

SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
DISASTER RELIEF
2006 REPORT



Gulf Coast Research Laboratory – Toxicology Bldg.



Mississippi Department of Marine Resources- Bolton Bldg.



American Fisheries Society

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Southern Division

LOCALITIES:

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maryland
Mississippi

N. Carolina
Oklahoma
S. Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
Washington, DC
West Indian Islands
West Virginia

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Prepared by
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December 2006

Introduction

On 29 August 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated large portions of Louisiana and Mississippi and caused significant impacts to Alabama, Florida, and Texas. Collectively they are considered the largest natural disaster yet to occur in North America. Shortly thereafter, during the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in Anchorage, Alaska, Parent Society AFS President Chris Kohler established the AFS Hurricane Relief Task Force and charged it to develop strategy for addressing professional needs of our fisheries colleagues impacted by the storms. The task force, chaired by Don Jackson (Mississippi Chapter) held its first meeting on 13 January 2006 on the campus of Louisiana State University.

An action plan was drafted during the January task force meeting and, using the organizational structure of the AFS, was subsequently presented in February to (1) the joint Annual Meeting of the Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters in Natchez, Mississippi and (2) to the Southern Division during its Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. In order to ensure maximum participation by chapter members during the joint Annual Meeting of the Louisiana and Mississippi chapters, the Southern Division provided travel support for members of the Louisiana Chapter (who otherwise would not have been able to engage in out-of-state travel).

Following guidance from the chapters and the Southern Division, the Action Plan was modified and presented in March to the Parent Society Governing Board during its Mid-year meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. On 11 March 2006, the Governing Board approved the Action Plan. The task force held its final meeting on 18 May 2006 and, in accordance with the Action Plan and AFS Governing Board directive, transferred management of the program to the Southern Division.

The AFS Disaster Relief Program, administered primarily through the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS), assumed full responsibility for hurricane relief in June 2006. Emphasis focused on outreach to members and their agencies or institutions in Louisiana and Mississippi. Additional relief efforts were extended to Alabama, Florida, and Texas; however, no requests for assistance were received. Don Jackson volunteered to transition over to the SDAFS Disaster Relief Team as the primary liaison with the chapters to coordinate membership and journal scholarships and travel assistance.

The Parent Society allocated *up to* a maximum of \$30,000 to the SDAFS to address disaster relief operations during the period 15 March – 31 December 2006. Funds were portioned into three broad categories:

1. Complementary, temporary, AFS memberships and electronic journal subscriptions to members identified by their respective chapters as impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;
2. Scholarships to attend AFS meetings for members identified by their respective chapters as impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;
3. Staffing the Disaster Relief Distribution Center.

As we transition into 2007, adjustments will be made to the Disaster Relief Team. Danielle Pender, Jill Jenkins (LA Chapter), Jan Hoover (MS Chapter), Greg Summers, and Bob Curry comprise the 2007 Disaster Relief Team. Danielle is the Disaster Relief Coordinator; she will continue as the primary liaison for the Distribution Center and will assume all the duties associated with coordinating membership services, journal subscriptions, and travel scholarships for the affected members. Greg will continue to serve as the treasurer and Bob will continue as the Division's liaison with the Southern

Division's officers. Don Jackson will no longer serve as the primary liaison with the chapters; however, he will be the primary liaison with the Parent Society and AFS officers.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks continues to provide a central processing facility at their Turcotte Laboratory in Jackson, Mississippi to receive and distribute donated materials. John Skains (Mississippi Chapter) is the principal contact. Fred Janssen maintains the Disaster Relief website.

Actions

Membership Dues, Journals, and Travel

Definitions of Tier I and Tier II members for AFS Hurricane Relief:

- **Tier I** – chapter members who live south of Interstate 20 in Louisiana and Mississippi who also **were** Parent Society members in 2005 prior to the storms.
- **Tier II** – chapter members who live south of Interstate 20 in Louisiana and Mississippi who **are not** Parent Society Members and were not members in 2005.

Tier I members were provided with complimentary Parent Society memberships, electronic access to *Fisheries Infobase*, electronic access to one AFS journal of choice, and *Fisheries* for 2006 and 2007. In addition, Tier I members were provided complimentary Chapter membership for 2007. Tier I members were also provided with travel scholarships to AFS meetings; selection was based on chapter president recommendations – using criteria specified by the Disaster Relief Team. Tier II members were provided chapter membership for 2007.

Donations – Financial

All financial donations were accepted by the Parent Society through the AFS Website at <http://www.fisheries.org/main/> (also linked on the SDAFS website). Some financial contributions are summarized below. Note that additional donations received directly through the AFS website are summarized and tracked in Bethesda and are not necessarily included here.

- The Oklahoma Chapter AFS donated \$3,000.00;
- The Arkansas Chapter AFS donated \$1,000.00;
- The Western Division AFS donated \$500.00 to cover shipping fees for the John Nickum library;
- The Bonneville Chapter AFS donated \$193.54 to cover shipping fees for the John Nickum library;
- The Mid-Atlantic Chapter AFS donated \$100.00 to cover shipping fees for Bob Carline's journal donation;
- The New York Chapter AFS donated \$100.00 to cover shipping fees for Bob Carline's journal donation;
- The Pennsylvania Chapter AFS will donate \$200.00 to cover shipping fees for Bob Carline's journal donation;
- The Florida Chapter AFS will donate \$1500.00;
- The SDAFS Reservoir Committee will provide two rooms for Katrina affected professionals from Louisiana and Mississippi, one room for each state, for the Reservoir Symposium in Atlanta in June 2007.

