



Atlantic International Chapter

NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Dear Fellow AIC Chapter Members,

Greetings from New Brunswick! As we hopefully move toward warmer weather, I trust that you all have had a busy yet productive winter season. And as we gear up for the spring siege, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some Chapter business both new and old.

First of all, a note on the extremely successful AFS meeting held in Québec City in August 2003. Please join with me in applauding the hosts, the Province of Québec and particularly Stephanie Lachance, Martin Castonguay and the countless others from Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec. I would also like to thank those AIC members who helped out during the week and those who attended the AIC annual business meeting on the Sunday evening (details inside).

This is another exciting year for the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. We will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary with the 2004 Annual meeting in Vermont, September 19-21st. Shawn Good, the Local Arrangements Chair has been diligently working at finding us a great place to meet. Greg Mackey (V-P) and others have also been actively working toward developing the Program (details inside). I encourage as many of you as possible to attend this special session. We would like to see good representation from all Chapter States and Provinces. A warm welcome as always is extended to our retired colleagues and especially past Ex-Com members. We would truly like to make this a celebration! To that end, I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any ideas on special activities or events that might add to the festivities. There is no shortage of memories or laughs from the last 30 years!

In September 2003, I had the privilege of attending a retreat for the Northeast Division (NED) Ex-com. It was a very welcome opportunity as truly, the NED was pretty much a non-entity to me before – something I occasionally received a newsletter from. We had a very productive meeting and in the near future you will see a number of initiatives coming out as a result of that meeting. In essence, the NED will strive to make itself more relevant to the Chapters.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome students from the University of Maine who are in the process of forming an official student sub-unit of the AIC. We were extremely pleased to hear of their plans and look forward to a long and productive association with them. To further illustrate their commitment, this group has also agreed to help resurrect the NED newsletter. I would like to thank past-President Larry Miller who has been working with UMaine throughout this process.

As a follow-up to some old business, we will have a vote on a new AIC logo as

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decided at the 2002 meeting in NB. Please look for more information in this newsletter and on the website in terms of how we hope to do this. Lately, we have been experiencing website difficulties beyond our control but hopefully this will soon be corrected and the voting process will proceed as planned. Please remember that the newsletter and website are for your benefit and therefore John Magee and Shawn Good are eager at any time to hear your suggestions for content and/or improvements.

This leaves us at the point where we Presidents traditionally speak to the importance of membership, recruitment and the benefits of volunteerism. For my part, I have been more than impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the members that I have had the privilege to work with thus far. I have also been pleasantly surprised by the initiative of others like the students at UMaine and individuals who have come forward and asked how they can be involved in the AIC. And, I have also tried personally to recruit. So what I would ask of you is – can we all keep trying? Interestingly enough, every year the demographics of our membership changes but the final numbers do not. So let's use this Anniversary year as the year to really promote our Chapter and the Society and change that number!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Collet, President
Atlantic International Chapter – American Fisheries Society

Our Annual Chapter Meeting

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT on September 19–21, 2004. Please see the registration form at the end of this newsletter.

“Axis of Evil?: Perceived and Real Issues Regarding Species Interactions”

You are invited to submit abstracts for review on any topic related to species interactions, with an emphasis on Alosids. Species interactions range from predation to symbiosis. With increasing levels of invasive and non-native species, and fundamental shifts in fisheries management philosophy, species interactions have increasingly been moving to the forefront of fisheries biology. In addition, we will still hold our traditional Open Session, for which

abstracts for any topic are invited.

Preparing your abstract: The abstract is a short description of your work and should contain all the elements necessary to define your aims and results to the reader, i.e., background, methods, results and conclusions. Prepare the abstract in MSWord (preferred) or WordPerfect.

Format of abstracts: The abstract, including the title through references cannot exceed ONE 8.5 x 11 inch page in length. Lines should be single-spaced and the text done in Times, plain text, font size 12. Each abstract should have the following elements laid out as follows.

Title: Clearly identify the contents of the abstract. Bold type all letters in the title and italicize scientific names. Leave a double space between the title and the authors' list.

Authors: Use the first initials and full last name of authors. Indicate the presenting author in bold type. All authors' names should be in upper and lower case letters (not all capitals). Leave a single space between the authors' list and affiliations.

Affiliations: All affiliations should follow the authors' names. Use only institution/agency and city, state address. Write affiliations in upper and lower case, and in italics. Use superscript numerals to link affiliations and authors. Leave a double space between the affiliation list and the body of the abstract.

Abstract Text: Write the text of the abstract in Times, plain text, font size 12, single-spaced. The text should contain no more than 300 words. Insert sub or superscripts, italics or other symbols as necessary. Leave a double space between the text and the reference list (if used).

References (optional): Write references in Times, plain text, font size 10, single-spaced. Abbreviate journal titles.

Contact information: At the bottom of the page separate from the abstract text, include Name, phone, fax, and email address of presenting author.

