

# AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer-Fall 2007

## Editors' Note

Greetings NY Chapter AFS members. I hope you've had a summer full of productive piscatorial pursuits for profit and pleasure and are relaxing into your autumnal rituals. Chapter Executive Committee is busily planning the 2008 annual meeting, *Communicating with our Constituents*, to be held February 6 - 8 at Rochester Institute of Technology's Inn and Conference Center in Rochester. The first call for papers and more information are elsewhere in this newsletter.

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](mailto: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 nearly five years as newsletter editor, I will be stepping down early next year. If you are interested in serving as the newsletter editor, please contact either me or president Emily Zollweg.

Leslie Surprenant  
Editor

## President's Corner

Between conducting our surveys and experiments, keeping the data in order, communicating with one another at meetings, and via phone, and email, this has been a busy summer for all of us! As well as trying to have some fun enjoying our natural resources outside of work, we are very busy. I had the opportunity to take a break from some of that and attend the AFS annual meeting in San Francisco, where the theme was "Thinking Downstream and Downcurrent: Addressing Uncertainty and Unintended Consequences in Fish and Fisheries." The weather was warm and beautiful and the citizens welcoming. As always, the program staff assembled an excellent selection of symposia and papers. At one point, I made the difficult choice between two talks, and sat in on what turned out to be the best student paper. Kiza Gates spoke about the amounts, contents and destinations of sediment from anglers boots in Montana. This talk seemed especially relevant as we try to figure out how to address VHS, whirling disease, didymo, and various other threats to our fisheries here in New York. I thank you for the opportunity to represent our chapter at the business meeting, where several awards were given, and a resolution passed supporting the teaching of evolution in public schools.

As we move into the autumn season, please look ahead to our annual meeting in February and consider letting us know what new, interesting, or noteworthy information you encountered this year by giving a paper or poster. Our theme is *Communicating with our Constituents*, so we are especially looking for insights and information about working with anglers, landowners, businesses, and governments. But any subject is welcome, as always!

Happy Fishing,  
Emily

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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](mailto: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 and is working on a GIS training. If you are interested in the chapter offering a particular workshop or training, contact Chris at [ccvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto: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 Subunit

The Chapter's Student Subunit recently awarded a \$250 travel grant to Cornell grad student Elise Zipkin to help offset the costs of travel to the Parent Society's annual meeting in San Francisco. Elise is pursuing a Master's of Science in Natural Resources at Cornell University under the guidance of Drs. Patrick Sullivan and Evan Cooch. Elise will be giving a talk in San Francisco that focuses on a model she developed to explore the dynamics of an overexploited smallmouth bass populating in the Adirondacks.

The Chapter Executive Committee received and is reviewing recommendations for revising Chapter bylaws addressing the organization of the Student Subunit. If accepted by the Chapter and approved by the parent society, these revisions would result in a significant change as to how the Chapter organizes the student subunit. Currently all individual students are included in a single Student Subunit organized at the NY Chapter level. The revisions would allow Student Subunits to be established and recognized at any accredited college or university in New York State. It is felt that this would elicit greater participation by students while streamlining financial support for student activities.

Mark Arrigo

## National AFS

AFS has a mailing list for 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](mailto: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**

#### Sockeye Salmon Evolution, Ecology, and Management

Carol Ann Woody, editor

The importance of sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* to commercial and subsistence fisheries around the Pacific Rim has led to over a century of research on their evolution and ecology. This volume compiles 12 manuscripts or extended abstracts from the 2005 symposium "Sockeye Salmon Ecology, Evolution, Life History, and Management" in Anchorage, Alaska. Exciting work in all four major themes is included. 129 pages, 11-page color gallery 11 full-color pages. Published May 2007 by AFS; \$60.00 list price, \$42.00 AFS members <http://www.afsbooks.org/54054p.html>

#### Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data

Christopher S. Guy and Michael L. Brown, editors

This is an excellent companion to AFS's Fisheries Techniques because it provides a frame of reference for appropriate sample design, analysis, and interpretation of freshwater fisheries data. Chapters are organized by fish and fisheries data types, including recruitment, mortality, biotelemetry, habitat, and predator-prey interactions, within major topic areas, such as population dynamics, fish biology, and community assessment. 961 pages, hardcover, index, companion CD (box example programs and data) Publication date: September 2007; \$98.00 <http://www.afsbooks.org/55049c.html>

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Salmonid Field Protocols Handbook: Techniques for Assessing Status and Trends in Salmon and Trout Populations; David H. Johnson, Brianna M. Shrier, Jennifer S. O'Neal, John A. Knutzen, Xanthippe Augerot, Thomas A. O'Neil, and Todd N. Pearsons, plus 37 contributing authors

This is the first publication to collect, standardize, and recommend a scientifically rigorous set of field protocols for monitoring and assessing salmon and trout populations. Presented in an easy to use format, each of the 18 peer-reviewed protocols covers objectives, sample design, data handling, personnel and operational requirements, and field and office techniques, including survey forms. Standardized monitoring protocols will improve data reliability, maximize opportunities for data sharing and data set comparability, and ultimately improve the ability to assess status and trends. The Handbook will also support consistency in data collection for salmonids at the international level. 478 pages Publication date: May 2007 by AFS in association with the State of the Salmon; \$35.00

<http://www.afsbooks.org/55055p.html>

Bigheaded Carps: A Biological Synopsis and Biological Risk Assessment

Cindy S. Kolar, Duane C. Chapman, Walter R. Courtenay Jr., Christine M. Housel, James D. Williams, and Dawn P. Jennings

This book is a detailed risk assessment and biological synopsis of the bigheaded carps of the genus *Hypophthalmichthys*, which includes the bighead, silver, and largescale silver carps. It summarizes the scientific literature describing their biology, ecology, uses, ecological effects, and risks to the environment. 204 pages, hardcover; Special Publication 33, publication date: August 2007; \$60,00

<http://www.afsbooks.org/51033c.html>

**Abstract**

**Contaminant and Pathogen Considerations: Balancing the Fishing Experience with the Need to Protect Human Health**

Presented at Parent Society Meeting; Urban Fishing Symposium

By Barbara A. Knuth; (607) 255-2822; [bak3@cornell.edu](mailto:bak3@cornell.edu)

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Urban fisheries provide an opportunity to recruit new participants to recreational fishing, provide experiences with nature that may be otherwise limited in urban settings, and build a support base of stakeholders who care about the future management and quality of fisheries and other natural resources in urban environments. Urban fisheries, however, are subject to other pressures of the urban scene, including viral and bacterial pathogens and chemical contaminants that enter the aquatic system, leading to the potential for human exposure to these agents through fishing and fish consumption. While contaminant-related concerns are often managed through the use of fish consumption advisories distributed by various organizations including state and local government and civic society organizations, there are no standard advisories for pathogens beyond those for acute outbreak situations. Many studies demonstrate the differential effectiveness of fish consumption advisories in reaching white, male audiences vs. anglers of other ethnic heritage, and women. The risks of pathogen and chemical contaminant exposure, however, may be greater in some cases for the fetus and thus exposures of pregnant women and women of childbearing age merit specific attention. Moreover, some studies indicate that urban anglers fish more frequently and consume their catch more frequently than do non-urban anglers, and that anglers in certain ethnic and minority groups are at the higher end of the fish consumption spectrum. Thus, both the importance of urban fishing and the potential risks associated with urban fishing are matters of environmental justice. Managing urban fisheries requires full evaluation of the potential health risks, including chemical contaminant and pathogen exposures, as well as accurate risk communication through effective community outreach, and responsive policy guidelines regarding stocking, signage, access, watershed protection, and other considerations that may help to minimize human exposure to contaminants and/or pathogens. Urban fisheries also provide an opportunity to engage local constituencies, such as watershed associations, in working toward a cleaner environment.

