



President's Message

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying a safe and productive summer! As I prepare to transition to the role of immediate past-president, I would like to thank the NED membership for the opportunity to serve as an officer, and thank all of the volunteers who made getting the work of the Division done possible.

We had a great (although small) annual meeting in Virginia Beach in April 2005. We have had several years of excellent communication with the host state and active involvement of the NED in planning the fisheries program. As a result, the Division will continue to hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, and we will be meeting in Burlington, Vermont in April 2006. Several special sessions are already in the works and this meeting promises to be well attended.

The EXCOM will be recommending several changes to the Division's bylaws over the next few months. The main purpose of these changes is to broaden the pool of candidates that would be willing to serve as NED officers. Currently, only members who have attended at least one of the previous three Division annual

business meetings are eligible to serve as officers. The proposed changes will include all those who have served as Chapter Presidents or NED committee chairs during the previous three years even if they did not attend an annual business meeting in that time frame. Other changes being proposed will lead to improvements in the Division's committee structure. We will be sending the proposed bylaw changes out via e-mail for your review and approval – so keep an eye out for our NED e-mail!

Margaret Murphy is our incoming president, and she has developed a plan of work to guide the Division's activities over the next year. Take a few minutes to read her ideas (found later in this newsletter) and reflect on them. Please send your suggestions or comments to Margaret (mmurphy@qeallc.com).

It's been a great year working with the NED officers, chapter presidents, and committee chairs! I have been very fortunate to meet and work with this wonderful group of people. Thanks also to all of you who volunteer with AFS at other levels, we appreciate your time and dedication to the profession and resource!

Paola Ferreri

Contents:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>State Wildlife Grants Program</i>	2
<i>62nd NE Fish & Wildlife Conference</i>	2
<i>AFS 136th Annual Meeting</i>	2
<i>Students: Get Involved</i>	2
<i>2005 NED Awards</i>	3

<i>NED Newsletter Editors</i>	4
<i>53rd NED Annual Meeting (NEFWC)</i>	4
<i>NED Plan of Work 2005-2006</i>	5
<i>NED Chapter Updates</i>	7
<i>News: American Eel Status Review</i>	8

State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies

The State Wildlife Grants program was created by Congress in 2001 to support conservation measures to prevent wildlife species from becoming endangered. A major requirement for state fish and wildlife agencies to receive funding from the program is preparation of a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for their state by October 1, 2005.

The starting point for each Strategy is the identification of a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which typically includes aquatic species such as fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans. The Strategies must include information on species distribution and abundance, key habitats, threats, conservation actions, monitoring plans, and plan review and partnership processes. Accordingly, a wealth of information on the current status of many lesser known species in particular states will soon be available.

Only a handful of these Strategies have been formally submitted as of mid-July, with none from states in the Northeastern Division area. However, several states have included draft Strategies on their websites for public information and comment. An excellent example can be found at Vermont's website (http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/swg_cwcs_report.cfm) where information on 32 fish Species of Greatest Conservation Need is presented. The Vermont Strategy also includes information on freshwater mussels, crayfish, amphipods, and aquatic insects. As the October 1, 2005 submission deadline approaches, draft or final strategies from many other state fish and wildlife agencies will become available.

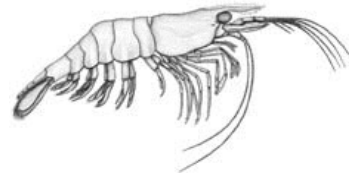
Feel free to contact Ron Essig at ron_essig@fws.gov or 413-253-8504 for more information about the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy process.

62nd Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

The 62nd Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held April 23-26, 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont. Several special sessions are currently being planned, including one focusing on aquatic nuisance species and another on black bass management. The bass management session will cover issues such as season closures and largemouth bass virus. A general call for papers should be reaching you soon. For questions regarding the fisheries program, please contact Rod Wentworth (rod.wentworth@anr.state.vt.us) who is serving as the fisheries program chair.

AFS 136th Annual Meeting

The 136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society will take place within our Division – September 10-14, 2005 in Lake Placid, New York. Many of our members are already working to make this a great meeting.



STUDENTS – Get Involved!

