

NEWSLETTER

of the Introduced Fish Section
American Fisheries Society

December 1993

Don Baltz, Editor

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From the outgoing President

A hearty welcome and congratulations to Dennis Lassuy as our newly elected President and to Larry Zuckerman as our new Secretary-Treasurer. You will have an enriching and rewarding year ahead as leaders of not only our section, but as part of the EXCOM of AFS. Thanks for volunteering and running.

Sincere gratitude to Don Baltz for taking over the newsletter, the most time intensive job in the section. Despite what Hiram has claimed, it is entirely my fault (and not his) that it was behind schedule and it is definitely Don Baltz's accomplishment that we have it back.

Some of the activities of the section that are ongoing are the production of a grass carp manual under the leadership of John Cassani, the production of a video under the leadership of Hiram, and our cosponsorship of one of the sessions at the Effects of Cultured Fishes in Aquatic Ecosystems Symposium, 12-17 March, in Albuquerque. This symposium, which is cosponsored by nine sections of AFS, will have a follow-up facilitated workshop at Halifax at the 1994 AFS meeting.

I have a few suggestions for the new leadership. I think we need to develop a procedural manual for the section. This will reduce the time that new officers need to become effective. We also need to develop some promotional material for the section so that we can maintain our membership at required levels.

Thanks to everyone who helped through the year and special thanks to Past-President Hiram Li. Your energy, enthusiasm, and leadership has been responsible for keeping the section moving. Hiram, you are my role model for being a Past-President, and I will stay active with the section.

From the incoming President

"Carpe Diem" (or perhaps *Carpe Anum*) - No, this is not a prescription for a healthy diet nor a description of the rate of cyprinid introductions, but a conscription for our section in the coming year. Introduced fish, and the introduction of assorted less interesting critters, are likely to be center stage in the coming year and we will need to play our part well.

On that stage are a number of items that are mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter (e.g., the cooperative Fish and Wildlife Service and Extension Service

video and IFS cosponsorship of a session at the Cultured Fishes/Aquatic Ecosystems symposium). There are also a number of other activities ongoing or recently completed. The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment recently completed its sweeping (391 page) analysis of "Harmful Nonindigenous Species in the United States." The study's summary (a separate 57-page document) describes the current system for dealing with introductions as "piecemeal, lacking adequate rigor and comprehensiveness." Certainly, our section and AFS as a whole can play a role in helping the nation improve upon that assessment. For copies (for a fee) of the summary or full report, contact: Publications, Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC, 20510-8025, or call (202) 224-8996. Also nearing completion, by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, is the Intentional Introductions Policy Review (IIPR) in which many of us have participated. Two years in the development and extensively reviewed, this report is scheduled to hit the halls of Congress in the Spring of 1994. Congress's plate will be very full with the Clean Water Act, Magnuson Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and other "minor" items like the Endangered Species Act; but with the IIPR and the OTA reports in their hands, we may see some form of Congressional interest in the issue - hearings, legislation, ...?

An internal IFS item -- as a section we are not "structurally" consistent with the AFS by-laws relating to section officers. Apparently, we are supposed to concurrently have a President and a President-elect. Somewhere we have gotten out of sync. We could try to fix it ASAP by holding a special election (for a brief-elect period) then following up with the normal election of officers. However, I believe it would be too cumbersome to try to pull off two elections in the same year. I will discuss this with the section EXCOM, but at this point recommend that we simply remain out of sync for this year and be sure we elect both a President (to serve 94/95) and President-Elect (95/96), along with the Secretary-Treasurer, in the next election cycle. Please be thinking about nominations (or volunteering for nomination?) for an extra full slate of officers. Let us hear from you (phone/address at end of newsletter). Don, Larry, and I will do our best to keep AFS, and especially IFS, members up to date on all of the above.

Finally, a hardy farewell and a big THANK YOU to Mark Konikoff for all his work as President - and his continuing work on the upcoming symposium. But please Mark, Hiram as your role model!?

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for the information, citations, comments, and announcements you have been sending to me. Your contributions make my job easier and ensure broader coverage for the newsletter. [Apologies from Sec-Treas. and US Postal Service for delays]

Have you seen...?

