

Newsletter of the AFS Ontario Chapter



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

President's Message

As this is my first President's Message, I would like to say a quick "Welcome" to you, one of the more than 150 Ontario Chapter members. As I sit here contemplating what to include in my first message, I can't help but think back to my first involvement with the AFS. While I hate to admit that I don't recall the exact date, it was somewhere around early 1996 when I first made my way up to Dorset for the AGM. It was there that I met many other fish-centric people with whom I still speak with regularly today. Since then, membership has grown, we now have a formal student sub-unit and we will be applying for AFS Chapter of the Year (>100 members). These are but a few of the changes over the last 12 years and I hope that I am able to continue these successes over the next year.

My first duty is to let you know that Chapter elections have just been completed and a new ExComm will be up and running later this month. I would like to thank all the departing members of the ExComm for their hard work and dedication. In particular, I would like to mention Heather Lynn, who began her tenure as a Student Representative in 2000/01 and became Secretary in 2004/05. This makes her possibly the longest serving ExComm member in Chapter history. I would also like to thank Jack Imhof, the departing President, for his tireless efforts to move the efforts of the Chapter along and his help with organizing the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting. You will find additional articles in this newsletter from Jack and Lynn Bouvier regarding the raffle and I have articles about AFS 2008 and the Chapter AGM.

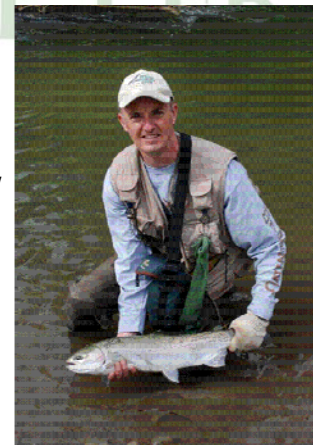
The meeting in Ottawa during August meant that we didn't hold our regular AGM in Orillia last winter.

There will also be a difference with the 2009 AGM this coming winter. We have arranged a Tri-Chapter Meeting with the Wisconsin and Minnesota chapters in Duluth, MI, February 2-4, 2009. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Centre, with a social tentatively scheduled to be held at the Great Lakes Aquarium. This promises to be an exciting event with a focus on Great Lakes topics. Stay tuned to the website for more details.

One other initiative I plan to continue is increasing the number of educational opportunities organized by the Chapter. These could take the form of evening talks, project tours or one or two workshops. There are many excellent researchers, scientists, biologists and future fish-heads in the membership. The Student Colloquium held this past October is one example of the opportunities being organized for students (see pages 10-11 for more details).

I hope you are as excited as I am about the coming year and the future of the Chapter. Remember that the ExComm is readily accessible and always interested in new ideas, new approaches and new members. Feel free to drop me a line over the coming year.

Cheers,
Jon Clayton
president@afs-oc.org



Thanks for the Memories

I am likely showing my age by thinking of the old song that Bob Hope used at the end of his shows, but it does reflect my feelings of thanks to our ExComm and to all of the AFS-OC members that helped me as President of your Chapter. This past year has flown by, helped along by our Chapter's responsibilities for the AFS 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa.

When I began my Presidency, I set a number of goals for myself. First was to work with the ExComm and our Education Committee co-chairs, Jason Barnucz and Dave Green to launch a series of annual training workshops to increase the capability of fisheries professionals to better protect and manage fisheries and aquatic resources. Second was to begin planning for our Chapter to work with our sister Chapters in Minnesota and Wisconsin to hold joint AGMs in 2009. Finally, perhaps the biggest goal was to help make the AFS 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa a huge success.

The Educational Committee has developed a template for a Watershed Workshop seminar that will provide a sound foundation in the watershed sciences for biologists. We deferred the launch of the workshop template due to the workload generated by AFS 2008 and the responsibilities of many of our members on various committees for the Annual Meeting. My hope is to help the Educational Committee to launch this program in 2009. The bioengineering course held last year, organized by Samantha Mason and supported by the Grand River Conservation Authority was a big success. We are hoping to develop another bioengineering course in 2009 as well.

