

President's Message

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As I write these words, it is mid-January in Maine, and we are finally experiencing some winter snow. The decline the Atlantic salmon here in Maine is making news as the pressure mounts for an endangered species listing. This is a species that could arguably be one of the most universally distributed of our managed cold water resources among the Chapter's member states and provinces. The Atlantic salmon situation reminds me that as fishery professionals, we need to keep our skills and tools sharply honed, so when needed, we can contribute the best science possible to resource management decisions.

Effectively gathering and presenting our data is central to making wise resource management decisions. With that in mind, I'm pleased to announce the theme of our annual meeting this year will focus on methods of effectively analyzing and collecting data, with sessions on stream survey and statistical methods. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an announcement with preliminary details of the meeting, and a first call for papers. Al McNeill has located what sounds like a dandy meeting site in Nova Scotia, and Forrest Bonney is already hard at work lining up session chairs and papers. We hope you'll make plans to come.

As your president, I want our Chapter to serve the needs of the membership. New initiatives we are working on this year include boosting and diversify both our membership and participation. The 1999 meeting was well attended by a wide spectrum of biologists, and featured several well-received presentations on marine and diadromous topics by folks new to our Chapter. We realized that membership diversity is important to us, and we want to increase our offerings and participation in particular from marine fisheries and academia (both faculty and student). To further promote attendance at meetings, we have successfully applied to the NED for the membership rebate. Although this year the rebate will be a bit smaller than usual (in order for the NED to full fill a request from the AFS for financial assistance) we expect to use our rebate to underwrite attendance at the annual by students in need of financial assistance.

Recruitment is a chicken-and-egg proposition that requires all of us to work to attract new individuals to our organization, so that they can contribute skills and knowledge, and thus allow us to offer more to the fisheries community we encompass. Sometimes we need to do this one-on-one, but another important way to do so is work harder at getting the word out about specific areas of knowledge and research we are into. Our website is an excellent way to provide a window to the outside as well as share intelligence, and we want to make our existing website work harder for all of us. Our strategy will be to take the existing web page and make it a living, more dynamic page that is frequently updated with news not only of chapter activities, but also biological and environmental events, and activities of sister organizations, and possibly a forum for inter-member discussions. Shawn Good has kindly agreed to serve as our new webmaster, and he and I are now in the preliminary stages of developing this. We would both welcome your input as to things you would like to see the website do. After all, our Chapter *is* you, and exists to serve you.

Brandon Kulik, President

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

26th Annual Meeting
Atlantic International Chapter
*“New Methods of Collecting
and Analyzing Data”*

September 24-26, 2000 * Pictou, Nova Scotia.**

Pictou Lodge, located five minutes from the town of Pictou, on Northumberland Strait.

FORMAT: PAPER, POSTER, VIDEO, COMPUTER DEMONSTRATION

You are invited to submit abstracts for review on any topic relating to **new methods of collecting and analyzing data**. There will be special chaired sessions devoted to: Riverine Habitat/Management, Coastal/Anadromous Topics, and Statistical Treatment of Data (including requests for suggestions for treating data), in addition to our traditional Open Session and Sunday night informal session, for which abstracts on any topic are invited.

Deadline for first call - April 15, 2000.

Send abstract, title, or notice of interest to:

Riverine Habitat/Management:

Scott Decker
New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept.
2 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: (603) 271-2744
Fax: (603) 271-1438
E-mail: sdecker@wildlife.state.nh.us

Coastal/Anadromous topics:

Sandra Lary
Stock Enhancement Division
Maine Department of Marine Resources
21 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333-0021
Telephone: (207) 624-6345
Fax: (207) 624-6024
E-mail: sandra.lary@state.me.us

Statistical Treatment of Data:

Joan Trial
Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
650 State St.
Bangor, ME 04401-5654
Telephone: (207) 941-4457
Fax: (207) 941-4443
E-mail: joan.trial@state.me.us

Sunday Night Informal/Open Sessions:

Forrest Bonney
Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
689 Farmington Road
Strong, ME 04983
Telephone: (207) 778-3322
Fax: (207) 778-3323
E-mail: forrest.bonney@state.me.us

AIC-2000 Registration, Meals & Lodging Information

Pictou Lodge, Pictou, Nova Scotia

This years meeting will be held at the historic Pictou Lodge located on the warm waters of the Northumberland Strait just five minutes from the town of Pictou, Nova Scotia. We have reserved six beautiful three bedroom log cabins and five double motel rooms for Sunday and Monday nights at a preferred rate. For those interested in private accommodation or who may wish to stay off-site, there is abundant lodging close by in the town of Pictou.

