

FISH SOUP

AZ-NM CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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Spring 2008

Incoming President's Message for Members

Amy Unthank, President

The chapter held a successful 41st joint annual meeting with the Wildlife Society chapters of Arizona and New Mexico in Prescott. Thanks to the volunteer hours of many, including Pam Sponholtz for organizing and running the registration and abstract submission (a huge job!) as well as arrangements with the resort staff; Chuck Benedict for being the general chair, and in charge of the meeting budget; Matt Rinker for keeping track of funds; Heidi Blasius for setting up and tracking the student volunteers; Jason Weibenga for running the photo contest; Jason Kline for organizing posters; Jim Warnecke for holding another outstanding raffle; Julie Meka for being the program chair; Kristin Pitts and Matt Chmiel for AV coordination; Anne Kretschmann for the logo, social chair, and arranging the field trip; Dirk Renner for organizing the program and printing; Yvette Paroz for the continuing education class; and to the folks who volunteered to be judges of student papers including Eric Swanson, Andy Clark, Julie Meka and several others whose names I don't have.

The plenary session on the topic of "Providing water for urban growth: challenges for managing terrestrial and aquatic species" was a huge success, and was attended by an additional 50 local people (who even paid \$10.00 each to attend the plenary session and therefore contributed to covering meeting costs). Shaula Hedwall deserves the chapter's thanks for organizing the topic and the speakers, which were also covered by the local press! Based on meeting evaluations (with highlights passed on to NM Wildlife Society for their help in planning next year's chapter meeting) cheap beer, fried food, and rundown poster boards got mixed reviews, but everything else went really well!

For those members who did not attend the meeting, I'd like to highlight some of the annual chapter award recipients. Rob Clarkson of the Bureau of Reclamation received the Professional of the Year award for his many years of excellent fisheries work in the southwest and the Austins, who own the Coronado Ranch in Arizona, received the Conservationist of the Year award for their participation on native fish reintroductions (think stonerollers!) on their land.

While I may not win any awards myself for my current level of parliamentary skills, I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the business meeting. We accomplished a lot in record time, including placing Stephanie Coleman from the New Mexico Fisheries Resources Office (USFWS) in line to be chapter president, after Marianne Meding serves as president in 2008. Marianne takes office in September when the national AFS meeting is held, and Stephanie then comes in as "president-elect".

And finally, be looking for a call to volunteer on a committee to help plan and organize the Western Division AFS meeting in Albuquerque at the downtown Hyatt Hotel from May 3-8th, 2009. With the help of several folks we have finalized the theme to be "Evolution of the Western Landscape: Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish".

New Spikedace and Loach Minnow Propagation and Research Facility at Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery, AZ

Construction of a new building for propagation and research of Gila River endangered fishes was completed in June 2007 at Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery, AZ. Funding for construction was provided by the Bureau of Reclamation. The goals of

this facility are to prevent loss of rare populations of spikedace (*Meda fulgida*) and loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) by maintaining backup populations of these rare species and propagating fish for reintroduction and repatriation. The new

facility contains 24, 6-foot diameter circular fiberglass tanks. Each tank is set up to mimic a natural environment with rock and sand substrates and submerged logs for structure. Overhead lights are controlled by a timer to manipulate photoperiod and induce spawning. This new facility utilizes an artesian well drilled in 2003, which produces

approximately 2-3 gal/min per tank at 20° C. This water is pathogen-free, and ideal for rearing all life stages of small-

bodied fishes. The new building is located adjacent to the Arizona Game and Fish wet laboratory, and the two buildings are operated in tandem. The wet lab provides quarantine and disease treatment facilities and the new open-air facility provides space for maintaining genetically distinct populations of endangered fish and their progeny. Successful reproduction of both species has already occurred methods for production of large numbers of offspring are currently being evaluated.

~David Ward, AGFD, Bubbling Ponds Research Facility



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Assessing the Effects of Riparian Grazing on Brown Trout Growth Rate and Movement

The relationship between riparian grazing and salmonid population has been the subject of numerous previous studies which focused largely on



population density and biomass changes over time. The goal of my research is to monitor fine scale changes in salmonid growth rate and movement in response to riparian

grazing by elk and livestock in Valles Caldera National Preserve, NM (VCNP). We currently monitor the response of riparian vegetation and stream morphology to riparian disturbance, and relate those factors to growth rate and movement in brown trout at three grazing sites along San Antonio Creek. Each grazing site includes three grazing treatments 1) open to elk and cattle, 2) open to only elk, and 3) closed to both elk and cattle grazing. PIT tags were implanted in 300 trout in November 2006 and individuals were sampled every 6-8 weeks between April and November. To date, growth rate (grams/day) among age-2 brown trout was 0.24 (± 0.142 ; mean ± 1 SD) in treatments closed to grazing, 0.09 (± 0.03) in treatments with only elk grazing, and 0.09 (± 0.09) in treatments open to elk and cattle grazing. Fish tagged within closed treatments moved 162 m (± 1761) while fish tagged within enclosures open to only elk moved 360 m (± 2506). Fish tagged within treatments open to both elk and cattle moved 286 m (± 1969). In an effort to minimize some of the observe variance, an additional 300 brown trout will be marked in April 2008 and tracked through the end of the study in December 2008.



