



The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



Volume 24 (3)

Fall Issue

September 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Prentice

September is here already and another year is moving by quickly. The Southern Division American Fisheries Society business meeting is right around the corner in Orlando early in October and our own Texas Chapter annual meeting in Corpus Christi is fast approaching in January 1999. Plans are underway in these arenas.

The Texas Chapter has been busy in many fronts. The Issues Committee has worked at disseminating to you information about Senate Bill 1 (The Water Bill). Past Chapter efforts in areas of warm water streams for creation of a public information video and the Red River chloride issue are beginning to pay dividends. Our Chapter's World Wide Web site is growing in information and utilization. The Texas Fisheries Workers list, providing names, addresses, phone numbers, work areas, and other information has been added to the Web site. Chapter EXCOM has been working on improving the efficiency of doing business (see this newsletter's EXCOM minutes in areas of Nominations and Endowments). The list goes on and I mention these as items of Chapter service to you and the natural resources we serve. I invite all of you to be a part of the service process. There are places where your help can make a difference on each Chapter committee or in annual meeting preparations.

Speaking of the annual meeting, Paul Hammerschmidt has been working hard and successfully at preparing a great and exciting meeting. This year we will meet in Corpus Christi at the Omni Bayfront Hotel, January 23-26, 1999. Paul will have a more detailed article in this

same newsletter so I will not steal his thunder, but I think you will not want to miss this one. Students and professionals alike will benefit from and enjoy the meeting. I also invite each of you to consider presentation of your work at the technical portion of this meeting. Contact the Editorial Committee (Gordon Linam 512-353-3480 or e-mail glinam@itouch.net) with your presentation topics.

American Fisheries Society President, William Taylor, said in his recent address in *Fisheries* (Volume 23, Number 8), "Effective management of fisheries and aquatic resources depends on our ability to be inclusive, relevant, innovative, and professional." I see Texas Chapter in each of those descriptive words. I thank all of you for enabling those words in Texas Chapter. However, I challenge me, and each of you, to keep them there. I pray the best for each of you until next time we meet.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The deadline for abstract/paper submittals for presentation at the January chapter meeting is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13. Please send submittals to Gordon Linam at 505 Staples Road, San Marcos, TX 78666.

Now is the time to be thinking about making a presentation at the next chapter meeting. Start compiling that data, generating some figures and slides, and coming to some grand conclusions that can be shared with your colleagues this January in Corpus Christi.



Minutes of EXCOM Meeting

8-18-98

Attendees: John Prentice, Paul Hammerschmidt, Dave Terre, Steve Poarch, Mike Brice, Tom Arsuffi, Randy Blankinship, Mark Webb, Fred Jansseen, Kathy Ramos, Gordon Linam, John Moczygemba, Bruce Hysmith.

Treasurers Report (Dave Terre)

Total assets of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society were \$38,490.00 as of 7-31-98. The balance of our checking account as of 8-17-98 was \$11,001.98. Recent expenditures include the newsletter (\$120.80), deposit money for the Texas State Aquarium for our 1999 meeting (\$200.00) and bank service fees (\$80.00). Sources of income include 2nd quarter dues from the National AFS Office in Bethesda (\$308.00), WHAT reimbursement for 1998 scholarships (\$1,000.00), interest (\$126.67; May-July), and regular memberships (\$29.00).

Raffle/Auction (Steve Poarch)

Steve reported that Kirk Pratas and himself have been busy soliciting donations and exhibitors for the 1999 meeting. He indicated that a new committee representative was needed in the Corpus Christi area to help with this work. A number of individuals were suggested. Steve and his committee decided not to do a big auction item this year (like the boat last year) because of the enormous time constraints involved. He asked if anyone else in the EXCOM was interested in doing it, but there were no takers. John Prentice asked Steve to prepare a written procedure on how he did it last year, just in case we want to pursue this effort again in the future.

