



**New York Chapter
American Fisheries
Society – Newsletter**

Spring 2006

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2005-2006
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Editors' Note

Hello NY Chapter AFS members. Our annual Chapter meeting, *Fisheries Management from Mountaintop to Sea: Lessons from the Hudson River Basin*, held in early February at West Point in the lower Hudson Valley. This scenic and historical location generated a lot of enthusiasm; the meeting was very well attended with excellent presentations and posters.

We continue to progress toward electronic newsletter distribution. Please note that if you have previously indicated you are willing to receive an electronic notification of the newsletter release, you will not receive a mailed copy; the notification will provide a link to the newsletter page of the chapter website. If you prefer electronic notification and have already requested it, please contact secretary-treasurer Scott Jones Scott.Jones@DevineTarbell.com. Please send articles, abstracts, briefs, humor, or other items of interest for the newsletter. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

After several years as co-editor for this newsletter, Allen Peterson has stepped down. Thank you, Allen for your able guidance as I learned the ropes. While I remain the newsletter editor for the coming year, I am no longer working in the fisheries field; thus this is a great opportunity to keep in touch. I accepted a promotion to serve as NYS DEC's invasive species management coordinator.

Leslie Surprenant
Editor

President's Corner

President's Corner

As I look forward to the coming field season, and my year representing the fishery professionals of our state, I need to thank all those who have worked so hard over the years to make our chapter work. Even though I really haven't done much yet, I've had a glimpse of all that we do as a chapter, and I have to say thank you to everyone! No one person could do everything, and because we all pitch in and help, we really do wonderful things. We put on meetings - not just our usual annual meeting, but the second biggest meeting of fisheries professionals ever, in Lake Placid. We respond to issues that concern us and our colleagues, like instream flow issues, and send donations to our colleagues affected by hurricanes. We support the future of our profession by helping defray the costs of students attending our meetings, and by mentoring those students. And we stay in touch with each other, exchange information, ideas, and techniques at workshops so that we can all do our jobs better.

As it happens, we have several opportunities for our members to pitch in and be part of all that we do. We have openings on the bylaws and professional diversity committees, and we need a Program Chairperson for our 2008 annual meeting in Canandaigua. Our bylaws are under revision so that we can include our student subunit. We need some fresh ideas about professional diversity as the demographic nature of our profession changes (all ideas welcome, no matter the source!). And finally, we need some help putting together our meeting for next winter, the topic is: Our constituency- who are they, what do they want, and what can we do to better serve them. As we look forward to the future, I'm hoping we can all benefit from some reflection on whom we do our jobs for, and ways we might address what we do in the face of global warming, aging baby-boomers, and the technology generation.

Thanks for reading the newsletter and as always, if you'd like to chat, just give me a call or drop me a line, my voice mail and email are always on!

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Chapter News

Website

The New York Chapter has a new website host offering better quality server hosting software, more storage space, and (hopefully) a more user-friendly file transfer interface. This move will allow me to be more responsive in updating the website and spend less time de-bugging technical glitches. You won't have to go looking for us though; our URL address is still: <http://www.newyorkafs.org/>

Also, are you still depending on your paper copy of the NYCAFS newsletter? Newsletters are posted to the website (<http://www.newyorkafs.org/newsletters.htm>) and archived with previous ones. Scott Jones and I have worked to add all NYCAFS members for whom we have email addresses to the newsletter email notification list. This list is used for the notification of posting of new newsletters and important announcements from the executive committee. If you are not on this list, please email me at snyderw@morrisville.edu. Our goal is to have only electronic distribution, resulting in significant savings to our chapter.

As always, if you are having any difficulty with the website or in downloading the newsletters, drop me a line.

Workshop

Chris VanMaaren is the Workshop Committee chairman. If you are interested in the chapter offering a particular workshop or training, contact Chris at ccvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us or 315-785-2268.

