



## American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists

### ... BRIEFS ...

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## President's Note

Dear Members, Fellows, Associates and Emeriti:

It's hard to believe, but nearly a year has passed since the 2002 Board of Control (BOC) meeting in Baltimore, MD, last August. This year's BOC meeting will be held on Saturday, August 9, and Sunday, August 10 in the Beauport Room at the Quebec Hilton Hotel in Quebec City, P.Q., Canada. The meeting will begin at 8:00 am, and end at 5:00 pm, on both dates. Following the meeting on Sunday, AIFRB will be hosting its Annual Reception between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm for members, invited guests, and potential recruits in a hospitality suite (yet to be identified) at the hotel. I invite and encourage all AIFRB Members, Fellows, Associates and Emeriti who are planning to attend the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society

(which immediately follows our BOC meeting), to come a day or two early and attend the BOC meeting. There are many important issues on the agenda, the discussions on which would benefit from your involvement and input. Remember, this is YOUR organization!

Immediately proceeding the BOC meeting, I will be "incommunicado" somewhere (not to be divulged) on the Gaspé Peninsula between July 25 and August 7 on my annual fly-fishing expedition in pursuit of the wily and ever-elusive Atlantic salmon (this will be my 32nd continuous year), and then driving from there to Quebec City on August 8. If you need to get in touch with me prior to the BOC meeting, it will have to be before July 22. I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,

Dick Schaefer, President

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## Bern Presented Outstanding Achievement Award

On Thursday, June 19, 2003 Dr. Howard A. Bern was presented the Institute's prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award for Individual Accomplishments for 2002 by Northern California District Director Tom Keegan during a District meeting and ceremony at Berkeley, CA. Dr Bern, Professor Emeritus, University of California at Berkeley was recognized for his lifelong research and influence. (see *Briefs* March-April, 2003). The present understanding of the developmental physiology of salmonid fishes largely has been shaped by the work on Pacific salmon of Dr. Bern and the many collaborators under his direction. Dr. Bern, or just Howard as he prefers, took the opportunity upon receiving his award to honor his longtime collaborator Dr. Richard Nishioka, also retired. Howard also related that he was proud to be included in the company of previous Outstanding Achievement Award recipients. Dr. Bern reciprocated the award by announcing his intention, at long last, to join the AIFRB. The Institute and the Northern California District will be honored by his membership.

*Submitted by: Tom Keegan, Director, Northern California District*



*Howard Bern (right) holds plaques symbolizing his 2002 Outstanding Achievement Award with longtime collaborator Richard Nishioka.*

# EPA 2003 Science Achievement Award Presented to Dr. Robert T. Lackey

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Corvallis fisheries biologist Robert T. Lackey its 2003 Science Achievement Award for ecology. Dr. Lackey received the award from Christine Todd Whitman, administrator of EPA, in a Washington, D.C., in a ceremony on Thursday May 15.

Lackey is a scientist with EPA's environmental research lab in Corvallis. He also is a courtesy professor of fisheries science at Oregon State University and an adjunct professor of political science at OSU. In announcing Lackey's selection, Dr. Paul Gilman, EPA's assistant administrator for research, commended Dr. Lackey for "outstanding scientific achievement in assessing the long-term causes of the decline of wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest and options for their recovery." Since 1850 wild salmon in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho have declined to a point where current runs are less than 10 percent of the 1850 levels. Lackey's research bridges the gap between what scientists have learned about the biology of salmon and the various options to restore salmon runs.

For the past 35 years he has dealt with a range of natural resource issues from positions in government and academia. He has written 100 scientific journal articles. Dr. Lackey also has long been active in natural resources education, having taught at five North American universities. He continues to regularly teach a graduate course in ecological policy at Oregon State University and was 1999-2000 Fulbright Scholar at the University of Northern British Columbia. A Canadian by birth, Dr. Lackey holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Colorado State University. He is a Certified Fisheries Scientist and a Fellow in the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists.



*Robert Lackey recipient of the EPA 2003 Science Achievement Award*

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## Membership Report

Tom Lambert, Chairperson, Membership Committee, submitted the following report on changes in AIFRB membership during the period July 1, 2002 to May 1, 2003.

### **New Members:**

**Associate-Student:** Dan J. Daugherty - Central States & Middle Canada Region; Yannis Papastamatiou - Southern California District; Darin Topping - Southern California District; Diane C. Tulipani - Southern California District.

**Associate-Professional:** Michele Barlow - Northern California District; Kim M. Anthony - Southern California District; Even K. Benn - Northern California District; Carol J. Raifsnider - Northern California District.

**Member:** Axayacatl Rocha-Olivares - SW States & Western Mexico Region; Larry Travanti - Northern California District.

**Fellow:** Mary M. Yoklavich - Northern California District; Jim Perry - Central States & Middle Canada Region.

### **Promotions:**

**To Member:** Shelley L. Moore - Southern California District.

**To Fellow:** Jeffrey Breiwick - Northwestern Washington District; William Seaman, Jr. - Florida District; Chi-Lu Sum - Taiwan; William E. Kelso - Southeastern States and E. Mexico Region.