Jon Clayton, our new President, is coordinating our Chapter's part in the Tri-Chapter Meeting with our sister chapters in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The

meeting will be held in Duluth, Minnesota, February 2-5, 2009. The Chapter is hoping to defray the cost of travel to the meeting by renting a bus to transport members who wish to attend the meeting. More details will follow shortly.

Perhaps the biggest challenge this past year was coordinating our Chapter's responsibilities for helping to organize the AFS 2008 meeting and our Chapter's coordination of the Annual Meeting Raffle. The entire ExComm stepped up to the challenge. All ExComm members were very active in numerous Annual Meeting committees. We also had more than 40 regular members volunteer during the meeting and most also sat on various committees. The amount of work ratcheted up from a modest level last fall and early winter to a very big push from June through to the meeting in mid-August. It truly was a team effort and the Ontario Chapter did itself proud.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be your President over this past year and to lead the Chapter through the organization of the AFS Annual Meeting. It was an overwhelming experience and one that I will remember. I know that our incoming President, Jon Clayton, and I look forward to helping the ExComm over the next year.

Looking forward,

Jack Imhof
past-president@afs-oc.org



Cool Web-Based Magazine and Article

Thanks to Bill Gardner for bringing our attention to this interesting Canadian general-interest magazine with an international outlook. Check out the link below and learn about MNR biologists and their work, concerns and research surrounding declining American eel populations.

<http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2008.12-environment-eels-on-wheels/>

Ottawa 2008 Annual Meeting Review

I was fortunate enough to attend my first AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa this past August. This was also my first major conference, so I felt like an angler going on their first fly-in fishing trip. I arrived in Ottawa fairly late on Saturday night, checked in and got ready for the week ahead. Mission Control for the week was Dave Maraldo's suite, where there was always something happening. The 7am morning meetings were great at organizing for the day, but they did arrive awfully early.



Sunday was primarily a day of setting up the raffle, Chapter booth and catching up with friends. The Annual Meeting officially started on Monday morning with the opening Plenary Session and the commencement of the Symposia and Contributed Paper sessions. The Trade Show began in the early afternoon and with it, the raffle. Monday night was a busy evening with the Chapter AGM and the Trade Show social. Many people then moved to the Byward Market with its many pubs and restaurants.

Things kept rolling on Tuesday as the numerous symposia and contributed paper sessions continued. There were so many talks being given, it was tough to choose at times. What was even tougher was going from one to the next without running into people I wanted to talk to. Tuesday night was a free night and another chance to explore the Byward Market. I ended up with a group of CA and DFO staff who decided the best bar was at the far end of town. At least it was a good night for a walk!!



Wednesday continued with more contributed paper sessions. The drawing for the raffle prizes took place after lunch and it went off without a hitch. Given my past luck at Trout Unlimited dinners, I thought I was guaranteed a boat and motor package. As it turns out, luck wasn't on my side.

Wednesday night was the "The Canadian Museum of Civilization" social. It was a really fantastic site for the social, and all the comments I heard were very positive. The food featured a variety of Canadian favourites, including smoked trout and wall-eye.

The Annual Meeting began to wind down on Thursday and even with a late start, I was able to attend a few sessions in the morning. Overall, there were more than 1400 attendees and so many contributed papers, symposia, business meetings, social events, luncheons and other events going on it was impossible to get to everything. By all accounts, the 2008 Annual Meeting was a complete success, with most comments being extremely positive.

There are too many people to thank individually so as a group I would like to thank everyone involved in the planning, organization, set-up and coordination of the



Annual Meeting. It was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to learn, catch up with old friends and make new ones. For those of you that want to see what an Annual Meeting is all about, follow this link to the AFS Photostream on Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanfisheriessociety/>

Better yet, why not come to next year's meeting in Nashville, Tennessee from August 30 through September 3, 2009.

See you in there,

Jon Clayton
president@afs-oc.org



A Successful Bucket Raffle by your Chapter

The dust has finally settled on the 137th AFS Annual Meeting and the ExComm would like to express our appreciation for all those Chapter members that contributed their time and effort to make the Annual Meeting in general and the Annual Raffle such a big success.

