

Newsletter

Northwestern Ontario Chapter
of the
American Fisheries Society

Vol.8

No.1

Contents:

1. President's Report
2. Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting,
November, 1987.
3. Notice of Upcoming Conferences
4. Interest Items
5. Next Newsletter - Contributions Issue!

President.....Tom Mosindy
President-elect.....Alan Dextrase
Past President.....Phil Ryan
Secretary-Treasurer....Arnold Laine

The newsletter of the Northwestern Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is printed periodically three times annually and sent to its members free of charge.

Membership in the chapter may be obtained by remitting \$5.00 to the Secretary-Treasurer. Chapter members are urged to consider joining the parent organization.



1. President's Report

Now that 1988 has been properly initiated, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all good health and much success in this new year. From all reports, our annual business meeting/conference held at Memory Lodge in October was well received and the program achieved its goal in stimulating a good exchange of science among those in attendance. The scenic natural setting and hospitality extended to us by Memory Lodge provided for a friendly, informal atmosphere which was enjoyed by all. Both the introduction of exotic salmonids into Lake Superior and the contributed papers session would not have been nearly as successful without the excellent presentations made by speakers, several of whom journeyed from Minnesota and southern Ontario to attend. We were also fortunate in having in attendance Jack Wingate, president-elect of the North Central Division AFS, and representatives of interest groups including Bob Simpson of the Thunder Bay Salmon association, Ron Gerow of the Thunder Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association and George Humby of Kemp Fisheries. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to extend our appreciation to all contributors and to Arne Laine, Phil Ryan, Jill Entwistle, and Ed Iwachewski for their assistance in organizing this conference.

Several important issues were dealt with at the annual business meeting. It was recommended that a deposit (\$50.00) be required along with preregistration for future chapter meetings/conferences to cover last minute cancellations which can jeopardize our chapter's limited finances. We must guarantee a minimum number of participants when booking with Quetico Center or Memory Lodge and cancellations can incur a loss, as was the case this year.

It was suggested that Fisheries Branch, MNR be approached to provide financial support to cover the costs of publishing our newsletter. I wrote a letter to George Whitney early in November. The response was that although they were not willing to support newsletter costs, they would be happy to support Chapter functions in specific programs, ie at the upcoming meeting in Toronto.

President's Report Con't.

The Minnesota Chapter has expressed interest in a joint meeting with the Northwestern Ontario Chapter in the near future. It has been suggested that Fort Francis- International Falls in 1989 might be a suitable location and time for such an event. Since I plan to attend the the Minnesota Chapter's 1988 annual meeting in Grand Rapids during February 18th and 19th, I'll have an opportunity to pursue this initiative with their membership.

I was resolved at Memory Lodge that our next annual meeting be held in Toront in conjunction with the Parent Society meeting at the Royal York Hotel, September 9th to 15th,1988.

Our Chapter has received a request from Jim MacLean, the chairman of the General Arrangements Committee for the 1988 AFS Parent Society in Toronto, to contribute to the funding and program organization of this event. It was agreed at our recent meeting to make a financial contribution and \$200.00 has been sent. It was also resolved that our chapter make a contribution to the program and several suggestions including a hospitality room, a poster presentation highlighting our chapter's past and present role on the AFS, and a contributed papers session based on Northwestern Ontario fisheries studies, were entertained. Al Dextrase, our new president-elect, has since contacted Jim MacLean and our tentative plans for a hospitaliy room/poster pre-sentation sponsored by the chapter, have been made. Al still requires assistance in planning and organization, so volunteers are encouraged to contact hin by telephone at 807-934-2233.

Lastly, several chapter members attended the recent Mid-West Fish and Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Both Neville Ward and Arne Laine represented our chapter at both the annual business meeting and executive committee meeting of the North Central Division. Several speakers, including President Stan Moberly, stressed the importance of the AFS's role in providing continuing educational opportunities for fisheries personnel. A number of chapters are already sponsoring short course of interest to fisheries professionals (eg scientific writing, fisheries genetics). This may be an area in which our chapter can become involved in the future.

Tom Mosindy, President.



2.Minutes

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Minutes of the 1987 Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting was held October 29, 1987 at Memory Lodge. Phil Ryan ('86-87 President) chaired the meeting and greeted the 24 members attending. Al Dextrase moved that the quorum be waived for the present business meeting (2nd: Jean Pesendorfer).

