



Organized in 1990

VIRGINIA CHAPTER *of the* AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Inland Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Virginia

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Winter Edition 2008

Newsletter Date: January, 2008

The Royal Proclamation from King Scotch I

Once again, I see it is time to address the masses with wonderful words of wisdom and inspiration from the throne. I hope everybody had a lovely holiday season and didn't eat too much. I also hope that Santa Claus brought you the one thing you really wanted. If not, there is always next year.

Speaking of next year (which I guess is now this year... sort of...), my reign as the King/Emperor/Viceroy of the Virginia Chapter is almost at an end. At our next meeting, I will be passing the scepter to Crown Prince Greenhead, who will then become King Bobby No Lunch the First (King BNL I for those of you that like acronyms). I would hope that you will give him as much help and support as I have received over the past year. There are a whole lot of good people doing good things in this chapter, and I

would like to thank all of you. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your King for the last year.

While I'm on this subject, I would like to point out that serving as an office of the Virginia Chapter (even King) is not really that bad of a gig. I will admit that I had a little bit of trepidation going into this, primarily because I was worried about the time commitment. If you have resisted serving as a chapter officer, have no fears. If I can do this, anybody can. There are some time commitments required, but they aren't outrageous. This chapter runs on the backs of its volunteers, so please don't hesitate to offer your services when you have the chance. It may seem daunting, but it's really not. As King, you have to file a few reports/updates, and you do get a few more emails than you would otherwise;

but it's not nearly as bad as you might think. The annual meeting and workshops are the biggest time-eaters, and even they aren't that bad if you've got help. Luckily for me, I had excellent help.

Since I've moved on to annual meetings and such things, this seems like a good time to talk about our upcoming meeting in Blacksburg. In case you've been living in a cave for the last couple months, the meeting will be on Feb 5-7th in Blacksburg. This will be a joint meeting (no, not that kind of joint...) with the Virginia Tech Chapter. Crown Prince Greenhead is busily putting together the program as we speak (well, actu-

(King Scotch's Grand Proclamation continued on page 2...)



The Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is a subunit of the [American Fisheries Society](#). The chapter was established in 1990 to provide fisheries professionals in Virginia with increased access to AFS; encourage the exchange of information among fisheries and other aquatic resource professionals; provide a forum for the discussion, debate, and resolution of aquatic resource issues within Virginia; and serve the Commonwealth by providing expert scientific knowledge to allow for informed decisions concerning the use and development of the state's natural resources.

King Scotch's Grand Proclamation to His Loyal Subjects (*continued*)

ally, it's as I write or as you read, since nobody is speaking... unless you're one of those people that can't read without moving their lips...). The program will be posted to the Chapter website shortly. This year, we will feature at least 18 (possibly more) contributed talks, a very nice pond/small impoundment workshop by Dr. Jeff Slipke, and two socials (with dining but probably not dancing, although you never know...). Additional details will be on the Chapter website soon, if they aren't already there by the time you read this. I would hope that you would make every effort to attend, as I'm sure it will be a great meeting. Also, I do not think that removing any doors from their hinges will be required this year, but again... you never know for sure.

In my last Royal Message to the Peasants, I urged you (the peasants) to encourage students to apply for our Chapter scholarships. I am happy to report that we've received several excellent applications this year. Good King Dan and the rest of the Awards Committee will have their work cut out for them selecting winners this year. Thanks to all who helped encourage students to apply and to all the students who did apply. I plan to discuss these scholarships at the business meeting this year, for several reasons. For one, Good King Dan and I have talked about dropping the requirement for official transcripts for these awards. Official transcripts can be a royal pain to obtain, particularly if you are no longer attending the school in question (e.g., grad students that are attending different schools for their various degrees). We have also discussed the possibility of awarding honorable mention prizes (assuming we have the cash for

this) of a lesser amount. In years when we've only gotten one applicant, this is a moot point. In other years, it might be a nice addition to the scholarship program. This is also something that needs to be discussed as a chapter. Finally, I would like to take a few minutes at the meeting to talk about the economics of the scholarship program. We may want to increase the amount of money in the fund to sustain and/or grow the program.

I would also like to thank the membership for their contributions to this newsletter and the listserve. Both are excellent tools for communicating relevant information among Chapter members. I think we are learning how valuable these can be, and would hope that their use would only continue to grow. Information is valuable, so let's help spread the wealth.