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## Brief

Excerpted from DEC Press Release

### PROGRESS SINCE MARKS DAIRY MANURE SPILL

A massive manure spill at a Lewis County dairy farm in 2005 contaminated a 20-mile stretch of the Black River and killed 375,000 fish. This disaster also has sparked upgrades in oversight, enforcement and planning. Advancements in the monitoring of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) made as a result of this disaster are:

- More inspections. DEC expects to complete 122 farm inspections this fiscal year – a 50 percent jump over last year.
- More personnel. The state added five positions, giving the CAFO program 18 inspectors.
- More outreach. The agency has instituted CAFO “roadshows” to raise awareness and answer farmers’ questions about regulations and requirements. DEC conducted seven such seminars in 2006 and five, so far, in 2007.
- More planning. Updated agricultural-waste-management plans and crop-management plans now are required for all CAFO farms. Farms must have plans, updated annually, that provide for the oversight of the manure lagoons, tanks or other storage structures that many medium- and large-scale operators use to fertilize farm fields.
- More enforcement. DEC has issued 19 enforcement orders for CAFO violations since the spill.
- More engineering. Every manure storage structure must be certified by a professional engineer. The state planned to have this completed by summer, but a shift in a related federal timeline moved the deadline to February 2009. Still, many N.Y. operations have already started or completed the process.

Marks Dairy Farm, located in Lowville, is one of the largest dairy operations in the Northeast, with more than 5,000 cows and thousands of acres of crop fields. On Aug. 10, 2005, several million gallons of manure stored in a lagoon emptied into an adjacent field and moved through a drainage ditch into the Black River. (As measured in phosphorous, the waste output of 5,000 cows roughly equals a municipality of 70,000 people.) The spill led to a strong drop in oxygen levels in the water – killing more than 375,000 fish over a 20-mile stretch of the river. DEC’s investigation found that, fortunately, enough young fish and macroinvertebrates survived the pollution to keep the ecological basis for the river’s food chain intact.

In 2006, DEC and Marks Dairy signed a consent order that mandated a \$2.2 million settlement package, among other requirements. It included many upgrades – the farm has since put in a fully lined storage structure and implemented improved waste-management practices. The farm is still in the process of completing Environmental Benefits Projects associated with the settlement. These include a conservation easement and construction of two parking areas to provide fishing access to the Black River.

There are 147 large-scale (more than 700 animals) and 464 medium-scale (200 to 700 animals) CAFO facilities statewide. (CAFOs predominately are dairy farms, but chicken, duck, turkey, swine and horse farms are also permitted.) New York in 1999 became one of the first states to adopt a CAFO permit to set guidelines for farms. The permit outlines conditions for waste control and management, including storage limits, erosion controls, and lining and design standards. Subsequent federal rules largely were based on New York’s comprehensive policies. As part a review of the CAFO program in the wake of the spill, DEC worked with the state Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to improve staff training, establish inspection protocols and increase communication among staff and agencies on agricultural issues.

For more information and a map of CAFO sites across New York, go to:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6285.html>

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### **Fisheries Management and Aquatic Education in the Long Island/New York City Area: Lessons learned over the past 30 years**

Presented at Parent Society Meeting by Ed Woltmann

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**Abstract:** New York's involvement in urban fisheries can be traced back to 1978 when a 2 year demonstration project, modeled after a similar program in St. Louis, was initiated in New York City and other New York urban areas. Unfortunately, the program failed to consider the inherent differences between metropolitan New York and the midwest in terms of what the public expectations were of such a program. While the St. Louis program achieved use rates of 4,000 trips per acres annually, the New York program only achieved use rates of 10 to 50 trips per acre annually, resulting in its demise in 1980. In 1990 the New York State Department Environmental Conservation began a new community fishing initiative in Nassau County (Long Island). This initiative used traditional and innovative strategies to encourage local government to work to improve the County's freshwater resources; encourage individuals to try the sport of fishing; better manage existing fish populations and enhance existing fishing opportunities through a fall trout stocking program. These efforts contributed to an increase in angling participation from approximately 65,000 angler days prior to the initiative to just under 140,000 angler days in 1996.

