



The American Fisheries Society
Genetics Section
Newsletter

Volume 21, Issue 4
December 2008



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President's Message

Dear Genetics Section Members,

As the year comes to a close and as the holiday season approaches we often find ourselves reflecting on activities from the past year and looking with renewed energy to new activities in the year ahead. In terms of Genetics Section and general Society activities, looking back over the past year I'd like to extend my thanks to all members, especially Section Officers and standing and *ad hoc* committee members for their service to the Section. Looking forward to 2009 I'd like to call upon Section members to think about several themes I would like us to collectively engage in during the coming year. Specifically, I would like to renew our efforts in areas of **student recruitment** and to increase the **visibility** and **appreciation** of importance of the work conducted by Genetics Section members **to the fisheries research and management community**.

Briefly, I call upon members who are mentors to future professionals in allied fields associated with genetics and aquatic resources to encourage them to join and to actively participate in Genetics Section and parent Society activities. Many graduate and undergraduate students associated with our programs are not members of the Genetics Section. Many students are members of other AFS Sections and not the Genetics Section. I will be asking several Section members who have previously served on ad hoc committees associated with recruitment and membership to work with me in the coming year to devise and implement a plan to increase membership from student cohorts in basic and applied sciences that are working in or interested in genetics.

A second point of emphasis in the coming year will be to work towards increasing the visibility of genetics as an important theoretical foundation and empirical tool across the disciplines represented by other Sections in the American Fisheries Society. This can include joint sponsorship of symposia with other Sections. We can also be more proactive and engage and inform colleagues in other disciplines through participation in, or organization of workshops. Several Section members have given talks to fisheries groups during the past year. A number of workshops organized by Section

members are planned. These activities can serve to increase awareness of genetic issues and applications of genetic technology. These activities can also be used to generate revenue for Section-related activities.

An additional way I suggest we can increase our visibility would be to develop Areas of Expertise (AOE's) that generally describe general areas of expertise and general areas where our work have been applied. I will be working with several Section members to develop a prototype of what this AOE might look like and how we might make this information available. Stay tuned in the coming months, either in the next newsletter or in an e-mail with information on how to find and provide comments on the prototype developed.

Finally, I hope you will make note on the 2009 calendar you'll soon be hanging on your wall that this year's annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be held over the period August 28-September 3, 2009 in Nashville TN. Information is available at the parent society's web site (<http://www.fisheries.org/afs09/>). Deadlines are approaching for abstracts for general paper sessions (**February 6, 2009**). I would encourage anyone interested in organizing a symposium with Genetics Section sponsorship to contact myself (scribne3@msu.edu) or **President-Elect Bill Templin** (bill_templin@fishgame.state.ak.us). Bill is organizing a symposium and would welcome your assistance. Symposium proposals should be e-mailed to Mark Bevelhimer (bevelhimerms@ornl.gov) by 9 January 2009. Importantly, for all student members of the Genetics Section, we will sponsor additional travel awards this year for students attending the meeting. Please stay tuned for additional information on deadlines for submission of materials.

Best wishes to all for a festive and enjoyable holiday season and productive New Year.

Sincerely,

Kim Scribner

AFS Genetics Section President

Seeking Presentations for an AFS Genetics Section Symposium on the Conservation of Genetic Diversity in Unexploited Populations

The theme of the 139th Annual Meeting of AFS is diversity. Biological diversity can be considered on multiple scales, from genes to populations to landscapes. While population genetics of exploited species has been studied extensively, that of unexploited species has not. Hence, the Genetics Section is proposing a symposium exploring issues regarding conservation of genetic diversity in unexploited populations.

Contemporary patterns of genetic diversity in unexploited species are the consequence of natural history, upon which human impacts such as habitat fragmentation have been overlaid. Molecular genetic techniques have been applied with increasing frequency to study of population genetic variation in unexploited species. Some studies have led to recognition of the effects of recolonization after deglaciation, past connections of watersheds, and current isolation of populations. At a management level, key issues include: a) detecting, protecting, and managing cryptic

biodiversity, b) balancing inbreeding and outbreeding depression and demographic considerations, c) developing evolutionarily defensible restoration strategies, d) ensuring adaptability to future conditions, and e) making conservation decisions with limited data. The context for this symposium will be set out in an introductory presentation. A series of invited and contributed talks will present case studies of landscape-scale consideration of population genetic variation, including fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans. Given the location of the annual meeting, we will especially consider unexploited species living in the Southeast U.S. To the degree supported by the data, each case study will consider aboriginal patterns of genetic variation, human impacts on patterns of genetic variation, and implications for management of non-game species. Participants will be urged to address their presentations to non-geneticists. The symposium will close with a panel discussion.

The organizers of the proposed symposium are **Eric Hallerman**, **Jamie Roberts**, and **Jess Jones** (Virginia Tech University), and **Bill Templin** (Alaska Dept. Fish & Game). Those interested in contributing a presentation should contact Eric at ehallerm@vt.edu or Bill at bill.templin@alaska.gov.

