



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

Summer 2010

New York Chapter Officers
2010-2011
President: Matt Sanderson
President-elect: Ed Woltmann
Past President: Randy Jackson
Secretary-Treasurer: Scott Jones

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AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2010

Editors' Note

Welcome to the Summer 2010 newsletter! Please enjoy, and feel free to write to me with suggestions for future newsletters! If you would care to submit something for the Winter newsletter, please email it to me at eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us by December 15, 2010. I'm especially looking for fish stories and student happenings...

Emily Zollweg, Newsletter Editor

President's Corner

With another summer filled with field work upon us in DEC region 8, I'm finding it difficult to find things to write about for this issue of the newsletter. I've recently had some interesting field days that proved the old saying that things are not always as they seem. My double crested cormorant diet study found that for some reason cormorants decided not to nest at Snider Island this year, several days assessing mussels in the high quality Oatka Creek watershed found very few, instead of confirming the presence or absence of brook trout in Steuben County streams, we've found wild brown trout, and two weeks of attempting to assess the Lake Ontario near shore warm water fish community found many cold water fish. The only normal thing was one day on the Genesee River with Dawn Dittman and her crew assessing the success of two years of lake sturgeon stockings found these fish are surviving very well.

The executive committee met on July 14 to conduct the chapter's business. I'm happy to report that Ross Abbett has volunteered to be the professional incentives chairperson, Brian Weidel has volunteered to be the student subunit chairperson. I'd like to thank Sarah Zapala and Bill Fisher for their service in these roles. Web Pearsall has volunteered to be the local arrangements chairperson for the 2011 annual chapter meeting. It will be held in the Rochester area in early February. Place and dates will be announced in the very near future. Although I'm sure that university, company, organization, and agency budgets in this difficult fiscal environment may prohibit re-imbusement for travel expenses for many of you, I hope that you will consider attending the annual meeting.

The meeting theme will be Aquatic Habitat Restoration. I chose this theme because of the various management options available to fisheries managers, habitat manipulation is one that is less routinely utilized and funded. Aquatic habitat restoration projects are usually constructed because there is special funding available, it is required as mitigation for natural resource impacts under regulatory programs, and to repair aquatic habitat damage due to storms and other natural events, among others. Recently, special sources such as the Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership program, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, and others have provided dedicated funding for habitat restoration. Many organizations and agencies in New York have utilized these sources to construct and implement various types of aquatic habitat restoration projects and it would be beneficial for our membership to learn from these experiences. If you have experiences with aquatic habitat restoration projects or assessments and would like to speak on the topic, please contact me at mjsander@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

That should do it for this newsletter. Enjoy the rest of the summer. Maybe fish, mussels, and birds will be back in their "normal" places in the fall.

Matt Sanderson

Chapter News

Dear New York State American Fisheries Society Members,

Please consider a co-worker, mentor, or student of yours for one of the following awards founded on a dedication to fisheries science. The New York Chapter has three award classifications for recognizing our fisheries professionals and one to encourage the development of a student or recent graduate entering the field:

Honorary Member Award

The Honorary Member Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual to the Chapter or official position (i.e. Guest Speakers). Nominations should include a brief biography and discussion of the significant involvement and contributions towards conservation of fisheries/aquatic resource within the Chapter. The only criterion for the award is that the nominee must be a member in good standing.

Professional Achievement Award

The Professional of the Year Award is awarded to an individual employed in a field related to fisheries and aquatic resources. Nominations for individuals should include a brief biography along with information pertaining to service, impact on the resource and other professional, and significant accomplishments. Eligible accomplishments by the nominee can be in one of the following categories: Leadership and Development, Education, Aquaculture, Management, Research, and Technical Support.

- Only members in good standing can make nominations
- The recipient must be a member in good standing
- The award is based on fisheries related work in New York

Conservationist of the Year Award

The Conservationist of the Year Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual or group not employed in the fisheries or aquatic resources field (i.e. Conservation or Angler Groups). Nominations should include a brief biography and discussion of the significant involvement and contributions towards conservation of fisheries/aquatic resources. The only criterion for the award is that the award is based on fisheries/aquatic resource related work accomplished in New York.

Dave Bryson Memorial Award

The New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society established the Dave Bryson Memorial Fisheries Fund in memory of Dave Bryson, ex-chapter President and long-time member. Eligible recipients include any college-bound high school students, college student or young fisheries professional in a fisheries-related program of study or a recent college graduate that has received a degree from a fisheries-related program of study within the past two years. The award is intended to assist the recipient in furthering their education or fisheries-related career aspirations and may be used for travel expenses, equipment purchase, or educational costs (i.e. books).

