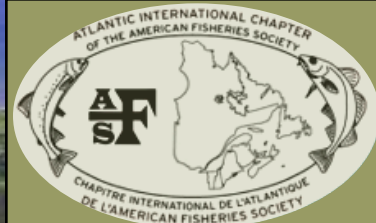


# AIC.2010

## Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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## President's Message



All of you are undoubtedly busy with work and trying to take some time off to be with family or friends. It has been a hectic year for me as well, and I cannot wait until the end of September. September 30th marks the end of my fiscal year (all reporting efforts will be completed) and Maine's in-water construction window will be ending. My office is collaborating with Project SHARE on over 30 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funded aquatic connectivity restoration projects that should be completed (weather permitting) by October 1st.

2010 has challenged me in regards to other career related accomplishments. As president of AIC, I greatly increased my overall knowledge of AFS. This was accomplished by attending my first AFS NED meeting in April, attending NED Executive Committee (Excom) calls, gathering information for our potential bid to host the 2014 National meeting (please take the survey- see newsletter article), and submitting my application for becoming

a Certified Fisheries Professional.

In July, I will be completing a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) "Stepping up to Leadership" course that was initiated back in February. I know that these recent "Leadership" type activities greatly assisted my recent (June) selection as the new Project Leader of the USFWS Maine Fishery Resources Office.

I feel that these "Leadership" activities were "primed" by my selection as Vice President of AIC back in 2008 at our Annual meeting in Digby, Nova Scotia, so I wish to thank AIC members for helping me attain my new job position! Hopefully, by the time we gather for our 36th Annual meeting in beautiful Prince Edward Island, I will be able to represent AIC as an AFS Certified Fisheries Professional.

Are you ready to "step up" and submit your name into the AIC Vice President ballot this September? How about taking some time to see if you are qualified to become a Certified or Associate Fisheries Professional?

Best regards,

*Scott D. Craig*

**Inside.** Check list for annual meeting. news. research. announcements.

# 36th Annual Meeting

# September 19-21, 2010

# 36th Annual Meeting of the AFS Atlantic International Chapter

## September 19-21, 2010

We are pleased to announce that the 2010 AIC annual conference will be held at the Stanhope Beach Resort and Conference Centre: 3445 Bayshore Rd, Stanhope, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Reservations: 1-866-672-2701

Reservation Deadline: **August 19, 2010**

(The room block will be released after this date and normal seasonal rates will apply so **REGISTER EARLY**)

Register here: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/aic/registration.htm>



The 2010 keynote speaker is Dr. Fred Whoriskey (Executive Director of the Ocean Tracking Network, Dalhousie University). His talk will include the past, present and future of Sonic Telemetry Networks, with a special emphasis on international efforts to determine population-related demographics of sea-run Atlantic salmon.



**PRESENTERS: don't forget about the Lunker and Soggy Boot Awards!**

The Lunker Award was initially for a fish caught by an AIC member or their family on a lure handed out at AIC Lake Trout Symposium - but quickly shifted to any legitimate large fish.

The Soggy Boot Award is for bogus / humorous photos included in presentations

## Nominations for hosting the 2014 national meeting

AIC would like to submit two nominations for hosting the 2014 National Meeting and the Executive Committee would like your thoughts regarding two potential locations (Portland, Maine and Saint John's Newfoundland).

At this time, we have the following people assembling required information that would enable Excom to submit formal proposals that are due to AFS on July 25th.

*Angela Pizzo. Convention Sales Manager. Greater Portland Convention & Visitors Bureau*

*Krista Cameron. Director of Sales and Marketing. Destination St. John's*

Please complete a three question survey (located at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SZPD7FV>) indicating your preferences, comments and contact information for members whom would be interested in helping with meeting logistics pertaining to either location.

AIC last hosted national meetings in Quebec City (2003), and Halifax (1994). Although hosting a National meeting represents quite a challenge, it can be professionally rewarding and very good for our Chapter and community! We also are seeking member(s) to attend the nomination meeting to be held at this year's National Meeting in Pittsburgh.



# Researchers Work to Understand Alewife Populations in Rivers along Maine's Coast

by Molly Gallagher Burk, Grant Writer (Gulf of Maine Research Institute)

Alewives make their annual spawning runs from the ocean to freshwater lakes in May and June. Despite their historical commercial and cultural importance to coastal communities, there is still much to be learned about alewife ecology. Alewife populations along the Atlantic coast have exhibited dramatic declines over the past 20 years despite efforts to remove dams and restore waterways.

