

# Water Quality Matters



The Newsletter of the Water Quality Section of the American Fisheries Society

Fall 2003

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Georgina Lampman, President

HELLO, WATER QUALITY SECTION MEMBERS!

As the incoming president of our Section and being relatively new to it, I'm still amazed at the variety of issues, and topics in which our Section members demonstrate an interest. This was very evident in activities of the Section at the Annual Meeting in Quebec. The Section's symposium, "The Effects of Urbanization of Aquatic Systems," addressed issues from water quality monitoring to the socio-economics of landscape change. The selection of qualified posters for the Section's poster awards had topics ranging from bioassessment analysis to watershed restoration. Also, several of our members participated in sessions with presentations ranging from declines in native fish to community-based management.

The reason I bring this up is because I think this diversity of interests is both the strength and weakness of the Section. The strength lies in the vast experience of our members, working through the Section from all aspects of water quality as it relates to aquatic systems. We have experts on assessments, water quality, aquatic habitat, watershed processes, and the socio-economics of resource management. Think about it. In our Section bylaws, we have only 3 subjects —

watersheds, water quality, and aquatic habitat — but we address them from many perspectives: protection, abatement, standards, investigative methods, regulations, outreach, and education.

Because of the complexity of the water world, each combination of subject and perspective requires its own area of expertise, and therein lies the weakness. For any given issue that arises, we have far fewer than the 200+ members available to assist with Section actions. We may be established as a Section of experts in many disciplines, but we seem to function as many single-discipline subsections, each with its own experts. I have met some amazing Section members who actually have the expertise to cover the array of Section objectives, but I am guessing that most of us cannot make such a claim.

Why do I bring this up? Our Section has been declining in membership, which will eventually limit our strength and increase our weakness. As we lose members, we lose the ability to provide the Society and others with expert input on aquatic

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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ecosystems from the water quality perspective. We already have difficulty in finding volunteers to provide the high level of quality input that the Society has come to expect from the Section. With fewer people available for Section actions, we will eventually respond to fewer issues, meet the interests of fewer members, and provide less service to the Society and others. The eventual decline will make it difficult to gain and retain members, creating a self-perpetuating problem.

So, what to do? This is where all of you can help. Be involved! Use the Section! Talk to us! Talk to each other! I know, more easily said than done, but here are some ideas to make it easier:

- **Electronic currents.** Last year we instituted the electronic mailing list for the WQS Quick Communique. Note the communi- part of communiqué, as in two-way communication. Respond to requests made through the communiqué, and use the "reply" button or send me e-mail directly (glampman@fs.fed.us) to bring up issues and topics to

share with the rest of our Section. We don't know what you need if we don't hear from you.

- **Lateral phone lines.** Okay, I've never been a great fan of the telephone, but when it comes to issues that need immediate attention, give me a phone call (801-625-5358) so that the Section can make timely and meaningful response. Nothing beats face-to-face discussion, but as a Section of members spread across a few continents the telephone is the next best thing.
- **Dive in.** Just because you haven't heard anything from the Section on your issue doesn't mean that the Section has no interest in it. Send it in! Any issue or topic that comes in will be reviewed by the officers to determine if it fits with our bylaws, and if it doesn't, we'll suggest other more appropriate Sections and even assist with making contact for you. The point is that all of your issues are important, and the Section is here to help.
- **Spread your fins.** I work in the Great Basin and know marine ecology primarily from visits to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. When a Section member raised issues pertinent to the Pew Oceans Commission report, I was hesitant to read it because of my own limited experience, but once I did I found that most of the issues were water quality related and clearly within the objectives of our Section. Read about Section issues that may be foreign to you. Ask the Section for assistance when you need

input from outside your area of expertise. Let the Section facilitate the interactions needed for greater understanding and meaningful action.

- **Share the water.** We need to spread the word about who we are and what we do in order to recruit members, increase our capability for expert action, and improve our ability to stay current with issues to which the Section should actively respond. Try disseminating the WQS Communique and WQ Matters to others who may be interested in Section happenings, or send me e-mail addresses for this purpose.
- **Pool ideas.** If you have suggestions for how we can improve our Section's response and outreach, please let me know. Do we need Section flyers for dissemination at AFS or other functions? We know we need a website, and we're hoping to institute one this year. Perhaps in the future we may want a chat room for real time discussions on hot topics in water quality. Other ideas? Two hundred plus idea-generating brains are better than one.

To those of you who are Section members, thank you for the support and I hope you will renew your membership for 2004. Please share with others your reasons for joining and share with us your ideas on how the Section can better serve you.

Enjoy the winter! — Georgina

**Deadline for Spring 2004  
Newsletter**

**April 1, 2004**

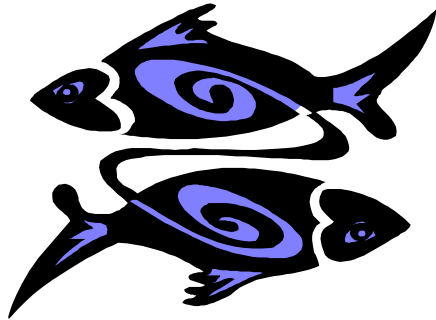
**Contact: Bob Hughes,  
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## *WATER QUALITY SECTION MISSION*

The objectives of the Water Quality Section are to:

- (1) maintain an association of persons involved in the protection of watersheds, water quality, and aquatic habitat and in the abatement of water pollution and aquatic habitat and watershed deterioration;
- (2) encourage improved professional and technical standards in the investigation, abatement, and regulation of water pollution, aquatic habitat, and watershed problems;
- (3) focus attention on watershed, aquatic habitat, and water quality concerns by conducting symposia, workshops and projects, collecting and assembling information for publication, and distributing results to Society members and the public; and
- (4) promoting development and use of standardized procedures and techniques for investigating and regulating water quality, aquatic habitat, and watershed problems.





