



NEWSLETTER
OF THE EXOTIC FISH SECTION
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

January, 1981

Walter R. Courtenay, Jr., Editor

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From the Editor

Greetings and best wishes for a productive and rewarding 1981.

This is the first issue of the Newsletter of the Exotic Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society. I'm pleased to report to you that this new Section is off to a good start. Twenty-four persons attended our organizational meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, at the national AFS meeting this past September; as of 1 January 1981, our membership had grown to 108. It is our hope that we will continue to grow in numbers and exceed the magic 200 necessary for voting status for the Section in the AFS Executive Committee.

The primary purpose of the Newsletter (which will be distributed quarterly) is to bring you news of the Section and its activities, and to provide a forum for input, views and ideas from the members. To accomplish this last goal, we need your help. Please send any news items to me at the Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431 or call me at (305) 395-5100, ext. 2725.

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Exotic Fish Section

Dr. James McCann, Chairman of the Exotic/Ornamental Fish Committee opened the Organizational Meeting of the Exotic Fish Section at 8:15 PM on September 22, 1980 in the Old River Room of the Galt House, Louisville, KY. Twenty-four members of the AFS were present.

Chairman McCann discussed the status, mission and activities of the National Fishery Research Laboratory - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Laboratory activities included outside contracts to fund the "Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes," a national survey of exotic species, a field survey of Florida waters for exotic species, environmental impact of exotic fish species in the U.S., and other small contracts to support the preparation of FAO Species Synopses on selected exotic species. The mission of the new Federal Laboratory is (1) to support efforts to prevent the introduction of harmful exotic species into open waters of the Nation, (2) to promote the use of exotic species with beneficial characteristics, (3) to assist the tropical fish industry.

He briefly discussed the tasks and accomplishments of the Exotic/Ornamental Fish Committee. The tasks assigned by President Dick Stroud and the Committee's related activities are as follows:

1. Assist Federal and State Agencies on exotic fish issues

Requests for assistance from five states and one private group on problems related to evaluating research proposals, final reports, etc. These were processed by members of the committee.

2. Provide up-to-date information on exotic fish species

Dr. Walter Courtenay under contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed an inventory of exotic species in the U.S., conducted field surveys in Florida, and collaborated with the National Fishery Research Laboratory to produce a draft manuscript on the impact of established exotics.

3. Develop protocols to evaluate exotic species being considered for introduction or potential introduction

Several members initiated work on this task, but the task could not be completed in a year and the completion of this task will fall to the Exotic Fish Section.

4. Publish a list of undesirable exotic species

A draft list of exotic species considered by the committee to have beneficial or potentially harmful characteristics was compiled. This list resulted in FAO Synopses Series write-ups being initiated on eight exotic species or groups of exotic species. These Synopses are in draft form and were not completed in time for them to be evaluated by the Committee members.

Synopses on the milkfish, rohu, grass carp, Mozambique tilapia, three species of snakeheads and the freshwater sting rays were initiated. Although the above species were not all considered to be critical species, synopses were initiated because 1) a species was of particular interest to a committee member or 2) outside funds were available to support the preparation of the synopses.

5. Assist in the development of effective regulations to stop the introduction of injurious species

Individual members of the committee commented on proposed revisions of federal and state regulations related to introduction of potentially injurious species into the open waters of the Nation. They included the Executive Order on Exotic Species, revisions of the Injurious Species Regulations, Lacey Act, and Florida State Regulations on use of grass carp, bighead carp, or triploid grass carp hybrid.

McCann circulated a copy of the proposed By-Laws which had been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of the AFS, and a copy of the petition signed by 126 members supporting the establishment of the Section. The By-Laws were then voted on section by section and appropriate changes were made (A copy of the By-Laws are attached.) Annual dues for the Section were set at \$3.00.

An election of officers for 1980-81 was held and the following members were elected:

President	James A. McCann 4421 N.W. 14th Place Gainesville, Florida 32605
President-Elect	Walter R. Courtenay, Jr. Florida Atlantic University Boca Raton, FLA 33432
Secretary/Treasurer	Christopher C. Kohler Fisheries Research Laboratory Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL 62901

Special committees were established.

1. Exotic Fish Symposium - Walter R. Courtenay, Jr., Jay R. Stauffer, Jr. (Co-Chairman), and additional members to be named at a later date. Any interested members should notify the Chairman.
2. Liason Committee with the Tropical Fish Industry Robert J. Goldstein (Chairman), additional members to be named later. Any interested members should notify the Chairman.
3. Exotic Fish Protocol - Christopher C. Kohler (Chairman), Jon G. Stanley, and additional members to be named at a later date. Any interested members should notify the chairman.

The 1981 annual meeting of the Section will be held in September 1981 at the Society's next annual meeting in New Mexico.

Signed by: Christopher C. Kohler
Secretary/Treasurer

Bylaws of the Exotic Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society

Section I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the EXOTIC FISH SECTION of the American Fisheries Society as provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. In this context the name exotic fish is taken to include fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and other aquatic organisms introduced from a foreign land.