Information about Pictou Lodge can be found at the Maritime Inns website:
www.MaritimeInns.com

A comprehensive source of information about Pictou and the surrounding area can be seen at:
www.pictou.nsis.com

For those deciding to go with shared accommodation in the three bedroom cottages or motel rooms, we have negotiated two different rates depending on the length of stay.

Sunday + Monday lodging, breakfast & lunch Monday, breakfast Tuesday: \$Can 122.88 + tax

Monday night lodging, lunch Monday, breakfast Tuesday: \$Can 68.89 + tax

Since there are a variety of pubs and restaurants in Pictou, Monday night dinner will be on your own. Detailed directions to Pictou Lodge will be available in the July Newsletter.

Meeting Registration cost will be \$Can 20.00 (\$25.00 after August 31), payable to the Atlantic International Chapter. A registration form will accompany the July Newsletter.

RESERVE EARLY!

Alan McNeill will be preparing a master list for reservations. **To reserve a room or cabin, contact Alan McNeill at the following address:**

Alan McNeill
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
P.O. Box 700
Pictou, Nova Scotia
B0K 1H0
E-mail: mcneilla@gov.ns.ca

tel (902) 485-7024
fax (902) 485-4014



26th Annual AIC Meeting - September 24-26, 2000

CHAPTER NEWS

GENERAL NEWS

Raffle Prizes Needed for AIC Annual Meeting!!!

Our annual AIC raffle depends on prizes rounded up by our members from their states and provinces. If you know of any individuals or businesses that are willing to donate items to this cause please coordinate with Alan McNeill and bring the items with you when you come to this year's meeting. Popular items from the past have included sporting goods, art work, clothing and humorous (but tasteful) gag gifts.

New Webmaster for AIC Website

Shawn Good (VT F&W) has volunteered to be the new webmaster for the AIC website. Expect some changes in the near future as the website gets updated and possibly moved to a new address. The AFS parent society is currently hosting website space that Chapters and Divisions can rent for a small fee. If the website is moved we will provide a link from the **current address**:

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/3424>

You can also find the AIC website by going to the main AFS website: <http://www.fisheries.org> and clicking on the Atlantic International Chapter link listed there.

Information about the upcoming AIC Annual Meeting will be posted on the website including a brochure for the Pictou Lodge and links to related sites.

Please contact Shawn Good to let him know what else you would like to see posted on our AIC Chapter website for information, pictures and interesting website links. He can be reached at phone (802) 483-2744, fax (802) 483-9374, e-mail shawn.good@anr.state.vt.us He will answer to the sobriquet "Hey, nerd boy."



1999 BUSINESS MEETING

ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 1999 CAMDEN, MAINE

The meeting was called to order by president Alan McNeill, at 6:55 pm on September 20, 1999 in a meeting room at Camp Bishopwoods. Bob Bancroft, appointed Sergeant-at-Arms, determined that a quorum was present. Brandon Kulik, vice-

president, and Joan Trial, secretary/treasurer, were with the president at the head table. The first order of business was to recognize past AIC presidents Joan Trial and Peter Cronin. Following these introductions President McNeill started with old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes of the 1998 business meeting were printed in the newsletter last winter. Pam Seymour moved that the minutes be approved as printed, second Norm Dube. The motion passed.

The financial report was presented by Secretary Treasurer Joan G. Trial, with copies distributed to interested parties. The balance in the AIC Bangor Savings Bank account was \$7,409.07 US on September 17, 1999 and we had \$ 1,377.19 CAN on deposit in the Royal Bank of Canada. Alan McNeill moved that the report be accepted. After a second by Larry Miller, the motion carried. (Financial report attached) Al McNeill, noting that these were Joan's last Secretary and Treasurer reports, presented her with an engraved D.H Russell & Gorhman belt knife from the AIC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ex Com - Alan reported that the AIC had Executive had participated in the NED and Parent society meetings and that Quebec and the AIC will host the parent society annual meeting in 2003. The AIC contributed water safety accessories to the AFS raffle. He passed on NED and AFS news, including that the new Executive Director is Gus Rassam.