~Mike Anderson and Colleen Caldwell, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Golden Algae Project

In 2004 and 2005 significant fish kills occurred at Saguaro, Canyon, and Apache Lakes located in central Arizona. It was later discovered that the culprit was golden algae.



The three reservoirs are popular for largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing and since that time fishing conditions have been dismal. In order to

restore the fisheries at these reservoirs, Arizona Game and Fish developed a study to evaluate largemouth and smallmouth bass stocking strategies. Over the course of the next 2 years Arizona Game and Fish will be stocking approximately 200,000, two inch largemouth bass fingerlings during each spring and approximately 20,000, 6-8 inch largemouth bass during each fall. The bass will be marked with either



a coded wire tag or an oxytetracycline (OTC) mark. The mark will be used to distinguish between stocked and wild fish during spring and fall electrofishing and gill

netting surveys. In addition an intensive creel survey is being conducted to determine return to creel of stocked fish, catch per hour, and angler satisfaction.

~Bill Stewart, AGFD, Research Biologist

CHAPTER NEWS!!!

The Environmental Review Committee allows AFS members to comment and provide input on controversial projects and EAs via the AZ/NM chapter. If you have any issues that AFS may want to comment on please send them to Jason Kline at: jkline@azgfd.gov

Environmental Review Committee!

The chapter sent a letter to the Department of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the proposal of a series of experimental releases of water from Glen Canyon Dam to help native fish, particularly the endangered humpback chub, and conserve fine sediment in the Colorado River corridor in Grand Canyon National Park. The Bureau of Reclamation's draft EA and additional information can be found at:

<http://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/ea/gc/2008hfe/>
If you would like to see the letter that the chapter sent, contact Jason Kline (jkline@azgfd.gov)

2008 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING NEWS!!!

The 41st joint annual conference of the Arizona and the New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and the Arizona and New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was held February 7-9, 2008 at the Prescott Resort in Prescott, AZ.

The theme of the meeting was "Providing Water for Urban Growth: Challenges for Managing Terrestrial and Aquatic Species". Arizona and New Mexico are dealing with this issue, and our meeting location in the Verde Valley provided an excellent case study. The plenary session provided meeting participants with an overview of such challenges. Speakers included:

- Dr. Abe Springer from Northern Arizona University discussed the relationship of springs and fish and provided information on groundwater models and their impact on water resources
- Chuck Paradzick an ecologist with Salt River Project discussed SRP's involvement in water rights and their efforts to protect and conserve water resources
- Carol Springer, Yavapai County Supervisor shared her perspective on water management in the Upper Verde River
- Dan Campbell from the Nature Conservancy discussed the Verde River Partnership
- Michael Byrd, Executive Director of the Prescott Creeks organization provided an

example of a locally driven community based watershed group

- Michelle Harrington from the Center for Biological Diversity discussed the Center's role in watershed/Verde River management

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Congratulations to **Stephanie Coleman**, the 2009 Chapter President-elect, who was elected at the business meeting at the Joint Annual Meeting in February. She will take office in August 2008 and serve a three-year term, performing the duties of President-Elect in 2008-2009, President in 2009-2010, and Past-President in 2010-2011.

Currently, Pam Sponholtz (Arizona) is the Past-President, Amy Unthank (New Mexico) is the President, and Marianne Meding (Arizona) is the President-Elect. Matt Rinker is our Chapter Secretary/Treasurer



From left to right: Matt Rinker, Stephanie Coleman, Marianne Meding, Amy Unthank, Pam Sponholtz

HACCP PLANNING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PATHWAYS

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning is a management tool that provides a structured method to identify risks and focus procedures in natural resource pathway activities. Understanding pathways and developing plans to reduce non-target species and prevent biological contamination is necessary to avoid unintended spread of species. Using practical examples, a case study, and hands-on exercises, participants learned principles of pathway management planning as a tool to reduce the spread of non-target species. The primary intent of this course was to prepare participants to develop and implement a HACCP plan.

FIELD TRIP TO WATSON WOODS NATURE PRESERVE



Michael Byrd, Executive Director of Prescott Creeks Preservation hosted a field trip to Watson Woods Riparian Preserve directly after the annual conference on Saturday February 9, 2008 with the interpretive help of Noel Fletcher (Prescott National Forest biologist).

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is model of riparian restoration, preservation, inventory monitoring, and environmental education.



Despite the muddy conditions of the preserve, it was a beautiful day. The ten participants enjoyed the day, and learned a lot from the expertise of Michael and Noel.

ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE

We had a successful raffle with prizes including a decked out mountain bike, touring kayak, inflatable pontoon boat, binoculars, artwork, and more!

ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT AWARDS!

Congratulations to student presenters on a great job!

Best Student Poster

Justin Mapula; New Mexico State University; Las Cruces, NM; Temperature and salinity influences egg hatching and larval survival of Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.

Best Student Oral Presentation/ Paper

Janelle Alleman; New Mexico State University; Las Cruces, NM; Effects of salinity on specific gravity and diameter of eggs from five minnow species in New Mexico.

ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS!!!

