



NEWSLETTER

March 2007

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We would appreciate your comments on this electronic version of the NC Chapter Newsletter. Please send all responses to Jerry Finke (jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org).

President's Message – Kent Nelson

Coming from our February chapter meeting with Virginia AFS and into March Madness it's time to chart our course for the upcoming year. It's nice to step in line as President for this year knowing that the chapter is productive, functioning smoothly, thanks to the hard work of committees and members, and is in good financial condition. Receiving the Best Chapter Award from the Southern Division AFS at the 2007 Spring Meeting in Memphis is a tribute to the work of the membership.

I look forward to serving the chapter this upcoming year. Our mission within American Fisheries Society models that of the Society: to coordinate information exchange, outreach, and aquatic stewardship, including coordination with local and state government, NGOs and organizations. Our work to conserve and sustain fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems will never be done. We need to continually focus our efforts on promoting the wise use of aquatic resources by providing science-based information to governmental agencies and other groups and use outreach to inform the public of the wonders and value of these natural resources.

I'd like to thank Duane Harrell for his service to the chapter during his past three-year rotation through the presidential role/EXCOM; Lawrence Dorsey for his leadership this past year; Brian McRae for his longstanding service as Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Coughlan as editor of a first-rate newsletter for as far back as I can remember; and our committee chairs. Committee work continues to be outstanding as you can judge for yourselves in the reports which will follow. A special thanks goes to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to participate in chapter activities.

When all is said and done, the work of our chapter depends on the efforts of individual members and teamwork. If there are activities you'd like to become involved with or think the chapter should undertake, please let me, other EXCOM members, or committee chairs know.

Kent Nelson

Annual Meeting Photo Highlights

The North Carolina and Virginia Chapters of the AFS co-hosted a very successful annual meeting in Danville, VA on February 26-28. A total of 109 members attended with an almost equal split between the North Carolina and Virginia Chapters. Student turnout from Virginia and North Carolina was excellent.



The registration tables stayed very busy on the first day of the meeting with 109 total meeting participants.



Southern Division Past President Bob Curry presents an update to the VA Chapter at their business meeting.



The VA Chapter raffle, run by George Palmer (foreground) and Vic DiCenzo (holding print), was a huge success.



Hutton Scholar Aya Tajiri (standing) is recognized at the NC Chapter business meeting. Aya's internship was sponsored by the NC Chapter.



NCAFS 2007 EXCOM include Past President Lawrence Dorsey, Secretary/Treasurer Brian McRae, President Kent Nelson and President Elect Christian Waters.

NCSU Student Subunit Report

With a highly productive 2006, the NCSU Student Subunit started 2007 off saying “thank-you” to past-presidents Jessica Brewster and Christin Brown for their excellent work in the past year. Newly installed officers included president: Marybeth Brey, vice-president: Lindsay Glass, both PhD students, secretary: Scott Favrot, treasurer: Kevin Magowan, both M.S. students and undergraduate vice-president: Brent Register. With the new installation of officers came a brand new look to our web page thanks to VP, Lindsay Glass (laglass@ncsu.edu). Check it out at www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/sfs/.

The start of the semester had great attendance with around 45 people at our February meeting where Doug Besler, Regional Resource Coordinator—WRC, spoke about trout abundance estimates using mark-recapture and multiple pass electrofishing techniques. We greatly appreciate his willingness to speak at our meeting. Our March meeting included a “field-trip” to the NC-WRC’s new building on NCSU’s centennial campus where Marti Kane talked about the green building features and the new resources available there. Also, we were very grateful to have Bob Curry there to talk about hiring and jobs within the WRC. Thanks to both Marti and Bob who put on an interesting and enthusiastic presentation! As a result of the presentation, the subunit has begun to supply members to the WRC educators to help with their middle school aquatic research projects. Our most recent helper: Christin Brown. Thanks Christin!