The host Chapter of an Annual Meeting has a number of responsibilities. These responsibilities include helping with the organization of the Annual Meeting, helping on the various committees, fund-raising and providing volunteers for the actual event. One of the major responsibilities is the running of the Annual Meeting Raffle. This is the specific responsibility of the host chapter as outlined in the AFS Procedures Manual. The profits from the raffle provide support to both the AFS Skinner Fund for student travel and to the host Chapter. The division of profit from a raffle is 70% to the Skinner Fund and 30% to the host Chapter that runs the raffle.

The type of raffle can vary from year to year and has included bucket raffles, silent auctions and simple ticket sales and draws in the past. For the ease of organization and management, the Chapter, with support of the Organizing Committee, agreed that the raffle for the AFS 2008 Annual Meeting in Ottawa was going to be a bucket raffle. In a bucket raffle, prizes are displayed, a bucket is placed in front of each item and the ticket purchaser places his or her tickets in the bucket of the prize they hope to win.

The core committee included Lynn Bouvier and myself, Jon Clayton, Scott Gibson and Dave Green. In addition to these ExComm members, AFS members Silvia D'Amelio, Ann Rocchi and Sean Stuart also participated. Deb Martin-Downs, Chair of the fund-raising committee also stepped forward with solid support.

The Chapter Raffle Committee got seriously underway in November last year. Early on, we set an objective to acquire a range of very attractive donations that would allow us to raise at least \$12.0K to \$14.0K in gross value. In keeping with our proposed target, advice from others that have run similar bucket raffles suggested that we should have between 40 – 50 items ranging in value from a minimum of \$100 to a few "Wow" prizes that would be valued in the several thousands of dollars. It was decided that the raffle would need between 2-3 extraordinary prizes that would attract attention. It was felt that these could be a trip; boat/motor/trailer combo and perhaps some high end

field equipment. Committee members were asked to explore these options. As it turned out, three "Wow" prizes were offered including a trip to a remote fishing lodge in northern Ontario, a boat/motor/trailer combo that the Chapter acquired at below cost and a donation from Vemco of an acoustic receiver.

Training for the organization of bucket raffles was provided by two volunteers of Trout Unlimited Canada's Toronto Fundraising dinner. They helped to identify the set-up, type of tickets to use, cost of the tickets, tracking of purchasers, and how the draw and prize pick-up should be handled. This information was used by the committee to organize this raffle.

Most of the raffle committee members were able to attend the Annual Meeting and helped set up the raffle on Sunday to be ready for trade show opening on Monday. The raffle ran from Monday afternoon and evening through Tuesday until noon on Wednesday. An additional 13 AFS-OC members manned the raffle over the two and a half days of the trade show. We are extremely indebted to these AFS-OC members for their help!

Acquiring the donations took a fair amount of work from all the committee members. The final bucket raffle offerings had 3 "Wow" prizes and 50 other prizes available. The total estimated value of the donations was approximately \$34,000. The raffle grossed approximately \$14,330 and at this point we believe will net a total of approximately \$8,000 of which approximately \$2,400 would come to the Chapter for educational and Chapter activities.

Our Chapter has a great deal to be proud of. We were able to gross over \$14,000 with a total Annual Meeting participation of more than 1,400 people. The raffle went extremely smoothly and we received many comments from delegates that we had amassed a wonderful selection of raffle prizes. We were also informed that the raffle was one of the best run that they had experienced. Our success was in no small measure due to the dedication and commitment of the raffle committee and our volunteers.

Jack Imhof (past-president@afs-oc.org) and Lynn Bouvier (treasurer@afs-oc.org)

From Ottawa – Ontario Chapter AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting was held in Ottawa during the Parent Society Annual Meeting. It was the only day with rain and a few of those attending were soaked during the walk from the conference centre. Approximately 40 people attended, with perhaps the largest number of past chapter presidents in history in one room. My apologies to any I forget but this included Deb Martin-Downs, Dave Green, Cindy Mitton-Wilkie, Rob Steele, Brian Hindley, Dave Stanley, Bill Gardner, Warren Dunlop and Doug Clark. We were fortunate to have Bill Franzin, the current Society president, who provided a short introduction and greetings. Dave Maraldo also passed on his thanks to the chapter for its hard work on the Annual Meeting.