The Student Subsection of the AFS Education Section is a great place for students to learn more about and get involved with AFS! Our NED liaison with the Student Subsection is:

Justin Davis, Graduate Assistant
University of Connecticut
Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
75 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3043
Storrs, CT 06269-3043
Phone: 860-486-4694
E-mail: justin.p.davis@uconn.edu

Please get in touch with Justin if you are interested in student activities related to AFS and the Northeastern Division.

2005 Northeast Division AWARDS

The Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society annually presents several awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to fisheries, to the Division, and to AFS. These awards were announced at the Division's 53rd Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, April 17-20, 2005 in Virginia Beach, VA

Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award

This award is the most prestigious recognition given by the Division. It is presented annually for lifelong contributions or meritorious service to fisheries science and the profession in the Northeast, significant academic or technical accomplishments, or long-term service in the NED as an AFS member.

2005 Recipient: Kenneth L. Beal for his lifelong contributions to fisheries science and his prestigious service to the profession. As Director of the NMFS Cooperative Research Program, Ken directed over \$5 million in grant driven research in the Northeast in the fields of aquaculture, bycatch reduction, deep-water exploratory fishing, shifting effort from depleted stocks to underutilized species, product development, marketing, and new business opportunities. Through his work, Ken has contributed toward several technical advancements in fishing operations. One example is the development of the Nordmore gate to reduce bycatch in the northern shrimp fisheries in Maine. Throughout his distinguished career, Ken has been an enthusiastic supporter and leader of AFS, serving as President from 2001-2002 and leading the Society's effort to create the AFS Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program.

President's Award

This award is presented to an individual who is selected by Past-Presidents and the incumbent President to recognize candidates that promote fisheries management and uphold ideals of professionalism.

2005 Recipient: Kenneth L. Beal for his role in promotion of fisheries management through the administration of the Fisheries Development Program for the NOAA NMFS Northeast Regional Office; for his role in the development of AFS' Hutton Program; and for his long service to the AFS at all levels. This award was presented to Ken at his retirement party on April 6, 2005 in Danvers, MA.

Meritorious Service Award

This award is presented to an individual who is an AFS member for any or all of the following: leadership and service to the profession and/or AFS, substantial achievements for AFS and the fisheries resource, and significant long-term service to the NED.

2005 Recipient: Stephen G. Rideout in recognition of personal contributions to the advancement of fisheries science in the professional and public interest, his leadership in the profession, and his significant long-term service to AFS at the chapter, division, and society levels.

NED Walking Stick Award

This award was initiated in 2002 to recognize the Division member with the longest standing membership record. The recipient receives a walking stick that was hand-carved by Dr. Robert Carline to hold for a period of three years. At the end of three years, the walking stick is passed on to the next member with the longest standing membership. The first recipient of this award was Dr. Ed Cooper (PA).

2005 Recipient: Saul B. Saila who has been a member of the AFS over 55 years and received the NED Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award in 2004.

John Moring Student Travel Award

This is a competitive award for students that present a poster or oral presentation at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference and students who attend the conference to carry out the Division's business. There were two award winners in 2005: **Bryan Lees** (Penn State University) and **Thomas Kehler** (Penn State University).

NED Best Student Paper Award

2005 Winner: Justin P. Davis (University of Connecticut) for his presentation "Population Structure of Anadromous Alewife in Connecticut: Historical and Inter-Location Comparisons" co-authored with Eric T. Schultz.

NED Best Student Poster Award

2005 Winner: David Lieb (Penn State University) for his poster "Conservation Status and Habitat Associations of Valley Creek's Crayfish Fauna" co-authored with Virginia M. Mengel, and Robert F. Carline.

NED Newsletter

The Division newsletter is published and distributed electronically (via e-mail) twice a year. Thank you to Artie McCollum who served as co-editor of the newsletter over the past 1.5 years and helped get it back on its feet. Artie is graduating from University of Maine this summer – we wish you the best! We are happy to welcome Christopher Holbrook who will join Jay Caponera as co-editor. If you have comments, suggestions, or contributions to our newsletter, please contact Chris at:

Christopher Holbrook
Dept. of Biological Sciences
5751 Murray Hall, Rm. 307
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469
Phone: 207-581-2574
Email: Christopher.Holbrook@umit.maine.edu

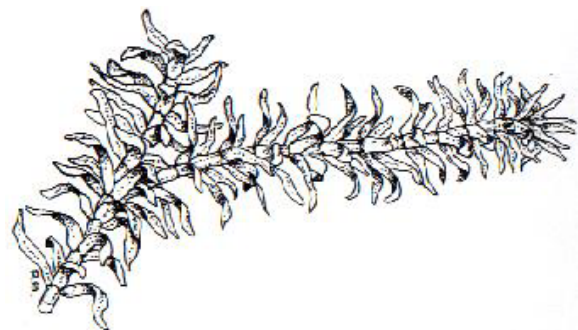
61ST Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

- 53rd NED Annual Meeting

The Northeastern Division held its 53rd annual meeting in conjunction with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference on April 17-20, 2005 in Virginia Beach, VA.

