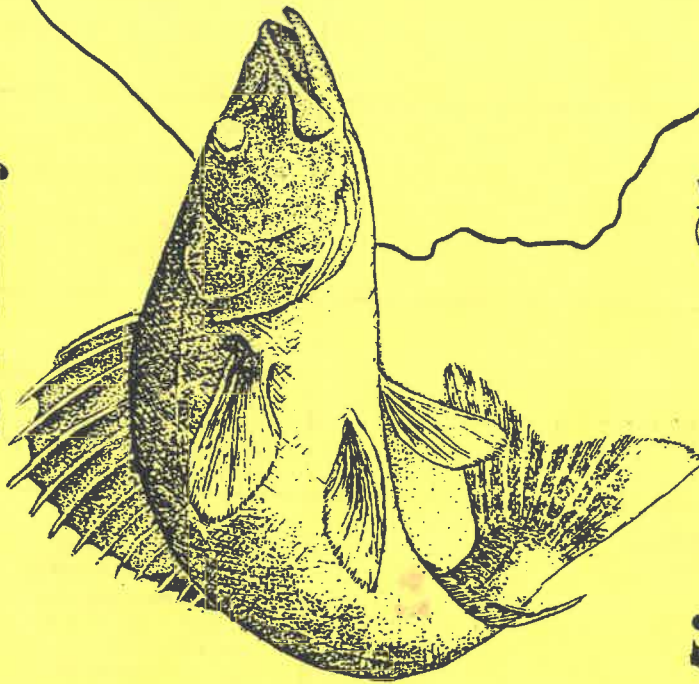


NOMINATIONS DEADLINE
EXTENDED TO
OCTOBER 6



American Fisheries Society



Minnesota Chapter

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SEPTEMBER 1995

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NOMINATIONS FOR 1996 MN AFS CHAPTER OFFICERS

To All MN/AFS Members:

Use this form to nominate candidates for the following 1996 chapter offices: *President-elect* (this year preference will be given to Minnesota DNR employment affiliation), *Secretary/Treasurer* (any affiliation), *Executive Committee Members-at-large* (candidates can be nominated from each of the four employment affiliation groups - Academic, Federal, DNR, and Open).

Please contact your nominees to assure that the information you provide is correct, then sign your name at the bottom of the form. Attach additional pages if needed. This form must be signed and nominations received at the address on the back of this form by Sept. 15, 1995.

Chapter office:
Candidates name:
Affiliation:
Telephone number:
Number years in AFS parent society:
Reasons for nomination:

Chapter office:
Candidates name:
Affiliation:
Telephone number:
Number years in AFS parent society:
Reasons for nomination:

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Number years in AFS parent society:
Reasons for nomination:

Chapter office:
Candidates name:
Affiliation:
Telephone number:
Number years in AFS parent society:
Reasons for nomination:

I have contacted the nominees listed above: _____
(your signature)

Rod Pierce, Fisheries Research
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1201 East Highway #2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 1996 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

President-elect Larry Kallemeyn has scheduled a joint meeting with the Minnesota chapters of the Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters. The meeting will be held from noon on January 31 to noon on February 2, 1996 at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd, MN.

Preliminary plans call for a plenary session with invited speakers on January 31, with technical sessions to be held on February 1-2. To insure that we can have a final program that can be included in the December newsletter, we would appreciate receiving presentation titles and author information before October 31, 1995. Authors should indicate whether they wish to make an oral or poster presentation. They should also indicate which of the following possible technical sessions their presentation would fit best in.

- Alternative silviculture
- Landscape level planning
- Old growth and extended rotation forestry
- Ecosystem management case studies
- Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Timber Harvest and Forest Management in Minnesota implementation
- Biological and/or genetic diversity
- Miscellaneous

Title and author information should be sent to Larry Kallemeyn at 3131 Highway 53 S, International Falls, MN 56649. Larry's fax number is 218-285-7407 or if you have any questions his phone number is 218-283-9821. Larry would like to encourage professors to have their students submit papers for the meeting.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Continuing Education Committee is planning a one day workshop to be held prior to the AFS meeting on January 30-31, 1996 titled "Incorporating Social Science into Fisheries Management". The workshop will include presentations by both an economist and sociologist/anthropologist, followed by discussions of practical applications in Minnesota. Additional information and a registration form for the workshop will be in the December newsletter.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE

TV stations have been active in airing our PSA-numerous reports from around the state including prime time airings, sandwiched between fishing shows, etc. This fall, we'll contact stations to quantify efforts.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER AFS, BRIEFING PAPER

ON THE STEELHEAD SMOLT STOCKING ISSUE

Prepared by Tracy L. Close

BACKGROUND: A naturalized population of anadromous rainbow trout (steelhead) has existed in Lake Superior since their first introduction about 100 years ago. These fish are the target of a very popular angling fishery. Steelhead have been managed by regulation and supplemental stocking of unfed fry, primarily in stream reaches above the waterfalls that form a barrier to natural migration. Fry have been stocked primarily in reaches that are thermally marginal for brook trout, minimizing competition between the species.