Finally, I would like to thank the Excom for all of their considerable assistance during my tenure. The next time you see Dan Michaelson, Bob Greenlee, Robert Humston, Steve Owens, Mike Odom, Adrienne Averett, Fred Leckie, Mitchell Norman, Bill Kittrell, Bob Andrews, John Copeland, Nick La-Pointe, or Mike Duncan (the last two from the VT Chapter); thank them for their service to you and the Chapter. As I stated earlier, this chapter runs on the energy of its volunteers; and I had a great bunch to work with this year. Thanks again to everybody for your help and support.

King Scotch—Scott.Smith@dgif.virginia.gov

Important Chapter Announcements!!!

Election Results: The people have spoken, and in a close race the members have voted **Eric Brittle** (DGIF) to be the next President-Elect. After some outstanding cameo appearances at Secretary and great contributions to this year's annual meeting, Eric will join the ExCom in February and will succeed Bob Greenlee as President. Thank you to all who participated in the election, and congratulations Eric!

Raffle Items Needed: The annual meeting's raffle is a big fund raiser and highlight of the meeting for many. The entertainment value of ticket sales is usually worth the ante in itself, but a table full of prizes is the best draw. If you're coming to the meeting, **PLEASE TRY TO BRING A RAFFLE ITEM** to contribute to the cause. If you would like to solicit support from your local business leaders, Steve Owens (Steve.Owens@dgif.virginia.gov) can provide a standard letter that includes our 501-C(3) I.D. number and information about the meeting. When you get to the meeting, please deliver the items to Bill Kittrell, Tom Hampton, George Palmer, or John Copeland.

Annual Meeting 2008

The Virginia and Virginia Tech chapters of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Blacksburg, VA for the 2008 Annual Meeting:



February 5-7, 2008

Tentative Schedule of Events:



Tuesday, February 5th – Afternoon session of contributed papers, beginning at 1:00 p.m., followed by the VCAFS business meeting.

Wednesday, February 6th - 8:30 AM: A special workshop describing new developments in the management of ponds and small impoundments, presented by Dr. Jeff Slipke (see page 4). Noon: Student/mentor lunch. Afternoon: A second session of contributed papers, followed by the annual Chapter raffle and social.

Thursday, February 7th – Morning session of contributed papers and meeting conclusion.

Registration and Accommodation Information

The meetings will be held on the campus of Virginia Tech. Details concerning locations, directions, etc. will be forthcoming on the listserv and website. A registration form will also be available from these outlets in the not too distant future. Accommodations have been arranged at the following location:

Holiday Inn Blacksburg
900 Prices Fork Rd.
540/552-7001

There are still rooms available through Jan. 15, 2008, at the group rate of \$77.00/night (single or double). Please make your reservations as soon as possible (you can always cancel your reservations later if you cannot make the meeting). When making reservations, make sure you mention the group code SFA and that you are with the VA Chapter of the AFS. The Holiday Inn right next to campus and within walking distance of all meetings, functions, and downtown Blacksburg (eliminating the need for additional driving and parking). Hope to see you there!

Workshop 2008 Announcement

Managing Ponds and Small Impoundments: Everything from the Classics to the Latest Hits

A Workshop By

Dr. Jeff Slipke, Southeastern Pond Management

Dr. Slipke is the chief biologist and manager of Southeastern Pond Management's Tennessee office. Jeff worked for eight years as a research associate at Auburn University where he studied fish population dynamics, predator-prey interactions, fish age and growth, aquatic plant issues, and impacts of fishing regulations. Jeff received his Ph.D. from AU in 2003 and joined the SPM staff in 2004. Jeff has published numerous scientific research papers and has conducted fisheries management seminars throughout the country. He is an AFS Certified Fisheries Scientist. Jeff receives his highest level of professional satisfaction from helping pond owners create and maintain truly impressive fisheries.

Course Outline:	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Traditional Pond Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;">Pond Construction <li style="text-align: center;">Liming <li style="text-align: center;">Fertilization <li style="text-align: center;">Vegetation Control <li style="text-align: center;">Water Quality <li style="text-align: center;">Initial Stocking 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Innovative Pond Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="text-align: center;">Harvest Strategies <li style="text-align: center;">Trophy Bass Management <li style="text-align: center;">Alternative Species/Strains <li style="text-align: center;">Supplemental Forage Stocking <li style="text-align: center;">Supplemental Feeding <li style="text-align: center;">Fishery Assessments <li style="text-align: center;">Pond Renovation

This workshop will be held in conjunction with the joint annual meeting of the Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters, American Fisheries Society, on February 5th-7th in Blacksburg, Virginia. The actual workshop (half day) will take place on Wednesday, February 6th beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Scott Smith at:

scott.smith@dgif.virginia.gov

or by phone at

434/525-7522.