Jack Imhof thanked the ExComm for their work the past year and then reviewed his short and long term goals during his presidency. Lynn Bouvier provided an update on Chapter accounts, while Bill Gardner updated membership numbers.

Additional updates were done on:

- the Student Subunit (Michael Donaldson and Andrew Drake)
- Continuing Education (Jason Barnucz)
- NCD Technical Committees (Jack Imhof)
- 2009 AFS-OC AGM (Jon Clayton)
- Executive Committee Elections (Bill Gardner)
- Student Travel Awards (Lynn Bouvier)
- Past President Award presented to Bill Gardner
- CARS Update (Jack Imhof)

At the end of the meeting, a number of questions were raised. The first focussed on the Chapter of the Year Award. A few years ago, the Chapter won the Chapter of the Year Award for chapters with less than 100 members. With all the changes over the last few years, the time is ripe for us to apply for the 2008 Chapter of the Year Award (> 100 members). Rob Steele raised the question and volunteered to co-ordinate the application.

The second question was about membership. Although the membership numbers are good currently, it is important to attract new members and keep existing ones. A question about attracting people to the chapter was raised and recognizing volunteers was offered as one possible option.

A question about profits from the Annual Meeting was also raised. The chapter will be receiving 10% of the profits of the Annual Meeting and 30% of the raffle profits. While no decision has been made on what to do with the raffle, possible options include continuing education or a lecture series. Other ideas are certainly welcome.

The final question focussed on the 2010 Chapter AGM and the suggestion was made to return to Orillia or a similar venue. There was a general agreement that this is a good idea since some members were not able to attend in Ottawa and may not be able to go to Duluth.

The AGM wrapped up in less than two hours.

AFS-OC Swag! Get your Hats and Pins Here!

Impress your friends and colleagues - Support your AFS-OC now!

Ontario Chapter [baseball caps](#) and [lapel pins](#) are available for purchase online.



Cost:	Baseball Cap	\$21.00
	Lapel Pin	\$3.50

If you would like to purchase a baseball cap or lapel pin, please visit the Online Store (www.afs-oc.org).



AFS 2008 – Wrapping It Up!

What a great experience! I feel somewhat unworthy of accepting all the accolades I have received on AFS 2008, because it was truly a team effort. I will admit that by the time spring rolled around, I was getting nervous about how all the work was going to get done. There were shirts on order that hadn't arrived, missing logo files, bags to be printed and stuffed, and flash drives that were being loaded. Sometimes I wished it was me that was getting loaded!

As summer arrived, everything came together; not because of me but all the committee members, volunteers and other supporters. By the time we arrived in Ottawa, I couldn't find enough things to worry about to fill my day. Every time I asked about something, I was told it was under control – and it was!

The Ontario Chapter did a fantastic job on the raffle, as well as many other important tasks. Although the final accounting is still going on, I feel confident that the OC will receive a nice financial reward for their efforts. I hope all your members and supporters enjoy basking in the comfort of a job well done. The team-building that went into delivering AFS 2008 was for me the highlight of my career. I hope that your experiences of AFS 2008 are indeed gratifying! – they are well deserved!

Thanks,

Dave Maraldo
 General Meeting Chair
 AFS 2008
ottawa2008@afs-oc.org



The View From Up Here

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it". I have heard this saying in various guises and have used it myself to justify my time spent on activities (that others could consider frivolous) over the years. A Spanish born American philosopher and author, George Santayana, coined the phrase in 1905 in a volume of books related to common sense and the human condition.

I should take a step back and tell you all that I love history. If I weren't in the fisheries sphere I would be in the history sphere. I attribute this to my father who, although a plumber by trade, should have been an historian. The depth of his knowledge about so many aspects of history (long before the internet was available) still makes me both proud and envious.

