



# AFS Management Newsletter

**AFS Management  
Section Newsletter**

Volume 2004, Issue 2

November 2004

## **President's Message by David Willis**

Good day to all. I assume that biologists in the southern states are busy with standardized sampling efforts, while those in more northerly locations are probably about wrapped up for the year.

This is my first "presidential message," and I primarily have news to report. However, I would like to begin by acknowledging several people for their efforts on behalf of the Fisheries Management Section (FMS). Past-Prez Steve Rideout (MA) left everything in good shape for us. We certainly appreciate his efforts, and also appreciate his continuing advice as he remains on the executive committee for the next two years. Dirk Miller (WY) has long been an enthusiastic worker for the Section, and he continues for the next two years as our Secretary-Treasurer. We appreciate his commitment to the Section (even though we've GOT to wonder how long the fisheries management coordinator for Wyoming can give us so much of his time and effort!). If you are not aware, Fred Janssen (TX) has long served as our web site manager. We greatly appreciate his efforts with this often thankless task! Thanks, Fred, for keeping us up-to-date! Finally, Rob Colombo (IL) continues as our newsletter editor. As way of thanks for Rob, consider submitting an article for the next newsletter! Newsy items from the field can quickly be transmitted to our membership via this electronic newsletter. Remember, our review process is slightly less stringent than for the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, so if you've got some new information, please share it with us! Several other people deserve recognition, and you'll catch their names later in this newsletter.

Now, on to some business items. The AFS Governing Board at its Madison meeting approved a new, special membership rate of \$25 for individuals from developing countries to join AFS and receive Fisheries magazine. This initiative was proposed by the International Fisheries Section. The basis for the action is to further the Society's goal to have a greater international influence and impact, recognizing that a full membership rate may be a hardship for potential members in developing countries.

Following the creation of this new member category, Past-president Chuck Coutant issued a challenge to his fellow AFS past-presidents to contribute \$100 each toward a fund to support these potential international members, so even the \$25 cost would not be a barrier to AFS membership. Many on the Past-presidents' Advisory Council have taken up Chuck on this challenge.

AFS officers then extended this challenge to each AFS Chapter, Division, and Section to contribute \$100 (or more) to the fund to support international members from developing countries. This was part of the hope in the original proposal from the International Fisheries Section (IFS) -- that AFS units would sponsor one or more international members at this reduced rate. The IFS stands ready to help identify potential members, or units can make nominations on their own. If you have questions about what countries are eligible for consideration in this initiative, please consult the AFS web site ([http://www.fisheries.org/html/Dev\\_Country\\_Memlist.shtml](http://www.fisheries.org/html/Dev_Country_Memlist.shtml)). Funds will be accumulated in this account and applied as international membership applications are received. Funds not expended this year will be applied to future years' memberships so these members can continue to be active in AFS.

So, what about a contribution from our Section? Well, FMS officers, after some cynical, some skeptical, and some optimistic comments, decided that our section would offer \$250 to this program. However, we will include a request that we support management-oriented people, that we want to get them on our mailing list for the FMS newsletter, and that we would like to print biographical sketches of these members in our newsletter. Undoubtedly, these requests will cause some headaches for AFS staff; however, we'll see what transpires.

To be honest, I was a little uncomfortable approving this money without a vote of the membership. After all, Past-Prez Rideout just developed the new process by which FMS funding requests must be submitted online and in a timely manner. Thus, I would like to propose a change in our manner of doing business, such that the FMS might be able to approve small requests (e.g., \$250-500) with an annual maximum (e.g., \$1,000). I recently learned from Education Section President Chris Guy (MT) that they do business in a similar manner, and thought that we might copy their process. Dirk Miller is not only our secretary-treasurer, but also the Constitutional Consultant for AFS. I'll work with Dirk to find out how best to accomplish such a potential change, and then we'll bring it to the membership for a vote.



## **"That's The Way It Was" by David Willis**

A South Dakota author, formerly a resident of Florence, Illinois, tells about his true-to-life experiences growing up in a river village in Pike County, Illinois, during the 1940s and 1950s.