Several items were on the agenda for old business.

1) To date, the Chapter had not yet received the acceptance of the revisions of the Chapter by-laws from the Parent Society EXCOM requiring Parent Society members to pay \$5/yr and non-Parent members to pay \$10/yr for Chapter memberships. This by-law was put into effect for the 1987-88 memberships.

2) The Chapter had been approached by NOTO to send an AFS representative to their Nov., 1986 Annual Meeting in Sudbury in an attempt to have an outside, unbiased opinion on problems faced with respect to current resource issues. Walter Momot was sent as our Chapter rep, with NOTO and the Chapter sharing his travel costs.

3) The possibility of holding a future meeting in conjunction with the Minnesota Chapter was again brought forward. This item was deferred and passed on to Tom Mosindy (1987-88 President).

4) Annie Laine read the minutes of the 1986 business meeting, the 1986-87 financial statement which listed total assets of \$1092.81 as of Oct. 15, 1987 and the membership report. As of Oct. 29/87, the Chapter had 92 members distributed as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Parent Society Members: | 27 |
| Chapter Members: | 65 |
| Total: | 92 |

The Chapter gained 9 new members but lost 19 members (for non-payment of dues), for a net loss of 10 members.

Phil Ryan recognized Tom Mosindy as President of the Chapter.

New business began with a discussion of having the 1988 meeting in Toronto in Sept/88 in conjunction with the Parent Society meeting. A vote strongly supported this motion. Nick Baccante brought forward a request from Gloria Smith (one of the organizers for the 1988 Annual AFS meeting) for either personnel and/or financial help, and suggested that a committee be set up for this purpose. From the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that i) financial support be limited ie approx. \$100 (moved by Nick, 2nd: Terry Marshall)

ii) the Chapter should try to set up a poster/information booth/social to bring about awareness of the Chapter, and to look into the possibility of having a contributed papers session dealing with northwestern Ontario fisheries. It was suggested the Chapter should strike up a committee with the President-elect as Chairman (moved by Phil; 2nd: Terry).

2. Minutes Con't.

The next business item dealt with the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Minnesota Chapter in 1989, possibly in Feb/March when they usually hold their business meeting. It was brought forward that there was great support for the idea by the Minnesota Chapter. Fort Frances/International Falls was suggested as a possible location due to jurisdiction and travel costs. It was decided that the Chapter pursue this matter by having the President-elect approach the Minnesota Chapter with the possibility of a Sept/89 meeting.

Jack Wingate (Minn. DNR) as an executive member of the North-Central Division of the AFS was given time to update the Chapter on what happened at the recent annual meeting of the AFS Parent Society meeting held in Sept/87 and to put forth the goals of the NCD.

The next matter to be raised was the fact the Chapter was now picking up the full cost of printing the newsletter and thereby under a new financial demand. Arnie also brought forth the financial problem created by the present conference caused by a number of people who committed themselves to attending the conference but did not show up. This resulted in a net loss of around \$300 in Chapter assets as a guarantee had to be paid to the Lodge for this Conference. After discussion from the floor, it was decided:

- i) to try to cover newsletter costs by adding to our future annual Conference costs
- ii) for Tom to approach the new Director of Fisheries Branch for support of newsletter costs on the basis that it provides an important medium of information transfer within northwestern Ontario,
- and iii) to request a 25% advance deposit before our next Conference.

The final business item was the selection of the 1987-88 Chapter EXCOM. Tom opened the nominations for President-elect. Al Dextrase (nom. by Neville Ward; 2nd: Phil) and Dave Reid (nom. by Phil; 2nd: Neville) were nominated. Phil motioned to close for President-elect (2nd: Neville), and Al won the subsequent vote. Nominations were opened for Secretary-Treasurer. Bev Ritchie nominated Arnie, Phil moved to close nominations and Arnie won by acclamation. Jill Entwistle was re-elected newsletter editor.

American Fisheries Society News

First Call For Papers

Fisheries Management: A Transdisciplinary Science

1988 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society and
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario
September 12-15, 1988

Fisheries Management: A Transdisciplinary Science is the theme of the 1988 annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Recognizing that fishery management has become a melding of science and art, the Society celebrates the multitude of disciplines converging under the banner of modern-day fishery management.