Websites for Fisheries Professionals

I recently polled the membership asking folks to share any websites they find particularly interesting or useful for their work. We received a number of excellent suggestions which I'm happy to provide here. If you have more to suggest, please send them to me for the next newsletter at HumstonR@vmi.edu

Useful knots for the field: Knowing your knots goes way beyond scout badges. The right knot can make the difference between transporting gear and losing gear, not to mention a hundred other uses in the field. To learn how to tie pretty much every kind of knot out there, check out www.animatedknots.com. Great animations will walk you through the whole process. Impress Capt. Quint with an eye splice next time he asks you for a sheepshank.

Random numbers: Let's face it: pseudo-random numbers are bush league, strictly for the JV squad. When you need a true random number sequence, atmospheric noise is your best bet. Mads Haahr's website www.random.org provides a free random number generator that you can hit up when you need help selecting sample sites, picking lottery numbers, or constructing a new jazz scale.

Steven Campana's Otolith Website: An excellent resource for methods in otolith analyses, from extraction through sectioning, analysis (including chemical analyses), and validation. A very nice resource if you're working with otoliths in any way. Find it at www.marinebiodiversity.ca/otolith/english/daily.htm.

Planning for Power: If you have a field study coming up and want to determine the sample sizes needed for a given statistical power, the online tools on Russ Lenth's website (U. of Iowa) are absolutely excellent. He also provides several links to informative articles on statistical power and some plain-sense advice about the use and misuse of power analyses. Find it at www.stat.uiowa.edu/~rlenth/Power/index.html.

Microfish Software: Got some depletion sampling coming up? This free software makes quick work of calculating maximum likelihood estimates for population size and other essential stats from depletion sampling. Great utility in the field or in the lab. Downloadable from www.microfish.com, and pronounce it "microfeesh" just for fun.

FAO Fish Telemetry Site: A nice repository of information on research and applications in fish telemetry, if a bit limited in detail. It can be a pretty good resource if you're just starting out with telemetry, and can put you in touch with other researchers in the field. It needs some updating, but there are some nuggets.
www.landfood.ubc.ca/gbi/FAO%20Fish%20Telemetry/main.htm

Shenandoah Pure Water Forum: A website for information relating to water quality and fish health issues in the Shenandoah River watershed. Includes links to latest news releases and discussion forums. Tune in and get involved at www.purewaterforum.org.

South River Science Team: Everything you need to know about mercury in South River and its downstream waterways. Share this with the community at southriverscienceteam.org

DGIF Outdoor Report: Most of us are in this line of work because we like to be out there in the water and woods, but sometimes we get so busy we get a out of touch with what's happening "out there." The new Outdoor Report is published every two weeks by the DGIF and contains all kinds of good information. It's free and you can subscribe online at enews.vi.virginia.gov/dgif/eoptinform.cfm

American Whitewater Navigability Toolkit: Use it for planning your next river trip, or to see how VA fares for accessibility of our waters (not well). www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/access:start

I am very pleased with the response this request generated. If you come across a useful website please let me know at humstonr@vmi.edu so I can include it in the next newsletter. Props to King Scotch for the idea thanks to all of you who contributed a link.

Virginia's Hunters and Anglers Have a Significant Impact on the Economy

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Virginia's 857,000 hunters and anglers are among the most prominent and influential of all demographic groups, spending more than \$1.3 billion a year on hunting and fishing, according to a new report. The new report, "Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy ~ A force as big as all outdoors," spotlights the immense impact hunters and anglers have on the economy at the national and state level. In Virginia, spending by hunters and anglers directly supports 24,000 jobs, which puts \$683 million worth of paychecks into pockets of working residents around the state. Of course, government coffers also benefit -- spending by sportsmen in pursuit of these outdoor activities generates \$128 million in state and local taxes.

"Because sportsmen enjoy hunting or fishing alone or in small groups, they are overlooked as a constituency and as a substantial economic force," stated Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "When you compare spending by hunters and anglers to other sectors, their impact on the state's economy becomes more tangible."

- Annual spending by Virginia sportsmen is more than the combined revenues of Southside Oil, Uppy's Convenience Stores, Apex Systems, and Lumber Liquidators - the state's four fastest growing companies grossing over \$100 million (\$1.3 billion vs. \$932 million).
- Sportsmen support more jobs in Virginia than Northrop Grumman in Newport News and Virginia Tech University combined (24,000 jobs vs. 23,000).
- Sportsmen spend more in Virginia than the combined cash receipts from broilers, cattle and dairy products - the state's top three agricultural commodities (\$1.3 billion vs. \$1.2 billion).
- Virginia sportsmen annually spend \$175 million on outboard boats and engines to get out on the water and around the marshes for fishing and hunting.
- The economic stimulus of hunting and fishing equates to \$3.6 million a day being pumped into the state's economy.