Professional of the Year Award

The Professional of the Year Award is awarded to an individual employed in a capacity related to fisheries and aquatic resources.

Rob Clarkson, US Bureau of Reclamation, is the recipient of the Professional of the Year Award.

Upon arriving in Arizona in 1973 to study under the late Dr. W.L. Minckley, Rob Clarkson showed an all-encompassing passion for the conservation of native fishes.

While employed mostly by the Research Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department from 1979 to

1995, Rob Clarkson published many articles regarding native fishes, frogs, and their parasites in a wide range of refereed journals.

In 1995, Rob Clarkson switched from research to management and accepted a position with the US Bureau of Reclamation. At Reclamation, he took on a fledgling program to control invasion and spread of nonnative fishes and is working tirelessly to recover four species of native fishes in the Gila River Basin, an effort whose magnitude and scope has never before been attempted in Arizona.

Rob Clarkson designed and developed innovative techniques to sample and monitor the canal system and associated waters, evaluated efficacy of barrier structures and other exclusion devices, worked tirelessly to construct fish barriers on Aravaipa Creek, oversaw the development of a fish hatchery devoted to the culture of native fish, and conceptualized, funded, and directed research projects to answer questions regarding management techniques for control of nonnative fishes and recovery of native fishes. Of particular lasting significance were the efforts he led for the construction of a barrier and restoration of native fishes in Fossil Creek. To accomplish these efforts, he facilitated interagency cooperation and coordination with numerous state and federal agencies, non-governmental entities, and private interest groups and citizens. During the past decade and largely due to his guidance and enthusiasm, Reclamation has been the leading agency in the state accomplishing on-the-ground efforts to enhance native fisheries.

Despite the difficulties and disappointments we all face in implementing on-the-ground efforts to enhance native fisheries, Rob Clarkson has remained as dedicated and passionate about their conservation as the day he began his career as a fishery biologist. It is with great joy and happiness that I present Rob Clarkson with the Fishery Professional of the Year Award.

Conservationist of the Year Award

The Conservationist of the Year Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual or group not employed in the fisheries or aquatic resources profession.

Joe and Valer Austin, owners of the El Coronado Ranch and the Bar Boot Ranch in Cochise County Arizona were the recipient of the Conservationist of the Year Award.

The Austins are excellent stewards of the land and are very conservation oriented. Upon purchasing their ranches they immediately went to work on improving grazing practices, water use, and improving riparian and in-stream conditions of both perennial and ephemeral streams. In addition they also own land in Mexico where they are leading the way in managing for native grasslands and protecting and improving natural water sources. They have worked at recovering, restoring, and protecting populations and habitat for over ten state, federal, and Mexican listed species on their ranches.

In regards to fisheries or aquatic resources they have lead the way on privately owned land accomplishing not only their own conservation goals but also assisting and playing a major role in helping both federal and state agencies in accomplishing their goals. They work closely with the USFWS San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR), USFWS Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO), USFWS Tucson Ecological Services Office, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), and the U.S. Forest Service – Coronado National Forest (USFS).

The El Coronado Ranch Habitat Conservation Plan, under the authorization of Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act, is now approaching its tenth year providing recovery of the Yaqui chub (*Gila purpurea*) and Yaqui catfish (*Ictalurus pricei*) while maintaining productive operations of the ranch. The Yaqui chub is thriving in West Turkey Creek and the population of Yaqui catfish in Big Tank is improving to a point of potential reproductive success. Recently the Austin's, AZFWCO, AZGFD, and SBNWR staff placed breeding habitat, affectionately known as "catfish condos" into Big Tank to encourage the reproduction effort of the population found there.

The Austin's Bar Boot Ranch is upstream of the SBNWR's Leslie Canyon Tract where Yaqui topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis*), Yaqui chub, Chiricahua leopard frog (*Rana chiricahuensis*), and Huachuca water umbel (*Lilaeopsis schaffneriana ssp. recurva*) exist. The

Austin's along with other landowners have joined forces with the SBNWR under the guidance of Bill Radke – SBNWR Refuge Manager to improve conditions of this valuable watershed. Through the construction of earthen dams in ephemeral washes the water table has risen dramatically, especially in the perennial sections of Leslie Canyon within the NWR boundary improving conditions for the listed species found there. The Austin's have also done similar efforts in the West Turkey Creek watershed found on the El Coronado Ranch where they installed hundreds of low water rock/wire gabions to improve perennial conditions.

The Bar Boot Ranch has recently done a project through the PFW Program to upgrade two stock tanks prior to introduction of Yaqui catfish, Yaqui chub, Yaqui topminnow, beautiful shiner (*Cyprinella formosa*), and Chiricahua leopard frog. This is in conjunction with the enrollment in a USFWS Safe Harbor Agreement through the Tucson Ecological Services Office that will allow the introduction of these federally listed species into these stock tanks as refuge and grow-out sites.

AZGFD has recently lead an effort to repatriate West Turkey Creek with the Mexican stoneroller (*Campostoma ornatum*), a Yaqui River drainage species that is extremely rare in the United States being extant only in Rucker Canyon on the Coronado National Forest. AZGFD, AZFWCO, and USFS staff along with Joe Austin successfully translocated over 150 adult stonerollers from Rucker Canyon into multiple reaches of West Turkey Creek on the El Coronado Ranch and the Coronado National Forest. This could not have happened without the assistance and support of the Austin's.

