

No. 13	Early Life History Section	Catriona Clemmesen-Bockelmann
---------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BOARD

TO: John Boreman, President
 FROM: Catriona Clemmesen-Bockelmann, President
 Early Life History Section
 DATE: August 5th, 2013

I. Motion Report

Action Requested: None
 Recommended Motion: None
 Minority View: N/A
 Background for Motion: N/A

II. Activity Report

A. Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments

The Section is an inter-disciplinary subunit of the Parent Society. It is the only organization of its kind devoted to those interested in early life-stages of freshwater, marine, and estuarine fishes, and related matters. Through our newsletter, website publications, and meetings (mainly the annual Larval Fish Conferences, LFC), we encourage and facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among our members.

Member Services (Professional Development, Diversity, Electronic Services, Science Based Information) and Information Transfer and Outreach (Visibility, Electronic Information Network, Professional Stature, Visibility)

Membership – The ELHS membership is comprised of Full and Affiliate members. Full members are AFS and ELHS members and have voting rights in the ELHS. Affiliate membership is available by payment of \$15 to the ELHS. Affiliates do not have voting privileges. As of 06/14/2013, we have 185 Full members and 34 Affiliate members. The Section continues to have significant international representation among its membership. Membership is drawn mostly from the USA and Canada but includes representation from 21 countries outside of North America.

Websites – The ELHS maintains a website (<http://www.elhs.cmast.ncsu.edu/>) containing information on upcoming meetings, relevant new publications, archived newsletters and conference proceedings, membership information, governance, officers, bylaws and rules, and links to related sites. Jeffrey Buckel serves as our Section's webmaster. The Section also maintains a website for its Conferences (LFCs) at

<http://www.larvalfishcon.org/> that has information on all matters about the current year's Conference and a listing of past years. Howard Browman serves as the webmaster for the Conferences website.

Newsletter and Communications – Two issues of the ELHS newsletter, *STAGES*, were distributed during the February 2013 – August 2013 period. Lee Fuiman continues as Newsletter Editor. *STAGES* is being published as an electronic version, allowing significant cost reduction and expanded capability for color photographs. The newsletter is emailed to all Full and Affiliate Section members, and made available on the ELHS website: <http://www.elhs.cmast.ncsu.edu/>. Newsletters contain summaries of our annual LFC and business meeting, general information, regional research reports, and Section-related activity summaries by regional representatives. Communication with the membership containing meeting registration information is also conducted via email on a regular basis.

Book development – There were no new activities during the period covered under this report.

Proceedings development – The ELHS is supporting the development of future proceedings publications and descriptions of early life-stages. There were no new activities during the period covered under this report.

Symposium development – The ELHS continues to assist members in the development of special theme symposia to be held in conjunction with the LFCs and other relevant conferences. The Early life history section has given a statement of support for a proposed symposium for AFS 2013, Little Rock Arkansas. Title: Red drum population productivity: Drivers and spatial scale. Organizers: Susan Lowerre-Barbieri and Michael Tringali.

Workshop development – The ELHS continues to assist members in the development of special workshops held in conjunction with the LFCs and other relevant conferences. There were no new activities during the period covered under this report.

Annual Meeting – Scientific exchange. The 2013 Larval Fish Conference (sponsored by the ELHS) was held June 2-6 in Miami, Florida, hosted by Su Sponaugle and Robert Cowen. It was well attended with 150 participants from over 20 countries. There were 8 theme sessions: 1) Reef fish as model species in ecology and management chaired by Lee Fuiman; 2) Ocean acidification/ climate change impacts on the early life history stages of fishes chaired by Chris Chambers and Sean Bignami; 3) Reproduction and early life history of highly migratory species chaired by Barbara Muhling; 4) Larval food webs and predator-prey interactions chaired by Joel Llopiz; 5) Advances and novel application of methods for the study of early life history stages of fishes chaired by Bob Cowen, Scott Holt and Klaus Huebert; 6) Ecology of early life history stages of larval fish chaired by Tom Hurst, Jeffrey Leis, Tony Miskiewics and Joan Holt; 7) FATE Science meeting (Larval Fish studies) chaired by John Lamkin; 8) FATE Science meeting (other studies) chaired by Sam McClatchie and Mandy Karnauskas. More information about the meeting can be found at <http://www.larvalfishcon.org>. The 2014 ELHS meeting will be in conjunction with the AFS meeting in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, August 17-21.

Annual Meeting – Section business. The ELHS's most recent annual business meeting was held in conjunction with the 37th annual LFC in Miami, Florida on June 4, 2013. Minutes from this meeting have been published

in the June issue of *STAGES*. The section is led by President Catriona Clemmesen-Bockelmann and Secretary Frank Hernandez. Jeff Buckel continues as the section's treasurer. Myron Peck is the new president-elect and Fred Scharf is the new secretary-elect. Howard Browman and Chris Chambers were appointed as members of the Ahlstrom Award Committee. Akinori Takasuka and Hubert Keckeis were appointed as new representatives for the Pacific Rim Region and the European Region taking over from Iain Suthers and Audrey Geffen.

Student Travel Grants – There were no travel grants available for student participation at the Miami meeting. Future travel awards will be depending on securing sufficient funds, and will be determined on a yearly basis. Several suggestions of raising money were discussed.

Sally Richardson Award – The ELHS's Best Student Paper Award (\$600), The Sally Richardson Award, was presented at the 2013 LFC to Sean Bignami of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami for his presentation entitled "Ocean acidification alters the otoliths of a pantropical fish species with implications for sensory function," co-authored by I. Enochs, D. Manzello, S. Sponaugle, and R. Cowen. Two honorable mentions were made for the Richardson award. These were: Alison Deary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, for her presentation entitled "Comparison of the development and ossification of the cranium in two species of South African drum (Sciaenidae), *Argyrosomus japonicas* and *A. thorpei*," co-authored by P. Patrick and N. Strydom; and Jason Boucher, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, for his presentation entitled "Modeling interannual variability in larval survival of Georges Bank haddock, *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*, with focus on the unusual 2003 recruitment event," coauthored by C. Chen, Y. Sun, and R. Beardsley.

J.H.S. Blaxter Award – The ELHS's Best Student Poster Award (\$300), The J.H.S. Blaxter Award, was awarded at the 2013 LFC to Igal Berenshtein of the Interuniversity Institute and Ben Gurion University for his poster entitled "The use of polarized light for orientation in coral reef fish larvae," co-authored by M. Kiflawi, N. Shashar, U. Wieler, H. Agiv and C. Paris.