Membership - Al McNeil presented Scott Decker's Membership Committee report (Attached). Between September 1998 and 1999, there were 242 paid members (93 CAN, 143 US), this included 43 new members and a loss of 48 (delinquent?) members. Because he maintains members on the mailing list for 1 year after they fail to renew, 279 newsletters were mailed.

Student stipend - This year the AIC Student Assistance Committee will provided \$80.00 stipends to 3 students presenting genetics papers at this meeting:

James Rhydderch : Gene Diversity Analysis of Landlocked Arctic charr from Maine, USA.

Vincent Castric : Population genetic structure of Brook Charr (*Salvelinus fontinalis* Mitchill) in Maine : Is watershed the best unit for management ?

Guoqing Lu : Phylogenetic structure and origin of lake whitefish in northern Maine and southern Quebec.

All are students of Louis Bernatchez. Please encourage more students to apply for stipends next year.

Raffle - The 1998 raffle netted almost \$ 200 CAN, thanks to all the contributors and gamblers. This years raffle concludes today and you are encouraged to start collecting items for 2000.

Newsletter - Two newsletters were produced over the last year. Bernie Pientka has agreed to keep the newsletter for one more issue, anyone interested in the task should let Alan or Brandon know. There are two newsletters deadlines: Winter Issue - Jan.

15; Summer Issue - July 1. Please provide Bernie stories for the winter newsletter.

Web site - The web site has not been updated in a while and discussion of the topic was deferred to new business.

Archives - Joan Trial, reporting for Fred Kircheis stated that all items received by the Archive Committee had been duly archived and all requests fulfilled. He asked the memberships to both provide more items for archiving and make more requests. There is an opening for a Photo-archivist on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Joan Trial presented the slate of candidates developed by the Nominating Committee:

Secretary/Treasurer - Larry Miller
President - Brandon Kulik
Vice President - Forrest Bonney

There being no nominations from the floor a motion was made by Peter Cronin to close nominations and for the secretary to cast one vote each for Brandon Kulik for president, Forrest Bonney for Vice President, and Larry Miller for Secretary/Treasurer. It was seconded by Norm Dube and passed. Peter Cronin and Al McNeill escorted Brandon to the front.

A resolution thanking those responsible for the meeting was presented by Bob Bancroft (appended). A motion to accept by Peter Cronin was seconded by Pam Seymour and passed.

After giving a brief acceptance, Brandon performed his first duty as President, presenting Alan with a plaque recognizing his contributions to the chapter in the last year. What followed were discussions of the Web Site, membership directory, increasing meeting attendance from university students and marine fisheries professionals, membership, ways to pump up the business meetings to get more participation, the possibility of having two AIC meetings/year, and list servers. Al McNeill made an offer for Nova Scotia to host next year's meeting. Potential topic discussed included climate change and fisheries management, fisheries management 2000 where is the science, native rights, the culture of fishing tournaments, and data management and analysis. The possibility of continuing education being a part of the 2000 meeting was discussed. New Hampshire has offered to host the 2001 meeting.

There being no other new business, Peter Cronin moved the meeting adjourn and Joan Trial seconded the motion. With the passing of the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan G. Trial
Secretary/Treasurer



MAINE

Maine Wild Brook Trout Study in its Sixth Year

Twenty Maine lakes with wild brook trout populations were studied from 1994 to 1999 to gather biological information for statewide averages and to evaluate the effectiveness of new, restrictive regulations imposed on 334 of Maine's 1,103 brook trout lakes in 1996. Over the six year period, 11 creel surveys were conducted and 43 population estimates were made by fisheries biologists. These studies revealed that anglers fish wild brook trout ponds at an average rate of 6 angler trips/acre/year; they harvest an average of 1.8 brook trout weighing 0.8 lb/acre annually, which represents 17% of the total number of legal-size trout available.

The new regulations appear to be improving brook trout size and age structure. The average size of the trout caught increased from 11.3 to 12.7 inches, a 12% increase in length. The proportion of trout age III+ and older increased from 20% to 26%, indicating that the new regulations are meeting their goal of protecting a portion of the older, genetically important brook trout from harvest. The brook trout catch doubled from 0.6 to 1.1 trout per angler and the average time to catch a legal-size trout declined from 7 to 3 hours after the new regulations went into effect. The study is being continued to determine whether additional changes in brook trout population structures accrue with time.