Submitting your abstract

Abstracts are to be submitted to the meeting coordinator before the deadline of TBA. Early abstract submissions will be given priority for presentation. Abstracts must be submitted electronically by the deadline. Fax copies will not be accepted. Send abstract to:

Program Chair
Gregory Mackey
Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission
Downeast Field Office
Route 1A
Jonesboro, Maine 04648
phone: (207) 434-5920
email: Greg.Mackey@maine.gov

Please check the AIC website for meeting information including the schedule of events, symposia times and locations, poster and platform session information, and even a searchable database of the posters and presentations. Click on:
<http://www.fisheries.org/aic/>

Our Annual Parent Society Meeting

The Gathering: Leopold's Legacy for Fisheries
The American Fisheries Society (AFS) will convene its 134th Annual Meeting at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace in downtown Madison, Wisconsin, from August 22nd through August 26th, 2004.

The theme celebrates Wisconsin's name (which has been translated as "gathering of waters") and Wisconsin's celebrated ecologist Aldo Leopold. Best known for his "land ethic" and as a pioneering figure in wildlife management, Leopold defined land as "a community" that explicitly embraced fish and water. In his writings he encouraged others to see land as he did: as soils, waters, plants, and animals "all interlocking in one humming community of cooperations and competitions, one biota."

Your hosts invite you to gather with professionals, with colleagues, with old friends, and with new friends on the Isthmus next summer to learn how Leopold's legacy has influenced the conservation of our aquatic resources in the past and to plan how it may influence the future.

For more information: check <http://www.fisheries.org>.

Other meetings of interest

Wild Trout VIII Symposium
September 20-22, 2004
Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful Inn

Symposium Theme: "Working Together to Ensure the Future of Wild Trout:"

The first International Wild Trout Symposium was held in 1974 and symposia are now being held at 4-year intervals. The objectives of these symposia have focused on the conservation and restoration of wild trout resources. These symposia have sought to attract fishery professionals, natural resource conservationists, non-governmental conservation groups, and other individuals interested in wild trout.

See WWW.WILDTROUT8.COM for more details.

Other AIC News

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted articles and reviews. The newsletter is our primary outlet for sharing information with those members who cannot attend our annual meeting, so it is important to spread the word about projects happening in your region.

As a reminder, I take submissions anytime throughout the year. You can contact me via e-mail:

Jmagee@gomezandsullivan.com
or by phone: (603) 529-4400

New AIC Logo – Shawn P. Good

In recent years, there has been some discussion about updating the AIC logo. Members felt that it was out-of-date, but more importantly, it was recognized that Quebec was not represented in the "map" portion of our current logo. Consequently, during the 2001 AIC meeting in New Hampshire, Norm Dube, AIC President at the time, promised to address this issue in his term. In his President's message in the January 2002 AIC newsletter, Norm proposed a contest for AIC members to draw and submit new AIC logos, with a prize of one year's AFS membership being awarded to the winner.

Unfortunately, in the time that has passed, no entries were received. However, our newsletter editor, John Magee, happens to have a friend who is quite good with graphic design, and he was kind enough to provide a couple of

new AIC logos for us to consider (gratis). We would like to take a vote on the logos, and officially adopt a new one (assuming one of the batch is deemed suitable) at the upcoming meeting in Vermont, September 2004.

Please visit www.fisheries.org/aic/logo.htm to place your vote...it takes only about one minute to do so.

AIC Bibliography

The bibliography is now available on the chapter website. New submissions (citation only—please do not email the actual document to Gabe) should be sent to the AIC bibliography coordinator, Gabe Gries at ggries@starband.net. The citations will then be posted on the website in both pdf and text format.

Lots of AFS news can be found at:
<http://www.fisheries.org/WhatsNew.shtml>

Northeast Division (NED) News

The Northeastern Division, AFS held an Executive Committee retreat at the Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Fall, Massachusetts on September 11-12, 2003. The five current Division officers, three Chapter Presidents, and three Division Past Presidents attended. The primary objective of the retreat was to formulate ideas for Division actions to better implement



Photo – Left to Right, Front Row – Paola Ferreri, Kathryn Collet, Linda Bireley, Steve Rideout, Grace Klein-MacPhee, Joan Trial, Web Pearsall, Margaret Murphy, Carolyn Griswold, Back Row – Ron Essig, Scott Decker

the AFS Strategic Plan in the northeast. Facilitated discussions covered a broad range of topics including: annual meetings, continuing education, Chapter support, membership, committee structure, student initiatives, financial management, officer elections, newsletter/website, decision making, and information/outreach.

A major outcome of the EXCOM retreat was a set of strategies to increase Division involvement in program development for annual meetings through 2007. Joint meetings with AFS and Chapters in the Division would be a key approach to achieve this. The EXCOM also supported reinstating the Division newsletter for email distribution and developing protocols for website oversight and updating. The charge of several Division committees will be changed to better address the needs of the membership. For example, the Continuing Education Committee will refocus from offering Division courses to offering support for Chapter courses.

After the first day's session, retreat participants were provided a tour of the Center facility by Director and former Division President Steve Rideout. That was followed by a short hike through a hemlock forest and on a boardwalk over a sphagnum bog that forms the headwaters of the Sawmill River, a tributary of the Connecticut River.

Ron Essig, President

More NED News...

