Section if you want us to “sponsor” the session. (Sponsorship is one way to demonstrate that there is interest in your session, which should help grease the wheels of the program committee’s approval process.) You need to submit the list of speakers and their (tentative) titles by **13 January**. By 3 February, you’ll hear that your topic has (almost surely) been approved. You

then need to contact people to extract a firm commitment to participate in the symposium, and you'll need to submit the final titles by March 24. Abstracts will be due 3 March. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss any ideas for symposia or want advice on how to proceed.

Currently, we have plans to sponsor the following sessions:

- **Biology and Assessment of Protogynous Hermaphrodites.** Organized by Liz Brooks, Doug Vaughan and Kyle Scherzer. Contact Liz Brooks, NMFS, Miami, liz.brooks@noaa.gov, 305 361-4243.
- **Abundance Estimation and Stock Assessment: Recent Quantitative Advances.** Organized by John Hoenig, Doug Vaughan and Erik Williams. Contact John Hoenig, VIMS, hoenig@vims.edu, 804 684-7125.
- **Spatial statistics.** Organized by John Walters and Beth Gardner. Contact John Walters, VIMS, jfwalter@vims.edu, 804 684-7316 OR Beth Gardner, Cornell, bg43@cornell.edu, 607-255-3191
- **Status and Trends of fisheries in Chesapeake Bay,** Organized by Derek M. Orner, Douglas Vaughan, Howard Townsend, and

Steve Meyers. Contact Derek M. Orner, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 (tel: 410-267-5676; FAX: 410-267-5666; email: derek.ornier@noaa.gov)

Descriptions of these symposia appear at the end of the newsletter.

The Estuaries Section has agreed to co-sponsor the second through fourth sessions listed above. In addition, MFS has agreed to co-sponsor two sessions being organized by members of the Estuaries Section:

- **Death by a Thousand Cuts: Developing and Evaluating Indicators and Policies to Assess and Contain Cumulative Impacts of Human Activities in Estuarine Environments,** organized by Syma Ebbins. Contact Syma Ebbins, saebbin@sbcglobal.net
- **Environmental Responses to Hazards: Identifying Characteristics of Resilience and Vulnerability in Coastal Systems,** organized by Syma Ebbin and Tom Bigford. Contact Syma Ebbins, saebbin@sbcglobal.net

Marine Fisheries Section Student Travel Grants
by Russell Brown, Chair of the Student Travel Grant Committee

The Marine Fisheries Section annually awards travel grants to support marine fisheries students to attend and participate in the American Fisheries Society meeting. This year, the section was delighted to provide travel support for four students to attend the AFS meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska. Grant recipients receive \$500 in travel support, a one year membership to the American Fisheries Society and the Marine Fisheries Section and a plaque that was presented during the Marine Fisheries Section Business Meeting in Anchorage. The following students were grant recipients in 2005:

Mikaela Bergenius is a PhD candidate from the CRC Reef Research Centre at James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. Ms. Bergenius's area of research focuses on the consequences of spatial variability, fishing pressure, and accounting for demographic variation between stocks in order to determine if separate management strategies are necessary to ensure a sustainable harvest in exploited populations. She made an oral presentation entitled, "*Consequences of spatial variability in growth and mortality to the dynamics of a reef fish population subject to various harvest strategies*".

Adrian Peter Jordan is a PhD candidate from the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine, Orono, ME. Mr. Jordan's research focuses on providing an ecosystem-based framework for fisheries management. His abstract entitled "*Developing diagnostic tools for ecosystem-based fisheries management*" was accepted as an oral presentation. Mr. Jordan is also doing research on the

effects of temperature changes on the growth and probability of survival of larval Atlantic cod. His abstract "*The influence of temperature on the growth of Atlantic cod larvae: a synthesis and assessment*" was presented as a poster at the Anchorage meeting.

Michael R. Lowe is studying for his Masters of Science degree at Auburn University, Auburn, AL. Mr. Lowe's area of research focuses on the use of otolith microchemistry to reconstruct fish movements. His abstract entitled "*Reconstructing patterns of habitat use of two fish species in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta using otolith microchemistry*," was accepted as an oral presentation.

Kathy E. Mills is a PhD candidate from the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Ms. Mills' area of research focuses on scientific and governance needs to support ecosystem-based fisheries management in the Gulf of Maine. Her abstract entitled "*Governance models to support ecosystem-based fisheries management*" was presented as a poster.