Bain, M. B. 1993. Assessing impacts of introduced aquatic species: Grass carp in large systems. *Environmental Management* 17(2):211-224.
ABSTRACT: Introduced species have created environmental benefits and unanticipated disasters so a priori assessments of species introductions are needed for environmental management. A checklist for assessing impacts of introduced species was developed from studies of introduced species and recommendations for planning introductions. Sterile, triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) are just beginning to be used as a biocontrol agent for the management of aquatic vegetation in open waterways. Potential impacts of grass carp in open systems were identified by reviewing grass carp biology relative to the impact assessment checklist. The potential consequences of introduced grass carp were reviewed for one case study. The case study demonstrated that conclusion about potential impacts and monitoring needs can be made despite incomplete information and uncertainty. Indicators of environmental impact and vulnerability of host systems were grouped into six categories: population control, hybridization, diseases and parasites, habitat alterations, biological effects, and management issues. Triploid grass carp can significantly alter habitat and biological resources through the secondary effects of reductions in aquatic vegetation. Potential impacts and significant uncertainties involve fish dispersions from plant control areas, inability to control vegetation loss, loss of diverse plant communities and their dependent species, and conflicts with human use of the water resource. Adequate knowledge existed to assess most potential consequences of releasing large numbers of triploid grass carp in Guntersville Reservoir, Alabama. However, the assessment of potential impacts indicated that moderate, incremental stockings combined with monitoring of vegetation and

biological resources are necessary to control the effects of grass carp and achieve desirable, intermediate plant densities.

Burger, J., and 6 others. 1992. Dominance of *Tilapia mossambica*, an introduced fish species, in three Puerto Rican estuaries. *Estuaries* 15(2):239-245.
ABSTRACT: We compared species presence, abundance, and size characteristics of fish in three brackish, coastal marshes at Humacao, Roosevelt Roads, and Boqueron, Puerto Rico, in February and March 1988. The three marsh ecosystems were similar with respect to the presence of large expanses of open water bordered by emergent vegetation, creeks, and mangroves, and all had some recreational use. We sampled fish using gill nets. *Tilapia (Oreochromis) mossambica* were the most abundant fish, accounting for 55-79% of the samples at all three marshes. Overall, *Tilapia* were both the largest (North Lagoon) and the smallest (Frontera Creek) at Humacao. *Tilapia* were most common in open lagoons rather than creeks or bays (except for Mandri Creek), and their distribution seemed unrelated to salinity. Tarpon (*Megalops atlantica*) were more abundant at low salinities, whereas other fish were more abundant at higher salinities.

Crossman, E. J., E. Holm, R. Cholmondeley and K. Tuininga. 1992. First record for Canada of the Rudd, *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*, and notes on the introduced Round Goby, *Neogobius melanostomus*. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 106(2):206-209.
ABSTRACT: A European cyprinid, *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*, the Rudd, has been captured in waters connected to the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence River, and specimens of a European gobiid, the Round Goby, *Neogobius melanostomus*, in Canadian waters of the St. Clair River. Both are new to the freshwater fish fauna of Canada.

Crowl, T. A., C. R. Townsend, and A. R. McIntosh. 1992. The impact of introduced brown and rainbow trout on native fish: the case of Australasia. *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries* 2:217-241.
ABSTRACT: Brown trout appear to be more damaging than rainbow trout. Stream fish faunas appear to be less affected than lake faunas. Trout are more often invasive in New Zealand than in Australia. Both trout introductions and land-use changes have affected native fishes.

Iartog, C. Den, F. W. B. Van Den Brink, and G. Van Der Velde. 1992. Why was the invasion of the river Rhine by *Corophium curvispinum* and *Corbicula* species so successful? *Journal of Natural History* 26:1121-1129.

Iowarth, W. 1992. Regulating the introduction of freshwater fish: the United Kingdom, the European Community, and beyond. *ICES Mar. Sci. Symp.* 194:21-30.
ABSTRACT: This paper provides an outline of the legislation operative in the United Kingdom relating to fish introductions according to its concern with the pathological and ecological aspects of introductions. The main enactments considered are: The Diseases of Fish Acts 1937 and 1983, the Impact of Live Fish Acts 1978 and 1980, the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976, the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, the Salmon Act 1986, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This is followed by a discussion of the difficulties surrounding the proposed European Community Directive on fish health COM. (89) 655, and the problem of securing ecological protection within the terms of the Directive. The paper concludes with some broader comparisons of legislation from other jurisdictions and an evaluation of the legislation discussed according to the requirements of Codes dealing with fish introductions.