Please think about the dedication of the people that you work with every day and how they can be recognized for their accomplishments. Send your nominations to Ross Abbett at rabbett@usgs.gov

Award descriptions were compiled by Sarah Zappala.

AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2010

Professional Cabin Fever? Join a Chapter Committee!

By Fred Henson, Past-President

Are you feeling a sense of frustration in the workplace because fiscal constraints are preventing you from doing what you view as essential work? Have you experienced episodes of professional tunnel vision as a consequence of decreased opportunities for interactions with the full diversity of fisheries professionals beyond your immediate workstation?

If you have experienced any of the above symptoms then you might be suffering from professional cabin fever. In the final stages, victims rarely leave their cubicles and, when they do, their co-workers mistake them for visiting retirees. The progression from inspired and idealistic young fisheries professional to malaise-stricken cube hermit is slow and painful but the good news is that there is a simple cure: find an AFS Chapter Committee that is working on something that piques your professional interest and join it!

Even if circumstances severely restrict your ability to travel, there are many committee tasks that can be distributed electronically, accomplished at your own desk, and yet still afford an increased sense of connection with other fisheries professionals and relieve those nagging perceptions of isolation and confinement.

Committee work often gets a bad rap in the popular imagination: “No one builds a statue to a committee.” Yet, assigning an important task to a committee is one of the oldest traditions of governance in our society. In my opinion, a committee that does good work has built its own monument – no statues required. I formed this opinion upon exiting the national archives in Washington D.C. after viewing the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

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 2010 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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Direct: 315.414.2205|Cell: 315.317.6680|Fax: 315.451.2429
Scott.Jones@hdrinc.com

Website

For your information: the New York Chapter AFS Bylaws are available online at:
<http://www.newyorkafs.org/NYCAFSBylaws.pdf>

There is also a link to the bylaws on the bottom of the home page.

William Snyder, Professor of Fish and Wildlife Management, Chair, Environmental Sciences Department
Morrisville State College, Morrisville, New York 13408, tel: 315-684-6237 fax: 315-684-6125
SnyderW@Morrisville.edu URL: <http://people.morrisville.edu/~snyderw/>

AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2010

Workshop

See end of newsletter for workshop announcement.

Student Subunit

The student subunits are: Cobleskill, Fredonia, Cornell, and Morrisville. There is also a Chapter at SUNY ESF.

Northeast Division

The latest edition of "The Northeast Fish Rapper" is now available.

http://www.fisheries.org/units/ned/docs_newsletter.htm

Happy Reading!

Phillip Dionne

Editor, The Northeast Fish Rapper

NED mailing list

NED@lists.fisheries.org

<http://lists.fisheries.org/listinfo.cgi/ned-fisheries.org>

Announcements

DIADROMOUS SPECIES RESTORATION RESEARCH NETWORK UPDATE

A bi-monthly announcement of happenings in the diadromous species research community

Please visit the DSRRN Website [<http://www.umaine.edu/searunfish>] to learn more about:

**** *Please note new website design. Update links are now located in right hand column***

CONFERENCE: Fourth North American Workshop on Rainbow Smelt Jan 24-25, 2011

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Due Sept 17 **AND** Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Due Sept 17

JOB OPPORUTUNITY: Coastal Training Associate Due Sept 3

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: RARGOM Annual Science Meeting Due August 27

CONFERENCE: RARGOM Impacts of Climate Change in the Gulf of Maine, NH, Oct 6

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Due November 17

PENOBSCOT SCIENCE EXCHANGE: First Annual Penobscot Research Newsletter Available

AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2010

AFS News

New titles from AFS

Community Ecology of Stream Fishes: Concepts, Approaches, and Techniques

Keith B. Gido and Donald A. Jackson, editors

664 pages, index

Published by the American Fisheries Society

Publication date: August 2010

ISBN: 978-1-934874-14-1

\$79.00 list price, \$55.00 AFS members

To order: <http://www.afsbooks.org/54073P>

Stream fish community ecology is an exciting field of research that has expanded rapidly over the past two decades. Both conceptual and technological advances have increased our ability to characterize patterns of community structure across multiple scales and evaluate processes that regulate those patterns. A main focus of this book is to synthesize those advancements and provide directions for future research.

Chapters are grouped into five main themes: macroecology of stream fishes, stream fish communities in landscapes, importance of connectivity, conservation challenges for stream fishes, structure and dynamics of stream fishes, and role of fishes in stream ecosystems. An international group of renowned authors have contributed chapters and theme summaries that provide examples of current research within each of five themes as well as ideas for new research directions.

AFS Information on the Web <http://www.fisheries.org>

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 and enter SUBSCRIBE AFS in the body of the e-mail.