**Emeritus:** Ole A. Mathisen - Northwestern Washington District; Carlos Fetterolf - Great Lakes, South Central District; Theodore R. Merrell - Southeast Alaska District; Kendall Warner - New England District; Louis H. Carufel - Northern Alaska; John J. Magnuson - Central States and Middle Canada Region; William H. Herke - Southeastern States and E. Mexico Region; H.G. Moser - Northwestern States; Jerry E. Reeves - Northwestern Washington District.

Direct inquiries on joining AIFRB or requests for promotion to: Tom Lambert, AIFRB Membership Chairperson, 3162 Mariola Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472; Phone (704) 829-7882, Fax (707) 829-8234, Email [lambert5@pacbell.net](mailto:lambert5@pacbell.net).

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## Fellow Bruce Miller (Semi) Retires: Parties with AIFRB

A little background on this party is that Prof. Bruce Miller NW Washington District Director of AIFRB, decided that there was no better way to celebrate his recent retirement from full-time faculty duty (he will teach until Spring 2006) at the University of Washington (UW) than with friends, students, co-workers, and colleagues at one of Prof. Ken Chew's famous AIFRB Chinese dinners on May 22, 2003.

Everyone was invited, whether or not they belonged to AIFRB, and spouses, friends, etc. were welcomed. UW Professor and AIFRB Fellow Don Gunderson was Master of Ceremonies for the retirement celebration and he provided a very special evening, neither too somber, nor too raucous for mixed company. The party was on Thursday evening, May 22, 2003, and started at 6 pm (attitude adjustment hour) with dinner served at 7 pm at the China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, featuring the usual "5-star imperial Chinese cuisine with garden fresh northwest ingredients."

*Submitted by Kate Myers*

# All Invited to Board of Control Meeting and Reception

Quebec, Quebec, August 9-10, 2003

The Annual Meeting of the AIFRB Board of Control will be held at the Hotel Hilton Quebec, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, in the Beauport Room, from 8 am to 5 pm both Saturday and Sunday August 9-10, 2003. This meeting is open to all Fellows, Members, and Associate Members of AIFRB. On Sunday, August 10, 2003, please join us at the Annual Reception of the AIFRB to be held at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Hotel Hilton Quebec, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. The reception follows the Annual Meeting of the Board of Control, AIFRB.

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## Losses

**George Post**

5835 Bouquet Avenue  
Richmond, California 94805-1101

**Hiroshi Kasahara**

June 8, 2003

**Herb Jaenicke, May 28, 2003**

*By Richard R. Straty and Bruce L. Wing*

Herb Jaenicke was our close friend and working associate for the past 45 years, which dates back to when he came to Alaska as a Fishery Research Biologist with the Auke Bay Fisheries Laboratory. Herb was born in San Francisco, California and lived in Salinas California for many years before entering the U.S. Army in 1952. He served in the Army until 1955. While in the Army he was stationed at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska. This, his first taste of Alaska, influenced his selection of a career in fisheries and Alaska as his future and permanent home. He served in the Army National Guard from 1955 to 1961, part of which time was with the Alaska National Guard. Herb's first fisheries position in Alaska was as Biological Aid with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1955 working with a stream improvement project (essentially clearing streams of obstructions such as beaver dams and log jams which prevent salmon from reaching their spawning grounds. In 1958 Herb earned his BS degree in Fisheries Management from Humboldt State College and began his employment as a Fisheries Research Biologist with what is now the Auke Bay Laboratory. This was just prior to Alaska statehood and several years before the present Auke Bay Laboratory was built and was shortly after the research staff dealing with Alaska Fisheries was transferred from the Seattle Laboratory to the new headquarters in Juneau, Alaska. From 1958 to 1966 Herb was project leader of sockeye smolt enumeration studies carried out on the major river systems of Bristol Bay.

From 1967 to 1973 Herb was assistant project leader of early marine life sockeye salmon studies in Bristol Bay and the eastern Bering Sea. Until these studies were begun virtually nothing was known of the early marine life of this important commercial species. In fact much of what is now known of the early marine life of this species can be attributed to the results of Herb's research. It was during these studies where Herb's talents as a field man were demonstrated. The studies involved long days at sea, initially on inadequate small vessels, frequently in rough weather characteristic of the eastern Bering Sea.

From 1974 to 1980 Herb served as project leader of limnological studies on Lake Nunavagaluck where the State of Alaska proposed a sockeye salmon hatchery to enhance Bristol Bay stocks. From 1984 to his retirement in 1998 Herb supervised field research on several projects concerned with the early marine life of salmon in southeast Alaska and the Gulf of Alaska, and with the carrying capacity of the north Pacific Ocean for salmon. Herb was also the primary person responsible for seeing that many of the Auke Bay Laboratory's valuable documents concerning Alaskan fisheries were deposited in the national archives.

In December 1997 Herb was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for his research contributions to the Nation's (Alaska) fisheries. Following retirement in 1998 Herb continued to be an active researcher. He returned periodically to his old haunts to assure that archiving projects were being completed, assisting others to find archived data sets and to assist in the collection of field data for several long-term studies.

