

FHS NEWSLETTER is posted on the website – go to the Newsletter link on:
<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Reminder: An archive of these updates is posted on the website with the password: fhs

FHS NEWS

The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs>

2008 ANNUAL MEETING FHS-AFS – www.upei.ca/FHS-AFS2008

Timelines at: <http://ocs.vre.upei.ca/index.php/FHS/FHS2008/schedConf/timeline>

The website for the PEI meeting is up and running and taking registration payments, etc.

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS: SNIESZKO, ACHIEVEMENT, AND STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

As we look ahead to the 2008 Fish Health Section Annual Meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, the Awards Committee is pleased to solicit nominations for the following two awards:

- 1) S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award (SDSA), honoring individuals for outstanding accomplishments in the field of aquatic animal health
- 2) Special Achievement Award, presented periodically to a FHS member who has made a significant accomplishment in the fish health field regarding a new discovery, diagnostic method, publication, etc. during the past year

Criteria outlining qualifications for these awards are attached or can be found at the section website: www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/awards.htm.

Students planning on attending the meeting are encouraged to apply for Snieszko Student Travel Awards. The total amount available is unknown at this time, but will be divided by the number of students who apply and qualify. For more information on AFS travel assistance see the attached criteria or visit the website at <http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/student.htm>.

FHS members interested in nominating an individual for the Snieszko or Special Achievement Awards and students seeking travel assistance should send required materials to the Awards Committee via Al Camus at camus@uga.edu or using the address below.

*Dr. Al Camus
Department of Pathology
College of Veterinary Medicine
The University of Georgia*

501 D.W. Brooks Drive
Athens, GA 30602-7388

Phone: 706-542-5848
FAX: 706-542-5828

UPDATE ON SECTION'S POLICY/POSITION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (PPDC) – see attached AFS-FHS member letter.doc

Last year FHS President Ted Meyers proposed the establishment of a policy committee for the purpose of generating policies to support the mission and objectives of the Section. This measure was approved by the ExCom. Subsequently, Ted solicited FHS members to participate on this new group. Kevin Amos, Denise Petty and Scott LaPatra volunteered to serve and stand election as members of the "Policy/Position Development Committee" (PPDC) in the upcoming Section's elections. Since the committee was formed it has developed and received approval from the ExCom on operating procedures (see below). Now, as a Section member, you can play a role in helping develop our policy and position statements. As the PPDC is officially now open for business, you are invited to send you inquiries/policy recommendations to a member of the committee – Denise Petty – pettyd@ufl.edu, Scott LaPatra – scottl@clearsprings.com, or Kevin Amos – doradoamos2@comcast.net

On another note, the U.S. Senate and House are now in conference to reach agreement on the 2007 (now 2008) Farm Bill. An important amendment to that legislation is Senator Snowe's amendment that provides a mechanism to start implementation of the national aquatic animal health plan (NAAHP). On behalf of AFS, Gus Rassam has previously sent a letter to Senator Snowe expressing support for her amendment by the parent society. It is important TODAY that you contact your federal legislators and express your support. I have attached a draft form letter modeled after Gus' that you might find helpful to use.

Denise, Scott, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Kevin

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:

<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/meeting.htm>

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Annual Science Conference (ASC)
22-26 September 2008, Halifax, Nova Scotia

On-line abstract submission is now available at the ICES ASC website:
<http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2008/index.asp>

Abstract due date: 21 April 2008

Theme Session D: New Trends in Diseases of Marine Organisms: Causes and Effects

There is considerable scientific and public interest in ICES Member Countries related to diseases and parasites of wild and farmed marine fish and shellfish, both in the context of ecosystem health monitoring and assessment and in the context of the expansion and growing importance of mariculture activities. Furthermore, efforts initiated for an assessment of the health status of marine mammals have increased over the past years.