Currently, most of the NED energy is being devoted to following up on many items from the September 2003 Executive Committee retreat (see NED retreat article). President Elect Paola Ferreri and First Vice President Margaret Murphy are each organizing special symposia sessions for the annual meeting at the NEFWC in Ocean City, MD on April 25-28, 2004. One is on instream flow work and another is on stream habitat restoration. More information on the meeting is at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/northeast/>.

A draft white paper has been prepared on the logistics of the NED annual meeting and is posted on the AIC website. Executive Committee members at the retreat identified pros and cons for the current annual meeting structure as part of the NEFWC. The options outlined in the draft white paper have implications for future Chapter meeting and thus will be topic for discussion at our next business meeting. I encourage you all to read it carefully. In the interim, feel free to provide any comments on this topic to NED President Ron Essig (ron_essig@fws.gov) or AIC Chapter President Kathryn Collet (kathryn.collet@gnb.ca).

Another major issue that the NED is tackling is liability insurance concerns at Chapter and NED events. A number of Chapters have run into this issue while planning business meetings, technical workshops and social events. In many cases the quotes have been prohibitive. The issue of Officer Liability was also raised, which causes some additional concern for recruitment of officer candidates. These

concerns were taken to the AFS Management Committee who investigated the issue with their insurance company. In short 1) the AFS insurance policy presently covers the Parent Society Officers and Board for liability. It also covers "events", i.e., meetings and associated activities. There is something about the Society structure that prevents AFS from getting insurance for all officers (the fact that Divisions and Chapters act independently with their own budgets and bylaws); 2) the policy does NOT cover unit (chapter, division, section) officers or events, since these units are considered, for liability purposes, independent entities; 3) AFS can however include any unit for event insurance (meetings and associated activities) for a premium of approximately \$100/year per unit. This is insurance for a \$1,000,000 limit; 4) Unit officer liability insurance is also available but at much higher premiums, \$1,000-1,500. AFS felt that the need for this type of coverage is really not there and would advise chapters not to worry about it.

The Division can't get blanket coverage for the Chapters for the same reasons as the parent Society (subunits are independent entities). It was agreed however that the Division would pay for event coverage through AFS at the cost of \$100 per year per subunit for each of the six Chapters and the Division (total cost of around \$700).

In terms of event insurance, AFS found that events, like water safety held in a reasonably secure environment (like a pool), could be covered for \$100-200/yr per event. This does not include canoeing, etc. AFS is planning to pull all of the information together and make it available to Divisions so that they can make it available for chapters. At least then chapters could gauge whether they are getting a reasonable quote from potential insurers. It was also mentioned that AFS could serve as a broker for chapters who could not find insurance locally (but it would be paid for by the chapter).

The NED has been hard at work the past couple years doing things in support of the AFS strategic plan but as a NED member you may not have been aware of their role in these events because a newsletter has not been published since the summer of 2001. Well, the NED newsletter is back, thanks to the fisheries students of the University of Maine who have stepped up to the plate and agreed to do the editing, production and distribution. The intent is to mail the next issue to all members. Future issues will be emailed to all members unless otherwise requested. The NED is still looking for help in updating their website, so if you could take the lead or assist with this please let Ron Essig know (ron_essig@fws.gov).

Other NED News

NED Award Nominations - For both the newsletter & web

The Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society annually presents several awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to fisheries, to the Division, and to AFS. Any Division member can submit a nomination. The deadline for nominations is March 8, 2004. Awards will be presented at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, April 25-28, 2004 in Ocean City, Maryland. The strongest nominations typically include a resume of the nominee, a letter of nomination, and supporting letters.

FIRST-TIER AWARD

DWIGHT A. WEBSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

This is the most prestigious Award given by the Northeastern Division. It may be awarded for any of the following achievements: Lifelong contributions to fisheries science and the profession in the Northeast or while working in the Northeast; Meritorious/prestigious service to the profession and fisheries; Significant academic or technical accomplishments; and, Long-term service in the Northeastern Division as an AFS member. This Award is presented annually.

SECOND-TIER AWARDS

PRESIDENTS' AWARD

This award is presented to an individual who is selected by Past-Presidents and the incumbent President; it is not limited to Past Presidents. It may be presented for any or all the following achievements: Promotion of fisheries management and upheld ideals of professionalism; and, dedication to AFS and employer.

The recipient need not be a current AFS member, and the award need not be presented annually.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

This award is presented to an individual for any or all of the following: Leadership and service to the profession and/or AFS; Substantial achievements for AFS and the fisheries resource; and, Significant long-term service to the NE Division within the Division. The recipient must be an AFS member. The award need not be presented annually.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented to an individual or group acting as a team or committee for any or all of the following special accomplishments. Notable contribution(s) for conservation and/or the fisheries profession within the Northeastern Division; and Administrative or project-related accomplishments. The recipient(s) need not be an AFS member(s) and the award need not be presented

annually.

Nominations should be sent to: Kenneth L. Beal
Chair, Awards Committee
AFS-NED
NMFS, One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
978-281-9267

60th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will hold its 60th annual conference on April 25-28, 2004 in Ocean City, Maryland. The conference will be hosted by Maryland and Delaware. This meeting serves as the platform for the annual meeting of the Northeastern Division of AFS. Special symposia sessions on instream flow and stream habitat restoration are being organized by the Division. As other information on the conference becomes available, it will be posted on <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/northeast/>.