Beyond his professional career, Herb was active as a volunteer in a number of Juneau community projects. He actively served with the Boy Scouts of America for nearly 20 years and was an executive board member of the Southeast Alaska Area Council. He was granted the Silver Beaver Award, Scouting's highest award, for his service to scouting and the youth in the community. He was also active with the Juneau Film Society, and with organization of several badminton groups each fall. He donated much time to "Trail Mix" a local program devoted to maintaining and improving the many hiking trails in the Juneau area. Herb thoroughly enjoyed interacting with people and was well known as a party organizer for all his groups. He was especially talented in producing and participating in outlandish skits, parties, and picnics.

# A Brief Review: Symposium: Biology, Ecology, and Management of Pacific Coast Sharks, Parts I & II

*Held at the 2003 Annual Meeting Western Division of the American Fisheries Society and the California/Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, San Diego, CA, April 17, 2003.*

Overall, I found the presentations made throughout this symposium to be very interesting and informative. The diversity in topics presented illustrated the progress that has been made; yet much of the conclusions indicated that shark researcher still have much to learn about the various shark species that inhabit the waters of the eastern Pacific. An exciting aspect of the information presented during the symposium was that researchers were following interesting leads and new technology to determine actual impacts on shark fisheries, as well as how best to implement conservation management plans.

Such important information as breeding and nursery areas needs to be conclusively determined. Many of the researchers proposed that increases in landings of pregnant females and very immature animals might indicate that breeding and nursery areas were nearby. They also indicated that harvesting of these two groups of any shark species would be detrimental to the viability of that species' population. I was particularly struck by the information presented by Robert Hueter from the two-year study he led, which put real numbers to the landings of elasmobranches from the waters around Baja California. He estimated that 20.4 million elasmobranches/year were harvest from the Baja area.

I thought that the information presented by the scientists from Mexico to be a very important and serious beginning to the work that is needed there. Especially after hearing Robert Hueter's presentation, the information being collected by the Mexican researchers is extremely important to help them with maintaining elasmobranches populations.

On a subject near and dear to my heart, I learned some information that I will be able to include in my own master's thesis on the pelagic red crab, *Pleuroncodes planipes*. I learned that several different shark species, like the common thresher shark and silky shark, eat the pelagic red crab.

Thank you and congratulations to you all on a wonderful day full of learning about sharks.

*By Diane Tulipani, Student Associate — Southern California District*

At the suggestion of Gary Sakawaga, AIFRB served as a contractor to underwrite Mexican participants travel and meeting costs to the AFS Western Division Meeting held in San Diego last month. AIFRB has also prepared a proceedings report to the sponsor agencies (Southwest Fisheries Science Center, CICESE, and AIFRB). Diane Tulipani, a new student associate in the Southern California District, was recruited by Mike Hinton to serve as rapporteur for a small stipend. The Institute was able to book a management fee of several hundred dollars. The symposium proceedings are available at the Southern California District website. Some hard copies have been prepared.



*Mexican scientists attending the Pacific Sharks Symposium, who were sponsored by AIFRB. They are: (left to right) Lenin Alberto Guerrero-Maldonado, Juan Carlos Perez Jimenez, Oscar Sosa Nishizaki, Leonardo Castillo-Geniz, Felipe Galvan-Magana, Jorge Ramirez Gonzalez.*

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## New Major Works by Members

### **Biology of the Spotted Seatrout**

#### **The first comprehensive volume on the basic biology of this important species**

*By Stephen A. Bortone, Ph.D.*

*Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Sanibel, Florida, USA  
Life History Features as Potential Indicators of Estuarine Conditions*

The spotted seatrout is an important species not only for recreational and commercial fisheries, but also as an integral part of many estuarine ecosystems. As one of the few fishes that live its entire life within an estuarine system, the species has tremendous potential as a monitor or sentinel for estuarine conditions. Prepared by the foremost authorities in their respective fields, **Biology of the Spotted Seatrout** presents an up-to-date summary of what is known about the basic biology of this important species. This innovative reference provides current life history information on this species for the express purpose of beginning the task of assessing differences in estuarine restricted sub-populations of spotted seatrout. It serves as a model of a biological summary directed toward determining which of the life history parameters will most aptly serve as bioindicators to meet overall environmental management needs. It integrates estuarine-specific life history features into the overall management of both estuaries and an estuarine dependent fishery.

**Biology of the Spotted Seatrout** includes a classic systematic approach to studying the relationships between seatrout genera as well as a more modern approach to investigating intra- and inter-estuarine differences in genetic structure. Ecologists, fisheries biologists and managers, and environmental scientists worldwide will be able to use the information presented in this book as a model on which to establish a database of information to be used to assess and compare estuarine conditions and environmental health. This valuable book serves as a blueprint for bringing together the biological criteria necessary to begin landscape scale comparisons of estuaries based on the biological information of totally estuarine dependent species, such as the spotted seatrout.

### **Features**

- Exhibits a directed effort toward the goal of improving our ability to monitor estuaries and fisheries simultaneously.
- Covers the spotted seatrout's biology, reproduction, genetics, behavior, demography, and ecology.
- Includes three unique chapters covering the management and assessment of spotted seatrout.

CRC Press

Catalog no. 1129, January 2003, 328 pp.

