



RYBA

Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 1998 No. 2
May Issue

President's Message

by Bruce Vondracek

My first message is largely devoted to informing you about several issues affecting the Chapter, fish management in Minnesota, and interesting news from the American Fisheries Society midyear meeting.

In case you have not heard, Paul Glander, who was elected as the President-elect has decided to resign his position with the Chapter, and I think just as important, to resign his position with Minnesota DNR. Paul was a strong advocate for informed fisheries management in the state and served the Chapter very well as the Chair of the Rivers and Streams Committee for the past two years. We will miss his leadership.

In this newsletter you will find a ballot for President-elect to fill the vacant position following Paul's resignation. Paul Radomski and Henry Van Offelen, who ran for election for President-elect in the most recent election, graciously allowed their names to be put forward again.

Following our annual meeting at Camp Ripley, I contacted the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA) and asked

Editor: Paul Radomski
1601 Minnesota Dr, Brainerd, MN 56401
phone: (218)828-2665 fax: (218)828-6022
e-mail: paul.radomski@dnr.state.mn.us
radomski@brainerd.net

The Chapter publishes this newsletter four times a year (Jan., May, Sept., and Nov.). Deadlines for article submission are: April 15, Aug 15, Oct 15, and Dec 15. Burbot Legal Language: The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Minnesota Chapter.

that the Chapter be considered as a member and be allotted two seats on the FWLA board. Don Pereira and I attended the FWLA meeting in February and the Chapter was approved as a full member. Joining the FWLA is an item on my action agenda during my term and was approved by the members present at the annual business meeting at Camp Ripley. My other agenda items can also be found in this newsletter following the minutes from the annual business meeting.

I was active during the legislative session just completed in trying to convince key legislators that the stocking amendment that was attached to the omnibus game and fish bill in the senate would have serious economic repercussions for the DNR. As well, additional stocking, at least at the level considered by the senate, does not make biological sense. I sent an e-mail to all house members of the natural resources committee the day after the senate approved the amendment. That initial e-mail focused on the negative economic consequences of the amendment, i.e., the DNR would be required to stock at least double the number of walleye; however, no additional funding would be provided. I also wrote an editorial that was published in the Star Tribune, and an additional e-mail discussing the negative biological consequences to Tom Osthoff, the chair of the natural resources committee. The FWLA was supportive of my efforts and members of that board also discussed the issue with several legislators. The ultimate decision of the legislature as I am sure you have heard was to let the omnibus bill die, but stocking will be a topic during the coming election. In preparation the next fishing roundtable in May will spend some time discussing the issue.

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Quote of the Issue

“Causality is a concept not subject to empirical demonstration” David Hume

The Governing Board of the American Fisheries Society met on 11 and 12 March in Phoenix, Arizona. The Board approved reinstatement of a full rebate to Chapters beginning in August. The rebate will be somewhat different than in the past; there will be a 3% rebate (a little over \$2.00 per membership) for regular members, which does not include students or life members.

AFS 2000 is back on line after about one year of little activity. To refresh your memory, AFS2000 was a campaign to raise money for a publication endowment fund, upgrade the Society's electronic communications system, and retire the mortgage on the AFS headquarters. To date the fund contains \$368,000 of the target of \$1.25 million. There is a good chance that a few Foundations will contribute, especially if the Society can increase donations from the membership. If you have not contributed to the fund, please consider making a pledge. The Western Division has initiated a Leadership Initiative to help seek funds for AFS 2000. Several members of the Western Division have taken classes on how to approach donors for contributions. The North Central Division will likely

follow suit and be looking for volunteers. The Parent Society is also considering publishing all journals electronically, likely within the next calendar year. The idea is to offer both a hardcopy and electronic copy. The electronic copy would be offered at about \$15.00 in addition to the subscription for a hardcopy of your journal of choice. Having the journals published electronically will also make searching for articles of interest easier.

Minnesota Chapter AFS Annual Action Agenda, 1998-1999

Mission Statement: The Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) supports the conservation of North America's fisheries and aquatic systems by promoting professional excellence in fisheries science, management, and education.

This action agenda represents the Chapter initiatives during my term. The following action items are based upon the Minnesota Chapter Strategic Plan and the strategic plan is referenced parenthetically.

Item 1: Sponsor 1 or 2 continuing education workshops during the year (Goal A).
Responsibility: Mark Hove and Laurie Sovell, Continuing Ed Committee Co-Chairs

Item 2: Organize a tri-state meeting (with Wisconsin and Iowa) and publicize it extensively and aggressively (Strategy A.2).
Responsibility: President-elect, 1999 Meeting Program Chair

Item 3: Develop and publicize a position paper (Strategy C.1)
Responsibility: Larry Kallemeyn and Tom Jones

Item 4: Become more involved in the development of public policy affecting fish and fisheries (Goal D): a) through membership in the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance, b) use the Fisheries Action Network to communicate

scientifically-based information, c) Participate in DNR Fishing Roundtable (Strategy D.4).
Responsibility: FWLA-Bruce Vondracek, President, Don Pereira, FAN-Fred Henson Fisheries Information Network chair, Roundtable-Mark Hove

Item 5: Develop an article highlighting fisheries work and/or AFS in a high-profile popular press outlet, e.g., Outdoor Life authored by an AFS member (Strategy C.6).
Responsibility: Bruce Vondracek, President, and ad hoc committee to include Neal Mundahl

Item 6: Plan and coordinate a Rivers, Watersheds, and Fisheries workshop for NW Minnesota in July 1998 (Goal D).
Responsibility: Dennis Topp, Rivers and Stream Representative

Item 7: Restructure AFS display and place the AFS display in the DNR building at the State Fair (Strategy H.4).
Responsibility: Linda Bylander, Public Awareness Committee Chair

Item 8: Publish this annual action agenda in the chapter newsletter and on the Chapter homepage (Strategy F.2).
Responsibility: Bruce Vondracek, President, and Paul Radomski, Newsletter Editor

Committee Reports

Continuing Education Committee - by Mark Hove and Laurie Sovell
Strong Participation in Watershed Workshop, Next Course - Ethics

We enjoyed near record attendance at the watershed protection and restoration workshop held this January. Although most attendees were soil and water conservation professionals, 23 fisheries biologists visited the U of MN Campus to learn about watershed hydrology, instream habitat management, upland and riparian landuse impacts, among other topics. At the conclusion of the second

day, attendees left the internationally recognized St. Anthony Water Research Center with a better idea of how to initiate and employ a successful watershed restoration project. Due to unexpectedly high attendance in the course, the chapter will receive a substantial addition to its bank account for future projects.

Our next course will explore the interesting world of ethics. Lively discussions on this topic have recently arisen in Fisheries and at national society meetings. Last year the parent society revised its code of professional ethics [Fisheries 22(2)]. We are working to develop a thought-provoking, yet practical short course on ethics in fisheries management. The course will run a half or full day prior to the annual meeting next winter in La Crosse, WI. We plan to keep the course cost low to encourage participation from all three chapters attending the meeting. We will call a small group of our membership for input on our course outline but welcome input from everyone. Contact Mark Hove at 612.624.3019 or at Mark.Hove@fw.umn.edu, or Laurie Sovell at 612.296.8005 or 612.724.7256 with your suggestions.

Awards Committee - by Julie Westerlund

The Awards Committee would like to congratulate this year's winners of MN Chapter AFS awards. The following were presented at the recent Chapter meeting held at Camp Ripley.

The Best Paper Award went to **Mark Cook** for his presentation titled "A Historical Examination of Creel Surveys from Minnesota's Lakes and Streams". Mark's coauthor is Jerry Younk. Mark and Jerry are Fisheries Research Biologists for the MN DNR in Bemidji.

The Award of Excellence was given to **Dennis Ernst**, a retired MN DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor from Park Rapids. Dennis was honored for his dedication to the state's aquatic resources, for his support of the MN AFS Chapter, and for the professionalism he exhibited throughout his long and productive career.

Two special recognition awards were also presented. **Henry Van Offelen** was acknowledged for his outstanding fundraising efforts and work as Chapter treasurer in 1995 and 1996. **Jingyin Li** was recognized for his work on the Chapter's Home Page on the World Wide Web.

Several 25 year service awards were given. Some of the recipients have been Chapter members for more than 25 years, and we want to recognize everyone that has served for such a long time.

Tracy Close ('73)
Robert Davis ('72)
Dennis Ernst ('67)
Herbert Fisher ('72)
Charles Gernes ('67)
Gary Kimball ('71)
David McConville ('72)
John Spurrier ('73)

The Awards Committee is also seeking nominations for awards to be given in 1999. Please keep this in mind as you encounter examples of fisheries excellence and special contributions to the chapter in the coming year! The Award of Excellence exists to recognize long-term excellence in the fisheries profession of outstanding performance in an activity that furthers the goals of the MN AFS Chapter. This award can be given to any individual or group, regardless of membership in AFS. Nominations should describe the nominee's contribution in one to two pages.

Special recognition awards are given to Chapter members to acknowledge personal services contributed to the chapter or a special project that advances the goals of the chapter. Please provide a short nomination of one to two paragraphs describing the service to the chapter.

If you feel you will be, are, or have been eligible for a 25 year award and have not yet been recognized, please contact me or the membership chair (Doug Kingsley)! In many cases, our database records are lacking the year that members joined the

chapter. To be eligible, you must have been a member for 25 years (lapses in membership do not count towards the total).

The following is a historical summary of Awards given by the Minnesota Chapter. *Members: if you see an error or omission in this list, please notify me immediately!*

Award of Excellence

1989 Dr. Calvin Fleming
 1991 Dr. Thomas Waters
 1992 Representative Willard Munger
 1993 Dennis Schupp
 1996 Jack Skrypeck
 1997 Robert Strand
 1998 Dennis Ernst

Meritorious Service Award

1986 Robert Hutton
 1987 Mercer Patriarche
 1988 Elwood Seaman
 1989 Reeve Bailey
 1990 Carl Sullivan
 1992 Arden Trandahl
 1992 Mary Frye

Special Recognition Award

1993 Donald Schreiner (Treasurer)
 Timothy Goeman (Membership)
 1994 Bradford Parsons (Newsletter)
 Mark Cook (Continuing Ed)
 1995 Henry Drewes (Rivers and Streams)
 1997 Deserae Bushong (Continuing Ed)
 Tracy Close
 Jeffrey Reed
 1998 Jingyin Li (Website)
 Henry VanOffelen (Fundraising)

Best Paper Award

1989 Barbara Shields
 1990 Howard McCormick
 1991 Timothy Goeman
 1992 Henry Drewes
 1993 Weming Li
 1994 Tim Essington
 1995 Loren Miller
 1996 Loren Miller
 1997 Carl Richards
 1998 Mark Cook

Best Poster Award

1992 Dr. Raymond Newman

1993 John G. Eaton
 1994 James Louma
 1995 Mark Hove et al.

25 Year Service Awards

1992 Ira Adelman, Jim Grobner, Dick Hassinger, Howard Krosch, Ken Hokanson, Howard McCormick, Huon Newberg, Dennis Schupp, Joe Scidmore, Jack Skrypek, Jim Underhill, Tom Waters, Don Woods
 1995 William Thorn, Gary Siesennop, Farrel Badow, Dennis Anderson
 1998 Davis, Robert A. ('72)
 Kimball, Gary L. ('71)
 McConville, David R. ('72)
 Spurrier, John R. ('73)
 Close, Tracy L. ('73)
 Ernst, Dennis ('67)
 Fisher, Herbert J. ('72)
 Gernes, Charles H. ('67)

Outgoing President Award

1989 Mike Vandeford
 1990 Darryl Bathel
 1991 Greg Busacker
 1992 Jeff Gunderson
 1993 Virginia Snaraki
 1994 Don Pereira
 1995 William Thorn
 1996 Carl Richards
 1997 Larry Kallemeyn
 1998 Timothy Goeman

Newsletter Committee - by Paul Radomski

Loren Miller has volunteered to help!