February also brought the annual NC-AFS meeting with the VA chapter in Danville, VA. The sub-unit had an excellent showing with six students giving presentations: Christin Brown, Julie Harris, Jessica Brewster, Kevin Magowan, Scott Favrot and Brad Garner. Brad also received the Richard L. Noble Award for the best student paper for the North Carolina Chapter for his talk entitled, “Intensive grass carp stocking effects on reservoir invasive plants and native fish populations.” Congratulations Brad! In addition to the excellent student talks, the subunit also held their annual raffle at the meeting, along side a raffle conducted by the Virginia chapter, with large prizes such as fishing float tube, four-person tent and fishing rods and reels. The subunit raised \$580 to assist with food costs at our monthly meeting, student travel, and community presentations in 2007! The subunit has also agreed to purchase \$100 worth of lab items to assist with

the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Thank you to all who purchased tickets and helped at the meeting!



Marybeth Brey and Lindsay Glass conducting the raffle at the NC-VA AFS meeting in Danville, VA.

Finally, the subunit supplied two students, Marybeth Brey and Lindsay Glass, to present “Finding Nemo!: Marine Biology and NC Fish,” at Meredith College’s Sally Ride Science Festival on March 17th. These festivals are conducted throughout the US to encourage young girls (5th – 8th grade) to enter math and science fields. The festival included an inspiring talk by astronaut, Mary Ellen Weber, PhD., multiple workshops for girls by local veterinarians, astronomers, biologists and engineers; workshops for parents and teachers to support girls’ interests in math and science; and a street fair with hands-on activities, boots, food and music.



Marybeth Brey poses with a group of girls and their “fish prints” at Meredith College’s Sally Ride Science Festival. The NCSU student subunit talked about what it was like to be a fish biologist.

The final subunit meeting of the semester will be held in David Clark Labs 102 on NC State’s north campus at 7:00pm, Tuesday, April 3rd, with guest speaker Jeff Buckel giving a presentation on his research with reef fish. We welcome all chapter

members to our monthly meetings. Come join us for good company and free food! Again, thank you to Doug Besler, Marti Kane, and Bob Curry for speaking at our meetings! If you have any questions for the subunit please don't hesitate to contact Marybeth Brey, student subunit president (mkbrey@ncsu.edu).

Submitted by Marybeth Brey, Student Subunit President

Awards Committee

Several awards were presented during the annual NCAFS meeting held on February 26-28, 2007 in Danville, Virginia. These awards were presented to chapter and non-chapter members for their contributions to the chapter and fisheries in North Carolina.

Student papers were judged for the Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award and the professional papers were judged for the W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Paper Award. There were six presentations by students and five presentations by professionals.

The 2007 Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award was won by Brad Garner for his presentation titled "Intensive grass carp stocking effects on reservoir invasive plants and native fish populations.". The paper was coauthored by Tom Kwak, NCSU, and Hugh Barwick and Kenneth Manuel of Duke Energy. In addition to a Chapter award plaque, Brad will receive a monetary award of up to \$600 from the Chapter's Ichthus fund for travel to present the paper at the 2007 parent society meeting in San Francisco.

The 2007 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Paper Award was won by Bob Barwick for his presentation entitled "Evaluating property owner willingness to implement shoreline habitat improvement techniques". The paper was coauthored by Greg Cope, NCSU.



President Lawrence Dorsey presenting the 2007 Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award to Brad Garner.



President Lawrence Dorsey presenting the 2007 W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Paper to Bob Barwick. Greg Cope, also shown, was coauthor of the paper.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. The 2006 award was presented to Dave Coughlan in recognition of his outstanding dedication, leadership efforts, and service as Editor of the Chapter newsletter. Dave has been instrumental in transitioning the newsletter to an electronic format on the Chapter web site and has greatly increased the quality and value of this publication. Dave has also selflessly volunteered his time to further the Chapter development through his work on EXCOM and serving as a judge for paper presentations over the years.



President Lawrence Dorsey presenting the 2007 Distinguished Service Award to Dave Coughlan.

