

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to those of you who have sent in materials for the newsletter. I am always looking for contributions, so keep the newsletter in mind when you see an item that might be of interest to IFS. You can submit items by FAX, e-mail, or snail-mail. See addresses at end of newsletter. I also welcome your comments on the content and coverage newsletter, tips on information sources, abstracts of your papers in press, and items of interest.

IFS MEETING IN TAMPA '95

The Introduced Fish Section meeting in Tampa is set for 4:30-5:30 PM, Sunday, August 27th in the Hyatt Hotel following the Society EXCOM meeting (which runs through 3:30 PM). Please plan to attend if at all possible. Unfortunately, though there was strong interest by the Conservation and Science Division of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the special session on the use of nonindigenous species in the aquarium industry did not come together. Perhaps we can work this one out for a future meeting. The IFS will also be participating in the poster session with a showing of the "award winning video" recently completed by the Agricultural Extension Service (see following section). The poster session this year will focus on the contributed posters and the activities of the Sections. It should be an excellent recruiting opportunity!

STRANGERS IN OUR WATERWAYS

Strangers in Our Waterways: This is the title for the video, mentioned in several of the past newsletters, that was under development by the Agricultural Extension Service at Oregon State University. It is now complete and has already won accolades. It won the Gold Medal (1st Place!) at the 1995 Agriculture Communication Educators Awards. Congratulations and thank you to all of those in IFS (and there were many) who volunteered your time and talents to the making of the video. Come see the video at the Poster Session. It may also be shown at our Section meeting if there is sufficient time after Section business is completed.

Strangers in Our Waterways, VTP 023, is available by mail for \$30 from Publications Orders, Agricultural Communications, OSU, Administrative Services A422, Corvallis, OR 97331-2119. Make checks or money orders payable to OSU Extension Service.

CORRESPONDENCE

Exotic Fishes on the Information Highway Correspondent: Editor

Several sources of information on the internet relating to exotic/introduced fishes have come to my attention. The Fish-Ecology list <FISH-ECOLOGY@SEARN.SUNET.SE> is a forum for general discussions on the ecology of fishes and includes several hundred scientists and students world wide. Gene Buck also posts useful summaries of fisheries related information on the Fish-Ecology net (see Fish News below). The US Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a home page on the World Wide Web at "<http://www.fws.gov>". The US House of Representatives has a web site at "<http://www.pls.com:8001/his/cfr.html>" that provides access to federal regulations via the Internet Law Library.

Marine Fish Introductions In Southeastern Florida

..... Correspondent: Walter R. Coumtenay, Jr.

While many persons understandably are concerned about introductions made with discharge of foreign ballast water, another introduction vector -- aquarists -- is at work. One victim of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was a large marine aquarium, reportedly on a waterfront porch above a seawall at the edge of Biscayne Bay, just south of Miami, Dade County. Its former residents -- about six lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) -- were observed nearby and alive in the

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Bay several days later. Several individuals of lionfish have also been observed by divers off Palm Beach and Boca Raton, and another was caught by an angler from Lake Worth Pier, Palm Beach County (R. McAllister, pers. com).

Several years ago, a specimen of "panther grouper" or barramundi cod (*Cromileptes altivelis*) was caught in Tampa Bay, Hillsborough/Pinellas counties (M. Leiby, pers. comm.), and individuals of this Indo-Pacific serranid have been observed in nearshore waters off Boca Raton. Other marine exotics seen and photographed recently off southeastern Florida beaches include a western Pacific angelfish (yellowmask angelfish, *Pomacanthus xanthurus*) and balistid (blackpatch triggerfish, *Rhinecanthus verrucosus*), and an Arabian angelfish (*Pomacanthus asfur*) from the Red Sea and Gulf of Aman. There have been numerous reports for many years of royal gramma (*Gramma loreto*) having been introduced and seen outside its native range in the same waters (S. Cummings, C. Lavin, K. Norris, and C.R. Robins, pers. com.).

To date, all marine exotic fishes caught or observed in Florida waters have been adults, some of them quite valuable in the marine aquarium trade. The Arabian angelfish photographed off Boca Raton, for example, would cost well over \$200 if purchased retail (K. Norris, pers. comm.). These introductions indicate that aquarists are releasing unwanted pet fishes, and others may be "stocking" some fishes in hope of establishing the species for future commercial harvest. Although none of these fishes has yet been shown to be established, it is probably only a matter of time before one or more species become successful colonizers.

Systematics and Introduced Fishes Correspondent: Walter R. Courtenay, Jr.

Collette and Vecchione (1995) stated "Trained systematists should examine samples of introduced organisms to ensure their correct identification. Collectors and importers can easily be mistaken about taxonomy." They added, "Fishery scientists must collect specimens of introduced species and deposit them in archival museums for correct identification." Bruce and Mike were right on target as other recent publications prove.

Based on taxonomic revisions of sailfin catfishes by Weber (1991, 1992), Page (1994) has shown that sailfin catfishes established in Florida and earlier identified by J.N. Taylor (see Courtenay et al. 1984, 1986; 1991) and Ludlow and Walsh (1991) as belonging to *Pterygoplichthys multiradiatus*, often treated along with other lorocariid catfishes in the aquarium fish trade as "plecos", represent two species of the genus *Liposarcus*. In addition to several specimens of as-yet-unidentified species of *Hypostomus* collected from the same drainages (one considered as established near Tampa), two species of *Liposarcus* (*L. multiradiatus* and *L. disjunctivus*) are known to have established populations in Florida. Page (1994) has tentatively assigned common names to these exotics (subject to review by the AFS/ASIH Names of Fishes Committee). Sailfin catfish is the presently accepted common name for *L. multiradiatus*, established from Dade into central palm Beach counties of southeastern Florida, and vermiculated sailfin catfish has been proposed for *L. disjunctivus*, with established populations in Hillsborough County. Specimens examined by Page (1994) are deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

Literature Cited

- Collette, B.B., and M. Vecchione. 1995. Interactions between fishes and systematics. *Fisheries* (Bethesda) 20(1): 20-26.
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- Courtenay, W.R., Jr., Dawn P. Jennings, and James D. Williams. 1991. Appendix 2. Exotic fishes of the United States and Canada. Pages 97-110 *In*: A list of common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada, ed. by C.R. Robins, R.M. Bailey, C.E. Bond, J.R. Brooker, E.A. Lachner, R.N. Lea, and W.B. Scott. American Fisheries Society Special Publication 20.