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Newsletter of the Southern Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Volume 3, Number 2

June 1990

-- PRESIDENT'S CORNER -- by Les Stanfield

It's Monday, the day after opening weekend for rainbows. Weather was gorgeous the last few days and drew record numbers of people to southern Ontario trout streams.

Nearly 100 years ago Samuel Wilmot tried unsuccessfully to prevent the extirpation of Atlantic Salmon from Lake Ontario. As I sat overlooking the ponds where he reared Atlantic Salmon, I wondered whether we could succeed in fulfilling his dream. As many of you know, Ontario has initiated a program to reestablish Atlantics, a heritage species, in some of its former tributary streams. Resource managers have made tremendous progress in rehabilitating salmon streams which had been decimated by the turn of the century. Many currently support abundant populations of pacific salmonids.

Present management initiatives are focused on resolving the historical problems which caused the demise of Atlantic Salmon, i.e. habitat loss and overfishing. The implication is that if we address these issues the program will succeed. While this may be true, can our fisheries withstand the new pressures which our society imposes on them, i.e. urbanization and increased leisure time?

This past opening weekend was the first fair weather one I had witnessed for a long time in southern Ontario. Yet, I was appalled at the blatant disrespect for private property, fish, public access

sites, game and fish regulations, and the environment in general. I came away with a much different feel for the magnitude of the problem we face in achieving a public environmental code of ethics. Still, there were many good sportsmen and concerned environmentalists out there. Many even stopped by to express their support for our efforts and their disgust with the behaviour they had observed. Disappointingly few were concerned enough, however, to speak out or to clean up the garbage others had left behind.

My observations point out two problems which we must address if we are to succeed in our goal of environmental protection. First, since much of our public education effort to date has been directed at organized interest groups (the converted, so to speak), we continue to be ineffective in reaching the segment of society most in need of education - the uninformed, 'non-consumptive' user. How do we convince these people to protect the common resources that we all share? While attitudes and behaviour are not easily changed, they must.

Second, I have met many people for whom the environment is tremendously important. They are willing to help and are looking for leadership to direct their efforts. The Chapter can provide leadership on aquatic issues to government agencies and the public. Many people do not understand the issues and are, therefore, reluctant to become involved. We must lift the shroud of mystery over aquatic resource management if others are to gain the confidence they need to act.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Les Stanfield - President; Ken Harris - President-Elect; Henk Rietveld - Secretary; Geza Gaspard - Treasurer.

The newsletter is published quarterly by the Southern Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for the fisheries community. Issues are planned for March, June, September, and December release. Contributions to future newsletters are welcome and may be sent to the editorial committee for review. Articles should be less than one page in length. Those submitted as ASCII files on floppy diskette are "editor friendly" and have a greater chance of being accepted. Ideas, suggestions and constructive criticism regarding issues of interest in the aquatic sciences are also welcome. All submissions should be sent to the editor by the first day of the month that precedes the desired month of issue. Articles requiring extensive discussion or revision before publication should be submitted well in advance of this deadline. Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the chapter or American Fisheries Society.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Hal Schraeder - Editor [c/o Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 353 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario, N5H 2S8, phone (519) 773-9241, FAX (519) 773-9014]; Robert "Ted" Elliott; Kevin Trimble.

The Southern Ontario Chapter was formed to provide a regional organization for American Fisheries Society members who have an interest in the fisheries and aquatic concerns of Southern Ontario. It falls under the umbrella of the parent society and North-Central Division of the American Fisheries Society. Chapter membership is open to any member of the American Fisheries Society regardless of their place of residence. Any person interested in either chapter or parent society membership should contact an executive officer or the membership committee chairman for details.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dave McLeish - Chairman [c/o Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0, phone (705) 286-1521].

It is no longer sufficient for us to do good science. We must renew our commitment to broad dissemination of information regarding fisheries issues.

So, will history repeat itself? I hope not but if we do not address current social, attitudinal and behavioural issues it may be that all our efforts to protect aquatic habitats and fisheries will be for naught. I challenge you to think about this so that we may put together a workable plan. I look forward to your comments in future issues. I emphasize that we should not deal with these problems in isolation.

Enough! I suspect this article will not be seen as a good "opener" to this issue of the Newsletter. Suffice to say that some of the unbridled optimism I expressed in previous issues about the widespread concern for the environment and the public's willingness to act may have been premature.

