

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1995

Robert J. Goldstein, Ph.D., Editor
Shari D. Gunter, Layout Presentation

8480 Garvey Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
(919) 872-1174

NC AFS 1996 Annual Meeting Plans

Mark your calendar for the 1996 annual meeting, to be held January 16-17, 1996 on the shores of White Lake, NC. We will meet at the North Carolina FFA Center, seven miles northeast of Elizabethtown off US 701, 1.5 miles east on NC 53. The Center has a lodge with 23 rooms, each with two beds and a private bath. The Kirkland Cottage has an additional four rooms. There is also a Days Inn in Elizabethtown. Adjacent to the lodge is the conference room for up to 150 people and a variety of recreational facilities (miniature golf, basketball, volleyball, softball). The cost is:

Room, meals, breaks, and registration:	\$55	15 Room
Meals, breaks and registration only:	\$40	32 Meals
Breaks and registration only:	\$8	9 Breaks Regis.

We would appreciate suggestions regarding the format of the 1996 meeting. The approach has been to have contributed papers grouped into categories. Alternatively, we could devote part of the meeting to a specific topic, such as the session on zebra mussels held about three years ago. Another possibility is to devote time to continuing education. Some topics the Executive Committee has discussed include (1) a refresher course on electrofishing, including worker safety and injury to fish, (2) use of GPS equipment (for determining location) and GIS software (for graphical analysis of fisheries data), or (3) a special session focusing on the Cape Fear watershed. If we include a continuing education component and arrange for an outside instructor, the best approach might be a half-day or full-day session in addition to the regular noon-to-noon meeting. Please contact Joe Hightower (919-515-2631, jhightower@ncsu.edu) with suggestions or to volunteer for the program committee.

Call for contributed papers: We welcome contributed papers from Chapter members and potential members on any fishery-related management or research topic. You can discuss either an ongoing or a completed project. We particularly encourage graduate students to present the results of thesis research.

To the extent possible, the Program Committee will group papers by topic. For that reason, we are requesting that presenters submit a brief abstract (one-half page or less) of the proposed talk. Format for the abstract should be as follows: Name of presenter; Affiliation; Title; Text summarizing project. The deadline for *voluntary* submission of abstracts is October 31, 1995. If we don't receive enough responses to fill the program, we will solicit speakers. Indicate if the presenter is a student so that the presentation can be judged for the Best Student Paper Award.

Mail or fax abstract(s) to:

Joe Hightower - NCAFS Program Committee
NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Campus Box 7617, NCSU Raleigh, NC 27695-7617 Fax: 919 515-4454

North Carolina Chapter - American Fisheries Society
Minutes of the EXCOM meeting on September 14, 1995
Randolph Community College, Asheboro, NC

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM by President Don Degan. Members in attendance were President-Elect Joe Hightower and Secretary-Treasure Shari Bryant. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC): Chairman Roger Bryan had sent a letter Don about changes in instream flow legislation and state membership in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission addressed at the previous EXCOM meeting. Roger had not received any information about these issues. He also requested copies of the ECC correspondence for his files and any official comment letters on wetlands and critical habitat issues submitted in 1995. Although the instream flow legislation has already passed, it was decided to get a copy of the legislation and, if feasible, submit comments about the legislation from the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Chris Goudreau is the chairman of the FERC Relicensing Committee for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. It was decided to ask Chris to obtain a copy of the legislation.

1999 AFS National Meeting: The NCAFS will be hosting the National Meeting in Charlotte in 1999. Preliminary arrangements with the Charlotte Convention Center and the Host Hotel are under way. Wilson Laney has already talked with Discovery Place about hosting a social. A program chairman will need to be determined in the near future. Possible program chairs include Bob Goldstein. A decision needs to be made as to whether to ask the South Carolina chapter to co-host this meeting.

Southeastern: The Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society sent correspondence requesting each Chapter contribute \$100.00 to help defray the costs of a Student/Professional mixer. This mixer will take place at the 1995 Southeastern meeting to be held in Nashville, TN. The EXCOM decided this would be an appropriate contribution and check was sent to the Tennessee Chapter.

1996 Annual Meeting: Joe reported that the arrangements for the annual chapter meeting are completed. It was determined that the cost per person to stay at White Lake would be \$50.00. Meals only would cost \$35.00 and refreshment breaks \$8.00. In addition, there is a \$100.00 charge for the meeting room. A registration fee of \$5.00 would probably cover all costs associated with the meeting. It was decided to have a session on the Cape Fear watershed, as the meeting will be held in the area. Joe will solicit speakers from DEM to present the Cape Fear Basinwide Water Quality Management Plan and address elevated mercury levels in fish tissue. Other topics included impacts on sturgeon migrating up the Cape Fear River and effects of dinoflagellates. The remainder of the program would be contributed papers.