For more information contact Forrest Bonney at (207) 778-3322
e-mail: forrest.bonney@state.me.us

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Personnel Changes at NHF&G

A change in personnel has occurred at New Hampshire Fish and Game as a result of a new fisheries habitat program. Scott Decker, a regional fisheries biologist from the Region 1 Office in Lancaster, has been selected to fill the new position of Fisheries Habitat Biologist and will now be working out of the headquarters office in Concord. Scott has worked in Region 1 since 1987 as a fisheries technician and regional biologist. He also coordinated the Department's Coldwater Fisheries Program for the last 2 years. Assuming the duties of Region 1 fisheries biologist and state Coldwater Fisheries Program coordinator is Dianne Emerson. Dianne formerly served as a seasonal fisheries technician in Region 4(1996-1997) and as a full-time technician in Region 2 (1997-1999). She holds a B.S. in aquaculture and fisheries science from the University of Rhode Island. The changes were effective in December 1999. Scott can be reached at the Inland Fisheries Division in Concord (603) 271-2744, sdecker@wildlife.state.nh.us and Dianne can be reached at the Region 1 Office in Lancaster (603) 788-3164, fgnorth@ncia.net.

New Initiative to Protect Fisheries Habitat

A program to protect, restore, and enhance fisheries habitat has been expanded within the Inland Fisheries Division at New Hampshire Fish and Game. The Fisheries Habitat Program is being funded with the help of a new law passed in 1999 by the New Hampshire Legislature. The legislation, which became effective January 1, 2000, requires that \$1 from every fishing license sold be placed in a special fund to be used for “development, management, preservation, conservation, restoration, and maintenance of fisheries habitats in the waters of the state”. The Fisheries Habitat Program will take a “watershed approach” to address fish habitat needs by developing watershed reclamation plans, working with landowners in establishing conservation easements to permanently protect riparian areas and wetlands, providing incentives for owners of agricultural and forested lands to use management practices that would reduce physical damage to watersheds, implementing measures to improve instream flows, and removing barriers to fish movements within watersheds. For more information, contact Scott Decker at 603-271-2744, sdecker@wildlife.state.nh.us.

Removal of Dams for Fish Restoration Proposed

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has recently initiated efforts to remove or breach three dams in the lower Ashuelot River (tributary to the Connecticut). This effort is being undertaken as part of migratory fish restoration plan initially targeting American shad, blueback herring, and Atlantic salmon. Particular concern was given to three dams (Swanzy, Town of Winchester, and McGoldrick) in various states of disrepair currently serving no purpose.

The Swanzy Dam owner, with orders to repair his dam, agreed to a complete removal plan. The Town of Winchester and McGoldrick Inc. were contacted by the local biologist and given a thorough background on NHF&G plans and their future legal obligations to provide upstream passage. Both owners were agreeable to a breach of their structures provided it did not cost them anything. They were pleased to learn of the variety of funding/labor sources that could be explored on their behalf by NHF&G and the other cooperating agencies.

Swanzy Dam is the largest of the three structures with an impoundment that stretches several miles back close to the city of Keene. The proposed removal of this dam has raised numerous biological and social issues. To date, toxins have been tested for in the sediment and a continuous dialog of questions and answers have been conducted with a local watershed group. The review of the McGoldrick breach permit by this group resulted in a request of additional information by the permitting agency, spawning the development of a state/federal work group on dam removals. This group is in the process of establishing lines of communication, evaluating the permitting process, and developing an information base to move these projects forward in 2000. For more information, contact Ken Sprankle (603-352-9669, nhfgkeener4@cheshire.net) or Scott Decker (603-271-2744, sdecker@wildlife.state.nh.us).

Recovery Plan for Endangered Atlantic Whitefish Initiated

The Atlantic Whitefish (*Coregonus huntsmani*) aka Acadian Whitefish, is endemic to Nova Scotia and has been designated as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC) since 1984. The original range of this member of the subfamily coregoninae included an anadromous population in the Tusket and neighboring Annis Rivers in Yarmouth county, and in the Petite Riviere on the south shore near Bridgewater. It appears as if the Tusket River population may now be extirpated as no fish have been reported from the system in over twenty years. The Petite Riviere has a population which is landlocked in three small lakes in the upper watershed, and there appears to be a small anadromous component in the lower watershed. Field studies in 1982-85 provided some knowledge of the habitat and biology of Acadian whitefish, although the ecological requirements of the species are still poorly known, according to Tom Edge, the researcher. The recent introduction of smallmouth bass to the watershed, in addition to the acidified status of the watershed continue to threaten the population.