I am pleased to report that the first letter of invitation to F.I.S.H. (Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat) has gone out and that a second will be sent the week of May 14th. The first meeting (June 16 at the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area) will try to set the framework for the group by familiarizing ourselves with each other and the issue of habitat loss. Interested volunteers should call me ASAP.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Jim Bradley and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for their financial support of our Stormwater Infiltration Workshop. Your support of the Chapter's efforts is greatly appreciated.

On a final note, I still think that we are making progress and I believe even more than ever in the role that AFS can play in facilitating solutions. What do you think?

-- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE --
by Ken Harris, President-Elect

When the subject of how to inspire Chapter members to stand for executive positions or committee chairs came up in a recent Excom meeting, I immediately recalled a conversation on that very subject which I had had with AFS past-President Bob White at our inaugural Annual Meeting (April 1989). Bob remarked that the reliance upon voluntarism is at once the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of the AFS and its programs. There are continual problems convincing 'rank-and-file' members of the value and advantages (both personally and professionally) of holding Chapter, Division, or Parent Society positions. People are generally very guarded of any infringement on their personal time and in committing to what they perceive as being an additional workload to their 'day job'. Once they do become involved, however, these same members often discover that AFS work is not the 'drudgery' they presumed it would be, and that in fact it opens up areas of concern and interest to them that they would otherwise never have experienced. It is at this point that they have evolved into the AFS's greatest strength: the active and committed professional. It is also true that they have evolved into more informed, higher-profile members of their profession.

The Southern Ontario Chapter has been no exception to this pattern. Convincing individuals to stand for positions such as President, President-Elect, or Committee chairs remains one of our most glaring weaknesses. In general, the Chapter is still (administratively) running on initial momentum, with most key positions filled by those 'founding members' who picked up the ball and ran with it in 1988. **THIS MUST CHANGE.**

INBREEDING IS A TERRIBLE THING!

Like every organization of its kind, our Chapter needs fresh blood every once

in a while, a few 'shock troopers' now and then, and most of all, experienced and conscientious professionals to lead by example.

So what is the problem here people?

I know, I know, ... you're very busy with your work and personal life, and reluctant to commit more time and effort to what is purely a voluntary (i.e. no pay) activity. You're also concerned about the duration of commitment to Excom positions (2 years).

Well, if I can tell you anything based on my talks with many people on this subject over the last couple of years, it is this: **EVERYONE IS BUSY, ALL OF THE TIME.** This is an undeniable fact of life for the modern fisheries professional, especially during the summer field season. And yet, upon reflection, I can honestly tell you that, although I too have a busy no-time-to-waste workload, I really have not found my AFS-related activities to have been an unmanageable burden at any time over the last two years. Sure, it gets pretty busy at times (like now), but somehow it all gets worked into the schedule eventually. (Then again, maybe I'm not as busy as I tend to think I am.)

I can tell you something else, too. When I actually sit down and take a look at it, I figure I've derived considerably more benefits from my Chapter involvement than the time I've put in. I'll expand on that. The benefits from Chapter work are both intangible (satisfaction at seeing the organization grow, take shape, and begin to have an impact) and highly tangible (increased personal profile within your profession, recognition of your abilities, training and development in organizing and working with other professionals and groups). Furthermore, what has struck me from the beginning of my tenure with the Chapter is the range of areas and issues within the fisheries/environmental field in which I've been able to get involved with. Let's be realistic here, I work for the Ministry of

Natural Resources, in a highly specialized position (larval fish culture research), and like most professionals within a large organization, I only get to consult or be consulted on issues directly pertaining to my specific area of responsibility. While this in many ways makes the job easier to do, it also detracts from opportunities to branch out and get involved in other major issues; to grow as a professional biologist. For example, I would generally never have got directly involved in such fundamental issues as habitat protection legislation, funding program initiatives, or commercial fishing industry reviews at the ministerial level (to name just a few of our Chapter activities of late). Nor

would I have likely ever been called upon to meet and interact with such people as the Executive Secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Executive Director of OFAH, or the Great Lakes Coordinator of the New York DEC. And yet, through Chapter business, I have done all of these things over the past year. I feel that I am a more informed, respected and certainly more recognized professional than I was a year ago. This is the personal benefit of work with Southern Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

I'm looking forward to my future experiences as Chapter President in 1990-91.

So come on, people!! I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY! I KNOW YOU FEEL YOU HAVE NO TIME TO GIVE! But this is important -- for the Chapter, the profession, and the resource. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE with your personal commitment.