New Members

Free Fish CD and Book! Annual chapter dues are only \$10 (\$5 for students). The first 50 new chapter members (not a member for at least 5 preceding years) receive a free copy of the NYCAFS's CD *Historic Distribution of Inland Fishes of NYS: Map Series* by E. C. Raney, which provides the New York distribution of 131 freshwater fish species. In addition, the first 20 members of the Chapter who become new members in the parent organization American Fisheries Society in 2006 will receive a free copy of the *Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research*.

Scott Jones, Sec./Treas.

New York Chapter American Fisheries Society

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Student Chapter News – SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

On a wonderful day in February the SUNY-ESF Chapter of the American Fisheries Society trekked to Tully Lake to hold its 3rd Annual Ice Fishing Derby. The weather was ideal for a great day of ice fishing. The whole crew headed out early in the morning for a full day of ice fishing and a barbeque on the ice. Exceptional derby prizes included an ice auger, sled, tip ups and an ice fishing rod. The categories included the longest pickerel and bass and the heaviest five pan fish. Derby participants fished their tip-ups and jigged their rods for hours. The only troubles associated with the day were a few wet feet and the occasional snow ball fight. Fish bit in early morning and many flags went up, but after the clouds rolled in, the action slowed. At day's end, winners received their prizes. The derby went well and everyone had a great time. All the pickerel of legal size were kept, filleted, ground and formed into patties for our 1st annual fish cake fry.

On March 3rd the society convened at chapter member Tom Hughes' house for a feast. The evening was spent telling fish stories and reminiscing about the ice fishing derby. We had a guest appearance by the new president elect of the New York State Chapter, Fred Henson. We enjoyed Fred's company and his share of fish tales and it was a great networking opportunity for everyone. After an hour of enjoying some wonderful snacks, conversation, and some hearty frying, the fish were ready to eat and everyone quietly enjoyed the fruits of our long hours on the ice.



Anthony Siniscal

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National AFS

AFS has a mailing list that includes individual postings regarding fish, announcements, job opportunities and requests for information. You can subscribe to receive these in normal email mode or in digest mode. To subscribe, e-mail to: daemon@fisheries.org and enter SUBSCRIBE AFS in the body of the e-mail.

AFS Information on the Web

Web site <http://www.fisheries.org>

What's new at AFS? <http://www.fisheries.org/html/WhatsNew.shtml>

AFS Book Store at <http://www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel-cgi/hazel.cgi>

AFS Job Center Online: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml> <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml> Renew your AFS Membership online at <http://www.fisheries.org/forms.shtml>

Browse featured articles from *Fisheries* at: <http://www.fisheries.org/fisheries/fishery.shtml>

New titles from AFS

Hudson River Fishes and their Environment

John Waldman, Karin Limburg, and David Strayer, editors 365 pages

The Hudson River is one of the most scientifically-studied rivers in the world. This volume contains new findings about the ecological and environmental workings of the Hudson and the effects on fishes.

Published by AFS; Publication date: December 2006

Item# x54051p

\$69.00

Landscape Influences on Stream Habitats and Biological Assemblages

Robert M. Hughes, Lizhu Wang, and Paul W. Seelbach, editors

authors from the U.S. and Canada synthesize current knowledge about landscape–river relationships, river research, and river management; compile large regional, spatially referenced, survey data sets on river network characteristics; explore and describe patterns and relationships across survey sites, reaches, and catchments; and develop management and decision tools.

698 pages, paper Published by the American Fisheries Society Publication date: September 2006

Item# x54048xm

\$69.00

Partnerships for a Common Purpose: Cooperative Fisheries Research and Management

Alesia N. Read and Troy W. Hartley, editors

Based on a September 2005 Sea Grant-sponsored AFS symposium, this book presents case studies, empirical research, and practical advice on innovative techniques used by cooperative partners working on cooperative fisheries research and/or management programs.

