

No. 7	Northeastern Division	Randy Jackson
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Annual Report to the AFS Governing Board, August 2013

To: John Boreman, President

From: Randy Jackson, President, Northeastern Division

Date: 8 August 2013

I. Motion Report

(A) Recommended Motion: None

(B) Minority View: None

(C) Background for Motion: None

II. Activity Report

(A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

(AFS will be a global leader providing information and technical resources for the sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources).

The NED's Annual Business Meeting was held on 8 April 2013 in Saratoga Springs, New York. As is traditional, the Division's meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA). The 2013 theme was "Fish and Wildlife Means Business." The meeting attracted enough fisheries papers to fill 4 technical sessions and three fisheries themed special sessions (eel, sturgeon and the legacy of fisheries at Cornell University). Despite good attendance at this year's NEAFWA, attendance at the Business Meeting was limited and the Division still anticipates years of low turn out when meeting in conjunction with NEAFWA, due in part to costs and in part to meetings sometimes falling out of the geographic range of the Division. Alternative options are being considered, including a system where the annual NED Business Meeting is held in conjunction with Chapter meetings, rotating among those Chapters that have 2 day meetings. The New York Chapter has informally extended an invitation for the NED to hold its Business Meeting in conjunction with their annual meeting in 2015. The NED will continue to examine opportunities to make itself more relevant to Chapters and members, which may not be best served by continuing with the current model of meeting with NEAFWA.

The 2014 AFS Annual Society meeting will be held within the Northeastern Division in Quebec City, Quebec. Current and future officers of the Division and the Atlantic International Chapter have participated in several conference calls with Quebec personnel in charge of the meeting and identified opportunities to assist their efforts. Local organizers indicated assistance with program, fund raising and the raffle would be welcomed. NED will look into helping staff the Program Committee, fund raising will be looked into in more detail and a student raffle will be looked in to from students in the AIC in conjunction with students from within CARS. The Quebec Organizing Committee is currently developing an MOU with NED, AIC and the AFS.

The Atlantic International Chapter held its 38th annual meeting at Quimby Country in northeastern Vermont 23-25 September 2012. The meeting attracted 34 registrants and included 19 presentations and 2 posters. The 2013 meeting will be held at the Schoodie Education and Research Center in Acadia National Park, Winter Harbor, Maine 22-24 September 2013. The AIC will participate in the 2014 Annual Meeting of the AFS in Quebec, including holding their Annual Business Meeting there and is helping in development of the Meeting MOU.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held its annual meeting at the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge/DuPont Environmental Education Center in Wilmington, Delaware 1-2 November 2012. The meeting attracted 46 attendees with 22 presentations and 6 posters. The annual meeting location alternates between New Jersey and Delaware, with participation from southeastern Pennsylvania AFS members and the 2013 meeting will be held in New Jersey.

The 2013 annual meeting of the New York Chapter was held 31 January – 1 February 2013 in Watertown, New York. The theme of the meeting was “Fishing Promotion: Reaching Out to New and Old Anglers Alike.” The meeting attracted 115 registrants, including 16 students. Planning for the 2014 meeting in Geneva, New York is underway.

The Southern New England Chapter winter meeting was held on 16 January 2013 at the University of Connecticut’s Avery Point campus in Groton, CT. The meeting attracted 32 members, 20 students, 19 non-members and 4 retired professionals. The SNEC summer meeting was held 19 June 2013 at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. The meeting attendance was 79, with 30 students.

The Pennsylvania Chapter held its fall meeting on 26 October 2012 at the Stackhouse Conference Center of the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Presentation topics included Asian carp, eel and the Ellipito mussel. The spring

meeting was held 24 May 2013 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, PA with a theme centered around invasive species.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

The New York Chapter sponsored an Aquatic Entomology workshop in conjunction with its annual meeting on 31 January 2013.

The Southern New England Chapter sponsored a science writing workshop at Woods Hole on 7 February 2013. The workshop had 43 attendees.