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be considered for Theme Session D on the following and other relevant subjects:

- causes and effects of emerging diseases (incl. parasites) in wild fish, shellfish and other marine organisms;
- causes and effects of new diseases (incl. parasites) in farmed fish and shellfish;
- the use of diseases and parasites of wild marine organisms as indicators in integrated ecosystem health monitoring and assessment;
- new trends in the disease interactions between wild and farmed fish and shellfish;
- effects of introduced species on the health status of native fish and shellfish stocks;
- new methodologies related to disease diagnosis and control.

For further information contact: Sharon MacLean (sharon.maclean@noaa.gov), Thomas Lang (thomas.lang@vti.bund.de) or Sharon McGladdery (mcgladderys@inspection.gc.ca)

HEALTH AND COLONY MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY FISH -

<http://www.mdibl.org/courses/fishhealth08.shtml>

Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory Bar Harbor, Maine

Applications are being accepted for this 1-week short course for individuals with maintenance, management or research responsibilities in which fish are used as laboratory animals.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - JULY 15.

The course is offered at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Salisbury Cove, Maine during the period of 25 - 29 August 2008. Topics to be discussed will include general system design and water quality management, anatomy and histology of fish, general fish diseases and disease management strategies. Infectious and non-infectious diseases common to all fish as well as specific diseases of importance to laboratory-maintained zebrafish will be discussed. The course will consist of lecture, laboratory exercises and discussions. During the course there will be an opportunity for students to discuss unusual and/or unsolved diagnostic case experiences from their home laboratories as problem-solving exercises. The course should be particularly valuable to technical staff, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty and investigators needing skills to monitor the health of a colony of aquatic organisms.

For more information on the course, please see the course web site at:

Sustainable Control of Fish Diseases in Aquaculture workshop on Molecular Techniques in Fish Health Research
29 - 30 April 2008
Copenhagen (Denmark)

The research school SCOFDA will organize a two day workshop on Molecular Techniques in Fish Health Research. Venue is the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences, Frederiksberg C, Denmark.

Please contact kape@life.ku.dk or kub@life.ku.dk for further information and registration. This information was provided by AquaVetMed e-news

JOBS

FACULTY POSITION IN MARINE SCIENCE (AQUACULTURE)

Memorial University Of Newfoundland
Ocean Sciences Centre

The Ocean Sciences Centre (OSC) of Memorial University is building on its strengths in marine science, and invites applications for a tenure-track or tenured faculty position to be appointed at the appropriate rank (assistant, associate, or full professor). The successful candidate will possess a Ph.D. and post-doctoral or equivalent experience, and be expected to develop an internationally competitive basic research program in fish or invertebrate biology. Further, they will be expected to conduct research with direct applications to marine aquaculture, to take a lead role in the research activities of the OSC's Dr. Joe Brown Aquatic Research Building (JBARB), to contribute to teaching in marine aquaculture, and to liaise with government agencies and the developing aquaculture industry.

The OSC (<http://www.osc.mun.ca/>), which is located 10 km north of the university's main campus in St. John's, has excellent laboratory and seawater facilities, an active field services unit, and is recognized internationally for the quality and productivity of research programs in marine biology and ecology, aquaculture, marine animal physiology, biochemistry and genomics, and chemical, biological and fisheries oceanography. The mandate of the OSC is to conduct and promote research into the marine environment, primarily through the teaching and supervision of honors and graduate (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) students, and post-doctoral fellows. At present, the OSC has a core faculty of 14 and a staff of 30. In addition, 60 graduate students and 4 post-doctoral fellows/research associates are presently conducting research at the OSC.

Memorial University is the largest university in Atlantic Canada, and as the Province's only university, plays an integral role in the education and cultural life of Newfoundland and Labrador. Offering diverse undergraduate and graduate programs to almost 18,000 students, Memorial provides a distinctive and stimulating environment for learning in St. John's, a safe, friendly city with great historic charm, vibrant cultural life and easy access to a range of outdoor activities.

To apply, send an application (including a statement of research and teaching interests, a curriculum vitae, and the names of three referees) to: Dr. Ian Fleming, Director, Ocean Sciences Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, A1C 5S7 (e-mail wsparkes@mun.ca, phone 709-737-2767). Electronic applications are encouraged. The closing date for receipt of applications is 31 March 2008. Memorial University is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from qualified women and men, visible minorities, aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities. Canadian citizens, permanent residents, candidates eligible for NSERC University Faculty Awards, and foreign nationals are all encouraged to apply. However, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Please quote the following reference number in your application.