Marty Underwood (USFWS), nominator of award recipients stated: "In my role as a private lands biologist, I have the privilege and honor to work with great stewards of the land and during my career the Austin's have been one of the best, going above and beyond for conservation. It is very rewarding to have a relationship with folks like the Austin's and they need to be encouraged and rewarded to not only encourage and support their own efforts but to also demonstrate to other landowners that these efforts work and can work without compromising ranch operations and livelihoods. Conservation efforts on private lands are crucial not only because so much

habitat for threatened and endangered species occur there but because private landowners are intimate with and know their land, and have a sense of ownership and pride that goes with it.”

Award of Appreciation

Every so often our Chapter recognizes the outstanding contribution of a Chapter member. In 2004, **Anne Kretschmann** volunteered to take over a struggling Chapter newsletter. In four short years, she has transformed the newsletter into a nexus of information, report summaries and volunteer opportunities. Under her direction, the newsletter has been available to our members on time up to four times per year. In addition to her newsletter responsibilities, Anne was also responsible for facilitating the Chapter meeting logo, field trip, and planning the Social events for this meeting. We present Anne with this award of appreciation and a \$500 credit towards travel and meeting expenses for the Western Division AFS meeting in Portland in May 2008.

Miles McInnis Memorial Undergraduate Student Awards 2007-2008

Congratulations to **Justin Mapula** and **Jamie Evans!**

Aquatic Consultants Inc. and the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society are pleased to announce that two \$1,000 undergraduate student scholarship awards were awarded to Justin Mapula and Jamie Evans, undergraduate students in the general area of fisheries.

MINUTES!

AZ/NM Chapter AFS Business Meeting 2-7-2008.

Introduction of Officers – Amy Unthank

- Current President Amy Unthank introduced the chapters acting officers:
 1. Past President – Pam Sponholtz
 2. Current President – Amy Unthank
 3. President Elect – Marianne Meding

4. Secretary-Treasurer – Matt Rinker

- A quorum was met with 25 active members in Attendance.

Approval of Agenda – Amy Unthank

- Amy Unthank motioned to approve the meeting agenda. The Motion was seconded and approved

Approval of Minutes from 2007 Business Meeting – Amy Unthank

- Amy Unthank motioned to approve last year’s business meeting notes. The motion seconded and was approved.

Introduction of special guests and visitors – Amy Unthank

- Leanne Roulson was in attendance. Leanne is the Western Division Vice President. Leanne provided a talk on the Western Divisions’ native fish database. Anyone who wishes to provide a review of the Native Fish database should contact Leanne

Presidential Address – Amy Unthank

- Amy Unthank and the membership thanked Past President Pam Sponholtz for all her hard work and dedication during her term as President.
- The membership was informed that the chapter acquired two new student subchapters this past year: Arizona State University and New Mexico University.
- Amy is optimistic and hopeful that the chapter will be able to put on a good meeting in Albuquerque in 2009.
- Chapter members made great comments on several environmental issues due to our new environmental affairs chairman Jason Kline. Amy Unthank encouraged the membership to continue to support Jason on environmental issues both in commenting as they occur and bringing up issues for Jason to distribute to the membership
- Amy also thanked Jeremy Voeltz for his work as the new Membership Chairman.

Western Division Update – Scott Bonar

- Scott Bonar is the President-Elect and will take office in 2009 after Eric Wagner
- The Western Division Meeting in 2009 will in Albuquerque and hosted by the AZ/NM Chapter AFS.

- Eric Wagner would like to pass on that the Annual meeting in Portland (May 4-6, 2008) will feature Peter Moyle and will focus on urbanization in fisheries.
- There will also be a poker tournament at the meeting in Portland.
- Scott would like to extend a special invite to all the 2009 Western Division meeting Planners to come to Portland to see how a Western Division Meeting is run
- Leanne Roulson is currently working hard on the Western Divisions' native fish database
- If there are any issues that need to be brought to the national governing board let Scott know and he can bring those to the national level.

Student Sub-Chapter Reports

University of Arizona – No officers were in attendance to address the membership.

New Mexico State University - Justin Mapula

- This past year the AZ/NM Chapter finalized the paper work to add New Mexico State University as a student sub-chapter.
- There are currently 20 paying members.
- Two outreach programs were conducted by the student sub-chapter this year.
 1. One working with sportsman groups to create fishing days
 2. One working with the Mass? fish hatchery and the Bureau of Land Management.
- The Student Sub-Chapter also has NMSU T-shirts available for sale at the meeting.

Arizona State University-Jamie Evans

- Jamie is the Vice President of the AFS portion of the student organization that functions under three different parent societies: American Fisheries Society, The Wildlife Society and The Society of Range Management.
- The student organization was recently restructured to include three vice presidents to represent each parent society with one president to oversee the overall activities of the group.
- The groups past year activities include:
 1. Monthly business meetings

2. Attending a hunting and fishing application workshop
3. Adopting a wildlife camera
4. Creating a recycling program on the ASU East campus
5. Working on building the sub-chapter financially.
6. Working at the Feathered Friends Festival.