NW ONTARIO & SOUTHERN ONTARIO CHAPTERS DELAY ACTION ON D-J

As reported by Alan Dextrase, immediate past-president of the NW Ontario Chapter, both the Northwest and the Southern Ontario Chapters have decided to delay any efforts at sponsoring a "Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux" type legislation in Canada. The reason for the delay is that the political climate is currently too conservative. Further, the Chapter Officers feel that they will have a much stronger case within the Canadian legislatures when (if?) the AFS Parent Society establishes an office in Ottawa.

There is a keen interest in the Chapters in sponsoring a user-pay type excise tax within Canada. Provincial funding of fisheries work is still minimal, even with the institution of fishing licenses in some provinces. However, it is very doubtful that such effort would be constructive without a solid institutional backing. Without an AFS office in Ottawa, there just isn't a solid base from which to work.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH (CCFRR) University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. January 3-4, 1991.

The major themes of the conference will be:

1. Biodiversity At or Below the Species Level
2. Sustainable Fisheries

Deadline for abstracts is August 30, 1990. They should be typed (maximum 200 words, single spaced) and nature of presentation (oral/poster) indicated. A high quality of copy is required, suitable for photographic reproduction.

Abstracts should be addressed to: Dr. Eugene K. Balon, Department of Zoology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Tel: (519) 824-4120, ext. 3978.

THE CHAPTER LOGO

Where It Came From, What It Means, and Where It Goes
by Robert 'Ted' Elliott

The 'competition' for our Chapter's logo design was not a high brow affair so some of you may have missed it's mention in the Newsletter. It was announced that a candidate design would be selected at the first annual business meeting (see: Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 2). A veiled call for logo suggestions (?) followed (see: Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 2). At the first annual meeting a number of logo designs were presented to the membership and a preliminary design won approval contingent on simplifying the artwork. A reworked logo was then presented to members for comment (see: Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 1).

A logo is the emblem that identifies a corporation, business, or organization. It should be an easily identifiable, visually interesting symbol that in effect announces the organization to others. A company 'has arrived' when it can boast it's own logo, establishing it as successful, serious, and stable.

Like science, graphic design is a logical, sequential process. It doesn't just happen but rather comes from consensus after trial and error. A design must be considered with its intended uses in mind. For instance, our logo should stand up to reduction/enlargement from postage stamp to protest banner (just kidding) size. The process begins with rough sketches or 'doodles' of possible graphic elements - adding some, deleting others over time. Graphic elements are usually chosen to illustrate the organization and/or it's activities. A preliminary design is drafted after many adjustments in the dimensions of individual graphic elements and text so they appear at an appropriate scale relative to one other.

Many graphic elements were considered at the preliminary 'doodling' stage. They included a map of southern Ontario surrounded by selected equipment (computers, nets, etc.) used in aquatic assessment. A technician dressed for field sampling of streams was off to one side. It was too cluttered, too much like

a coat-of-arms and was not a symmetrical geometric shape. This design was discarded in favour of a simpler design.

The first logo design used a map of southern Ontario drawn as if protruding from the logo. The text 'Southern Ontario Chapter' was drawn freehand while 'American Fisheries Society' was copied from fonts produced on a laser printer. The Parent Society logo was included in the Chapter logo. A stream of fish (several major species found in the Great Lakes) was drawn to appear travelling up Lake Ontario under southwest Ontario and exploding upwards from the southern Lake Huron area. Two rectangular borders contained all the above graphic elements. Rectangles were chosen because they provide ample space to contain the artwork at an appropriate scale. They also look better as a hat crest than a circle or oval. Double rectangles allow some leeway in colourizing the logo in the future. This design was chosen as the Chapter's logo but drew some criticism (too difficult to reproduce) for it's overly detailed artwork. It was suggested that this design could be used on T-shirts if members requested it.

After consultation with the Chapter Excom all but one fish was deleted from the original logo. A problem arose as to which species of fish should be kept. A stylized salmonid was chosen but some of the markings attributable to Atlantic Salmon were included in the drawing. The markings are so subdued that we can claim the fish represents all salmonid species in southern Ontario. This second version of the logo is the one you see on the first page of this issue.

There was really no theme for the choice of design elements - it came down to what was presentable and uncomplicated.