The Fisheries Conservation Award recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or to the fisheries resources of North Carolina. The 2006 award was presented to Richard Mode in recognition of his outstanding dedicated and tireless volunteer work to conserve fisheries and water quality resources in North Carolina over the past 30 years. He has volunteered thousands of hours to work on clean water, high-quality fisheries and wildlife habitat, and vital, vibrant forests in North Carolina. He has also used his organizational talents to successfully organize fisheries and wildlife advocacy groups in the State. Richard has been actively involved in environmental issues through Trout Unlimited, the N.C. Wildlife

Federation, and the Wildlife Federation. Richard has been most recently involved in the Catawbee-Wateree hydropower relicensing of Duke Energy's hydroelectric power plants. His dedicated work helped contribute to a successful license settlement agreement with the Company that will help shape the new operating license for the hydroelectric plants for the next 50 years. He was also recently selected as the 2006 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year.



President Lawrence Dorsey presenting the Fisheries Conservation Award to Richard Mode.

Finally, the Chapter recognized outgoing president, Lawrence Dorsey, for his hard work and outstanding leadership as Chapter President over the past year. Lawrence contributions were numerous during his tenure; most significantly, the Chapter received the Outstanding Chapter Award from the Southern Division AFS in February 2007.



President Kent Nelson presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing President Lawrence Dorsey.

Congratulations to all of these award recipients for a job well done!

Submitted by John Crutchfield, Awards Committee Chair

News from around North Carolina

AFS Disaster Relief Program – Letter from AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam

Dear AFS Membership,

In August and September 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated large portions of Louisiana and Mississippi and caused significant impacts to Alabama, Florida, and Texas. Collectively they are considered the largest natural disaster yet to occur in North America. The AFS Disaster Relief Program, administered primarily through the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS), assumed full responsibility for hurricane relief for its members in June 2006. Emphasis focused on outreach to members and their agencies or institutions in Louisiana and Mississippi. Additional relief efforts were extended to Alabama, Florida, and Texas; however, no requests for assistance were received.

The American Fisheries Society is interested in your perceptions on the success of the Disaster Relief Program and recommendations to improve

the program. Your responses will help the AFS to develop procedures to address future disaster relief situations. The survey consists of approximately 8 questions that should take between 3 and 10 minutes to complete.

Please take the time to respond to this survey. Your responses are very important to the future success of the AFS Disaster Relief Program.

The survey can be accessed at the following address: <http://129.15.97.32/sdafs>. Please respond to the survey by 4/19/07.

We greatly appreciate your time. Please contact Danielle Pender, SDAFS Disaster Relief Coordinator, by e-mail danielle.pender@earthlink.net if you have any questions or need additional information regarding the survey.

Thank you very much,
Gus Rassam, Executive Director

The Importance of Voucher Material Guest editorial from Bryn H. Tracy, NCDWQ (bryn.tracy@ncmail.net)

Why Voucher Specimens?

A critical part of the completion of any fisheries study is the deposition of voucher material. By having your specimens catalogued at a regional museum, other scientists, next week-next year-or 100 years from now, can examine and verify the species that you studied or collected yesterday or today.

An example in point – as I was investigating the native *vs.* the nonindigenous fauna of the Yadkin River Basin for my recent talk at the NC/VA AFS Chapter meeting in Danville, VA, voucher material at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences of *Hypentelium nigricans*, the Northern Hog Sucker, from the 1960-1961 NCWRC survey by Tatum, Carnes, and Richardson, was re-examined by Wayne Starnes. Much of the material from this statewide survey was the basis for many of the species records plotted in Menhinick (1991). The Northern Hog Sucker records for the Yadkin River basin came from four streams fairly close to one another in Caldwell and Wilkes counties (Yadkin River, Kings Creek, Warrior Fork, and Reddies River). Material from only one of the four sites (Kings Creek) was found at the Museum and Wayne determined that the specimen, originally identified as *H. nigricans*, was actually a young

specimen of *Catostomus commersonii*, the White Sucker. Specimens of *H. nigricans* from the other three sites were not vouchered. Subsequent sampling of numerous sites in the upper river basin by staff from the DWQ, NCWRC, and others led me to believe that the material from Warrior Fork and the Yadkin River were also probably not the Northern Hog Sucker and that the only valid early record of the species in the Yadkin River Basin was from the Reddies River. To this day, the species is confined to this watershed with two other separate introductions in Toms Creek and in the mainstem Yadkin River well below its confluence with the Ararat River. Without the vouchered material and the recent re-examination of this material, the species, now considered nonindigenous, had long been determined by others as being indigenous, but localized in the basin.