itchings, P. 1992. Ballast water introductions of exotic marine organisms into Australia: Current status and management options. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 25:196-199.
ABSTRACT: A brief summary is provided of the fish species which have been introduced into Australia, probably by ballast water. The documentation of these introductions led to a baseline study of Twofold Bay, southern NSW, being undertaken by the Australian Museum, and subsequently to a review of all the species which had probably been introduced via ballast water into Australia. The discovery of toxic dinoflagellates in the ballast water of a number of ships entering Australia and in the sediment of several harbours in Australia highlighted the seriousness of the problem, especially for the developing aquaculture industry. The Federal Department of Primary Industry established a Scientific Working Group; this group developed a research programme which is now being implemented. Finally, the voluntary guidelines imposed by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service on ships entering Australian ports and deballasting are discussed.

McIntosh, A. R., C. R. Townsend, and T. A. Crowl. 1992. Competition for space between introduced brown trout (*Salmo trutta* L.) and a native galaxiid (*Galaxias vulgaris* Stokell) in a New Zealand stream. *Journal of Fish Biology* 41:63-81.

ABSTRACT: Increasing circumstantial evidence indicates that the introduction of brown trout (*Salmo trutta* L.) to New Zealand has caused a widespread decline in native fish populations but few of the underlying mechanisms have been investigated. The possibility of spatial competition was investigated by comparing the microhabitat used by native *Galaxias vulgaris* Stokell (Family Galaxiidae) that were sympatric and allopatric with brown trout. A range of microhabitat variables was measured from random locations where *G. vulgaris* were present in the Shag River during the day. *G. vulgaris* preferred coarse substrates, using them as resting places, but showed no other microhabitat preferences. This pattern of microhabitat use did not change in the presence of brown trout although galaxiid densities were considerably lower. Experiments in *in situ* stream channels confirmed that competition for space does not occur during the day even at high galaxiid densities. This situation changed dramatically at night, however, with *G. vulgaris* spending significantly more time in slower areas when trout were present. *G. vulgaris* feeds on drifting invertebrates, so brown trout could affect the galaxiids deleteriously by forcing them to occupy less profitable feeding positions. Interspecific competition for space, perhaps combined with competition for food and predation by trout, could explain declines in *G. vulgaris* populations.

Smallwood, K. S., and T. P. Salmon. 1992. A rating system for potential exotic bird and mammal pests. *Biological Conservation* 62:149-159.

ABSTRACT: Natural areas, natural resources, and agricultural production systems have been damaged by introduced species, and are jeopardized by future invasions. A rating system was developed to prioritize research and control efforts for preventing species invasions and eradicating established exotic pests. Four rating criteria were the species potential (1) to be introduced; (2) to establish; (3) to cause damage; and (4) to be controlled. Each species was rated independently for each criterion, and these ratings summed to provide a total score. The rating system was developed with 24 exotic bird and mammal species with well-known invasion and pest histories. We then rated the 14 bird and mammal species on the California Department of Food and Agriculture most unwanted exotic species list, and 10 other species. The rating system provided surprising objectivity for assessing the threat of species invasion and pest status. Of the 14 'most unwanted species', four were rated as a low threat, and 13 of the 34 other rated species were recommended for this list. Certainly, this list should be lengthened. A quick-response apparatus was also developed to provide information on perceived exotic species threats. It consisted of a data base of expert contacts and citations on exotic pest species damage, biology, ecology, and control technology.

Townsend, C. R. 1991. Guest Editorial: Exotic species management and the need for a theory of invasion ecology. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 15(1):1-3.

Townsend, C. R. and T. A. Crowl. 1991. Fragmented population structure in a native New Zealand fish - An effect of introduced brown trout. *Oikos* 61: 347-354.