Rivers and Streams NCD - by Dennis Topp

Catfish 2000, the First Annual Ictalurid Symposium will be held in Davenport, Iowa, from June 23-25, 1998. Several folks from Minnesota will be presenting information at the symposium. For more information, visit the Catfish 2000 Website:
<http://www.fw.umn.edu/ncdafs/cf2000>

The 1998 Local Water Planner's Conference, titled "When a River Runs North," will be held from July 21-23 at

the University of Minnesota Crookston. The Red River and its watershed will be featured at this year's conference. A special block of fisheries presentations has been arranged, and four papers will be presented by chapter members. Please contact me for more information.

Membership Committee - by Doug Kingsley

At the beginning of 1997, the MN Chapter AFS had 175 members in our database who had paid 1996 dues. During 1997, we retained 152 of those members (87%), we lost 23 members (13%), and we gained 65 members (37%) for a net gain of 42 members (24%) to a membership of 217.

As of the annual meeting at the end of February, 1998, we have 146 members who have renewed their dues (67%), we gained 27 members (12%), and we still have 71 members who have not renewed their dues (33%). Two of the 27 "new" members were actually members in 1996 who did not renew their membership in 1997, but did in 1998.

Obviously, we still have a good share of 1998 to send in membership renewals to either the chapter or parent society. Quite a few chose to send their renewals in later in 1997, so I would expect that number to improve, and the non-renewals to decrease somewhat by the end of 1998. However, I would remind those who haven't already done so to renew your membership as soon as you can to avoid getting a nasty letter from us near the end of the year, to save us that postage, and to continue receiving all the benefits that Chapter membership provides.

It doesn't appear that we will see the gain in new members in 1998 that we did from 1996 to '97. One possible explanation may be that we missed a few people on our membership records in 1996 and picked them up in 1997. Another explanation may be a greater turnout and new memberships at the annual meeting in 1997. I didn't have records prior to 1996, so it will be interesting to how our membership changes in the future. Hopefully, the

trend will be positive.

Division Technical Committees

Centrarchid Technical Committee by Mike McInerny

The Centrarchid Technical Committee (CTC) met last December in Milwaukee, WI. Don Kline, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is the current committee chairperson. Several items were discussed and highlights of these follow herein.

Design and printing of largemouth bass and bluegill posters were completed before the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference meeting took place in Milwaukee. These posters are similar to the walleye poster that the Walleye Technical Committee developed a couple of years ago. A total of 98,000 largemouth bass and 84,000 bluegill posters were printed, and all have been sold.

Melissa Drake completed a compilation of 'gray literature' on centrarchid management and biology from all states and provinces in the North Central Division. This document contains references on agency completion reports, investigational reports, and articles from some of the less widely distributed refereed journals (i.e., *Copeia*). If interested in getting a copy of this, I have a few copies or you can get one from Steve Fischer, Missouri Department of Conservation, 1110 College Avenue, Columbia, MO 65202 or ask him to send you one via his e-mail address: fischca@mail.conservaion.state.mo.us.

The CTC is continuing its quest to acquire information on exploitation of bluegill and crappie. To date, little information is available on this topic. If you have any information on bluegill exploitation, please send it to Julie Claussen, Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 Peabody Dr., Champaign, IL 61820. If you have any on crappie exploitation, please send that information to either Brad Parsons, Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources, 1110 N. Lakeshore Dr., Glenwood, MN 56334, or me, Minnesota DNR, 20596 Highway 7, Hutchinson, MN 55350. If enough data are acquired, the CTC will compile them, and make available to those interested a summary report.

The CTC is developing a directory of centrarchid workers in the North Central Division that should be completed by the next summer meeting in July. The directory will include names, addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses along with information on these individuals' current projects or experience. If you are interested in getting your name included in this directory, please let me know ASAP.

New topics with potential CTC involvement include habitat manipulations, stocking criteria, genetics, growth, long-term data bases, among others. If you have specific topics that this committee can address, please let me know.

The CTC also has entered the cyberspace world with their own web site. For you web-surfers, try out: <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/canopy/1096/>. It is a free site, but I guess there is some advertising to go through. Don Kline would like to know what people think about it, so if you have any comments, please let me know and I will relay them to him.

Finally, the summer meeting will be held at Wyasuling State Park, just south of Prairie Du Chien, WI, on 21-22 July. This committee is an excellent forum for information exchange on centrarchid research and management with those from other states. We encourage anyone with an interest in centrarchids to attend. The summer meeting is inexpensive, roughly \$50 total costs, if you decide to stay at one of the bunkhouses at the park.

Esocid Technical Committee by Rod Pierce

Next Meeting: The Esocid Technical Committee (ETC) sponsored a symposium at the Midwest Fish and

Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee. The symposium featured 11 contributed papers on muskellunge management with proceedings of the symposium to be published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. Terry Margenau (Wisconsin DNR) has been the guiding force for the symposium. Contributions from Muskies, Inc. will help cover charges for fast-track publication of the manuscripts.

The ETC has been active in pulling together 1) a summary of stocking strategies and 2) a synopsis of regulations used for managing esocids. A priority for 1998 is to seek funding for having both summaries published. Dave Clapp (Michigan DNR) and Steve AveLallemant (Wisconsin DNR) have taken lead roles in producing the summaries. A grey literature library for esocids has been assembled by Wayne Stancil (USFWS) and the documents are now available through the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service.

An ETC summer meeting is scheduled for July 21-22 at the Radisson Hotel in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Guest speakers from Ontario, New York, and Pennsylvania will be providing their perspectives about regulation and management of esocid fisheries. Speakers from Minnesota and Ontario will also be describing esocid management in Lake-of-the-Woods. Please contact Rod Pierce (218-327-4452) if you would like a place on the agenda. The summer meetings have been informal and very productive forums for discussing the latest and greatest in esocid biology and management. Don't miss out on this one!

Walleye Technical Committee by Ron Brooks

We will have the meeting July 13-15th at the Holiday Inn in Moline. Usually there is a social on the first evening, on Tuesday presentations are given dealing with ongoing research and/or projects that biologists want to discuss, and a business meeting is held on Wednesday morning. We intend to have some sort of ongoing workshop pertaining to marking walleye

with OTC and a little hands on is possible to instruct those interested in finding OTC marks. Professionals interested in walleye and/or OTC are invited.

Rivers and Streams Technical Committee by Chuck Berry

The 11th Annual Spring meeting of the RSTC will be held on June 22 at the at the river center, Davenport, Iowa. We'll be meeting in conjunction with the Catfish 2000 symposium which begins on June 23. The RSTC business meeting, chapter reports, and technical presentations will be held on the afternoon of the 22, then the RSTC members will attend the first part of the Catfish symposium as part of the RSTC meeting. Registration costs will be \$30 for RSTC members to attend the 2-day RSTC meeting but can't attend the entire Catfish symposium. RSTC technical information deals with lotic systems and fisheries management and research, watershed studies, habitat restoration, or aquatic education. Dan Salee (309-582-5611) is making local arrangements.

Minutes of Chapter Meetings

Minutes of the 31st Annual Meeting: Meeting was called to order by Tim Goeman, President. Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and approved. Approximately 40 chapter members were in attendance and a quorum in place. First order of business was to approve the meeting minutes from the 1997 Annual Meeting held in Fargo, ND. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote. NCD Report - Don Pereira, North Central Division President, provided an update on several items occurring at the division level. Rebates from the parent society to chapters and divisions are currently being discussed. This will be a major discussion item at the governing board mid-year meeting in Phoenix. The NCD will be sending out a member survey by mid-March. Please respond if you receive the survey. Responses will

be used to develop a 5-year financial plan for the NCD.

President's Report - Tim Goeman

Action Agenda Accomplishments:

- Item 1: Sponsor 1 or 2 continuing education workshops. Done - A watershed workshop was held in January of 1998 and was very successful. Approximately 70 people attended the workshop and Chapter profits will exceed \$1,000. Topic for next workshop will be Ethics.
- Item 2: Organize a low cost annual meeting. Done - held at Camp Ripley for total cost of \$50 per person.
- Item 3: Develop a position paper on fish stocking. Status - Larry Kallemeyn is heading this effort and is working toward a draft.
- Item 4: Investigate available options and develop recommendations for involving Chapter in Legislative activities. Status - Goeman and Jeff Reed look at a variety of options and evaluated past activities (e.g., Legislative breakfasts). Best option appears to be purchasing a seat in the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA).
- Item 5: Encourage agency administrators to participate in Chapter activities. Status - Letters were sent to DNR administrators in the Fish & Wildlife Division inviting them to attend the annual meeting. Several indicated they would have attended, but could not because of the very active legislative session. Also, Doug Kingsley as Membership Committee Chair has been contacting all delinquent members and inviting them to retain their affiliation with the Chapter.
- Item 6: Query high-profile publications regarding the potential for publishing an article highlighting fisheries work and/or AFS in popular press outlet. Done - Goeman submitted two articles for publication to Field and Stream magazine. Chapter received payment of \$800 for each article. Members interested in doing articles are encouraged to pursue. Could be a good fund raising effort for the Chapter.
- Item 7: Publish action agenda in the Chapter newsletter and on the Chapter homepage. Done
- Item 8: Place the AFS display in the DNR building at the State Fair and coordinate a cooperative fish t-shirt sales

venture with the DNR. Both were done. T-shirt sales at the DNR booth accounted for 12% of all sales. As of February 22, the Chapter and the DNR had approximately 650 t-shirts on hand. Potential profit for the Chapter is around \$3,000.

Item 9: Plan and coordinate a "rivers, watersheds, and fisheries" workshop for NW Minnesota. Status - in progress. Paul Glander has been working on arrangements to hold a breakout session at the Local Water Planners Conference that will be held at U of M -Crookston on July 21-23, 1998.

Item 10: Request the DNR to consider a policy change regarding funding of annual meeting expenses for DNR employees. Status - Goeman has made several contacts to F&W Division Director and Fisheries Chief. Some progress has been made and responses have indicated that supervisors can include such expenses in their budget planning process.

Committee Reports - summary by T. Goeman

Awards - Award of excellence to be presented to Dennis Ernst at banquet. Special recognition awards will be presented to Henry VanOffelen and Jingyin Li. Julie Westerlund researched Chapter records and found that several 25-year awards were due and will be presented at the banquet. Membership - to date there are 160 paid members and 70 delinquent members. Public Awareness - display setup at State Fair. AFS Chapter brochures were sent to all DNR Area Offices and 200+ legislators in Minnesota. Linda Bylander recommends the AFS display be given an overhaul to make it more appealing to a broader audience.

