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President's Comments

The Annual AFS meeting in Hartford was an important transitional period for the parent society, with the resignation of Paul Brouha as Executive Director. By now, everyone in the society should be aware of the events surrounding Paul's resignation, and I will not dwell on them here. Following Paul's resignation, the special management committee of the governing board was charged with developing a position description and salary range for Paul's replacement, with the approval of the full Governing Board. The committee recently completed this task, and the position is now being advertised. Section members are encouraged to spread the word, or apply themselves.

We are still working on getting a MFS web site up and running. Russell Brown has volunteered to create the site, and we anticipate its completion very soon. Communication via the newsletter is terribly inefficient, so I will attempt to get a complete MFS e-mail list as soon as possible, so we can establish a section listserve and have a dialogue in real time. In the meantime, please feel free to call (541-867-0135), fax (541-867-0138) or e-mail me (Steve.Berkeley@hmsc.orst.edu) with concerns or issues that you would like to see the section address.

At the annual business meeting in Hartford, outgoing president Stocker noted that the section treasury had over \$18,000, and we received a number of excellent suggestions for the use of this money (minutes of that meeting begin on page 3 in this newsletter). One suggestion was to use some of the money to establish a student travel fund so that students could attend the annual AFS meeting. After discussing this with the Executive Committee, we have decided to offer four student travel grants of \$500 each to be used to attend the 1999 AFS meeting in Charlotte, NC. All members are encouraged to spread the word among students. The only requirement is that the applicant be a student member of AFS and that he/she present a paper or poster at the meeting on a topic related to marine fisheries. Because of the limited amount of time available, I suggest that the student award committee for this year consist of me, Max Stocker, Anne Richards and Anne-Marie Eklund. To apply, students should send a two-page (maximum) CV, the title and abstract of their talk or poster, and a one-page letter addressed to:

Steven A. Berkeley
Hatfield Marine Science Center
2030 Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365

I will take care of distributing copies to the rest of the committee.

As we do at every business meeting, we again asked for suggestions for a work plan for the upcoming year. Due to the very limited time available at these annual business meetings, we did not have time to develop much of a plan. I would strongly urge each of you to think about activities that the section could undertake that are consistent with the goals of the MFS, which are: 1) to continue to be AFS member's primary resource for development of marine professionals, 2) MFS will assist in developing public policy affecting marine fish and fisheries, 3) MFS will serve as a source of experts for evaluating research and monitoring programs that address marine fisheries issues in North America, and 4) MFS will increase the diversity of its membership and the marine fisheries profession. If you have any projects that need a jump start or know of any marine fisheries issues that could benefit from section involvement, please let me know.

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Spatial Processes and Management of Fish Populations 17th Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium Anchorage, Alaska, USA—October 27-30, 1999 Call for Papers due February 15, 1999

Symposium Background

Critical aspects of fish population dynamics cannot be satisfactorily addressed by averaging estimated population parameters over the entire range of a stock. Many processes operate over relatively small spatial scales such as oceanic features needed for larvae survival, predator and prey whose spatial distributions vary over time, and discrete habitats required for specific life history stages.

There is also growing interest in spatial management such as marine reserves for protecting seed stock to replenish overfished areas, experimental management areas to gather information on harvest strategy effectiveness, and closed areas to protect bycatch species or important habitats.

Substantial increases in desktop computing power have led to advances in geographic information systems (GIS), spatial statistics, and satellite technology that make spatial fishery research and management widely practical for the first time. The goal of this symposium is to gather world-wide expertise to discuss important spatial features of fish population dynamics, spatial fisheries management applications, and technological advances in this area of spatial fisheries research and management.

Papers are solicited on, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Variations in key population parameters within the geographic range of a stock.
- Spatial variations in oceanographic (ocean fronts, eddies, etc.) or ecological (community gradients) features that play critical roles in the growth and survival of exploited marine populations.
- Spatial distinctiveness in spawning and nursery areas for species with pelagic eggs and larvae, and biophysical mechanisms that transport or retain larvae.
- Use of marine reserves to achieve fishery management objectives.
- Spatially explicit experimental management to:
 1. gather information on population dynamics under alternative harvest strategies.
 2. attempt to separate fishing and “natural” environmental effects.
- Spatial management of sessile organisms particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Spatial management to protect bycatch species or to protect critical habitats.
- GIS and statistical methods to analyze spatial data.
- In situ or remote technologies to gather spatial data for use in fisheries research and management.