Donations – Other

Personal collections of journals, books, and other library materials

- Keith Ashley
- Jim Borawa
- Robert Carline
- J. Fred Heitman
- Anthony Mullis
- John Nickum
- Richard Noble
- Al Sonski

Section donations

- AFS Marine Fisheries Section – donated 24 copies of Notes on the Use of Theoretical Models in the Study of the Dynamics of Exploited Fish Populations, by R. J. H. Beverton (MFS #1).

Equipment and supplies

- Greg Cope (10 new HACH Kits)
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (19 trap nets)
- Duke Energy (15 trap nets and 4 long handled dip nets).

Assistance with transportation of library materials, equipment, or supplies

- Bob Curry (NCWRC – Rich Noble’s donation)
- Nick Phelps (student at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff – Rich Noble’s donation)
- Nick Shaver (NCWRC – NCWRC and Duke Energy trap nets and Keith Ashley’s and Greg Cope’s donations).

Many other donations are in the coordination phase. Coordination of an equipment exchange is planned for the Annual Spring meeting in Memphis. Memphis is an excellent location to conduct an exchange since it is located at the Mississippi border and facilitates delivery to the recipients or to the storage facility.

Equipment and Supply Needs Identified

Laboratory equipment

- Specimen jars
- Microscopes
- Cleaning supplies
- Disinfectant supplies
- Laboratory gowns

Water quality

- YSI w/ a 100-FT cord w/ temp., salinity, and DO probes
- Water test kits - those with seafood safety applications
- Aquaculture applications like pH, salinity, nitrites/ nitrates, ammonia, D.O./B.O.D.
- Water testing kit and oxygen meter

Field equipment

- Polarized Costa Del Mar Wavekiller sunglasses (approx. 12 pair) for spotting HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms).
- Thermal laser guns
- Traditional trap nets (repairable ones would work)

Books, teaching aids, and references

- Maps/charts relevant to Mississippi
- Fish and invertebrate keys
- AFS Fish slides - Gulf fishes
- Marks' Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers (any edition)
- Fisheries books (i.e., Fishes of MS, etc. and AFS new scientific fish names book)
- The Chemical Rubber Co. *Handbook of chemistry and physics 85th edition*

Miscellaneous

- Misc. batteries (AA, C, D, etc.)

Recommendations

A. 2007 Proposed Goals

- Continue Coordination Position through December 31, 2007.
- Aid will continue to be provided to affected members in the form of travel assistance and the coordination of donated material items through December 31, 2007.
- We recommend that a membership survey be conducted in 2007. Hurricane affected members, chapter leaders in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the general AFS membership should be surveyed to evaluate how AFS managed disaster relief for current affected individuals, obtain ideas on how to improve effectiveness and efficiency for future disasters, and determine when the general membership became aware of the program and whether they were aware of how they could help. This survey should help form guidelines for AFS to assist members for future natural disasters.

B. Consideration for Potential Future Disasters

- Immediately establish a disaster relief coordinator to manage member concerns, identify equipment needs, etc. following a disaster.
- Set up a liaison among the disaster relief coordinator and local units to identify impacted members.
- Within 4 months of the disaster: impacted members should be identified.
- Within 6 months of the disaster: funding mechanism(s) should be identified.
- Within 6 months impacted members should be notified of complimentary membership.
- Funds in the amount of 30,000.00–\$50,000.00 should be available for future disaster relief efforts.
- Consider awarding grants to universities, students, or state agencies to purchase field equipment, finish thesis work, or generally support completing unfinished projects.

Acknowledgements

It is important to recognize the generosity of individuals, chapters, sections, and divisions for their assistance to AFS affected members. The SDAFS extends its gratitude to the individuals, chapters, Divisions, and Parent Society for their outpouring of support, continuous encouragement, and tremendous sensitivity to the horrendous impacts Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had on AFS members professionally and personally in the storm impacted regions along the Gulf Coast.

Thanks are extended to the following persons who participated in many ways to make the SDAFS Disaster Relief Program possible: Robert Curry, Fred Heitman, Jan Hoover, Donald Jackson, Jill Jenkins, Chris Kohler, Patricia Mazik, Steve McMullin, Gus Rassam, and Greg Summers.

Thanks to those who served on the task force: Troy Baker, Jerry Brown, Mike Buchanan, Kerwin Cuevas, Jim Franks, Doug Fruge, Donald Jackson, Jill Jenkins, Mike Kaller, Jack Killgore, Mark Konikoff, Ron Lukens, Allen Rutherford, and Glen Thomas. Much of the initiative for this effort and the text appearing in the introduction is attributed to Donald Jackson. We greatly appreciate his foresight, energy, and commitment to ensuring that impacted member's needs are addressed as quickly as possible.