

1990-1991 OFFICERS
IOWA CHAPTER AFS

PRESIDENT
Jim Wahl

PRESIDENT-ELECT
David Marolf

PAST PRESIDENT &
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
Larry Mitzner

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Rick Martens

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Results of Chapter Election

Our new Chapter President-Elect is Dave Marolf, manager of the Manchester Fish Hatchery. The newly elected Secretary/Treasurer is Rick Martens, who is also located at the Manchester Hatchery. Fifty percent of the membership participated in the mail-in ballot election. I would like to thank Jim Christianson and Chris Larson for also running and providing an excellent slate of candidates to choose from.

Past president Larry Mitzner deserves a big thanks for his efforts over the past year. The Chapter has continued to become more involved in advancing fisheries science within our state. An excellent example is the Chapter's upcoming sponsorship of a fisheries computer workshop. "What does AFS have to offer me?" --- This is just one tangible example. There will be more details on the workshop later in the newsletter.

I will soon be asking people to help serve as chairmen on a number of committees. They include: auditing, resolutions, nominations, best paper award, raffle and REAP. If you would like to volunteer, contact me. Otherwise, please be generous with your time when asked to participate. My goal is to get new faces involved this year.

1991 Meeting

The 1991 Chapter meeting will be a joint meeting with the Nebraska Chapter. The meeting will be held on February 12 and 13 at the Frontier Motor Lodge in Council Bluffs. We have a block of rooms reserved for February 11 and 12. Room rates are \$40/night for a double or \$20/person. To make your reservation, call (712) 322-3150. Please reference the Iowa Chapter AFS when making your reservations.

We will be encouraging people to pre-register again this year. This helps in making arrangements with the motel and reduces the waiting lines at the meeting. More details concerning the meeting will be available in the next newsletter.

Call for Papers - 1991 Meeting

We have the nucleus for a fine program at the upcoming Chapter meeting. Several people have submitted or agreed to give papers. There is still room, however, for more. Those interested should contact Dave Marolf at (319) 927-3276. No abstracts are required, just title and name of author.

Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

I will soon be attending the North Central Division Excom and regular business meetings in Minneapolis. As a representative of the Iowa Chapter, I would gladly pass on any of your ideas or comments in regards to the NCD or parent society.

Jim Wahl

MEMBERSHIP

Most of you receiving this newsletter are members of the Iowa Chapter and a majority are members of the parent society. So, this newsletter is a poor place to advocate increasing our membership. However, what I would like to ask each of you to do is consider inviting people to come to our meeting (and to join the Chapter) who are not currently members, but might have a vital interest in fisheries/aquatic resources. It has been suggested that DNR personnel (both central office and field) within the Environmental Protection Division should have an interest in the American Fisheries Society; I agree. I would also include County Conservation Board people, people within related departments at ISU, UI and other colleges, private fish growers, and I am sure you can think of other people with fisheries-related interests. Think about it. Each of you has close contact with many potential members. Select one or two and ask them. Certainly a greater diversity among our members would be most welcome.

Missouri Chapter:

"A 1990 growth in membership is virtually assured by comparing the year's recruitment and loss figures with the past several years. We estimate a gain of about 170 members for 1990. It will be well under the last two years but about equal to 1987. Have YOU recruited a new member recently?"

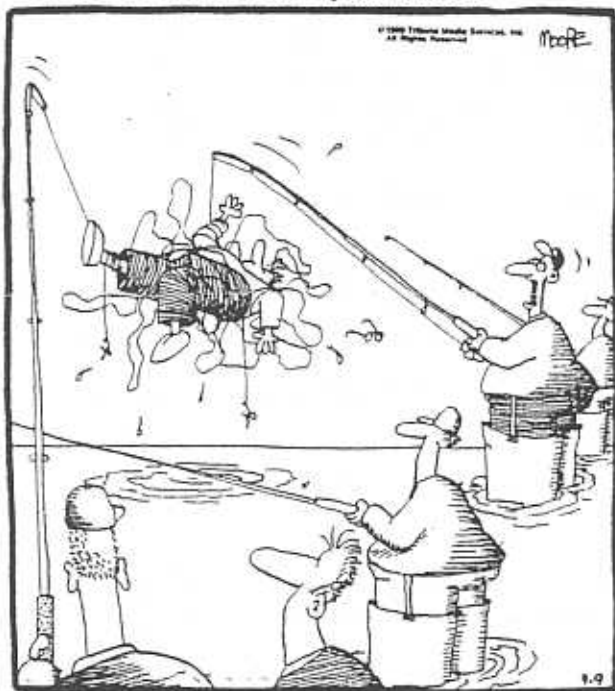
"A recent survey revealed that 96% of Missouri Department of Conservation's 74 Fisheries Biologists and Administrators are members of the American Fisheries Society. We are proud of this fact!"