270 pages, hardcover, color illustrations throughout Published by the American Fisheries Society

Publication date: September 2006

Item# x54052xm

\$60.00

Online bookstore link: <http://www.afsbooks.org/index.html>

Order by phone: 678-366-1411

Report

New York State's Response to VHS

Gregory Kozlowski

NYSDEC Fisheries Outreach Coordinator

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is a serious viral disease of fish that is causing state and Canadian province fish and wildlife agencies to take a hard look at protecting fisheries resources. Historically, VHS caused widespread fish mortalities in European aquaculture facilities and localized fish mortalities in Pacific Herring along the North American West Coast. In recognition of its potential for profound socio-economic consequences, VHS is a reportable disease to the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE). The earliest confirmed VHS report in the Great Lakes was a frozen Lake St. Clair muskellunge taken in 2003 that had been retested after VHS was first documented in the Great Lakes during 2005. VHS has caused fish mortalities in Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair, and in New York waters including Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and Conesus Lake. The Animal Health Inspection Service (APHIS) lists 37 species of fish across 13 families that are susceptible to VHS. It is unusual for a fish disease to affect so many fish species across such a variety of families. Given this information, the outbreak of VHS in the Great Lakes caused the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to consider how to respond to the VHS threat.

To Act Or Not To Act?

VHS was first documented in New York State waters in May 2006 with reports of mass mortalities of round gobies in the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. These reports were quickly followed by reports of large dead muskellunge in the same areas. Reports of fish kills continued to be reported through July for various fish species throughout Lake Ontario. In August 2006, a fish kill linked to VHS was documented in Conesus Lake. This was a significant event because Conesus Lake is separated from the Great Lakes by an impassable barrier to fish movement. The spread of fish kills linked to VHS in New York caused the State DEC, Cornell University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry to begin collecting fish in June 2006 to monitor for VHS, including "healthy fish" collections -- fish that didn't show any signs of disease. From those healthy fish collections, emerald shiners taken from Niagara River and Lake Erie and bluntnose minnows taken from the St. Lawrence River tested positive for VHS.

With the information on the VHS outbreak increasing, it was time for New York to decide if it should act. States that were either neighboring the VHS-impacted waters or that also had impacted waters were each weighing whether to implement restrictions on fishing and fish movement. In New York State, the decision was clear.

The first words of the New York State Law that establishes the DEC charges the agency with protecting the natural resources of the state. The Bureau of Fisheries within the DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources has the responsibility for protecting the freshwater fish resources in New York State. One of the key elements of the DEC's mission is to protect New York's natural resources from potential harm. This is further reinforced by the State Environmental Conservation Law that mandates the DEC protect New York's environment from the threat of disease by controlling the taking, transportation or sale of fish that could pose a threat.

Reviewing Known Information:

Before taking action, DEC experts reviewed the information known to-date about VHS:

- The Great Lakes strain of VHS appears to affect many different fish species;

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- There is the potential for fish mortality and economic impacts;
- VHS has spread to at least one location not directly connected to the Great Lakes by fish movement;
- Important gamefish species are affected; and
- Popular bait fish species tested positive for VHS.

While there was some information about this strain of VHS, there were unanswered questions that needed to be answered: how is the disease spread and how can DEC minimize the risk and spread of VHS? We considered the potential pathways whereby the disease was spread, including:

- Natural fish movements;
- Transfer of fish from one body of water to the next;
- Bait fish use;
- Recreational boating/angling;
- Birds;
- Ballast water discharge; and
- Fisheries management activities.

Of the potential pathways for the disease to spread, the transfer of fish from one body of water to the next such as by importation and stocking, use of bait fish both through commercial collection and personal use, and fisheries management activities were the most likely pathways for the disease to spread, while also offering the best opportunity for control.

Responding To The “Greatest Risk” Pathways:

In responding to VHS, DEC sought to protect New York’s fisheries resources, minimize the spread of VHS to uninfected waters, and minimize impacts of our actions to recreational fishing and the economy. DEC’s immediate concern was to help ensure actions that were to be implemented did not further contribute to the spread of VHS. We reinforced and modified our field collection standard operating procedures to protect against the spread of VHS by taking precautions including disinfecting field equipment.

