



FISH HEALTH SECTION



Newsletter

FHS Memberships Open; Elections Set

1972
This issue of the FHS Newsletter contains your membership application and your official ballot for the election of FHS officers for the year 1973. The Steering Committee is glad to report that FHS activities are on schedule and that the Section will be officially inaugurated on 1 January 1973.

Two major items of business are before us at this time. First comes the registration of new members. FHS membership is open only to AFS members. If you are not now an AFS member you must join for 1973. AFS membership applications are available from Chuck Hicks, Chairman Pro Tem of the Membership and Balloting Committee. Chuck's address is listed on the membership application form. AFS membership applications have been enclosed with the Newsletters mailed to those of you whose names are not listed in the latest AFS Directory. Please do not send AFS membership applications to the FHS. Send AFS membership applications and AFS dues to the AFS! Your active membership in the AFS, your completed FHS membership application, and your \$2.00 FHS dues for 1973 will validate your ballot.

Election of FHS officers for the year 1973 is the second item of interest. The Steering Committee has worked hard to select candidates who would drive the FHS forward and provide the leadership that a young, evolving professional organization needs. Barring unforeseen circumstances the Section will be under the direction of our elected officers as of 1 January 1973.

You will notice that we have combined the membership applications and the ballots in a single mailing. This method was chosen to help keep FHS activities on schedule and costs at a minimum. We could not afford to print and distribute membership applications and follow with a second mailing for the election process. Time was another significant factor. For this year only the Membership and Balloting Committee will register your membership, separate your marked ballot, and count the pooled ballots on 15 December. In future years ballots will be distributed to registered members by 1 October separate from any other material.

Section activities for 1973 will likely be directed toward establishing contacts with the fisheries field, development of professional standards for fish pathologists, standardization of disease detection procedures, and internal functions such as the polishing of the FHS Bylaws for member ratification and formal establishment with relations with the parent Society. All "doors" to all committees are open and your contributions, whether solicited or not, will be of value in directing Section efforts. Remember, the FHS is the only existing national fish health organization, make it serve both your interests and the interests of the fisheries field through your active participation.

Join the FHS today and vote!

CURRENT TOPICS

1. INTERFERON may be responsible for low virus yields or the lack of CPE development in fish cell cultures. Don Amend of the BSF&W's Western Fish Disease Laboratory reports that Dr. DeKinkelin of the Laboratoire d'Ichtyopathologie in Paris, France has found that the transfer of undiluted virus and the use of elevated incubation temperatures increase the yield of interferon. Dr. DeKinkelin's work has shown that VHS will induce an interferon response in both cell cultures and in fish. His results are soon to be published. In the meantime Amend suggests that virus harvests from cell cultures should be diluted to 10^{-3} at each transfer and that incubation temperatures below 15° C. should be used to lessen the effect of interferon on the development of CPE. (For further information contact: Mr. Donald F. Amend, Western Fish Disease Laboratory, Building #204, Naval Support Activity, Seattle, Washington 98115)
2. ORAL VACCINATION of first-feeding salmon and steelhead against Vibrio has been successfully accomplished by John Rohovec of Oregon State University and Bob Garrison of the Oregon Game Commission. The vaccine consists of whole wet Vibrio cells killed with formalin. The dead bacteria are incorporated directly into the Oregon Moist Pellet starter diet at the rate of 2 mg. of cells per gram of diet. Sufficient vaccine-feed is prepared for a 15-day course of vaccination. Following treatment the fish are "rested" for an additional two week period before being transferred to saltwater rearing ponds. Mortalities to Vibrio infections among unvaccinated fish range from 80 to 100 percent while losses among the treated fish range from 15 to 20 percent. (For further information contact: Dr. John L. Fryer, Department of Microbiology, Bioscience Building, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331)
3. LEGISLATION authorizing the establishment of a cooperative National fish health program has been favorably reported out of the Senate Committee on Commerce. The Bill, S. 2764, now contains essentially the same language as a companion Bill in the House, H. R. 14730 which was introduced in May 1972 by Congressman Garmatz of Maryland. At this writing (9/26) S. 2764 has been called up for a floor vote in the Senate but it has not been placed on the calendar. Washington sources indicate that the remaining trip through the Senate may be rough. The tropical fish industry is seeking an ammendment exempting aquarium fish from the provisions of the Bill. In addition, the catfish industry and at least one State agency have yet to establish their positions on the legislation. Passage by the Senate would send the Bill to the House where legislative calendars are crowded due to the approach of the end of the session and up-coming election activities.

MEETINGS AND MISCELLANY

FISH HEALTH NEWS, a new series of abstracts on fish disease research topics, is now being distributed to fish health specialists at no charge. The staff of the Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory of the BSF&W, located at Leetown, West Virginia prepares and edits the quarterly series. The Editors ask that organizational names be used for their mailing list rather than individuals and that copies be circulated locally to reduce publishing and mailing costs. FISH HEALTH NEWS is not a publication of the Fish Health Section of the AFS, but FHS members will find the contents of each issue useful and time-saving.