

Pittsburgh 2010

Marine Fisheries Section Business Meeting

Section Awards (Berkeley, Sette, and Travel) presented during Estuaries Section business meeting.

Roger Rulifson called the meeting to order at 6:40pm on Tuesday, September 14, thanking Lee Benaka for the food selections and Tom Bigford for his support of the meeting.

Roger discussed the Treasurer's report, income since 2008 has been ~\$5,000, but expenses have been ~\$9,000. This decline is due mostly to miscellaneous donations to support books, meetings, and other causes.

Roger reported that the Governing Board retreat focused on education. For example, the number of fisheries students in Iowa has been on the decline. The Saturday Board meeting focused on a transition from Allen Press to Francis and Taylor for publications.

Roger discussed the development of a Strategic Plan for the Marine Fisheries Section.

AFS President Don Jackson asked the Marine Fisheries Section to address the red snapper situation in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, regarding the contrasting management recommendations between the Regions. Roger sent out a call to the Section asking members to draft a white paper for President Jackson. Jim Cowan volunteered to write the paper, which will be published in Fisheries.

John Boreman commented that AFS has assembled an oil spill taskforce that can provide peer reviews, develop priorities for research, review proposals, etc., to ensure good science in the BP oil spill situation. Roger responded that the two Sections may want to identify points of contact within the Sections to assist with that effort. John added that the Habitat and Socioeconomic Sections should be involved as well.

Ken Beal presented the Marine Fisheries Section Strategic Plan. Ken surveyed the other Sections, and no other Section had one, except the Estuaries Section (although that Plan was out of date). Ken worked with a great committee and shared a rough draft with them. The Committee posted the draft on the website, received no comments, and finalized the Strategic Plan. Doug Vaughan moved to approve the Plan, and Fred Scharf seconded the motion. There was a vote and the results were unanimous to approve the Strategic Plan. Deb Murie suggested that the Section might establish a committee to review expenditures, so that the Executive Committee does not have to make all the decisions.

Doug Vaughan reported on Beverton sales and made a pitch for sales, for the three remaining hardback copies. John Hoenig suggested donating the three remaining copies to an institution that was harmed by a natural disaster recently. Deb Murie will bring copies to the AFS Southern Division meeting in Florida later this year. Doug sold three hardbacks and seven paperbacks in the past year. Churchill Grimes commented that these books have been a good money-maker for the Section, and another book project might be another good source of funding. John Hoenig suggested that the Data-Poor

symposium sponsored by the Marine Fisheries Section could be the source for a book, especially if there was a follow-up symposium in 2011 in Seattle, and also if software was associated with the project. Fred Scharf pledged to buy 20 copies for one of his classes this fall.

Roger again thanked his Executive Committee for their support through a challenging year, and then turned the floor over to Deb Murie for a report on the election. All nominees won, so Doug Vaughn is the new President-Elect, Deb Lambert will continue as Secretary-Treasurer for two years, Mike Markels will be Western Division rep once again, and we have a new Southern Division rep (Greg Stuntz), and Larry Miller volunteered to be Northeast Division rep. Carolyn Griswold nominated Larry, Roger moved closing nomination (passed unanimously), and then the Section voted unanimously for Larry's position as NE rep.

Roger welcomed Ken Beal as Marine Fisheries Section President. Ken stated that he would like to get Section finances in order by getting more members and generating other sources of income, and asked members for additional ideas. Ken also solicited suggestions for symposia for Seattle. Roger indicated that he would be happy to take on a hydrokinetics in the coastal zone symposium for Seattle. Another idea is for an ocean acidification symposium, and Eric Knudson was recognized to discuss the Seattle meeting. Eric indicated that possible sponsors for Seattle are interested in ocean acidification. Meeting organizers are hoping to include Al Gore in such an ocean acidification symposium. Tom Bigford offered to talk to John Stein at the NWFSC about the symposium idea. Tom Bigford added that the hydrokinetic symposium could be followed up at the next Coastal Society meeting as they also are interested in this topic. Roger added that the hydrokinetic symposium could become a book that could raise funds for the Marine Fisheries Section. Sponsors would be helpful, and Tom Bigford volunteered to help with sponsorship from federal entities like NOAA and Department of Energy. John Hoenig moved that the Section support a hydrokinetic symposium, and Doug Vaughn seconded it, and it approved. A similar motion was made to put together the ocean acidification symposium, and it passed. Roger also suggested a west coast shark (i.e., dogfish?) management symposium. John Boreman highlighted the new Ocean Policy and the fact that Regional Fishery Management Councils may not fully understand the implications, so it might be timely for AFS to put on a symposium related to this policy. Ken suggested a joint conference call with various Sections to discuss the idea, and Eric mentioned that the Seattle Program Committee hoped to see such a symposium proposal.

Ken also presented a plaque to Roger to recognize his efforts as President of the Section.

Deb Murie raised a concern about the ListServ, as all members of the Section do not seem to get the emails. Some problems might be related to using out-of-date email addresses. John Boreman mentioned that the AFS Officers are looking at IT needs to make a ListServ work, or, better yet, integrate all databases. The Governing Board voted recently to spend up to \$25K for a contractor to address this issue. Deb expressed concern that the Section is losing members because people are frustrated about not getting messages.

Eric Knudson described a proposal to create Ecologists without Borders.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.