The Society will encourage symposia, papers, and posters that focus attention on non-traditional practitioners of fishery management and those professionals outside of the field of fisheries that help—or hinder—our efforts at managing fishery resources. For example, already scheduled for the meeting is a major symposium on the effects of climatic changes on fisheries, bringing fishery biologists together with geographers, environmental sociologists, and climatologists (see *Fisheries*, Vol. 12, No. 3, page 58).

The 1988 meeting will be held in Toronto, Ontario, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Featured at the meeting will be business meetings, symposia, papers, trade shows, workshops, social events, and raffles, as well as special activities that focus on the historic, cultural, and science-related amenities of one of the truly great cities of the world. Special accommodations will be available for students. Family-oriented activities will be exceptional. You can read more about Toronto and its attractions in future editions of *Fisheries*.

Third International Large Lakes Conference

The *Third International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Lakes "Balaton '88"*, will be held September 11-17, 1988, in Keszthely, Hungary. The Conference will be hosted in the famous Festetics Palace in Keszthely, an ancient university town on the shore of Lake Balaton.

The aim of this conference, as those held previously in Shiga, Japan ('84) and Mackinac Island, MI ('86), is to promote the interaction between natural sciences and socio-economic studies and the information transfer between scientists and those working in operative areas. After the conference, study tours are planned to different Hungarian lakes, reservoirs and rivers. Proposals for preconference workshops or seminars are welcome.

Those planning on attending the Conference should send a note immediately to the planning committee indicating their interest, and including the title of a paper or poster to be presented at the Conference. Prof. Janos Salanki is the chairman of the organizing committee. Correspondence should be directed to:

CONGRESS BUREAU MTESZ
H-1055 BUDAPEST
KOSSUTH LAJOS TER 6-8
HUNGARY

Meeting Announcements

LAKES LETTER October 1987 7

Lake Superior Water Policy Conference

A major conference on the *critical economic political and environmental issues* in the *Lake Superior Basin* will be held April 21-23, 1988, in Duluth, MN. Registration materials will be available in Nov., 1987. Contact:

Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth
Continuing Education & Extension
10 University Drive
Duluth, MN 55812-2496
218.726.8113

Announcement and Call for Papers



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
FISH-MARKING TECHNIQUES

27 June - 1 July 1988

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington, USA

Sponsored by
American Fisheries Society
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sport Fish Restoration Program

Supported by
Wallop-Breaux Funds



Dr. Nick C. Parker, Program Chair
Marking Symposium
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Route 3, Box 86, Marion, Alabama 36756, USA
Telephone: 205-683-6175

4. Interest Items

The Winter of 1986-87

by Raymond A. Assel

The 1986-87 Great Lakes ice cycle was similar to that of the mild 1982-83 season. Ice cover formed later than normal; ice extent and thickness was less than normal; and the ice cover was lost earlier than normal. Average winter air temperatures were 1.9° to 4.7°C above normal while average winter precipitation was less than 75% of normal over most of the Great Lakes region. These anomalous weather conditions were associated with an El Nino Southern Oscillation event. The mild weather and below-normal ice cover had a beneficial effect on the high lake levels by increasing evaporation from the lakes' surface during winter and reducing snow meltwater runoff into the lakes in spring.

Seasonal maximal ice extent was much below normal on the Great Lakes (23% for Superior; 39% for Michigan; 60% for Huron; 94% for Erie; and 42% for Ontario), and was similar to the mild 1982-3 season. Ice cover on the Lakes other than Erie was confined mainly to bays and shallow areas; the deeper mid-lake areas remained relatively ice free all winter.

Ice jams occurred on the St. Clair River in Feb. and March, causing flooding. Storms caused property damage along the Chicago shore of Lake Michigan in late January and in February, and in the Port Clinton area of Lake Erie in January. The storm damage was partially attributable to the lack of ice cover that would have afforded some protection against wind and wave action.

GLEAL Contribution #566

"YEAR OF THE CHINOOK"

As a current television ad says, "It just doesn't get any better than this." That's the way the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is talking about chinook salmon this year.

Record-breaking ocean harvests and strong chinook returns to inland waters have biologists calling 1987 "The Year of the Chinook."

"I'm very pleased and a little bit surprised about the tremendous chinook production we have seen this year," says Oregon Department of Fisheries, Chief Harry Wagner. "Good things are happening just about everywhere we look, and prospects for next year appear excellent as well."