EXCOM Meeting: The next meeting of the EXCOM is scheduled for the first or second week of December. Final plans for the 1996 annual meeting will be made then.

INTERNET ADDRESS FOR NORTH CAROLINA STATE LEGISLATURE

Few of us have the time to keep up with the environmental legislation before the state legislature, but there is an easy way to keep up with this important legislation. Daily updates can be accessed through the Internet at the following address: <ftp://legislature.state.nc.us>. This access site contains information about bills in the North Carolina legislature, and their status. This information is updated daily and provides an easy method for those not in Raleigh to keep up to date on current legislation dealing with fisheries.

No one has the time to daily peruse the status of all of the bills pertinent to fisheries and the environment, but if you happen to find a bill that may need the attention of the Environmental Concerns Committee of the Chapter please inform Roger Bryan, committee chairman, at (704)497-6506.

INTERNET CONNECTIONS FOR FISHERIES

While at the AFS meeting in Tampa Joe Hightower was able to pick up the addresses of several home page sites on the internet from other organizations, including the new home page for the AFS. These may help you get information, or access to databases that are currently not available through other means.

American Fisheries Society	http://www.esd.ornl.gov:80/AFS/
Southeastern Biological Science Ctr	http://www.nfrcg.gov
National Marine Fisheries	http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/
US EPA	http://www.epa.gov
US Fish and Wildlife Service	http://www.fws.gov/
EPA Other Environmental Servers	http://www.epa.gov/docs/Environment.html

These are just a few of the resources now available. If you know of others please pass on the information.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE FORMED

Richard Noble, NCSU, Fred Harris, NCWRC, and Gene Vaughan, DPC have accepted appointment to co-chair the newly formed Education Committee of the North Carolina AFS Chapter. These individuals will accept assistance from anyone interested in helping formulate the goals of the committee as outlined in the Chapter's Long Range Plan.

1. Inform the public about topical issues such as habitat protection, multiple-use conflicts, and fishery resource policies through the mass-media.
2. Identify mechanisms for gathering and disseminating information to Chapter members.
3. Maintain current information on Society educational standards and opportunities in the fisheries profession.
4. Promote participation by Chapter members in the Society's certification program.
5. Assist the Society in developing and maintaining scientific and technical standards for the fisheries profession.

NATIONAL AFS MEETING CHARLOTTE, 1999

At our annual meeting in January, Joe Hightower and Don Degan mentioned that the Chapter would be requested to endorse a proposal by Charlotte to host the National AFS meeting in 1999. By this summer we had received requests from both Greensboro and Charlotte to endorse their bids for hosting the meeting in 1999. After visits to the facilities in both cities in July, a letter was sent to the AFS office inviting AFS members to meet in Charlotte, NC in 1999. Representatives from Charlotte, Bob Curry, and Don Degan presented a proposal to the Time and Place Committee at the Tampa meeting in August. Charlotte was chosen by the Time and Place Committee and the AFS EXCOM to host the 1999 meeting. Representatives from the AFS home office will be visiting Charlotte within the next month to work out the arrangements with the Charlotte Convention Center and the host motel.

NEW WEST VIRGINIA FISH BOOK

The Fishes of West Virginia by Jay Staffer, Jeff Boltz, and Laura White is available at \$50 from the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

NEWS FROM THE ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

The ASMFC (1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005) met Sept 5-7 to discuss American lobster, northern shrimp, shad and river herring, weakfish, and bluefish. Shad/river herring stocks from NC north appear to be severely depressed, although stock assessments have not been completed, and the technical and advisory panels are recommending a 50% reduction in commercial effort in order to keep landings down to the 1990-1994 level or lower; and adopting a 50% reduction in creel limits. Weakfish stocks continue to be in bad shape, with mortality rates extremely high, the biomass of spawning weakfish at historically low levels, and the age structure drastically truncated toward younger fish. The ASMFC is moving toward consensus on a 12-inch minimum, and formally agreed with a NMFS proposal to close federal waters to the harvest and keeping of weakfish. North Carolina proposed an alternative to the NMFS plan, but it was rejected. For more information, call Frank Lockhart at 202-289-6400, ext. 317. As you read this, the ASMFC Bluefish Advisory Panel will be meeting in Alexandria, VA with the MAFMC Bluefish Advisory Panel. To find out what transpired, call John Carmichael at ext. 318. For other information, call Diane Stephan, SAFMC's Habitat Coordinator, at ext. 309. Her desk also puts out *Habitat Hotline-Atlantic*. Diane was at the SAFMC Habitat Advisory Panel Meeting in Charleston on May 31-June 1 and gave a report on Clean Water Act Reauthorization. Call her for a copy of the report. To get on the mailing list for the CLEAN WATER ACT NETWORK (don't fret, there aren't any dues), call Kathy Nesmick at 202-624-9537.