I have been lucky over the years to be able to feed my passion for history while also doing fisheries work. In the mid 1990s I worked on a project that looked at the status of walleye in Lake Superior. In poring over old files and records I came across an interesting tidbit in a Canadian Pacific Rail (CPR) brochure. In the early 1900's, the CPR produced a pamphlet for train travelers to describe the fish in various lakes along the train route in Northern Ontario. The train would stop and people could try their hand at fishing for bass or trout or what have you, then they would get back on the train and continue the train ride out west. The CPR was gracious enough to stock the lakes that they would stop at.

Another example of melding the history and fisheries sides of my brain: This past winter I rescued the files from the Sault's Sportsfish Development Program from oblivion. With the help of some Sault College students I have begun digging through the files to search for interesting info on an 8 year period of fisheries history in Sault Ste. Marie.

And finally: In 2 overflowing boxes in my office I have the history of the Southern Ontario Chapter of the AFS. I started this project about 5 years ago with a telephone call to Les Stanfield. Sadly, I have had to set it aside for the past 3 years as I joined the Executive Committee of the Ontario Chapter. Now that my tenure on the ExComm has ended, I am looking forward to getting back into the boxes and hunting down more interesting information on the early days of one of the founding chapters of the Ontario Chapter. If you have any information at all on the SOC please contact me.

Someday, life will relax a little so that I can work on other fisheries/history projects as well, until then I'll make sure that I remember them (although having them repeated wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing).

Until then, Happy Fishing,

Bill Gardner
history@afs-oc.org



Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database

The OFFLHD is a fully searchable database for all Ontario and adjacent Great Lakes freshwater fishes including introduced, extirpated and extinct species. It contains current information pertaining to life history, habitat, size and age, distribution, status, reproduction and nomenclature for 150 species, 3 subspecies and 2 established hybrids. The website also includes photographs, range maps, notes, references, glossary of terms and related web links.

Try it out for yourself by clicking the OFFLHD logo on the Ontario Chapter homepage, or directly by visiting <http://www.fishdb.ca>. Explore, learn and enjoy.

The Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database was created and is maintained by Rob Eakins, webmaster@afs-oc.org.



Ontario Chapter Student Subunit News



As I organize my AFS-OC files in preparation to hand over the presidential reins, I reflect on my tenure as Student Subunit President. It is hard believe that it has been over 2 years since Lynn Bouvier convinced Mike Donaldson, Andrew Drake and myself that we should work together to create a student subunit for the Ontario Chapter.

It has been quite an adventure from writing up the bylaws in order to become an official subunit to showcasing the subunit talents (especially Mike Donaldson's organizational skills) at the AFS Ottawa 2008 meeting. We fund-raised for student activities through the 2007 Chapter Meeting silent auction and have managed to maintain a healthy bank account since! One of the main goals of the

subunit is to create training opportunities for students and we initiated this goal by offering a reduced-cost OMNR level II electrofishing course in September 2007. A secondary goal of the subunit is to exchange fisheries and aquatic sciences knowledge between its student members. In order to help meet this goal, we held a student retreat that showcased students research in a relaxed format at the Queens University Biological Station in February, 2008.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the subunit since its inception; particularly, Lynn Bouvier who not only had the initial vision and foresight to create the SSU, but has also been willing to help with many subunit activities (Lynn - we hope we lived up to your expectations!), the AFS-OC Ex-Comm, and Jack Imhof and Bill Gardner who have been so supportive of the student initiatives. Finally, many thanks to our fantastic faculty advisor, Dr. Steve Cooke, who has provided great advice and guidance throughout our endeavours.

In particular we would like to thank the students of the AFS-OC subunit - we really appreciated the chance to be able to represent you. It has been a fantastic experience to meet so many fabulous, like-minded students during our tenure. We look forward to working with you in our future endeavours.