What Material Should One Voucher?

Whenever I am preparing for a sampling trip, I query the wadeable stream fish community assessment database (<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/NCIBI.htm>), the river basin-specific species list (<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/bau.html>), and my up-dated copy of Menhinick (1991) and make a list of the species that I am likely to encounter. This list, with any Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species high-lighted, accompanies me into the field in the back of my clip board. Any species that is collected that is not on that list is preserved in 10 percent formalin. Also preserved are unusually pigmented or tuberculate specimens, possible hybrids, physically deformed specimens, specimens representing new county records, and species that are known from the basin but perhaps not from the subbasin I am working in (e.g., the South Yadkin River or Ararat River watersheds).



Nocomis leptocephalus X Clinostomus funduloides hybrid, Cody Creek, Surry County.

Some species of *Notropis* and *Cyprinella* are easier to identify in the laboratory with preserved material than in field and these specimens are also preserved. With more focus on the genetics of fish populations or of undescribed species, the preservation of whole specimens or fin clips in 95

percent ethyl alcohol has gained in importance. To assist the Museum in expanding their genetic holdings, we have also preserved material in ethanol from several river basins and for many species (e.g., Fantail Darter, Piedmont Shiner, and Redlip Shiner) over the past several years. [Note: what is ultimately preserved also depends on the restrictions set forth in one's scientific collection permit(s) issued by the NCWRC and the Division of Marine Fisheries. Consult your permit for any restrictions.]



Phoxinus oreas, Ararat River, Surry County. Note scoliosis in the middle specimen.

While a small reference collection is maintained at our laboratory, almost all of our preserved material is vouchered at the Museum. This material is then readily available to any researcher. I have frequently re-examined our own vouchered material when I have questioned the identifications. By having this material properly preserved and databased at the Museum, researchers can verify that the Warpaint Shiner was introduced into the upper Yadkin River in the late 1980s and has expanded into other nearby watersheds; genetic analyses may even give a clue as to whether the founding population(s) came from the Catawba River or from the New River basin.

Your specimens are just as valuable. Please consider the Museum as our regional repository for all voucher material from any freshwater and marine fishery study conducted in North Carolina. For techniques on specimen preservation, please consult the AFS book on Fisheries Techniques or ASIH's Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research (<http://www.asih.org>). For depositing material at the Museum, please contact Wayne Starnes (wayne.starnes@ncmail.net) or Gabriela Hogue (gabriela.hogue@ncmail.net).

Sampling Opportunity News from Jerry Finke, NCWRC – There is a new page on the NCAFS Website for students and any one else interested in participating in NCWRC field sampling. This page will provide information on field sampling opportunities throughout the state. To access this page go to <http://www.sdafs.org/ncafs/news.htm> and click on Upcoming Sampling Opportunities. Interested parties should check this page for sampling schedules and contact the biologist listed for more information on how they can participate.

NCWRC biologists, hatchery managers, and coordinators who would like to provide this "hands-on" experience to students should check out this page to see what sampling information is required and send it to me at least 1 week in advance. I will make every effort to post it immediately. Initially we will be listing NCWRC sampling activities however I think both university and private industry field sampling schedules could be listed here as well. I would encourage other aquatic/fish biologists across the state to also participate by sending me sampling schedules whenever they need an extra hand or just have an empty seat on a sampling boat. These "hands-on" opportunities can provide an invaluable educational experience to both undergraduate and graduate students. Please let Jerry Finke know of any questions or comments: (919) 528-9886, jerry.finke@ncwildlife.org.