In hindsight and despite the last statement, I will now take a stab at philosophizing about the logo design. There are three levels of organization in the fisheries and aquatic resources of

southern Ontario. First, the ecological level; second, the scientific level; and third, the societal level. Your involvement with the resource will determine the level that is appropriate for you. The two rectangles forming the border of the logo represent hierarchy in the organization of fisheries science in southern Ontario. The inner border represents the Chapter's interests. It is contained within the outer border representing the science community that southern Ontario forms only a part of, i.e. science practised within the Chapter's boundary is not unconnected to that outside. The AFS logo represents the Parent Society of which we are a sub-unit. The map of southern Ontario was drawn slightly overlapping the borders to provide depth to the logo. This multi-dimensional aspect signifies the diverse interests of the Chapter. The protrusion of southern Ontario beyond the borders has symbolic meaning in that we are not isolated here. Again, the science community we are part of has contacts outside of the immediate region, and, as the southern Ontario ecosystem interacts with those around it, so do we with colleagues in other areas by exchanging information and ideas. No definite northern border was drawn for southern

Ontario because the Chapter serves all members, especially with regard to Canadian Concerns.

The stylized salmonid was chosen to represent all aquatic components, as well as the important fisheries of the Great Lakes and their tributaries. The dramatic development of the salmonid fishery in recent years has placed it far up the list (for some) and far down the list (for others) of the good things in fisheries management within southern Ontario. Some may insist the fish is an Atlantic Salmon. That species represents the past (one of the first to disappear) and future (if all goes well with plans for reintroduction) of fisheries management in southern Ontario. Again, this can represent either a positive or negative symbol depending on who you are - everyone is welcome to their own opinion.

The final logo design has been scanned into a TIFF graphics file for use in word processing and desktop publishing software. The result is the banner on the first page of this issue. Use of the logo will be widespread. Plans to use it for newsletters, proceedings, exhibits (eg. Sportsman's Show), letterheads, T-shirts, hats, crests, mugs, ... what-have-you, are in the works.

RESPONSE TO THE USFWS LARGE RIVERS RESEARCH PROPOSAL has been developed by a special AFS adhoc committee of experts and forwarded to Fish and Wildlife Service leadership. The Service's proposal has evolved from the long-standing AFS concern over the demise of reservoir research programs formerly funded and conducted by the Service. The AFS response (coordinated by Norville Prosser) is upbeat, supportive, and constructive. It is too lengthy for general distribution but those with a special interest can receive a copy by sending a 9-by-12 inch self-addressed envelope with 45 cents in postage (U.S. domestic rate).

THE AFS POSITION ON TRANSGENIC FISHES, now in its 5th draft, was approved by the Excom and will be published in **FISHERIES** for member comment. The policy, under development for 2 years, has been coordinated by Genetics Section Past President Dave Phillip in response to a staff appeal for a position on bioengineered fishes and aquatic organisms. The Excom voted special commendation to A.R. Kapuscinski and E.M. Hallerman for their work on the position statement.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 28, 1990 EXCOM MEETING

Logo/hat/crest issue - Jim Reckahn has taken it upon himself to look into the costs of producing crests and hats. With minor modifications, the logo designed by Ted Elliott is suitable for this. The Excom voted Jim \$600.00 to produce 100 hats with crests for sale to raise funds for the Chapter.

Commercial Fisheries Review - The Chapter has been approached by Jack Riddell, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources, to participate in the commercial fisheries review being undertaken by MNR. A team, led by Mike Jones, has been chosen to review this initiative and report to Mr. Riddell on behalf of the Chapter.

Treasurer's Report - Geza advised the Excom that our finances were healthy as a result of the recent stormwater management workshop. We have also applied for EYC funding for a student to provide support for the production of proceedings, preparing for the next workshop, Project F.I.S.H. (Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat), possible brochure, etc. to be located at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Committee Reports

Habitat

Letter to Ministry of Municipal Affairs re: fish habitat under the Planning Act to go out over Les's signature. Project F.I.S.H. underway, letters have been sent to major interest groups in southern Ontario inviting them to a brainstorming session at the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Continuing Education

Tom Whillans and Mike Jones have prepared an action plan to survey existing courses; continuing education efforts at the Parent Society. Mike has contacted ESSA re: conflict resolution course. Les to contact the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists and establish liaison. Committee to pursue the possibility of running an electrofishing course with Fisheries Branch.

Long Range Plan

Alex Pallilionis has sent information to the chairs of the other committees setting dates for the meetings. Les is to call Alex to get Ken Harris to sit on the committee. The committee is aiming for a draft long range plan for early next year.