The University of Maine Student Sub-Unit of the Atlantic International Chapter held regular meetings, both alone and in conjunction with the University Chapter of the Wildlife Society. They held workshops on building fishing rods and otolith analysis in early 2013 and sponsored a guest lecturer for the Wildlife Ecology seminar series at the University of Maine.

The NED provides leadership opportunities for its members. The NED provides members that serve on the AFS Continuing Education Committee, and to serve on the AFS Certification Board of Appeals.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

The NED gives recognition and monetary awards for the best fisheries student poster and paper presentation at the NEAFWA, and provides travel awards to students to the NEAFWA. The 2013 Best Student Paper Award was given to Molly Payne-Wynne from the University of Southern Maine, 2nd place went to Jan-Michael Hessenauer from the University of Connecticut and honorable mention to Kasey Pregler from the University of Connecticut.

The NED annually gives out the prestigious Dwight A. Webster Award at its Annual meeting and 3 other awards for contributions to AFS and fisheries programs (Meritorious Service, President's Award, and Special Achievement awards). The Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award is the most prestigious award given by the Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society. It was presented to Joan Trial in 2013.

The NED has a program to recognize its most senior members for their long-term commitment to the AFS and the NED through presentation of a hand-carved walking stick. The current holder of the stick is Mr. Thomas Dolan III (PA).

The NED operates the NED website, and provides 2 electronic newsletters a year to its members through the AFS list server, the newsletter is produced by

members of the University of Maine Student Sub-Unit which is provided \$200 funding for each newsletter issued.

All NED Chapters conduct annual meetings, and keep financial records and operate websites, with the exception of SUNY ESF, which does not maintain a web site.

The NED holds an annual meeting in conjunction with the NEAFWA which organizes the fisheries sessions at the NEAFWA. The division also conducts an annual audit of its financial operations.

The value of the Chapters/Divisions to the membership is to facilitate sharing of information and opportunities for members to interact and learn from experiences and knowledge of members from a broader geographic range than their individual scope of operations would otherwise allow. Continuing a 2012 Division goal, the NED EXCOM holds monthly conference calls to summarize the topics discussed at each month's AFS Management committee meetings and share among Chapters activities and ideas for increasing opportunities for members.

With a student chapter and sub-units throughout the Division, there are numerous mentoring opportunities for our members as well opportunities for students to develop professional contacts with fisheries professionals. These opportunities exist for the Atlantic International Chapter which interacts with the Maine sub-unit, the Southern New England Chapter members which oversee the AFS student sub-unit at the University of Connecticut; New York Chapter oversees the AFS student sub-units at Morrisville State College, Cornell University, SUNY Fredonia, and SUNY Cobleskill. SUNY ESF has a full Chapter, but is involved with the New York Chapter for many activities.

The Atlantic International Chapter encourages student participation by offering reduced registration fees for the annual meeting, travel stipends, and awards for best student presentation. AIC members stay informed of the chapter's activities throughout the year via periodic emails from the executive committee, the chapter's website, and the semiannually published e-newsletter.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter offers student presentation and poster awards which have been increased to \$150 for best presentation and \$100 for best poster. Students are provided free housing as part of attendance/registration. The Chapter also gives Presidential Awards.

The New York Chapter produces summer and winter editions of their newsletter, which is distributed to all chapter members. Led by Chapter Webmaster Erik Latremore, the New York Chapter website www.newyorkafs.org continues to

evolve and now includes an ecommerce capability allowing members to register for the annual meeting and subscribe for membership online for the first time via PayPal for meeting registrations.

The New York Chapter recognizes up to four awards at its annual meeting: The Professional Achievement Award, the Conservationist of the Year Award, Honorary Member Award, and the David Bryson Memorial Award. Student Best Paper, Poster, and Travel Awards are also given out.

The Pennsylvania Chapter provides for an electronic newsletter to its membership. The Pennsylvania Chapter also recognizes best student paper, recognition, and meritorious service awards.