Nominations (John Moczygemba)

John proposed that TCAFS establish absentee voting procedures. The goal is to increase participation in membership voting activities. A motion was made by John M. to adopt the following procedures: 1) Solicit nominations and select candidates; 2) publish biographical sketches and provide a absentee ballot in a newsletter prior to the meeting; 3) also provide biographical sketches and ballots at the registration desk to persons not voting by absentee; 4) Tally votes prior to the business meeting and announce new officers at the

business meeting; and 5) hold a runoff (if necessary) at the business meeting. John Prentice seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

John P. asked John M. to publish new procedures in a future newsletter.

Continuing Education (Bruce Hysmith)

Bruce H. announced three continuing education programs to be held for the 1999 Annual Meeting: 1) Human Dimensions in Fisheries Management 2) Genetics; and 3) How to Give a Presentation. All three programs will run two times, so that each member will have the opportunity to participate in at least two of them. They will all be done in one location on Sunday (2:00 to 4:00 PM).

Student Outreach (Tom Arsuffi)

Tom A. will organize a short course and mixer for students during our annual meeting. Information on how to fill out job applications, interview and prepare resumes will be provided. Employer representatives will be present to provide students with information concerning fisheries-related jobs.

Issues (Randy Blankinship)

Randy B. is organizing a panel discussion on SB1. He has been preparing information on the subject and will get it in the newsletter. Efforts have been made to get a diverse set of speakers for this panel discussion. Speakers will present their "perspective" of this important piece of legislation.

Endowments (Mike Brice)

Mike B. prepared a letter to Eric Fraiser (WHAT) to solicit donations toward 1999 TCAFS Scholarships. John P. indicated that support of this organization is (and has always been) strong, based upon his recent communications with WHAT. Mike B. felt that we needed to do more to get additional applications back for our scholarships. Various ways to do this were discussed. Some felt we needed to increase the number of scholarships awarded or increase the monetary value of our existing scholarships to increase incentive. Some felt we needed to streamline our application procedures to increase the number of applications, before we increase the number or monetary value of our scholarships. A motion

was made John Mozcygamba to revise our application procedures to eliminate the screening of applicants by university representatives. It was felt that this step in the process was causing a reduction in the number of applications we received. In this case the endowments committee would do the screening of all applications. Steve Poarch seconded the motion and the motion carried. In addition, it was recommended that the endowments committee also follow-up with telephone calls to university representatives to remind them of application deadlines and to get the applications out to as many students as possible. John P. agreed to revise our exiting procedures in this area and get them published in the newsletter.

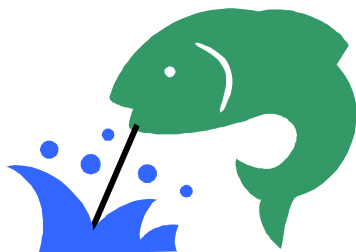
TCAFS Web Page (Fred Janssen)

Fred J. has continued to work of the TCAFS and Southern Divisions home pages. A handout was provided to EXCOM members that summarized statistics associated with use of the Southern Divisions web site (www.sdafs.org). Fred asked that members send him any information that needs to go on our home page.

Publications (Gordon Linam)

Gordon L. advised the EXCOM that only one paper would be published in the 1998 Proceedings. To date, no abstracts have been received for presentation at the 1999 meeting. The publications committee has reviewed the pond management publication and has sent those comments to Malcolm Johnson for incorporation into the document. Editorial comments were minor, however a potential copyright infringement (related to photos) was identified. Once these problems are fixed, this document will be ready for release.

End of Minutes



1999 Texas Chapter Annual Meeting

by Paul Hammerschmidt

The 1999 Texas Chapter AFS meeting will be held in Corpus Christ, Texas, January 23-26, 1999. Meeting and trade show activities will occur at the Omni Bayfront Hotel, 900 N. Shoreline Blvd. (Phone 512-887-1600). The Sunday evening social will be at the hotel while the Monday evening banquet and auction will be held at the Texas State Aquarium. This includes a free tour of the aquarium. Corpus Christi has a myriad of amenities for your social and sightseeing pleasure such as the USS Lexington, Water Street Market, full scale replicas of the ships of Christopher Columbus, Greyhound Racing, and great seafood. Make plans to be there!

