



**Annual Meeting  
Oct 1 – 2, 2009**

**Meeting Schedule**



# Welcome!

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the AFS is pleased to be holding its 2009 meeting at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

This year, we are experimenting with a new(ish) two-day meeting format that we hope will catalyze regional interest in Chapter activities. Over the course of the two-day meeting, you will be provided with plenty of opportunities to learn from and interact with other people who share your interest in fisheries and aquatic conservation. Our region is home to several major universities and colleges with graduate and undergraduate programs in fisheries science. Additionally, we have a number of state, federal and non-governmental organizations that employ professionals in a wide range of applied fisheries work.

The Chapter's purpose is to facilitate communication and advancement for individuals involved in the region's various fisheries-related endeavors. So, whether you are an established or aspiring academic, an agency biologist, technician, fisheries manager, or in any other way devoted to the field of fisheries, we hope that the Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting can be a positive resource for you.

Welcome to our 2009 annual meeting!

# Poster Presentations

Posters should be set up on Thursday Oct 1 at Stockton so that meeting participants can review the posters during breaks throughout the day. Presenters are encouraged to set up their posters as early as possible, including prior to the start of the meeting. **A "formal" poster session (presenters standing by their posters) will be held during the social at the Oyster Creek Inn from 6:15 to 7:15 PM.** We will help in transporting, setting up posters if needed. During the formal poster session, members of the awards committee will be interviewing poster presenters. Awards will be announced after the last talk on Day 2 (Friday, Oct 2).

- 1. Ecology of Estuarine Fishes: A Synthesis from the Temperate Waters of the Western North Atlantic (monograph).** Kenneth W. Able and Michael P. Fahay
- 2. Relationship between shoreline hardening and the nearshore fish assemblage in tributaries of the Delaware coastal bays: a preliminary assessment.** Richard G. Balouskus and Timothy E. Targett
- 3. Benthic habitat assessment** Lily Diehl, Tristan Hollingsworth, Alexa Kretsch, Christopher Snyder, Katelynne Wolf, and James A. Nickels
- 4. A pilot study of the importance of conch shell orientation to fishes in seagrass beds of San Salvador, Bahamas.** Geremea P. Fioravanti, Amanda E. Harris, Mitchell D. Davis, Jeremy W. Arvelo, Issac S. Patterson, & Wallace G. Zurakowski
- 5. A telemetry study of late stage juvenile Atlantic sturgeon, *Acipenser oxyrinchus* seasonal movements and habitat use in the Delaware estuary in 2007 and 2008 with comparisons to a similar telemetry study in 1997 and 1998.** Matthew T. Fisher, Jared D. Jacobini, and Craig A. Shirey.
- 6. Developing ecological indicators for spatial fisheries management using ocean observatory defined habitat characteristics in the Mid-Atlantic Bight** PIs: John Manderson, Josh Kohut, Matthew Oliver Research Assistants: Laura Palamara, Steven Gray Research Associate: John Goff
- 7. Effects of methylmercury on the biochemical composition of the estuarine fish, *Fundulus heteroclitus*** Samantha Nealer, Michelle Cox, and Ursula A. Howson
- 8. Effects of environmental contaminants on feeding behavior in larval *Fundulus heteroclitus*.** Sarah Opatovsky and Ursula A. Howson
- 9. Effects of ocean acidification on fluctuating asymmetry of otoliths in larval fish** Emma R. K. Simon, Allison Bennett, and Ursula A. Howson
- 10. Effects of contaminants on the predator avoidance behavior of mummichog, *Fundulus heteroclitus*.** Nicole Starinsky and Ursula A. Howson
- 11. Characterization of the black drum (*Pogonias cromis*) Fishery in the Delaware Bay** Jordan Zimmerman, Dewayne Fox

# Oral Presentations

Oral presentations will be no longer than 15 minutes. Each presentation will be followed by a 5 - minute question and answer period. If a talk ends early, we will move into the next presentation ahead of schedule. If a talk ends early prior to a break, we may have the next scheduled presenter speak prior to the break – just a warning in case you're planning on using breaks to put finishing touches on your slides! Presenters' PowerPoint files will be loaded onto a common laptop, so presenters should bring copies of their presentations on transfer media (e.g., flash drive or CD/DVD). Awards will be announced on Day 2.