- The groups upcoming events include:
 1. Working with the public on March 9th at Saguaro Lake to discuss golden algae
- The AFS Sub-chapter currently has eight paying members.
- Jamie would like to thank everyone who helped set up the new AFS branch of the ASU sub-chapter.

Bylaws update and Approval – Amy Unthank

- Changes to the chapter bylaws were made to recognize the new student subchapters. The new student sub-chapters are now listed in Section 2, Item C of the chapters bylaws. This change was only an addition to the chapter's bylaws.
- The new student members are now recognized as official chapter members of the AZ/NM Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.
- The governing board has approved the updated bylaws.
- Amy requested a motion for the chapter to approve the bylaws. Motion was seconded and approved.

Western Division Meeting – Amy Unthank

- The 2009 Western Division Meeting will be held in Albuquerque NM
- Amy handed out a form with the theme from last years meeting with a form attached for anyone who has a theme idea for the upcoming meeting.
- Leanne Roulson - helped organize the Western Division Meeting in Bozeman, MT a couple of years ago and offered to help with the process. Leanne pointed out that the AZ/NM Chapter hosted a Parent Society Meeting in Phoenix, AZ in 2001 and

suggested that the chapter should recruit those people that helped at that meeting.

- Leanne Roulson – The Bozeman MT meeting had about 500 people attend, while the upcoming 2008 Portland, OR meeting is estimating attendance at about 1,000. The size of the meeting in Bozeman, MT should be similar to the upcoming Albuquerque meeting. The number of abstracts that are submitted for the meeting is a good estimate for the overall meeting size.
- Leanne Roulson - The Albuquerque meeting will take a lot of cooperation on behalf of the chapter so please volunteer.
- Leanne Roulson - The symposia for the 09 Western Division Meeting needs to be set up ASAP.
- Leanne Roulson - Try to tap people within the chapter and get involved.
- Amy Unthank and Marianne Meding will take brochures for the upcoming Albuquerque Western Div. Meeting to the 08 Portland Western Division Meeting.
- The Chapter **NEEDS IDEAS** for a theme for the Albuquerque meeting. The Excom will approve a theme, but we need input!!!!!!
- Water issues would be a great theme, maybe the need for fish, or maybe an angling theme.
- Jeremy Voeltz will send out a call next week to the membership to stir up ideas.
- Amy handed out a form for ideas for the upcoming meeting in Albuquerque. Any ideas thought up at the 08 Joint Annual Meeting were asked to be dropped at the registration desk. Amy also encouraged individuals to include their name and committee they would be interested in if they are interested.
- The theme need's to help attract people to the regional aspect of the meeting or the "flavor of Arizona and New Mexico."
- Marianne Meding asked for a show of hands for volunteers to help with the meeting in Albuquerque. 15 + members indicated that they were willing to head up the various committees.

Treasurers Report – Matt Rinker
Meeting Income –

- Matt gave an estimate of the pre-meeting income to date that the chapter would break even at the current meeting income vs. meeting costs as of the 2-7-08 business meeting.
- As of 2-13-08 the meeting produced a net profit of \$6,434.83 with one outstanding bill for award winner's plaques and an outstanding income of \$2,115 from registrations not yet collected and not figured into the net profit.

Endowment Fund –

- There was no summary available from the Endowment Fund due to lack of communication from the Western Division Representative (he was on vacation).
- A report on the Chapters portion of the Western Divisions Endowment Fund was sent via e-mail to Matt on 2-11-08 January, 31 2008 showing a current balance of \$2,813.71. This is a net loss of \$186.29 from the original \$3,000 investment and is down from a balance of \$3,004.92 last quarter.
- The Fund has hovered around the original \$3,000 investment mark since the original deposit. The Fund has never been higher than \$3,228.85 (on October 31, 2007) and is currently at its lowest balance of \$2,813.71.

General Funds-

- The Chapters current checking account balance as of 2-13-08 is at \$15,924.83.
- The chapter collected a total of \$720 in dues at the Joint Annual Meeting, another \$645 in dues from the Parent Society, and \$30 in dues via snail mail (\$1,395 total).
- There will be additional fees associated with the credit card purchasing process it is estimated that those fees will total \$562.87. To date the chapter has paid \$177.27 of the estimated \$562.87 leaving a balance of \$385.60.

Hutton Program – Chuck Benedict

- Hutton Jr. Scholar applications are due by February 15th, 2008. Interested parties can apply through the AFS website www.fisheries.org

- The program is great for both students and the professionals that mentor them.

Committee Reports

Membership – Jeremy Voeltz

- The membership totals for 2007: 90 total members of those 69 were cull members (also members of the Western Division and/or Parent Society) and 21 were just members of the AZ/NM Chapter.
- For 2008: 90 total members registered for the AFS portion of the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting. Jeremy won't know the exact membership numbers until the end of the meeting.
- Overall membership seems to be steady.
- As of the end of the meeting 104 AZ/NM Chapter members attended the meeting, of those 58 decided to pay their dues at the meeting.
- Jeremy sent an email to the list of people that have been active in last 5 years.
- Jeremy will add the University Presidents to the email list (or maybe it was the student subchapter presidents/vice presidents).
- Jeremy has also been charged with sending out general information on behalf of the chapter.