ISBN: 0-8493-1129-2, \$149.95

## **Trophic Organization in Coastal Systems**

*By Robert J. Livingston*

*Professor of Biological Science and Director of the Center for Aquatic  
Research and Resource Management, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA  
An Alternative Approach to Coastal Research*

Derived from an unprecedented research effort covering over 70 field years of field data in a series of studies, **Trophic Organization in Coastal Systems** represents an alternative approach to coastal research that has been successfully applied to coastal resource management issues. This unique book is based upon a sequence of long-term, interdisciplinary studies of a series of coastal regions in the NE Gulf of Mexico that include nutrient loading, habitat definition, quantified collections of organisms from microbes to fishes, and the determination of the trophic organization that defines the processes that shape the productivity of these areas.

A multidisciplinary team of marine scientists, chemists, physical oceanographers, geologists, hydrologists, engineers, experimental biologists, and taxonomists have created a singular database of changes in a series of Gulf of Mexico coastal systems. This field information, together with field and laboratory experimentation, is integrated to advance our understanding of how coastal food webs work. The central focus is on the relationship of species-specific phytoplankton communities with associated food webs of coastal systems and the relationship of tropho-dynamic processes to long-term changes (natural and polluted) in such areas. The impact of phytoplankton blooms on trophic organization is also discussed.

The author, a renowned marine scientist, provides detailed knowledge of the processes that drive coastal ecosystems. He presents an in-depth discussion on how there is a hierarchy of cycles of differing periods associated with the formation and development of aquatic food webs. **Trophic Organization in Coastal Systems** will be particularly useful to those involved in research related to the importance of aquatic food webs. The principles and processes of trophic organization presented here can serve as a valuable model for research in other regions of the world.

### **Features**

- Demonstrates how increased levels of human activity in ecologically sensitive coastal areas affect trophic relationships.
- Illustrates how the organization of plant communities is a critical factor in the definition of aquatic food webs.
- Discusses how food gathering is a primary determinant of the distribution of animals.
- Proposes that both quantity and quality of food types are associated with population maintenance and growth.
- Shows how many aquatic species undergo ontogenetic changes in their feeding habits that ultimately define their habitat needs.

CRC Press

Catalog no. 1110, January 2003, 408 pp.

ISBN: 0-8493-1110-1, \$129.95

## **Boreal Shield Watersheds Lake Trout Ecosystems in a Changing Environment**

*Edited by John Gunn, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada and Richard Ryder,  
RAR & Associates, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*

This book explores the functioning of the Boreal Shield ecosystems, focusing on the lake trout as the model and indicator of environmental change and management. This thorough compendium analyzes the risks to and durability of this environment in relation to local, regional, and global human activity. It examines the impact of water pollution, acid rain, climate change, sport fisheries, invasive species and watershed disturbance.

CRC Press

Catalog no. L1646, August 2003 c.384 pp.

ISBN: 1-5667-7, \$139.95

# Important Meetings: 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

First Announcement and Call For Papers  
November 10-14, 2003 in Tortola, British Virgin Islands

The meeting will be held at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College campus on Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Sessions will focus on: Biology, Ecology, and Assessment of the Reef and Pelagic Fishes; Biology, Ecology, and Assessment of Invertebrate Marine Fisheries; Management and Socio-Economics of Marine Fisheries (special session); Marine Protected Areas and Ecological Reserves; Essential Fish Habitat; Caribbean Aquaculture; Recreational Fishes; and Marine Science Education in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico (tentative special session).

Additionally, there will be a general poster session/reception. Abstracts for the 56<sup>th</sup> GCFI are due July 31, 2003. Abstracts will be accepted in English, French or Spanish: French and Spanish papers should also be accompanied by a title, abstract, and key works in English. English abstracts must be accompanied with Spanish translations. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words.

Please include your full name and the full name of all authors, addresses of all authors, and 3-mail address(es) for the corresponding author(s). You may submit abstracts as attachments in Microsoft Word or Corel Word Perfect formats. In the subject line of the e-mail, please list the name of the author(s) as they will appear in the program (e.g., SmithGarciaJones.doc). If you are unable to submit via e-mail, please send abstracts to: LeRoy Creswell, Executive Secretary, IFAS/UFL, Sea Grant College Program, 8400 Picos Road, Ste. 101, Fort Pierce, FL 34945-3045; Phone (772) 462-1660, Fax (772) 462-1510.

Please indicate whether you are requesting presentation during an oral session or the poster session. Permission to present at an oral session requires submission of a full and complete manuscript in the proper format prior to presentation. Poster presentations do not require submission of a manuscript (although they are enthusiastically accepted). However, students wishing to compete for several student awards offered are required to submit a manuscript for publication in the GCFI Proceedings. Manuscript preparation guidelines are available on the GCFI website ([www.gcfi.org](http://www.gcfi.org)) or can be requested from the Executive Secretary.

Registration for the meeting is US \$100 (which includes membership and a copy of the GCFI Proceedings). GCFI accepts checks, money orders, and U.S. currency for registration – credit cards are not accepted. Check with GCFI website for student and daily registration rates. Registration is taken at the meeting venue – no pre-registration is required. However, you can pre-register for the meeting if it is required for travel reimbursement (contact LeRoy Creswell).

For lots of information about the 56<sup>th</sup> GCFI, visit the website: It includes a map of Tortola, transportation information, hotel information, GCFI student awards, and guidelines for submitting abstracts and manuscripts. As the meeting comes closer, more information about the program will be posted.