Third Annual Smart Gear Competition News forwarded by Tom Kwak, NCSU - The third annual WWF International Smart Gear Competition launched today seeking new designs for fishing gear that reduces marine bycatch - the accidental catch and related deaths of marine mammals, birds, sea turtles and non-target fish species in fishing gear. Many millions of tons of what is caught in the course of fishing are thrown back into the sea dead or dying each year.

"Our work is all about creating positive solutions to problems facing our world," said Carter Roberts, president and CEO of World Wildlife Fund. "Bycatch is a huge problem. It's the leading threat to many endangered marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds. SmartGear Competition encourages innovative solutions to this threat."

The winning designer will receive a \$30,000 grand prize. There will also be two \$10,000 runner-up prizes. Entries will be judged on whether they are innovative, practical, cost-effective, reduce bycatch of any species and makes an important contribution to conservation. The judges include fishermen,

researchers, engineers and fisheries managers from all over the world.

The competition is open to eligible entrants from any background-including fishermen, professional gear manufacturers, teachers, students, engineers, scientists and backyard inventors. Instructions for entering the competition are available at www.smartgear.org. Completed entries must be submitted by July 31, 2007.

"Bycatch is a serious threat to marine life that demands a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary response," said Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries Service. "WWF's Smart Gear competition has been an effective way to catalyze that response by encouraging creative thinkers everywhere to share their ideas for minimizing bycatch."

Last year's winner was a New Jersey inventor who designed fishing gear that could save thousands of sharks from accidentally dying on fishing lines each year. The winner's design uses a shark's ability to detect magnetic fields as a way to protect them by placing strong magnets just above baited hooks. The design will be tested this spring and summer in advance of potential commercial use.

For official competition rules and to learn how to enter, please visit www.smartgear.org. The competition begins February 7, 2007 and ends July 31, 2007. Employees, agents, current contractors, and relatives of employees of World Wildlife Fund, Inc. or any WWF National Organization are ineligible. Judges and relatives of Judges are also ineligible. The competition is void where prohibited. Odds depend on number of entries received. No purchase is necessary.

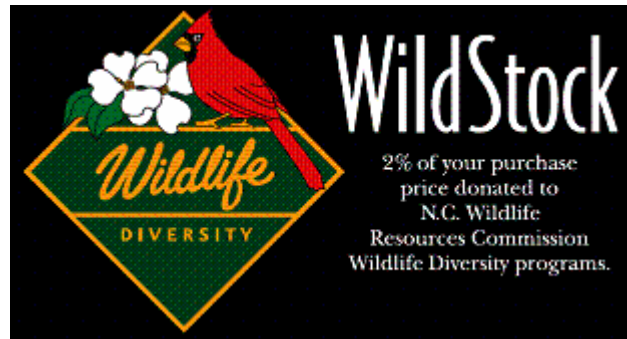
WildStock Campaign to Benefit Wildlife, NCWRC Press Release - WildStock, a statewide conservation campaign for wildlife fundraising and awareness, will soon be underway. WildStock offers a unique partnership opportunity for North Carolina merchants and their customers to help nongame and endangered species. A WildStock label on merchandise means each sale benefits the Wildlife Diversity Program of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

“Through the licensing of distinctive labeling to manufacturers, distributors and retailers of selected consumer goods, WildStock creates an opportunity to contribute to vital conservation efforts,” said Mark Dubowski, marketing director for the Wildlife Resources Commission. “Two percent of each purchase goes to help the state’s wildlife diversity, which includes endangered, threatened and nongame species.”

WildStock will be administered by the North Carolina Cardinal Foundation. The range of wildlife that will benefit from WildStock varies from bald eagles to green salamanders, northern flying squirrels to eastern box turtles. The money raised will assist resource management, species monitoring and research, as well as restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat at a time when crucial federal funding has been cut.

The WildStock campaign will be launched at an afternoon festival and concert on April 14 at Bass Pro Shops at Concord Mills Mall, located off Interstate 85 in Concord about a mile from Lowe's Motor Speedway. Gates open at 2 p.m. and music starts at 4 p.m. For information on performers and advance ticket sales, go online to www.wildstocker.org.