Townsend, C. R., and M. J. Winterbourn. 1992. Assessment of the environmental risk posed by an exotic fish: The proposed introduction of channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) to New Zealand. *Conserv Biol* 6:273-282.
ABSTRACT: In 1987, a proposal was made to introduce channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) into New Zealand for aquaculture. An environmental impact assessment in support of the proposal incorporated details of channel catfish biology, its value to people, diseases, the history of introductions elsewhere, and possible impacts on New Zealand biota should the species become established in the wild. Although information on the environmental impacts of channel catfish introduced to other countries was limited and inadequate for assessing potential effects on freshwater ecosystems in New Zealand, a permit was granted to import fertilized eggs. These were hatched in quarantine, and subject to the favorable outcome of environmental trials were to be released for aquaculture. Subsequently, the requirement for trials was abandoned and instead an independent, two-man review team (the authors) was appointed to advise the Minister of Fisheries on whether the environmental risk posed by channel catfish was acceptable. The team considered the impact assessment and additional submissions from interested parties. The team concluded that there was a high probability that fish would escape and that they would be capable of

breeding and growing in a wide range of freshwater environments throughout much of New Zealand.

Williams, J. D., and D. P. Jennings. 1991. Computerized data base for exotic fishes: The western United States. Calif. Fish and Game 77(2):86-93.

14th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society, Call for Presenters.....Correspondent: Jim Clugston

NALMS is seeking presenters for its 14th International Symposium to be held in Orlando, Florida from October 31 through November 5, 1994. NALMS also welcomes posters, videos, panels, demonstrations, and other innovative presentations. Abstracts are due by June 1, 1994. The address is: NALMS 1994-Abstracts, Attn: Marty Kelly, SW Florida Water Management Dist., 7601 Hwy 301 N, Tampa, FL 33637. The organizers would welcome papers or a special session on introduced fishes in lakes. Contact Dan Canfield (904) 462-2554 for more information.

Nonnative Parasites Found on Ruffe.....Correspondent: Jon G. Stanley

Introduced organisms and invaders sometimes are accompanied by disease organisms. The ruffe was accidentally introduced into western Lake Superior from Europe by discharge of ballast water from ocean going vessels. It apparently brought five new species of parasites with it. James Selgeby at the National Biological Survey's Ashland Biological Station in cooperation with Russian scientists, Nikolai Pronin and Svetlana Pronina, found 22 parasitic species in ruffe captured in the St. Louis River near Duluth, Minnesota. Of these, 7 were native to North America, 5 were from Eurasia, and 8 were previously reported from both continents. A trematode, *Acanthostomum* sp., and a ciliate, *Scyphidia* sp., were of unsure taxonomy. The flagellated blood parasite, *Trypanosoma aceriniae*, and two monogenetic flukes, *Dactylogyrus amphibothrium* and *D. hemiamphibothrium*, are new to North America. All three have previously been reported only on ruffe. Two other new trematodes, *Ichthyocotylurus pileatus* and *Neascus brevicaudatus*, parasitize several European and Asian fish. None of the infestations were sufficiently intense to cause mortality in ruffe. Local species have not been examined to see if any parasite has infested North American species.

Transgenic Fish Research Bibliography (Hey Kids! The technology of Dr. Frank N. Stein is available now.....Correspondent: Hiram Li

Warmbrodt, Robert D. and Virginia Stone. Transgenic fish research: a bibliography.

Write to: Biotechnology Information Center, National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351.

Introduced Fish Section Projects.....Correspondent: Hiram Li

We have three on-going projects of which section members should be aware and in which they may participate.

1. John Cassani needs reviewers to comment on the draft of "Managing aquatic vegetation with grass carp: a practical guide for natural resource managers". John has done our section a tremendous service by gathering experienced practitioners to put together their ideas down on paper. I found the guide to be well balanced and thoughtful. John wants the book to address all issues of concern to us such as efficacy and safety. If you would like to review a copy, John's address is

Lee County Hyacinth Control District, P. O. Box 06005, Ft. Myers, Florida 33906. (813) 694-2174. FAX# (813) 693-5011.

2. Daniel Edge and Hiram Li are producing a video for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on aquatic species introductions. We have hired a script writer and production team to put it together. You can participate by sending us a short (1-2 pager or less) description of issues of your concern. We would also appreciate (and can pay for-within reason) any slides of study sites and introduced species (plant, invertebrates, fishes) you think may be of interest to us. We are aiming at the lay public with the message that management of species introductions must be conducted with considerable forethought and care, that unauthorized or inadvertent

releases by the public could have negative unforeseen consequences. We will respond to all who volunteer and may ask some of you to stand before the camera. Contact Dan Edge, Hiram Li or Irene Sussman for more information. Send documents to

Hiram Li or Irene Sussman, Oregon Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, 104 Nash Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-3801. Phone: (503) 737-1963, FAX#: (504) 737-3590, E-mail: LIH@ccmail.OSTU.edu

3. Past-President Mark Konikoff, is chairing a session down in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 12-17, 1994. The meeting is a special symposium of AFS entitled, "Uses & Effects of Cultured Fishes in Aquatic Ecosystems". AFS is concerned that there is a growing separation between hatchery folk and field managers. What are the legitimate concerns of "hatchery bashing"? When are hatcheries a necessary management tool? The program is nearing finalization, but please call Mark about participation. He is still looking for a few speakers (some travel funds are available).