The state’s policy is not to stock diseased fish. In order to protect the DEC hatchery system and the waters to which the hatchlings would be released, DEC tested wild broodstock from six waters for VHS. One of our hatcheries, the Salmon River Hatchery, is located on a tributary to Lake Ontario and grows trout and salmon from eggs obtained from fish returning from the lake. While it is known that trout and salmon eggs can be treated with iodofor to destroy the VHS virus, thereby keeping the hatchery VHS-free, the agency made the decision not to transfer fish from the Salmon River Hatchery to other DEC hatcheries as a precaution. Furthermore, all fish raised at the Salmon River Hatchery will only be stocked in Great Lakes waters. DEC will also continue to test fish for a variety of diseases, including VHS, before they are stocked to further prevent diseased fish from being stocked.

State Regulatory Action Responding To VHS:

While implementing the actions necessary to help protect against the spread of VHS from DEC hatcheries, we then turned to the other two “greatest risk” disease transmission pathways: the transfer of fish from one body of water to another, most likely through importation and stocking, and the collection and use of bait fish.

To address these risk pathways, DEC needed to implement new regulations. The normal regulation process is to formally propose regulations, undergo a minimum of a 45-day public comment period, respond to comments, and promulgate final regulations. This process can take several months before final regulations are promulgated.

Because of the threat posed by VHS, New York State decided to implement emergency regulations that would begin to immediately address the pathways for VHS transmission.

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Why Emergency Regulations?

Once filed with the Department of State, emergency regulations take effect. This is a great advantage when trying to contain an immediate threat. The option of emergency regulations is not used often by DEC because there is no opportunity for public comment before they are implemented and they are only valid for 90 days.

With the discovery of VHS in New York waters, DEC began considering regulatory action in the Fall of 2006 in order to address some impending threats to the spread of the disease that were approaching with winter. We knew that the biggest source of wild baitfish in New York was emerald shiners from the Niagara River, and emerald shiners from that area had tested positive for VHS. We also knew that the winter ice fishing season was approaching. Baitfish are the primary bait for ice fishing anglers, and therefore, DEC was faced with the threat that VHS-infected emerald shiners could be spread throughout state waters if we didn't take immediate action. Emergency regulations were our only viable option.

At the same time we implemented the emergency regulations, DEC formally proposed permanent regulations that were identical in language to the emergency regulations. This allowed DEC to immediately protect the fisheries resource through stringent emergency regulations and provide the opportunity for public comments to have bearing on the final fish health regulations being formalized in the rule making process.

The Fish Health Emergency Regulations:

The central message of the fish health emergency regulations was to reinforce the negative impacts of moving fish from one body of water to another. The emergency regulations and proposed permanent regulations issued on November 21, 2006, included:

- Personally harvested baitfish can only be used on the water from which it was collected;
- The number of bait fish that can be collected and/or possessed for personal use is 100 (dead or alive);
- No commercial bait fish harvest allowed from VHS-positive waters;
- Require disease-free fish for importation, stocking, and placement into New York waters. This includes stocking, baitfish sold commercially, hatcheries, farm fish ponds and fishing preserves;
- All fish shall be tested and certified disease free of six specified fish diseases. Trout and salmon shall be tested and certified disease free of an additional three specified fish diseases;
- Fish health inspection reports shall be accepted from American Fisheries Society-certified (AFS) fish pathologists and fish health inspectors or others with a demonstrated capability to perform fish health inspections; and
- Fish health inspections must conform with methods and procedures recognized by AFS or OIE.

Reaction To The Fish Health Emergency Regulations:

The emergency regulations that DEC implemented were strict and affected recreational anglers and commercial bait dealers. Many anglers collected their bait in one water body and used them in another. This practice was now illegal. Baitfish could not be collected from the largest source of wild baitfish in New York - the Niagara River and the rest of the Great Lakes -- thereby economically impacting the commercial collectors of those baitfish, the price of baitfish, and access to certain types of baitfish over the short term. The regulations also required that wild-caught baitfish be certified disease-free. Testing costs average approximately \$1,000. Testing also meant that commercial baitfish collectors had to collect bait fish and hold them for the 3-5 weeks necessary for the tests to be completed before they

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sold any baitfish. Reports from baitfish dealers were that they had to collect approximately 1,000 pounds of baitfish to make a profit. The regulations also impacted commercial fish hatcheries from both New York and other states. Some of the fish that private hatcheries had traditionally imported into New York have Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis virus (IPN) – which is among the diseases now being tested for – and therefore, the hatcheries could not get a fish health inspection report and could not bring their fish into New York.