The fisheries technical program consisted of two special symposia and four contributed paper sessions. The half-day symposium "Aquatic Resources Conservation through the State Wildlife Grant Program" was sponsored by the NED and organized by Past President Ron Essig and Ken Sprankle (USFWS, MA). To highlight the use of these funds, the symposium featured eight presentations of aquatic species State Wildlife Grant projects in the Northeast. The other half-day symposium was an excellent mix of biology and conservation engineering, and focused on dam removal issues in the Northeast.

NED officers installed for annual terms (starting with the upcoming AFS meeting in September 2005) were President Margaret Murphy, President Elect Larry Miller, First Vice President Scott Decker, and Secretary-Treasurer Paul Perra.



Northeastern Division Plan of Work 2005-2006

During our retreat in September 2003, we identified several areas we wanted to strengthen and focus our efforts on improving. During 2005-2006, I hope to touch on some of these areas and begin to make progress towards achieving some of those goals.

The Strategic Plan of the AFS, 2005-2009 identifies three focus areas: Aquatic Stewardship (AS), Information Transfer and Outreach (ITO), and Member Services (MS). The NED plan of work for 2005-2006 has been developed within this framework in order to help us meet the goals in these focus areas. As stated in the Strategic Plan, the mission of Divisions within AFS "...is to advance Society goals by coordinating and complementing Chapter activities related to information exchange, outreach, aquatic stewardship, and governance at a regional level and to maintain a liaison role with regional resource stakeholders.

Divisions serve member needs in large geographic areas by coordinating with provincial, state, and tribal agencies and organizations as well as among AFS Units and by representing Chapter needs to the AFS leadership (i.e., Society officers, the Executive Director, and Governing Board members)." The particular goals within each focus area that I would like to focus on this year are described below.

Focus Area I:

Aquatic Stewardship

AFS and its members will be leaders in promoting the sustainability and sound stewardship of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems (The Strategic Plan of the

American Fisheries Society, 2005-2009).

1. The NED will provide scientifically-based information to assist policy makers and other publics in developing sound natural resource policies. NED will assist Chapters in developing workshops to train members in dealing with media and policy groups. The NED also will support the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. (Strategy AS 1.5, MS 2.1, MS 2.4)
2. The NED will support programs and activities produced by Chapters and sub-units to educate various publics on aquatic resource issues. The NED will promote conferences and symposia that focus on sustainability and aquatic stewardship topics (Strategy AS 2.3, AS 2.10).
3. The NED will support partnerships and collaboration with other environmental organizations to develop symposia, workshops, or publications to address complex issues which encompass multiple disciplines. The NED will participate in the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference to be held April 23-26, 2006 (Strategy AS 3.1, ITO 2.1, MS 2.1, MS 2.4).

Focus Area II:

Information Transfer and Outreach

AFS and its members will be recognized by decision makers and natural resource professionals as an important source of science-based information about fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and their conservation, management, and sustainable development (The Strategic Plan of the American Fisheries Society, 2005-2009).

1. The NED will update its website on a regular basis (at least monthly) to maintain a current information network. In addition, the NED will evaluate expanding the website to include information on committees and highlight activities of the NED and other Divisions. The NED will continue electronic publication of the Northeast Fish Rapper and notify members when a new issue is available (Strategies ITO 4.2; MS 3.1).

Focus Area III: Member Services

AFS will provide excellent, cost-efficient services, operations, and support for its members (The Strategic Plan of the American Fisheries Society, 2005-2009).

1. The NED will actively recruit new members and focus attention to the recruitment of underrepresented groups. The NED will support the Hutton Junior Fisheries Program by offering mentors and recruiting under-represented groups in the Northeast to the profession (Strategy MS 4.1).
2. The NED will investigate strategies to expand student membership and involvement in Division activities (Strategies MS 1.7, ITO 3.8).
3. The NED will assist chapters in providing quality continuing education experiences to Division members by financial support or by offering professional courses taught by qualified individuals or groups (Strategies MS 1.1).

