



NEWSLETTER

of the Introduced Fish Section
American Fisheries Society

December 1985 James P. Clugston, Editor Volume 6, Number 1

From the President

I apologize for not being able to attend the annual meeting at Sun Valley, Idaho; however, all of the reports I have seen indicated that it was a successful meeting. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who participated, and to congratulate Nick Carter for the fine job that he did as President of the Section during the past year.

As stated in the minutes of the business meeting, we must as a section, define our status. According to the results of the questionnaire summarized by Nick Parker in the last newsletter, "About one-half of the respondents indicated that the number one priority of the Section should be to support legislation to tighten control of exotic species, while the other one-half indicated the Section should be involved in the promotion of exotic species." The summary of the results also indicated that the members of the Section are extremely diverse. As such, it would appear to me that the Section's purpose should not be to support or condemn the introduction of the non-native species but to promote the understanding of the benefits and risks associated with proposed introductions. I would be interested in any views which the membership has relative to this issue. Please forward your comments to me.

It is also mentioned in the minutes, that our membership has declined. Before the next Newsletter appears I will establish a membership committee. Although I will be contacting certain individuals in the next few months, I would appreciate being notified of anyone with an interest of serving on such a committee. I agree with the suggestion of Rich Noble, that a letter be drafted to all those previous members who did not renew their membership. All committees will be identified in the next Newsletter.

I have received a request from Roy Stein (Program Chair for the 1986 AFS Annual Meeting, Providence, RI) that I announce that the Second Call for Papers for the annual meeting will appear in the November/December issue of Fisheries. The theme of the meeting will be "Basic Science and Effective Fisheries Management: Bridging the Gap." Symposium topics include: creative approaches to fishery science; community ecology and fisheries

biology: can we be predictive; understanding fish: physiology and its applications; genetics and fisheries: today and tomorrow; micro-fish I: stock dynamics; micro-fish II: hatchery applications; little fish and big numbers; human perspectives in fisheries management; and, fish behavior: assessing sublethal effects of toxicants. In addition the following general sessions are scheduled: Anoxia in coastal waters: how are living resources affected?; fisheries policy and legislation: understanding the processes; and, supply side fisheries: assessing prey availability to predators.

Finally, I have received a copy of the resolution entitled "Regarding Non-Native Fish Introductions" which was approved by the Atlantic International Chapter in its September meeting. The resolution follows, and again I would appreciate any comments which you may have.

JAY STAUFFER

RESOLUTION
REGARDING NON-NATIVE FISH INTRODUCTIONS

WHEREAS: The Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society encompasses a geographical area of three American states, including Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, and five Canadian provinces including Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland-Labrador; and

WHEREAS: state, provincial and international territories share common lakes, rivers, streams, and watersheds; and

WHEREAS: our past record of stocking non-native fish species within one jurisdiction and having them established within a neighboring jurisdiction has been well documented; and

WHEREAS: non-native fish introductions into waters or watersheds that transcend state, provincial, or international boundaries may have an adverse impact on fish populations within another jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS: it appears the American Fisheries Society does not have a policy statement which requires fishery managers to consult with, much less reach an agreement with, neighboring fishery managers who may share a common water body or into whose jurisdiction fish may migrate after being stocked into a new, to them, aquatic system:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society assembled at Jay Peak, Vermont, the 23rd day of September, 1985, urge the North East Division and the Parent Society of the AFS to further address the problem of introducing non-native fish into waters that transcend political boundaries, and prepare an associated policy statement and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the development period of this policy statement that the state, provincial and federal fisheries agencies within the geographical area of the Atlantic International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society consult with neighboring states, provinces or countries when considering the introduction of a non-native fish species that may move or migrate from the targeted area into another jurisdiction.

MINUTES OF THE AFS INTRODUCED FISH SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

Sun Valley, Idaho
9 September 1985

The meeting began at 3:25 pm. In the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Nick Parker, President Nick Carter asked Walter Courtenay to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the meeting (minutes supplemented by President Carter's notes).

Six members and two visitors were present. It was agreed by all six to suspend the rules and move on with the business meeting.

Jim Clugston moved approval (seconded by John Dentler) of the minutes of the 1984 Business Meeting, as published in the Section's Newsletter (Volume 5, Number 1). Approval was unanimous.