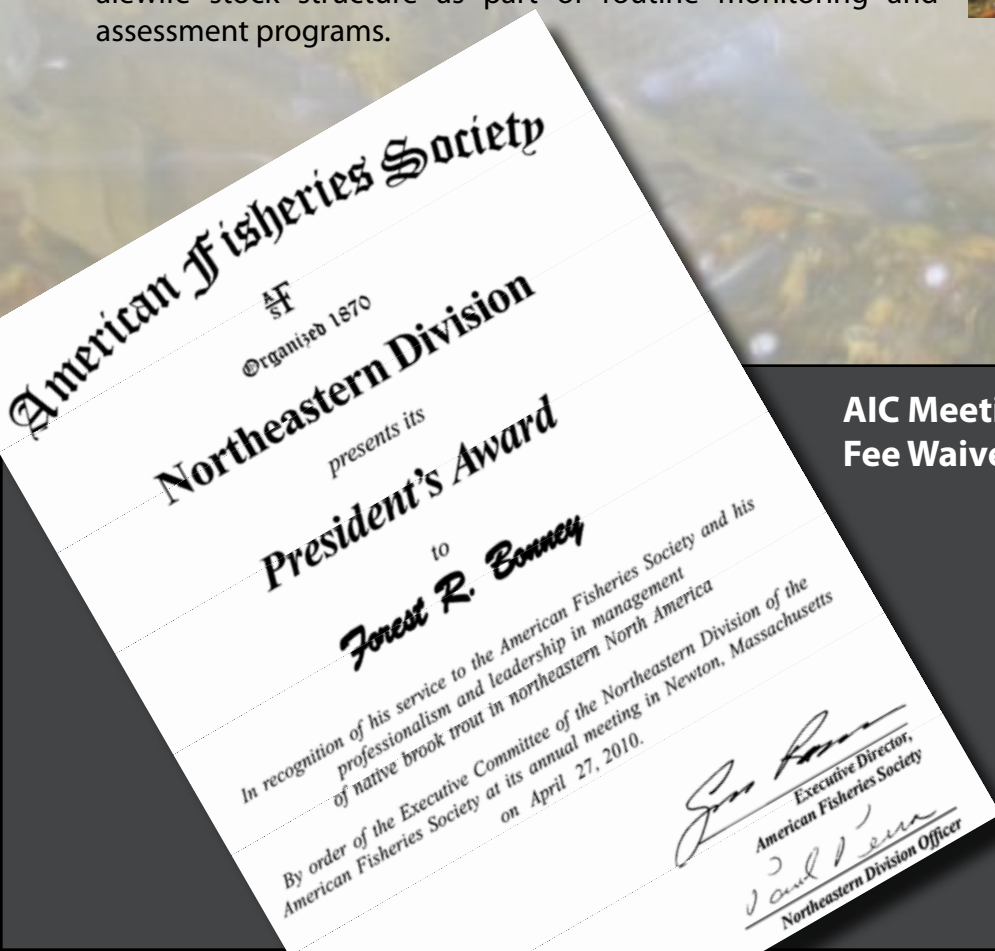
The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and the University of Southern Maine (USM) collected adult alewife samples this past spring as part of an ongoing study to identify and define alewife stock structure in the Gulf of Maine. Researchers from GMRI (Jason Stockwell) and USM (Theo Willis and Karen Wilson) are using an interdisciplinary approach to stock structure identification (morphometrics, otolith shape and microstructure analyses, and genetics). Study locations included more than 20 river systems and lakes along the Gulf of Maine coast.

If alewives from specific freshwater systems can be distinguished from each other, researchers and managers may be able to better monitor population dynamics of alewife from specific runs, evaluate the impact of bycatch on specific alewife populations, and discover where alewives go once they leave coastal rivers.

The application of multiple stock identification methods is a more powerful approach than using any single technique alone. This project will provide an evaluation of methods that are cost effective and applicable in most laboratories, and will provide a foundation to build regional capacity for assessing alewife stock structure as part of routine monitoring and assessment programs.



2010 Damariscotta alewife run.



## AIC Meeting and Conference Registration Fee Waived for Students

The AIC will assist up to five students who wish to go to the annual AIC meeting. Assistance is a \$150 stipend paid directly to the student. Students are required to present a paper or poster at the meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet other fishery professionals and always a fun meeting!

Email Steve Shepard (Student Assistance Comm. Chair) at [asa@rivah.net](mailto:asa@rivah.net)

# BARRIER REMOVAL IN SEDGEUNKEDUNK STREAM: Sea lamprey recolonization and implications for Atlantic salmon habitat restoration

Robert S. Hogg<sup>1,2</sup>, Stephen M. Coghlan Jr.<sup>1</sup>, Joseph Zydlewski<sup>1,2</sup>, Kevin Simon<sup>3</sup>,  
Cory Gardner<sup>1,2</sup>, and Silas Ratten<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Maine Department of Wildlife Ecology

<sup>2</sup>USGS Maine Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Unit

<sup>3</sup>University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology



*Underwater image of sea lamprey attaching to substrate during 2010 spawning run in Sedgeunkedunk Stream (a tributary to the Penobscot River near Bangor, Maine)*

Sedgeunkedunk Stream, a 3rd-order tributary to the Penobscot River, Maine historically supported several anadromous fish species including sea lamprey and endangered Atlantic salmon. Several small dams constructed in the late 1800s reduced or eliminated spawning runs entirely. As of late 2009, a small population of sea lamprey used the accessible portion of Sedgeunkedunk regularly for spawning and rearing.