This is the first newsletter column for me as your section president, and I will take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. I am currently on the research faculty in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. Prior to this, I was on the staff of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and before that I was on the research faculty at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences in Miami. Prior to coming to Oregon, I primarily was involved with research and management of highly migratory species in the Atlantic, especially swordfish and billfishes. While still involved with these species, my research now is more focused on life history strategies and environmental effects on recruitment in Pacific coast fishes. Despite this shift towards more fundamental research, I remain very aware of and concerned with the impacts of fishing, and very much aware of the failure of our current management systems to prevent overfishing. In fact, I believe we are at a significant crossroads in marine fisheries management. The status of marine fish stocks, once known only to those of us working in this esoteric field, is now common news fodder. The rise in public awareness combined with continued failure to prevent or reverse fisheries declines resulted in significant changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Although still in its infancy, the precautionary approach, if truly enacted, will gradually shift the burden of proof from manager to harvester. In other words, it will be up to resource users to establish that they are not overfishing or otherwise harming the resource rather than the managers and scientists to establish that they are. To be precautionary means we have to build in a margin of safety against uncertainty. One way of creating that cushion that has been receiving increasing attention is with marine reserves. Marine reserves have the advantage that they protect not just the biomass of the target species, but their genetic and demographic diversity as well as that of the other members of the ecosystem and also protect the physical habitat. But, marine reserves are not very popular with the fishing public, and will not work for most pelagic species. To address these and related issues, Hal Weeks and I are organizing a symposium for the 1999 annual AFS meeting entitled “Precautionary management and uncertainty: can the old methods fit the new mandates?” Other MFS sponsored symposia that have been submitted to the committee include: 1) “From depletion to recovery” (organized by Mike Prager, Doug Vaughn, and John Hoenig), which would be a follow up of the overfishing symposium at Hartford, 2) “Mark-recapture” (organized by John Hoenig with Doug Vaughan and possibly others), and 3) “New quantitative methods in fisheries science” (organized by Doug Vaughn and possibly others). I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year, and encourage you to contact me if there are issues or projects with which you would like to see the MFS involved.

~Steve Berkeley, President



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Minutes of the 1998 Marine Fisheries Section Business Meeting
Hartford, Connecticut
23 August, 1998

Prepared by Anne-Marie Eklund, Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting was called to order by MFS president, Max Stocker, at 5:05 p.m.

I. Introductions

Everyone present introduced him/herself along with his/her affiliation. The minutes of the 1997 business meeting in Monterey, CA were approved.

II. President's Report

Max Stocker presented the MFS annual report that was presented to the Governing Board.

A. Bycatch

The book resulting from the MFS co-sponsored symposium on bycatch in Dearborn, "Fisheries Bycatch: Consequences and Management" is now available from the Alaska Sea Grant Program. In addition, further work on the bycatch issue appeared in the June issue of *Fisheries*, with an article written by L.B. Crowder and S.A. Murawski, entitled, "Fisheries bycatch: Implications for management" and a Guest President's Hook column on, "The role of AFS in bycatch issues," authored by MFS past-president, John Boreman.

B. Bluefin tuna and swordfish

President-elect Steve Berkeley has prepared statements on bluefin tuna and swordfish on behalf of the MFS. The bluefin tuna statement appeared in the Winter 1997 issue of the MFS newsletter. Steve is now revising the swordfish statement according to comments made by several reviewers.

C. Endangered marine fishes

Jack Musick updated the Section on activities relating to endangered marine fishes.

1. Criteria for listing marine fishes is being developed, based on the fact that the criteria previously used by the IUCN led to an overstatement of endangerment. A meeting will take place this fall to develop an assessment of population decline.
2. Money from the MFS was used to publish the proceedings from the symposium on long lived species, held at the 1997 Annual Meeting in Monterey. The proceedings will contain 22 publications. The money left over will be used at the above mentioned meeting to develop listing criteria.
3. Two more workshops are planned, one in the southeast on reef fish assemblages and one in the northwest on rock fish assemblages.