About three years ago, Dr. Ken Higgins began writing down his childhood memories of growing up in town full of commercial fishermen and on farms in rural Pike County. He said he had been sharing his stories with others for years after which many encouraged him to write them down. After a lapse of 40 years, he finally put them down to pen and ink and had them published.

The result of Ken's writing is a book entitled "Childhood Memories from the West Bank of the Illinois River." It is a collection of 28 short stories with 95 vintage photos in a 144-page book. In humorous, but educational fashion, Ken describes a variety of events, people, and happenings that occurred toward the end of an era in country schools and small river towns. For example, in 1950 there were 150 people living in Florence and five fish markets bought and sold fish from fifteen or more fishermen. Today there are no fish markets and no one is making their living from river fishing at Florence as well as many other river towns.

The book traces the Higgins family from Kansas to Illinois and describes how things were different in Pike County. Ken connects how various people in the community and on hill side farms and country schooling all affected the outcome of his life and career. He is currently near the end of a 40-year career as a research biologist with the U.S. Department of Interior and is jointly employed as an assistant unit leader (wildlife) with the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and a Professor at South Dakota State University.

Although Ken has published over 170 scientific articles and several books and book chapters, this is his first attempt to reflect on his own personal life experiences. He closes his last story suggesting that "you can go anywhere from the river as long as you're not stuck in the mud."

The book can be ordered directly from Ken for \$18 each, inclusive of all shipping and handling costs, at Box 168, Volga, SD 57071. A portion of the sales proceeds of this book will be dedicated to future conservation education, management or research efforts concerning river fisheries or river ecology.

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION (FMS) – BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2004 MADISON, WISCONSIN**

President Steve Rideout (MA) called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

After opening remarks and recognition of past section president, President Rideout asked for approval of the 2003 minutes. A motion was made and seconded that the 2003 minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

President Rideout (reporting for Dirk Miller [WY]) then asked for review and approval of the section's Financial Report. A motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted; motion passed unanimously.

President's Remarks: "In case you have not seen my final column, I mentioned two items I think will engage the membership, in partnership with other Sections such as the Fisheries Administrators. These are the North American Agenda for Aquatic Resources and the National Fisheries Habitat Initiative. Based on recent Governing Board action, the North American Agenda for Aquatic Resources, an anticipated partnership effort with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, will develop around a series of Concerns developed by AFS through the Governing Board. A final set of Concerns and proposed responsibilities for AFS will be presented to the Governing Board next March.

The National Fisheries Habitat Initiative, now a major priority for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and patterned in a number of ways after the very successful North American Waterfowl Management Plan, is gaining momentum in terms of partner interest and seeking a major role from AFS, particularly in defining and describing the science behind the role



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of habitat in fishery conservation and management. The Governing Board has reaffirmed its support for the initiative and will formally communicate that support in the near future. A logical outcome of that communication will be a need for AFS, through the Parent Society, and its subunits to take the lead or be a major partner in various workshops, symposia, and other forums to make sure the initiative proceeds on a solid scientific footing. It's hard to imagine that our Section shouldn't be a major player on those processes.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to the fellow officers and others of the Section who have given me support, without fail, whenever I have asked. President-Elect Dave Willis for his wise counsel and leadership in developing our new on-line proposal submission process. Secretary-Treasurer Dirk Miller for his great role in representing us in the PFIRM Symposium and subsequent responsibilities, in addition to doing his usual superb job in keeping the Sections finances in order. Past President Tim Hess for taking on assignments whenever I asked including overseeing our sponsorship of an international member of our Section to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress. Special thanks also to Fred Janssen for keeping our web page updated and adding the new proposal submission form and process among other things. To Tom McMahon (MT) for reviewing the Sustainable Forestry Initiative on behalf of the Section and providing excellent comments to the AFS leadership. Thanks also to Jeff Boxrucker for overseeing our Awards nominations and process this year. And thanks also to Bob Wiley and Steve Filipek for handling our Nominations Committee process and developing great candidates for us."

President Rideout then relayed the Nominating Committee Report for Steve Filipek (AR) and Bob Wiley (WY). In a truly close vote, Joe Larscheid (IA) edged Fred Janssen (TX) for President-Elect of the Fisheries Management Section. President Rideout expressed the section's sincere appreciation to Fred for running (and for his continual and greatly appreciated service to FMS). Fred will be busy in the short term with his responsibilities in the Computer User Section. Perhaps he will be willing to run again for president in two years.