Public Comments:

Given the broad impacts and stringency of the emergency and proposed permanent regulations, there were plenty of public comments submitted during the comment period which ended in January 2007. While some of the comments were unproductive, many of the comments were excellent. Those comments helped identify conflicts or uncertainties in the emergency regulations and conflicts between the emergency regulations and other existing regulations. Commenters also let the agency know what fishing opportunities they would like to enjoy that the existing emergency regulations prohibited. For example, bass tournament anglers wanted to be able to fish in tributaries of the lakes the tournaments were held. The way the existing emergency regulations are written, they couldn't. They argued that the bass could freely move between the lake and the tributary, so the tournament activities that moved bass between the tributaries and the lakes did not increase the risk of spreading VHS. Similarly, anglers on the Hudson River wanted to use herring they catch in the tributaries to fish for striped bass in the main stem of the Hudson River. Their argument was that the herring in the tributaries are the same fish that swam up the Hudson. Once again, the risk of spreading VHS would not be increased by this activity. Another comment was that the 100 bait fish possession limit restricted anglers from going to a bait store and picking up enough bait fish for their buddies for the next days fishing. Since bait fish sold in bait stores must be certified disease free, why limit the number of baitfish a person could possess? Overall, 338 public comments were received that fell into roughly 40 different topics.

Stay Tuned!

The comments we received were evaluated to determine their consistency with DEC's goals to prevent the spread of VHS. DEC is now in the process of determining which comments will be used to adjust the emergency and proposed permanent regulations. (*Editor's note: see related article below*) We already know that the changes will be significant enough to warrant a second opportunity for public comments and we will continue to request that the public and businesses weigh in on these important revisions.

There are no easy choices in dealing with a serious fish disease such as VHS, but the collaborative effort DEC is committed to continuing will provide strong, protective measures for our fisheries resources while still allowing the renowned angling opportunities for which New York State is known. If the comment period for the revised proposed regulations is still open when this article is published, DEC encourages everyone to review and comment on these proposals so that the state can develop a regulatory package reflective of the diverse and important interests involved in angling in New York. As the state moves forward in addressing aquatic invaders like VHS, we look forward to continuing to work with our many partners to help reduce the negative impacts on our fisheries, and further strengthen the economic and recreational benefits that a healthy fishery provides us all.

To learn more and keep updated on the status of VHS in New York State, go to:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/vhsv.html>

Follow Up:

NYS DEC Adopts Revised Emergency Regulations

On March 14, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced new emergency regulations to help prevent the spread of the VHS virus to additional waters in

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the State. The new emergency regulations, which were filed with the Department of State and took effect on Friday, March 9, 2007, replace previously enacted emergency regulations and reflect some changes incorporated as a result of public comments on the limits of the possession, sale, transfer, taking and release of certain baitfish and other live fish species to be placed in New York waters. VHS is a fish pathogen and poses no threat to public health.

VHS was first confirmed in New York waters in May 2006 in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, and has now also been confirmed in several fish species in Great Lakes basin waters in New York State, Conesus Lake and in other states. Once a fish is infected with VHS, there is no known cure. Because of the often fatal virus's ability to spread, and potential impact to fisheries, recreation, and the economy, the World Organization of Animal Health has categorized VHS as a transmissible disease with the potential for profound socio-economic consequences.

VHS can be spread from water body to water body through a variety of means, not all of them known at this point. One known pathway is through the movement of fish, including baitfish. DEC, in cooperation with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, has sampled fish from waters across the state, and except for Conesus Lake, VHS has not been confirmed in fish from any water outside the Great Lakes basin.