Jack concluded that he has received very good input from many regions.

D. Mote International Symposium

The MFS has agreed to sponsor \$500 for the poster session of the Second Mote International Symposium on Essential Fish Habitat and Marine Reserves. The symposium will be held in Sarasota from November 4-6, 1998.

E. Oscar E. Sette Award

The Sette award recognizes meritorious contributions to the field of marine fisheries. Members of the award committee this year were: Doug Vaughn (chair), Ken Able, Pat Gerrior, Dick Stone, and Gary Sakagawa. Two more members and a new chair are needed for the committee, since Doug Vaughn and Gary Sakagawa are scheduled to go off the committee this year.

F. Annual Meeting symposia

The Section sponsored four symposia at the 1998 annual meeting:

1. "New quantitative methods in fisheries stock assessment," and
2. "Overfishing," both organized by John Hoening, Doug Vaughn and Michael Prager, and
3. "Stock Identification - its role in stock assessment and fisheries management," organized by Gavin Begg and Kevin Friedland, and

4. "Biological Integrity of Fish Habitat: a Key Tool for Ecosystem Management?" co-sponsored with the Estuarine Fisheries Section and organized by Ian Hartwell, Stephen Waste and Anne-Marie Eklund.

G. Newsletter and communication

Max thanked newsletter chair, Jane DiCosimo, for a great effort in producing two newsletters this year. The Section is now establishing a web page, with Russell Brown leading the project. Members are welcome to review the overview for the web page that he has. Only a few key pieces are needed to complete the project and the page should be in operation in October 1998.

H. Elections

Doug Vaughan and Anne Richards were nominated for president-elect, and after a close race, Anne Richards was elected. Anne-Marie Eklund ran unopposed for secretary-treasurer. Both positions are two year terms, ending in 2000.

III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

As of June 30, 1998, there were 381 members of the Section. The balance of the Section's account, as of August 16, 1998, was \$18,403.69. Max mentioned that we have a lot of money, and we need to plan how to spend some of it.

IV. Report on Book Sales

Doug Vaughan reported that we need to sell more of the book, *Beverton's Notes on the Dynamics of Exploited Fisheries*. He made an appeal to all members to try to sell some of the books at the meeting. If a book is purchased at the Annual Meeting, the price is \$15, otherwise it costs \$20.

V. Report of the 1998 Governing Board Meeting.

Max Stocker, as member of the AFS Special Management Committee, gave a report on the Governing Board meeting. The AFS Executive Director, Paul Brouha resigned and will be replaced by Bob Kendall, as interim director. The Special Management Committee will serve as the search committee. The Governing Board retreat focused on revisions of the 2000-2004 strategic plan. Our new president, Steve Berkeley, agreed to serve on the Special Management Committee, pending his election by the Governing Board. Steve mentioned that he has a binder with all the reports from the Governing Board, for interested members to review.

VI. Sette Award Presentation to Dr. Houde

The Oscar E. Sette Award for 1998 was presented to Dr. Ed Houde, an outstanding fisheries scientist from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory of the University of Maryland. Dr. Houde said a few words of appreciation for the award.

VII. Other Business

A. St. Louis Meeting

Roger Rulifson, representing the organizers for the 2000 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, said that they were looking for pre-proposals for meeting symposia. Symposia on Bycatch and on Black Bass have already been proposed. The 2000 meeting is meant to be as environmentally friendly as possible, and the organizers are considering posting the abstracts on the Internet, on disk and/or on CD, instead of printing them. They are asking for comments.

B. Fisheries Oceanography

Bob Kendall requested input on a book, entitled *Fisheries Oceanography*, that the American Geophysical Union is publishing. He left a copy of the table of contents for members to review.

C. Radio Program on NPR

Kristin Clarke, the editor of *Fisheries*, asked members to designate someone for a 10 minute talk on National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation* program, to air between 3-4 PM on Wednesday, August 26, 1998. The topics for discussion on the talk show were the Sustainable Fisheries Act (with a focus on habitat issues), the Threatened/Endangered Species List, and the Marine Resources Trust Fund. Max Stocker asked Steve Berkeley to represent the

Section. Jack Musick, John Boreman, Dick Stone, Ed Houde and Ed Irby agreed to help Steve Berkeley to prepare for the presentation. Kristin Clarke also mentioned that the *North American Fishermen* magazine editors were asking for names of people to meet with them and if anybody was interested in doing so, to let her know.