Students - Recommendation was made that contributors of raffle prizes be acknowledged in the next newsletter. Carl Ruetz will take over as Student Chair.

Election Results - Melissa Drake reported the outcome of this years election:
 President-elect: Paul Glander
 Secretary-Treasurer: Kevin Stauffer
 ExCom-Federal: Ann Schneider
 ExCom-DNR: Steve Hirsch
 ExCom-Academic: Loren Miller
 ExCom-Open: Rick Bruesewitz

Treasurers Report - summary of income and expenses for period 1/1/97 to 2/23/98

Income:
 1997 Annual Meeting = \$4,541.00
 1988 Annual Meeting = \$1,400.00
 Transfer from CD = \$1,000.00
 Chapter Dues = \$2,033.00
 Continuing Ed. = \$5,012.00
 Interest = \$63.31
 Postage Refund = \$40.61
 T-Shirt Sales = \$856.00
 Field & Stream = \$1,600.00
 Total = \$16,546.22

Expense:
 1997 Annual Meeting = \$4,834.52
 Continuing Ed. = \$2,976.82
 NCD Student Travel = \$100.00
 Newsletter Printing = \$903.70
 Office Supplies = \$51.51
 Postage = \$273.69
 Presidents Travel = \$1,291.50
 Bank Charges = \$6.00
 AFS Brochures = \$570.00
 Special Projects = \$130.03
 Student Symposium = \$200.00
 T-shirts = \$2,838.55
 Continuing Ed. = \$1825.17
 Total = \$16,001.49

Income less Expense = \$544.73

Certificate of Deposit:
 10/15/97 Balance = \$11,308.00 (Interest earnings of 706.55 for 7 month term)
 10/15/98 Withdrawal \$1,000.00
 5/15/98 - Maturity Date, Approximate balance of \$10,800

It was noted that Chapter finances need to be audited. Vondracek and Stauffer will make arrangements to have another Chapter member audit financial records.

Old Business

NCD Centrarchid Technical Committee - Mike McNerny reported that a compilation of grey literature has been compiled by Melissa Drake. Tech Committee wants to develop direction for those biologists working with centrarchids.

Linda Erickson-Eastwood reported that a summary of work done by the Parent Society Education Committee will be published in an upcoming issue of Fisheries.

Installation of New President - Bruce Vondracek was installed as the new president of the Minnesota Chapter. Outgoing president Tim Goeman, as is tradition, passed on "Esox" to our new president. As his first order of business, Vondracek presented Goeman with a plaque recognizing his service and a job well done. Thanks to Tim and congrats to Bruce!

New Business

Vondracek presented his proposed budget:

Expenses:

R. Frie Endowment = \$1,000
 President's Travel = \$1,300
 Annual Meeting = \$4,354
 NCD Student Travel = \$150
 Chapter Student Travel = \$500
 Newsletter = \$800
 President's Initiatives = \$1,000
 Continuing Ed. = \$3,400
 Division/Staff Travel = \$300
 MinnAqua Donation = \$250
 Membership in FWLA = \$1,000
 Total Expense = \$14,054

Income:

Annual Meeting = \$3,386
 Chapter Dues = \$1,860
 Raffles, T-shirts = \$1,000
 Continuing Ed = \$4,400
 Interest = \$1,000
 Published Articles = \$800
 Total Income = \$12,446
 Income less Expense = (-\$1,608)

Discussion on proposed budget:

Membership in FWLA would cost \$1,000 per year. For this, the Chapter would receive two seats. Vondracek recommended that himself and one other Chapter member take on responsibility of attending the FWLA. Preferably, the Chapter member should live near the Metro area. It was noted that whoever fills this role should clear it with their employer to avoid any potential conflict of interest issues.

Tri-state meeting with Iowa and Wisconsin was proposed by Vondracek. A show of hands indicated support for a joint meeting. Motion to approve the proposed budget was made and seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

New Business -

Larry Kallemeyn asked about AFS participation in the Minnesota Fishing Roundtable. The Chapter was invited and Mark Hove was our representative. Kallemeyn also reported that PETA has sent a letter to all National Parks requesting that parks with fishing discontinue this sport.

Student members have proposed that instead of the president appointing a Student Chair, they would like to vote for their representative. A motion to accept this proposal was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Vondracek will work with students to set up this process. Meeting Adjourned.

Upcoming Events

May 14-15, 1998. 25th Annual Conference on Ecosystem Restoration and Creation. Tampa, Florida. Contact Frederick J. Webb 813.757.2104, email webb@mail.hcc.cc.fl.us.

June 7-12, 1998. The Land-Water Interface: Science for a Sustainable Biosphere. American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and Ecological Society of America. St. Louis. Contact ASLO at 1.800.929.ASLO.

June 23-28, 1998. First International Ictalurid Symposium: Catfish 2000. Davenport, Iowa. Contact Steve Eder (eder@mail.conservation.state.mo.us).

July, 1998. An International Burbot Symposium. Presented by the International Congress on the Biology of Fishes. Towson State University, Baltimore, Maryland. Contact Vaughn Paragamian 208.769.1414, email: vpaagam@idfg.state.id.us.

August 2-6, 1998. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Ecological Exchanges between Major Ecosystems. Baltimore, Maryland. Contact Fred Wagner 801.797.2555.

August 16-20, 1998. Integrated Tools for

Natural Resources Inventories in the 21st Century - An International Conference on the Inventory and Monitoring of Forested Ecosystems. Boise, Idaho. Contact Mark Hansen, USDA Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station, 1992 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 USA. Fax:612-649-5285. Email: hanse034@maroon.tc.umn.edu

August 23-27, 1998. 128th AFS Annual Meeting, Challenges for the New Millennium: Shaping the future of fisheries science and the fisheries professional. Hartford, Connecticut. Contact Betsy Fritz 301.897.8616, bfritz@fisheries.org

December 6-9, 1998. 60th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Hyatt Regency, Cincinnati, OH. Contact Kevin Kayle 440.352.6100, kevin.kayle@dnr.state.oh.us

January 5-7, 1999. Minnesota Chapter Annual Meeting (to be held jointly with Wisconsin and Iowa Chapters). Ramada Yacht Club Resort, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.



Contributions: Letters and Commentary

Advocacy and Responsibility by James Karr, Institute for Environmental Studies (Conservation Biology 7(1); submitted to *Ryba* by Pete Jacobson)

The 1992 Society of Conservation Biology meeting in Blacksburg included a well-attended panel discussion on advocacy. Panel members and many in the audience commented on when, how, and why (or why not) professionals in the field of conservation biology should adopt positions on advocacy. I suggest that we should be calling for professional responsibility rather than debating

advocacy. Let me illustrate that assertion with an example.

Seattle's position between Puget Sound and Lake Washington requires bridges to provide the only practical transportation corridor for thousands of daily commuters using private vehicles and public transportation. Engineers design and construct those bridges to precise technical specifications. If an engineer could demonstrate that a bridge was structurally flawed, should he ponder the merits of advocating redesign or is it his responsibility to call attention to the design flaw? The answer is obvious.

By the same logic, I would be irresponsible if, as a professional ecologist, I was silent when my scientific knowledge lead me to conclude that the life support "bridges" upon which society depends are being destroyed by our actions. My decision too is obvious! It is my responsibility to be articulate in conveying the consequences, including the scientific evidence that leads me to expect those consequences, of continued destruction of existing "bridges." To do otherwise is to violate the trust of society, a society that paid for my education through subsidy of state universities and through the agency grants that supported my research for the past two decades.

Too often, we are timid because we cannot precisely predict when the failure will occur. Which extinction, rate of soil erosion, or level of pollution will cause the bridge to collapse? I am reminded of another track record of prediction. The National Bureau of Economics, using the most powerful economic models and a massive data base, failed in 80% of its predictions of even the sign of change in the gross national product (*Business Week* 2698:11, July 27, 1982). Surely, existing knowledge allows conservation biologists to attain that level of accuracy.

Most politicians and policy makers do not understand the consequences of environmental decisions, just as they are not knowledgeable about bridge design. How can they make informed decisions in either situation if the trained professionals

in those disciplines do not exercise their responsibility to inform decision makers and the public at large? In short, until we consider use of our scientific knowledge as a responsibility, society will view us as advocates.



Interesting Articles and Publications

Book review by Gary Siesennop

Aldo Leopold: a fierce green fire. Author Marybeth Lorbiecki, 1996. This book is an illustrated biography that covers Leopold's personal and professional life in equal measure. It is available at the DNR library. Below is a selection of a few quotes from the book:

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth the cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech." --- Foreword to A Sand County Almanac

"We shall never achieve harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve but to strive." --- "Natural History" A Sand County Almanac

"When I call to mind my earliest impressions, I wonder whether the process ordinarily referred to as growing up is not actually a process of growing down....my earliest impressions of wildlife and its pursuit retain a vivid sharpness of form, color, and atmosphere that half a century of professional wildlife experience has failed to obliterate or improve upon."

--- "Red Legs Kicking" A Sand County Almanac

"Perhaps every youth needs an occasional wilderness trip... --- "Flambeau"

"Education, I fear, is learning to see one thing by going blind to another." --- "Clandeboye"

"Wilderness is a resource which can shrink but cannot grow." ---"Defenders of Wilderness"

"...twenty centuries of 'progress' have brought the average citizen a vote, a national anthem, a bank account, and a high opinion of himself, but not the capacity to live in high density without befouling and denuding his environment, nor a conviction that such capacity, rather than density, is the true test of whether he is civilized." *Game Management*, Aldo Leopold, 1933.

"Civilization is not...the enslavement of a stable and constant earth... It is a state of mutual and interdependent cooperation between human animals, other animals, plants, and soils, which may be disrupted at any time by the failure of any one of them." *The Conservation Ethic* (a speech), Aldo Leopold, 1933.

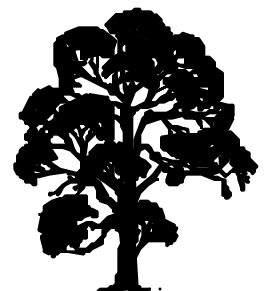
Book Review by Cynthia Tomcko

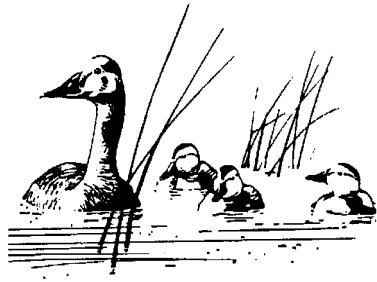
State of the World, 1998, by Lester Brown, Christopher Flavin, and Hilary French, paints the same bleak picture of the condition of our planet, as previous State of the World books, and documents the limited progress we've made to solving the planet's problems. All statistics printed in the book are referenced, as usual (references were not checked by the author as to the accuracy of their assertions). A sampling of references cited in the chapter on sustainable fisheries include: FAO documents, NMFS documents, the New York Times, Science, Scientific American, Global Trends: Fisheries Management - AFS Symposium 20, Nature, Conservation Biology, Renewable Resources Journal, Amicus Journal, Science News, The Economist, Marine Policy.