"Merging Our Deeper Currents"

AFS 140th ANNUAL MEETING

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

12-16 September 2010

<http://secure.fisheries.org/afsevent>

Join AFS or renew for 2010 at www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html

Jobs

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



AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Summer 2010

New York Chapter of the AFS Officers and Executive Committee

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Youth Aquatic Education, Tom Hughes

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Program, Matt Sanderson

Annual Meeting, Web Pearsall

wepearsa@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Workshop, Chris VanMaaren

ccvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Request for Proposals

from the

Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science (PMAFS)

Development and verification of a rapid, accurate, and inexpensive technique to obtain sex at length for black sea bass from trawl surveys and port sampling

What is PMAFS? PMAFS is a multi-state multi-institutional partnership that seeks to utilize academic and recreational and commercial fisheries resources to address the most urgent scientific problems limiting successful management of fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region. PMAFS partners include the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund (SSFFF), Garden State Seafood Association (GSSA), United Boatman of New York, Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), United Boatman of New Jersey, Recreational Fishing Alliance, the New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association, and the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association. The PMAFS Science Advisory Committee, composed of academic scientists and representatives from important fisheries management groups, including the NMFS, MAFMC and ASMFC, have identified the issue raised in this RFP as a high priority for funding in 2010.

Statement of Purpose: This science initiative addresses a number of comments raised in the Data Poor Stocks Working Group report on black sea bass[†], the 2009 black sea bass assessment update[‡], and a memorandum from the MAFMC dated December 10, 2009, identifying a five-year (2009-2013) research plan.

The ability to assess the status of the stock of protogynous fish is impeded by uncertainty in the sex ratio at maturity including the possible existence of permanent males, the age that functional females convert to functional males, and the degree to which mortality rate varies between these life phases. Review of the literature identifies issues that create uncertainty concerning the viability of a simple approach to collection of sex data for black sea bass. The following facts obtained from literature accounts are pertinent to this concern. (1) Black sea bass may differentiate in such a way that some animals reach maturity directly as males. In one study, fully 25% of fish differentiated initially as males. (2) Gonads of mature fish may contain testicular and ovarian tissue and often contain both eggs and sperm. (3) The commonness of this situation is not easily deciphered from the available literature, but the number of reports would suggest that fish apparently, but likely not functionally, simultaneously hermaphroditic are not uncommon. (4) Some apparently simultaneous hermaphrodites have sperm but no functional sperm ducts; that is, the fish is functioning solely as a female while appearing

[†] Shepherd, G. 2009. Black sea bass. *In*: The Northeast Data Poor Stocks Working Group report December 8-12, 2008 meeting, Part A. Skate species complex, deep sea red crab, Atlantic wolffish, scup, and black sea bass. NEFSC Ref. Doc. 09-02A, pp 423-494.

[‡] Shepherd, G.R. 2009. Black sea bass 2009 stock assessment update. NEFSC Ref. Doc. 09-16, 30 pp.

to be hermaphroditic, or, alternatively, is in the process of converting from female to male with functionality uncertain. (5) At least in one case, three types of hermaphrodites have been recognized, including males with oocytes and females with spermatogonia.

Data for assessment purposes come from federal and state surveys and port sampling of catch. Most surveys and port samples of landings are obtained from fish caught outside of the spawning season. Development of sex-at-length or sex-at-age keys for black sea bass to be applied to these databases requires optimally that functional sex be determined at the time of sampling rapidly, accurately, and inexpensively and that this determination indicate the functional sex of the individual at the time of capture. For the hermaphrodites, consistent well-defined categories are needed that can be related to functionality. The previous observations from literature accounts suggest that simple gross observation of the gonad may lead to ambiguous classification of the fish with an unknown and potentially length-dependent error rate. Classic histological analyses are too expensive and time consuming to be routinely implemented. Thus, this RFP seeks proposals for research designed to identify and test options leading to routine use of a rapid, accurate (with an established error rate), and inexpensive technique to obtain sex data from trawl surveys and port sampling that will result in routine, repeatable allocation of fish to well-defined categories of known functionality.

Proposal Submission: Proposals must be submitted by August 31 to:

Dr. Eleanor Bochenek
Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science
P.O. Box 82
Villas, NJ 08251

Proposals should be no more than *five* single-spaced pages exclusive of budget, detailed budget justification, and two-page vita. Proposals should focus on method development, testing of the method under routine sampling conditions, the test protocols, and the evaluation of error rate. Extensive background or introductory material is unnecessary. Background material should be restricted to facts necessary to evaluate specific proposal tasks such as the method proposed and protocols for testing and error determination. A decision on funding will occur by October 15, 2010. PMAFS expects to fund one proposal.