Dirk Miller, running unopposed to continue his term as Secretary-Treasurer, "squeaked out" a "narrow" victory. We certainly appreciate Dirk's long-term commitment to this position. Divisional representatives running unopposed were Dave Zafft (WY) for Western Division, Bob Limbird (AR) for Southern Division, Mark Porath (NE) for North-Central, and Randy Jackson (NY) for Northeast Division. Again, President Rideout expressed our section's appreciation to these individuals for their willingness to serve.

President-elect Dave Willis (SD) then reported on the results of our e-mail ballot for this year's election. We obtained e-mail addresses for most members, but also mailed approximately 50 ballots to those without e-mail. Quite a few of the people who received a mail ballot actually have e-mail addresses; they simply have not updated their AFS profile. About 50 e-mails were "failures" because of wrong or out of date e-mail addresses. We probably need to encourage FMS members to continually update their AFS profile. We received 231 votes. Our membership is a moving target; however, 231 out of roughly 700 members voted (one-third). We received 229 votes by e-mail and only 2 by overland mail. The only write-in votes for regional officers were Bill Hyatt (CT) and Mike Allen (FL). Dr. Allen indicated that he would be interested in more FMS involvement in the future. Based on those who voted for their regional representative, NE members provided 10% of ballots, NC members 35%, W 20%, and S members 34%.

Awards Committee Chair Jeff Boxrucker (OK) announced the FMS awards. **Dr. John Ney** (VA) was honored by induction into our **Hall of Excellence**. The award was presented by Dr. Don Orth of Virginia Tech University, who praised Dr. Ney for his professional efforts. After a short comedy routine, Dr. Ney indicated his sincere appreciation for this recognition, indicating that he "always wanted to be a fishery biologist."

The **Award of Excellence for 2004** was presented to **Mr. Don Duff** (UT) for his career-long efforts in fisheries. Between his federal service and his effective interactions with conservation organizations, the award was well-deserved.

The **Award of Merit for 2004** was presented to **Drs. Steve Miranda** (MS) and **Ted Henry** (GA) for their work in shepherding the section-sponsored electrofishing effects study. Dr. Miranda reminded the audience that Jeff Boxrucker had handled all of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration interactions for the section.

The **Quad City Conservation Alliance**, Rock Island, Illinois, received the **Conservation Achievement Award for 2004**. Accepting award was Alliance President Sonny Stevens, who indicated that the organization has donated over \$3 million over the last 20 years for conservation efforts in the Quad Cities area.



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President Rideout reported that the section now had a formal funding request process that can be initiated on the FMS web page (webmaster is Fred Janssen). Three funding requests submitted for the 2004 meeting were handled under new business. However, President Rideout noted that we still need to develop a process for member comment (prior to the annual business meeting) on the web site.

Past-President Tim Hess (VA) provided an update on the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies, State Wildlife Grants program, and Landowner Incentive Program.

- 1) There have been 3 consecutive years of funding for both SWG and LIP, and a fourth seems ensured. The House has the FY 2005 SWG appropriation set at \$67.5 million and the Administration is at \$80 million; the House has the FY 2005 LIP appropriation set at \$15 million and the Administration's request is \$50 million.
- 2) All States and Territories must complete and submit Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy by October 1, 2005 addressing the eight Congressionally-mandated elements. FMS members are encouraged to help develop and implement the conservation actions necessary to combat the problems that face your fisheries and aquatic resources
- 3) There is a tremendous amount of interest in these Strategic plans, from a myriad of federal and state agencies, and conservation organizations; new and re-invigorated partners will likely spring forth during this process.
- 4) A lot of the major habitat problems in fisheries occur on private lands. So the LIP is an opportunity to focus on many of those if you are 'connected' with the group that is implementing this program within your State.

Christine Fletcher (AFS staff) provided an update on the Hutton Program. She did not request funds for support of this program in the upcoming year.