Maine

Penobscot River Restoration Agreement

The Penobscot River Restoration Project is one of the most progressive and comprehensive attempts in history to rebalance hydropower production with fisheries and other ecosystem values on a major river. The conservation groups and Penobscot Indian Nation are partners in this landmark project along with PPL Corporation, the State of Maine and the U.S. Department of Interior, which will reconfigure hydropower facilities opening more than 500 miles of habitat to sea-run fish. See <http://www.penobscotriver.org/> for more details.

UMaine Students to Form AFS Student Subunit in Orono

Students of the University of Maine interested in fish biology and fisheries formed a student organization on the Orono campus this past fall. Fitting with recent developments in multidisciplinary development of fisheries related studies on campus, this program includes undergraduate and graduate students in the departments of Biological Sciences, Wildlife Ecology, Aquaculture, Marine Sciences, and Ecology and Environmental Sciences. By forming this organization, students hope to foster interdepartmental communication on campus, provide service to local state, federal, and nonprofit agencies, and improve awareness of aquatic resource issues.

Consistent with these goals, the group has already hosted two graduate student seminars, and a presentation on the Penobscot River Restoration Project, given by Gordon Russell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These seminars have been well attended by students, faculty and the general public. In addition to future seminars, the group plans to edit the AFS Northeast Division newsletter and to maintain aquaria and educational displays on campus, including one on endangered Atlantic salmon.

The students of this organization seek permission to form an AFS Student Subunit at the University. A petition to form the subunit, along with a copy of the bylaws prepared by the University of Maine Fisheries Students will be printed in the summer issue of the AIC newsletter. AIC members will be asked to vote on the matter at the annual meeting in September 2004.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:
Nathan Wilke, Co-President (Graduate Students)

email: Nathan.Wilke@umit.maine.edu

Chris Holbrook, Co-President (Undergraduate Students)

email: Christopher.Holbrook@umit.maine.edu

Dr. Michael Kinnison, Faculty Advisor

email: Michael.Kinnison@umit.maine.edu

phone: (207) 581-2575

EAGLE HILL Three-Day SEMINAR, Steuben, Maine - Early Summer 2004

Northeast Freshwater Fish Origins, Distribution, Status, and Taxonomy

May 17 - 21, 2004 (Monday and Friday are travel days)

This 3-day seminar will provide a comprehensive study of northeastern U.S. fish origins, distribution and conservation status of freshwater fishes, inclusive of diadromous species. Fish assemblage habitats in both lentic and lotic aquatic environments will be covered, and development of Indices of Biological Integrity (IBI) reviewed. Preserved specimens of 50+ representative fish species, with particular reference to non-game fishes, will be available for laboratory taxonomic learning. Field trips to local lakes, including both day- and nighttime beach seining, will ensure hands-on experience in collecting and observing fresh specimens. An updated review of pertinent scientific literature will also be provided.

David Halliwell (Ph.D. in Fishery Biology from U-Mass, Amherst) is a certified AFS Fisheries Professional specializing in conservation, aquatic habitat classification, and taxonomy, and is now employed as an Aquatic Biologist with Maine DEP (Augusta). Dave has spent the past 25 years investigating the niches of freshwater fishes while working for and with many northeastern State and Federal fish and water quality agencies. Pertinent studies include researching fishery-related acid rain impacts, aquatic habitat restoration, hydropower-flow issues, forestry-use practices, and water quality concerns. Dr. Halliwell also has considerable past experience teaching University and field courses related to fish and wildlife in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Maine and is co-author of *The Inland Fishes of Massachusetts*.

Richard Langdon (M.S. in Fisheries Science from Humboldt State University, CA) will co-instruct this seminar in 2004. Rich also provides over two decades of experience as an aquatic biologist with Vermont DEC (Waterbury), specializing in the study of fish assemblages in running waters. He has developed modifications for the Index of Biotic Integrity for Vermont streams and has adapted them to numeric biocriteria for use in Vermont Water Quality Standards. His research interests include the classification of running water fish assemblages, post glacial fish distribution patterns in western New England, and he is co-authoring the *Fishes of Vermont*, to be published in 2004.

All participants will receive a comprehensive course notebook and a copy of the *Inland Fishes of Massachusetts*. Activities generally combine intensive field studies and follow-up work in the lab with lectures, discussions, and a review of the current literature. Non-fish sampling evenings are open for independent taxonomic studies, presentations, and discussions.

For further information, contact: Dr. David Halliwell, david.halliwell@maine.gov, (207) 287-7649

Section II - Tentative Schedule for the Week (Seminar Syllabus)

Monday, May 17 - Arrival

Late afternoon to early evening arrival, dinner at 7PM
Evening - orientation - defining participants interests, experience and expectations for the course.