The recent spur of interest in this species has come about as a result of the proposed *Species at Risk Act*, which is expected to be tabled in the House of Commons in March of 2000. Additionally, the Province of Nova Scotia has undertaken the task of evaluating the status of all freshwater fish species as part of a broader program of taxonomic evaluations in order to meet the commitments of provincial and national accords and strategies on sustainable development and biodiversity.

The Department of Fisheries & Oceans got the ball rolling in September 1999 by assembling the most knowledgeable whitefish people in the country at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography for a brainstorming session to discuss the current state of knowledge and plans for recovery. A number of action items tabled at this meeting have been initiated and others will follow quickly within the next year. These include:

- > a committee (of course) chaired by Bob Barnes called the “Atlantic Whitefish Conservation & Recovery Team”, made up of representatives from government, native, local community, commercial harvesters, and science experts, complete with terms of reference.
- > a science/assessment initiative led by Rod Bradford charged with developing a design to answer questions of distribution, life history, habitat requirements, limitations to population growth, and identifying the most significant threats to the population.
- > A communications strategy including a poster and factsheet program, angling summary, conservation articles in the media, local public/school awareness.
- > a future direction and recovery program - to begin protecting the species immediately over and above the current regulations

under the Fisheries Act.

> and of course, a funding strategy.

Many of these things have already begun, trap nets in the estuary of the Petite Riviere were installed in the fall of 1999 and will go back in this spring. A fact sheet has been published and a notice about Atlantic whitefish will appear in the 2000 angling regulations. Members of the funding subcommittee are already shaking branches and securing money for the upcoming season.

If it's not too late, the Atlantic whitefish is finally going to get a little help to stay out of the last category of the endangered species list.

For more information contact Alan McNeill (902) 485-7024, e-mail: mcneilla@gov.ns.ca

VERMONT

Fish Genetics Workshop Planned

The Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit is organizing a workshop on fish genetics to be held on the University of Vermont campus on March 21 & 22, 2000. The workshop will be co-led by John Epifanio, Dave Philipp, Ellen Marsden and Dave Perkins. Approximately 25 fish biologists and culturists from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife will attend the two day workshop, along with a number of UVM graduate students and USFWS personnel.

The workshop will be a introduction to the tools and issues of fish genetics with sessions on population genetic structure, hatchery breeding principles, genetic analysis tools, potential impacts on genetic fitness, and the management risks of hybridization and introgression.

For more information contact Donna Parrish (802) 656-2693, e-mail: dparrish@nature.snr.uvm.edu

Vermont Hires New Aquatic Habitat Biologist

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife has added a new position to its staff: Aquatic Habitat Biologist. The person hired to fill this new position is Christa Alexander. Christa has the unique mix of outreach, inter-personal and biological skills which this job requires. Her diverse work experience comes from both the private sector and government, and includes environmental education, aquatic habitat inventory, fish population assessment and stream channel morphological assessment. In addition, she worked as an assistant zoning administrator for the Town of Jericho and did volunteer work for the Jericho Land Trust. This position will be based in Waterbury, VT, but will cover the entire state.

For more information contact Christa Alexander (802) 241-1356 e-mail: christa@fwd.anr.state.vt.us

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

26th Annual Meeting, Atlantic International Chapter, "New Methods of Collecting and Analyzing Data" September 24-26, 2000. Pictou, Nova Scotia.
Contact Alan McNeill, (902) 485-7024
mcneilla@gov.ns.ca

East Coast Trout Culture and Management Workshop.

June 6-8, 2000. Frostburg, Maryland.
Contact Larry Mohn, (540) 248-9360
lmohn@dgif.state.va.us

130th AFS Annual Meeting.

August 20-24, 2000. St. Louis, Missouri.
Contact Betsy Fritz, (301) 897-8616
bfritz@fisheries.org



GENERAL INTEREST

Tennessee Bass Anglers Vs. Biologists

The TVA Shootout: Bass Anglers Vs. Biologists

On mainstream lakes of the Tennessee River, the Tennessee Valley Authority annually invites bass anglers to participate in a friendly "duel" to see who can bring up the most bass - fishermen or biologists.

The biologists always win. But the anglers aren't losers; they gain valuable insights into the behavior of their favorite game fish.

The program is part of TVA's relatively new "catch depletion" technique, which is used to survey fish populations without sacrificing the fish, according to TVA Project Leader Donny Lowery. TVA first used it on Guntersville Lake in 1992 to replace cove rotenone surveys.