The Allegory of Jurassic Park.....Correspondent: Hiram Li

Michael Crichton should give me royalties. I am having my students read Jurassic Park. I will tell them that the underlying themes of the story is the crux of managing introduced species for sport. For those of you who haven't read the book or seen the movie, Jurassic Park is the creation of a well meaning (but avaricious) tycoon. He hires scientists (well, gene splicers) to use high tech tools to develop an exotic theme park. Despite many precautions, technological systems fail and the exotic beasts run amok. It is not dissimilar to the stocking of sport fishes around the world. Whereas, some critics have called this "science bashing," the novel does portray realistic attitudes of some scientists (well, gene splicers) to miss the big picture. Of course the scientist that I related to, the one that saw the big picture (and knew about chaos theory), got eaten, so what do I know?

Lookout for spawning by grass carp.....Correspondent: Jon G. Stanley

Exotic species may barely persist in waters where they were planted or escaped until conditions take place that favor their life history strategies. The grass carp may be such an animal. They escaped into the Mississippi system in about 1972 but have not become abundant, despite a few cases of sporadic spawning. They may soon change. The unprecedented flooding in the Midwest in 1993 might have provided ideal conditions for spawning of grass carp. This fish spawns in large rivers and summer floods provide good conditions of current and turbidity, which stimulates migration to spawning sites and mating. Currents of 0.6 to 1.5 m/sec keep the semipelagic eggs suspended for a 20- to 30-hour incubation period. Faster hatching occurs at temperatures above 25 °C. The river length needed for incubation depends on the combination of current speed and temperature. At typical flood conditions in the Midwest, 50 to 80 kilometers of free-flowing water would be needed. Because Midwest rivers are normally confined to their main channels by levees, the larval grass carp were previously unable to get into backwaters of the flood plains. In 1993, they probably were transported through breaches in dikes into habitat well suited for survival and growth. The Midwest floods are likely to produce a strong year class in 1993 that should persist for about 10 years. If their proliferation causes environmental damage it will be long lasting. The present abundance of grass carp in the Mississippi system is not known. Without good information on their abundance, it is difficult to predict the strength of this year class. For more information contact Jon G. Stanley at the National Biological Survey, 1451 Green Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, 313-994-3331 ext. 200.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award Announcement.....Correspondent: Matt Sabo

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by AFS' Education Section and is presented annually to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. Nomination deadline is June 1, 1994. Additional information can be obtained from: Matt Sabo, Chairman, Excellence in Fisheries Award Committee, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, 504-388-4560.

Biological Control of Zebra Mussel?.....Correspondent: Don Baltz

At the September 1993 meeting of the Introduced Fish Section in Portland, Oregon, concerns regarding the use in Arizona of exotic fishes, black carp and roach, to control zebra mussel prompted the members to draft the following letter (dated September 30, 1993) to Mr. Joseph L. Janisch, Fisheries Chief, AZ Game & Fish Department, 2222 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85023. The body of the letter, signed by Paul Brouha, Executive Director AFS, follows:

The black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) and the roach (*Rutilus*) are two exotic fishes that are being promoted as biological control agents for the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*). The advice of the Introduced Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society is to delay any action in your management of the pest, zebra mussel. We believe that there is sufficient reason for caution:

1. J.R.P. French (Fisheries 18(6): 13-19) has reviewed evidence that native species of fish may be effective biological control agents.
2. French also states that "research has shown repeatedly that an introduced biological controller usually does not forage for unwanted pests or reside only in preferred habitats as pests."
3. Roy Stein (Ohio State University) has presented written testimony that such an introduction is unwise. John Cassani (Lee County Hyacinth Control District, Ft. Meyers), and expert on biological control of aquatic pests and IFS member, believes that black carp are unlikely to affect biological control of zebra mussels and that potential undesirable side effects are likely.
4. Richard Neves (Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University), an expert on rare and endangered freshwater mollusks, suspects that introduction of exotic mollusk predators will increase extinction rates for our native mussels. Much of our endemic fauna are at risk (Williams et al. Fisheries 18(9): 6-22) and additional stress could drive species to extinction.