Tuesday, May 18 - Day 1

Lecture Topics (Morning): Introduction and Northeastern Fish Biogeography

Open discussion: Fish Groups Ecology/Taxonomy I - Lampreys thru Minnows

Focus of Field Trips (Afternoon): Aquatic habitats - Daytime beach seining

Focus of Lab Studies and Exercises (Evening): Basic Fish Taxonomy - Minnows

Wednesday, May 19 - Day 2

Lecture Topics (Morning): Habitat Assessment & Fish Conservation Status

Open discussion: Fish Groups Ecology/Taxonomy II - Suckers thru Salmonids

Focus of Field Trip (Afternoon): USFWS Craig Brook NFH Tour - Atlantic Salmon

Focus of Field Trips (Evening): Aquatic habitats - Nighttime beach seining

Thursday, May 20 - Day 3

Main Lecture Topics (Morning): Aquatic Indices of Biological Integrity (IBI's)

Open discussion: Fish Groups Ecology/Taxonomy III - Trout-perch thru Soles

Focus of Field Trips (Afternoon): Fish sampling - streams and rivers using backpack electro fishing technique (IBI - RBP)

Focus of Lab Studies and Exercises (Evening): Fish Identification Practicum (optional)

Friday, May 21 - Departure (shortly after break fast)

New Hampshire/Massachusetts (Merrimack River)

This article was written for Trout Unlimited by an active TU volunteer, Don McGinley. It is included here to illustrate the commitment of volunteer groups in our region.

Adopt-A-Biologist: New Hampshire T.U. Chapter Fills A Void

By Don McGinley

Merrimack River Valley Chapter #075 of Trout Unlimited, Manchester, New Hampshire, 11/26/03.

As with most wildlife and fisheries agencies across the country, 2003 has been a budget-challenging year for New Hampshire Fish & Game and the regional US Fish & Wildlife Service field office, which manages the Merrimack River anadromous fisheries program. The Mer-

Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited saw these difficult circumstances as “opportunities” and established what we call our “Adopt-A-Biologist Program” to assist both agencies with volunteers to assist with various field work operations.

Now, at the end of a most successful season, we can honestly say that New Hampshire’s fisheries are better off thanks to this program and the commitment of our 40 dedicated volunteers.

How did we make this concept of Adopt-A-Biologist happen and succeed? It was actually quite easy, thanks to a great volunteer response. At our February 2003 TU chapter meeting, we announced a “Potential Program” if we could sign-up a dozen committed volunteers. This commitment was delivered in March when 18 men and women drove through inclement New England weather to attend a meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire and listen to volunteer needs by our two adopted agencies.



USFWS Biologist Ken Sprankle holds a just captured American Shad ready to be transferred to the Upper Merrimack River above Manchester in mid-June.

Gabe Gries (Fishery Biologist NH Fish & Game Region 4) and Ken Sprankle (Fishery Biologist for Central New England Resource Office of USFWS) were the selected Biologists within the two agencies. The goals and objectives of the program were laid out: TU guaranteed volunteers for all reasonable requests if given a 7 day notice; at least 2 volunteers would be available for a given project; volunteer efforts typically should be doable in one day; and the Biologist must justify each need via a short written explanation.

Why did this program succeed when similar programs most often sputter out after a quick start? It was accom-

plished with a combination of Information, Feedback, Status, Information, Results Responses and More Information. It’s really true that if you keep everyone informed and in the loop, they almost always deliver on a commitment.

We also had a single, focused individual to manage the information flow between the volunteers and the Biologists. The most important key success factor, however, was the use of Electronic Mail. Email was required of all participants, and luckily, this posed no problem for our volunteers. In fact, many members forwarded Email requests to friends. This is partially responsible for the program growing from 18 to a current volunteer count of 40.

Given the number of volunteers, have we actually accomplished anything of substance? Through the end of November, we have accomplished quite a bit for the first year of the project. A few of the projects where we have made a distinct difference include: trout fin clipping at two state hatcheries, 261,000 stocked Atlantic Salmon fry, hand stocking of trout on two local streams, capture of incoming American Shad and transfer to the upper Merrimack River tributaries for spawning, capture of sea run Atlantic Salmon returning to the Merrimack, wild trout sampling on 3 southwestern New Hampshire streams, trout sampling on a lake, an electro fishing survey on the Contoocook River in preparation for removal of a local dam, and last, but not least, sorting and spawning of the Atlantic Salmon broodstock at the USFWS hatchery in Nashua.

As you might imagine, many of the activities have had exciting aspects to them, especially with our salmon. We’ve gone from traditional Fry stocking to the capture of 12-15 lb returning sea run fish on the Merrimack River to electro fishing sampling of par throughout the watershed. With the broodstock spawning effort in November and December, we’ve all been doused with 52 degree water from splashing 12 to 18 Lb fish although, in fact, we all have stayed as warm as toast while tailing and holding these wondrous fish. As you all know, anyone who has ever handled a wild returning Atlantic Salmon remembers the moment for a lifetime, and anyone who has spawned them dreams of the day when we see thousands of them naturally spawning in our rivers.

A sample of comments from our adopted Biologists best speaks to our successful season. From Gabe Gries of NH Fish & Game: “TU has been a tremendous help to Fish and Game and I would not have been able to complete the electro fishing work as well without everyone’s assistance. I think this is a great partnership and a lot of

fun as well". Ken Sprankle stated in a regional USFWS status report "We have had great volunteer support from the Manchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited in assisting staff at the Essex Fish Lift and in shad transfers. We couldn't have done it this week without them".