General Joint Annual Meeting Chair – Chuck Benedict

- The Prescott Resort has been wonderful to work with and they are very interested in hosting future meetings for the group.
- The 2008 Joint Annual Meeting budget is set up to cover some of the Western Divisions up front costs.

Webpage – Pam Sponholtz –

- Pam asked the membership to please fill out the meeting evaluations.
- Pam took over the webpage in 2004 and is not happy with its current look "It has lost its luster". Pam says that she is not a web developer and is looking for help setting up a new webpage that will look more professional to attract people to the Western Division Meeting in 2009.
- Pam would like to pursue other alternatives for improving the website including possibly

hiring someone with professional experience designing webpage's.

- Pam is open to any ideas and needs help finding a reasonable solution. The Chapter wants to put on a good Western Division Meeting. **PLEASE HELP PAM.**
- Amy Unthank – found a company that can help with the webpage, but they will charge A LOT of money.
- Amy suggested that Jeremy spread the word via email to the membership.
- Jodi Whittier – volunteered to help with the website

Newsletter – Anne Kretschmann

- Anne brought a copy of the most recent newsletter to the business meeting for the membership to view.
- Anne will take any articles at any point. She is interested in anything new or neat the membership is doing.
- The next deadline to submit article for the newsletter is March 1st.
- If members are not receiving the newsletter via email they need to make sure that Jeremy Voeltz has their email address.
- Anne has done a great job with the newsletter and has served for several years.
- Amy Unthank asked Anne if she was willing to continue with the newsletter and Anne agreed.

Environmental Affairs – Jason Kline

- This is a new program that started last year.
- This provides a forum for Chapter members to actively comment on environmental issues under the blanket of the chapter as a whole.
- The current chapter president will send out the various comments on any upcoming biological issues pertaining to Arizona or New Mexico.
- To date the chapter has commented on the Rotenone and Antimycin red letters, the HCP for Horseshoe reservoir, Bartlett reservoir, and the Blue River.
- The chapter as a whole has more clout than any individual biologist on their own.
- Jason sends new issues out to the membership via Jeremy Voeltz.

- Jason will provide opportunities for the chapter to comment on both Arizona and New Mexico issues but, he needs help being made aware of issues that come up.

- Jason has agreed to continue as the chairman of the Environmental affairs committee.

Nominations for Awards – Pam Sponholtz

- Pam received nominations for both the Conservationist of the Year and the Professional of the Year.
- Pam encouraged everyone to come to the Plenary Session. The awards were from 8:55 to 9:10 am.

Raffle – Jim Warnecke

- Jim informed the group that there are a lot of great prizes this year so buy your raffle tickets
- This year's big items include a mountain bike, a pontoon boat, and a kayak.
- The overall cost for acquiring all the raffle items was only \$849.39
- Jim has done the raffle for the chapter for the past 20 years or so and is still willing to be involved, but will need some help. Jim promises not to leave the chapter high and dry.
- Jim - Needs a replacement as the raffle chairman since he is now retired. Someone like Dave Weedman or someone else that has worked for Jim and understands the raffle would be a good idea.
- The new Raffle chairman will need to get stuff for discount or for free.
- Jim's helpful hints for the future is to have something that really attracts people to the raffle, this year there are five big items.
- Jim - In the past we have had Ernie Hackus donate home made bows from scratch.
- Jim – The chapter needs to start canvassing the membership to see if there is anyone who has connections or knows where we can get discounts.
- Jim – The chapter might try contacting Sportsman's Warehouse.
- Jim – The Western Division Meeting raffle in San Diego had prints of the area, it was a good item because it was local.

- Jim - If there are members out there that have talents please donate to the raffle. Items can be donated any time of the year.

- Scott Reger – what the chapter has done in past is to buy 3 day small game licenses and set up dove, duck, and quail hunts for people out of state to come down and go hunting. The question is does the chapter also pay for all or part of the transportation costs. This may be a good idea for the Western Division Meeting in Albuquerque where people from all over the country will be attending.

- Jim - has worked in the past with providing opportunity to fish for apache trout. The chapter has provided a guided trip to catch apache trout. This is another good idea since it is specific to AZ and NM.

- Jim – Setting up a crappie fishing trip at Roosevelt Lake might also be a good idea.

Public Education Committee –

- The committee is currently vacant.
- Dannette Weiss is possibly interested.
- The committee needs to get up and running in next couple years.
- The position entails such activities as general outreach to the public from a chapter perspective such as providing aquariums for schools. The idea is for the chapter to reach out to the community / Hutton students. Who ever agrees to fill the position will have the opportunity to shape the committee as they desire.
- Heidi Blasius - A lot of people don't know about native desert fishes, one idea might be to try and set up aquariums in airports etc for education. Shawn Moody helped pay for an aquarium in Safford that currently has pupfish.

Continuing Education Committee – Amy Unthank

- The committee is currently vacant.
- Stewart Jack put on a HACCP class at this years meeting.
- Yvette Paroz will continue to help with Continuing Ed.
- Casey Hawthorn was in charge of continuing education for a while. He was going through the parent society to come up the classes.