A short summary of the first chapter (identifies problem) and last chapter (suggests solutions) follows.

The global economy is rapidly expanding. Pressures on natural resources are growing, such as, the increased use of lumber and paper, increased fish harvest, grain consumption, fossil fuel burning, and production of air and water pollutants. Some indicators of the negative effects on the environment are shrinking forests, falling water tables, eroding soils, changing climate, disappearing wetlands, collapsing fisheries, deteriorating rangelands, rivers running dry, dying coral reefs, and disappearance of animal and plant species. Economic and population growth cannot continue indefinitely without further negative impacts on the natural resources that we need for life. Without changes, problems will worsen. The inevitable decisions for change are presently being postponed, to be addressed by an unsuspecting next generation after problems have worsened.

State of the World, 1998 outlined the changes necessary to address problems. The two most important steps are stabilizing world population and replacing a fossil-fuel based economy with a solar, hydrogen energy economy. Additional steps include converting the existing throwaway economy to a reuse and recycle economy, protecting cropland from both soil erosion and conversion to non-farm uses, using land and water more efficiently, and restructuring the existing tax system - decreasing taxes on constructive activities, work and savings, and increasing taxes on destructive activities, carbon emissions and generation of toxic wastes.





Editorial

*I intercepted this transmission on my digital PC-TV satellite dish. It bothers me when these aliens think they are superior. To reflect on the setting of this article see the late Carl Sagan's excellent book, *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*, published by Ballantine Books in 1996 (ISBN 0-0345-40946-9).*

[Vulcan Report on Humans, Issue 10256 No. 951. Fish stocking, Deer feeding, and Wolf and Cormorant Bashing: Human Shortcomings \[Abstract\].](#)

To understand humans, I found it insightful to explore their habits within sports. Other reports in this issue have dealt with their competitive nature and the value sports have within their culture (Reports 936-943). Here I address the illogical character of humans as it pertains to hunting and fishing. Recall that this sport is derived from their recent history--chaotic clan and tribal societies of hunter and gathers.

I analyzed their documents and observed their behaviors in the republic of Minnesota. This region has a large human population, and it has a mostly domesticated landscape. All documents, contacts, and analyses are stored on SVX-6 in repository 1x9.354.yd4.5yt.

Humans still enjoy interacting with their non-human components of their ecosystem. The sport of hunting and fishing allows greater immersion into this 'natural' ecosystem than their other sports (*Figure 1*). They appear attracted to the complexity of this sensory experience, and they often express strong emotional responses during these

interactions (*Videos 1-3*).

A study of their sports reveals an interesting pattern. As many of their political and social movements evolve to extremes, so do their sports. For example, their illogical sport of golf was initially a children's game played in the fields with sticks and balls; the brutal and enigmatic game of football evolved from a child's game of keep-away. What is curious is that hunting and fishing, a sport whose participants acknowledge their mental superiority to the animals they seek to defeat and its primitive peculiarity, has also evolved (or has been perverted as I concluded). Participants in this sport cannot resist altering the rules or the 'playing field' to improve their score, which is measured in animals killed or caught or the size of animals subdued (often relative to another human's success). Of all human sports, one would expect hunting and fishing to remain parsimonious in its methods and rules. Both the participants and the agency's responsible for its regulation drive the sport to greater complexity and depravity.

Evolution of the human species lineage has produced several shortcomings for a highly dense population, and these shortcomings are obvious when viewing their involvement in hunting and fishing. First, their need for success and their competitive drive leads the species to in effect cheat in this sport. They wish to catch walleye (a species of fish) in every waterbody, although this fish has quite narrow habitat requirements and it was originally only found in the large lakes of the region. Since walleye prey on other fish species, its abundance is naturally quite low, but fishers complain to the governmental agency responsible for fostering and regulating this sport (known in Minnesota as the D&R) to increase walleye abundance to unsustainable or unattainable levels. Advocates of the sport demand that all lakes be above average (see the Lake Wobegon Effect in the human's computer system, www.npr.org), and they demand greater stocking (i.e. adding fish to a lake).

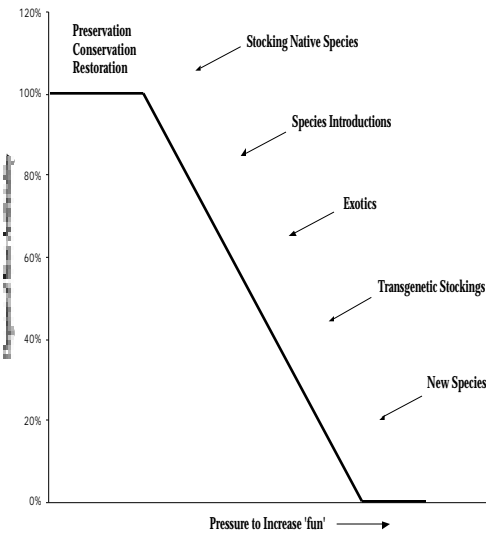
Advocates of the sport ignore much of the science produced by their governments, and they produce dubious claims to taunt authorities to force action that is shortsighted. This drives the sport to become more and more artificial. The resulting illogical, mutated sport deviates significantly from the original sport whose principles suggested no changes in the playing field--only improvements in the skill of the participants. It is illogical to assume that the lakes are fishless when the fisher has little or no skill, but some fishers make such assumptions. Humans appear unable to control their need to manipulate the environment. With fishing, humans manipulate fish populations to receive greater emotional pleasure; however, they ignore the larger and more important problem of fish habitat destruction by their unorganized development and uncontrolled population expansion. Humans have a poor ability to predict the long-term consequences of recent events--they overestimate the importance of some events on their future (e.g. stocking) and underestimate the importance of others (e.g. conserving fish environments).

Their irrationality in fish stocking is also replicated in their deer feeding program. Deer are ungulates similar to our pcaiteys. In winters with high deer mortality from deep snow, human hunters demand that the government feed the wild deer so that they may survive to be killed several earth months later. Humans wish to maintain long-term unsustainable deer population levels, which is damaging to the herd, so that they may receive greater emotional pleasure during their hunting time. The logic of this emotional need also eludes me for it does not appear necessary for the survival of an individual hunter. Other developments in the sport of hunting have demonstrated that humans can be lazy, are motivated by number of animals killed, and seek methods that ease any physical or mental burden on themselves. It appears that for some humans, activity that requires hard work reduces the emotional value (e.g. fun) they receive playing the sport.

Another shortcoming of the human species is greed. This trait can be

observed when fishing and hunting participants attempt to eliminate or reduce 'competitors' to their prey. Hunters wish to eliminate wolves whose diet consist of deer. Some show strong emotions to others who do not share their determination of eliminating this competitor (*Video 4*). Fishers also wish to reduce the effect wild cormorants have on fisheries, even though consequences for most fisheries is inconsequential. This same kind of behavior can also be directed at intraspecific competitors (see www.fw.umn.edu/Indigenous on the human computer system). They wish to regulate the actions of others, but are unwilling to accept restraints on their own actions until a crisis develops that can no longer be ignored or placated with futile activities.

I conclude from these recent observations of human behavior in sports that humans will drive their culture to the bizarre, and in particular, changes to their sport of hunting and fishing will produce damaging consequences to human society. Their discovery and tinkering with the foundations of life at a time of immaturity in their logic and control of their emotions will produce life forms that will be both uncontrollable and harmful. The trend to greater artificiality in hunting and fishing will place demands on private reserves and governmental agencies to produce wildlife and fish populations that have not co-evolved with humans. Therefore, I recommend further study on this species.



Of Interest

Special Thanks, submitted by William R. Ardren

The Chapter would like to thank those who made the Annual Chapter Raffle such a great success. The list of contributors to the raffle include:

- Strikemaster Corporation (Minneapolis)
- American Fisheries Society (Bethesda)
- Adventurous Products, Inc. (Park Rapids)
- In-Fisherman (Brainerd)
- Outdoor News (New Hope)
- JB Lures, Inc. (Winthrop)
- Wild Wings (Lake City)
- Cy Decosse Inc. (Minnetonka)

We would also like to thank Mark Cook for the well made fishing rod, Henry VanOffelen for his help, and everyone who bought tickets. Ginny Snarski and Julie Westerlund were the winning bidders for the beautiful prints.

Please Vote for the new parent society 2nd VP, and also vote on the AFS draft position statement (Responsible use of fish and other aquatic organisms) which is on the same ballot. Your ballot must be received by AFS no later than June 12th.

Education Media

“Riparian Environments: Values, Threats, Management and Restoration” is a slide show about riparian environments developed by Ronald Bjorkland, Charles Shreves and Cathy Pringle. It is designed to facilitate the understanding and appreciation of the ecological, economic, and societal roles and values of riparian environments. The presentation includes slides from many regions of the U.S. And address five themes: definition, importance, threats, policies and tools for their protection, and examples of recent restoration projects. The slide show can be used for a variety of audiences from high school, college, to community organizations. Copies for purchase are available through the North American Benthological Society for \$160. Contact Cathy Pringle at 706.542.1120,

pringle@sparrow.ecology.uga.edu.

New Fishing Regulations Across the Country

New Hampshire:

Lakes managed for lake trout and salmon now have a defined 'ice fishing' season which goes from Jan. 1 through March 31. A 15-inch minimum size limit on trout (brook, brown, and rainbow) was also implemented on most of these lakes along with a two-trout daily aggregate bag limit. Other major changes include the implementation of a 12-16 inch protected slot limit on several trout ponds managed as fly-fishing only and a 16-18 inch protected slot limit for walleye on the Connecticut River [Atlantic International Chapter Newsletter]

Vermont:

Following years controversy over hook and line commercial fishing, Vermont has now implemented daily bag limits for yellow perch and crappie.

Perch:

Lake Champlain: daily limit of 75 fish or 30 pounds, whichever is greater

All other waters: daily limit of 50 fish or 20 pounds, whichever is greater.

The numerical limit will apply if fish are cleaned for consumption on the ice or water.

Crappie:

Daily limit of 25 crappie, minimum length of 8 inches.

Fish buyers will be issued special permits to allow them to legally possess and transport more than the usual possession limit of twice the daily limit. [Atlantic International Chapter Newsletter]

Wisconsin:

Effective April 1, anglers fishing most Wisconsin waters for panfish will be subject to a new daily bag limit of 25 fish. Panfish include bluegills, sunfish, pumpkinseeds, crappies and yellow perch. The previous daily bag limit was 50 fish.

"The main purpose behind the new bag limit is to more equitably allocate the harvest of larger panfish among more anglers," explains Michael Staggs, director of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection for the Department of

Natural Resources. "The new bags should help redistribute the panfish harvest away from a small number of individuals who catch large numbers of panfish, particularly during spawning seasons in the spring, to the less frequent angler or tourist fishing later in the summer." The new daily limit applies to inland waters as well as Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Select inland waters and boundary waters may have other bag limits. Anglers should check the 1998-99 Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations for exceptions to the 25-panfish bag limit.