The Adopt-A-Biologist volunteer effort adds up to over 800 hours of assistance through the end of November (with 3 weeks of Salmon spawning to complete). Over the year, we haven't missed a single commitment while the biologists have added additional projects to our plate. The success of this project has other New Hampshire Fisheries Biologists calling for help. With a little luck, we can spread this program throughout New Hampshire in the near future and then, maybe throughout the world of Trout Unlimited – anyplace where cold-water fisheries need help and TU has a chapter in place. (For more information, contact Don McGinley at DonMcG44@aol.com or via the TU chapter website (where this article was originally published) at www.merri-macktu.org)

Newfoundland

The attempted restoration of Atlantic salmon to the city rivers of St. John's, Newfoundland.

R. John Gibson (Scientist Emeritus, DFO), 58 The Boulevard, St. John's, NL. A1A 1K1.
E-mail: rjgibson@nfsympatico.ca; tel.: (709) 726-2498.

Underyearling salmon (unfed fry) have been stocked in the city rivers of St. John's sporadically over the last ten years. The natural runs were extirpated at least eighty years ago. Experimental stocking at selected stations of about 1000 fry per site was made from 1982 to 1985, and from 1995 to 1996, to study growth rate related to enrichment, competition with the abundant brown trout, and available prey items. (Results have been published in: R.J. Gibson and R.L. Haedrich. 1988. The exceptional growth of juvenile Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in the city waters of St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. *Pol. Arch. Hydrobiol.* 35: 385-407; and in: R.J. Gibson and M.H. Colbo. 2000. The response of salmonids and aquatic invertebrates to urban influenced enrichment in a Newfoundland river, Canada. *Verh. Internat. Verein. Limnol.* 27: 2071-2078). Salmon fry in small numbers have been stocked almost annually since this time. The city rivers are enriched, but except at some locations in lower sections, are not polluted. In general the standing stocks and growth rates of the salmonids (mainly brown trout with the stocked salmon, but with the occasional brook trout) are exceptional. For example, in South Brook (the south branch of the Waterford River in the west end of the city), sampled in 1996, the biomass of

salmonids in a riffle station was 27.43 g.m⁻², and in an adjacent pool it was 84.56 g.m⁻². Salmon were most abundant in riffle habitats, and their growth rate was phenomenal. The 0+ were about 6 to 7 cm in fork length and the 1+ up to about 15 cm. These results indicate that there is potential for enhancing many of our rivers by stream fertilisation. Many streams and rearing tributaries in the province are shallow and clear, but nutrient poor. Increases in production would result in enhancement of the salmonids, which are the dominant fish species present.

Since we had not done any assessments in recent years we did some index electrofishing on September 13th, 2003, a lovely day, and fairly low water. We did not use any stop nets but simply electrofished for 500 sec. and anaesthetised and measured our catch. We did a station in each of the rivers (South Brook, Virginia River, Rennie's River). At all of our stations the fish stocks were in good shape. I present below the results for the station in South Brook. We chose a riffle station, which had a cobble pebble substrate. Water temperature was 15°C. In our 500 sec. of electro fishing we caught 58 brown trout, 6 salmon, and one three-spine stickleback.

We estimated ages from size age relationships found previously. We did not take scale samples as we had done in our previous more careful studies. Several points are especially interesting. One is that the growth of the salmon is faster than that of the brown trout, whereas in most other studies it is the other way round. The other point is that the brown trout increase in size gradually, rather than in steps with age. We found the same situation at the other stations. I suspect the salmon grow faster than the trout, because they are less dense in a different habitat (shallow, open fast water areas, whereas the trout are more associated with slower flows and cover, and are very abundant). I wonder if the trout have a graded increase in size so that they can avail of all prey sizes.

Our crew on that lovely day on Sept. 13th consisted of stalwart members of "Friends and Lovers of the Waterford River" (FLOW): Diana Baird, Fred and Hawkin Winsor, and myself.

There have been several reports of adult salmon returns, but only one has been positively identified, from a fish trap at Quidi Vidi Lake, at the outlet of the Rennie's River system. I have seen several large fish that I would say were salmon, but the problem is that some of the anadromous brown trout get large, so positive identification from the river bank is difficult. This fall in South Brook some of us saw three large fish (about 60 cm), of the same size, spawning, and further upstream were

some other large fish below a waterfall, and I would guess that these were salmon. The juvenile salmon that we caught could have been from stocking. However, future stocking is in doubt, so if fry are no longer released and we catch juveniles in future studies they would have to be from natural spawning.