NEWS FROM THE SAFMC'S HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL

Bob Goldstein and Wilson Laney attended the SAFMC Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel meeting in Charleston May 31-June 1 (thus missing the peak of the cobia season). Here is an excerpt of their report:

On Development of a Habitat FMP

The North Carolina subpanel supports proceeding with development of a single Habitat FMP at this time. We assert that the issue of one vs. several separate FMPs for different types of habitats should not concern us now, and we can revisit the question of one or many later, when we have more information in an organized format.

The Council's handling of the live rock issue demonstrates that the system can work effectively and in a timely manner, even when the harvestable resource has only a tangential relationship to a recognized, managed resource. It also shows that the Council's likelihood of success is enhanced when the user group is small, new rather than historical, and has alternatives with which to continue pursuit of its livelihood.

In this regard the North Carolina subpanel strongly believes that sargassum harvest should be handled within the framework of a Habitat FMP or otherwise be given special attention. The NC panel notes that all information on harvest comes from a single harvester, is unaccompanied by documentation, and is unverified by independent observers. This harvester has given different and conflicting information to Dr. Bud Cross and Dr. Robert Goldstein regarding vessel use: Dr. Cross was told that he has no vessel and purchases sargassum from other trawlers whereas Dr. Goldstein was told that he owned a \$5 million vessel outfitted specifically to harvest sargassum. We note that neither NMFS nor the Council knows who is purchasing the sargassum from this harvester, how much is being purchased and from how many other suppliers, demand for the product (we've not seen a business plan from the one known harvester who wants permission to continue), or if the material is landed at ports other than Beaufort, NC. We know neither US nor international landings, nor have we information on growth of this industry, or on alternative products that have less environmental cost.

We note that we have no information on sustainable yield of sargassum, no data on the relationship of sargassum harvest to depression of production of dolphin, billfish, or other regulated fishes, and little information on the possibly essential relationship of sargassum to species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

At this time, the economic interest in harvesting sargassum is as small as it will ever be, and the likelihood of concurrence in an FMP by commercial, recreational, academic, and environmental groups - for a multitude of reasons - is very high.

NEWS FROM THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION

News emphasis is on sportfish and nuisance species. This section seeks a southern regional marine fisheries editor to provide coverage of the region. (Good job for a student or retiree). If interested, contact Bradd Simms at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 618-536-7761 or email: BGSIMS@SIU.EDU.

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES SECTION

Deep Shelf Fishery Conference, to be held in Miami on Feb 1-3, 1996. Coverage includes wreckfish, deepwater crabs, other harvestables. International speakers. For more information, call Jennifer Potts at NMFS-Beaufort (919-728-8715 or email: JPOTTS@HATTERAS.BEA.NMFS.GOV). And speaking of NMFS-Beaufort, ol' buddy Gene Huntsman is retiring shortly, so give him a holler.

Aquaculture Information Guide, available on the internet at ISWANN@HUB.ANSC.PURDUE.EDU or telephone LaDonn Swann at 317-494-6264.

Caribbean Conservation Corporation is starting a rapid response network to cover sea turtles, other endangered species, and marine resources generally (note coral bleaching and die-offs of urchins and other organisms). To find out more, call David Godfrey at 904-373-6441 or email: DGOD@NERVM.NERDC.UFLE.EDU.

Feature articles on Chinese fishery institutions, Japan fishery news, FADs, etc. Great section, and only \$5 a year sent to Allen Shimada, Ed., Office of Research, F/RE3, NMFS, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. If you have email, you'll treasure the contacts.

NEWS FROM OTHER STATE SECTIONS

Tennessee: The Tennessee Chapter is cleaning up missing NCAFS members from the Wildhorse Saloon Fisheries Social at the 1995 Southeastern Meeting in Nashville. The student mixer was held separately.