## Quality: The Focus of Asian Aquaculture

September 22-25, 2003

Miracle Grand Hotel – Bangkok, Thailand

The Official Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society

Hosted by Department of Fisheries, Thailand

Celebrating 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Seafood quality issues have come to the fore in recent years and the meeting is intended to focus on the issue of quality in Asian production and in world markets for seafood. The quality theme will be the subject of a plenary session at the Opening Ceremony and will be further featured in the final plenary session on the International Markets, Quality and the Role of Asian-Pacific Aquaculture Producers to be held on the final afternoon of the meeting.

In addition to the Plenary sessions, there will be 3 days packed with sessions, workshops and discussions by leaders in the fields of aquaculture. Special sessions will focus on: Shrimp Culture, including the culture of *Litopenaeus vannamei* in Asia, Fish Culture and Mollusk Culture. A special one day session will be held with simultaneous translation between Thai and English to provide a forum for Thai and international speakers to share experiences.

As with all WAS meetings, there will be a trade show featuring the latest developments in aquaculture production equipment and systems – an ideal opportunity to see new equipment and services designed to maximize production efficiency and increase your profit potential.

Dan Fegan, President, WAS Asian-Pacific Chapter

### For more information contact:

Conference Manager c/o NACA, P.O. Box 1040, Kasetsart Post Office, Bangkok 10903, Thailand,

Tel: +66-2-5611728 Ext. 114, Fax: +66-2-5611727, Email: [apc2003@was.org](mailto:apc2003@was.org)

ASIAN-PACIFIC AQUACULTURE 2003, Conference Manager, 2423 Fallbrook Place, Escondido, CA 92027 USA,

Tel: +1-760-432-4270, Fax: +1-760-432-4275, Email: [worldaqua@aol.com](mailto:worldaqua@aol.com)

## Northern California District considers Abalone

On May 20<sup>th</sup> Peter Haaker presented information on the status of the abalone population as well as abalone recovery plans.

# Nation's Federal Marine Fisheries Managers to Host Fisheries Conference

November 13-15, 2003

Omni-Shoreham Hotel and Conference Center, 2500 Calvert Street, Washington, D.C.

Mark your calendar and save the date to attend the first-ever fisheries management conference co-sponsored by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). The conference is open to the public and will be held in Washington, D.C. November 13-15, 2003.

The conference, titled *Managing Our Nation's Marine Fisheries – Past, Present, and Future*, promises to be an educational and insightful experience. Whether you are a fisherman, an environmental advocate, a policymaker or a reporter who covers the fisheries beat, you will find the conference sessions to be pertinent and informative as Congress considers the re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which governs management decisions for our nation's marine fisheries.

The conference aims to educate the public and the media on the fishery management process and current management research initiatives, and to help bridge the gap between perception and reality regarding management of our nation's fisheries. The conference also will provide a forum for information exchange and examination of a wide range of perspectives on future management and marine research directions.

Whether you are interested in regional bycatch issues, have concerns about human impacts on fish habitats, want to learn more about ecosystem management, marine research or conservation of protected species, you will find what you are looking for this November in Washington, D.C.

The conference will offer the opportunity to meet with Council executive directors and chairmen, as well as others involved in living marine resource management.

## **Conference Logistics**

*Registration: Advance registration requested. Attendance is free of charge.*

*Contact: Wayne Swingle, Phone (813) 228-2815.*

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## **BAD = Best Available Data, NRC Wonders**

### **Nominations have been sought for the National Research Council Committee on the Defining Best Available Science for Fisheries Management**

A committee of 8 members will be formed to examine the application of the term "best available scientific information" in fisheries management as described in the statement task (see below). The committee will be formed according to National Research Council guidelines regarding balance and conflict of interest.

The areas of expertise that were sought for this study include: natural resource law and policy, fisheries science, fish stock assessment, resource economics, and marine ecology. Some individuals may fit more than one category. Nominations could include both U.S. and foreign scientists.

### **Statement of Task**

This study will examine the application of the term "best scientific information available" as the basis for fishery conservation and management measures required under National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A workshop will be convened to discuss the original rationale behind this standard and its subsequent application in developing fishery management plans. Workshop attendees will also explore the interpretation of this standard by the courts in response to legal challenges of the scientific basis of regulatory actions. Questions to be considered include the following: How should adherence to the standard be measured? How and when should it be employed? Should the standard be applied to exclude information deemed inadequate or should information be ranked and applied in relation to relevance and rigor? A brief report will be produced with recommendations for more uniform application of "best scientific information available" in the preparation of fishery management plans.

*Submitted by: Gary Sakagawa*

# Freshwater scarcity issues threaten America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2003

## America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2003:

1. Big Sunflower River, Mississippi: Flood Control; 2. Klamath River, Oregon, California: Irrigation, Hydropower, Pollution; 3. Ipswich River, Massachusetts: Municipal water withdrawal; 4. Gunnison River, Colorado: Water withdrawal, Impoundment; 5. Rio Grande, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas: Water withdrawal; 6. Mattaponi River, Virginia: Municipal water withdrawal (see articles in this issue); 7. Platte River, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska: Irrigation withdrawal; 8. Snake, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Washington: Impoundments; 9. Tallapoosa River, Alabama: Hydropower operations; 10. Trinity River, Texas: Flood Control.