One of the reasons our rivers are so productive, despite being in a city, is that headwaters of the rivers are presently supplied by natural bogs and springs. A cloud hangs over Rennies River, which goes through the centre of the city, because plans are in place to develop most of the headwaters of this system (the Southwest Expansion Area). The planned development will cover about 340 ha, presently of forest and bog, and including about 80 ha of wetlands which will be lost. There was a public hearing concerning this proposed development in October 2002, and several conservation groups, and individuals (e.g. Natural History Society, Rennies River Development Foundation, FLOW) put in briefs suggesting that present water quality and flow patterns be retained by pursuing phytotechnologies and the ecohydrological approach, such as incorporating ponds and constructed wetlands, and that storm water be run through vegetation (phytoremediation) before discharge into the river, a sustainable and cheap technique. The response later from the St. John's council was surprising. At the meeting councillors thought our suggestions were 'scandalous', and the mayor was insulted because he thought that we were intimating that his staff were not competent. One rather more intelligent councillor's suggestion that there should be collaboration with the local expertise available was voted down. With the present plans there will be no water management techniques incorporated, except engineering designs to cope with extra flows, by enlarging culverts etc. Since developed areas have something like 16 times the runoff of undeveloped land the consequences will be inevitable, i.e. increase in flood levels, lower drought levels, greater erosion, poorer water quality, etc. and general degradation of fish habitat. I phoned my local councillor to explain the problem, and he said he'd voted against incorporating any of our suggestions, and he really did not understand our concerns. Since the concept is not difficult to understand, it later dawned on me that they know very well the consequences, but someone is going to make a lot of money, so to hell with those of us who enjoy our rivers and tough on those who get flooded. Progress strikes again!

I suppose the answer is to enjoy our beautiful rivers while they last. Interestingly enough the headwaters of the Waterford River is under jurisdiction of the city of Mount Pearl, whose council have a much better collaborative attitude, and have gone along with many sugges-

tions from FLOW to incorporate settling ponds, conserve wetlands, properly construct culverts, etc., so all is not lost!

MINUTES

2003 Atlantic International Chapter – Annual Business Meeting Quebec City, Quebec – 10 August 2003

The 29th Annual AIC meeting was held in Québec City, Québec on August 10th, 2003. The Atlantic International Chapter was the host Chapter for the 133rd Annual meeting of the AFS Parent Society (August 10-14th) and as such, only the AIC business meeting was held on the Sunday evening. The Parent Society meeting was the largest AFS meeting ever held in Canada and the third highest Annual meeting in attendance overall. There were almost 1900 attendees representing 32 countries and over 400 student participants. It was great to see a good turnout of students from the AIC region! The AIC was pleased to be able to support Jamie Leff as a student participant at the meeting. The meeting venue was top-knotch, there were 20 concurrent sessions, 38 symposia, and 1300 oral and poster presentations (details in October *Fisheries* magazine). The extra-curricular activities were also enjoyed by all - Unibroue being our newest best friend! Our sincerest appreciation as a Chapter goes out to Stephanie Lachance and Martin Castonguay and the rest of the team from Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec for their hard work in making this meeting an outstanding success! Many thanks to Brandon Kulik, Larry Miller and others for their help in pulling off a fantastic raffle. Thanks also to all the AIC members who took turns working at the raffle booth.

Call to Order

President Larry Miller called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Angelo Incerpi served as Sergeant-at-Arms and determined that a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

President Miller recognized AFS Past President Kenneth Beal, Northeastern Division (NED) Past Presidents Angelo Incerpi and Joan Trial, NED President Elect Ron Essig, and Atlantic International Chapter (AIC) Past Presidents Peter Amiro, Angelo Incerpi, Norm Dube and Joan Trial.

Comments by AFS Past President

Ken Beal spoke briefly on the AFS Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. He noted that the program had been very successful to date and urged Chapter members to support the program financially and by bringing interns into their organizations.

Presidents Report

President Larry Miller reported on the work that had gone into hosting the annual meeting. In particular, he described the work on organizing the raffle. He thanked Brandon Kulik, in his absence, for all his efforts in chairing the Raffle Committee. He noted that the Raffle Committee had solicited more than \$30,000 in raffle prizes.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Steve Shepard presented the Treasurers Report and provided copies to the members. A copy is attached to these minutes. The U.S. account had increased to \$8,544.23 (US) during the previous year, primarily as a result of dues rebates from the NED and parent Society. The Canadian account had a net increase of nearly \$1,400 (CN) to \$3,219.54 (CN) as a result of monies from the annual meeting and an advance from the U.S. account to assist with up-front costs for the meeting. He noted that both accounts have increased in recent years. A motion was not required to accept the Treasurers report.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary/Treasurer did not attend the 2002 meeting so a report was not available. President Larry Miller and several members described several items from the 2002 business meeting. Business items considered included a new logo for the AIC and changes to the by-laws to allow officers to be elected by simple majority vote at the annual meeting. Additional items of business at the 2002 meeting included officer elections and reports provided by current officers and standing committees.

Committee Reports

Archives: Norm Dube reported that all materials received had been duly archived.

Membership: Scott Decker reported that membership had remained relatively stable.

Raffle: Joan Trial reported that there had been no activity on the raffle committee since an AIC raffle was not

held in 2003 and efforts were devoted to the national meeting.

Election of Officers

Joan Trial made a motion to nominate Kathryn Collet as President and Steve Shepard as Secretary/Treasurer. Angelo Incerpi seconded the motion.