The student travel grants program was relatively competitive this year with 17 applicants for the four available travel grants. Anne Richards, Lee Benaka and Russell Brown participated in the evaluation and administration of the grants program this year.

Oscar Sette Award

Dr. Richard Beamish of the Pacific Biological Station of the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans was awarded the Oscar Sette Award at the

Section's business meeting in Anchorage. In presenting the award, Section President John Hoenig quoted from the nomination papers:

"Dr. Beamish has contributed truly pioneering research in both freshwater and marine biology.

"He is the individual responsible for the discovery of acid rain and its effects on freshwater fishes. This discovery resulted from his work while still a postgraduate student at the University of Toronto.

"He was one of the most effective scientists to address questions of age and growth in fishes. He pioneered many techniques and analytical procedures that are now accepted as fundamental in this field. In particular, he is recognized for his study of otoliths and the necessary techniques to correctly interpret the information contained in these biological structures. His handbook on the preparation and interpretation of otoliths is still the accepted reference in this field.

"He made a host of discoveries on the age achieved by many species of fish, and the details of a number of environmental impacts on fish populations expressed through changes in growth. More recently, Dick's work 'concerns the study of global climate change and its impact on marine fisheries.'

"He has many major publications in this area, the most outstanding of these is his book on climate change and northern fish populations, published in 1995. The scale and impact of this work cannot be overestimated.

"Dick Beamish has received recognition by appointment to the Order of Canada. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada."

The Marine Fisheries Section extends a hearty congratulations to Dr. Beamish.

Welcome Mexico Chapter.

AFS has a new Chapter – the Mexico Chapter. I'm told about 70% of the membership is marine oriented, and most of the marine fisheries people are on the West Coast. At its annual business meeting, the Marine Fisheries Section voted to present the Mexico Chapter with a box of its Beverton books as a welcoming gift. We also voted to invite the Mexico Chapter to our annual business meeting and social at the Lake Placid meeting.

You can contact the Mexico Chapter via its President:

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Estuaries Section Needs a Boost

Membership in the Estuaries Section stands at about 165 members. As soon as its membership reaches 200, the Section will have a vote on the AFS Governing

Board. Because the interests of the two sections overlap, I urge MFS members to consider joining the Estuaries Section, too. All you need to do is send a check for \$7.00 (regular) or \$2.00 (student) made out to American Fisheries Society to the Society's headquarters at 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2199. Be sure to indicate it's for membership in the Estuaries Section. Or, you can join online.

Symposium: Biology and Assessment of Protogynous Hermaphrodites

DESCRIPTION: The life history of protogynous hermaphrodites, in which individuals switch from female to male, provides unique challenges to stock assessments. This symposium will address concerns and potential effects of protogyny on stock assessments. Papers will cover a range of topics relevant to protogynous hermaphrodites, from basic biology to management benchmarks. Speakers will be chosen from different agencies and universities, covering a broad geographic area and wide range of perspectives.

Symposium: Abundance Estimation and Stock Assessment: Recent Quantitative Advances

DESCRIPTION: This symposium will present recent advancements in quantitative methods for the understanding and managing fisheries. The papers presented will cover a wide range of applications related to the assessment of fish and invertebrate populations, both marine and freshwater. Speakers will be chosen from different agencies, universities, non-governmental

organizations and industry from a wide geographic area. It is hoped that this broad focus will allow meeting attendees to be exposed to a wide range of perspectives. Quantitative methodologies continue to advance rapidly, so a symposium at Lake Placid seems highly appropriate. Topics of recent interest will continue to be emphasized, including life history parameter estimation, fisheries surveys, tagging, habitat assessment, assessments with limited data, biological reference points and control rules, multi-species modeling, and the interface between science and management.

Symposium: Spatial Statistical Methods in Fisheries

DESCRIPTION: As space becomes increasingly important and contentious in fisheries management, it is important that we move spatial analysis from the realm of the qualitative to the quantitative. The wealth of new tools for collection, management and visualization of spatial data provide the necessary framework; it is critical now that we find and develop the analytical means to make use of these data. This symposium will focus on recent developments in spatial statistical analysis, spatial prediction and the quantitative assessment of spatial data. Specific topics of interest are estimation of spatially-explicit population parameters, spatial modeling, statistical analysis of spatial point processes and space-time interactions. Given the general applicability of spatial analytical methods we encourage applications from other disciplines and invite speakers who are experts in spatial analysis from any field. We desire this to be a methods-oriented symposium in which

participants share new technology, analytical tools and unique applications of spatial analysis.