Adult steelhead abundance has declined in recent years as evidenced by declining catches and increasing angler complaints. DNR biologists developed a steelhead management plan (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 1992) to systematically investigate the causes of the decline. As a first step, a genetic evaluation of the steelhead population was commissioned to determine if the gene pool was still of sufficient quality to rehabilitate the "Lake Superior strain" of steelhead. Results suggested that a unique gene pool still exists, and biologists believe that a sufficient number of broodstock are available to reverse the decline. Plans were developed and construction begun to build fish traps needed to determine the factors limiting the adult steelhead population. In the interim, a 28 inch minimum size limit was enacted to protect the remaining broodstock.

Many anglers were dissatisfied with low catch rates and limited harvest. Angling clubs such as the Lake Superior Steelhead Association (LSSA) demanded that some fry be reared to smolt size at French River Coldwater Hatchery to supplement the population. In 1989, DNR reluctantly agreed to rear and stock three year classes of 40,000 smolts each on an experimental basis with financial assistance from LSSA. The objective of the experimental stocking was to evaluate cost and performance (return rate). Biological impacts of the stocked fish on the existing population were not evaluated.

THE ISSUE: DNR biologists believe that the population has a good chance for recovery through natural reproduction, and a smolt stocking

program should not be done at this time. LSSA and other angling organizations are now pressuring DNR to develop an expanded smolt rearing and stocking program to supplement the fishery. DNR biologists oppose the idea because hatcheries replace the valuable natural selection that occurs in the river with hatchery selection that favors docile individuals with a taste for fish chow. Natural selection is the mechanism that keeps the population genetically fit for survival in North Shore streams. Hatchery reared fish that survive to adulthood could compete for spawning sites and partners and produce offspring that do not survive as well, exacerbating the decline of adults. If the decline continued, anglers would demand more stocking, and the fishery would become increasingly more dependent on hatchery fish. Fisheries that depend on stocking are susceptible to collapse due to fish disease and loss of funding. A wealth of literature suggests that no level of supplemental stocking of hatchery fish is harmless (Miller 1990). The North Shore Steelhead Plan indicates that DNR is committed to steelhead management and will use smolt stocking to rehabilitate the population if other methods fail. The long term goal is to increase abundance of the self sustaining stock.

References

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 1992. North Shore Steelhead Plan. MNDNR, St. Paul.
- Krueger *et al.* 1994. Genetics variation in naturalized rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) from Minnesota tributaries of Lake Superior, *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 20:299-316.
- Miller W. H. 1990. Analysis of salmon and steelhead supplementation. U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Interior Technical Report 1990.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please send your 1995 dues (\$7.00) to Henry Van Offlen, MDNR, PO Box 823, Detroit Lakes, MN 56601. Don't delay, do it TODAY! Send completed application to Jeff Reed at address listed below.

**MINNESOTA CHAPTER
1995 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____

____ Work Address

Phone _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

____ Home Address

(Please place a check next to the address in which you would like your newsletter sent)

____ Yes, you may use my name and address in the Chapter's Membership Directory*

Are you a member of A.F.S.? ____ yes ____ no. Membership number _____

(Membership number is located on your Fisheries mailing label).

Please complete the following (it will make our membership database much more useful!)

Affiliation: _____ (D.N.R., Federal Government, Academic, Private, or Tribal)

Job Title: _____

Year joined A.F.S. _____ Year joined Minnesota Chapter _____

Students please place a check here ____

If you are a new member, list recruiting member here _____

(*Your permission is required. The information collected here is strictly confidential and for use only by the Chapter)

Send to: Jeff Reed
Membership Chair
Glenwood Area Fish
1110 North Lakeshore Drive
Glenwood, MN 56334

FISHERIES SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT UNWISE FISH STOCKING

For more information, call Dr. Carl Richards at 218-720-4332

Fisheries scientists from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society believe that stocking hatchery reared steelhead rainbow trout could undermine the future of steelhead populations and steelhead fishing. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fisheries managers have acknowledged that adult steelhead abundance has declined in recent years as the lake is returning to a fish population dominated by native species and the reasons for the decline are unknown.

The DNR has developed a plan to stop the decline of steelhead and hopefully, return the species to its former abundance. The plan has three central strategies. First, studies are being conducted to help scientists understand why the steelhead has declined. Second, the steelhead harvest has been restricted to protect the remaining stock until the reasons for the decline can be determined. Third, the plan calls for stocking steelhead fry produced from wild parents.