Ways and Means

Jon Bisset has agreed to find and organize room and facilities for the next annual meeting at a central location in Southern Ontario (Guelph/Cambridge/K-W?). Themes for the meeting will be: (First day) "Alternate sources of funding for fisheries projects", (Second day) "Exotics". The annual meeting is expected to be held on a Friday-Saturday on the 2nd or 3rd weekend in January, with the business meeting scheduled from 3-5:00 p.m. on the Friday. Geza is to call Gord McPherson re: arrangements for the next annual meeting.

Fish Culture

The Ontario Aquaculture Association has been formed and AFS can participate. Gary Chapman has offered to write a letter but Excom feels it should be vetted through the committee. The member representing the Chapter should be a non-MNR person.

Membership

There have been computer problems at the Parent Society office, so that some new members have not yet been recorded. If anyone knows of such an instance, get in touch with Dave McLeish at MNR, Minden, to get on the mailing list and contact Les or

(Membership cont'd)

Newsletter

Geza if Newsletters have not been received. The only way we can serve the members is to make sure that they get the Newsletter and services that make it worth being a member.

The last newsletter cost roughly \$400. to print and mail (about \$2.30 per copy). Although we're relatively solvent right now, the cost of the Newsletter could exceed annual Chapter membership dues.

Not-for-profit Status

Geza is to further explore, in writing if necessary, the not-for-profit status with Ron Griffiths in London to ensure that we follow the rules.

Nominations for Excom - 1991

As usual, the major problem in any organization is where do we get recruits to replace outgoing executives? All positions are open for nominations. It was suggested that people who were hesitant about working on the Excom could be encouraged to start out as a committee worker/chair and 'warm up' to the organization gradually.

There will not be a repeat of the confusion at the last annual meeting regarding mail nominations and slates not getting out on time. This business will all be sent to the members in lots of time for a mail ballot prior to the annual meeting. The results of the mail ballot will stand (see By-laws).

7th Trout Stream Rehabilitation Workshop

Preparations are progressing well. Most top spots are held by Chapter members. Scheduled for September 12-14 at the Waterloo Motor Inn. The Chapter will be well represented at the workshop and this will be good for our image! For details contact Jack Imhoff, (416) 832-7172.

The following are transcripts of recent correspondence:

1. FROM LYN MCLEOD, MINISTER of NATURAL RESOURCES:

Thank you for your letters requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources help sponsor a workshop on storm water management. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I understand that the workshop took place on March 12, 1990, and that it was an outstanding success. The Ministry of Natural Resources will be pleased to provide the support that you requested. I have asked the Director of the Ministry's Fisheries Branch, Mr. George Whitney, to contact you in order to make appropriate arrangements in this regard.

The Ministry is very interested in partnerships with professional organizations, such as yours, that will improve our ability to manage and protect our fisheries. The maintenance and protection of aquatic environments is becoming more difficult as development occurs. Improved dialogue with the development industry and the exchange of information on new technology will help us find solutions to the challenges we face in preserving and enhancing our natural resources.

I would like to thank you for acknowledging our sponsorship of the workshop, and would ask that you send copies of the proceedings to my office for distribution to Ministry staff.

Again, thank you for your letter. Every good wish for continued success with your endeavours.

2. TO Dr. DOUG DODGE, COORDINATOR - GREAT LAKES FISHERIES PROGRAM, MNR, FISHERIES BRANCH, FORM CHAPTER PRESIDENT LES STANFIELD:

I am writing to you in response to the request from Mr. Jack Riddell, MPP Huron, for comments by the Southern Ontario Chapter of AFS on the Ministry's review of commercial fisheries in Ontario. I have solicited the views of a number of our members after having sent to them the March 1990 "Fact Sheet" issued by the OMNR on this review. For the most part the response of our membership has been to say:

1. "We are very interested in contributing to the review and to this end would like to be kept informed as things progress", and,
2. "So far, there's not very much upon which to base comments".