Registration for this year's meeting will be \$25 regular member pre-registration (\$30 at the door), Student/Spouse registration \$15 (\$20 at the door). Hotel accommodations will be \$70 single/double, \$85 triple and \$95 quad. So plan to double up where you can. I'll have more meeting and registration details in the next newsletter.

AUCTION TIME AGAIN

Steve Poarch/Kirk Pratas

It won't be long until the annual TCAFS Auction & Raffle. It is time for devoted TCAFS members to begin soliciting donations. It may be hard to top last year's record breaking event, but with your help we can give it a good try. Next time you are in your favorite retail shop, let them know about the Texas Chapter and how their donation can help with the scholarship fund. Any item, regardless of value, can and will be used. If you would like a copy of the solicitation letter we give to potential contributors, contact Kirk Pratas or Steve Poarch at 903-593-5077.

Because the annual meeting is scheduled for Corpus Christi, we are looking for a contact in the South Texas (Corpus) area to be on the committee. We would like to have someone to store donated items collected in that area. It would also be nice to have someone who knows the area and the local businesses and could tap into those resources for donations. If you are interested, please give us a call.

We are not having a large item raffle (i.e. Small bass boat) this year, so we are going to have to make up the difference with good auction items. Which means, we really need your help this year. It is going to be a great meeting and another super raffle/auction. See ya' there!



Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society Procedural Manual Update

By John Prentice

Procedures for the Endowments Committee were reviewed and updated during the August 1998 EXCOM meeting in San Marcos. Discussion revolved around ways to get more involvement of fisheries related students and increase applications for Texas Chapter scholarships (see EXCOM minutes for the August meeting in this newsletter). New Endowments Committee procedure wording is provided below in bold print (with the old wording following in parentheses) to inform all Chapter members.

Procedure:

- 1) An endowment fund will be established in a high-interest-bearing account to be administered by the EXCOM of the Chapter. Additional funds will be deposited by the Treasurer at the direction of the Chapter EXCOM at any time.
- 2) A Scholarship Selection Committee will be appointed by the President. The committee will be composed of a minimum of five voting members, one of which will be designated as Committee Chairperson, and an unlimited number of non-voting university representatives. All committee members will be designated by the President, and all voting members will be Chapter members in good standing. Voting members of the Committee will be drawn from the general membership of the Chapter, exclusive of faculty and staff serving at Texas universities. Voting members of the Committee will serve staggered two-year terms, with two or three members rotating off the Committee annually; initial one-year and two-year appointments will be determined by the President. (next sentence was omitted – Non-voting university representatives may serve indefinitely.) The Committee will select all scholarship recipients in accordance with guidelines published in the Chapter Newsletter. In naming voting members of the Committee, the President should strive to minimize any possible bias of the Committee toward any particular institution
- 3) Annual selection of the scholarship recipient(s) will be made by the Committee. The Committee will select recipient(s) shortly before each annual Chapter meeting where the scholarship award(s) will be presented. Additional scholarship awards may be established in the future at the direction of the EXCOM.

- 4) **The Committee is responsible for making universities aware of Texas Chapter scholarship information and timelines.** (omitted - University representatives will each nominate deserving students for scholarship consideration. Methods of nominee selection will be determined by each university representative in consultation with other fisheries-related faculty at their institution) University representatives will strive to verify accuracy of all information in a student's application, but the application should be prepared by the student alone.
- 5) **Applications** (omitted – Nominations) from each institution will be forwarded to the Committee Chairperson prior to the deadline published in the Chapter Newsletter. Nominees must be members of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society. Selection of scholarship recipient(s) will be made by the voting members of the Committee, based on the following criteria: a) academic excellence; b) professional activities; c) promise of future professional involvement and significant contribution to the field of fisheries science. Financial need will not be a judgement criteria for this award.