Wagner has good reason to be happy. So do a lot of commercial and sport fishermen. Some highlights include:

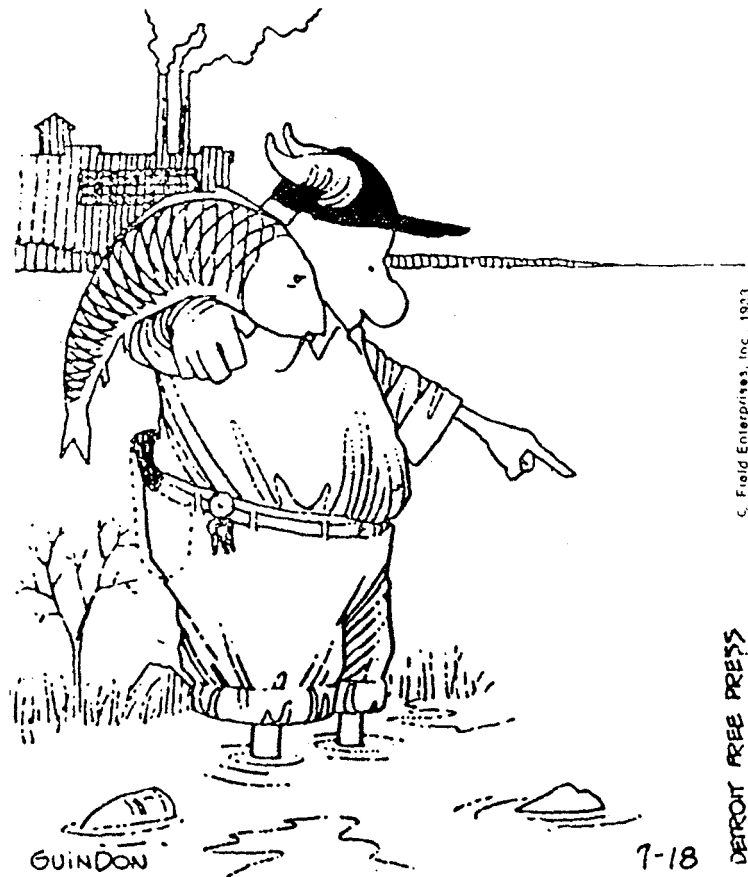
- Record chinook catches for ocean commercial salmon trollers off Oregon;
- Record chinook catches for ocean sport anglers;
- Outstanding recovery of fall chinook returns to the Columbia River;
- Record sport chinook catches at Buoy 10 on the lower Columbia;
- Excellent fall, lower Columbia commercial salmon gillnet fishery;
- Good prospects for sport chinook fisheries in Oregon's coastal bays, including fish weighing more than 60 pounds;
- Excellent in-river spring chinook returns on the Willamette, Rogue, and Umpqua rivers; and
- Strong fall chinook returns on the Rogue River.

Wagner attributes this strong showing to several factors. "It's a combination of excellent ocean survival, reduced harvests off Alaska and Canada, hatchery production improvements and expansion, and improved downstream smolt passage at dams," he said.

The big fish that started showing in coastal bays last fall are back again this year. "Credit for that belongs directly to the treaty between the United States and Canada that reduced catches in the Gulf of Alaska and off British Columbia," Wagner said.

SFI BULLETIN
OCT 87

Al's Humour



~~Release hunting with carp.~~

PCB

STUDY BY J. H. HARRIS

New Uses For Lake Superior Fish

Lake Superior has an abundance of Siscowet trout, a deepwater relative of the lake trout that is very high in fats and oils. Despite their abundance, these fish have never been considered a good catch by either sports anglers or commercial fishermen because they taste so oily. But these oily fish may be just what the doctor ordered.

Medical researchers recently discovered that some fish oils, called Omega 3 fatty acids, reduce blood cholesterol, blood pressure, and the stickiness of platelets in arteries. Arteriosclerosis, the most common form of heart disease, is caused when arteries become clogged, preventing sufficient blood from reaching the heart. Cholesterol is a major factor in this process.

Siscowet trout are an excellent source of these cholesterol-reducing oils; big fish may contain up to 60 percent fat. Professor Paul Addis will evaluate the Siscowet as a source of fatty acids and determine how much oil can be removed from fish of different sizes.

