



President's Message

As I procrastinated in putting together my second President's Message, I grappled with what I should incorporate into this installment. While reflecting upon this past year, it's obvious that our freshwater ecosystems continue to undergo a barrage of insults, including climate change, pollution, habitat loss, and invasive species. A new threat also emerged; the fundamental change to longstanding legislation used to protect fisheries and fish habitat across Canada, the *Fisheries Act*. Proposed changes remove protection from the "no net loss of the productive capacity of habitats" through delineating "harmful alteration, disruption, and destruction" of habitats. The new Act removes these words, and only protects Commercial, Recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries, and only applies to projects that may result in significant harm (defined as permanent damage). As with many things, the devil lies within the details, and defining terms like "permanent damage" will be pertinent to assess exactly (Continued on page 3)



The OFFLHD Celebrates 10 Years on the Web!

In November, the Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database celebrated its tenth anniversary. The database has been a valuable online resource for Ontario's Fisheries Professionals since 2002. To date more than 33,500 visitors have accessed the site. As might be expected, most users are situated in the Canada and the United States, but visitors from all over the world (Europe, Asia and South America) also access the site regularly.

The website came about as a result of an initiative which began more than a decade ago. In early 1999, I began to compile some basic life history information for Ontario's freshwater fishes into a database, which would facilitate easier access to pertinent information not otherwise available in a single source. A decision to share this information via the Internet led to the creation of The Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database in late 1999. That early version was published using Microsoft DBWeb, which provided a basic web interface. In 2002, version 2.0 was published using (Continued on page 3)



In this issue:

President's Message.....	Pages 1/3/6	Halltech Aquatic Research Ad.....	Page 4
OFFLHD 10 th Anniversary.....	Pages 1/3	Featured Biologist.....	Page 5/6
Upcoming Conferences.....	Page 2	Student Subunit News	Page 7
Hoskin Scientific Ad.....	Page 2	2013 AFS-OC AGM Poster.....	Page 8

LR-24 Backpack Electrofisher

Smith-Root Backpack Sales, Service and Parts in Burlington, Ontario

- **Powered by 24V replaceable batteries**
- **400W continuous, 39,600W peak output**
- **Easy to use controls**
- **Store and load 10 custom waveforms**
- **Conforms to UL and CSA standards**
- **Standard 3 year warranty**
- **ETL listed**



Congratulations to Jack Imhof

Former AFS-OC President and current Education Chair Jack Imhof was honoured recently at the 2012 A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium with a Pioneer Award. Jack's career was recognized for "extraordinary leadership and dedication to improving science, protecting biodiversity and educating people." For more information see:

http://www.latornell.ca/pioneer/2012/2012_Jack_Imhof.html

The advertisement above is part of our commitment to our AGM sponsors.

Hoskin Scientific was a Gold Level sponsor for the 2012 Ontario Chapter Annual Meeting & Conference.

Upcoming Conferences

66th Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research
2013 AFS-OC Annual Meeting & Conference
56th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research
143rd American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

Date

January 3-5, 2013
February 27-March 1, 2013
June 2-6, 2013
September 8-12, 2013

Website

<http://www.uwindsor.ca/glier/ccffr/>
<http://www.afs-oc.org/>
<http://www.iaglr.org/conference/>
<http://afs2013.com/>

OFFLHD 10th Anniversary (Continued from page 1)

MySQL and PHP. This edition included significant additional life history information and provided a much more aesthetic presentation. The online database is currently version 4.0, and includes additional species recently reported as occurring within Ontario waters. Overall, information has been compiled from nearly 200 sources, including books, peer-reviewed scientific papers, and reputable on-line resources, as well as some unpublished data collected over the course of my professional career. The database is frequently updated as new information becomes available and can be accessed at

<http://www.ontariofishes.ca>.