The Fact Sheet, while doing a good job of outlining the issues, really doesn't provide any hints as to the Ministry's position on these issues - for obvious reasons, given the early stage of the review. We would certainly agree that allocation, royalties, and incidental catch are the three key issues facing the review team. Beyond that, we would simply like to offer the following general comments:

- There is little doubt that a large part of the problem is due to the highly adversarial nature of the allocation and incidental catch issues. In the ongoing battle over "ownership" of our rich fisheries resources, the resource itself tends to be the eventual loser. It stands to reason that a step towards reducing these conflicts would be to engage all parties in the fight to achieve the most important goal of all - namely the common goal of resource conservation and restoration. In this context we commend the public involvement process surrounding the SPOF II exercise, which is obviously relevant to this issue. Also in this context we would offer that the AFS, as a non-partisan group, might be able to facilitate the process of constructively debating these issues.
- Secondly, we would like to know more about how the results of this review will actually affect Ministry policy and, as a consequence, fisheries management in the Province. Too often reviews such as this turn out in the end to have relatively little impact on the way the "reviewee" conducts its business.
- On a more specific note we would point out that the first priority for allocation listed on page 2 of the Fact Sheet ("to protect enough fish stocks to ensure self-sustaining, healthy populations") is, in the eyes of many, at odds with the Ministry's present emphasis on put-and-delayed-take fisheries, particularly on the Great Lakes. In this review, as in the SPOF II exercise, the Ministry has to come to grips with the apparent policy/program paradox.
- Finally, we would like to offer support for the view, implied by the comments in the Fact Sheet on incidental catch, that there is nothing inherently bad about gillnets as a commercial fishing gear. The efficiency of gillnets can be both their blessing

and their curse. The issue is surely more one of proper management of this gear type (and others!) than it is a question of whether they should be used at all.

In closing I would simply like to emphasize that the Chapter appreciates being given the opportunity to participate in the review. We would very much like to stay involved, and to comment on more specific details of the review as they emerge.

EDITORIAL

by Hal Schraeder

Hopefully you've taken to heart the appeals to get more involved in the Chapter by letting your name stand for executive positions. I'm proud to report that I've managed to coerce a couple of Chapter members, namely Kevin Trimble who has overseen printing and distribution of this issue, and Ted Elliot of Logo fame, to keep the Newsletter going next year. Thanks guys!

We must continue to develop our human resources within the Chapter. We should encourage anyone willing to undertake an 'apprenticeship' role 'for the time being' to see how Chapter duties fit them. To borrow from a much higher Authority: we must be fishers of men. Maybe what we really need is to strike a head-hunting committee to search out a slate of officers for next January's annual meeting. Anyone approached to stand for office and who declines during these formative years should really reconsider their need to belong to our Chapter. You've read enough about this, now make that call to an Excom member!

I've been thinking about wordplay recently. We've been exposed to quite a bit lately.

Consider, for example, the word 'mitigate':

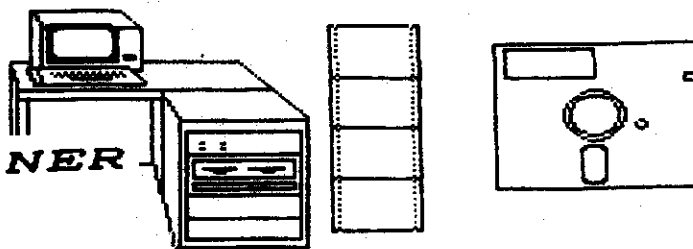
1. "actions taken during planning, design, construction and operation of works and undertakings to alleviate potential adverse effects on the productive capacity of fish habitats" (Federal-Provincial Fish Habitat Protection and Compliance Working Group), and,
2. "v. to make less intense or serious or severe ... n. Do not confuse with militate" (The Oxford Paperback Dictionary).

Notice the key word "less" in the real definition of the word, i.e. mitigation is an act of appeasement. If we as fisheries professionals continue to embrace 'mitigation' as a guiding principle to resolving resource management issues, we will surely doom our fisheries resources to the current war of attrition which they can not win.

Mitigation is not consistent with 'net gain', i.e. increased 'productive capacity'. It merely reflects the 'best we can do' faced with the 'realities' of economic development of a finite resource, i.e. land area. There must be a better way. We must convince developers, for example, that they themselves should invest now in sustainable development through planned enhancement of fish habitat, in particular, at every opportunity. We have to effectively 'market' fisheries resources - mitigation must be seen as a means of last resort.

'Compensation' (vis-a-vis artificial offsetting of lost 'productive capacity') is another concept altogether and one which I personally feel we have no right to accept responsibility for given our current understanding of the complexities of ecosystems. While I'm at it, I'd like to invite you to send me your definitions of 'healthy aquatic ecosystem'. I'll print some in the next issue of the Newsletter.