Since the 2004 meeting was scheduled to be held in Vermont, there was some discussion of whether a willing candidate from Vermont was present at the meeting to nominate for Vice President. Angelo Incerpi nominated Shawn Good as Vice President and Kevin Dunham seconded the motion. However, Mr. Good was not present and he had not accepted by proxy, so the nomination could not be accepted. It was decided to contact Mr. Good later to see if he would let his name stand. He subsequently declined. Joan Trial nominated Greg Mackey to the office of Vice President and Kevin Dunham seconded the motion. Mr. Mackey accepted the nomination. The members voted to close nominations. Larry Miller made a motion to cast one vote for the slate of officers. Kevin Dunham seconded the motion. Steve Shepard cast one vote in favor of the nominated officers. Incoming officers were escorted to the front of the room.

New Business

The rotation of host states/provinces for the AIC annual meeting called for the 2004 meeting to be held in Vermont. There was a discussion of the venue for the 2004 meeting. A local arrangements committee was formed consisting of Shawn Good (Chair, as agreed at a later date), Greg Mackey and Trevor Goff.

There was some discussion of the newsletter. A suggestion was made that the webmaster of the AIC newsletter should get on the distribution list of other relevant newsletters and post articles to the AIC newsletter, when appropriate. Peter Amiro agreed to get some electronic newsletter addresses or list-severs to the webmaster.

Adjournment

Joan Trial made a motion to adjourn and Peter Amiro seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned to a social hour.



Atlantic International Chapter Newsletter

John Magee, Editor

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**30th Annual Meeting of the
Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
September 19-21, 2004**

Lake Morey Resort
P.O. Box 326
Fairlee, VT 05045
(802) 333-4311
(800) 423-1211
www.lakemoreyresort.com



Conference Rates : Single Occupancy : \$260.00 USD (\$130.00 Per Person, Per Night)
Double Occupancy : \$190.00 USD (\$95.00 Per Person, Per Night)

Package Rates Include :

2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts (Monday & Tuesday), 2 lunches (Monday & Tuesday) and 2 dinners (Sunday and Monday). Package rate also includes the use of all the standard resort amenities, including full access to the resort's 18-hole golf course.

Spouse MAP Rates - \$89.00 per person per night. This includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, and use of all standard resort amenities, including golf.

Commuter Rate - \$26.00 per person per day. This includes morning break (coffee, tea, muffins, bagels, pastries), lunch, and afternoon break (soda, juice, cookies, brownies).

- Above rates are subject to 18% service charge and 9% Vermont Tax

The Lake Morey Resort requires a \$50.00 per person deposit in order to guarantee all reservations. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

Resort Reservation Deadline : August 20, 2004

Check-in time is 2:00 p.m. Sunday and Check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Tuesday.

As this is the AIC's 30th anniversary we will be planning some special activities, including a BBQ for Sunday evening, so make sure you arrive early to take advantage.

If you would like to golf during your free time, either Sunday afternoon, Monday evening, or Tuesday afternoon before departing, please call the resort directly to arrange tee times – the sooner the better as they fill up fast.

More details will follow via e-mail and the website as the conference approaches

Lake Morey Resort
P.O. Box 326
Fairlee, VT 05045
(802) 333-4311
(800) 423-1211
www.lakemoreyresort.com



**Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Reservation Form**

Name : _____

Affiliation : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ State/Province : _____ Zip/Postal Code : _____

Phone Number : _____

Arrival Date : _____ Departure Date : _____

Number of Attendees : _____ Spouse : _____

Room Sharer Name
(if unspecified you be randomly paired with another conference participant : _____

Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card Number : _____ Exp. Date : _____

Please advise the number of meals required :

Monday Dinner Choice : Chicken : _____ Fish : _____ Beef : _____

Please mail or fax to : Lake Morey Resort
P.O. Box 326, Fairlee, VT 05045
Toll Free : (800) 423-1211 or (802) 333-4311
Fax: 802-333-4553

No later than August 20, 2004

Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Chapter Registration Dues for Conference

Early Registration (pre-August 31st)

AFS Members \$20 USD

Non-AFS Members \$25 USD

Late Registration (after August 31st, or "at the door")

AFS Members \$25 USD

Non-AFS Members \$30 USD

Name : _____

Affiliation : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ State/Province : _____ Zip/Postal Code : _____

Phone : _____ Fax : _____

E-Mail : _____

AFS Membership # : _____

Please send registration fee in US dollars
Please make cheques payable to Atlantic International Chapter

Return this form with payment to :

Shawn P. Good
Vermont Dept. Fish & Wildlife
317 Sanitorium Road, West Wing
Pittsford, Vermont 05763

How to Get There :

The Lake Morey Resort is easily accessible off I-91 along the Vermont/New Hampshire border.

Driving

From the north, take exit 15 of I-91. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Lake Morey Drive. Continue to Lake Morey East Road and make a right. The resort is just up the road on your left.

From the south, take exit 15 of I-91. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto Lake Morey Drive. Continue to Lake Morey East Road and make a right. The resort is just up the road on your left.

Flying

The Lake Morey Resort is approximately 1.5 hours from both Burlington International Airport in Vermont and the Manchester Airport in New Hampshire .