The OFFLHD contains current information pertaining to life history, nomenclature, habitat, reproduction, size and age, conservation status, ecological value and distribution for 154 species, 3 subspecies and 2 established hybrids including introduced, extirpated and extinct species. Specimen photographs, range maps, other notes, information sources and glossary of terms are also provided. Wherever possible, information specific to Ontario and/or Great Lakes populations has been utilized. This resource is valuable to professional biologists, fisheries managers, students, naturalists, anglers, as well as anyone with an interest in Ontario's freshwater fish fauna, which includes four of the five Great Lakes. Those who use or develop Indices of Biotic Integrity (IBI) to assess aquatic ecosystem health using fish community assemblage will appreciate the classification of each species according to many of the commonly used metrics. Since the majority of Ontario's fish species have a larger range throughout North America, the website is also of wider interest.

Ontario's freshwater fish fauna is changing. Introduction of exotic species, bait-bucket transfer, habitat alteration and climate change, all have the potential to affect the distribution of freshwater fish species in Ontario. Many changes have already occurred, including species that are expanding their range and others that have become extirpated. These changes will continue and additional life history information will be learned that will supplement existing data. I welcome any such information and would encourage you to contact me at

fishdb@ontariofishes.ca.

Robert J. Eakins, AFS-OC Webmaster



Photo above: Ice fishing on Lake Couchiching during the 2010 AFS-OC AGM. Photo courtesy of Warren Dunlop



Photo above: Seine netting.
Photo courtesy of Katie Easterling

Photo below: Geneva Park, location of the 2013 AFS-OC AGM. Photo courtesy of Warren Dunlop



President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

what the new Act will look like. It is anticipated that this will be forthcoming early in the New Year.

What does this mean for the Ontario Chapter? This means that professional societies such as AFS, CARS, and the Ontario Chapter have important roles to play by fostering the opportunity for fisheries professionals to unify and provide a single, shared voice for the future management of our aquatic ecosystems. Buckminster Fuller once said "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

(Continued on page 6)

The Lateral Line

DECEMBER 2012

Newsletter of the AFS-OC

VOLUME XII ISSUE #4



Electrofishing Boats



Toll Free: 1-866-425-5832 Ext.24

Email: fish@halltechaquatic.com

Web: www.halltechaquatic.com

Visit www.htex.com for Rugged Data Collection Systems, GPS Solutions & more Field Research Products



HT-2000 Backpack Units



Electro Anesthesia Systems

Halltech... Your Partners in Fisheries Research..... Worldwide



Tote Barge Conversion Kits



Jon Boat Conversion Kits

Great Lakes Environmental Assessment and Mapping Project (GLEAM)

GLEAM has created a set of maps to show the effect of 34 different stressors (habitat alterations, toxic pollutants, and invasive species to name a few) on the Great Lakes. They also developed a ranking system that allowed them to map multiple stressors.

For more information visit: <http://www.greatlakesmapping.org/home>

The advertisement above is part of our commitment to our AGM sponsors.

Halltech Aquatic Research was a Gold Level sponsor for the 2012 Ontario Chapter Annual Meeting & Conference.



Photo left: Magpie River.
Photo courtesy of Lauren Sicoly



Photo right: Windy Day on Lake Superior.
Photo courtesy of Sarah Hogg

Featured Biologist: Derek Parks

Derek Parks has been keenly involved in fisheries since a very young age. Starting at the age of 13, he jumped in working within the family business of sexual sterilizing Rainbow Trout and the now world famous Nipigon strain Brook Trout. At the age of 15, Derek completed a high school co-op program with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Quetico Mille Lac Fisheries Assessment Unit, and started his first summer with the MNR in 1992. These experiences confirmed a keen interest in aquatic ecosystems.

Academic credentials to date includes: Integrated Resource Management Diploma and GIS Specialist Technologist while attending Sir Sanford Fleming College. After completing college, Derek attended Trent University for 2 more years to complete a joint major in Honours in Biology and Environmental Science. This broad training was followed by the completion of his Master's at the University of Waterloo, where he focused his studies on the movement of juvenile smallmouth bass on Lake Opeogno, and worked out of the Harkness Fisheries Laboratory, under the guidance of Dr's. Mark Ridgway and Scott McKinley.