COMPUTER CORNER



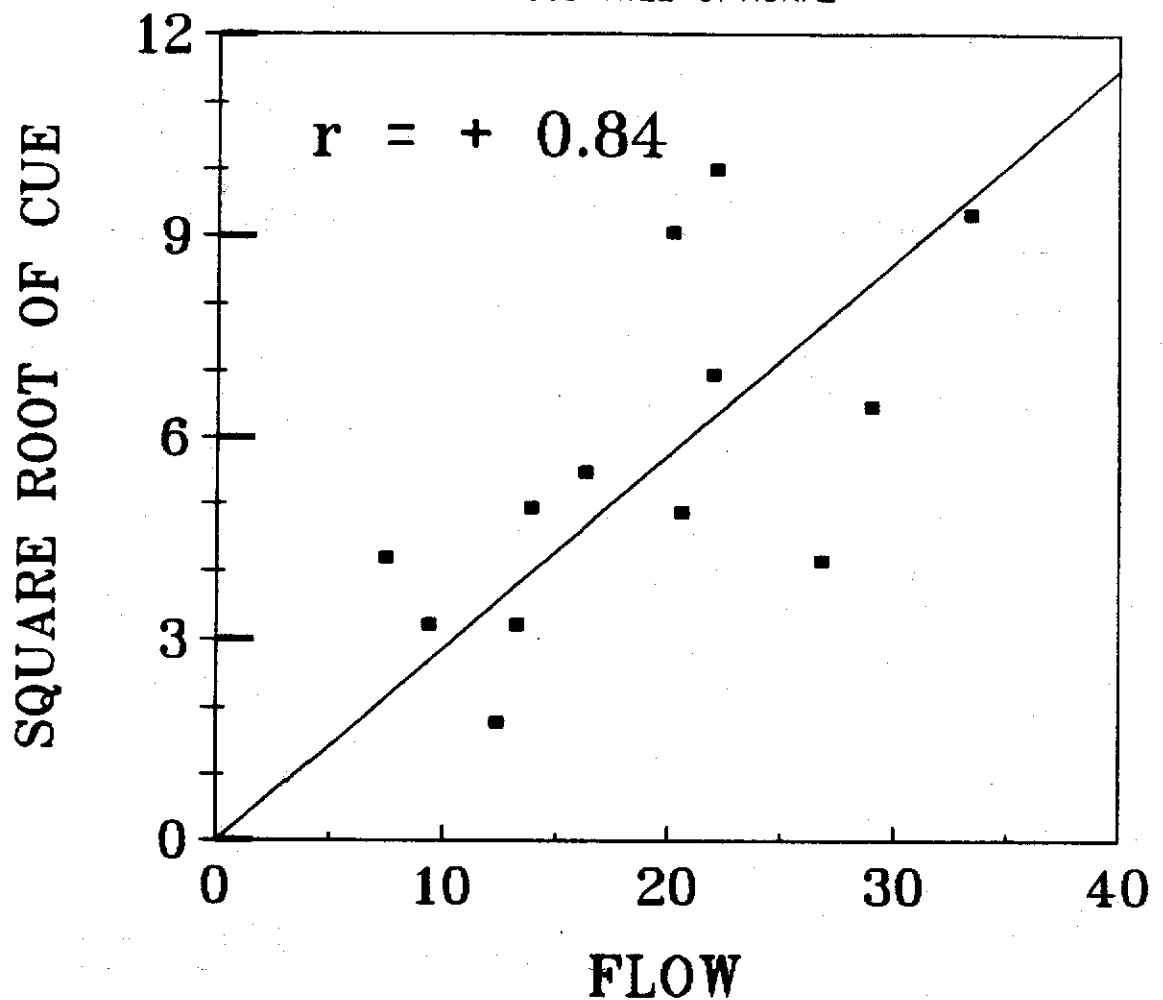
by JIM RECKAHN
P.O. BOX 5000
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FAX : (416)-832-7149

The featured program for this issue is one of a set of three inter-related programs called "CoStat, CoPlot, and CoDraw" all property of CoHort Software, P.O. Box 1149, Berkley, CA 94701. I'll concentrate on CoPlot this time because I've used it considerably in the last few months and I'm pleased with the results. First, I bought only CoStat and CoPlot from Richard Lantaigne of Lantaigne Visuals, 176 Janefield Ave., Unit 260, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2L6 PHONE: (519) 763-6281, FAX: (519) 821-6757. Costs \$125.00 (Canadian) per program plus provincial sales tax. I believe the products provide exceptionally good value for the costs based on the portions I've tried to date.