The daily panfish bag limit for Lake Michigan is 25, of which no more than five may be yellow perch. The combined total of panfish taken from Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributary streams is 25.

In addition to redistributing the harvest of larger panfish, Staggs said, the new rules may help increase the overall size of panfish on some waters. DNR fisheries research has found a overall decline in the number of bluegills that are 8 inches or larger. Fisheries managers hope the reduced bag limit will enable more fish to grow to a larger size, thus increasing the overall numbers of larger fish available to anglers. [WI DNR news release]

Plants National Database--USDA

<http://plants.usda.gov/plants/>
The United States Department of Agriculture provides this site, which is meant to be a "single source of general information about the plant kingdom to researchers and other people interested in plants." The database is organized by three major topics: wetlands, threatened & endangered, and phylogenetic. In addition, there are external links to other USDA databases for economically important and noxious plants. PND can be searched by family or genus as well as by state. Retrieved items may contain taxonomic information, synonyms, a coarse distribution map, and references. In addition, there is a browseable and searchable image gallery of over 1,000 plants. This is an

excellent source of checklist information.

AFS Student Writing Contest

The American Fisheries Society is holding its first writing contest to recognize students who do an excellent job of communication the value of fisheries science research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500 - 700 word article explaining their own research or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in a language understandable to the general public (i.e., journalistic style). Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. Most important is that students write their articles in a manner that the general public can understand so people can appreciate why the research is important and how it could help society and the fisheries resources. The top three winners will be invited to the annual meeting (at the winner's expense), where their articles will be prominently displayed at the poster session; they will also be given a plaque recognizing their achievement. The winning articles will be published in Fisheries. Articles are due no later than 15 January 1999.

Please mail five copies of the articles to Marilyn Brown, AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814. If you have any questions, contact Brown at 301.897.8616, ext 201.

Polish Journal Of Ecology

publishes original scientific papers dealing with all aspects of ecology: both fundamental and applied, physiological ecology, ecology of population, community, ecosystem, landscape as well as global ecology. All papers are published exclusively in English. Polish Journal of Ecology is published in four issues per year. Occasionally, quarterly issues can be joined in one volume, and published two times per year. The selected volume of Pol.J.Ecol. with the results of the broader projects, conferences or specific problems may be published under the common title as a special issue. The following special

issues of Pol. J. Ecology (Ekol.pol.) are published in last years or are in press:

1. Limnology of two lowland impoundments, Central Poland (guest editor-Z. Kajak) Pol.J.Ecol.(Ekol.pol.) 37 3(4), 1989, 209-417
2. Lake-watershed dependencies in diversified landscape (Suwalki Landscape Park-North-Eastern Poland)(guest editors: A. Hillbricht-Ilkowska and R.J. Wisniewski) Pol.J.Ecol.-(Ekol.pol.) 41 (1-2), 1993, 3-284.
3. Watershed processes and vegetation in the region of chronic atmospheric pollution (Carpathian foothills, South Poland) (guest editors: K.Grodzinska and J.Weiner) Pol.J.Ecol (Ekol.pol.) 41 (3-4), 1993, 289-450.
4. Cormorants in Europe (breeding, distribution, feeding, conservation) (guest editors:M.Gromadzki and J.Gromadzka) Pol.J.Ecol.(Ekol.pol.) 45 (1), 1997, 1-335.



News from Around the World Submitted by John Fields and others

VERMONT LISTINGS: Greenwire reported that Vermont officials proposed adding eight species, including the wild lupine, Sedge wren, spotted turtle, channel darter fish and several species of freshwater mussel to the state's endangered species list. Steven Parren of the state's Nongame and Natural Heritage Program said the proposed listings indicate "things aren't turning around" in the protection of many of the state's rare species.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES: AP reported that conservationists sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service to force consideration of Great Basin desert redband trout for the endangered species list. The lawsuit argues FWS failed to meet a 90-day initial finding deadline on the petition filed last September under the ESA. "The

Fish and Wildlife Service is once again looking for excuses to avoid doing its job, which is to protect native species," said Joy Belsky, staff ecologist for the Oregon Natural Desert Association. "They prefer waiting 'til a species is down to its last individuals, at which point it may be too late." Logging, grazing and competition from non-native fish contribute to extirpation of the redband trout in 72 percent of its range.

THREATENED TROUT: Reuters reported that the National Marine Fisheries service has decided to list two out of five populations of steelhead trout in CA and OR as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. However, the NMFS declined to list the other three populations instead placing them on the candidate list. Commerce Department Assistant Secretary Terry Garcia said, "Extinction...to that principle. But we're also committed to protecting and restoring steelhead and other salmon in the most efficient, least disruptive way possible." Seven steelhead populations are now protected under the ESA in California.

DAM PROTEST: The Miami Herald reported that 1,000 environmentalists protested in Budapest, Hungary Saturday against a new dam on the River Danube as part of an "International Day of Protests against Dams." A rally speaker said, "Politicians should realize that we do not want a dam, when they decide about our money, our Danube and our natural resources."

"WIN-WIN" SETTLEMENT: A coalition of 16 Montana conservation groups announced an out-of-court settlement over pollution violations by Stone Container Corporation. "We wanted to prevent pulp mill pollution, and Stone wanted incentives to save money. With new pollution prevention processes, we can achieve everyone's goals," said Charlie Tebbutt of the Western Environmental Law Center, who represented the coalition, Montana CHEER. Tebbutt said the agreement is "one of the most comprehensive citizen settlements ever reached."

WETLANDS = FISH: A Clean Water Network press release announced the release of a report, Fisheries, Wetlands and Jobs. The report warns three-quarters of the nation's fish production depends on estuaries, marshes, and other wetlands but the US loses more than 117,000 acres of wetlands annually. Fishing contributes \$152 billion a year to the US economy and creates about 2 million jobs. Zeke Grader of Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations said, "Fishermen in this country are fighting for their lives. We need to balance the race to develop our coasts and other waterways with the need to preserve wetlands, essential for our country's commercial and sport fishing industry."

COLLABORATION IS NOT SCIENCE: A recent Oregonian editorial by Native Forest Network Executive Director Tim Hermach asserted saving the salmon and preserving and restoring water quality will take more than voluntary compliance. Hermach responded to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's assertion forest landowners, ranchers and industries "have always intended to be good stewards of the land." Citing recent attempts by the state of Oregon to develop a collaborative plan for protecting dwindling salmon runs, Hermach wrote, "collaboration, however well intended, is not science. Today's voluntary agreement made to escape the obligation of law is tomorrow's dead salmon...Federal mandates may be imperfect, but we have already seen what local industries have 'voluntarily' done to our forests, our water quality and fish habitat, and we would be foolish to invite more of the same."



"CIRCLING THE WAGONS": The Arizona Daily Star reported two top Forest Service biologists who recently quit the agency contend the Service's Southwest Region focuses on logging and grazing at the expense of wildlife. The pair says senior regional managers are "enslaved to commercial interests." Leon Fager and Jim Cooper formerly headed the Southwest Regional endangered species and fisheries programs. Fager wrote Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, urging an independent team of scientists study grazing impacts in the Southwest. "The region is now 'circling the wagons' and spending millions of taxpayer dollars to defend a livestock grazing program that has outlived its value and needs to be phased out as an inappropriate use of national forests in the 21st century," Fager wrote. Fager says many of the Region's ecosystem problems stem from Forest Service grazing policies.

ALTERED HABITATS: AP reported that a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources study shows a construction boom in Wisconsin's north woods lakes and rivers is destroying shoreline habitats. Clearing weeds and trees from lakefront property affects frogs and loons. "As more and more of the habitats are altered, we're losing some of the features of the lakes, like the calling of the loons, the night chorus of frogs and the nesting of eagles," said DNR wildlife biologist Mike Meyer.

CAVIAR: THE VANISHING DELICACY (ENS): The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with the New York Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, announced the dramatic decline in the wild population of sturgeon, particularly those found in the Caspian Sea. In the 19th century the United States led the world in caviar production. But by 1910 sturgeon in the U.S. were nearly extinct due to over-fishing, poaching and habitat loss. Today the U.S. imports its caviar, and New York City is the largest caviar importer, making up more than three quarters of the total U.S. market. Now Caspian Sea sturgeons provide more than 90 percent of the world's caviar. But the number of

adult sturgeons in the Caspian Sea is estimated to have declined by 70 percent from 142 million adults in 1978 to 43.5 million in 1994. The most commercially desirable caviars - beluga, osetra and sevruga - are increasingly rare as the beluga, Russian and stellate sturgeons become threatened with extinction. Of the nine species of sturgeon native to the United States, four are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Endangered are the: shortnosed sturgeon, the pallid sturgeon and the white sturgeon. The Gulf sturgeon is considered threatened.

WISCONSIN FROGS DECLINE: The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that four of Wisconsin's twelve frog species are declining. Blanchard's cricket frog faces extinction in WI but historically was one the most abundant frog in the southern part of the state. Pickerel frogs and spring peepers are also showing serious declines over 14 years of survey data. The information was reported at a Midwest Declining Amphibians Conference.

MERCURY EMISSIONS TARGETED - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to require the reporting of mercury emissions from all coal-fired electric generating plants. The proposal followed a February report which concluded utilities are the major remaining source of mercury emissions into the air, with one third of all U.S. Emissions coming from coal-fired plants. According to the report, almost no mercury emissions come from any other type of power plant. The EPA would begin collecting the emissions data after a sixty-day public comment period and approval by the Office of Management and Budget. The proposal is available on the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/tin/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>

MAINE MERCURY EMISSIONS CURTAILED - Maine Governor Angus King Thursday signed legislation that will slash mercury emissions from the state's two municipal incinerators and New England's only chlorine manufacturer, HoltraChem Manufacturing Corp. in Orrington. "This action brings

us a step closer to the day when mercury-related fish advisories will be a thing of the past for all of Maine's rivers. This legislation is also significant nationally and will be of great help to EPA as we advance a broader agenda for limiting mercury emissions," said regional U.S. EPA New England Administrator John DeVillars. Municipal incinerators are the largest source of mercury pollution in the Northeast, accounting for 45 percent of the 17.5 tons of mercury emitted annually in the region. DeVillars said the HoltraChem facility alone accounts for three percent of the total mercury emissions in the Northeast.

SCIENTISTS SPEAK OUT - In a joint letter, Edward O. Wilson of Harvard University, Reed Noss of the Conservation Biology Institute and more than 200 leading scientists are asking President Bill Clinton to adopt a conservative, ecologically sound approach to land management for the Columbia Basin. "We believe the legacy of the past requires a significant departure from current management if we are to preserve what is left of the rich natural heritage of the interior Columbia River Basin," the scientists write. The Forest Service is currently developing a management plan for the 72 million acre Columbia Basin, covering eastern Oregon and Washington, all of Idaho and western Montana. But none of the proposed draft alternatives adequately protect the environment and all fail to follow the recommendation's of the agencies' own scientists, the letter says. The deadline for public comments on the draft plan is May 6.