We are pleased to announce our successors - the new Student Subunit Executive:

President: Caleb Hasler, a PhD student at Carleton University student-president@afs-oc.org

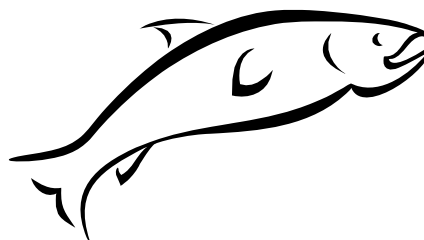
Vice-President: Monic Granados, an MSc student at the University of Toronto student-vice-president@afs-oc.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Connie O'Connor, a PhD student at Carleton University student-secretary@afs-oc.org

We had the privilege of working together with the new SSU Executive during the planning of the 2008 E.J. Crossman Award Symposium. We are very confident that the subunit is being left in excellent hands. We are sure that we can expect many great exciting things from the subunit in the upcoming year.

Kind regards/ Best fishes,

Mary Finch
Michael Donaldson
Andrew Drake



Student Activities at the AFS Meeting in Ottawa

The Student Committee at the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa was co-chaired by Ontario Chapter members Michael Donaldson and Steven Cooke and featured a number of committee members and student volunteers from the Ontario Chapter's Student Subunit. Below are some of the highlights of student activities at the meeting.

The Student-Mentor Lunch is an AFS tradition that brings together a student with a professional from academia, government, or the private sector to hold an informal lunch. The goal of the lunch is to enable networking opportunities and provide an informal platform for mentors to share their experiences with students. The Chapter was well represented at this event as several mentors and many of the students hailed from Ontario.

The Student Colloquium is a panel discussion that often brings together speakers from diverse backgrounds to discuss issues related to a central fisheries-related theme. The theme of this colloquium centered on employment opportunities in Canada and the U.S. Six panel speakers were selected, including both male and female speakers from various fisheries sectors (academia, government, NGO) from both countries. The primarily student audience included several members of the AFS-OC student subunit. We were very fortunate to have two Chapter members as panel speakers: Jack Imhof and Steve Cooke, who each gave excellent presentations and shared their insight with students during the informal Q&A session that followed the panel discussion.

The Career Fair brings together industry, government, and academia to educate students and young professionals about exciting career opportunities. Our goal was to feature a diverse group of employers representing all sectors of fisheries-related employment. Attendees were encouraged to browse the display booths, pick up pamphlets and other literature, and chat with exhibitors. Snack foods were offered and a cash bar was located nearby. This event received a very strong turnout, including many student subunit members.

The Student Social was held at The Honest Lawyer, an off-site venue in Ottawa's Byward Market.

The venue was a large pub that featured plenty of space for moving around, space for a band, arcade games and pool tables. The social featured a live band, a house disc jockey that played between the live band's sets, a full buffet-style food selection, and discounted drinks. Arcade-style games were placed in a "free-play" option so that there was no charge to play. This event was very well-attended and many attendees (young and old!) approached the organizers to tell them that this event was one of the most fun student socials they had ever attended at an AFS meeting!

The student group was responsible for ordering all conference shirts, including sale t-shirts, volunteer t-shirts, spawning run t-shirts, and conference organizer polo shirts. In maintaining the "green" theme of the meeting, t-shirts were made of bamboo fiber and used water-based ink. The student group, led by student subunit members Karen Murchie and Alison Colotelo, organized t-shirt sales and worked the sales booth throughout the meeting. Many chapter members also helped with t-shirt sales throughout the meeting – THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

The student group worked with Ontario Chapter member Dean Fitzgerald to advertise student worker positions, hire student workers, organize the schedule for student work, and organize the payment of workers. The student group worked with the volunteer committee to recruit volunteers (mostly from the AFS-OC Student Subunit!) and assign them to various tasks including t-shirt sales, helping with the spawning run, registration activities, and helping behind the scenes to facilitate various tasks throughout the meeting.

All in all, the AFS-OC, and in particular, the Student Subunit, were instrumental in helping student activities run smoothly at the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa. Many thanks to all of you and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Cheers,

Mike Donaldson
Caleb Hasler student-president@afs-oc.org

E.J. Crossman Award Symposium

The E.J. Crossman Award Symposium including the Ontario B.A.S.S. Federation Student Poster Award was held on Friday, Oct 17th, 2008, at the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW) in Burlington. Approximately 25 people were in attendance and we were particularly excited to have Mrs. Crossman in the audience. Participants were treated to a fabulous talk and pictures by our guest speaker, Dr. Nick Mandrak, who discussed a memorable Russian ichthyological sampling trip he took with the late Dr. E.J. Crossman. Students from six different universities gave 12 oral presentations and 3 poster presentations. General agreement from the panel of judges and spectators was that the quality of presentations was excellent!