Efforts to restore marine–freshwater connectivity in this system have included the construction of a rock-ramp fishway at river kilometer (RKM) 6 in 2008 and the removal of a dam at RKM 1 in 2009. The latter has opened up 5 km of lotic habitat.

We anticipate that semelparous sea lamprey will recolonize newly accessible habitat and provide an influx of marine derived nutrients enhancing stream productivity. Furthermore, we hypothesize that spawning sea lamprey may “condition” habitat to the benefit of juvenile Atlantic salmon via physical modification of substrate during nest construction.

A total of 48 individual lamprey were tagged with 31 nests identified in the lower 1 km prior to barrier removals in 2008. Preliminary results from 2010 indicate the presence of at least 131 individual lamprey with 120 nests identified (70 nests identified within newly accessible habitat between RKM 1 and RKM 5). Quantification of primary productivity associated with the marine derived nutrient influence from spawned out lamprey carcasses and fine-scale modifications to substrate resulting from spawning activities are currently under way. Comparing lamprey abundances, stream productivity, and fine-scale habitat changes before and after dam removal in addition to a lamprey-less reference stream will allow us to test our hypotheses.

## Carpooling to the 36th Annual Meeting in Prince Edward Island?

The Confederation Bridge will be closed from 9AM to 1PM Sunday Sept 19th. Toll ~\$45 round trip- payment as you leave PEI.

It's about a 7 hour drive from Bangor Maine to the Confederation Bridge. Once you get over the bridge, it just over an hour's drive to Stanhope Resort. If people leave Bangor at 7AM, they should arrive at the bridge around 3PM (Atlantic time)

Go to <http://www.doodle.com/xf4fi8ixsfna8pic> to help organize car-pool information and remember to insert a comment with your email address!

# Didymo continues its invasion of Vermont, prompts banning of felt-soled wading boots

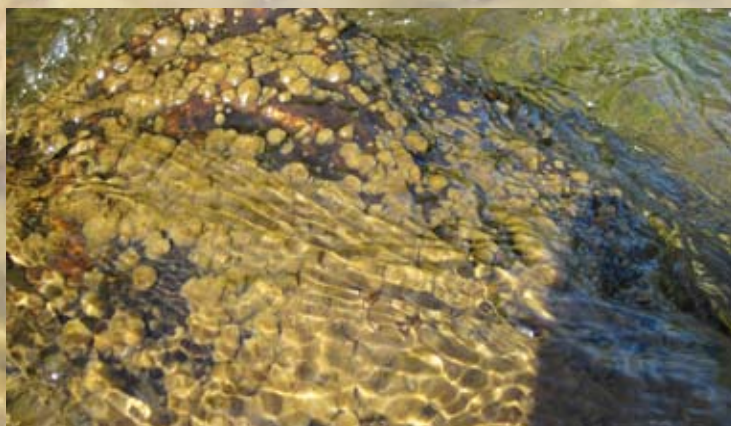
*prepared by Jud Kratzer, Fisheries Biologist (Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department)*

**D**idymo continues to expand its range in Vermont, being identified in two new rivers this spring. The invasive diatom, which was first observed in Vermont in 2006, was discovered this spring in the Gihon River in the Lake Champlain drainage basin, and the East Branch Passumpsic River in the Connecticut River drainage. These rivers join a handful of other Vermont rivers where didymo has been discovered: Battenkill River (2006), Connecticut River (2007), White River (2007) and Mad River (2008).

Vermont fisheries biologists were especially surprised to learn of didymo's presence in the East Branch Passumpsic. All of the other rivers where didymo had been observed are very popular rivers for fly fishermen, who are the anglers most likely to wear felt-soled waders. The East Branch is not a popular stream for fly fishing, and it actually receives very little fishing pressure overall. The East Branch and the Battenkill both have long histories of fish sampling data, so evaluations of didymo's effects on salmonid populations in these rivers may be possible.

The discovery of these latest infestations coincides with the governor's signing of house bill H.488 which bans the use of felt-soled wading boots in the state of Vermont. Anglers have until April 1, 2011 to wear out their old felt-soled waders before the law goes into effect. The bill includes a provision that will allow state and federal employees to use felt-soled boots in "the discharge of official duties". VT Fish and Wildlife biologists have yet to decide whether they will continue to carefully disinfect their felt-soled boots or switch to boots that use the new "sticky rubber" technology.

*Newly discovered bloom of Didymo in the Gohon River. Picture taken by Lawton Weber in May 2010.*



## 36th Annual meeting on Prince Edward Island: check list

Pre-Register by August 19th.

- 1) Remember to call and pre-pay with the resort!
- 2) Pre-pay AIC registration fees to John Magee
- 3) Enter your presentation info. Into the on-line database

-For U.S.A Citizens- Get your passport! They may not let you back into the U.S.A with only a birth certificate.

-For U.S.A Federal Government Employees traveling on work status- Get your Gov't Passport and prior approval!

**If you would like to contribute a raffle item:** Feel free to bring it to the meeting! Members have donated personally tied fishing flies, Hops (for making beer), hats etc.