The Introduced Fish Section has formed a task force to examine the potential benefits and risks of introducing exotic predators to control zebra mussels. The chairman of the Task Force is Jon Stanley. Other task force members are John Cassani, Richard Neves, Donna Turgeon, Dennis Lassuy and Jimmie Pigg. This task force has been charged to gather, examine, and synthesize information pertaining to black carp and to form a position statement by the Introduced Fish Section concerning its use as a biological control agent. We intend to publish this statement in Fisheries for comment by the membership of AFS and have the entire membership vote on this issue at the next meeting in Halifax. The Section's timetable is to draft the statement by October 15, 1993, bring the issue before the March 1994 mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee and have the final draft prepared for Fisheries by April 1994.

Until the black carp position statement is approved, we suggest close adherence to the protocol detailed in the enclosed AFS position statement [citation added by Ed.: Kohler, C.C. and W.R. Courtenay, Jr. 1986. American Fisheries Society. position on introductions of aquatic species. Fisheries 11(20):34-38.] concerning the introduction of exotic species. /Signed/ Paul Brouha

Treasurer's Report.....Correspondent: Alexander Zale

CREDITS:		
Beginning Balance	14 SEP 92	\$ 1575.67
Section Dues	30 OCT 92	28.00
Section Dues	18 FEB 93	705.00
Bulk Mail Refund	20 APR 93	51.05
Section Dues	10 MAY 93	252.00
Section Dues	10 AUG 93	56.00
	Sub-Total	2667.72
DEBITS:		
Printing (Newsletter)	30 JUN 93	\$ 91.38
Postage (Newsletter)	12 JUL 93	86.91
Bank Charges	SEP 92 - AUG 93	30.50
	Sub-Total	208.79

Total Credits	\$ 2667.72
Total Debits	208.79
Balance as of 1 SEP 93	\$ 2458.93

The balance of \$2458.93 is on deposit at BancFirst, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in Account Number 00907048390106 registered to AFS Introduced Fish Section.

MINUTES 14th ANNUAL INTRODUCED FISH SECTION BUSINESS MEETING

.....Correspondent: Alexander Zale

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
1 SEPTEMBER 1993, PORTLAND, OREGON

Past President Hiram Li, filling in for President Mark Konikoff, called the 14th Annual Business Meeting of the Introduced Fish Section to order at 10:05 AM. A quorum of members was not present.

Li announced the slate of candidates for Section officers: Kevin Hopkins and Dennis Lassuy for President; John Cassani and Larry Zuckerman for Secretary-Treasurer.

Li stated his resolve to get the Section moving in the right direction again.

Li reported on a video being produced by Oregon State University on the topic of intentional introductions into aquatic habitats. The video is not intended to bash exotics, but attempts to improve the public's understanding of the issues. Illegal stocking by private individuals is becoming commonplace and is harming fisheries. The 25-minute video is being produced to better inform the public about the consequences of such introductions. However, both the beneficial and deleterious aspects of introductions will be covered. Past President Li introduced Irene Sussman, the script writer for the video, who is seeking input and footage. She can be reached at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, 104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-3803; (503) 752-4735. Rich Noble recommended that extension offices, especially in the Southeast, be contacted; they possess considerable footage on the topic. Chris Kohler recommended that an announcement soliciting input and footage be included in the next newsletter. Noble inquired if introductions other than fish (e.g., hydrilla) will be included in the video; Sussman replied yes. Doug Fletcher noted that appropriate footage was available from *In-Fisherman*. Jimmie Pigg mentioned his work on inland silversides and asked if Sussman needed slides; Sussman replied no.