We are very pleased to announce that the 2008 winner of the E.J. Crossman Award is Paul Venturelli from the University of Toronto who presented a talk entitled "*Maternal quality and the sustainability of exploited fish Stocks*". The winner of the 2008 Ontario B.A.S.S. Federation Student Poster award was Sarah McConnachie of Carleton University who presented a poster entitled "*A comparison of nearshore fish sampling gears in Oneida Lake, New York*".

Congratulations Sarah and Paul! Abstracts for both winning presentations are provided below.

The Student Subunit Executive would like to thank the Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (GLLFAS) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ontario B.A.S.S. Federation and the AFS-OC for their generous sponsorship of this event. In particular we would like to thank the following people: Jason Barnucz (logistical support, judge), Nick Mandrak (guest speaker, judge), Jack Imhof (moderator, judge), Becky Cudmore (judge), Kevin Hedges (judge), Lynn Bouvier (logistical support, registration) and the AFS-OC Executive Committee.

E.J. Crossman Award Winner

Paul Venturelli, University of Toronto:
Maternal quality and the sustainability of exploited fish stocks



Abstract: Stock-recruitment relationships are fundamental to forecasting the dynamics of exploited populations. Although small-scale experiments have documented extensively the importance of older, larger females to offspring survival, the strength of this association in the wild and its effects on the recruitment dynamics of exploited populations are largely unknown. Here, we combine a field experiment involving walleye (*Sander vitreus*) with population modeling and analyses of data from 40 populations (26 species) of exploited marine fish to show that maternal quality can have strong effects on both juvenile survival and,

as a result of fisheries-induced changes in age and size structure, the recruitment dynamics of exploited populations. Our results contradict existing fisheries theory and practice, and demonstrate that age and size structure are essential to the sustainability of populations of long-lived fish species.

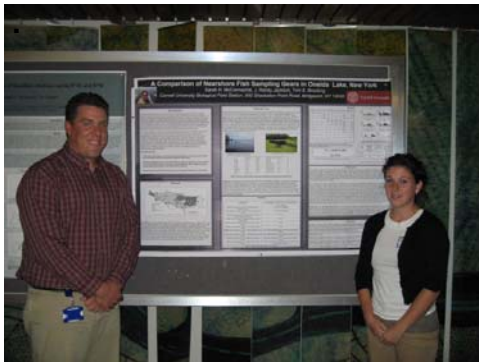


Ontario B.A.S.S. Award Winner

Sarah McConnachie, Carleton University:

A comparison of nearshore fish sampling gears in Oneida Lake, New York

Abstract: Sampling and assessment of nearshore fish communities is difficult due to the wide variety of habitats, substrates, and often complex structures. During the summers of 2005 and 2006, we conducted a comparison of ten different gear types, with the intent to develop a long-term sampling protocol of nearshore communities in Oneida Lake, NY. Gear types consisted of nine configurations of fyke nets and one seine. Fyke nets varied by frame size (large vs. small), mesh size (large vs. small), orientation (parallel vs. perpendicular), and the inclusion/exclusion of wings. Summers were broken into two sampling periods, during which 2 different sites were chosen for each of three major substrate types (sandy, rocky, and muddy) for a total of six sites. Student's t-test indicated significantly higher species richness and total catch during sampling period two. However, few significant differences were observed in any net-to-net comparisons using Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference (HSD). Catches of key sport fishes, such as smallmouth bass and largemouth bass were significantly higher in smaller meshed nets. In order to maximize ease, efficiency and accuracy, we recommend assessments of nearshore communities take place in sampling period two, using a combination of perpendicularly set medium frame fyke nets, with both large and small mesh sizes. Additional species, not caught by fyke nets, can be supplemented by seining at all sites.