Exhibitors on festival grounds will include members of Teaming With Wildlife, a national coalition of more than 5,000 organizations that works to increase state and federal funding for wildlife conservation. For more information, go online to <http://statewildlife.nwf.org/nc/>.



Meetings of Interest

4th North American Reservoir Symposium – June 6-9, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems.

<http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/symposium/index.html>.

North American Native Fishes Association (NANFA) 2007 Conference – June 7-10, 2007, Greensboro, NC. See <http://www.nanfa.org/> or <http://forum.nanfa.org/index.php>

Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists – July 11-16, 2007, St. Louis, MO. <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/jointmeeting>.

137th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society– Sept. 2-6, 2007, San Francisco, CA. <http://www.fisheries.org/afs2007/>. **Attention students:** Travel awards for minority and female students are available through the AFS Equal Opportunities Sections. For more information visit <http://www.fisheries.org/units/eos/>. Applications are due May 15th.

Wild Trout IX Symposium - Sept 16-19, 2007, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone WY. Sustaining Wild Trout in a Changing World. www.wildtroutsymposium.com/.

2007 SEAFWA Conference – Oct. 21-24, 2007, Charleston, WV.

2007 Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference – November 7–8, 2007, Rocky Gap State Park, Cumberland, MD. Abstracts due May 31, 2007. http://www.canaanvi.org/canaanvi_web/events_ed.aspx?collection=cvi_works

2008 Southern Division AFS Spring Meeting – Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2008, Wheeling, WV.

If you are aware of meeting information that would be beneficial to the membership of the NCAFS, please send it to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next newsletter. ksparks1@nc.rr.com

Employment Opportunities

Internship Opportunities at Edenton National Fish Hatchery

The Edenton National Fish Hatchery is recruiting interns for the spring, summer, and fall production seasons. Up to two interns are being sought to cover all or part of each season. Interns may serve multiple seasons.

Edenton is primarily a striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) production hatchery. Edenton also raises large numbers of American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and small numbers of other fish, including bluegill, fathead minnows, channel catfish, and largemouth bass. Volunteers will work a 40 hour week, including occasional weekend duty.

To apply, send a resumé to the Edenton National Fish Hatchery, 1102 West Queen Street, Edenton, NC 27932. Applicants may contact the hatchery manager, Steve Jackson, at 252-482-4118, ext. 24 or email him at Stephen.Jackson@fws.gov for details such as stipend, housing (furnished), and duration.

Temporary Fisheries Field Technician NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

****Available Immediately****

Position title: Fisheries Technician

Position Number: T11660702C

March 25 - June 15

Agency/Location: North Carolina State University (Murphy, NC)

Responsibilities: Currently accepting applications for a full-time fisheries field technician to assist

with research studying the reproductive ecology of a rare and imperiled redhorse species in North Carolina mountain rivers. Field methods will include radio telemetry, electrofishing, sampling with weirs, and microhabitat assessment.

Qualifications: Candidates must be willing to work long hours, live in a remote location, and work in inclement weather. A BS degree in fisheries science or a related field is preferred.

Salary: \$400/week and housing

Closing Date: Until filled

Contact: Please phone promptly (828-713-3632). Then arrange to send cover letter, resume, contact information for three professional references, and unofficial transcripts via e-mail to:

Scott Favrot, NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Campus Box 7617, Raleigh, NC 27695

Ph: 828-713-3632

Fax: 919-515-4454

Email (Preferred): sdfavrot@ncsu.edu

Candidates are subject to background checks.

Complete NCSU application and return by mail or fax.

<http://www2.ncsu.edu/nccoopunit/downloads/NCSUTempApplication.pdf>

If you have a fishery-related job opening and would like to post it in the next NCAFS Newsletter, please send your announcement to the newsletter editor.

ksparks1@nc.rr.com.

Valuable Links –

The American Fisheries Society Home Page offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishery endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, public outreach, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found at

<http://www.fisheries.org/>.