Symposium: Status and Trends of Fisheries in Chesapeake Bay

DESCRIPTION: The Chesapeake Bay has supported major fisheries and the livelihoods of many residents who have adopted a water-dependent way of life. This symposium will present recent advancements in understanding the status and trends of various fishery resources in Chesapeake Bay. Talks should provide a quantitative analysis of the status and trends of important Chesapeake Bay fisheries species. Emphasis will be given to presentations that address both the ecological and economic significance of fishery resources inhabiting Chesapeake Bay and that recognize the complex interactions among species, water quality, and habitats in the Bay's ecosystem. Given the broad range of discussion topics within Chesapeake Bay fisheries, and the regional locale of the 2006 Conference (Lake Placid), symposia attendees will be provided with a robust perspective on this important topic and the challenges that face managers in the region. Speakers will be chosen from different agencies and universities.

Symposium: Death by a Thousand Cuts: Developing and Evaluating Indicators and Policies to Assess and Contain Cumulative Impacts of Human Activities in Estuarine Environments

DESCRIPTION: State and federal regulations call for the assessment of cumulative effects in developing environmental impacts statements or

evaluations as a requirement of permitting certain types of developments. Cumulative effects or impacts result from the combined, incremental impacts of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future human activities. When evaluated in isolation, a given activity may be seen to cause negligible changes in a natural system. However, when viewed in conjunction with other environmental impacts, the same activity may cause systems to exceed their tipping points, cross thresholds of system stability and health. Evaluated together and over time, cumulative impacts from one or multiple sources can pose serious threats to the environment, responsible for "*death by a thousand cuts*".

The identification and analysis of cumulative impacts poses significant challenges within the regulatory arena and is a source of conflict among the various stakeholders in these arenas. These challenges and conflicts bring us to the intersection of science, management and policy. Scientific perspectives provide baseline understandings of natural systems, indicators to measure stability, health, and deviations, and models to understand temporal and spatial feedbacks, thresholds, synergisms, alternative ecological states and regime shifts. Managers translate science into regulation, balancing a variety of objectives in their analyses and reviews. Many factors including limited financial and human resources, competing agency mandates, and institutional fragmentation can impede temporally and spatially and comprehensive analyses of cumulative impacts.

Following the theme of the 2006 AFS Annual meeting “Fish in the Balance”, this symposium seeks to explore the relationship between cumulative impacts of human activities and estuarine systems and the methods and policies that have been devised to assess and regulate these impacts. The challenges facing aquatic resource professionals in developing indicators to assess cumulative impacts of development in estuarine environments and in developing policies to contain these impacts require research and insights from different disciplines. This symposium will include presentations from a variety of different perspectives, including those of researchers, managers and policy-makers.

Symposium: Environmental Responses to Hazards: Identifying Characteristics of Resilience and Vulnerability in Coastal Systems

DESCRIPTION: In the US, over half of the population lives near the coast and globally about 2.2 billion people live within 100 km of the coast and this is expected to increase in the future. As Hurricane Katrina demonstrated so forcefully, by changing the structures and processes of coastal systems, humans have blurred the distinction between natural and human disasters. Hurricanes constitute an extreme coastal hazard, but coastal erosion, barrier migration, river and estuarine flooding, subsidence, as well as other changes and events, also comprise significant hazards to these areas.

Vulnerability and resilience constitute different ends of a continuum marking a system’s ability to cope with, resist and recover from adverse effects. Coastal

hazards impact both natural and human systems. Human actions have the capacity to either exacerbate vulnerability or to enhance the resilience of systems to such events. Fisheries and fishing communities are a logical currency for discussions of these topics in this symposium.

Following the theme of the 2006 AFS Annual meeting “Fish in the Balance”, this symposium explores the interrelationships between fish, aquatic habitats and humans in coupled social-ecological systems (SESs) with respect to promoting the characteristics that maintain or enhance resilience of communities of fish and fishing communities. Vulnerability and resilience have biophysical, social and institutional components. Because of this, participants from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including both natural and social sciences are invited to present papers. The papers will contribute to our understanding of the nature of vulnerability and resilience in coupled SESs and propose ways in which the vulnerabilities of coastal SESs to environmental hazards can be ameliorated.

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