Biologists choose a 6- to 10-acre cove with good structure and spawning habitat, with an average depth of 8 to 10 feet and no more than 20 feet deep at its mouth. A net is spread across the mouth of the cove to prevent fish from escaping, and "shocking boats" make timed passes inside the cove until virtually no bass are recovered -

hence the phrase, "catch depletion "

Since 1992, TVA biologists have been inviting B.A.S.S. club members and others to fish in front of survey boats and then observe the shocking results. The cooperative effort has enabled TVA to convince skeptics that bass populations are healthy.

Anglers get to fire the first "shot" in the duels, fishing the netted coves any way they wish for an hour. Then they give their catch to the biologists, who measure, weigh, examine, mark and release the bass outside the net.

Then it's the biologists' turn. In virtually every case the results have been astounding. In 1995, for instance, TVA catch-depletion crews recorded an average of 65 bass per hour, compared with the 0.6 fish per hour turned in by participating anglers.

"It was phenomenal," says Murray (Ky.) Bass Club President Nick Ryan of his experience on Kentucky Lake. "We fished for an hour, trying to catch everything we could. I threw a topwater first, then a worm. Then we got on the shocking boat and watched them roll up 6- and 7-pound bass. I'm 53 and have been fishing these same bays since I was 16, and I didn't know these fish were there!"

Ryan and other local B.A.S.S. club members have learned a great deal about fishing through the studies.

"I'm much more methodical and patient now, and I'm catching more fish," he says. "Everyone who has been involved in this project is catching more fish. The best angler in our club has always been a slow and methodical fisherman, but it took this to really convince me to change."

"I've been fishing Guntersville all my life and I was amazed at the quality and quantity of bass," adds angler Paul Erickson. "I watched them shock up more than 20 fish over 5 pounds apiece. They bring up fish in every piece of structure they hit. It's given me a different attitude about my fishing.

"I spend more time working structure now. It reminds me of the time I had a small boat and a small motor and I spent more time fishing and less time moving. And I caught more fish."

"The majority of anglers are appalled at the number and size of fish in these lakes that aren't taking their lures," says Lowery. "They're finding out that if they aren't catching fish, that it doesn't mean they aren't there. They're telling us they're going to spend more time in an area before moving on."

The catch depletion surveys have shown Guntersville, Kentucky, Wheeler and Chickamauga, in order, to be the top four lakes on the Tennessee River system. Any surprises? "Watts Bar," answers Al Brown, a TVA biologist who has been involved in agency shocking studies for decades. "We shocked up 680 bass from one cove."

When he isn't shocking up fish for the TVA, Brown is a tournament angler, and he is uniquely qualified to draw conclusions from survey results and apply them to sport fishing. His recommendations:

Develop confidence in an area and stick to it - "There are more fish

in some areas than in others, but you can't run a shock boat 100 yards on these lakes without finding keeper fish," says Brown. "One time, we had anglers pre-fish a cove without catching a single fish. Then we turned up 150 keeper bass from that same cove

Master several lures and techniques - "Most people enjoy and become proficient in one or two fishing methods," he suggests. "If they don't catch fish, they move on. The fish are there, you simply need to adapt to what will trigger them."

Big bass stay put - "One of the most interesting things we've found is how close to the same area fish, particularly those 5 pounds and heavier, will stay," Brown points out. "From our fin clipping, we find the same big fish in the same area year after year. Big bass may move to different depths in a cove, but they don't leave. We see that a lot."

To find big bass, find big bait - Brown notes that the bigger bass he shocks up aren't found in the company of small forage fish. "We see 8- to 10-inch shad come up with these (larger) fish because that's what they eat," he says. "Two anglers pre-fished one of the coves we sampled without catching a fish. They studied what they saw from our shocking survey, left and came back a little while later with minnows. They tipped their jigs with the minnows and caught five bass that weighed 26 1/2 pounds. Although most won't admit it, that's a technique some competitive anglers use to locate fish during tournament practice days. When they come back, the fish will still be there."

(For more information on the catch depletion surveys or to express an interest in participating, call Donny Lowery, Tennessee Valley Authority - Project Leader at (205) 386-2729.)

- JOHN GAYLON DOTY

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Reprinted by permission from the February 1997 issue of BASSMASTER Magazine, Montgomery, Ala.

Submitted by Shawn Good, VT F&W

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