Upcoming Events

Dec 14 - 17, 2008 **69th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference** will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio. This is the premier technical fish and wildlife conference for Midwestern professionals with a focus on issues impacting us on a daily basis. Visit the conference website, www.2008mwfwc.com, for information on speakers, workshops, symposia, registration and general information.

Jan 9 - 11, 2009 **62nd Annual Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research (CCFFR)** will be held at the Weston Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario. This premier Canadian conference is a forum where researchers and graduate students can present and discuss the latest advances in freshwater and marine fish and fisheries research. **For more information or to register visit** <http://www.phys.ocean.dal.ca/ccffr/>.

Feb 2 - 4, 2009 A **Tri-Chapter Meeting** will be held at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Centre in Duluth, Minnesota. Three AFS Chapters, Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin, are joining forces to hold a dynamic and exciting joint meeting themed "***Fish Without Borders: Great Lakes Interactions***". For more information visit <http://www.mnafs.org/>.

Feb 2 - 5, 2009 **2nd International State of The Salmon Conference** will be held at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information visit <http://www.stateofthesalmon.org/conference2009/>.

Interested in Forming a Coregonid Technical Committee?

The International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Coregonid Fishes has been a very successful meeting of an enthusiastic group of coregonid scientists from around the world. Published proceedings from these meetings have been valuable for advancing the science of these fascinating fishes. Unfortunately, the meeting is only held once every three years. Also, the cycle has traditionally been for North America to host one meeting and for Europe to host two. The resulting frequency of meetings once every nine years, leave North American biologists with limited travel budgets craving for more! I would like to explore the possibility of developing a Coregonid Technical Committee under the auspices of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to fill this void. The North Central Division of AFS has "spawned" several successful technical committees (I have been involved with the walleye and centrarchid technical committees and found them to be great ways to interact with other interested biologists).

The joint meeting of the Ontario, Wisconsin, and Minnesota chapters of AFS this winter provides a great place to start some initial discussions about development of a Coregonid Technical Committee. Coregonids are important fish in each of these States and Province and the meeting should give an indication of initial interest. If there is sufficient interest, then the next step would be to expand the geographical extent. Some specific issues that could be discussed:

- Goal of the committee. As mentioned, one potentially useful model is the technical committees of the North Central Division of AFS which primarily exist as vehicles for bringing interested people together (usually with a "primary" summer meeting with technical presentations and a winter "business" meeting usually held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference). In addition to technical information exchange, the technical committees have been excellent places to discuss large scale collaborative projects.
- Affiliation and geographical extent. Again, one suggestion would be the North Central Division of AFS. However, since North American coregonids extend beyond the provinces and states of the North Central Division, are there other ways to expand the geographical scope of the committee.
- Encouragement of Canadian involvement. Throughout my career (as a US State Agency researcher), I have never been satisfied with the amount of interaction that I have with Canadian scientists. Yes, there has been some at AFS parent society and division meetings and occasional joint Ontario/Minnesota AFS chapter meetings, but it has not been enough. The International Coregonid Symposium in Winnipeg this summer had great involvement from both US and Canadian scientists and illustrated what is possible! This encouragement could take the form of meeting at Canada/US border cities (e.g. Sault Ste. Marie MI/ON, Detroit/Windsor, Thunder Bay/Duluth, International Falls/Fort Frances).
- Encouragement of inland coregonid biologist involvement. Great Lakes coregonid scientists have always enjoyed a better infrastructure for direct information exchange (primarily through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission) than inland coregonid scientists. Some great work is going on in the inland lakes of the US and Canada and it would be useful to formalize some interaction.
- Minimize competition with the International Coregonid Symposium. This is important. Because the international symposium has been so successful, we should make sure that this committee does not compete with it. One idea might be to only meet in the off years of the international symposium (two out of every three years).

So, if you are interested in getting in on the "ground floor" of such a group, you are invited to attend an informal discussion at the joint Ontario, Wisconsin, Minnesota AFS chapter meeting in Duluth scheduled for February 2-4, 2009. We have tentatively lined up a meeting room from 3pm to 5pm on February 2. If you can't make this initial meeting, but have interest and thoughts, please feel free to email me at anytime. See you in Duluth!

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