Tim Hess reported on the successful FMS sponsorship of an international member to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress in Vancouver this spring. Robert Arlinghaus (from Germany) submitted a 'thank you' and a meeting evaluation to the FMS, which has been forwarded to our newsletter editors for inclusion in the next available issue.

President Rideout reviewed the Fisheries Administrators Section's decision to support, in conjunction with the Fisheries Management Section, an exchange program with the United Kingdom's Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) involving our respective Section's President's. The FAS proposed to support up to \$1000 for airfare for their president over two cycles to attend the IFM meeting. The basic approach would be that each Society's President would attend the other's meeting in alternate years. AFS would be represented alternately, by the President of FAS then FMS. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to join the FAS and support our President for two cycles also.

Installation of New Officers – President Rideout delivered the gavel and turned the meeting over to Dave Willis, whose first order of business was to present “newly” Past-President Rideout with a plaque expressing the section's appreciation for his 4 years of service as President-elect and President.

*Ad hoc* committee reports followed. Dr. Scott Bonar (AZ) is chairing the Standardized Sampling Methods committee, which is a revitalization of the Fisheries Techniques Standardization Committee that was chaired by Don Gabelhouse (NE) back in the 1980s. Scott's report was delayed until funding requests.

Randy Jackson (NY) is chair of the Genealogy Committee, and earlier this year distributed a survey requesting educational backgrounds of section members. His report indicated that “Many genealogies were received. Also received were geneologies, genelgies and genologies. It is evident that different spell-check programs promote different spelling of the word genealogy. We are currently working to identify the roots of the different spellings. Adam raised a Cain.” On a serious note, he indicated that our professional roots are highly intertwined in the fisheries profession, and he had not yet found a suitable method for sum-



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marizing this complex information.

Brian Graeb (SD) is chair of the Sauger Symposium committee, and is responsible for ensuring that the section meets all requirements to sponsor such a symposium at the 2006 AFS meeting in Lake Placid. All members interested in or involved in sauger work are requested to contact Brian (brian.graeb@sdstate.edu). Early interest indicates that we should be able to assemble an outstanding program.

Three requests for funding were submitted via the section web page in 2004.

1. Scott Bonar requested \$10,000 to complete the work of the Standardized Sampling Methods Committee. A motion was made and seconded that the section approve these funds. Discussion followed. First, Dr. Bonar provided an overview of his intent for the project, which would result in a final book product. Proceeds from the book would either be returned to FMS, or split with the Education Section if they agreed to co-sponsor the project. The intent of the book is to provide the common sampling methods used by conservation agencies in various water types. In addition, the project will fund a research assistant at the AZ Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, who would work to compile a nationwide database on common sampling indices. A summary, with central tendencies and other useful comparison data, would be included as one chapter in the book. Another chapter would involve statistical treatment of common sampling indices, and would complement the upcoming AFS text on *Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data* being coedited by FMS members Mike Brown (SD) and Chris Guy (MT). A final chapter would address the potential development of and utility of correction factors in cases where standardized methods were changed. Comments by Andy Loftus (MD) and others cautioned Dr. Bonar of the legal implications of "standard" methods. Such was not the intent of the project. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Gwen White (IN) from the Equal Opportunity Section requested that our section provide \$500 for their student travel support program. Jeff Boxrucker (OK) moved and Doug Stang (NY) seconded that the section approve these funds. Dr. White provided background information. Via a friendly amendment approved by Boxrucker and Stang, the motion was changed to make the \$500 per year contribution a line item in our budget for coming years. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Julie Meka (AK) requested that the section provide \$400 in travel support for speakers to travel to a 2005 AFS symposium on "Catch-and-Release Science and its Application to Conservation and Management." A motion was made and seconded that the section approve this funding request. The motion passed unanimously. The FMS will be a co-sponsor of this symposium at the 2005 meeting.

President Willis then asked for other suggestions for section-sponsored symposia at the 2005 and 2006 AFS meeting. Vaughn Paragamian (ID) indicated that a Second International Burbot symposium is in the works for the 2005 meeting. The First International Burbot symposium was published by FMS as Special Publication No. 1. Vaughan indicated that he is seeking other funds for the Second symposium, and may not need to request financial support from the section. Any member with further suggestions for upcoming symposia is asked to contact Dave (david.willis@sdstate.edu).