- The chapter wants to beef up continuing education opportunities.
- Amy would like to have a couple of continuing education classes for the Albuquerque meeting. Maybe some kind of leadership or GIS training.
- The membership needs to let Amy know if they have any ideas.
- Jason Kline – would like to see the Piscicide training course offered every year.

New business – Amy Unthank

Student Papers – Amy Unthank

- There are 12 student papers and 2 student posters for this years meeting and volunteers are needed to judge both.

Field Trip - Anne Kretschmann

- Anne Kretschmann – There is a field trip on Saturday afternoon (2-9-08) to Watson woods. The Prescott Creek Association will be hosting the event; they are a grass roots group of local people in town. Watson Woods provides some interesting restoration ideas and educational stuff. The manager of Watson Woods and FS will lead the tour.

New President Elect – Amy Unthank

- The New President Elect must come from New Mexico so Amy Unthank has nominated Stephanie Coleman as a candidate. Stephanie works with the Fish and Wildlife Service at their New Mexico office.
- Amy asked the membership is there is anyone else interested in being president elect as write in candidate. None were identified at the business meeting.
- Stephanie Coleman was appointed by Amy to be President Elect beginning in September 2008

Western Division Native Fish Database – Leanne Roulson.

- The project has been ongoing since 2003.
- The project has mapped 290 species in the phase II report
- The data base is designed to cover species trends and regional trends.
- There are currently data gaps that need to be addressed.
- The project is moving toward a user interface.

- The project goals are to: Have the database be publicly accessible and to show current fish distributions and trends.
- The database covers the Western Division territories.
- Data for the database was collected in electronic format. A map was produced and sent out to the biologists who sent back revisions. The phase II report is a summary of those revisions.
- The database currently covers 1.7 billion acres.
- They are currently having trouble identifying critical habitat and abundance.
- Narrative information is hard to get into the database, a standardized method is needed
- Acquiring new revisions will help strengthen the tool.
- All the information in the database is linked to bibliographic references. The reference has to be published literature. The reference cannot be word of mouth.
- The map is broken into 4th code HUC's or Hydrologic Unit Code. If the HUC is colored then the fish in question is present or was present at some time.
- Phase III will be set up as interactive GIS database available on the web and will be up to date.
- Still working with Canada and Mexico on obtaining their data.
- Some chapters have given money to support the database (not AZ/NM)
- The goal is to make the database more useful, which would mean providing real time data.
- It looks like the University of Redlands has hired a student to help with the project. The University will sponsor the student with tuition costs etc and in exchange the database gets the work.
- Contact information:
Leanne Roulson;
lhroulson@garciandassociates.com or
406-582-0661
Jim Timant; min@tilmant.com or
970-223-8162
- The focus of the database is on non-game fish

- There has been a lot of new data provided since 2003, that's why they want the database to be real-time data.
- Can state agency reports count? They will take what ever information they can.
- If changes are made to the database it will automatically archive the change.

Other Items – Pam Sponholtz

- Pam thanked everyone who was on the planning committee for the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting. Chuck Benedict, Julie Meka, Heidi Blasius, Stu Tuttle, Jason Kline, Dirk Renner, Shaula Hedwall, Marianne Meding, Anne Kretschmann, Kristin Pitts, Matt Chmiel, Matt Rinker, Pam Sponholtz, Jim Warnecke, Jason Weibenga, and Stewart Jacks.
- Amy Unthank provided chapter hats to everyone who was on the planning committee.

Meeting Adjournment – Amy Unthank

- Amy thanked all for attending the business meeting.
- Meeting adjourned

Upcoming Meetings!

Mar 18-19—Introduction to Electrofishing, Vancouver, WA. See www.smith-root.com. Contact: info@smith-root.com.

Apr 6-13—37th Annual Meeting for the Benthic Ecology Meeting, Providence, RI. See www.shellfish.org

Apr.28-30—Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, Galloway, NJ. See ww.neafwa.org.

May4-8—Western Division of the American Fisheries Society and the Oregon Chapter of the AFS Annual Meeting: Human Population Growth and Fisheries: The Western Challenge, Portland, OR. See www.wdafs.org.

May 12-16—River Management Society Meeting, Portland, Maine. See www.river-management.org/symposium.asp.

May 18-22—Sixth National Monitoring Conference, Atlantic City, NJ. See www.wef.org.

Jul 13-17—Conference for Society for Conservation Biologists, Chattanooga, NM. See www.utc.edu/Academic/ConferenceforSocietyofConservationBiologists.

July 14-18—HydroVision 2008, Sacramento, CA. See www.hcipub.com/hydrovision/abstracts.asp.

Jul 25-27—Seventh International Conference on Recirculating Aquaculture, Roanoke, VA. See www.cpe.vt.edu/aquaculture/. Contact Terry Rakestraw, aqua@vt.edu, 540/231-6805.

AFS Aug 17-21—American Fisheries Society 138th Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario.

Sep 28-Oct 2—Pathways to Success 2008 Conference: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife, Estes Park, CO. See www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/nrt/hdfw/partners.html. Contact eduke@warnercnr.colostate.edu.