D. CITES meetings

Nancy Daves pointed out that CITES meetings include a very open process of recommending species for Appendices I and II, in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties should contact Nancy at nancy.daves@noaa.gov and marie_maltese@mail.fws.gov.

VII. Program of Work for 1998/1999.

Max asked for ideas for Section activities to begin at the meeting but to continue later via email and web page, with Steve Berkeley in charge.

- A. Dick Stone mentioned the ICCAT process and the need for the Section to send a representative to ICCAT as a member of the scientific delegation.
- B. Max mentioned that our activities should mirror the AFS strategic plan.
- C. Jack Musick suggested that our money could be used for a future initiative, such as the long-lived species at risk initiative, which was already funded.
- D. Max identified the completion of the web page and a Section list server as means to further Section communication.
- E. Mary Fabrizio brought attention to a problem of journals needing more money so that page charges can be reduced or eliminated. Max responded that indeed that was a challenge to be met.
- F. George Guillen suggested that we develop a CDROM for fish information. Nancy Daves responded that John McManus had asked NMFS for information to update the already existing FISHBASE CDROM.
- G. Membership issues were discussed. Jack Musick said that we should all be recruiters and that we could use Section money to sponsor students from US, Canada and Mexico to attend the Annual Meeting. He proposed that we develop a Student Travel Fund for MFS members.

VIII. Installation of New Officers

Incoming president, Steve Berkeley, presented a certificate to outgoing president, Max Stocker.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**Marine Fisheries Section Treasurer's Report
16 August 1997 - 17 August 1998**

Balance on 16 August, 1997	\$17,007.54
Receipts	
Members' Dues	
1997	1,275.00
1998	555.00
Sales: Beverton Notes	
On the Dynamics of Exploited Fishes	843.00
 Total Receipts/Credits	 \$2,673.00
Disbursements	
Newsletter: 2 issues	886.50
One time bank fee for checks	50.35
Correction - Parent Society overpaid dues for '97	340.00
 Total Disbursements	 \$1,276.85
 Balance on 16 August 1997	 \$18,403.69

As of June 30, 1998, there were 381 members of Marine Fisheries Section.

~Anne-Marie Eklund



MFS Member Mailing List

As president of the MFS, I would like to initiate a MFS list serve to enable us to communicate on issues more quickly and efficiently. If you are even casually interested in MFS activities, I urge you to subscribe to this list. To do so, please do the following:

1. Create a new email message sent to lists@hmsc.orst.edu'
2. In the BODY of the message, please type 'subscribe mfslist' (no quotations)
3. Send the message—this will be processed by a computer so if you have any problems subscribing please direct them to our system admin dann.cutter@hmsc.orst.edu).
4. You now will be able to send and receive mail from mfslist@hmsc.orst.edu which is the mailing list address.

~Steve Berkeley

U.S. ACHIEVES GOAL OF ESTABLISHING REBUILDING PLAN FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA; E.U. AGREES TO QUOTA PENALTY FOR OVERFISHING

The United States was successful in establishing the first-ever mandatory plan to rebuild overfished Western Atlantic bluefin tuna at the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In addition, the U.S. delegation's strong stance on quota compliance and accountability for overfishing compelled the European Community to lower its 1999 bluefin quota to make up for past overharvests. The week-long ICCAT meeting concluded Monday.

"We are extremely pleased to have taken a major step towards stabilizing and rebuilding Western Atlantic bluefin tuna," said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Terry Garcia, representing the Secretary of Commerce at the meeting. "The rebuilding plan is the first comprehensive long-term approach of its kind developed at ICCAT, and it reflects the commission's goal of maintaining populations at levels that allow maximum sustainable catch. And, we note the high degree of cooperation between our colleagues from Canada and Japan in achieving this step."

"We were successful in reaching concessions that we were looking for in the Eastern Atlantic. The United States questioned the viability of ICCAT because countries were ignoring their international obligation to conserve bluefin tuna. Without quota compliance and steps toward accountability, the United States would be forced to reevaluate its involvement with the commission. Member countries understood this and responded positively," said Garcia.