### **Abstract: Brook trout and round whitefish restoration in new York State's Adirondack Park**

Author: Bill Schoch

Presented at Parent Society meeting by Bill Schoch

Historically, brook trout were nearly ubiquitous in lakes and ponds in New York State's Adirondack Park. Brook trout have been virtually eliminated from most of the lakes and ponds where historically found, and native strains have almost certainly been lost. Round whitefish were historically found in about 70 waters, but now are listed as endangered in New York. The introduction of non-native fishes is a major cause for the declines. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is restoring brook trout and round whitefish to selected waters. The restoration program includes: reclamations with rotenone; construction of fish barriers; regulations to restrict persons from introducing fishes; and stocking. The restoration program is conducted on a relatively small scale; about 53 ponds totaling 1,196 acres were reclaimed from 1989 to 2006 accounting for roughly 0.5% of the area in the Adirondacks. The program has allowed us to distribute three native strains of brook trout in several waterbodies and restore the region's historic angling resource. Pond reclamations with rotenone have been controversial. However when it becomes known that rare native fishes will be restored and that rotenone is safe, the controversy subsides.



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## 2008 NY Chapter Annual Meeting - First Call for Papers and Meeting Details

### *“Communications with our Constituents - Perspectives for the 21st Century”*

The Chapter's annual meeting will be here before you know it. This year's event will be held on February 6-8, 2008, at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Inn and Conference Center at 5257 West Henrietta Road in Rochester. Information and driving directions may be found at [www.RITinn.com](http://www.RITinn.com). Guest room will available at the special AFS rate of \$74/night so reserve by January 16, 2008. When making a reservation please use the code "AFS". Please call (585) 359-1800 to reserve your room. Meeting details and registration cost will be included in the December newsletter.

Our theme is Communicating with our Constituents. Has our constituent population changed? How will it change in the future? How can we use new technologies and new strategies to reach and receive from our constituents better? We will have training on new ideas and case studies. We are especially looking for insights and information about working with anglers, landowners, businesses, and governments. If you have something to share please contact Greg Kozlowski [gekozlow@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:gekozlow@gw.dec.state.ny.us) or Emily Zollweg [eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us). Any subject is welcome, as always!

### **2008 Raffle Update**

While some of our regular donors have already come forward to support student participation in our annual meeting by contributing raffle prizes, I would like to include some prizes that reflect the diverse skills of our membership. Consider this an invitation to share your craftsmanship or artistic talent with your fellow fisheries professionals in the form of a raffle prize. It is a great chance to gain some exposure for your work while supporting the future of the profession.

By way of an example, one new prize that I am seeking to include in the upcoming raffle, is the official NYAFS "mix of six" homebrew beer sampler. If you carve wood, tie flies, or even brew beer contact me during business hours at 315-337-0910 or via e-mail at [fghenson@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fghenson@gw.dec.state.ny.us). Also, if you have personal contacts with any organizations that are potential prize donors please get in touch.

Fred Henson  
2008 Raffle Chair





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### Upcoming Events

**NY Chapter Meeting;** Feb 6 – 8, 2008, Rochester. “Communicating with Our Constituents”, Rochester, NY. More details and call for papers in this newsletter.

**AFS - Advances in Tagging and Marking Technology for Fisheries Management and Research:** February 24-28, 2008, Auckland, New Zealand. [www.fisheries.org/units/tag2008](http://www.fisheries.org/units/tag2008)

### Jobs

**Pennsylvania State Fisheries Biologist Exam** for Fisheries Biologist 1, 2, and 3 classes exam is open through April 11, 2008. Exam announcement:

<http://www.scsc.state.pa.us/scsc/cwp/view.asp?a=392&q=148893>

Application: <http://www.scsc.state.pa.us/scsc/cwp/view.asp?a=392&Q=131589>

**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!**