



## President's message

*Change.* A small word but one that we as humans see regularly and as biologists, a thing that we have to consider every day. Whether it is something as simple as the day of the week or the season, change is part of everyday life. Many of you have likely heard about the recent changes at the Ministry of Natural Resources. A new Minister and a corporate reorganization in the space of a week. Time will tell what this means for MNR but hopefully this is a change for the better and won't reduce the MNR's involvement in fisheries management.

At the Ontario Chapter, we also continue to change. After a two year hiatus, our Annual General Meeting is back at Geneva Park from March 4-6. The theme this year is “**Challenges for a Changing Fishery in a Changing World**”. More details on the meeting are found later in this newsletter, but for those of you who

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## Chain Pickerel

The native range of this southern cousin of the pike is expanding into Ontario.

By Jim Hoyle

On September 16, 2009, a MNR field crew identified a chain pickerel (*Esox niger*) captured during routine gill-netting operations in the Thousand Islands area of the upper St. Lawrence River. The fish was 23 inches long and weighed just over 3 pounds. This is the second documented occurrence of chain pickerel in this area in the last year and a half. A commercial fisherman turned in the first in April 2008.

These two specimens represent possibly the first documented chain pickerel in the province. Elsewhere in Canada, the species occurs only in Nova Scotia (introduced there from the United States), western New Brunswick, and the Eastern Townships of Quebec, south of the St. Lawrence River.

The appearance of chain pickerel in the eastern Lake Ontario/upper St. Lawrence region might signal a northwest expansion of the species' native range. Potentially, climate warming in this region of southern Ontario would favour persistence of such a range expansion.

The chain pickerel is a member of the pike (Esocidae) family and superficially resembles a pike. It can be identified by prominent chain-like markings on its head and sides, and some individuals have a prominent subocular bar or vertical stripe under the eye.

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Photo: Jim Hoyle, MNR

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## President's Message (continued from page 1)

are looking to reconnect with other members of the Chapter and meet some new ones, it promises to be another good meeting. An important component of the meeting will be our annual business meeting. This is a good chance for the membership to provide direction to the ExComm, or for the members to get more involved. Currently the position of President-Elect (and therefore President for 2010/2011) continues to remain vacant and I am hoping that we can change that in March. We will also be holding student elections, so for college and university students looking to help guide the Chapter, I encourage you to put your name in the hat.

One thing that will not change is the quality of the newsletter. Peek inside this issue and you will see the "View from up Here", pretty much a regular feature for the newsletter. You will also see an autobiography of Rob Eakins, the Chapter's web-designer and the reason for our web-site presence. There is also an update from Caleb Hasler on the activities of the Student Subunit.

The upcoming year promises to be another exciting one for the Chapter. We hope to continue with the Lecture Series restarted this past fall by Ken Minns. Jack Imhof is helping to organize a Natural Channels Conference, slated for the end of September. He is also helping to organize a course in June with Dave Rosgen. Finally, the Student Subunit is in the process of organizing a movie night.

At this time I would also like to remind those of you who have not paid your AFS membership for 2010, the time to do so is now. Please don't forget to check the box indicating your interest in remaining a Chapter member. To all the membership, I would like to thank you for your support of the Chapter and I look forward to catching up with you in March.

Jon Clayton  
President – Ontario Chapter



OC President Jon Clayton

The Ontario chapter is proud to be associated with:



[www.fishdb.ca](http://www.fishdb.ca)

## Surplus Government Assets

The government of Canada disposes of surplus equipment (boats, vehicles, tools, lab equipment, etc) through the Crown Assets Distribution centre. This virtual center lists the items for sale (with a photograph) through the auction process and gives directions on how to bid on the items. Items are sold on an as is/where is basis. For further information please visit the website at: <http://csurplus.ca/mn-eng.cfm>.



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The MNR is interested in hearing if anglers catch these fish in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. These fish are currently not abundant in Ontario, but if a range expansion is underway, the ministry is interested to see how it progresses. A photograph to help confirm identification would be ideal, as well as information on the location of capture and the size of the fish. Anglers can report their catch by calling the Glenora Fisheries Station at (613) 476-2400.

The chain pickerel is a desired sport fish in some parts of its native range. For more info, go to

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/Fish/sportfishing/species/chain.shtml>

(Jim Hoyle is an assessment biologist with the MNR's Lake Ontario Management Unit.)

Article courtesy of Jim Hoyle and Ontario OUT OF DOORS magazine.