Summary

The Division needs to continue to evaluate the needs of each Chapter and sub-unit to determine how we can best satisfy the needs of each. Communication among the Chapters and the Division is critical to facilitate information transfer within the Northeast. Chapters have a responsibility within the Division to maintain contact with the Division and let Division leaders know how best to help reach their goals.

Electronic methods of communication seem to work well, but must be kept up to date. The NED will make a better effort in the coming year to maintain the website as the primary information source for members. We will be meeting in April 2006 with the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Burlington, VT. In addition, the annual society meeting will be in Lake Placid, NY in September 2006. The NED will likely sponsor symposia at both conferences. Please plan on attending both!

Please think about actively recruiting new members, especially students. The Governing Board recently voted to reduce student memberships to \$19.00 (half of the cost for young professional). In addition, student members will gain free access to electronic journals on the AFS website. This will be limited to seven years, but should assist students that may not have access through their library. This will be effective in 2006.

I appreciate any comments and suggestions on this proposed plan of work. Please feel free to email or call me. I look forward to serving as your president for the next year!

Margaret H. Murphy
Phone: 315-453-9009
Email: mmurphy@qeallc.com

NED Chapter Updates

Atlantic International Chapter – The AIC is busy planning its fall conference that will be held September 25-27 at the Rangeley Inn in Rangeley, Maine. The focus of the conference will be on aquatic habitat restoration. One proposed session will be on brook trout restoration.

New York Chapter – This quarter has been filled with planning for our 2006 annual meeting and assessing the results of the 2005 meeting. The 2005 Tri-society meeting held last February was a great success. In addition to great presentations and general communications, the chapter benefited from higher proceeds than are generated by a typical annual meeting. This will, of course, help us to better support the 2006 national meeting in Lake Placid, NY.

We finalized our decision to hold a typical annual meeting (rather than try to merge with the 2006 parent society meeting) at our July EXCOM meeting. The meeting will be held in Utica, NY in early February 2006, and the theme will be "Enhancing the Connections Between Management And Science". Our program committee is soliciting invited speakers in preparation for that meeting.

We continue to monitor issues of water regulation and transportation in the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes, as well as other fisheries-related issues. Our chapter president is participating with many others across the country on development of the National Fish Habitat Initiative, which is backed by AFS and other organizations.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter – The mid-Atlantic Chapter of the AFS held its annual spring meeting on May 11, 2005 at the Rider University campus in Lawrenceville, New

Jersey. Five students gave oral presentations on their current research at the colleges and universities represented in the Chapter. Damian Brady (University of Delaware, College of Marine Studies) presented a paper entitled "Hypoxia-induced searching strategies of juvenile weakfish: How do interacting kinesis facilitate hypoxia avoidance and survival." Rutgers University was represented by Mathew Kimball with a presentation on "The long-term response of inter-tidal fish communities to restoration efforts at a former salt hay farm." Two students from Delaware State University gave oral presentations. Mathew Grobowski presented his research on weakfish – "Examination of external tag retention and post-tagging survival in weakfish" and Jessica Thomas presented "An evaluation of surgical closure techniques for long-term transmitter retention, healing, and survival in yellow-phase American eels". Jason Morson, a former student of Rider but now attending Hofstra, gave a presentation of his proposed study plan on "Variations in the morphology of electric organs in skates". In addition to the oral presentations were two poster presentations. Each student presentation was evaluated and scored, with the winner receiving an award at the upcoming fall meeting. Overall, students did an exceptional job and represented their schools, faculty, and advisors admirably.

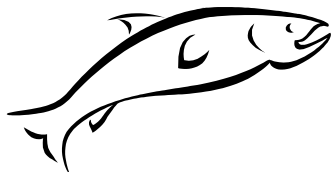
During the business meeting Pat Hamilton recommended that a donation in the name of the mid-Atlantic chapter be sent to a scholarship fund being established for the children of Douglas Neaman, an active AFS member in Pennsylvania who recently lost his fight with cancer. The motion was unanimously passed and a contribution was sent.

The fall meeting will be held in Delaware in late October or early November.