The 20-year rebuilding plan establishes a total allowable catch of 2,500 metric tons of Western Atlantic bluefin, which reflects the historical share of the resource divided between the United States, Canada, and Japan. For 1999, the United States will receive 1,387 metric tons, an increase of 43 metric tons. The rebuilding plan allows for flexibility based on future ICCAT scientific data so that it may be modified to reflect updates in stock status. The plan also provides incentives to minimize the discard of undersized bluefin, and requires all countries to monitor and report all sources of fishing mortality.

"While we have many miles to go before Atlantic tuna resources are stabilized and recovered, ICCAT's actions at this year's meeting represent the type of serious, constructive work that will eventually lead to our ultimate goals," said U.S. Commissioner to ICCAT and director of the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service, Rolland Schmitt.

"The rebuilding plan provides stability and a long term certainty. Additionally, the plan establishes a framework that is consistent with our domestic rebuilding objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Act," said Garcia.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna resource is divided into two management areas – the Western and Eastern Atlantic – with ICCAT making specific harvest and rebuilding recommendations for countries that fish in the respective areas.

Countries fishing for bluefin in the Eastern Atlantic were assessed a quota of 32,000 metric tons in 1999 and 29,500 metric tons in 2000. However, the 1999 quota will be reduced by approximately 5,000 metric tons under the terms of the compliance agreement to compensate for overharvests in 1997. The adjusted 1999 quota represents more than a 33 percent reduction in catch levels.

Garcia added, "This candid acknowledgment of overharvest, the actions to reduce catches accordingly, and the willingness to improve the compliance process send a strong message to the world that ICCAT is committed to the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species."

Trade restrictions on bluefin tuna from Panama, Belize and Honduras were maintained. Based on evidence provided by import data, trade data, and sighting information, several Non-Contracting Parties to ICCAT are to receive letters of warning from the ICCAT Secretariat.

ICCAT also adopted resolutions that direct its scientific body to develop rebuilding plans for North and South Atlantic Swordfish, Atlantic bigeye tuna, and Atlantic blue and white marlins, which are all species that have been declared in the U.S. Report to Congress as overfished.

There was considerable discussion at this year's ICCAT meeting of harvesting capacity as a means to limit effort and catch of ICCAT species. These discussions centered on bigeye, albacore, yellowfin and skipjack tunas. Agreement was reached on a plan to identify vessels greater than 24 meters in length harvesting bigeye tuna and to limit the number of these vessels to levels in recent years. Recreational vessels would be exempt, as would be minor harvesting nations, such as the United States.

A recommendation was adopted on southern albacore, which is considered nearly or fully fished, and will be subject to an overall cap equivalent to replacement yield. The four major countries fishing on southern albacore will report their landings bi-monthly and establish sharing arrangements when the catch reaches 80 percent of the cap.

After several years of urging increased transparency, ICCAT made significant progress in opening its proceeding to participants from Non-Governmental Organizations. The Commission revised its guidelines and criteria for granting observer

(continued next page)

(ICCAT continued)

status at ICCAT meetings, including reduced participation fees and less restrictive mechanisms for NGO participation.

ICCAT is a 25-member organization that oversees the scientific monitoring and international management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean. The United States is an ICCAT-member country and the domestic management of ICCAT species is conducted by the Secretary of Commerce under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act.

ICCAT Commentary from the President

Despite the upbeat tone of the NMFS news release on page 6, the actions taken by ICCAT on western Atlantic bluefin tuna and north Atlantic swordfish at this year's meeting are likely to result in further stock declines for both species. The quota increase for bluefin (from 2,354 to 2,500 mt), while small, is inappropriate and risk-prone, especially considering our uncertainty regarding spawning site fidelity and stock structure. Likewise, the above news release is silent on swordfish because no action was taken to reduce fishing mortality on this species. Failure to implement a quota reduction for swordfish will almost certainly result in further stock declines. These actions (or inaction), are risk-prone and not consistent with the recommendations of the Marine Fisheries Section. We believe that an independent review of ICCAT's activities and effectiveness should be undertaken.