Other sections of the Endowments Committee procedures will remain as printed in the procedural manual.



TCAFS Fisheries Workers Directory

The directory is now posted on the Texas Chapter web site. Our site is located at:
www.sdafs.org/tcafs/forms/worker/directory.htm

A lot of the information in the directory is outdated and inaccurate so we need to have everyone check their information and get the update to:

Fred Janssen
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
512/389-4655 (Inland phone)
512/389-8074 (GIS Lab phone)
512-389-4656 (FAX)

This database is only as good as the information in it, so do your part to ensure we are providing the best information available.

NEW VOTING PROCEDURES TO ELECT CHAPTER OFFICERS

After approval by the Excom Committee, this year's voting procedures have been expanded to increase member participation in electing Chapter officers. With elections being held at the annual meeting, about 25 to 30% of the members vote. We discussed using a mail-in election to allow more members to vote for the Chapter officers. However, other societies have only a 10 to 15% percent return on a mail-in election. So we have decided to combine the process, making it similar to absentee voting.

So here is how we plan to work this year's election. A president-elect and a secretary/treasurer (a two year term) will be elected. Each must be a Texas Chapter member in good standing as well as a member of the American Fisheries Society. The Nominating Committee will put together slate of candidates. Hopefully there will be three candidates for each office. The candidates will present a biographical sketch in the fall newsletter (November). It will run again in the pre-meeting newsletter. Also to get an idea about their philosophy each candidate will have an opportunity to answer in the same newsletters a question relating to their office. The fall and pre-meeting newsletters will have a ballot for voting by mail. It will require two steps. First the voted ballot should be sealed in an envelope for secrecy. Then the member should print and sign their name to a separate paper so they can be identified. Both documents should be mailed in one envelope to the Nominating Committee Chairman by the Monday before the annual meeting. This year it will be January 18, 1999. The sealed mailed-in ballots will be placed in the voting box as they come in. The signed papers will be used to indicate that the member has voted. At the registration desk during the annual meeting, ballots will be handed out to members who have not voted. The voted ballots should be filled out and put in the voting box two hours before the business meeting. The election results will be announced at the business meeting. If a runoff is needed, it will be conducted at that time.

We feel this will increase the number of members participating in the election process by giving those not making the meeting a chance to vote. So far this year's Nominating Committee is made up of John Moczygamba (Chairman, TPWD), Dave Peterson (U.S. Forest Service), and Joe Kraai (TPWD).

Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Scholarship Program

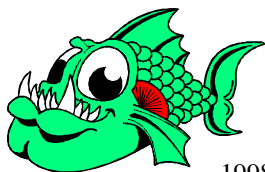
The endowments committee of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is seeking deserving students enrolled in fisheries related curricula that are interested in applying for scholarships. The scholarship program began in 1989 with one \$150 scholarship. In 1998, four \$500 scholarships were awarded. The only requirements of the applicants are that they are members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and that they are enrolled in a university where they are pursuing a degree in fisheries related curricula.

In recent years, university representatives nominated one undergraduate student and one graduate student. Beginning this year, TCAFS is allowing all qualified students who are interested to apply. The deadline for applying is December 1, 1998. You can obtain an application from:

Michael Brice
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
3802 East End Blvd South
Marshall, Texas 75672
903-938-1007
903-938-8652 FAX
tpwdif3a@prysm.net

A copy of the application can also be access from the TCAFS homepage www.sdafs.org/tcafs/.