Originally published in the Winter 2010 issue of Ontario OUT OF DOORS magazine



Photo above: CVCA electrofishing crew at Huttonville Creek. Photo by Jon Clayton, Credit Valley Conservation Authority

## Name the Newsletter Contest

The results are in. After careful deliberation, the judges are pleased to announce that Mary Finch's entry of "The Lateral Line" has won the "Name the Newsletter" contest. Mary will receive a bag of swag for her wonderful suggestion. Congratulations Mary!



Photo above: Peruvian fisherman. Photo by Rob Eakins, EcoMetrix Incorporated

Photo below: NRSI staff (Phil Anderson and Josh Jaglewski) using their electrofishing raft. Photo by Dave Green, Natural Resource Solutions Inc.



## History Bytes

The cost of producing the newsletter for the Southern Ontario Chapter (as reported in Volume 3 Issue 2, June 1990) was \$400.00 to print and mail. The editor of the newsletter suggested that the cost was about \$2.30 per copy. Today, there is no additional cost to produce or distribute the newsletter.



## The View from up Here

By Bill Gardner

The walls are bare in my new office. I normally wouldn't be too concerned about this but the walls in my old office were covered with fish posters (you know the ones- Recreational Fish of Canada, Fish of Ontario, Common Baitfish of Ontario, to name a few) so I am really noticing the lack of colour (and fish) on my walls right now. The posters from my old office were all plaque-mounted and will now be displayed in the hallways of our new (to DFO!) building. So, what to do with my bare walls? I was watching the Golden Globes a few weeks ago on a rain soaked Sunday evening in Palm Springs when it hit me. We need to have the Fisheries/Aquatic Biology equivalent to the Golden Globes, the Grammys or the Oscars. A quick Google search (how often is that statement used nowadays?) revealed that there are already loads of awards for fisheries in this province. The Parent society and this chapter have awards; DFO and the OFAH have recreational fishing awards; the Ontario Commercial Fishing Association has a couple of awards; even the town of Sioux Lookout has their Master Angler awards program. These are all fine awards but what I envision is much grander in scale. An awards show, presented on CBC, which people would tune in to on a Sunday evening. One of such calibre that it out competes the Sunday night line-up on ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox combined! If such a yearly awards event actually existed, who would we get to host it: David Schindler, Henry Regier or Bev Scott? What would the categories be: best fisheries recovery strategy, best new species described, best new model? The lifetime achievement award would have to be named after someone quite prestigious (William Ricker perhaps). This may take some time to develop. Marketing will be the key. Best to start small, maybe a non-televised awards show at the AGM to start with. After we get the awards show up and running, I have to deliver some award worthy fisheries science. I better start learning how to develop the best fisheries model or read up on how to determine and describe a new fish species. Until those awards come into being I will have to cover my walls with the pile of framed or laminated certificates that I have been awarded over the years. After all who doesn't want to be reminded that they have achieved training in defensive driving or chainsaw operation?

## New (old) Kids on the Block

Welcome (back) to the mid-Canada Chapter of the AFS.

After a hiatus of several years, the Mid-Canada Chapter has become active again and held a special meeting at CCFR in Winnipeg in January. If you would like more information on the mid-Canada chapter please check out their website at:

<http://midcanadaafs.org>

## Flowing Waters Information System Training sessions

The Flowing Waters Information System (FWIS) development team is offering a series of training sessions in the use of the FWIS and how it connects with other fisheries information initiatives. Participants will learn about; FWIS, how it connects with the MNR-ARA point layer, the fish web collaborative, and progress towards a scientific collectors permit electronic management system. While FWIS is not yet fully operational, it is sufficiently far advanced to help any flowing waters practitioner (biologist, data manager, technician, researcher or decision maker) with both discovering the nature and distribution of data in HabProgs and to assist with improving spatial coordinates of our collective data.

**February 24th** from 9:00 – 12:00

Training is free but is offered on a first come basis with a limit of 25 people per session.

For more information contact

[les.stanfield@ontario.ca](mailto:les.stanfield@ontario.ca)



LEFT PHOTO: Bill Gardner



RIGHT PHOTO: Joint meeting between CARS and the mid-Canada Chapter at CCFR in Winnipeg.



## Featured Biologist:

### Rob Eakins (EcoMetrix Incorporated)

Rob was born and raised in southern Ontario and from an early age he had a fascination with water. As a small boy he couldn't resist playing in any puddles he came across. As he got older, he discovered that living things inhabited the water, and they were fun to catch. Summers were spent catching frogs, toads, turtles, crayfish and minnows in the local creeks and ponds. Along the way a passion for angling and an acute interest in fish developed. As a teenager he became an avid spring steelheader, fishing Lake Ontario tributaries between Pickering and Port Hope.