Tim Hess asked for FMS co-sponsorship of a symposium proposal for the 2005 meeting in Anchorage that would focus on the fisheries/aquatic aspects of the new State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies. Jeff Koenig, the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tim will co-chair this symposium, with speakers to be invited from each Region of the country. The membership voted for the FMS to co-sponsor this symposium (no dollars requested or committed). [The Fish Administrators Section also voted to be co-sponsors.]

AFS Past-President Fred Harris (NC) then provided an update on the Rise to the Future program of the U.S. Forest Service, which he believes needs to be revisited. The original efforts provided an increased emphasis on fisheries within the Forest Service, but that support was now eroding. Fred moved and Steve Rideout seconded that the FMS send a letter of support to the Forest Service indicating the need for renewed efforts. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Colvin (2007) alerted the section that the next AFS reservoir symposium (Reservoir Committee, Southern Division) is now in initial planning stages, and likely will be held in 2007. Mike will place an informational article on the FMS web page.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



## The Fourth World Fisheries Congress in Vancouver: a subjective evaluation by Robert Arlinghaus, FMS Member from Germany

“Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: the Challenge of Managing Aquatic Ecosystems” was the theme of this year’s Fourth World Fisheries Congress (WFC), held in May 2004 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. With sustainable inland fisheries management being the topic of my Ph.D. thesis, the conference attracted my immediate attention. Although I had no travel funds available, I submitted an abstract for consideration at the WFC. Thus, I was delighted to hear that my application for a travel grant sponsored by the Fisheries Management Section of the American Fisheries Society was approved, as was my abstract as a poster presentation. The outstanding feature of the conference was its excellent organization and its broad coverage of international fisheries issues. Over a thousand delegates from around the globe attended, among them the most influential fisheries researchers to date. In my opinion, three key messages emerged:

1. Social issues, i.e. the study of the human dimensions of fisheries systems, are increasing in importance in international fisheries. However, it was somehow interesting to see that a lot of human dimensions fisheries research was presented by biologists. I personally would have liked to listen to more contributions by pure social scientists or those involved in real interdisciplinary projects. From my perspective, the key to success in the reconciliation of fisheries with conservation lies in the application of true active adaptive management processes based on a thorough understanding of factors driving the system in biological *and* social terms.
2. There is a growing recognition about the holistic nature of fisheries management and the necessity to bring all stakeholders together. There is no longer a doubt that many fisheries stocks are overexploited. There is also a broad consensus on the need to reconcile fisheries with conservation. The question to be answered is how to reverse the trend of declining fish stocks and eroding biodiversity. In this respect, Paul Hart developed a rather pessimistic view in stating that there was “nothing new at the WFC” and that it has still to be shown “how reconciliation of fisheries with conservation can be achieved”. Carl Walters pointed out that there are problems with self-serving scientists on the one hand who promise more than they can deliver and incompetent fisheries managers on the other hand who do not understand scientists nor stakeholders. I feel that for the future a tight communicative process between scientists, stakeholders and managers is at the heart of efforts to conserve fisheries resources for the benefits of society (and fishermen).
3. Recreational fisheries are increasing in global importance, particularly in coastal zones and freshwaters. Given this, it was somehow “unfortunate” that no Key Note speaker specifically addressed the management of recreational fisheries. Irrespective, the recreational fisheries session was one of the most lively venues. However, particularly in this session, I noted a strong “Atlantic divide” between recreational fisheries researchers in North America versus those in Europe. It seemed to me that many recreational fisheries researchers still hold a parochial orientation which is counterproductive to both science and management.

If some critical words are also allowed, I think that a somehow smaller conference would have improved the networking which makes many conferences so important. Moreover, the “pricey” event probably prevented some fisheries managers and representatives from developing countries to attend as both were somehow underrepresented at the meeting. Finally, an overwhelming number of 800 poster presentations seemed a bit exaggerated, particularly as many poster presenters found themselves without an appropriate audience that sometimes did not reward the efforts of the presenters. This was probably related to the fact that the main poster display time coincided with lunch time, a time where food intake is often more appealing than scientific findings. It seemed to me that those abstracts with the “sexiest” title were selected as oral presentations, whereas a lot of very good, less “sexy” sounding science was selected for a poster presentation. Many researchers apparently felt uncomfortable being a poster presenter, and consequently many boards were found empty in the poster sessions.