Oct 20-24—Fifth World Fisheries Congress 2008, Pacifico Yokohama, Japan. Contact wfc2008@ics-inc.co.jp. See www.5thwfc2008.com.

Nov 10-13—Fifth World Recreational Fishing Conference, Dania Beach, FL. See www.igfa.org.

New Books!

Burbot: Ecology, Management, and Culture



Vaughn L. Paragamian and David H. Bennette, editors; editors; 270 pages, Symposium 59; Publication date: February 2008; Price: \$69

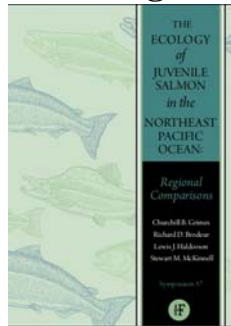
Burbot are circumpolar in distribution and found in the northern tier of states and Canada.

Recent research suggests that there are two subspecies: *Lota lota lota* found in Eurasia and Alaska, and *Lota lota maculosa* found in North America south of Great Slave Lake. Burbot populations are threatened or have been extirpated in

many waters in their southern range in North America, and in many states they are a species of special concern. The status of burbot is in question in some European countries, or they have been extirpated in others. Among other topics, this volume explores differences in mitochondrial DNA frequencies of burbot in the Pacific Northwest, how temperature changes due to regulated discharge from a dam and climatic changes may be affecting burbot abundance, the status of burbot in the Great Lakes, burbot culture, and how local government and a Native American tribe intervened to develop a burbot conservation strategy. The book will be appreciated by burbot experts as well as those just interested in a unique fish.

Ecology of Juvenile Salmon in the Northeast Pacific Ocean: Regional Comparisons

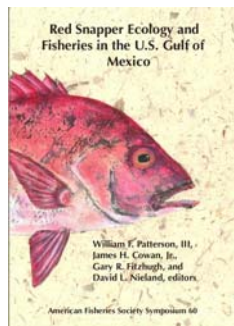
Churchill B. Grimes, Richard D. Brodeur, Lewis J. Haldorson, and Stewart M. McKinnell, editors; 247 pages, Symposium 57; Publication date: November 2007; Price: \$69



Understanding the interaction between Pacific salmon and their environment is critical for salmon management. This book presents recent advances in our understanding of the ecology of salmon in the North Pacific and Bering Sea and the influence of ocean climate on the life history and population dynamics of Pacific salmon stocks. Focuses on regional comparisons of salmon ecology south and north of the British Columbia transition zone where ocean conditions effect salmon production in opposite phase.

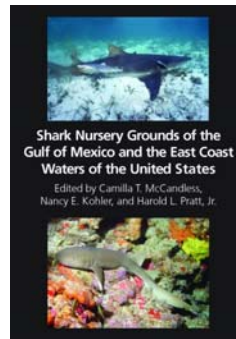
Red Snapper Ecology and Fisheries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico

William F. Patterson, III, James H. Cowan, Jr., Gary R. Fitzhugh, and David L. Nieland, editors; 396 pages, Symposium 60; Publication date: December 2007; Price: \$69



Red snapper is among the most ecologically and economically important reef fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Fisheries management for the species also happens to be among the most controversial in the U.S. Gulf red snapper has been estimated to be overfished and undergoing overfishing since at least the late 1980s. Management is complicated, however, because the greatest source of mortality for red snapper is believed to come from shrimp trawl bycatch, not the directed fisheries. Despite all efforts to solve the bycatch problem and otherwise recover red snapper, the stock remains significantly overfished. Few other species or assemblages have had as many financial resources contributed to improve knowledge of basic population biology, engineer solutions to management issues such as shrimp trawl bycatch, develop state-of-the-art assessment techniques, and implement novel management approaches as has Gulf red snapper. This volume provides the state of knowledge for research on red snapper ecology and fisheries.

Shark Nursery Grounds of the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast Waters of the United States



Camilla T. McCandless, Nancy E. Kohler, and Harold L. Pratt, Jr., editors; 402 pages, Symposium 50; Publication date: December 2007; Price: \$69.

In the mid to late 1990's, the need for a better understanding of shark nursery habitat in U.S. coastal waters prompted the initiation of several detailed studies of shark nursery grounds in almost all of the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico states from New England to Texas. In this book, researchers from universities and state and federal agencies contribute information on long-term shark nursery studies, studies on juveniles within established nursery areas, and some studies in the early stages of development. The book begins with a chapter on nursery areas as essential shark habitats and future directions for shark nursery studies, and concludes with species summary tables of nursery habitat characteristics reported in this volume.

Notes From the Editors...

We would like to thank members who contributed to this newsletter. We strongly encourage every member to contribute to the newsletter. We appreciate all articles, photos and input! This is a great opportunity to let the rest of the chapter know about the work that you are doing.

The theme of the summer newsletter is **Native Fish Research and Management**. The deadline for submissions is **June 1**. **Articles** should be approximately 250 words long. We would love to see any **photos** of fish, or of you working! Also, this is a great place to post **job and volunteer listings** and other **announcements**.

~Your editors

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Webpage

If you have any comments about the webpage or have items you would like to see on the webpage, please contact Scott Rogers at:
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Visit our webpage at: www.fisheries.org/aznm



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