Section II. Objectives

The objectives of the Exotic Fish Section are to:

- (a) develop and maintain an association of persons interested and involved in the use of exotic fish and other aquatic organisms;
- (b) coordinate and develop programs to advance the knowledge and concerns related to exotic species;
- (c) to provide a forum for identifying and bringing attention to bear on the beneficial and potentially harmful impacts of exotic species;
- (d) to encourage communication among scientists, administrators, managers, educators, aquaculturists and others interested in exotic species;
- (e) to assist federal, state and private groups in making decisions on exotic species introductions; and
- (f) to advise private industry in developing procedures for the safe handling of exotic species intended for closed system maintenance and culture.

Section III. Membership

Membership in the EXOTIC FISH SECTION shall be open to all members in good standing of the American Fisheries Society. Each SECTION member is entitled to one vote on all matters requiring the approval of the membership.

Section IV. Officers

The officers of the SECTION shall be the President, President-Elect, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

- (a) The President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year or until a successor is elected.
The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President at the expiration of the President's term of office, which is one year. Officers shall serve without salary or other compensation for their services from the SECTION.
- (b) No officer shall hold the same office for consecutive terms except the Secretary/Treasurer who may hold office for two consecutive terms.
- (c) Candidates for office shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the President. Mail balloting shall be completed at least one week before the annual meeting of the SECTION. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the returned mail ballots.
- (d) In the event of a vacated position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement for the unexpired terms.

Section V. Duties of Officers

- (a) The President shall serve as chairman of the Executive Committee of the SECTION and shall preside at the business meetings of the SECTION, appoint all committees and serve as an Ex Officio member thereof.
The President shall represent the SECTION and perform other duties and functions as authorized and necessary.
- (b) President-Elect: The President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall serve as editor of the newsletter to the members.

- (c) Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain a current list of the membership, receive all funds, pay all bills, keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements, present a semi-annual report to the SECTION Executive Committee and an annual report to the membership. He/she shall submit a report to the Executive Director of the Society within 30 days after the annual meeting of the SECTION is held and at other times as requested by the Executive Committee of the Society.

Section VI. Meetings

The SECTION shall hold at least one business meeting annually at a time and place designed by the Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

Section VII. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and the immediate Past President of the SECTION, and one representative elected from each of the Divisions of the Society. The Executive Committee shall have authority to determine policies and conduct business consistent with the objectives of the SECTION. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at the call of the President when a majority of the committee members can meet and conduct business. Business and voting by the Executive Committee may be conducted by mail.

Section VIII. Voting and Quorum

Decisions at business meetings and the SECTION shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Society. A quorum at business meetings shall be 15 members of the SECTION.

Section IX. Fees

The Executive Committee may assess those attending a meeting of the Section a registration fee as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. The annual membership fee shall be \$3.00 unless determined otherwise by the Executive Committee. Expenses of officers may be defrayed from funds available to the SECTION when authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section X. Amendment of Bylaws

The Bylaws of the SECTION may be amended by mailed ballot and approved by a vote of 2/3 of the SECTION members voting on the amendment and by subsequent approval of the Society Executive Committee in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

From the President

At the Organizational Meeting of the Exotic Fish Section there was a general discussion concerning a number of definitions used in relationship to exotic fish issues. The following definitions were generally, but not unanimously agreed to.

Exotic = foreign - introduced from a foreign land.

Non-native - not occurring naturally - introduced by man from outside its native range.

Introduced - released (intentionally or accidentally) or escaped into open-water systems.

Transferred or Transplanted - intentionally introduced outside its native range into a new ecosystem within the same country.

Established - a breeding, viable, self-sustaining population.

I feel the Section should vote on standard definitions for these at the next annual meeting in New Mexico. I would appreciate it if any members having suggestions, rewordings, etc. would contact me.

The group generally agreed that the transplanting or transferring of native fishes outside their native range could create the same impacts as the introduction of exotic (foreign) species; however, the group generally agreed that initially the Section should concentrate its efforts only on exotic fish issues (fish introduced from a foreign land) and delay consideration of transferred or transplanting native populations to a later time.

James A. McCann, President

News Notes

Item 1 -- Those of us who live on the east coast will remember a warm fall in 1980 and cold weather since. Ross B. Socolof, President of the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association, has said that between 50 to 85 percent of the livestock being raised for the aquarium fish trade was lost due to the cold temperatures in Florida this month. Several fish farmers lost their entire stock. Unfortunately, this will prove to be an adverse impact on Florida's economy, a disaster to many aquarium fish farmers, and a loss (and future higher prices) for the many of us who truly enjoy exotic fishes in aquaria.

Item 2 -- Section Secretary Chris Kohler advises that we now have two Divisional representatives:

NE Division
Dr. C. Lavett Smith
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024

NC Division
Dr. James C. Underhill
Department of Zoology
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Addendum:

Southern Division Representative
Dr. John Ramsey
Leader, Coop. Fishery Unit
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36830

That's two. How about some volunteers for the other Divisions? Get involved, because that is what you (we) and AFS are all about.

Item 3 -- Deciding on a logo for this Newsletter proved difficult, so we opted to use a system that will change with each number, taken from the illustrations of established exotic fishes in the Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes. This issue's logo is the croaking gourami, *Trichopsis vittata*, established in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Item 4 -- The Exotic Fish Section will hold a major symposium entitled "Exotic Fishes: An Enigmatic Paradigm" at the national AFS meetings in Albuquerque this coming September. Many of our members will be participants and we intend to publish an expanded version of the symposium in 1982.