All in all, the possibility I received to attend a conference of global importance and to listen to probably the most important fisheries researchers alive broadened my perspective. It was an extremely valuable experience. I want to thank the FM section of the American Fisheries Society for allowing me to attend the WFC.



## Fisheries Management Section Spearheads Development of a Book on Standard Freshwater Fish Sampling Methods

At the 2004 Annual AFS Meeting in Madison, the Fisheries Management Section voted to support the development of a book on standard fish sampling methods. Standardization of procedures in production and data collection throughout industry, medicine and science has led to many great advances. However, sampling of inland fish populations across North America remains unstandardized, or at most, standardized at a state or local level. The objective of this reference is to provide standard methods for sampling fish populations in various types of freshwater environments across North America. The goal will be to provide standard ways to obtain the most commonly used indices of fish population structure and abundance: presence, length frequency, relative weight, relative growth, and catch per unit effort.

In the 1980s and 1990s, work to move toward standardizing sampling procedures in the United States was conducted by the Fisheries Techniques Standardization Committee of the Fisheries Management Section. This resulted in a compilation of methods that were being used across North America; however, an actual selection of a subset of methods to standardize lake, pond, river, and stream surveys was never completed. This book project will carry the original work forward, providing a single set of recommended or standard protocols for various coldwater and warmwater environments. A major benefit of this book is that it will include average values of various indices for some of the most common freshwater fishes in North America to be used for comparison purposes. For example, using these standard techniques, the biologist would be able to determine if the condition or PSD of a common fish species is higher, lower, or average to what can be expected in the region.

This reference will consist of several chapters, each chapter describing a standard suite of methods to sample adult fish in a particular type of freshwater environment (e.g. warm and coldwater ponds, lakes, streams and rivers). The methods are being chosen by a group of expert authors selected for each chapter. Authors of different chapters will communicate to ensure sampling techniques and chapter formats among types of environments are as similar as possible, simple and commonly used. This book will not discuss standard habitat measuring techniques, and while there will be a chapter on data management and analysis techniques, it will complement and heavily cite the fisheries statistics book to be published soon by the American Fisheries Society (Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data, M. Brown and C. Guy, eds.)

Procedures given in this book will not be forced on any individual, group, or agency. A book such as this will be available to those who are starting standard monitoring programs and would like to start standardizing, or those who would like to change from a particular program to a more national program. Those who are already happy with local standardized sampling plans already in place will not be influenced to change. The book will be updated in future years, much like Standard Methods for the Measurement of Water Quality and Wastewater, to reflect major advances in Fisheries Science. In addition, it will provide methods to transfer or compare data collected using another technique to that collected using standard sampling.

The Fisheries Management Section contributed \$10,000 to this effort, and the leadership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also squarely behind this effort, has pledged \$30,000 to the project. Contact with other federal agencies, foundations, and organizations, such as the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Compton Foundation, and the Education Section of AFS is currently underway to obtain additional funds to fully support this project.

This book is being edited by Drs. Scott Bonar (Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS, University of Arizona), Wayne Hubert (Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS, University of Wyoming), and David Willis (South Dakota State University). To date, the following authors are confirmed, and additional authors are being contacted.

Mike Allen, The University of Florida  
Paul Bailey, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Dave Beauchamp, Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Scott Bonar, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Mark Brouder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jeff Boxrucker, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
Scott Bryan, Arizona Game and Fish Department  
R.A. Curry, University of New Brunswick  
Chris Guy, Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit  
Wayne Hubert, Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Gordon Haas, University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
Robert Hughes, Oregon State University  
Alison Iles, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Nigel Lester, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
John Lyons, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



## Standard Freshwater Fish Sampling Methods continued

Steve Miranda, Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
 Rob Neumann, Southern Illinois University  
 John Ney, Virginia Tech University  
 Craig Paukert, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
 Donna Parrish, Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
 Jim Peterson, Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
 Johannus Pitlo, Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
 Kevin Pope, Texas Tech University  
 Mike Quist, Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
 Charles Rabeni, Missouri Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit  
 Scott Rogers, Arizona Game and Fish Department  
 Roy Whaley, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
 Dave Zafft, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

If you or your organization would like to help sponsor this project, or for more details, please contact the Senior Editor: Dr. Scott Bonar, E-mail: [sbonar@Ag.arizona.edu](mailto:sbonar@Ag.arizona.edu)

## ACTION ALERT-ROADLESS RULE:

The Ecological Society of America wishes to alert to you to an opportunity to offer comments on proposed changes to the Forest Service's Roadless Rule.