That is something to shoot for! Iowa is 51% - 35 out of 68 fisheries biologists, technicians and administrators based on 1989-90 membership directory.

And finally, the issue of Chapter members who don't belong to the parent society -- Marion Conover has cajoled and arm-twisted you, Mike Mason has begged and pleaded with you, and I, too, encourage you to join the parent society. And we are heading in the right direction. I am sure each of you can justify why you don't belong (mainly cost?), but the benefits to the profession (not necessarily you individually), but the profession as a whole, are truly great. I'll not paraphrase the entire quote by JFK: "Don't ask what ..."; however, the concept applies to any group including the American Fisheries Society. The motivation is simple, selfless contribution for the good of the whole. So, if you are a member, great. If not, please join up.

AFS DIARY ITEMS

IN THE BLEACHERS/ By Steve Moore



"Slack! Slack! ... Dang, I hate opening day!"

70 million new dollars for the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund will flow from the recently passed Deficit Reduction Tax Package. The increase will come from the additional 5 cents federal tax on gasoline (60% of which will go to the Highway Trust Fund where it is subject to partial transfer to the Wallop-Breaux account) plus the first-time transfer of small engine gas taxes (chain saws, lawnmowers, snowblowers, etc.) from the Highway Trust Fund to the Wallop-Breaux account. The bill also provides that 18% of Wallop-Breaux money will be dedicated to a new wetlands protection and enhancement account.

A mixed response to the proposed AFS name change is coming from the North Central Division. Six of the 14 Chapters queried have responded with two favoring no change and four (two of which are Canadian) favoring a change to North American Fisheries Society. North Central Division past president Lee Redmond is conducting the "straw" vote.

A review of the value of rotenone as a fisheries management tool, and the rationale for the selection of its usage over alternatives has been requested of the North Central Division by Jack Bails, deputy director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The request came on the heels of a July Muskegon River incident in which there was excessive fish mortality. Following the incident, the Michigan Governor and the Natural Resource Director ordered a cessation of all rotenone until approved by the Natural Resources Commission. Division Past President Lee Redmond responded for the Division in a very professional manner. For copies of the exchange of correspondence, send a self-addressed business envelope with 25 cents postage to AFS headquarters.

IOWA SCENE

Wiper - Jeff Brown of Colfax caught a 13 lbs. 10 oz. wiper in the Des Moines River below Saylorville Lake on August 2. The previous record weighed 12 lbs. 11 oz.

Smallmouth Bass - Rick Gray of Dickens caught a 7 lbs. 12 oz. smallmouth bass in West Okoboji Lake on September 28. The previous record weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz.

REAP - Interest in Conservation and Open Spaces Grants remains high. The table below presents information that demonstrates the popularity of three REAP grant programs: (1) private-public open spaces; (2) county conservation; and, (3) city parks and open spaces.

August 1990 REAP Grant Applications

| Program | Number of Applications | Total \$ Requested | Approximate \$ Available |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Private-Public Open Spaces | 13 | \$899,873 | \$315,000 |
| County Conservation | 48 | \$8.5 million | \$1 million |
| City Parks and Open Spaces | 162 | \$10.1 million | \$1.75 million |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Large Cities (population > 25,000) | 16 | \$2.9 million | \$800,000 |
| Medium Cities (population 2,000-25,000) | 45 | \$3.4 million | \$575,000 |
| Small Cities (population < 2,000) | 101 | \$3.8 million | \$375,000 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| TOTAL | 223 | \$19.5 million | \$3.1 million |

MIDWEST NEWS

Gamefish Designation for Missouri River Catfish

States on the Missouri River have proposed a prohibition on the commercial take of catfish in the river, beginning in July 1992. Pending similar action in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, the Missouri Conservation Commission agreed to ban commercial harvest of catfish in the Missouri River.

After reviewing data from the Dept. of Conservation's Fisheries Division concerning problems caused by excessive harvest and considering views of commercial and recreational fishermen, the Commission concluded the ban was

necessary to achieve long-range fisheries management objectives. These objectives include designating catfish as gamefish by July 1992 and attaining a minimum length of 15 inches for 20 percent of the catfish population by July 1997.