Pennsylvania Chapter – The chapter held its Spring Social May 21 at Fishing Creek in Lamar, PA. They are currently planning a fall meeting.

Southern New England Chapter – The SNEC held their summer meeting on June 14, 2005 at the Connecticut DEP, Old Lyme, CT. The meeting, attended by 74 people, featured a Connecticut River Symposium focusing on the recently published American Fisheries Society - Monograph 9, *The Connecticut River Ecological Study (1965-1973) Revisited: Ecology of the Lower Connecticut River 1973-2003*. Chapter authors of the new Connecticut River Monograph presented their findings. Paul Jacobson, the primary book editor presented the keynote address. Copies of the book were sold at the meeting.

The SNEC is busy planning its winter 2006 meeting that will include a Primer workshop. The SNEC presented several awards this year, including the Saul Saila Best Student Paper Award for the Winter 2005 Meeting, presented to Justin Davis; the Citizens Aquatic Conservation Award, presented to Richard Langeth and John Williams of Greenwich Bay Citizens Advisory Committee, and Vincent Ringrose, Chair of the Fisheries Advisory Council to the CTDEP. The Irwin Alperin Award was presented to Steve Rideout, who has been an important advocate for conservation and research in fisheries throughout his career. The Award of Excellence was presented to Paul Jacobson for his work on the CT River monograph.



FISHERIES IN THE NEWS

WILDLIFE AGENCIES TO INITIATE STATUS REVIEW OF THE AMERICAN EEL

July 6, 2005

- Heather Bell and Diana Weaver, USFWS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service has completed its evaluation of the petition to list the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The agencies determined that substantial biological information exists to warrant a more in-depth examination of its status. This finding will commence with a status review of the species, and once the review is complete, the Services will determine whether to propose listing the species.

The American eel lives from Greenland south along the North American coast to Brazil in South America. In the United States, it lives inland to the Great Lakes and in the Mississippi River drainage.

Today's decision, commonly known as a 90-Day Finding, is based on scientific information about the species provided in the petition requesting listing of the species under the Act. The finding on the petition does not mean that the Services have decided it is appropriate to list the American eel. Rather, this finding is the first step in a long process that triggers a more thorough review of all the biological information

available. This process, which includes a request for input from the public, should be completed within 12 months of receiving the petition. This status review will determine

whether the American eel warrants protection.

To ensure this status review is comprehensive, the Services are soliciting information from State and Federal natural resource agencies, tribes, other countries, and interested parties regarding the American eel.

If listing is not warranted, no further action will be taken. If listing is warranted, one of the Services will publish a proposal to list, solicit independent scientific peer review of the proposal, seek input from the public, and consider the input before a final decision is made. Generally, there is a one-year period between the time a species is proposed and the final decision.

The only freshwater eel in the Western hemisphere, American eels begin their lives in the mid-Atlantic Sargasso Sea. About a year later, they migrate to freshwater rivers and lakes and coastal areas where they live for seven to 30 years. At maturity, eels return to the Sargasso Sea to spawn and die. Because the eel spends a portion of its life in the marine environment and a portion of its life in freshwater, it falls under the responsibilities of both agencies.

Douglas Watts of Augusta, Maine, and Timothy Watts of South Middleborough, Mass., petitioned the two Services to extend ESA protection to the American eel. Prior to receiving the petition, the Services had already agreed to review the American eel status at the request of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (representing 15 states from Maine to Florida) in light of an apparent decline in commercial eel harvest.

VERMONT PLANNING REMOVAL OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN CAUSEWAYS

WATERBURY, VT --. The U.S.-CANADA, International Joint Commission (IJC) under the Boundary Water Treaty of 1909 has recommended that the Missisquoi Bay causeway be removed.

The State of Vermont has now initiated the planning process for removal of both the Missisquoi Bay and Carry Bay causeways from the waters of Lake Champlain.

The Missisquoi Bay causeway located on U.S. Route 78 connects West Swanton and Alburg. It is owned by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and will be replaced by a new bridge now under construction.

Many people are concerned and believe that removal of causeways will improve water quality in the north end of Lake Champlain. The Douglas Administration recognizes public concern for water quality in the lake. The Governor's Clean and Clear Initiative is aimed at solving the larger water quality problem in Lake Champlain. Reduction of nutrient inputs into the lake is seen as the key to solving both local and lake-wide water quality problems.