*From: American Rivers, Spring/Summer 2003*

*Note: Canning River, Alaska – off list, old news. Ed.*

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## SHAD I: Decision on King William reservoir permit delayed

Hundreds of opponents filled a school auditorium April 22 urging the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to reject a permit that would allow up to 75 million gallons a day to be drawn from a critical shad spawning area in the Mattaponi River to fill the proposed King William Reservoir. At the same time, officials from Newport News – who have been planning the reservoir for more than a decade – insisted that the approval of the project was essential to secure a long-term water supply for their region. “There will come a day, if we don’t get this permit, that the water will not be there when we need it, and 600,000 people will want to know why,” Newport News Mayor Joe Frank told the commission. He was joined by mayors from the neighboring jurisdictions, and business leaders. Newport News officials, citing their own studies, dispute claims that the intake would have a significant impact on the shad population, but nonetheless offered to shut down the intake for two months during the spawning season.

The debate was the latest chapter in the city’s decade-old quest to build the reservoir, which is strongly opposed by environmental groups and residents in rural King William County, where it would be built. Besides the intake in the Mattaponi River, the reservoir would drown 430 acres of wetlands – the most ever allowed in the region since the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972. It would also affect scores of Native American archaeological sites. Because of its impacts, the project needs approval from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps’ Norfolk District initially recommended rejecting the project, saying the region’s future need for water was too uncertain to justify the environmental impacts of the project. But before leaving office, former Gov. Jim Gilmore requested a review by the Corps’ North Atlantic Division, which last fall agreed that the city’s need for water was valid. The North Atlantic Division indicated it would approve the project if the city first secured all necessary state approvals. That made the decision by the VMRC, which must issue a permit for the water intake on the Mattaponi, critical for the project. But the commission’s staff echoed concerns raised by Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) scientists that the proposed intake was in the middle of prime shad spawning and nursery habitat, and that thousands of shad eggs and larvae could be killed as they were dragged across the intake’s 12 underwater screens, each of which are 7 feet in diameter.

Shad, anadromous fish that spawn in freshwater rivers but live most of their lives in the ocean, are protected throughout the Chesapeake Bay by a fishing moratorium, and shad fishing is being phased out along the Atlantic Coast to help depleted populations rebuild. Restoration of the shad population, which was once the Chesapeake’s largest commercial fishery, has been a priority of the Bay Program, with the Bay states annually stocking millions of hatchery-reared fish in tributaries throughout the watershed as part of an effort to rebuild a self-sustaining population.

As a compromise, the city offered not to draw water from the Mattaponi from March 15 to May 15 unless the governor declared a drought emergency. After 2020, the restriction would be lifted unless the fishing moratorium is still in place. VIMS scientists earlier recommended against making any decision until a comprehensive study was completed of future water needs, saying the intake, coupled with impacts from future development and water demands within the Mattaponi basin, could add up to more stress than the shad population would withstand. Scientists hired by the city disputed conclusions of the VIMS scientists. “The VIMS assessment, I feel, is just unsupportable,” said William Richkus, vice president of Versar, Inc., a consultant hired by Newport News to review the VIMS analysis. The consultants said the state-of-the-art design on the intake would minimize the impact on shad eggs and larvae. And, using computer models, they predicted the lost eggs and larvae would result in only six fewer adult shad produced in the river. VIMS scientists said there were no reliable models to predict the impact of the lost eggs and larvae on the adult population. “These are interesting debates we can have in the academic field,” said Roger Mann, VIMS acting director for research and advisory services. Noting that a moratorium was in place for shad fishing in the Bay, he said any increased mortality in a key spawning area could hurt efforts to rebuild the population.

If the commission approves a compromise allowing the intake but prohibiting water withdrawals during the spring, it

would not be the last word on the issue. Commission officials said withdrawal restrictions during the spring, when flows are at their highest, meant the city would likely need to increase withdrawals during other parts of the year. Because flows during the rest of the year are generally low, pumping more water could increase salinity levels in the tidal area around the intake. Carl Custalow, assistant chief of the nearby Mattaponi Indian Reservation said the project would undercut efforts by the Mattaponi Reservation, which has used hatchery to stock shad in the river for decades. "Over the years, we have lost much of our land to greed as other people have taken our resources," Custalow said. "Now, with this reservoir, people want to take our river as well."

*From: Bay Journal, May 2003*

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## **Shad II: VA agency rejects permit for reservoir**

### **Concerns about impact of intake pipes on shad, migratory fish cited**

*By Karl Blankenship*

In May, the shad struck back. For more than a century, dams and other obstacles have blocked the migratory fish from many of their historic spawning areas in rivers throughout the Bay watershed and along the entire East Coast. But on May 14, concerns about the shad and their spawning grounds on the Mattaponi River may have become the insurmountable obstacle to plans for a 1,500-acre reservoir, as the Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted 6-2 to deny permit critical for the project.

Scientists from VIMS, as well as the commission's staff, recommended that the intake pipe permit be denied to safeguard the shad, which are protected by a fishing moratorium throughout the Chesapeake. After the meeting, Newport News Mayor Joe Frank criticized the commission for being "confused by the science" and yielding to "emotional" appeals from the projects opponents.