Over the past two decades, sizes of Missouri River blue, flathead and channel catfish have been declining steadily. In 1967 and 1968, nearly 40 percent of the channel catfish and 70 percent of the flatheads in population samples were more than 15 inches long. By the 1988/89 season, only four percent of the channel catfish and five percent of the flatheads in population samples were longer than 15 inches.

The evolution of the Missouri catfish fishery from one which was primarily commercial to one which is recreationally-based is typical of the direction that many inland and nearshore fisheries are now taking. In the past, wild catfish from the Missouri River satisfied the entire consumer demand for catfish. Today, advances in technology and the free market system have allowed the commercial aquaculture of catfish stocks to flourish, yielding benefits to both the consumer and the recreational angler. The consumer is supplied with a high quality product year-round, while the recreational angler is ensured a greater opportunity for a successful trip. This will assist the burgeoning recreational fishery along with its associated economic activity to greatly expand. Consequently, states will be able to realize economic returns from both commercial catfish production (aquaculture) and recreational activity.

Boaters Warned of Zebra Mussel Threat

Great Lakes boaters could inadvertently spread European zebra mussels to inland waters, the Minnesota Chapter of the AFS has warned.

The Zebra mussel is a recent exotic invader of the Great Lakes which has already begun wreaking environmental and economic havoc. The mussels form large colonies which can block water intakes or cover important spawning reefs.

Microscopic zebra mussel larvae can stow away in bait buckets, bilges and livewells. Boaters should drain all water after using their rigs in the Great Lakes. Adult mussels may hitch a ride on the boat itself. Boats kept at marinas should be cleaned of all mussels living on the hull, trim tabs, transducers, outdrives and outboard lower units.

The zebra mussel poses a serious threat to inland waterways and fisheries. Gamefish populations may decline if zebra mussels disrupt existing food chains.

IN THE BLEACHERS/ By Steve Moore



Forgetting the "just say no" rule, Leonard succumbs to peer group pressure and is never seen again.

MICROCOMPUTER WORKSHOP ON FISHERIES APPLICATIONS

Continuing education sponsored by the Iowa Chapter will be held at Iowa State University on January 14-15, instructed by Richard V. Frie, Univ. of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. The course will cover a variety of topics, some specific to computer operations, but the primary emphasis of the course will center on the use of computers and software to fisheries. Following is a list of topics which will be covered.

1. Basic computer operations and filing systems with emphasis on directories, files (program, text, ASCII), records, fields, variables.
2. Text editing - editing files to be loaded into database.
3. Spreadsheet analysis - budgets, population estimates.
4. Database management
 - creating a database
 - browsing, editing, indexing
 - enumerating, summing, averaging
 - loading and writing text files
5. Statistical analysis
 - descriptive stats and testing
 - histograms
 - scatter plots
 - correlations, regressions and testing
 - nonparametric testing
6. Fishery analysis
 - CPUE by length class
 - age composition and mean length at age
 - condition
 - growth history of year classes
 - hypothesis testing, example: comparisons of walleye vs. sauger distribution by size, depth, time, etc.

The course will be offered at Iowa State University, Carver Hall, Room 305 with class hours 8-5 each day. Parking is available a short distance away at the Memorial Union parking garage. Registration and enrollment will occur 7:30-8:30 am on the 14th. Fee for the course will be set at \$75.

There will be room for 25 participants and the Chapter Excom decided to apportion the enrollment on the basis of membership ratios. Thus, 18 DNR employees and 7 staff and/or students from Iowa State University will be a reasonable goal for filling the class. If more than 18 Iowa Chapter members from the DNR or 7 chapter members from ISU apply, then the final selection will be made by administrative staff from these units. This is not to discourage members from applying who are not affiliated with either the DNR or ISU. There are a few of you out there; allowances will be made.

Continuing Education Units (CEU) will be available through ISU for \$4.00 addition and can be applied for at time of registration.

Application for
MICROCOMPUTER WORKSHOP ON
FISHERIES APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Address _____

Do you wish CEU? _____ Yes _____ No

DNR Employee _____ ISU Staff/Student _____ Other _____

The \$75 enrollment fee will be payable on January 14, 7:30-8:30 am.

Note: Iowa Chapter Membership is required and dues can be paid at the time of enrollment.

Please send this application to:

Larry Mitzner
Rt. 1 Box 209
Chariton, Iowa 50049

by December 17.

If you are selected, you will be notified by mail with more details on specific location, parking, and verification of times, motels, etc.