Derek's employment history during school included two summers with the Quetico Mille Lac Fisheries Assessment Unit, two summers with the Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research, and a summer with the Salmonid Ecology Unit. All of these opportunities provided venues to refine and perfect field skills required for fisheries assessments in various aquatic environments. Venturing out, Derek worked two summers as the Poole Creek Coordinator in the former Township of Goulbourn (now integrated within City of Ottawa), assessing and design stream rehabilitation projects for a cold water stream. During all of these jobs, Derek still assisted with the family business concerning genetic alterations of Brook and Rainbow Trout for trophy fisheries. For example, these strains of Brook Trout commonly show first year growth rates of 1.5 to 2.5 kg respectively (see <http://www.damsa.ca/> for details!).

Over the years, volunteer efforts commonly involved aquatic ecosystems. This included assisting in stream clean up and

(Continued on page 6)



Photo above: Featured Biologist: Derek Parks
Photo courtesy of Derek Parks

How much is it worth?

If you are looking for a valuation of the Great Lakes and the aquatic resources contained within, a document prepared in 2006 by Dr. Gail Krantzberg and Cheryl de Boer entitled: *A Valuation of Ecological Services in the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem to Sustain Healthy Communities and a Dynamic Economy* can be downloaded from the McMaster University Engineering department's website at:

<http://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/civil/facultypages/krantz2.pdf>

Membership Renewal Reminder!

As 2012 comes to an end, don't forget to click on the Ontario Chapter box as you renew your AFS membership. While you are at it you should consider joining the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (CARS) as well.

Upcoming Ontario Chapter Events

2013 AFS-OC Annual Meeting & Conference

Date

February 27-March 1, 2013

Website

<http://www.afs-oc.org/>

Featured Biologist (Continued from page 5)

rehabilitation with Friends of the Grand River, Ontario Streams and various chapters of Trout Unlimited Canada, Greg Clark, Speed Valley (Chapter President), and the Middle Grand River.

Nearing the completion of his Master's, Derek started into environmental consulting with Niblett Environmental Associates in Bethany, Ontario for a year. Afterward, he worked for 4 years with AMEC Earth and Environmental, before switching over to Earth Tech/AECOM for 4 more years. Projects to date have included fisheries studies across Canada focusing on roads, mining, urban development, and remediation. Highlights include working on Lake Athabasca, Lake Sturgeon work on the Groundhog River, and Atlantic salmon work in Labrador. Currently, he is the President and owner of Parks Environmental Inc., based in Cambridge, Ontario.



Featured Biologist: Derek Parks with a Northern Pike.

President's Message (Continued from page 3)

One way OC members could do this is by sharing our sense of wonderment about aquatic ecosystems that originally drew us into this field in the first place, both as a professional society and as individuals

As students and professionals, we cannot always rely on science or government to save our aquatic ecosystems. Sometimes emotion can be more important than scientific objectivity, while both are needed to protect our aquatic ecosystems. We should celebrate the wealth of unique freshwater ecosystems within Ontario in our everyday lives, and with those around us. Our long suffering Newsletter Editor Bill Gardner has been encouraging this through sharing photos from our membership that highlight the work we do, and some of the unique critters we cross paths with in our day to day lives. I would like to urge the membership to challenge themselves to find ways they can share their knowledge outside of our often typical esoteric means of reporting, peer-reviewed articles and technical reports.

Within this newsletter, the first announcement for the Chapter's upcoming AGM February 27 – March 1, 2013 at Geneva Park in Orillia. The theme for the AGM "*Management of Fisheries in an age of Austerity*" was chosen based on the changes that the environmental sector has faced during the last year, and will continue to face.

I would also like to welcome our new President-Elect Ann Rocchi and Secretary Sarah Hogg to the Executive Committee. The chapter will benefit from the knowledge, experience, and motivation these two professionals bring to the ExComm.