The Amended Federal Order that was issued on November 14, 2006, to prevent the spread of VHS to other waters and to protect economically important sport fisheries and aquaculture remains in effect. Information on the Federal Order can be found on the APHIS website at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/.

The Amended Federal Order does not address the movement of fish within New York State. In-state movement of fish for use as bait or for stocking could spread VHS in New York and cause significant adverse impacts to the state's fish resources. Therefore, in order to protect New York's valuable fishery resources, DEC has adopted emergency regulations that, along with a revised proposed rule making, include the following provisions:

- **Limit the personal use of baitfish to the same water body from which they were collected.** The rule restricts the personal use of baitfish to the specific water body from which such baitfish were collected, with no motorized, overland transport allowed. This provision has changed from the originally proposed provision as there will be no limit on the number of baitfish that may be possessed. Also, baitfish can be taken from the water body's tributaries upstream to the first impassable barrier for use on such water body. (This rule does not pertain to the personal possession of baitfish collected in the Marine District for use in the Marine District.)
- **Limit the use of commercially collected and sold baitfish to the same water from which they were collected.** The rule restricts the use of baitfish collected for commercial sale, to the water body from which such baitfish were collected, with no motorized overland transport allowed, unless pursuant to a permit from DEC. (This rule does not pertain to the possession of baitfish collected in the Marine District for use in the Marine District.)
- **Require that baitfish offered for wholesale sale be certified disease free of fish pathogens and accompanied by a fish health inspection report.** Except under permit from DEC, any wholesale sale of baitfish, other than sale on the same water body from which the baitfish were collected, shall require a fish health inspection report certifying that the fish are free of certain serious diseases. Retail sale of baitfish, other than sale on the same water body from which the baitfish were collected, shall also require that the fish are free of specified diseases and that the purchaser shall retain a receipt of the transaction. This does not apply to the possession and sale of baitfish collected in the Marine District for use in the Marine District.
- **Allow baitfish packaged for commercial purposes and preserved by methods other than by freezing only to be sold and used wherever it is legal to use baitfish.**

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- **Require that all live fish, destined for release into the waters of the state, or imported for release into the waters of the state, be inspected by certified professionals and be certified to be free of certain fish pathogens.** The rule making prohibits the release of any live fish into the waters of the state unless the fish have been determined to be free of the pathogens listed below, and documented by a fish health inspection report issued within the previous 12 months. For all species of freshwater fish, a fish health inspection report shall certify that the fish are free of VHS and Spring Viremia of Carp Virus, as well as certify the presence or absence of: Furunculosis, Enteric Red Mouth, and Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPN). In addition, for salmon and trout (Salmonidae), a fish health certification report shall certify that they are free of Whirling Disease and Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHN), as well as certify the presence or absence of bacterial kidney disease. The fish health certificate reports must be on a standard form supplied by the DEC, must be issued by an independent qualified inspector, must conform with specific testing methods and procedures, and must be filed with DEC.

In addition to the above, there are existing regulations that continue to be in place that govern which waters anglers are allowed to use baitfish, as well which waters where the commercial collection of baitfish is allowed.

With the adoption of the new emergency regulations, DEC simultaneously filed revisions to the pending proposal to adopt these regulations permanently. The provisions of the emergency regulations and the revised rule making are identical. The revisions are responsive to the public comments received on the proposed rule making which was filed on November 21, 2006. These changes are intended to further balance protection of the resource with concerns of commercial bait dealers and recreational anglers. Text of the regulation is available at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/propregs/#10e> on the DEC website. Hard copies of the rule making can also be requested from DEC by writing to: Shaun Keeler, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750; or by calling DEC at (518) 402-8920.