Data for CoPlot is entered through CoStat so you need them both. Data are stored in nnnnn.DT files but when plotted are then stored in nnnnnn.GRA files for plotting. In CoPlot EVERYTHING PLOTTED is under menu-drive control so you can change anything you want. An example is shown below. Size and shape, number and frequency of scale divisions, major and minor axis ticks, including whether they stick into or out of axis along with their size can all be changed. Titles and subtitles, legends with equations used for plotting and size and font of numbers all can be modified. Up to nine comments with arrows, if you want, can be added anywhere. You really DON'T have to cut and paste anymore. And the y-axis labels are vertical as they should be unlike a certain popular business oriented graphics program.

NOTTAWASAGA RIVER FLOW

SUB-TITLE OPTIONAL



legend site

— 0.287*X

■ SQRABUN

A 2ND TITLE IS POSSIBLE HERE TOO.

← **FITTED EQUATION**

**EVERYTHING YOU SEE IS UNDER MENU
CONTROL & CAN BE CHANGED**

ENTER COMMENTS HERE (1ST COMMENT)

2ND LINE IS SMALLER BUT CAN BE CHANGED

HEIGHT IS .15 & WIDTH IS 1.2

1ST LINE HEIGHT IS .2 & WIDTH 1.1

I LIKE CENTURY FONT

THIS IS HELVET-L

THIS IS HELVET

JGRJPP JY JGRJJBLE !

Ψ≠T_+§⇔@_!e5Δ_Γ9EE~



TRANSLATION = YOU CAN'T READ GREEK

One of the features I like best about CoPlot is the comment menu, examples above. Although designed primarily to add comments to graphs it can be set up so that all graphics features are printed in black on a black screen. This allows only the comments to be seen and printed. I've used this feature extensively the past few months for creating comments on overheads and for cut & paste on figures for manuscripts and slides.

Notices for bulletin boards or to announce special events can all be created using the comment feature. People at Maple will attest to the inundation of notices during the recent Federated Health Campaign. You can create some LARGE fonts for attracting attention to notices. Large comments for posting on your (or someone else's) office door are also easily produced.

There's lots more I haven't had time to try yet, I'm anxious to try plotting Fourier (Sine) waves fitted to data. But for now I urge everyone to try this relatively cheap stat & plot duo. Next issue we'll concentrate on the statistical portions (I know, boring, boring, boring !).

NOTICE: CHAPTER HATS

Baseball hats bearing the colourful chapter logo are available from Jim Reckahn (Maple ext. 147) at a cost of \$9.00 (\$10.00 with a "birdy do-do" type of gold leaves on the brim).

SOCIETY NAME

The Chapter Caucus Committee recently circulated a letter to chapter presidents asking for membership input to identify the next steps on this issue. Should sufficient interest be generated, a final membership plebiscite vote may be called by the executive committee. There would also be discussion of appropriate names, such as the North American Fisheries Society or the Fisheries Society. The memo implied that a new society name is becoming important to a broad geographic base of members.

CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO EXPRESS YOUR THOUGHTS.

LOBBYING FOR NEW MARINE COMMERCIAL FISHING RULES

Les Stanfield was asked to add his signature to a letter being sent by the Fisheries Management Foundation to senators and members of Congress. Endorsed by Stan Moberly, the letter identifies crisis conditions resulting from overcapitalization and open entry to fisheries on the American and Canadian coasts. It uses a socio-economic slant to explain that "everyone does not have the right to go broke" investing in fisheries, and then rationalizes a call for a moratorium on open entry to fisheries until new controls on effort can be legislated.

The following is an excerpt from Stan's letter to Les: I do not believe that we will ever succeed in our mission of proper care for our marine fish resource and the habitat without the help of those who depend on the resource for their livelihood. We must all share part of the blame for the condition of our fisheries, including the fishermen. Remember, even though they have influenced the rule making process, they behave rationally for the rules enacted that they must follow. The rules must be changed!

The present rules tend to drive the fishery towards its lowest social and economic values. The rules should be changed to evoke "equity ownership" behavior by those who depend on the resource for their livelihood. I do not believe that behavior will ever be achieved, as long as our fisheries have open access. there is no reason to conserve. The rule say, "he who gets there first and gets the most, wins".

As a step towards better management, if not the prerequisite step, access must be limited. This will encourage the fishermen to conserve the resources and protect essential habitat. The fishery will then move towards optimum social and economic value.