FISHING PHASE-OUT IN GLACIER BAY - The National Park Service (NPS), and its parent agency the Department of the Interior (DOI) are requesting public comment on a proposed rule to phase out commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska. The DOI seeks input from the general public, all stakeholders and scientists. The comment period has been extended through May 15. Although this rule would only apply to Glacier Bay National Park, it represents a shift in how marine waters in national parks are managed, and could set the stage for changes in other parks as

well. The NPS proposes a 15-year phase-out period for commercial fishing in Glacier Bay proper, while allowing continued fishing in the outer waters of the park. Qualifying commercial fishermen would be allowed to continue for 15 years, outside the primary visitor season, which runs from May through September.

FISH SUIT - American Wildlands and Pacific Rivers Council filed suit Monday in federal court to halt the Cool Bear Timber Sale proposed by the Lolo National Forest in Montana. The sale threatens to dump excess sediment into Fishtrap Creek and its tributaries, important bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout streams. The sale requires reconditioning 12 miles of road, reconstructing 27 miles of existing roads - which the agency claims are watershed restoration activities - and building an additional 1.9 miles of new road. "Our native fish are barely hanging on, and now the Forest Service proposes to go forward with this huge timber sale," said Kim Davitt, resource specialist with American Wildlands. "We want the agency to fix the serious problems caused by past logging and roading first, before any more of these activities are approved."

RIVERS ARE FOR WATER - The Albuquerque Journal recently reported two legal opinions by the state's top natural-resources and water attorneys who consider leaving water in rivers for the benefit of wildlife and ecosystems a valid use. Conservationists say these opinions on instream flows could help save endangered species. "It's about time," said Sue George of Defenders of Wildlife in Albuquerque. "New Mexico has been the only state in the West that does not give any legal protection to instream flow in rivers." New Mexico irrigators are likely to challenge the legal opinions.

SHRIMPERS MUST USE DEVICES TO SAVE (ENS): A decision by the National Marine Fisheries Service requires shrimpers to use bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) could save millions of juvenile red snapper and other finfish from being caught in shrimp trawl

nets. The National Marine Fisheries Service has agreed to adopt Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council recommendations regarding the use of the devices in most Gulf of Mexico shrimp nets. Most offshore Gulf of Mexico shrimpers will be required to install BRDs in their nets within 30 days.

REFRIGERATORS (ENS) - Leaking refrigerants from supermarket display cases are a major cause of ozone depletion, second only to air conditioners in vehicles. At the International Institute for Refrigeration conference scientists discussed one potential solution - to replace the high-pressure gas used in conventional refrigeration systems with a low-pressure liquid. Circulating a liquid refrigerant, a technique called secondary cooling, can increase energy efficiency, reduce refrigerant leakage, and utilize a centralized refrigeration unit that is more reliable and less expensive to operate." While thousands of European supermarkets have switched to the secondary cooling technology, the idea has been slow to catch on in other parts of the world. In the United States about 100 supermarkets have been converted. "There are approximately 30,000 large supermarkets in the United States, and the typical supermarket leaks about 1,500 pounds of refrigerants annually," said Predrag Hrnjak, a professor of mechanical and industrial engineering and a researcher at the University of Illinois' air conditioning and refrigeration center. "This is a huge problem."

BIODIVERSITY, YOUNG FORESTS & STREAMSIDES STUDIED IN OREGON - U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is launching a long-term program to study plants, animals and their habitats on federal forested lands in western Oregon. The 10-year program, which begins this summer, is expected to help improve forest management practices. USGS will coordinate the Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research (CFER) Program, working in partnership with state and federal researchers and resource managers. Individual CFER projects will focus on three major areas: biodiversity, riparian or streamside areas and species of special concern. Ecosystem

management is dictated by the Northwest Forest Plan, which was adopted in 1994 because of long-standing public concerns over management of federal forest lands in western Washington, Oregon and northern California. The plan attempts to simultaneously accommodate human needs, sustain critical ecosystem functions and maintain native biodiversity.

PRICEY GRAVEL FOR YELLOWSTONE - Gravel used on Yellowstone Park roads must be free of weed seeds, to assure that weeds are not brought into the park. To destroy the seeds, the gravel is heated to 300 degrees, which costs from \$4 to \$4.50 per ton. Yellowstone gravel has been "cooked" for at least a decade a park spokesman said. It makes for expensive roadways. One five-mile stretch of road cost \$250,000 more than a standard road because the gravel had to be "cooked" before it could be brought into the park. Most of the gravel is covered with asphalt, but slope material and stockpiles, about five percent of the total, is left exposed.

THE FROG AND THE DAM - Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt bought some insurance for the Western spotted frog last week, keeping it off the endangered species list, but guaranteeing it a measure of protection. Under the agreement signed by Babbitt, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will withdraw its petition seeking protected status for the frog. The frog was imperiled by loss of habitat when construction began on the Jordanelle Dam in Utah. The Provo River was straightened to prevent flooding before the dam was completed. Under the agreement, the Provo will be restored to its original course, and hundreds of acres of grasslands will be flooded. Babbitt called the agreement a model of cooperation between federal, state and tribal governments in attempting to avoid costly legal battles over wildlife.

MONEY FOR CLEAN WATER & RECYCLING IN NEW YORK - New York Governor George Pataki has announced more than \$2.7 million to fund 33 projects to help farmers protect New York's lakes, rivers and streams

from agricultural runoff. Project activities include water quality assessment, building runoff buffers and waste management systems for watershed protection, and providing technical assistance for farmers. The projects will be implemented by county soil and water conservation districts and operated and maintained by farmers. Matching grants totaling over \$3 million were awarded to 24 New York organizations to increase waste reduction and recycling. The awards ranged from \$25,800 to \$500,000 and leveraged an additional \$6,445,917 in public and private sector financing. The projects develop technologies to enhance recycling productivity, increase state-wide capacity for recycling and reduce solid waste going to landfills.

AMERICA'S 20 MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS, April (ENS) - The waste produced by factory hog and chicken farms is the fastest growing, most devastating threat to rivers, according to the environmental organization American Rivers. The group announced its annual list of the nation's 20 most endangered rivers: (1) Hanford Reach of the Columbia (Washington State); (2) Missouri River (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri); (3) Pocomoke River (Eastern Shore, Maryland); (4) Kern River (California, near Los Angeles); (5) Blackfoot River (Montana, near Missoula); (6) Colorado River Delta (Mexico: Baja California, Sonora); (7) Chattahoochee River (Georgia near Atlanta, Alabama, Florida); (8) Lower Snake River (Washington); (9) Apple River (Wisconsin) Threat: Factory Hog Farms. Two factory hog farms which will house a total of 12,000 hogs are being built in the Apple River drainage basin. Spills and leaks of this untreated waste could contaminate waterways; (10) Pinto Creek (Arizona); (11) Wolf River (Wisconsin) Threat: Zinc/Copper Sulfide Mine. Millions of tons of waste laced with mercury, lead, zinc, and sulfuric acid from a proposed zinc/copper mine threaten the headwaters of the Wolf, one of the last wild rivers in the Midwest; (12) Potomac River (West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia); (13) Rogue River/Illinois River System including

Elk Creek and Rough & Ready Creek (Oregon); (14)Taku River (British Columbia, Alaska); (15)Crooked Creek (Arkansas); (16)Passaic River (New Jersey, near Newark); (17)Mattaponi River (Virginia); (18)Walla Walla River (Oregon, Washington); (19)Uinta River (Utah); (20)Kansas River (Kansas, near Topeka).

BIOTIC WEALTH: AP reported that a 20-year study by the World Conservation Union found one in every eight plants in the world faces extinction from habitat loss and competition from non-native species. The study found 12.5% of the world's seed producing plants and ferns are endangered. In the US, 29% of plants are at risk. "Every nation understands and appreciates its biotic wealth much less than it does its material and cultural wealth. Ironically, it is precisely the biological assets that are most at risk," said New York Botanical Garden's Brian Boom. Researchers say many threatened plants have medical values. 75% of yews, which have cancer-fighting compounds, are threatened.

PROBE OF FISH AGENCY: Scripps-McClatchy News Service reported that the Alaska Marine Conservation Council filed a request with the inspector general for a federal investigation into the National Marine Fisheries Service because the agency failed to follow its own laws and has jeopardized the health of the Bering Sea ecosystem. The Council, composed of fishermen and conservationists, contends NMFS ignored for seven years its responsibility to thoroughly study fishing's effects on the environment. Since the last study seventeen years ago, species such as the Stellar sea lion have become endangered.

FISH CHICAGO: UPI reported that the Chicago River is making a comeback with several species of fish, including trout, perch and salmon, found in areas considered nearly lifeless 24 years ago. The 1985 Deep Tunnel project diverted raw sewage that once ran straight into the river and aeration stations have restored oxygen. The US Fish and Wildlife Service warns that the fish, while surviving and repopulating the river, are

not safe to eat.

SCIENTIST GOES WADING FOR SEDIMENT CONTROL (ENS): Peter Wilcock, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, has devised a simple method of estimating how quickly excess river sediment, unleashed by natural or man-made land disturbances, will flow downstream. The technique, was published in the April 17 issue of the journal Science, involves wading into the water instead of relying solely on instruments to measure the movement of sand and gravel. Wilcock divides sediment into just two categories: sand, with grains smaller than two millimeters; and gravel, with grains larger than two millimeters. The percentages of these two sizes can be determined by wading along the river, which is much simpler and quicker than other sampling techniques, Wilcock says. "You need to know the rate at which the sediment will be transported by the stream," he says, "and you want to know whether the fine material, the sand, will move downstream faster than the gravel." Wilcock's method demonstrates how fast the water must move in order to first dislodge the sand and gravel from the river bed and begin moving the material.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION - The U.S. Coast Guard has proposed a rule and voluntary guidelines to protect U.S. waters from the invasion of aquatic nuisance species. These non-native species pose a risk to people, native species and economic growth Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater said. They most often enter in the ballast water from ships. The new rule proposes mandatory reporting and sampling for nearly all vessels entering U.S. waters after voyages from foreign ports or other nearshore waters beyond the open ocean. Nuisance zebra mussels invaded the U.S. in 1986 when one ship dumped ballast water; they are now in 19 states and two Canadian provinces, and are expected to cost the Great Lakes region alone more than \$500 million by the year 2000. Asian clams, another nuisance species, filter the entire volume of northern San Francisco Bay more than once a day, disrupting the food chain.

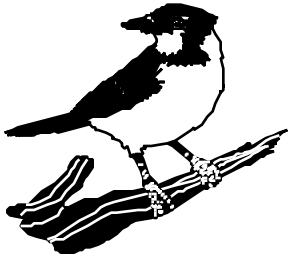
Hydrilla, an invasive nuisance plant clogs waterways in 14 states and costs Florida alone more than \$14 million a year to control.

ENDANGERED YUBA FISH: The South Yuba River Citizens League reported that for the second time in two weeks, river monitors on California's Yuba River identified a dam operation failure detrimental to the Yuba's endangered stocks of salmon and steelhead. Shawn Garvey of SYRCL said the Yuba County Water Agency regulates the flow of water through their hydro project on Englebright Dam. "Decreases [in flow] of this size not only kill endangered fish, they are simply and blatantly illegal," Garvey said. "The irony is that the YCWA wants a 500 foot dam, and they can't even legally operate a small dam like Englebright."