Article

Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) – An Opportunity to Act **Leslie Surprenant** **NYSDEC Invasive Species Management Coordinator**

The outbreak of VHS in New York State is yet another example in the long list of invasive species and pathogens threatening recreational fishing and aquatic ecosystem health in New York. The New York State Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF), enabled under 2003 legislation and populated with state agencies, trade groups, academia and conservation organizations, presented 12 invasive species management recommendations in its 2005 report. This report may be viewed at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/istfreport1105\(1\).pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/istfreport1105(1).pdf). The ISTF recommended New York State fund demonstration projects through Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs). A diverse stakeholder base, including state agencies, resource managers, non-governmental organizations, industry, resource users and others comprise a PRISM. This presents an excellent opportunity for NY Chapter AFS and other professional societies to join the battle against invasive species. Partnerships covering eight geographic areas across New York State are envisioned (see map). Core PRISM functions are:

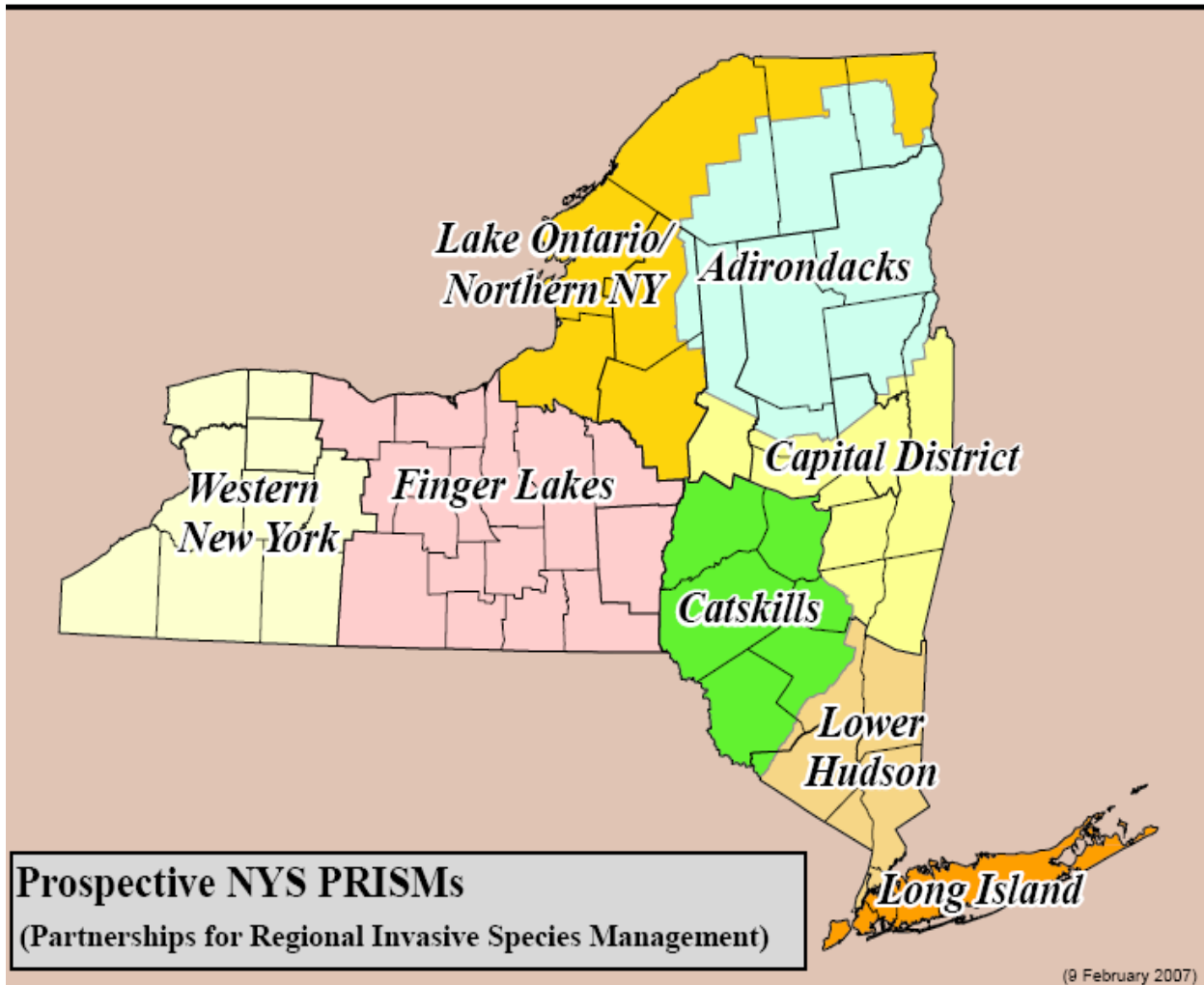
- Planning regional invasive species management
- Developing early detection and rapid response capacity
- Implementing eradication projects
- Educating - in cooperation with DEC-contracted Education and Outreach providers
- Coordinating PRISM partners
- Recruiting and training volunteers