After graduating Markham District High School with honours, Rob attended the Sir Sandford Fleming College School of Natural Resources in Lindsay. He graduated in 1988 with a diploma in Fish and Wildlife.

His first fisheries position was a summer contract with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Salmonid Ecology unit, based at the southern Research Station in Maple. This unit worked mainly within the Wilmot Creek and Credit River watersheds and focused on data collection associated with the new Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. Immediately following the end of the contract, he joined Beak Consultants Limited headquartered in Brampton. The company became Beak International in 1994 and was sold to Stantec Consulting Limited in 2002. In 2004, Rob and several other partners left the company to form EcoMetrix Incorporated. Presently he is an Associate and Senior Fisheries Biologist with the firm, located in Mississauga.

Over the course of more than twenty years as an environmental consultant, Rob has had the opportunity to employ his skills on many interesting projects, across Ontario, Canada, the United States and Peru. Within Canada, Rob has worked in 8 of the 10 Provinces. His work in both marine and freshwaters often involves a fair amount of travel, sometimes to remote locations. His broad range of experiences have included fisheries work on waterbodies of all sizes; creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Between 2000 and 2008, Rob travelled to Peru to conduct fisheries work for several mining companies. This work was quite varied and included

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## Measuring Productive Capacity of Fish Habitats: A Progress Report; A lecture by Ken Minns

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Dr. Ken Minns (DFO Scientists Emeritus and U of T professor) delivered an insightful lecture at RBG to kick off the AFS-OC Lecture Series. Twenty-nine people (17 were OC members) listened as Ken provided an update on his work developing the productive capacity model for fish habitat.

Notices for upcoming lectures will be posted on the website: [www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)

Photo below: Featured Biologist Rob Eakins.



## Upcoming OC events

Ontario Chapter AGM

## Date/Location

March 4-6, 2010, YMCA Geneva Park,  
Orillia

## Website

[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)



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electrofishing high altitude (~4,300 m) Amazon River headwater streams in the Peruvian Andes, mid elevation (~2,400 m) Pacific drainage streams, and gillnetting along the Peruvian coast. Electrofishing in the high gradient warmwater streams resulted in the collection of more than 30 species of fish, representing 9 families and 19 genera. Although many appeared similar to those found for sale at a tropical fish store, identification was often only possible to the level of genus, even with the assistance of the curator of Museum of Natural History. In retrospect, it was apparent that fisheries biologists in North America have it easy. Compared to Peru, there is a vast amount of published reference material available including keys to help identify one's catch.

Rob has also undertaken annual biomonitoring studies in northern Idaho since 2002, to evaluate the effectiveness of cleanup efforts in streams affected by mine drainage. The work includes the collection of fisheries data including density, biomass, distribution, condition and growth within mine influenced and non-mine influenced stream reaches to assess effectiveness of water quality improvements. The study also evaluates spatial and temporal biological trends within the watershed in relation to mine site sources and remedial progress at the site.

Rob joined the American Fisheries Society in 1993 and has served as the Ontario Chapter webmaster since 2002. Rob is also a collaborator to FishBase ([www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)), author of the Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database ([www.fishdb.ca](http://www.fishdb.ca)) and is currently seeking a publisher for his handbook of Ontario Freshwater Fishes.

His non-working time is spent with his family, usually attending his children's sporting activities so he finds less time to go fishing (with rod and reel) than he would like. Rob lives in Barrie with his wife (Lisa) and four children (Alvssa, Robbie, Daniel, and Olivia).

## News from the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (CARS) by Caleb Hasler

CARS had their midterm meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba during the Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research. AFS Past-President Bill Franzin, addressed the 20+ in attendance and a new slate of executive was elected and installed: President-Elect, Gavin Christie; First Vice-President, Steven Cooke; Past-President, Kim Hyatt; Treasurer/Secretary, Margot Stockwell; Communications Officer/Newsletter Editor, Caleb Hasler; Student Representative, Karen Murchie. Each Canadian chapter also has a representative on the Executive Committee (including the newly re-born Mid-Canada Chapter).

A number of issues were discussed. Kim introduced the National Water Policy as an issue that CARS members could support by increasing awareness for the need for the policy. It was also noted by a member that the Pebble Mine (Canadian owned) in Alaska is located at the headwaters of the best Sockeye Salmon population in Alaska and could be another topic that CARS could become involved with.

It was also approved that Mark Hanson would form a sub-committee to solicit possible CARS/AFS members in Eastern Canada. He noted that there are less than 10 AFS members in Eastern Canada, but 100s of fisheries professionals.