Courtenay read the Treasurer's Report. Secretary-Treasurer Nick Parker reported receipts of \$1,242.09 and disbursements of \$647.82, leaving a balance of \$594.27. Richard Noble moved to approve the Treasurer's report (John Dentler seconded), and it was approved unanimously.

John Dentler reported on federal activities concerning introductions of exotic species. He reviewed a draft proposal of federal legislation concerning intentional (or purposeful) introductions of exotic species. This review will be published in the Newsletter of the Introduced Fish Section when it is completed.

Section President Nick Carter read the report of the Definitions Committee from Paul Shafland. Carter reported that he moved adoption of the definitions, as published in FISHERIES, to the AFS Executive Committee (EXCOM) at its meeting in Sun Valley.

He reported that it was disapproved by a vote of 4 to 1 (of 31 EXCOM members present). Most EXCOM members apparently were not familiar enough with the issue to vote.

John Dentler moved to bring the definitions, as approved by this Section, before the EXCOM at its next meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. In his motion, he requested that definitions and additional information be supplied to all members of EXCOM two weeks prior to the meeting. Richard Noble seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Section President Carter read the report of the Nominations Committee on the election of new officers. Jay R. Stauffer, Jr. will become Section President, James P. Clugston is President-Elect, and Nick Parker will continue as Secretary-Treasurer.

Carter commented that Jay Stauffer, who was in an automobile accident, was able to serve as Section President. Courtenay said that Jay had called him stating that he was able to serve as President and expressed his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting.

The report of the Chinese Carps Committee (Stan Allen, Chairman) was read. That committee sent a questionnaire to state fish and game agencies regarding their opinions on the use of triploid grass carp (results will be summarized in next Newsletter).

Chris Kohler gave the report of the Bylaws Committee. Our Bylaws were revised to change our name to "Introduced Fish Section" and incorporate the terminology associated with introduced organisms. The term of Secretary-Treasurer was made two years. Changes were approved by the AFS EXCOM at its semi-annual meeting, March 31, 1985.

Kohler gave the report of the Protocol Committee regarding a position statement on introductions. A draft was published in the Newsletter of the Introduced Fish Section prior to the Sun Valley meeting. The draft was later modified and forwarded to the AFS Environmental Concerns Committee for review prior to possible publication in FISHERIES. Some discussion followed regarding the 1972 position statement on introductions of exotic species, approved by AFS. Kohler emphasized the need for input from section members regarding the draft as soon as possible.

Courtenay gave a brief report of the Tilapia Committee. He commented that although the committee had not been active over the past year, a major study (funded by Fish and Wildlife Service) on the systematics of tilapias introduced into the U.S., including electrophoretic analyses, was near completion.

President Carter read a report from the Genetic Conservation and Manipulation Committee (David Philipp, Chairman). That committee developed and mailed a questionnaire on the philosophy of

manipulating genetics of fishes via introductions or other means. (The report summarizing the results follow the minutes).

OLD BUSINESS

Section President Nick Carter asked for a review of old business. He noted that EXCOM was in the process of revising the AFS Constitution and Bylaws, and that we need to define our status as a section. Rich Noble suggested that incoming President Stauffer use the "interests" segment of Nick Parker's questionnaire results, as published in our most recent Newsletter, to define our status.

Section President Carter commented on our Newsletter distribution. Secretary-Treasurer Parker suggested (via Carter) that we cover costs of mailing to officers of other sections by paying their fees, which would be returned to the Section. Richard Noble noted that such a suggestion would be rejected by AFS headquarters. It was informally decided to move at the next EXCOM meeting to have the AFS Central Office furnish labels of all sections for mailing purposes.

President Carter reported that section membership had declined (to 7 below the 200 required to maintain voting membership in EXCOM). Carter suggested formation of a Membership Committee. Richard Noble suggested that a letter be drafted and sent to members who had not renewed, asking them to renew, and including a statement of our present activities under our new status. Noble further suggested that incoming President Stauffer should decide how this should be done. He also suggested that if the letter format was followed, it should include a statement as to what members had "missed out on" over the past few years.

Section President Carter commented on requests from the parent Society for displays on Section activities (similar to the display presented at Hilton Head) to be used in future national or regional AFS meetings. He asked how we should handle this. Should a Public Relations Committee be assigned this task? Chris Kohler suggested that we refer this topic to Nick Parker. No formal action was taken.