SCIENTISTS TO ADVISE BLM - Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Pat Shea announced that the BLM is establishing a Science Advisory Board that will assist the agency in applying scientific information to its management of the public lands. "This board will advise the BLM on the use of science in managing the public lands," said Shea. "By maximizing our use of science and technology, the BLM will be able to do numerous tasks more effectively, such as improving rangeland health, restoring riparian-wetland areas, controlling invasive weeds, and enhancing our management of wild horses and burros."

FEDS COULD TAKE OVER ALASKA SUBSISTENCE FISHERY - Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has expressed strong concern that the Alaska State Legislature will not enact a law to allow Alaska to resume management of subsistence hunting and fishing in the state. In that case, the federal government could assume management of Alaska's subsistence fisheries. "Time is running out and the Legislature is moving squarely in the wrong direction. It is becoming increasingly likely that the federal government will need to assume management responsibility for the subsistence fishery program in the State

of Alaska when the current moratorium expires on December 1, 1998," Babbitt said. The Interior Department has managed a subsistence program for wildlife, but not fisheries, on over 200 million acres of public lands in Alaska since July 1990, after the Alaska Supreme Court held that under Alaska's Constitution, the state could not provide a rural subsistence priority in its management actions.



RUSSIAN PRESERVES

THREATENED: Environmental News Network reported that scientists from Purdue University are working with Russian officials to protect 100-year-old Russian nature preserves from development. The 74 million acres of "zapovedniks" -- thought to be the only completely undeveloped inhabitable places in the world -- are unique in that since 1905, no human activity has been allowed inside them except scientific research. Purdue is working with the Russians to develop a GIS database for ecological research, but "[t]he only way we can save these preserves is to bring in western scientists and western money," said Purdue ecologist Gene Rhodes. "Without that, the Russian government will no doubt succumb to economic and social pressures and allow the preserves to be developed."

"DO OR DIE DECADE": A Philadelphia Inquirer editorial by Richard Whiteford cites recent scientific surveys when he writes that we are entering a "do or die decade" for the environment. Whiteford refers to the Nature and Human Society conference last October where acclaimed scientists such as E.O. Wilson gave their view that "we have roughly 30 years to stop destroying ecosystems and species and restore them -- or face ecological catastrophe." Whiteford also cites a recent

report by the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, In Troubled Waters, that advises immediate action against overfishing and ecosystem destruction.

"The uniform message from the scientific community is that the environmental dead end is in sight...Even if predictions are off by a decade or two, we don't have time to futz around."

MINING VICTORY CONFIRMED: A Wisconsin Citizen Action and conservation coalition alert announced Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson signed into law SB3, the Mining Moratorium bill: "Today, in a testament to the power of grassroots organizing and the principles of democracy, the citizens of Wisconsin will have a new law to protect them from unsafe mining and untested mining technology."

Conservation and tribal groups fought for years plans to build a sulfide mine on the Wolf River leading to the moratorium. Conservation groups warn the "victory will not be complete" until the bill is implemented as its sponsors intended.

ANGLERS' EARTH DAY DEMANDS: Trout Unlimited marked Earth Day demanding action on President Clinton's Clean Water Action Plan. "If Congress wants to give the nation an Earth Day present, funding for the Clean Water Action Plan should be at the top of the list," said Steve Moyer of TU. "Funding this program ought to be a no-brainer...Polluted runoff from agricultural fields, construction sites, timber roads and other non-point sources is Public Enemy Number One when it comes to healthy rivers and trout," Moyer said.

MASS EXTINCTIONS: The Washington Post reported a majority of the nation's biologists believe a "mass extinction" of plants and animals is underway that poses a major threat to humans in the next century, yet most Americans are only dimly aware of the problem. A Louis Harris poll of 400 scientists from the American Institute of Biological Scientists ranked extinction of species as one of the planet's gravest concerns. "The speed at which species are being lost is much faster than any we've seen in the past -- including those

[extinctions] related to meteor collisions," said University of Tennessee ecologist Daniel Simberloff.

"SLIPPERY SLOPE": AP reported Gaylord Nelson, former US Senator and Wisconsin Governor and founder of Earth Day, sees the US on a "slippery slope" to potential ruin as the population grows and natural resources are used up. Nelson said, "The hard fact is that, while the population is booming here and around the world, the resource base that sustains the economy is rapidly dwindling."

LOW-TECH SOLUTION: AP reported that old refrigerators are being used as incubators for raising endangered Lahontan cutthroat trout in Nevada. The Lahontan trout, the largest trout in North America, inhabited Nevada's Truckee River and Lake Tahoe before the Derby Dam was built in 1905. Conservation and tribal groups work to recover the trout using the refrigerators that "allows them to immediately rear in the water and become accustomed to the river," said Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe chairman Mervin Wright. "It will benefit not only the fish but the people who live here. We are historically a fishery tribe." The Bureau of Reclamation and area farmers oppose construction of fish ladders at the dam, required to get the trout to Lake Tahoe.

DEFORMED FROGS [Environmental Science & Technology]: The recent finding of abnormal frogs in many different states and Canada spanned a wide range of amphibians and was not limited to species, geography or climate, according to James J. La Clair of The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif. In a new report in the April 14 Web edition of Environmental Science & Technology, La Clair and colleague John Bantle offer an explanation for these findings by examining the effects of pesticide degradation in the early amphibian development. La Clair's group found that S-methoprene, an insect growth regulator that was introduced in the late 1970s to control fleas and mosquitos, posed little risk to the development of amphibians. However, when exposed to sunlight, water and

microorganisms, La Clair found that S-methoprene breaks up into other products that dramatically alter embryo development. By adding minute amounts of these degradation products to developing embryos of the African clawed frog, *Xenopus laevis*, the Scripps group found that the embryo developed into a juvenile with deformations similar to those found in nature. La Clair emphasizes that the current procedure of assessing the risk posed by pesticides by examining only the host pesticide must be changed to include the relationship between amphibian development and the degradation products that form under natural conditions.

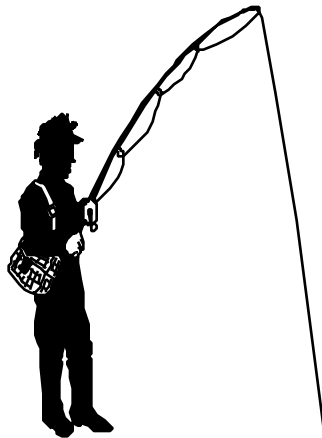
FIRST IFQ PROSECUTION. On 4/13 a southeast AK fisherman was convicted by a federal jury of falsifying his IFQ (individual fish quota) harvest record -- harvesting his blackcod catch in an area where he did not have a quota share. [Assoc Press]

CHINESE FISHING BAN. On 4/12, Chinese fishery officials announced that China will ban fishing in its coastal waters from June 15, 1998, to Sept. 15, 1998, to protect declining fish stocks. This is longer than the two-month annual closure imposed from 1995-1997. [Dow Jones News]

TRIBAL STEELHEAD HARVEST. On 4/8, NMFS officials notified Nez Perce tribal officials of a proposed cut in the allowable tribal harvest of Snake River "B-run" steelhead trout, listed under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species, from 20% of the returning adults to a maximum of 7% of the returning adults. This is likely to dramatically limit the fishery for fall chinook salmon, where steelhead trout are taken incidentally. [Assoc Press]

CHINESE RED TIDES. On 4/18, Hong Kong officials closed five popular beaches because of red tides of *Gyrodinium aureolum* or *Gymnodinium mikimotoi*. These tides were also alleged to have killed an estimated 1,500 tons or about as much as half of Hong Kong's annual farmed fish production. These tides began in mid-March 1998, and are

claimed to have caused at least \$32.3 million damage to 80% of Hong Kong's 1,500 fish farms. However, government officials estimate the loss at only about \$10.3 million. By 4/16, about 500 tons of dead fish had been collected and dumped in landfills. The Hong Kong government announced efforts to develop a red tide monitoring and warning system. As of 4/16, the red tide affecting Hong Kong had spread to neighboring Guangdong province, where more than 350 tons of fish were reported killed. The economic loss was reported to exceed \$4.3 million. In addition, more than 328 acres of shellfish beds were reported to have been "ravaged." [Assoc Press, Reuters]



PENOBSCOT DAM (AP)- Federal regulators rejected a proposal to build a new dam on the Penobscot River in Maine, saying it would endanger recovery efforts of the Atlantic salmon. The Bangor Hydro-Electric Co., had asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve licensing of the dam, arguing that it is needed to meet electricity demand in the region. But the commission said the dam, known as the Basin Mills Project, would have only "modest benefits" in terms of electricity production and "would have significant adverse effects on Atlantic salmon and the restoration efforts." The proposed project has been in the planning stages for years and had been strongly opposed by the Penobscot Indians, environmental groups, the federal Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

RECIPROCAL FISHING LICENSE.

On 3/26, the Lac du Flambeau Chippewa band in Wisconsin was scheduled to announce an arrangement with the WI Dept. of Natural Resources allowing the Lac du Flambeau band to sell tribal fishing licenses that can be used on all off-reservation waters in the state. Revenues from the sale of tribal licenses must be used on the Lac du Flambeau reservation for fishery-related projects. [Assoc Press]

MIDWEST DECLINING AMPHIBIANS CONFERENCE A HOPPING

SUCCESS: About 300 people attended the two day Midwest Declining Amphibians Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, hosted by the Milwaukee Public Museum on March 20-21, 1998. This was a joint meeting of the Central and Great Lakes Division Working Groups, of the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force. The conference was organized by Gary Casper, chair of the Great Lakes Working Group, with assistance from Christopher Phillips (chair of the Central Division Working Group), and Michael Lannoo (US DAPTF Coordinator). There were 42 papers presented, and a panel discussion on amphibian malformities. Topics included survey and monitoring reports, population biology and ecology, and malformity causes and statistics. Abstracts are available through the Great Lakes Declining Amphibians website at <http://www.mpm.edu/collect/vertzo/herp/Daptf/daptf.html>

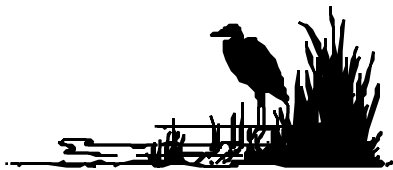
NEW RESEARCH SHOWS EVIDENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS IN EUROPEAN LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS:

New studies on water supplies in Europe are finding evidence of cholesterol-lowering drugs, antibiotics, analgesics, antiseptics, beta-blocker heart drugs, and other pharmaceuticals in drinking water, lakes, rivers, and streams, according to an article published in today's issue of Science News. The European scientists have ascertained that the drugs are coming from human wastes. In some cases, 50 to 90 percent of an administered drug may be excreted from the body in its original or in its

biologically active form. In other cases, partially degraded drugs may be converted back into their active form through chemical reactions that occur in the environment. The new research may herald what could be found in U.S. waters if they were monitored for pharmaceuticals, according to the article. As to whether traces of pharmaceuticals pose a risk to humans, wildlife or aquatic ecosystems, according to the article, there is practically no data for gauging their potential toxicity.