Whether Newport News would pursue the issue remained unclear. The normal route of appeal would be to the state Circuit Court, but Frank expressed concern that this could leave the issue tied up for years. The city has already spent more than \$18 million on the project over the past decade to design and plan the reservoir.

*From: Bay Journal, June 2003*

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## **Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands Passes Bill to Ban Fishing with Scuba**

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has passed a bill prohibiting the use of scuba and similar gear for fishing around the island of Saipan and the Northern Islands. Introduced by Congressman Pete Castro and sponsored by several others, including Congressman Arnold I. Palacios, a former director of the CNMI's Division of Fish and Wildlife, House Local Bill Number 13-033 is now headed to the governor for his action. If approved, it will become unlawful for fisherman (commercial or non-commercial) to use scuba or other related diving devices when fishing or harvesting marine life within the lagoon and coastal waters of the municipality of Saipan and the Northern Islands.

The bill was introduced following the delegation's findings that the use of scuba and other related devices have caused significant depletion of fish and other marine life within the lagoon and coastal waters. The delegation also noted that preserving and regulating the fishing and harvesting of marine life in these areas is essential to maintaining, preserving and enhancing the marine ecosystem for the use and enjoyment of future generations of Northern Marianas residents.

If signed into law, the penalty for using scuba and other related devices to fish would be a fine of not more than

\$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. In addition, the scuba apparatus and other equipment used in this form of fishing – such as spear gun, the boat and its motor – would be confiscated and donated to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to assist in its monitoring and enforcement of fishing regulations. All fines collected would be deposited into the Fish and Game Conservation Fund in a special account to support conservation and enforcement activities within the municipality Saipan and the Northern Islands. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, would enforce the provisions of the proposed legislation.

*From: Pacific Island Fishery News, Spring 2003*

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## **NMFS Establishes New Pacific Islands Region**

On April 21, 2003, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, also known as NOAA Fisheries) established a new region in the Western Pacific to provide better customer service and ecosystem management of resources within the expansive area of the Pacific islands. The new Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) were elevated in organizational status from a local area and laboratory, respectively. The action will allow NOAA Fisheries to better address the unique and growing importance of living marine resources to constituents in the U.S. Pacific Islands.

The implementation of the new region marks the culmination of much effort by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council to place the U.S. Pacific Islands on an equal footing with other administrative regions in the United States (Alaska, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast and Northwest). Until recently, the U.S. Pacific Islands were incorporated within the Southwest Region, which also includes California. The Southwest Regional Office and Science Center are based in Long Beach and La Jolla, respectively, and all management decisions relating to the U.S. Pacific Islands were transmitted through these offices prior to being forwarded to NMFS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Pacific Islands Region has now been 'liberated' from its ties with the U.S. West Coast and will liaise and report directly to NMFS headquarters," Council Executive Director Kitty M. Simonds stated. "More of the decisions that may affect fisheries in the U.S. Pacific Islands will be made internally within the region."

The new Pacific Islands Region includes the largest geographical area of all U.S. regions. Bounded by the Hawaiian Archipelago in the north, American Samoa and U.S. possessions in the south, and the Marianas Archipelago in the west, the total area of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under PIRO jurisdiction is more than 1.7 million square nautical miles, which is equal to the total EEZ of the entire U.S. mainland (including Alaska). The PIRO will carry out living marine resources conservation and management responsibilities assigned to NOAA Fisheries in the Central and Western Pacific and will have a structure similar to other regions, with three major operational divisions: sustainable fisheries, protected resources and habitat conservation.

The PIFSC will retain its existing structure with five research divisions (coral reef ecosystems, fish biology and ecology, ecosystems and environment, protected species, and fishery management and performance). The PIFSC's responsibility will be to provide high-quality scientific research and advice for fisheries management and conservation and for the recovery of protected species throughout the Pacific Islands Region. The PIFSC's current staff of 168 is expected to increase by 17 to handle its increased responsibilities.

The PIRO and the PIFSC will be included in an effort to consolidate all NOAA offices in the Pacific. Plans to establish a NOAA campus where all NOAA offices will reside are in the early planning stages.

From: Pacific Island Fishery News, May 2003

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## **Oregon Inlet Jetties Won't Be Constructed**

### **Good riddance to a fishery threatening boondoggle!**

Raleigh (AP) – The Oregon Inlet jetties, proposed in 1970 as a way to make the fragile inlet safer for fishing vessels, will not be built, several government agencies said Thursday, May 1, 2003. Instead, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will improve the current 14-foot navigation channel, the agencies said. In addition, the Corps will work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide more precise navigation data on changing sand conditions in the inlet. The Corps, along with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Interior and Commerce departments said they had agreed not to continue the jetties project. "This was a difficult decision to reach, but ultimately it was the right decision," said Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton. "From the Interior Department's perspective, we have a mandate to protect and conserve our nation's parks and refuges for the benefit of the American people."