Since heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, there is widespread interest in the potential of Omega 3 fatty acids. Capsules containing fish oils are being sold to people with heart disease even though there is no proof that the concentrated oils are of medical value. Heavy metals, PCBs, and other contaminants may be found in concentrated doses of these oils, making them potentially harmful for human consumption. Addis will analyze the Siscowet trout oil for some of these contaminants and determine the best way to remove them.

Paul Addis, professor, Food Science and Nutrition and Zata Vickers, associate professor, Food Science and Nutrition.

STURGEON SETS SWIM RECORD

A Pacific Northwest sturgeon made one of the most spectacular journeys ever recorded by marine biologists.

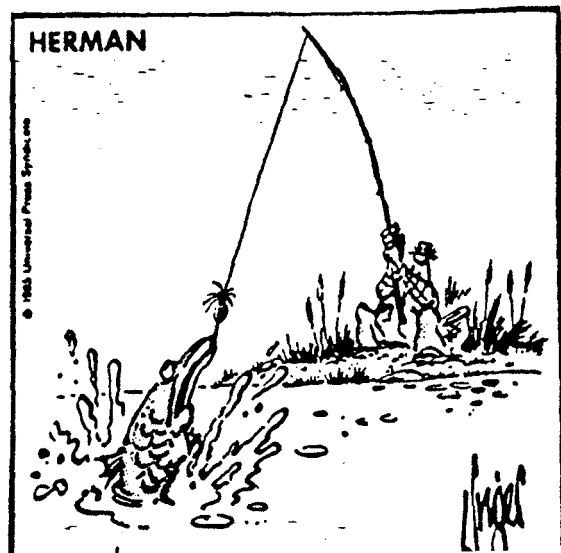
A white sturgeon, tagged in the Columbia River in 1983 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), was caught 2,000 miles away by a commercial fisherman near Bristol Bay in southwest Alaska during the summer of 1986. ODFW biologist Steve King reported the feat in the April, 1987 SFT Bulletin.

TAGGED TUNA TAKES LONGER TRIP

In the long-distance travels of another fish, it was reported in the July, 1986 edition of Australian Fisheries that a southern bluefin tuna has been re-caught near Cape Town by a Japanese seaman, almost 17 years and 13,000 kilometers from its original point of release.

The tuna had been tagged by CSIRO officers off New South Wales in 1968. A spokesman for CSIRO said the tagged tuna had travelled the farthest of any fish since the program began in 1959.

When first tagged, the tuna was 2½ years old and weighed six kilograms; 17 years later the tuna weighed in at 68 kilograms.



ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

In an insightful article published in the July issue of the Great Lakes Steelheader (Vol. 11, No. 7), Dr. Howard Tanner, former head of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and currently a professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, examines the pitfalls and opportunities associated with the management of Lake Michigan's sport fishery.

Dr. Tanner discussed various management protocols appropriate to enhance Lake Michigan's trout and salmon fisheries with particular emphasis on the need to safeguard the indispensable alewife forage base on which a healthy sport fishery ultimately depends. His remarks are presented in a slightly abridged format as follows:

"... Lake Michigan is a very large, complex, rapidly changing set of biological systems. When we decided to manage it for sport fishing back in 1964 we knew very little about the interactions between plankton, forage base and predator populations. In 1964 the fishery of the lake had very little value and we were spending very few management and hatchery dollars. Now the fishery is worth billions of dollars, state and federal agencies are spending millions, we have spent billions of public dollars for pollution clean-up, we have spent many millions for boating facilities, and hundreds of thousands make all or part of their living from the Lake Michigan fishery. Since 1964 all has changed—except we still know very little about the biological dynamics that are support systems for our salmon and trout populations.

"... The commercial harvest of trout and salmon in Lake Michigan makes no economic sense at all. Gill nets set for other species that are destructive to significant numbers of salmon or trout must be eliminated. Yes, Indiana is off to a good start. Let's get them out of Illinois, out of Wisconsin. Let's get the tribal fishery into trap nets. I believe it is a poor allocation of alewives to allow a Wisconsin commercial fishery to harvest 25 million pounds of alewife (Editors note: Assuming that eight pounds of alewife are required to produce one pound of salmon and/or trout, eliminating the 25,000,000 pound annual alewife commercial fishery in Wisconsin has the potential for adding an additional 3,125,000 pounds of salmon/trout to the Lake Michigan sport fishery resource base each year).