"Spending by sportsmen benefits not only the manufacturers of hunting and fishing related products, but everything from local mom and pop businesses to wildlife conservation," noted Doug Painter, president of National Shooting Sports Foundation. "And because most hunting and fishing takes place in rural areas, much of the spending benefits less affluent parts of the state."

On the national level, 34 million sportsmen age 16 and older spent more than \$76 billion in 2006, supporting 1.6 million jobs. If a single corporation grossed as much as hunters and anglers spend, it would be among America's 20 largest, ahead of Target, Costco and AT&T. These statistics are impressive and, if anything, they underestimate the impact of sportsmen since they do not take into account the millions of hunters and anglers under 16 years of age or people who were not able to get out and hunt or fish in 2006. When sportsmen's spending is thought of in business terms and compared to other sectors of the economy, it is quite remarkable.

The report, "**Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy ~ A force as big as all outdoors,**" was produced by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation with support from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation and SCI - First For Hunters. The report uses the results from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* and statistics provided by the American Sportfishing Association and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The report, along with *STATE FACTS* are available on the Web at www.sportsmenslink.org and www.nssf.org

- From the CSF / NSSF press release by Melinda Gable, Melinda@sportsmenslink.org

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<http://faculty.virginia.edu/vcafs/>



Upcoming Meetings:

VA Chapter Annual Meeting: February 5-7. Blacksburg, VA. See page 3 of this newsletter for details.

Advances in Tagging and Marking Technologies in Fisheries Management and Research: February 24-28. Auckland, New Zealand. See www.fisheries.org/units/tag2008

Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and West Virginia Chapter of AFS: Feb 28-Mar 2. Wheeling, WV. See www.sdafs.org/meetings.

River Management Society Meeting: May 12-16. Portland, Maine. rivermanagement.org/symposium.asp.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting: July 23-28, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. www.dce.ksu.edu/conf/jointmeeting/

11th International Coral Reef Symposium: July 7-11. Fort Lauderdale, Florida. www.nova.edu/ncri/11/11icrs.

American Fisheries Society 138th Annual Meeting, AFS Aug 17-21 Ottawa, Ontario. See www.fisheries.org

Fifth World Fisheries Congress 2008. Oct 20-24. Pacifico Yokohama, Japan. See www.5thwfc2008.com or contact wfc2008@ics-inc.co.jp

Fifth World Recreational Fishing Conference, Nov 10-13. Dania Beach, Florida. See www.worldrecfish.org or contact Jason Schratweiser at 954/927-2628.

Recent Papers of Interest:

Odenkirk, J. and S. Owens. (2007) Expansion of a northern snakehead population in the Potomac River system. *TAFS* 136:1633-1639.

Grothues, T.M. and K.W. Able. (2007) Scaling acoustic telemetry of bluefish in an estuarine observatory: detection and habitat use patterns. *TAFS* 136:1511-1520.

Ruiz, J.C. and J.T. Peterson. (2007) An evaluation of the relative influence of spatial, statistical, and biological factors on the accuracy of stream fish species presence models.

Hilborn, R (2007) Managing fisheries is managing people: what has been learned? *Fish and Fisheries* 8(4):285-296.

Rivot, E. et al. (2008) Hierarchical Bayesian modeling with habitat and time covariates for estimating riverine fish population size by successive removal method. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 65(1):117-133.

Weidel, B.C. et al. (2007) Diary of a bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*): daily $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records in otoliths by ion microprobe. *CJFAS* 64(12):1641-1645.

Quirijns, F.J., J.J. Poos and A.D. Rijnsdorp. (2008) Standardizing commercial CPUE data in monitoring stock dynamics: accounting for targeting behaviour in mixed fisheries. *Fisheries Research* 89(1):1-8.

Krkosek, M. et al. (2007) Declining wild salmon populations in relation to parasites from farm salmon. *Science* 318(5857):1772-1775.

And I can't look at a paper in *Science* or *Nature* anymore without recalling Ray Hilborn's provocative essay in *Fisheries* last year. If you missed it, or even if you didn't, it's worth a read:

Hilborn, R. (2006) Faith-based fisheries. *Fisheries* 31(11) 554-555.