Newsbites

Lead Sinker Ban. On June 15, 1998, a NH legislative committee agreed to ban use of small (less than one ounce) lead fishing sinkers on all NH lakes and ponds in the year 2000, because of the concern that migratory loons die after swallowing discarded or lost lead sinkers. Small lead sinkers could still be used in rivers, streams, and saltwater, and larger sinkers could be used on lakes and ponds. [Assoc Press]

Sustainable Fisheries Initiative. On June 12, 1998, President Clinton announced that he is proposing an additional \$194 million over 5 years to reduce overfishing and protect essential fish habitat. Such funding would finance 3 state-of-the-art fishery research vessels, increase research and promote public-private partnerships to develop aquaculture, and help restore depleted fish stocks within 10 years. In addition, he proposed a ban on the sale or import of Atlantic swordfish less than 33 pounds. [White House press release]

Competitive Bass Fishing. On June 25, 1998, officials of Operation Bass announced that the seven-event 1999 Wal-Mart FLW professional bass fishing tour would offer a record in cash prizes totaling more than \$3.97 million, with the first place angler in the Tour Championship winning \$250,000. [Operation Bass press release]

WA Fisheries Turmoil. In mid-June 1998, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Director Bern Shanks agreed to leave his position by September 1998, after months of turmoil including a projected budget shortfall expected to exceed \$17 million by summer 1999 and termination of about 100 positions from the agency's payroll. In the interim, Shanks is working on a long-term funding study for the agency. [Assoc Press]

Cold, Hypoxic Event. In early July 1998, an unusually cold water mass with extraordinarily low oxygen concentration (hypoxic) moved close to shore of the FL panhandle in the northeast Gulf of Mexico, killing fish and other marine life. Although the cause of the phenomenon is unknown, some scientists suggest an upwelling from offshore DeSoto Canyon. The beginning of this event was evident on satellite imagery in mid-May 1998 as a 15- to 20-mile band of cooler water. Some dead fish and crabs have already been reported, and scientists are concerned that the hypoxic mass could cause a major fish kill. [Assoc Press, Miami Herald]

Turtle-Safe Shrimp Campaign. On July 14, 1998, Earth Island Institute began a campaign asking consumers to

selectively purchase shrimp identified as "turtle-safe." Earth Island is asking shrimp trawlers to agree to allowing unannounced inspections of their equipment in exchange for being able to market their shrimp as "turtle-safe certified." Earth Island reports that about 125 GA shrimp trawlers already have agreed to join the program. [Assoc Press, San Francisco Chronicle]

Malathion Misuse? On July 28, 1998, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials announced that they have asked agricultural officials in 7 southeastern states and Missouri to begin sampling catfish at catfish farming operations in an investigation into possible misuse of the pesticide Malathion. At least 2 MS catfish farmers were reported to have admitted misusing Malathion. [Assoc Press]

Cormorant Massacre. On July 29, 1998, NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials discovered the carcasses of at least 850 Federally protected double-breasted cormorants during a routine inspection of Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario. The birds had been killed by shotgun. About 1,000 cormorants in the colony of about 6,000 birds have been killed in the past 2 months. DEC enforcement officials are conducting an investigation. Charter guides and fishing-dependent business owners in the area have been urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce cormorant colony size, believing the fish-eating birds harm their livelihood. [Assoc Press]

Red Snapper Bycatch. On July 23, 1998, NMFS officials informed the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council that bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) required in shrimp trawls to reduce red snapper bycatch appeared to be working well, and preliminary figures suggest that both recreational and commercial fishermen will be allowed additional red snapper harvests after Sept. 1, 1998. Only 8 of 100 shrimp trawlers inspected by the Coast Guard have been cited for not using BRDs. [Assoc Press]

Harmful MN Algae. On July 29, 1998, MN Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) officials took water samples from 700-acre Lake Minnetaga after a dog and a deer were reported to have died of convulsions and impaired breathing after coming in contact with blue-green algae growing at the lake. DNR officials urged people and their pets to avoid the area. [Assoc Press]

Shark Cartilage and Cancer. On July 31, 1998, officials of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) reported to the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight that reviews will be published soon on alternative cancer therapy using shark cartilage, which has so far not been proven scientifically to work. However, NCI was reported willing to fund more studies on shark cartilage. [Reuters]

JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site <http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/default.htm> or contact **David Terre, 11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707** or the newsletter editor to obtain application information.



**Next Newsletter submission deadline:
December 1, 1998Meeting Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Submit a hard copy or a .TXT file by mail or email to the editor at cmunger@arn.net

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