

Minutes from the Marine Fisheries Section Business Meeting, 10 August 2003
Québec City, Canada (published in Nov 2003 newsletter)

After calling the meeting to order, introductions of all those present, and approval of the 2002 business meeting minutes, Mary reported on some of the activities at the AFS Governing Board, and the activities the section's Executive Committee tackled during this past year. In a nutshell, your ExComm has:

- provided the AFS President with speaking points for his meeting with Congressional staffers on the Hill (March 2003)
- reviewed drafts of two position statements for AFS (one titled 'Fisheries Issues and Ocean Policy' and the other 'Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research')
- appointed MFS members James Brister, John Merriner, Max Stocker, Selina Heppell, Bill Fox, Churchill Grimes, and Joe Margraf to several key AFS committees
- worked with Doug Vaughan to distribute and sell a new book 'The Raymond J. H. Beverton Lectures at Woods Hole, Massachusetts'
- at the request of the External Affairs Committee, provided a list of topics for a series of popular articles
- sponsored 5 symposia: 'Propagated Fish in Resource Management (June 2003), Mote Symposium on 'Confronting Tradeoffs in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management' (Nov 2002), and 3 symposia at the AFS annual meeting (August 2003) – 'New Quantitative Methods in Fisheries Stock Assessments', 'Large-Scale Fishery Independent Surveys: Looking to the Future by Learning from the Past', and 'Predation Impacts on Depressed Fish Stocks'
- revised the section's web page (thanks to Edgar Kleindinst!)
- resumed the newsletter (thanks to Donna Johnson!)
- presented student travel awards to Karen Burns, Michelle Davis, Daniel Gomez Uchida, and Karen Scheduling (and paid for their 2004 AFS membership and 2004 dues to the Marine Fisheries Section)
- provided \$300 to the Equal Opportunities Section for a travel grant

The Oscar E. Sette Award recipient was announced, but unfortunately, Michael Sissenwine was unable to attend the business meeting. A discussion ensued about the Sette Award Committee and Chair Des Kahn described the process for nominating recipients. Emory Anderson volunteered to serve on the committee for this year. Thanks, Emory!

The section discussed the need to make several miniature trawl doors to present to the Sette Award recipients. Gene Huntsman apparently has the plans for these doors.

Christine Fletcher (AFS headquarters) provided information on the successful Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program and encouraged section members to consider mentoring students. Lots of students want to work as 'marine biologists'!

John Boreman agreed to work on the history page for the MFS web site. He was later provided a list of past presidents from the section, and he will add information on major accomplishments through the years.

A discussion on the need to reinstate the Section's regional representatives to the Executive Committee took place. Our by-laws require election of 4 reps (Northeastern Division, Southeastern Division, North-Central Division, and Western Division) to the ExComm, but we have not functioned this way for some time. After discussions with the AFS Constitutional Consultant, a method was developed for proceeding. The ExComm has invited section members from the NE Division and SE Division, but we are looking for a volunteer from the Western Division to stand in until we can hold elections in the spring. If you would like to help us out, please contact Mary (mary.fabrizio@noaa.gov or 732-872-3129). Also, we are beginning to consider removing representation from the North-Central Division and replacing this with a representative from the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section, but this would require a change in our by-laws.

Jointly with members of the Estuaries Section, the MFS has undertaken a review of the Pew Oceans Commission Report . This will be presented to the AFS Governing Board at the mid-year meeting. Thanks to Steve Jordan (Estuaries Section) and Phil Mundy (MFS) for stepping forward to lead the way on this task!

Several ideas were discussed for section-sponsored symposia at the 2004 meeting in Madison including the following topics: (1) new (newer?) quantitative methods, (2) fisheries effects on ecosystems, (3) marine mammal-fishery interactions, (4) ecosystem approach to fisheries management, (5) fisheries management success stories, (6) comparison of Great Lakes and marine fisheries. Anyone willing to organize a symposium on any of these topics should become familiar with the call for symposia proposals (see Fisheries). Contact Mary if you are seeking Section sponsorship.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary C. Fabrizio
(for D. Murie)