CORMORANT CONTROL. On 3/4, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule in the Federal Register allowing commercial aquaculture operations to take double-crested cormorants without a Federal migratory bird permit to protect aquaculture stocks. However, any required state permits must be obtained and state regulations must be followed. Lethal control activities can occur only after the FWS has certified that an aquaculture facility has a cormorant depredation problem and that lethal take is necessary to supplement non-lethal harassment. [Fed. Register]

THE BIOENGINEERING SECTION of the American Fisheries Society now has a Web Site. This site may be of interest to many of you working on practical problems in aquatic resources and conservation. The site URL is: <http://www.biosys.orst.edu/afseng/>



MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSSEL HARVESTING BAN. On 3/12, the IA Natural Resource Commission voted 5-1 to ban commercial harvesting of washboard mussels from the Mississippi River. [Assoc Press]

AMPHIBIAN MORTALITY DUE TO UV RADIATION (Presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual

Meeting, Philadelphia): Field experiments in the Oregon Cascade Mountains have confirmed what many scientists had suspected -- ambient levels of ultraviolet-B (UV-B) radiation from the sun can cause high rates of mortality and deformity in some species of frogs and other amphibians. The earth is shielded from UV radiation by the ozone layer, which is believed to be thinning because of the increased use of chlorofluorocarbons as refrigerants, solvents and cleaning agents. Kiesecker, along with Andrew R. Blaustein of Oregon State University, compared the embryos of long-toed salamanders shielded from UV-B radiation by mylar filters to unshielded embryos. They found that 95 percent of the shielded embryos hatched, compared to only 14.5 percent of the unshielded embryos. Even more striking, only 0.5 percent of the surviving shielded salamanders had deformities while 91.9 percent of the unshielded salamanders had deformities. Malformed tails, blisters and edema were the most frequent deformities. "The recent thinning of the protective ozone layer in the upper atmosphere has been linked to increased risks of skin cancer and cataracts in humans as well as to the destruction of fragile plant life. Deformed and dying frogs may be linked to thinning ozone as well," said Kiesecker, who is studying other possible factors, such as water level and quality, which also can affect the amount of UV-B radiation reaching amphibians.

ITQ: The Fisheries Department of FAO has recently published a report "Individual quota management in fisheries: Methodologies for determining catch quotas and initial quota allocation. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 371.

RADIATION IN SEAFOOD: Earlier this year, the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority issued a report blaming the British nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Sellafield for increased levels of radioactive technetium 99 detected in seafood and marine vegetation off western Norway. [Reuters]

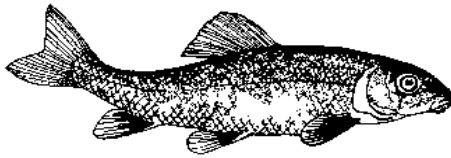
ATLANTIC SHARK FISHERY LAWSUIT: Earlier this year, U.S.

District Judge Steven D. Merryday ruled that stringent and risk-averse measures are justified in managing overfished Atlantic shark populations. However, Judge Merryday ordered further analysis of economic impacts to shark fishermen, to be completed by May 1, 1998. The lawsuit alleged that NMFS had unfairly reduced shark quotas, based upon uncertain data and the lack of international management. [NOAA, Assoc Press]

CDQ PROBLEMS: Early this year, AK officials rescinded their December 1997 request that NMFS suspend the community development quota (CDQ) rights of the Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative (CVFC), after an agreement was reached between the joint venture (between CVFC and a Seattle fishing company) and its lenders to forestall the possibility that CDQ shares would be seized as an asset. [Assoc Press]

TERRITORIAL FISHING RIGHTS: The ME Legislature's Marine Resources Committee voted 9-4 to support a measure that would give Monhegan Island residents legal control of and exclusive access to lobstering grounds adjacent to their island. The ME Senate voted 31-3 to approve the measure giving Monhegan Island residents legal control of and exclusive access to lobstering grounds adjacent to their island. In return, Monhegan Island residents relinquish most of their rights to fish outside their island's exclusive access zone. The ME House voted 132-14 to approve the measure, and on 2/27, Governor Angus King signed the bill into law. [Assoc Press]





On the Underside

submitted by Charles Anderson

Deep Thoughts:

Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars, and he'll believe you. But, tell him a bench has wet paint, and he has to touch it.

How come Superman could stop bullets with his chest, but always ducked when someone threw a gun at him?

Why is lemon juice mostly artificial ingredients.... but dish washing liquid contains real lemons?

Why do we wait until a pig is dead, to "cure" it?

Why do we wash bath towels-aren't we clean when we use them?

Why do we put suits in a garment bag, and put garments in a suitcase?

Do Roman paramedics refer to IV's as "4's"?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?

What do little birdies see, when they get knocked unconscious?

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

Instead of talking to your plants, if you yelled at them would they still grow, only to be troubled and insecure?

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?

When sign makers go on strike, is anything written on their signs?

When you open a bag of cotton balls, is the top one meant to be thrown away?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

If a man speaks in the forest and there is no woman to hear him, is he still wrong?

Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?

The 2 most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Money can't buy happiness. But it sure makes misery easier to live with.

Psychiatrists say that 1 of 4 people are mentally ill. Check three friends. If they're OK, you're it.

Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a bad check.

It has recently been discovered that research causes cancer in rats.

Always remember to pillage BEFORE you burn.

If you are given an open-book exam, you will forget your book.

COROLLARY: If you are given a take-home test, you will forget where you live.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Sky's Law: You can't fall off the floor.

The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.

Vital papers will demonstrate their vitality by moving from where you left them to where you can't find them.

Poker rules supplement: A .44 Magnum beats 4 aces.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

He's not dead, He's electroencephalographically challenged.

You have the right to remain silent....Anything you say will be misquoted then used against you.

Pardon my driving, I am reloading.

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggy" until you find a rock.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.



NATIONAL FISHING WEEK
MAY 30 - JUNE 7, 1998

Catch a mile,

ATTENTION - MN/AFS SPECIAL ELECTION

TO ALL MN/AFS MEMBERS:

Due to the unfortunate resignation of the MN/AFS President Elect the chapter is holding a special election to fill this vacancy. Please complete the following ballot and return it by mail if you wish to vote for the 1998 President Elect. Mailed ballots must be received by May 22.

Mail ballots to:
Melissa T. Drake, Nominating Chair
DNR-Fisheries
1200 Warner Rd
St Paul, MN 55106

President Elect: (vote for one)

_____ Paul Radomski, Minnesota DNR, Brainerd

_____ Henry Van Offelen, Minnesota DNR, Aitkin

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES:

Paul Radomski

Paul J. Radomski, son of Joseph. I was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and grew up near the confluence of the Wisconsin and Little Plover Rivers. I was the eldest son of seven children. My parents raised us in a well-kept homestead, which they purchased from our would-be neighbors. My grandfathers took me bankfishing often to the Plover River and the ditches of Buena Vista. During this time I gained a wonder for nature. Up the road lived a boy who shared the need to explore the natural world. He and his parents taught me and my brothers how to hunt. I spent a lot of time in my formative years fishing for brook trout in the Little Plover and walleye in the Wisconsin River, horseback riding, and bowhunting chipmunks, rabbits and, then, deer in the woods of central and northern Wisconsin. My parents taught me to value good work, to question authority, to be skeptical, and to ignore people of arrogance. My father insisted that I go on to college so that we would not end up working at the papermill where he worked and which he disliked. After college I worked for the Wisconsin DNR, the state of South Dakota, and the Minnesota DNR, where I am currently a fisheries biologist. I live with my wife and two children in the city of Lake Shore. I have been a member of AFS parent society since 1988. I am currently the editor of the Minnesota Chapter newsletter. My interest in the Minnesota Chapter of the AFS is to see it continue to offer good education courses and annual science conferences to biologists interested in improving their lives and the lives of others. The work of the Chapter is to foster a passion and a life-long interest in fish and nature. And whatever that work is, I would be privileged to do it.

Henry VanOffelen

Henry VanOffelen is the 1837 Treaty Biologist with the Minnesota DNR. He received a B.S in fisheries from the University of Minnesota in 1987 and a M.S. in fisheries from Cornell University in 1990. Since 1990, Henry has worked for the MN DNR. He started his career as a fisheries specialist in Hinckley, moved to an assistant research position in Detroit Lakes in 1992, and moved to his current position in Aitkin in 1995.

Henry has been a member of the AFS parent society since 1988. In graduate school he initiated the first AFS student member survey. Since that time, he has maintained an active interest in the AFS as a member of the New York Chapter and the MN Chapter. He served as MN chapter Secretary/Treasurer in 1995 and 1996. He feels the Chapters has served its members well by encouraging communication and believes the chapter need to continue its growth toward communicating good science to the public.

Minnesota Chapter Officers**President:**

Bruce Vondracek
 UM-Fish and Wildlife
 200 Hodson Hall, 1980 Folwell Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 612.624.3421; fax 612.625.5299
 bcv@finsandfur.fw.umn.edu

President-elect:

to be determined

Past President:

Tim Goeman
 Minnesota DNR
 1601 Minnesota Drive
 Brainerd, MN 56401
 218.828.2246; fax 218.828.6022
 tim.goeman@dnr.state.mn.us

Secretary-Treasurer:

Kevin Stauffer
 Minnesota DNR
 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE
 Bemidji, MN 56601
 218.755.3959

Committee Chairs:

Awards: Julie Westerlund 218.847.1579
 julie.gran@dnr.state.mn.us

Continuing Education: Mark Hove 612.624.3019
 Mark.Hove@fw.umn.edu
 and Laurie Sovell 612.296.8005

Long Range Planning: Open

Membership: Doug Kingsley 320.839.2656

Fisheries Information Network: Fred Henson 320.839.2656

Newsletter: Paul Radomski 218.828.2665
 paul.radomski@dnr.state.mn.us
 and Loren Miller 612.624.1271

Webmaster: Jingyin Li 612.624.2720
 jyl@fw.umn.edu

Nominations: Melissa Drake 612.772.7966

Procedure Manual: Brad Parsons 612.634.4573

Public Awareness: Linda Bylander 218.828.6044

Resolutions: Todd Marwitz 612.345.3365

Rivers and Streams NCD rep: Dennis Topp 218.634.2522
 ourfish@means.net

Students: Carl Ruetz 612.624.3785
 crr@fw.umn.edu

Excom Members:**Minnesota DNR:**

Steve Hirsch 612.296.0791
 steve.hirsch@dnr.state.mn.us

Federal:

Ann Schneider
 USFWS
 1 Federal Bldg
 Fort Snelling, MN 55111
 612.725.3596; fax 612.725.3543
 ann_schneider@mail.fws.gov

Academic:

Loren Miller 612.624.1271

Open:

Richard Brueswitz 218.927.3752

Internet and E-mail:

Minnesota Chapter of the AFS WWW page:
<http://www.fw.umn.edu/mnafs>

North Central Division of the AFS WWW page:
<http://www.fw.umn.edu/ncdafs>

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Minnesota Chapter AFS
Attn: Paul Radomski
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

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