President Carter noted that he had received a request from Roy Stein for this section to organize a symposium for the 1986 meeting of AFS in Providence, Rhode Island. The deadline for symposia topics is 1 December 1985 and abstracts are due on 1 January 1986. David Philipp was suggested as the likely organizer of such a symposium (accomplished and noted later in Newsletter).

President Carter questioned the need for a historian. It is becoming increasingly hard for incoming officers to follow what is going on and what has happened in the past. This item was left for the incoming president to handle.

President Carter asked for any additional old business. There being none, he thanked Section Officers and all the members of the Section for their support this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Chris Kohler presented Nick Carter with the Past President's plaque, which was followed by applause from those present. With no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL CONSERVATION AND MANIPULATION OF FISHES COMMITTEE

- (a) Sent questionnaire inquiring on state's philosophies and practices regarding genetic conservation.
- (b) Returns = 40 states (80%)
- (c) 85% said they were concerned about genetic stocks.
- (d) 20% said they had state policies governing transfer of stocks.
- (e) 35% said they had active state programs assessing genetic impacts of management activities.
- (f) 23% said they had at least some capability to genetically analyze fish samples.
- (g) 47% said they contract with some university laboratory to have samples analyzed.
- (h) 35% felt adequate facilities existed within some state/university facilities.
- (i) 50% said they were currently trying to genetically manipulate fish stocks.
- (j) 95% felt states should coordinate genetic research and management programs.
- (k) Major goals of Committee would be to: (1) Coordinate information transfer among agencies/researchers and (2) Increase research opportunities and access for states to research facilities.
- (l) Future efforts: (1) Possible publication for Fisheries to report questionnaire results; and (2) Organize some mechanism to promote information transfer; e.g., (a) Sponsor symposiums at AFS meetings; and (b) Host workshops, etc.

Dave Philipp, Chairman

1986 Annual AFS Meeting

"Genetics and fisheries: today and tomorrow" is the topic of an Annual Meeting symposium sponsored by the Introduced Fish Section. The symposium focuses on the interrelationship between genetics and fish management, with emphasis on identifying genetic stocks (and the resultant implication of ignorance), evaluating "best" techniques, and assessing the contributions of biotechnology. Organizer is David Philipp, Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

NEWS ITEMS

-- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists are conducting genetic studies of six red drum (redfish) recently obtained from South Carolina, to determine if they differ from Texas' native fish. If the South Carolina fish prove to be genetically different they could offer several potential advancements for future red drum culturing. Factors of special interest are growth rates and tolerance for low water temperature. Also, if they are different, they can be used to produce genetically marked fingerlings to evaluate stocking programs (Texas Parks and Wildlife News, October 30, 1985).

-- Texas officials have announced that a cooperative snook restoration program between Texas and Florida is underway. Both states have experienced a decline in this species.

Biologists of the Florida Department of Natural Resources recently strip-spawned wild snook from Tampa Bay, packaged the fertilized eggs and shipped them by air freight to Texas. The eggs were taken to a research station, incubated in the laboratory and then stocked into saltwater ponds. Approximately 9,000 fingerlings were produced. About 4,000 eventually will be tagged and released into Aransas Bay and 5,000 were returned to Florida for additional study and stocking (Texas Parks and Wildlife News, October 30, 1985).

-- Florida's Non-Native Fish Research Project reports "that the only known Florida population of the redstriped eartheater, an exotic fish, may have been eliminated by natural causes during the past 12-18 months. This fish was first collected from a central Dade County canal in 1981. Subsequent collections in 1982-83 indicated this species was possibly established. This designation indicates reproduction was occurring in an open system but that too few fish were present to consider them as being a permanent addition to Florida waters. Recent collections and observations, however, have failed to turn up a single redstriped

such exotic species eliminated by natural causes after having reproduced in Florida waters. Although these findings are encouraging, the number of exotic fish with permanent Florida populations now stands at 17 and continues to increase" (Points to Ponder, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, July 1985).

-- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fishery Research Laboratory in Gainesville, Florida, was officially completed and accepted on October 9, 1985. The missions of this laboratory are to conduct and coordinate research on beneficial and harmful effects of exotic fishes introduced or considered for introduction into U.S. waters and the maintenance and restoration of anadromous, saltwater, and other freshwater species that are environmentally imperiled or depleted from overuse and inhabit transboundary and federally managed waters.

Officers -- 1986

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Note from the Editor

I plan to provide four Newsletters this year. Please send me any information that you think is of interest to our membership for inclusion in one of our issues.