Don't forget to check out the CARS website ([www.fisheries.org/units/cars](http://www.fisheries.org/units/cars)) regularly for updates.

### Upcoming Ontario Chapter training

Applied Fluvial Geomorphology with Instructor Dave Rosgen

### Date

June 7-11, 2010

### Website

[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)



## Student Subunit News

The Student Subunit of the Ontario Chapter has several initiatives planned for the spring of 2010. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the student subunit, in conjunction with the Toronto Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology and Sea Choice, will be screening the “The End of Line”, a documentary about the impact of over fishing on the world’s oceans. The film documents the decline of the global fish stocks and the social, political and economic consequences of the absence of seafood. The screening will be held at the University of Toronto. For more information on the event you can visit the AFS Ontario Chapter website [www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org) or the Society for Conservation Biology Toronto chapter website at [www.scbtoronto.com](http://www.scbtoronto.com).

The subunit will also be represented at the Annual General Meeting in Orillia. Student Executives and members will be organizing and conducting a raffle at the AGM. Prizes have been acquired from several generous organizations and companies. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards the student subunit. Also, we are expecting a large student contingent, so the meeting should be a great opportunity to meet new people and formulate new ideas for the student subunit.

For any students moving west, the Mid-Canada Chapter has been reborn and they are seeking student involvement; email Brienne Lunn ([blunn@ualberta.ca](mailto:blunn@ualberta.ca)) or Maureen Forster ([mforster3@shaw.ca](mailto:mforster3@shaw.ca)) for more information.

## Employment Opportunities for Students

Are you enrolled in a college or undergraduate university program? Are you interested in working in your field of study but are unsure of how to go about doing it?

If you are a University or College student (a Post Secondary student) and are interested in working for the federal government then try the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP):

<http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca/fswep-pfete/index-eng.htm>

Or if the Provincial government is more your style then try the Summer Experience Program (SEP):

<http://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/SEP.asp>

If you are a high school student and are interested in experience in this field consider the AFS’s own Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program:

[http://www.fisheries.org/afs/hutton\\_gen.html](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/hutton_gen.html)

As well, be sure to visit the AFS-Ontario Chapter Employment Opportunities page for the latest job postings and employment links for a variety of potential employers including Conservation Authorities and consulting firms.



Photo: Lake Sturgeon being checked for PIT tags on Pic River.  
Photo by Sarah McCluskey DFO summer student.



Photo: Students electrofish aboard a Smith-Root electrofishing vessel.

Looking for a particular field of study? Not sure which university offers a degree in a particular subject? Try searching at the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada’s website:

[http://www.aucc.ca/can\\_uni/search/index\\_e.html](http://www.aucc.ca/can_uni/search/index_e.html)

According to Statistics Canada, the number of students attending university in Canada rose 7% from 2003/04 to 2007/08 to 1,066,000.



## 2010 Ontario Chapter Annual General Meeting

By Jon Clayton, Ontario Chapter President

I expect that by now there are few, if any, Chapter members who have not heard that this year's Annual General Meeting is back at the YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia. The theme for this meeting is "**Challenges for a Changing Fishery in a Changing World**". For those of you have not yet booked this in your calendars, block off March 4-6. This year's return promises to be better than ever, with an informative list of speakers and poster presentations, social events, raffle, and a chance to renew friendships or make new ones. Some of the talks this year include "*The effects of catch-and-release angling for muskellunge*", "*Where have all the headwaters gone? Calculating the extent and characteristics of headwater enclosures*" and "*Living on the Edge: Conservation of Fish Species at Risk in Canada.*" We will also be handing out awards for the best student poster and oral presentation.

The agenda for the meeting should be completed in early February but for those of you familiar with the format, we won't be deviating too much from previous meetings. There will be a mixer on Thursday night. Friday is a full day of talks, with the business meeting and main social event scheduled that evening. Saturday is a morning of talks and then we wrap-up at lunch.

At the meeting, we will be holding our Annual Business Meeting, where we invite you, the member, to come out and provide your thoughts on where the Chapter should be going in the future. It is also where we hold elections for any open positions for the following year. If you want to get involved, this is certainly the way to do it!

This year, all registrations will be done online. We had a dry run as part of the last bioengineering course and it was essentially problem-free. We are not anticipating any issues this time around but please let Rob Eakins ([webmaster@afs-oc.org](mailto:webmaster@afs-oc.org)) or Lynn Bouvier ([treasurer@afs-oc.org](mailto:treasurer@afs-oc.org)) know if you encounter any problems with registration. To register for the 2010 AFS-OC AGM, please logon to the Ontario Chapter website ([www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)) and follow the link to the Online Store. Various pricing options are available for Students, AFS-OC Members and Non-Members including shared or single accommodations. Be sure to select the correct option for your circumstance. Early registration discounts will be available until February 28th.