The U.S. Forest Service has announced its plans to replace the Clinton-era Roadless Area Conservation Rule with a state petitioning process. Under this proposal, state governors would be required to petition the Forest Service to retain roadless protections of national forests in their states.

The replacement of the existing Roadless rule has the potential to have broad negative consequences for the nation's roadless areas. The new process will provide no guarantee of federal protection for Inventoried Roadless Areas. If a state fails to file a petition within 18 months, or if its petition is rejected by the Forest

Service, management of each area will revert to individual management plans. Some of these already include plans for long-range development such as road-building, logging, and other commercial activities.

ESA has submitted comments in a letter to the Forest Service regarding this proposal. ESA's letter, as well as past ESA letters in support of the current Roadless Rule, can be found at:  
<http://www.esa.org/pao/esaPositions/Letters/roadlessStatePetition10202004.php>

The Forest Service's notice of the proposed change can be found in the Federal Register at  
<http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=37949223>

671+3+0+0&WAISaction=trieve

Ecologists have a unique and important perspective to share on this issue, and we encourage you to share your comments with the Forest Service.

Please send comments by November 15, 2004 to:

[statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us](mailto:statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us) or by mail to: Content Analysis Team,  
 Attn: Roadless State Petitions, USDA Forest Service,  
 P.O. Box 221090,  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84122.





## Fisheries Management Section Mailing List

### Past President:

Steve Rideout  
S.O. Conte Research Center  
One Migratory Way  
P.O. Box 796  
Turner Falls, MA 01376-0796  
(413) 863-3802 - phone  
(413) 863-9810 - fax  
stephen\_rideout@usgs.gov

### President:

Dave Willis  
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings, SD 57007-1696  
(605) 688-6121 – phone  
(605) 688-4515 - fax  
david.willis@sdstate.edu

### President-Elect:

Joe Larscheid  
Iowa DNR  
122 252nd Ave  
Spirit Lake , IA 51360  
(712) 336-1840 – phone  
joe.larscheid@dnr.state.ia.us

### Secretary-Treasurer:

Dirk Miller  
Fisheries Management Coordinator  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
5400 Bishop Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82006  
Voice: (307) 777-4556  
FAX: (307) 777-4611  
dirk.miller@wgf.state.wy.us

### Regional Representatives

#### Northeast:

J. Randy Jackson  
Cornell Biological Field Station  
900 Shackelton Point Rd  
Bridgeport , NY 13030  
(315) 633-9243 – phone  
jrj26@cornell.edu

#### North-central:

Mark Porath  
NE Game and Parks Commission  
2200 N 33th St  
Lincoln , NE 68503  
(402) 471-7651 - phone  
mporath@ngpc.state.ne.us

#### Southern:

Robert L. Limbird  
PO Box 403  
Knoxville , AR 72845  
(479) 967-7577  
[blimbird@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:blimbird@agfc.state.ar.us)

#### Western:

Dave Zafft  
WY Game & Fish Dept  
528 S Adams St  
Laramie , WY 82070  
(307) 745-5180 – phone  
david.zafft@wgf.state.wy.us

*Our Highly Esteemed and Greatly Appreciated web  
site manager:*

Mr. Fred W. Janssen  
TX Parks & Wildlife  
4200 Smith School Rd  
Austin , TX 78744-3292  
(512) 389-4655 – phone  
fred.janssen@tpwd.state.tx.us

#### Newsletter editor:

Rob Colombo  
Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center  
Department of Zoology  
Mailstop 6511  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6511  
618-453-2608  
rcolombo@siu.edu