Fry are fish that are hatched in a fish hatchery but are stocked shortly after hatching. Stocking fry will minimize the negative effects of a hatchery environment and maximize the long term survival and reproductive potential of Lake Superior steelhead.

North Shore angling organizations have strongly criticized the DNR for not stocking hatchery reared steelhead (hatchery smolts) to improve fishing and are pressuring the agency to begin an extensive smolt stocking program. From past experience, fisheries scientists have learned that fish reared in hatcheries are less likely to survive and reproduce than fish reared in the wild and when stocking is needed, wild fish with minimal hatchery exposure should be used.

The Minnesota chapter of AFS supports the DNR's planned approach because the plan provides a long term vision for restoring a self sustaining stock.

THOUGHTS FROM THE FIELD.....

Editor's Note: *Thoughts from the field do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff or the Minnesota Chapter of the AFS. We do however, encourage anyone with pertinent thoughts or tidbits to send them our way.*

To the Editor:

Earlier this summer, I offered to debate in the Chapter Newsletter, with a Minnesota DNR representative, a specific DNR policy which has been challenged. I was informed by the Chapter President, Carl Richards, that discussion of this issue could only take place in a general sense, and that the specifics of the situation should not be discussed.

I found this surprising, since other issues specific to DNR have been discussed and criticized in the Newsletter and other Chapter forums. It is DNR policy that is being challenged, not National Biological Service, National Park Service, or University of Minnesota policy. To allow only "general" discussion clouds the issue and blunts any criticisms that might well need to be directed at the Minnesota DNR. The implications of this DNR policy are clear for fisheries professionals in Minnesota and nationwide. However,

unless the policy and practice can be put forth and left open to debate, the profession will remain uninformed about an issue that has received considerable attention in legal and government circles in the last decade.

I am sure DNR officials are eager to describe this policy and defend it, since on it, public credibility and trust hinge. Both the profession and the public would benefit from such debate, which is a hallmark of a great and free society.

Willingness of AFS to tackle tough issues, to "step on toes" if necessary, is important to many members, and can influence whether an individual joins or remains a member of AFS.

Stephen J. Boe
Laporte, MN

FISH T-SHIRT NEWS

We still have a good inventory of fish T-shirts. All in-stock **WALLEYE T-SHIRTS** will be priced at \$10. All other species designs remain at \$14. We also have a small supply of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass **MOUSE PADS** these are priced at just \$6. To order t-shirts or mousepads, please complete the attached order form and send it to Henry.

MN AFS T-Shirt Order Form

Note: Walleye shirts now just \$10. Largemouth and smallmouth bass mousepads \$6.

Name: _____
Shipping Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

AVAILABLE SPECIES: brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, walleye, sockeye salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, striped bass, rainbow darter, black crappie, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, orangespotted sunfish, and channel catfish.

| Species | Size | Number | Cost Each | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| | | | \$14.00 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | Sub-Total | _____ |
| | | | Shipping (\$2 first shirt, \$1 for each additional shirt) | _____ |
| | | | Total | _____ |

Please make check payable to MN AFS

Send completed orders to: Henry Van Offelen
Detroit Lakes Area DNR
P.O. Box 823
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502



Sea Grant Institute

Advisory Services
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1800 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-4094

Phone—(608) 262-0645
Fax—(608) 263-2063

Global Change Education Workshops

The Advisory Services office of the UW Sea Grant Institute is part of a national effort (sponsored by NOAA's Office of Global Programs) to develop and host a series of ongoing workshops for adult educators who teach environmental issues. Each two or three-day workshop addresses such issues as: Natural Climate Variability, Ozone Depletion/Greenhouse Warming, Ecosystem Response, and Decision-making Under Scientific Uncertainty.

Participants receive specific instruction on teaching global change issues, a Global Change Resource Guide, opportunities for hands-on activities and active demonstrations, and a variety of other support materials. Participants are expected to conduct at least two workshops using global change information within one year of their training. The workshops are free and there is some money available for travel reimbursement.

The next Global Change Education workshop in the Great Lakes Region is scheduled for September 25-26, 1995 at the U.W.-Stevens Point. For more information contact the Advisory Services office of the U.W. Sea Grant Institute, 1800 University Avenue, Madison WI 53705, TEL: 608-265-5109, FAX: 608-263-2063, email: ehanson@seagrant.wisc.edu

(Info for tear-off sheet:)

Requests for more information on Global Change Education Workshops may be sent to:
UW Sea Grant Institute
Advisory Services - Global Change Education
1800 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

or call: 608-265-5109
or fax: 608-263-2063
or email: ehanson@seagrant.wisc.edu