Budget Guidance: PMAFS permits an Indirect Cost rate no higher than 15%. Programs funded previously have generally varied in budget from \$40,000 to \$250,000. Attached to this RFP are NOAA guidelines for preparing budgets which must be followed and an example of Form 424a showing budget format.

Information inquiry: Prospective proposers can call or email Eric Powell or Eleanor Bochenek for additional information, if needed.

Eric Powell: 856-785-0074 x4309; eric@hsrl.rutgers.edu

Eleanor Bochenek: 609-898-0928; bochenek@hsrl.rutgers.edu

Application



Mail or fax application to:

American Fisheries Society
Attn: Shawn Johnston
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110
Bethesda, MD 20814-2199
(301) 897-8616 ext 230; (301) 897-8096 [FAX]

Course Information:

Course Name: Planning & Executing Successful Rotenone & Antimycin Projects

Course Date: October 18-22, 2010 Course Location: Huntington Wildlife Forest, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, Newcomb, NY

Do you request Continuing Education Credit? _____.

Applicant Information: Please Print

Name: _____ Job Title: _____.

Organization/Agency Name: _____.

Mailing Address: _____.

City/State/Country: _____ Zip Code: _____.

Email Address: _____ Business Phone: _____ Business Fax: _____.

Are you a current AFS member? Yes No

Billing/Payment Information—Must be completed to process your application

Registration: \$900 (\$800 for AFS members)

Billing Contact Name: _____ Billing Contact Phone & Fax : _____.

Billing Contact Organization Name: _____.

Mailing Address: _____ City/State Zip Code: _____.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Visa MasterCard

IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL YOUR REGISTRATION, please email or fax your cancellation request, including a reason for the cancellation. Cancellation requests should be made no more than 14 days prior to class start date to avoid late cancellation penalty fees.

American Fisheries Society Fish Management Chemicals Subcommittee

PLANNING & EXECUTING SUCCESSFUL ROTENONE & ANTIMYCIN PROJECTS

Description – The 4 ½ day training course stresses public involvement, safety, planning, & application techniques from the recently released AFS *Rotenone SOP Manual*. Rotenone was recently approved for reregistration. As a result, there are a number new restrictions and changes in use conditions that will be highlighted in the course. The course was developed to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reregistration requirements that rely on the label and standard operating procedures for the piscicides, rotenone & antimycin. Topics include: soliciting and incorporating public involvement, fisheries management/conservation plans; piscicide uses and strategies; species sensitivities; safety; reading and following label and MSDS; public education; preliminary and intermediate planning; project implementation and management; crisis management strategies; and characteristics of successful projects. Also included are product chemistry and toxicology, use histories, application, monitoring & neutralization techniques, applicator safety, and proposed new label restrictions. Planning, toxicology, and application techniques are demonstrated in hands-on laboratory and field exercises. Participants receive a copy of the new *Rotenone SOP Manual* (written by the instructors), and successful completion of a final exam will give the participant a certificate of completion.

Attendance: Biologists that manage the planning and execution of rotenone or antimycin projects.

Course Objectives – Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to plan & execute a successful (i.e., effective, legal & safe) project with rotenone or antimycin by performing the following:

- Develop strategies for fish sampling/control/eradication that reflect sensitivities of target species, characteristics of the piscicides & important environmental conditions;
- Develop preliminary, intermediate, & implementation management plans including public involvement, application, neutralization, monitoring, & safety;
- Develop management & planning strategies that deal positively & effectively with unanticipated events before these occur & resulting crises that often involve the public & news media;
- Implement application & neutralization techniques that minimize impacts;
- Explain piscicide label and MSDS contents & requirements & how these affect use;
- Characterize effects on target & non-target organisms & environmental fate of piscicides;
- Understand need & techniques for involving & educating public during planning process; &
- Describe key environmental laws, regulations, & processes and how these affect piscicide use

When: October 18-22, 2010

Length: 5 days

Where: Huntington Wildlife Forest, Newcomb, NY

Tuition: \$900 (\$800 AFS members)

For class information, please contact:

Brian Finlayson, 530.957.0333, briankarefinlayson@att.net

Don Skaar, 406.444.7409, dskaar@mt.gov

Applications available at: American Fisheries Society
Shawn Johnston, 301.897.8616 ext. 230, sjohnston@fisheries.org

Lodging available at (code American Fisheries Society Class):
Adirondack Ecological Center, Kathy Poulton, 518.582.4551 ext.101, aechwf@esf.edu
For additional information regarding HWF please visit www.esf.edu/aec