~Steve Berkeley

EVALUATING THE BENEFITS OF RECREATIONAL FISHING JUNE 1-4, 1999 VANCOUVER, CANADA

The world's oceans and inland fisheries support thousands of commercial and subsistence fisheries. The contributions that these fisheries make to societies around the world have never been questioned. However, the considerable social, economic, and ecological benefits that recreational fisheries provide have not always been fully acknowledged. Recreational fisheries provide a significant source of employment and outdoor recreation wherever they occur. In addition, many recreational fisheries provide these benefits while imposing lower risks of overharvesting fish populations.

The goal of the conference will be to furnish the basis for full recognition of sport fisheries as an important sector of the world's fishing industry. We believe that providing a forum for academic, government, and private organizations to share information and ideas relating to the desirable economic, social, and ecological benefits of recreational fisheries will accomplish this goal.

Conference Formats and Topics

Papers are solicited on applied and theoretical aspects relating to the evaluation of recreational fisheries. Suggested topics include:

ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS
SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS
LEGAL AND POLICY ASPECTS

Abstract Submission

To contribute either an oral or poster presentation, submit an abstract as text file no later than October 15, 1998 by e-mail to:

events@fisheries.com

- Title, using as few words as possible.
- Author(s) names as they should appear for publication, full affiliation and mailing address, and phone, fax and e-mail address.
- Text of abstract (300 word maximum).
- Indicate whether for oral or poster presentation.

If e-mail is not available, submit hard copy and computer disk to:

Gunna Weingartner Events Officer
UBC Fisheries Centre
2204 Mail Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4
Canada



AFS Meeting Symposium

John Hoenig, Mike Prager and Doug Vaughan are planning several symposia for the 1999 AFS meeting in Charlotte, N.C. The symposia will be as follows:

- (1) *Overfishing, Depletion, Endangerment, and Recovery.* Mike Prager will be contact person for this symposium, which is a follow up of the OVERFISHING symposium from Hartford.
- (2) *Mark-Recapture.* John Hoenig will be contact person for this symposium.
- (3) *New Quantitative Methods in Fisheries Science.* Doug Vaughan will be contact person for this symposium.
- (4) Steve Berkeley and Hal Weeks have also submitted a symposium topic entitled, "Precautionary management and uncertainty: can old methods fit new mandates."

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MFS EDITOR OR YOUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Western

~Vacant~

Central

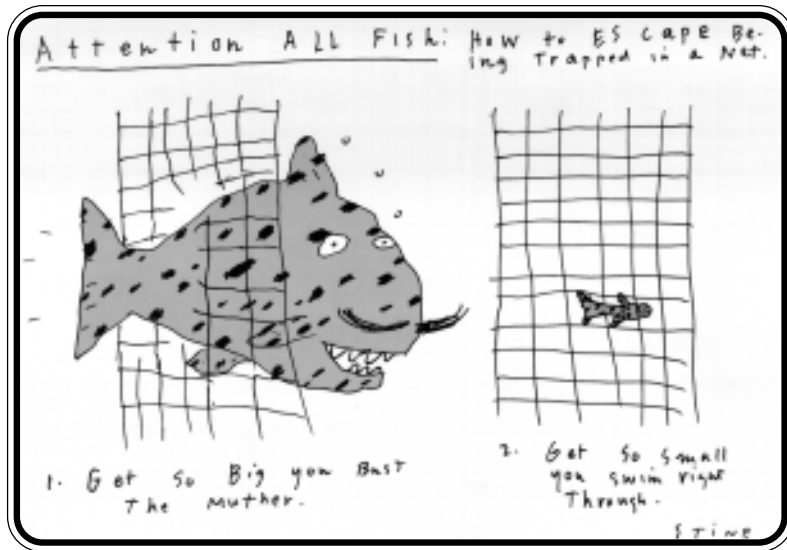
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WE NEED YOU . . .

MFS is seeking someone to fill the Western Regional Representative position. To further entice you, consider the positives: freely giving of your time, soliciting and/or writing articles on issues you deem as valuable to your peers (approximately twice a year), and best of all, if you're into seeing your name in print, your name will be boldly printed on every issue! Come on folks, contact Steve Berkeley right away!

Marine Fisheries Section Newsletter

Jane DiCosimo, Editor

Linda Roberts, Graphic Design

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