John Cassani provided an update on the grass carp manual. Its development grew out of a discussion he had with past President Paul Shafland. No good guide was available for this species, despite a great need for one. The manual includes six chapters and addresses all of the major issues concerning grass carp (e.g., management options, upsides and downsides). Some of the chapters are still in review, but most of the manual should be completed by the end of 1993. Jon Stanley moved that the grass carp manual be designated an official project of the Section. Kohler seconded the motion. Quorum rules were suspended (by a unanimous vote of the members in attendance) and the motion passed unanimously. Kohler asked about the format of the manual and how it will be published; he mentioned that publication outside the auspices of the AFS Editorial Office may be more expedient. Cassani responded that he had already discussed this with AFS Managing Editor Bob Kendall; without Editorial Office review, the manual cannot display the AFS or Section logos. Li stated that it may nevertheless be useful to have the Editorial Office look at the manual. Bob Wattendorf commented that it may be useful to have other AFS sections review the document. Cassani said that he would gladly send diskettes of the manual to any potential reviewers, but worried about the time such reviews would take. Kohler agreed with Wattendorf that review by other sections would be beneficial.

Past President Li announced that the new Newsletter Editor is Donald Baltz and that he would be pleased to receive material for the newsletter. His E-mail addresses are: OCDON@LSUVM.SNCC.LSU.EDU on Internet and OCDON@LSUVM on Bitnet. Li noted that the Section is reverting to its original plan of having the Newsletter Editor a non-voting member of the Section EXCOM separate from the President-Elect position.

Li asked for New Business, and Donna Turgeon brought up the black carp issue. The species has been brought into at least Arkansas and Missouri already,

reportedly to assess its utility in zebra mussel control. Malacologists are concerned about the impact of this fish on native mussels, many of which are federally listed. Kohler noted that black carp may already have been introduced into open waters because of this year's floods. Stanley reported that the species was imported for parasite control in aquaculture facilities (i.e., by controlling snails) and that it will continue to be used. Therefore, the Section should resolve that all fish released must be triploid. Wattendorf reported that he knew of one hatchery that had black carp that was flooded out and stated that control of diploid broodstock is paramount. Li proposed that the black carp be investigated immediately and that the Section produce a position statement on it. Dick Neves noted that abundances of some endangered mussels are so low that a predator like the black carp could literally wipe out these species. Introduction of the black carp may therefore violate the Endangered Species Act. Kohler observed that research is needed to assess the propensity of the black carp to consume freshwater unionid mussels. Fletcher wondered if it might not be a moot point, if zebra mussels displace native species. Neves noted that black carp may also eat listed or candidate snails. Noble opined that the membership was having a difficult time defining the issue and that a need existed to focus on black carp only. Li warned of the dangers of a long-lived triploid; i.e., that it may be just as bad as a fish that reproduces. Stanley noted that he did not quite agree with Li's contention because triploid grass carp are not considered problematic. Lassuy moved that the Section establish a committee to develop a position statement addressing black carp. Pigg seconded the motion. Althaea Langston noted that letters should be sent to the states now harboring black carp. Lassuy amended his motion to state that copies of the position statement be forwarded to these states; however, the amendment was not seconded. Kohler called for the question, which passed unanimously. Li asked Neves and Turgeon to serve on the committee, who, after paying their Section dues, agreed to serve. Dennis Lassuy, Jon Stanley, and Jimmie Pigg also volunteered to serve and Stanley was appointed Chair of the committee. Bill Shelton (not present) was identified as a possible additional committee member. Deadlines for the position statement were set as follows: Draft completed by 15 October 1993 and published in the December newsletter (Note: as of the mailing of the newsletter, the draft had not been received for inclusion. A separate mailing may be called for.); comments from the membership by 15 January 1994; Final Draft completed by 15 February 1994. It was noted that the Parent Society (i.e., Executive Director Paul Brouha) should be informed of our actions every step along the way and that the statement could be published in *Fisheries* and voted upon by the entire membership at the next Annual Meeting in Halifax. Some discussion ensued as to whether the statement would need to be submitted to the Environmental Concerns Committee and of difficulties encountered in the resolutions process.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Al Zale and approved. Li thanked Zale for serving as Secretary-Treasurer for an additional year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted by Alexander V. Zale, Acting Secretary-Treasurer

Meeting attendees: John Cassani, Doug Fletcher, Chris Kohler, Althaea Langston, Dennis Lassuy, Hiram Li, Dick Neves, Rich Noble, Jimmie Pigg, Jon Stanley, Irene Sussman, Donna Turgeon, Bob Wattendorf, Al Zale.

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