Job Announcement: Fish Geneticist Wanted

Job Advertisement – FB08-008
Fisheries Branch
2111 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Maximum Salary of Highest Range of Classification: \$5,831

Research Scientist I (Microbiological Sciences) – 565-033-5578-001
Location: Rancho Cordova
Final File Date: Until filled
Contact: William T. Cox - (916) 358-2827

Comments: The incumbent is responsible for **genetic planning, testing, analysis and management of fish native to California**. Responsible for initiating genetically based selection of candidate native salmonid species for new hatchery programs. Works closely with hatchery and fishery managers, and the wild and heritage trout team. Writes and implements Hatchery Genetic Management Plans. Prepares protocols and conducts appropriate testing to enhance captive stocks and maintain the genetic integrity of wild salmonid populations. Must be familiar with all aspects of genetic analysis including nucleic acid extraction, development of PCR-based markers, gene sequencing, and analysis of genetic relatedness using current phylogenetic approaches. Successful applicants will have graduate level training and degree in fish genetics.

To see a complete job description:

- 1 Go to www.cdph.ca.gov/sevices/jobs
- 2 Under job opportunities select "career information"
- 3 Next select "Research Scientist"
- 4 Go to "Research Scientist 1 – Microbiological Sciences"
- 5 Go to "Training and Experience Questionnaire"

6 Follow directions.

If you are interested in this position please contact:

Dr. William T. Cox
California Department of Fish and Game, 2111 Nimbus Rd., Rancho Cordova, CA
95670; Phone – 916.358.2827; e-mail – wtcov@dfg.ca.gov

Contribute to the Society and Your Section

E-mail the AFS Genetics Section newsletter editor (jcarlin@gustavus.edu) with your ideas for symposia, recruitment tools or other section needs. This is also a forum in which you can feature your lab's research achievements or employment needs. Submissions are due **February 20**.

Joel Carlin, Newsletter Editor

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 2008

Dec 3-4 — 11th **Flatfish Biology Conference**. Water's Edge Resort and Spa, Westbrook, Connecticut, USA. See mi.nefsc.noaa.gov/flatfishbiologyworkshop.

January 2009

Jan 3-7 — **SICB 2009**: Society of Integrative and Comparative Biologists Annual Meeting. Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, Boston MA. See www.sicb.org/meetings/2009/index.php3.

Jan 8-12 — 4th Biennial International Conference of the **International Biogeography Society**. Mérida, México. See www.biogeography.org/4th%20conference.html.

Jan 9 — Full proposal target date for **NSF Grants** in Population and Evolutionary Processes and for Systematic Biology and Biodiversity Inventories. See www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12824.

Jan 9 — Symposium proposal deadline for the **2009 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society** to be held 30 Aug – 3 Sep at the Renaissance Hotel and the Nashville Convention Center, Nashville, TN. See <http://www.fisheries.org/afs09>.

- Jan 14 — Early registration deadline for **Aquaculture America** 2009 to be held Feb 15-18 in Seattle Washington USA. See www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/Default.aspx?code=AA2009.
- Jan 21 — Abstract deadline for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the **Society for Conservation Biology** will be held in Beijing, China, 11-16 July 2009. www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2009.
- Jan 25-30 — **ASLO '09**, the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography Aquatic Sciences Meeting. Center de Congres Acropolis, Nice, France. See www.aslo.org/nice2009/.
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February

- Feb 1 — Application deadline for Gordon Research Conference on **Quantitative Genetics and Genomics** to be held Feb 22-27 Hotel Galvez, Galveston, Texas USA. See www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2009&program=quantgen.
- Feb 2-5 — **State of the Salmon 2009** Conference. Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Vancouver BC Canada. See www.stateofthesalmon.org/conference2009/index.html.
- Feb 6 — Abstract deadline for **2009 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society** to be held 30 Aug – 3 Sep at the Renaissance Hotel and the Nashville Convention Center, Nashville, TN. See <http://www.fisheries.org/afs09>.
- Feb 6 — Early registration deadline for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the **Society for Conservation Biology** will be held in Beijing, China, 11-16 July 2009. www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2009
- Feb 12-13—**Island Evolution** 150 Years After Darwin. International congress sponsored by the National Museum of Natural History in Leiden, the Netherlands, together with the Darwin Center for Biogeology in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Museum Naturalis, Leiden, the Netherlands. See www.naturalis.nl/darwin2009.
- Feb 15-18—**Aquaculture America 2009**. Seattle Washington USA. See www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/Default.aspx?code=AA2009.
- Feb 20 — **Submission deadline for the AFS Genetics Section Newsletter**. Contact the editor at jcarlin@gustavus.edu.
- Feb 22-27 — Gordon Research Conference on **Quantitative Genetics and Genomics**. Hotel Galvez, Galveston, Texas USA. See www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2009&program=quantgen.
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March - April

Mar 10 – Early registration deadline for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution to be held at the Recinte Montjuïc - Palau de Congressos de Barcelona from 5-8 Jun in Barcelona Spain. See www.smb2008.com.

Mar 16-21 — 74th **North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**. Mariott Crystal Gateway, Arlington Virginia, USA. See www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=126&Itemid=61.

Mar 31 — Abstract and Early registration deadline for **Ichs and Herps 09**, the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. To be held Jul 22-27, Portland Oregon USA. See www.dce.ksu.edu/conf/jointmeeting/.

Apr 26-29—65th Annual **Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference**. Eden Resort Inn & Suites, Lancaster PA. See www.neafwa.org/.

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