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- Supporting research through citizen science

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will award contracts to a fiscal/administrative sponsor for each PRISM. Fiscal/administrative sponsorship may be through a non-profit organization, a government entity, university or private business. Late last year, DEC hired invasive species management coordinator Leslie Surprenant (ljsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us) to work with the PRISMs. Your participation in a PRISM is welcome and encouraged. PRISM contacts are:

<p style="text-align: center;">Adirondack</p> <p>Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) Hilary Oles Adirondack Nature Conservancy holes@tnc.org 518-576-2082</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Capital District</p> <p>Capital District PRISM Troy Weldy TNC Eastern NY Chapter tweldy@tnc.org 518-690-7841</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Catskills</p> <p>Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) Chris Zimmerman TNC Eastern NY Chapter czimmerman@tnc.org 518-690-7844 and Jennifer Grieser NYC DEP 71 Smith Ave. Kingston, NY 12401 jgrieser@dep.nyc.gov 845-340-7515</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Finger Lakes</p> <p>Finger Lakes PRISM (FL PRISM) Gregg Sargis TNC gsargis@tnc.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Long Island</p> <p>Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) Kathy Schwager The Nature Conservancy on Long Island kschwager@tnc.org 631-367-3225 ext. 125</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lower Hudson</p> <p>Lower Hudson PRISM (LH PRISM) Ed McGowan Palisades Interstate Park Commission Administration Building Bear Mountain, NY 10911 Edwin.McGowan@oprhp.state.ny.us (845)786-2701 ext 299</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Western New York</p> <p>Western New York PRISM (WNY PRISM) Paul Fuhrmann pfuhrmann@ene.com 716-684-8060</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Lawrence and E. Lk Ontario (SLELO)</p> <p>Sue Gwise Sjg42@cornell.edu 315-788-8450</p>



Brief

Native Fish Diversity Committee

Jim McKenna

The Native Fish Diversity Core Committee met at the New York State Museum on April 12. The initiatives identified at the last full meeting were discussed and a decision was reached to pursue a **special session at the NE Natural History Conference in April 2008**. There might be a chance to compare programs in NY with others in the NE and a panel discussion could be held if a facilitator can be found. The full membership will consider this at a meeting in mid- to late-summer. This late summer meeting would be at a place where the diversity of native NY fishes could be examined, such as the **Alleghany State Park Lodge/Conference Center**. A membership directory is also being considered with possible inclusion into the AFS Chapter webpage. This directory would include **a personal sketch of their interests** for each member and contact information.



AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Spring 2007

Upcoming Events

May 28 – June 1, 2007 - **50th Conference on Great Lakes Research**; Penn State U, University Park, PA.
<http://www.iaglr.org/conference/>

June 6-9, 2007 - **4th North American Reservoir Symposium; Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems**; Atlanta, Georgia <http://www.sdafs.org>

June 11-14, 2007 - **International Symposium on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs**;
Dowling College Oakdale, Long Island NY <http://www.horseshoecrab.org/isschc/>

August 7 – 9, 2007 - **An International Symposium on Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species**; Fort Collins, CO: kathleen.a.fagerstone@aphis.usda.gov

September 2-6, 2007 – **137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society**, San Francisco, California <http://www.fisheries.org/sf/>

Jobs

AFS Job Center Online: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml> <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>

New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2005-2006 Officers and Executive Committee

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Professional Diversity, **vacant – your name could be here!**

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Annual Meeting, Emily Zollweg and Scott Jones
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By-Laws, **vacant – your name could be here!**