"Now I come to the Ludington pump storage plant. I haven't recently reviewed the MSU study of several years ago, but if I remember correctly, Doctors Tack and Liston concluded that at the time of the study one of every seven chinook planted in Lake Michigan was killed by the Ludington pump storage plant, plus millions of alewife, perch and other species. This loss can no longer be tolerated. Consumers Power needs to stop 'huffing and puffing' and get an effective solution in place. As an aside, I am confident that I can suggest ways for them to solve their problem. I'm waiting for them to ask me about my ideas.

FROM: OCT 8

SFI bulletin

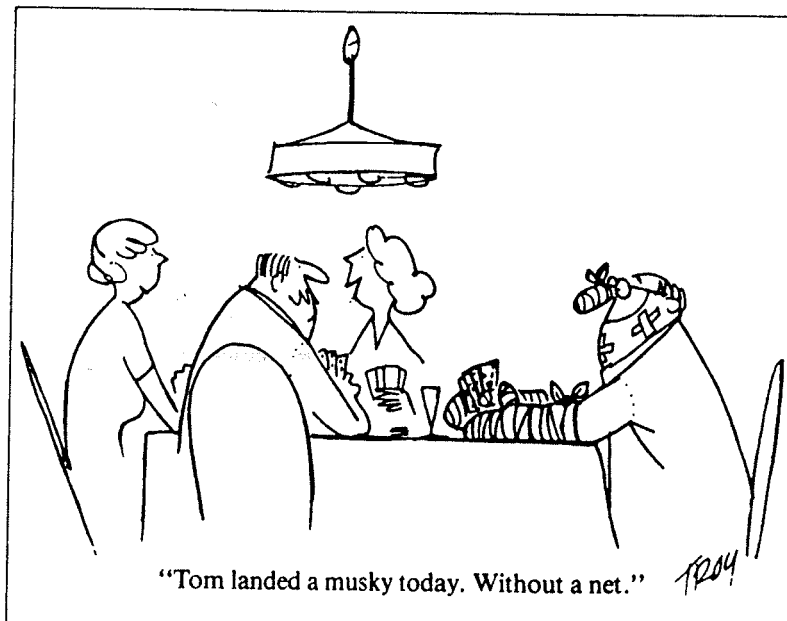
Sport Fishing Institute

1010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20077-8104

"The largest, most incomprehensible waste and planned expanded waste of forage fish I have left to last. This is the expensive, endless, so far unproductive effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, aided and abetted by all the state fish management agencies—to establish a self-sustaining population of lake trout. Does anyone know, will anyone answer how many millions of pounds of forage fish from Lake Michigan will it take annually to grow and sustain the number of mature lake trout necessary to provide the annual recruitment of lake trout necessary to establish a 'self-sustaining population?' I don't know the answer but let's structure a reasonable assumption. Depending upon the survival rate from egg to fingerling, that is at present unknown, I would guess that we will need as a sustained population of at least 500,000 lake trout over six years of age swimming around in Lake Michigan — eating alewife, smelt, sculpins, and chubs — for six years before they ever produce the first egg. Then we must restrict everyone with seasons and small creel limits so they can continue to stay out there producing the necessary eggs for a self-sustaining lake trout population and consuming our wealth (forage base) that we could be buying other things with.

"In spite of all I have said against lake trout, I do believe we should continue to plant lake trout. I think that we add balance and security to our fishery if we include several species, one of which should be lake trout. But we don't need a brood stock of lake trout eating our forage base. Let's rear the lake trout that managers decide we need in the hatcheries that are already built and use our forage base more wisely.

"I would like to see the very considerable research talent and resources of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are currently being spent in pursuit of a self-sustaining population of lake trout be shifted to other more useful subjects such as developing a better understanding of the forage base. Let's end this quixotic pursuit of a self-sustaining population of lake trout — it is the wrong goal..."
Right on, Howard!



.. SFI
BULLETIN

5. Next Newsletter - Contributor's Issue

The newsletter is printed three times a year. Since the summer edition is largely made up of information on the annual meeting, and the winter edition is usually a conference summary, etc., the spring edition is ideal for a review of projects, research and other happenings in the members areas.

Please submit articles to the editor by the end of April. It will take effort by all to make this an informative newsletter. Don't forget cartoons, notice of upcoming conferences, workshops, etc.

Jill Entwistle, Editor
807-475-1231