Congress first authorized the project in 1970, with then-Sen. Jesse Helms a major supporter. Bureaucratic infighting and environmentalists stalled the project. Last fall, a report by General Accounting Office said a 2001 study of the project's cost and benefits was so badly flawed it "does not provide a reliable basis for deciding whether to proceed with the project." It recommended the Corps conduct a new, more comprehensive study before proceeding. The jetties involved the Corps dredging a 20-foot by 400-foot navigation channel to accommodate deep draft fishing vessels and constructing two jetties to divert sands from the channel. Oregon Inlet is the only break in the northern part

of the Outer Banks barrier islands, providing access for boats between the Atlantic Ocean and the Albemarle Pamlico Sound. It would have had an initial cost of \$108 million in addition to annual dredging costs of \$6.1 million.

*From: Sun Journal, New Bern, N.C., Friday, May 2, 2003*  
*This project generated great concern about ingress of larval fishes to the giant Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine complex. Ed.*

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## **Iowa State University**

### **Regents approve merger of animal ecology and forestry**

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, has approved the merger of the animal ecology and forestry departments. The new name of the department is the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. The department chair is Mike Kelly, who said the new department will be able to "train students in a more holistic manner." Faculty assignments and curriculum are being developed.

*From: ISU Ag Alumni Forum, II (I) Spring 2003*

**Editors Question:**

*At one time the incorporation of university fish and wildlife programs into departments shared with forestry programs was regarded by many as inevitably detrimental to the fur and fin operations. Is that opinion still widely held or justified?*

# British scientists say fish do feel pain

London, April 30 – Anglers take note, British scientists say that after years of debate, they now have proof that fish feel pain. Animal activists are on the warpath after a study released on Wednesday showed how rainbow trout react to discomfort. They condemned fishing as cruel and demanded an end to the sport – but anglers themselves dismissed the study.

The research found that fish have receptors in their heads and that subjecting them to noxious substances causes “adverse behavioral and physiological changes.” “This fulfills the criteria for animal pain,” Dr. Lynne Sneddon, who headed the research, published by the Royal Society, Britain’s national academy of science. Bee venom or acetic acid was injected into the lips of some of the trout, while control groups of fish were injected with saline solution or merely handled. The trout injected with venom or acid began to show “rocking” motion – similar to that seen in stressed higher vertebrates – and those injected with acetic acid began rubbing their lips in the gravel of their tank. “These do not appear to be reflex responses,” Sneddon said.

The affected fish also took three times longer to resume feeding activity, compared with those in the control groups. The team from the Roslin Institute and the University of Edinburgh found the fish had polymodal nociceptors – receptors that respond to tissue-damaging stimuli – on their heads. It is the first time these receptors have been found in fish. They have similar properties to those found in amphibians, birds and mammals including humans. Animal activists said the findings showed that fishing was cruel.

*Condensed from: Reuters, June 16, 2003*



*Jean-Francois Helias was casting an artificial lure near the Krassio Dam in Suphanburi, Thailand when this 13 lb 3 oz giant snakehead decided to have lunch last December. After a 15-minute fight, Helias boated the big snakehead that qualified for a men’s 12-lb line class record.*

*From: International Angler, 65(3)  
May-June, 2003*

## Council Seeks Public Comment on Experimental Closed Area

### Oculina Bank Area off Florida Subject of Public Hearing in June

Oculina coral (*Oculina varicossa*), or ivory tree coral, is distributed along the South Atlantic shelf with concentrations found off the central East Coast of Florida. Unique among coral reefs, the Oculina Banks are composed of a single species of delicately branched coral that grows on ancient limestone ridges and pinnacles distributed throughout the area. The Oculina coral provides habitat for a diversity of fish and other marine animals. Because of this diversity, the coral areas have been subjected to heavy fishing pressure since the 1960’s and fishing gear, including bottom trawling, has had a devastating effect on the fragile coral.

In 1984, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council designated a 92-square nautical mile portion of the Oculina Bank as a “Habitat Area of Particular Concern” or HAPC. This designation categorized the area as having special biological significance and prohibited the use of bottom-tending fishing gear such as trawls, dredges, and fish traps within the area to protect the coral habitat. Unfortunately, by the late 1980’s continued fishing pressure had resulted in severe declines in fish populations within the area. In 1994, as a result of research conducted by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute showing continued declines, the Council designated the Oculina Bank HAPC at the Oculina Experimental Closed Area, and closed the area to all bottom fishing for snapper and grouper species. Two years later, the area was further protected by prohibiting all fishing vessels from anchoring in the area and an outlying border was established to prohibit trawling by rock shrimp vessels near the closed area. In 2000, the HAPC was expanded to include the area closed to rock shrimp fishing, approximately 60 nautical miles long and 5 miles wide, and eliminated all bottom-tending gear and anchoring to protect the coral habitat.

The 92-sq. nautical mile Oculina Experimental Closed Area, now located within the larger HAPC, was established by Amendment 6 to the Council’s Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP). As outlined in the Amendment, the designation of the Experimental Closed Area was to end ten years from the June 27, 1994 establishment date if it is not reauthorized. The Council, through Amendment 13A, is now addressing various options for the area. These options range from taking no action and allowing the closed area designation to end, to extending the closure for an indefinite period of time. The Council’s preferred option is to extend the period for an additional 10 years, beginning in June of 2004.

The Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed actions in Amendment 13A to the Snapper Grouper FMP during its June meeting in Cocoa Beach, Florida. For more information, contact the Council office or visit the Council’s web site at [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net).

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils, conserves and manages fish stock from three to 200 miles offshore of North and South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida.

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