Florida: These guys are still cleaning up more missing NCAFS members from the 125th Annual AFS meeting in Tampa, and we can expect a summary of the event in upcoming AFS publications. A tasteful discussion of taste in saltwater fish vs. freshwater fish suggests that bromophenols derived from algae, bryozoans, and some sandworms account for the distinctly saltwater taste (why salt-caught stripers taste great and freshwater stripers taste dull). Bromophenol whitens flesh beside improving taste, but FDA rules prohibit synthetic additives in fish feed. Watch for natural sources to substitute as dietary additions to cultured freshwater fishes. For more information on any Florida topic, contact Peter Hood on email at HOOD_P@SELLERS.DEP.STATE.FL.US.

Oregon: The Western Division will meet July 14-18 in Eugene, Oregon with the theme of "Regional Status and Trends in Fish Biodiversity." Scheduled speakers so far include Peter Moyle, Kirk Winemiller, Rich Mayden, Dan Bottom, Gerry Smith, Al Thyler, Bob Gresswell, Pat Higgins, Phil Pister, Dave Genter, Phil Bartholomew, and Ray Hilborn. Also included are a watershed restoration workshop (Brett Roper) and fish disease symposium (Warren Groberg). Contact Bob Hughes at 503-464-6490 or HUGHES@MAIL.COR.EPA.GOV.

UPDATE ON SARGASSUM HARVEST

Sargassum specialist Larry Settle of the NMFS-Beaufort lab reported to Don Hoss (copies to others) that Aqua-10 continues to collect sargassum for poultry food additive. The company outfitted a 54' snapper boat, the *Outer Banks*, with a stern A-frame and supporting hardware, and two nets (4'x3' with 3" stretch mesh). The boat is owned by Oscar Green and captained by John Griffith. Settle examined a reported 1,200 pound landing of sargassum weed (mostly *S. fluitans*, with a small amount of *S. hystrix* and *S. natans*) on June 19, 1995, noting the limited fish species retained in the haul. The boat managed to fish four separate sets, with *each five minute tow taking 300 pounds*. Weather interrupted harvesting and the boat returned to dock. Campbell, owner of Aqua-10, said he intended to harvest 25-50 tons of sargassum this summer (50,000-100,000 pounds), and said he will notify NMFS when any algae are landed.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION (mail materials to ☐ personal or ☐ employer address)

Name: Last	First	Initial	Please provide phone numbers for directory and Society use only:	Name of Employer
Address			Home ()	Address
City			Work ()	City
State/Province			Fax ()	State/Province
Zip/Postal Zone				Zip/Postal Zone
Country	Employed by <input type="checkbox"/> federal gov't. <input type="checkbox"/> state/prov. gov't. <input type="checkbox"/> industry, <input type="checkbox"/> academia, or <input type="checkbox"/> self			Country

MEMBERSHIP DUES (includes *Fisheries* and Membership Directory)

- ☐ Regular \$66.50 (outside USA \$70.50)
☐ Student \$33.25 (outside USA \$37.25)**
☐ Retired (age 65 or over) \$33.25 (outside USA \$37.25)***

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (Optional)

- ☐ *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (bimonthly) \$30 (outside USA \$35)†
☐ *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* (quarterly) \$30 (outside USA \$35)†
☐ *The Progressive Fish-Culturist* (quarterly) \$25 (outside USA \$28)††
☐ *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* (quarterly) \$25 (outside USA \$28)†

† Prices for AFS members only. †† Membership not required for subscription.

If applicant is a student the teacher signs here.

Name of institution where student is enrolled.

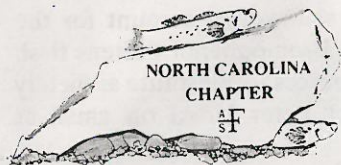
PROCLUB: If you were recruited by an AFS member please provide the following:

Member Name _____ Member Number (if known) _____

* New members accepted Jan. 1–Aug. 31 are credited to full membership for that year. (Back issues of Journals are sent.) Members accepted Sept. 1–Dec. 31 credited to full membership as of next Jan. 1, unless requested otherwise. Membership on calendar year only.

** Bona fide students of fisheries subjects are eligible for Student membership (limited to 6 years). Persons employed full-time not eligible. Teacher endorsement required (see above).

*** **Retired** membership for Active members upon retiring at age 65 or over.



8480 Garvey Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604

Robert J. Goldstein
10:04:45 PM RALEIGH NC 27604
Environmental Consultants
Assessments
Mitigation
Toxicity Testing