Brian Morrison, AFS-OC President

Upcoming Ontario Chapter Training

Date

Website

To Be Announced

TBA

<http://www.afs-oc.org>

Student Subunit News

The Student Subunit of the Ontario Chapter of AFS has been busy with several initiatives. In September, nominations were held to solicit the membership for a new Vice President. Evidently the membership showed strong interest, nominating four students for VP. [Ed's Note: Jacob Brownscombe (Carleton University) was elected].

On November 1st 2012, the Subunit Executive launched the Subunit's new website (www.afs-oc-subunit.org). Among other things, the website is a source of information on: the history of the Subunit, past events, current initiatives, and awards. In addition, the new website features photos of members' research and past AFS-OC events. To complement the website, we have also made a new Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/163812150429140/>). The group acts as a message board for AFS-OC members to generate ideas, collaborate, and have discussions related to current issues in fisheries. Following the lead of the Education Section and the Iowa Chapter of AFS, the Ontario Chapter Subunit has also developed an Outstanding Mentor Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize a current or previous fisheries professional who has contributed to an overall improved experience for AFS-OC students or young professionals. The first ever Outstanding Mentor Award for AFS-OC will be presented at our AGM in March 2013.

Lee Gutowsky, AFS-OC Student Subunit President
student-president@afs-oc.org

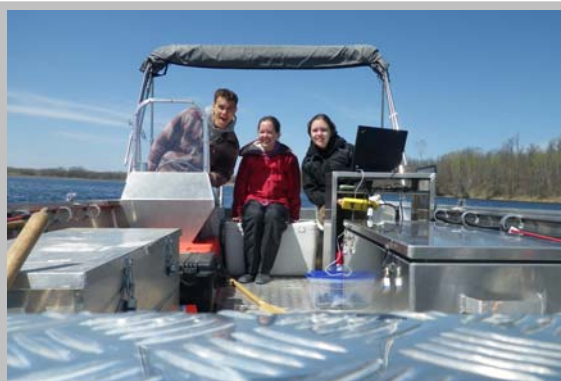


Photo left: University of Waterloo Grad and Undergrad students measure flow on the Rainy River.

Photo courtesy of Adrienne Smith

AFS-OC Online Store

Looking for gifts for the boss, the intern, that special someone? Look no further than the Ontario Chapter On-line store. Check it out at: <http://afs-oc.org/cgi-bin/online/storepro.php>



FSWEP's Great Lakes Area Summer Science Student Program

The deadline for DFO's departmental program is January 15, 2013. If you are a full-time undergrad and are looking for an awesome job doing field work in the Great Lakes basin, Google FSWEP and look under opportunities.



Photo above: Electrofishing crew processing fish in high flows, Magpie River, Wawa, ON, Photo courtesy of Rick Elsner

Ontario Student Subunit Events

TBA

Date

TBA

Website

<http://www.afs-oc-subunit.org>

First Notice and Call for Presenters



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
ONTARIO CHAPTER

**Annual General Meeting
Feb 27-March 1, 2013
Geneva Park, Orillia, ON**

Management of Fisheries in the Age of Austerity

Join us for our 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference at Geneva Park near Orillia, on the shores of Lake Couchiching, only 90 minutes from Toronto.

Oral and Poster presentations are now being accepted.

Student presenters are eligible for the **E.J. Crossman Award** for Best Student Oral Presentation. The OBFN Award for the Best Student Poster will also be presented.

For additional information, please visit the website at: www.afs-oc.org or contact:

Brian Morrison, President AFS-OC
Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
2216 County Road 28
P.O. Box 328
Port Hope, ON
L1A 3W4

Phone: 905-885-8173 x 229 Fax: 905-885-9824

Email: president@afs-oc.org

Online registration will be available soon. Special early bird rates until February 13th. Chapter members and students are eligible for discounted rates.