Marine Aquaculture-VPA-OSC-2006-002

PhD POSITIONS, UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND – see attached NNF DIMO grad fellow add.pdf

New graduate program in Diseases of Marine Organisms at the University of Rhode Island. This program is supported by the USDA CSREES National Needs Graduate Fellowship Program, the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, Rhode Island Sea Grant, and the University of Rhode Island.

Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Associate Professor
Graduate Program Director
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RESOURCES

ICHTHYOGRAM - http://wildlife.utah.gov/fes/pdf/volume_18-34.pdf

Most of this edition features ongoing research on WD resistant trout.

JUST FOR FUN - <http://www.wauifekt.com/photo/top-10-ugly-fishes>

NEWS

GENETIC DISCOVERY BRINGS WELFARE BENEFITS -

<http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/9908>

Published: 04 February, 2008

SIGNIFICANT improvements in the welfare and commercial performance of farmed Atlantic salmon are being achieved by the Scotland and Chile-based breeding company, Landcatch Natural Selection (LNS), it was claimed today.

LNS says it is the first company to successfully locate a major gene which affects resistance to infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN), a discovery which is now being used commercially to further improve IPN resistance in Landcatch Atlantic salmon. See website for story

VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA, NORWAY

Information received on 29/01/2008 from Mr. Arild Pettersen, Senior adviser, Legislation, section animal health and feed, The Norwegian Food safety Authority, Brumunddal, Norway

Summary

Report type - Follow-up report No. 1

Start date - 22/11/2007

Date of first confirmation of the event - 26/11/2007

Report date - 29/01/2008

Date submitted to OIE - 29/01/2008

Reason for notification - Reoccurrence of a listed disease

Date of previous occurrence - 1974

Manifestation of disease - Clinical disease

Causal agent - Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus

Nature of diagnosis - Suspicion, Clinical, Laboratory (advanced), Necropsy

This event pertains to a defined zone within the country

See OIE WAHID Weekly Disease Information, Vol. 21 - No. 5, 31 Jan, 2008 (<http://tinyurl.com/2hkk96>) for the full report. This information was provided by AquaVetMed e-news

VHS: GREAT LAKES STRAIN IS DIFFERENT , SAY GENETICISTS

- <http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/6169/vhs-great-lakes-strain-is-different-say-geneticists>; see attached vhsfs.pdf

A devastating virus that has killed thousands of fish in the Great Lakes over the past few years is different from other strains of the same virus found in Europe and the West Coast of the United States, according to new genetic research by the US Geological Survey.

The Great Lakes' strain of viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) is the only strain outside of Europe that has been associated with significant die-offs of freshwater fish species.

VHS virus is a rhabdovirus that is the causative agent of one of the most dangerous viral diseases of fish, said Dr Jim Winton, a fisheries scientist at the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center (WFRC) in Seattle. The virus belongs to a family of viruses that includes rabies. The disease causes internal bleeding in fish, but is not harmful to people.

Winton and co-authors Gael Kurath and William Batts recently authored a new USGS fact sheet that describes important genetic information about isolates of VHSV from Great Lakes region (see factsheet: Molecular Epidemiology of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus in the Great Lakes Region). Other strains of the VHS virus are found in continental Europe, North Pacific Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea and North Sea.

"This Great Lakes strain appears to have an exceptionally broad host range" said Winton. "Significant die-offs have occurred in muskellunge, freshwater drum, yellow perch, round goby, emerald shiners and gizzard shad" see website for entire story

FIRST LIVE-ATTENUATED VACCINE FOR S. INIAE IN DEVELOPMENT

http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/NEWSROOM/NEWSRELEASES/Victor_Nizet.html

In preliminary trials, researchers have for the first time demonstrated the feasibility of using a live-attenuated vaccine to prevent the deadly *Streptococcus iniae* infection in fish. See website for entire story