## Day 1 (Thursday, October 1, 2009)

- 9:00 – 10:20                      **Social, Registration, Poster set up, NOAA Job Desk**  
*Catered breakfast (bagels, coffee, etc)*
- 10:20    **Welcome**                      **Dennis Weiss, Dean, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Jim Armstrong, Chapter President**
- 10:40    **Population and fishery dynamics of blue crabs *Callinectes sapidus* in a sub-estuary of Chesapeake Bay.** Robert Aguilar, Eric G. Johnson, Anson H. Hines, Paige M. Roberts, Michael R. Goodison, and Margaret A. Kramer.
- 11:00    **Combining telemetry and mark-recapture methods to study the population dynamics of American eels in Delaware.** Marissa G. Brady, Paul B. Conn, Larissa L. Bailey, Kyle W. Shertzer, Dewayne A. Fox.
- 11:20    **Development of resistance to an introduced pathogen by native oysters.** Susan Ford and David Bushek.
- 11:40    **Break**
- 12:00    **How do oyster populations respond to persistent disease pressure?** David Bushek and Susan Ford.
- 12:20    **Programmed cell death in *Karlodinium veneficum*, its induction by environmental factors and potential in bloom management.** Gregory Oliver, Dennis McIntosh, Daniel Terlizzi.
- 12:40    **Meter-scale telemetry of spawning winter flounder, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*, in a New Jersey estuary.** Thomas M. Grothues, Beth A. Phelan, Eleanor A. Bochenek.

- 1:00 Lunch provided (assorted sandwiches, pasta salad, chips, cookies, beverages)
- 2:00 Examining recruitment variability and short term vertical distribution patterns in early life history stage fishes in response to physical conditions in Delaware and Chesapeake bay. Edward A. Hale, Timothy E. Targett, and John E. Olney.

### **Day 1 (cont'd)**

- 2:20 Documenting habitat use and residency of adult Atlantic horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) in Delaware Bay through passive acoustic telemetry. Jennifer L. Hampton, Dewayne A. Fox, and Lori M. Brown.
- 2:40 Movement of summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) in relation to hypoxia in an estuarine tributary. Margaret H. Miller and Timothy E. Targett
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20 Interannual site fidelity of sand tigers (*Carcharias taurus*) to Delaware Bay. Johnny E. Moore, Dewayne A. Fox, Bradley M. Wetherbee and Camilla T. McCandless
- 3:40 Collection and transportation of young of the year weakfish for use in laboratory experiments. Michael Cinelli, and Dennis McIntosh.
- 4:00 Understanding estuarine habitat dynamics of winter flounder, (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) using acoustic telemetry. Joan Pravatiner
- 4:20 – 6:00 Break, NOAA Job Desk, Hotel Check-in
- 6:15 – 10:00 Social / Poster Session at Oyster Creek Inn (Transportation provided if desired, driving directions on page 35)

## **Day 2 (Friday, October 1, 2009)**

- 8:00** Breakfast provided (assorted pastries, fresh fruit, coffee)
- 9:00** A mine water supply demonstration project for the Limerick Generating Station. Gerald B. Waterfield and Bryan W. Lees.
- 9:20** Potential applications of particle tracking to fisheries management. Timothy T. Wynne.
- 9:40** Predator-prey interactions in the early life history of two eels (*Conger oceanicus* and *Anguilla rostrata*) in estuaries. Tori Musumeci, Jen Smith, Ken Able, and Mark Sullivan.
- 10:00** Break
- 10:20** Near - Surface ichthyoplankton in coastal habitats: comparisons between the ocean and an estuary in the New York bight during summer and fall. James Vasslides, Ken Able.
- 10:40** Swim bladder parasite prevalence and trace metal loads of the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) along an urbanized gradient in New Jersey estuaries. Mark Sullivan, Jeremy Gale, Monica Pepe, Ken Able, Tait Chirenje, Kirsten Holt, Ethan Hada, Peter Clarke.
- 11:00** Break
- 11:20 – 12:00** Awards, Business Meeting, Election of Officers
- 12:00** Depart for Marine Field Station - Lunch provided at field station