I hope to see all you at Geneva Park. The meeting has always proven to be a very informative session and this year will not be different.

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Natural Channel Systems Conference

Watersheds are a network of green infrastructure that include watercourses, wetlands, floodplains and uplands working together through diverse and intricate linkages to create and foster biodiversity. In these complex ecological systems, rivers and streams act as the corridor between important ecological spaces and are in themselves vital ecological features. The protection, restoration and naturalization of river corridors and their channel systems is a key component of any effort to manage watersheds and preserve biodiversity. To promote the exchange of science and information on this important issue, we are pleased to announce a two-day symposium looking at the connections between biodiversity, stream corridors and watershed health, and the improved management of these interconnections through the practices of stream restoration and natural channel design.

Hosted by: Canadian Water Resources Association-Ontario Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society, Conservation Ontario, American Fisheries Society-Ontario Chapter, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Date: September 27-28, 2010

Location: Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre

[www.naturalchannels.ca](http://www.naturalchannels.ca)

### Upcoming conferences

Ontario Chapter-AFS Annual meeting  
IAGLR  
34th Annual Larval Fish Conference

### Date

March 4-6, 2010  
May 17-21, 2010  
30 May - 3 June 2010

### Website

[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)  
[www.iaglr.org/conference](http://www.iaglr.org/conference)  
[www.larvalfishcon.org](http://www.larvalfishcon.org)



## Awards Info

### National Recreational Fisheries Awards

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) developed the **National Recreational Fisheries Award** program to honour individuals and organizations for their contribution to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of Canada's recreational fisheries and their habitat. These individuals and organizations have played, and continue to play, a very important role in sustaining and developing the recreational fishing experience throughout Canada.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/rec/rfa-ppr/awards-prix-eng.htm>

### The Timothy R. Parsons Medal

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) awards this medal to a Canadian for distinguished accomplishments in multidisciplinary facets of ocean sciences. The medal is awarded for excellence during the lifetime of the recipient or for a recent outstanding achievement, both being equally eligible. It is also awarded for accomplishments while working for Canadian Institutions or for the benefit of Canadian Science. No posthumous nominations are considered. The award will only be awarded to one candidate per year.

To make a nomination, please complete the appropriate nomination form on the Parsons Award website at:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/award-prix/parsons/about-apropos-eng.htm>

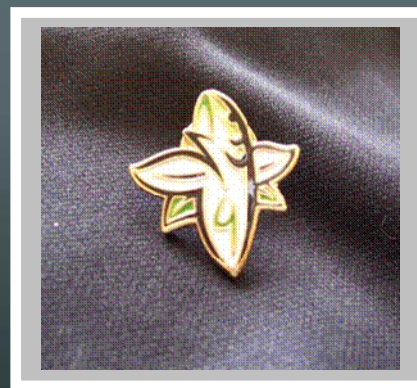
### Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Award

Nominations are invited for the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Award. Two medals are conferred at each Wild Trout symposium in memory of this distinguished naturalist - one to a professional and one to a nonprofessional who, in the eyes of their peers, have made long-time and significant contributions to the enhancement, protection, and preservation of wild trout. Nominees must attend the symposium. **Please send nomination letters and a brief rationale, including complete recipient-contact information, before April 1, 2010** to Wild Trout X Awards Chairman Jim Daley at [jgdaley@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jgdaley@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

## 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 out our website at:

<http://afs-oc.org/cgi-bin/online/storepro.php>



Submission Deadline for next Issue is April 15, 2010





AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
**ONTARIO CHAPTER**

**Annual Meeting  
March 4-6, 2010  
Geneva Park, Orillia**

**“Challenges for a Changing Fishery in a  
Changing World”**

**Join us for our 2010 Annual Meeting and Conference at the Geneva Park  
Conference Centre on the shores of Lake Couchiching near Orillia.**

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

**For additional information, please contact:**

**Jon Clayton**  
Credit Valley Conservation Authority  
1255 Old Derry Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 6R4,  
Ph: (905) 670-1615 x434, 1-800-668-5557, Fax: (905) 670-2210

Email: [president@afs-oc.org](mailto:president@afs-oc.org)

**Registration is available online.  
Members and students are eligible for discounted rates.**

**[www.afs-oc.org](http://www.afs-oc.org)**