## SECOND ANNUAL AFS WATER QUALITY SECTION POSTER AWARDS

At Quebec 2003, the Section's panel of six judges was busy judging posters for the second annual Water Quality Section Poster Award. The overall judging covered 66 student posters and 160 professional posters to identify the one for each category that best depicted the mission and objectives of the Section. This year's student award went to Emily Phillips (the student) and William E. Sharpe for the poster titled "Brook Trout and Associated Fish Species as Indicators of Episodic Stream Acidification."

This year's professional award went to Pat Cirone, Dana Davoli, and Patti Howard for the poster titled, "A Columbia River Basin Fish Contamination Survey 1996-1998." The poster winners received cash awards and certificates as well as blue ribbons.

## WQS ELECTION RESULTS

At our annual business meeting, our outgoing president (and now past president) Larry Brown announced the results of our membership elections for president-elect and secretary-treasurer. Our new president-elect is Thomas Simon, who is currently with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Bloomington, IN. Tom's vast experience in aquatic ecology, bioassessment, and riparian processes will go a long ways towards furthering the efforts of the Section. John Meldrim was re-elected as secretary-treasurer, which goes to show that the Section membership appreciates a good thing when it has it. Congratulations Tom and John, and many thanks to Anne Brasher and Kevin Whalen for running for office!



WQS President, Georgina Lampman, presents the "Best Professional Poster Award at the 2003 AFS annual meeting in Quebec.

# *AFS - WQS 2003 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES*

*by John Meldrim, Secretary-Treasurer*

The Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Water Quality Section (AFS/WQS) took place in the Courville Room of the Hilton Quebec Hotel, Quebec, Quebec on August 12, 2003, beginning at 12:30 pm. President Larry Brown presided.

Call to Order. President Brown called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves. Of the 14 members in attendance, four were AFS/WQS Past-Presidents: Chuck Coutant, Carlos Fetterolf, Bob Gray and Bob Hughes. Copies of the Meeting Agenda, the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting and the 2002-2003 Secretary-Treasurer's Report were provided to the attendees.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Having determined that a quorum (10 members) was present, President Brown requested an approval of the Minutes of the 2002 AFS/WQS Business Meeting. The Minutes had been published in the Winter 2002 -2003 AFS/WQS Newsletter, and copies of those Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections. There being no discussion, Bob Gray moved that the Minutes be accepted; Carlos Fetterolf seconded; passed unanimously.

## **Finance and Audit**

John Meldrim discussed the 2002-2003 Secretary-Treasurer's Report, which had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. On July 31, 2003, AFS/WQS had 275 members and \$11,836.66 in the treasury. The annual financial audit of the AFS/WQS treasury records was conducted by President-Elect Gina Lampman and Past-President Bob Gray prior to the meeting. Bob Gray reported that all records were correct and in order. There being no discussion, the Finance and Audit Reports were accepted as presented.

## **AFS/WQS 2002-2003 Budget**

This is the second year that AFS/WQS has had a proposed budget. Rising costs prompted the AFS/WQS Executive Committee to request the Section President in 2001 to prepare a proposed budget for the forthcoming year. President Brown reported on the AFS/WQS budget proposed for 2002-2003, comparing it to the actual income and expenses of the Section. The budget pro-

posed for 2002 - 2003 assumed an income of \$2,250, based on membership dues and interest from savings, and expenses of \$2,750 (including newsletter, travel, annual meeting and poster awards). This was a negative cash flow budget of \$500 for the year. The actual income was about \$1,900 and expenses were about \$2,600, resulting in a deficit of about \$700.

For 2003-2004, President Brown proposed a budget having a deficit of \$600, and projected a budget for 2004-2005, also with a deficit of \$600. Although the projected expenses exceed income in both those budgets, as well as the actual expenses in 2002-2003, sufficient funds are available in the AFS/WQS savings account to cover the deficits. Further, the dividends from AFS/WQS mutual funds were not included in the annual income projections because they are too variable to be reliably predicted. Discussion followed, addressing various cost items and how to reduce the costs. It was noted that the newsletter cost has been reduced by making the newsletter electronic, rather than a paper copy. Motion to pass the proposed budget was made by Chuck Coutant; second by Bob Gray. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **AFS/WQS Resolution**

The AFS/WQS Resolution, "Implementation of a National Assessment Program for Surface Waters," was passed by the Section, but was not forwarded to the AFS Governing Board by the AFS Resolutions Committee because of procedural problems and problems with definitions of technical terms. The resolution, as originally submitted, had been submitted 60 days prior to the meeting, as required. However, when passed by the Section and resubmitted, the submittal was only 30 days prior to the meeting (a procedural problem). Additionally, the Resolutions Committee felt that some of the technical terms in the resolution were not well defined, making it difficult to understand. Because the USEPA, the agency for whom the resolution was intended, would have no difficulty in understanding the technical terms, President Brown stated that we would send the resolution directly to the agency as coming from the AFS Water Quality Section. This would keep the resolution timely. Having been passed by the Section, no motion to do so was required. (Editor's note: the resolution was mailed to

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*WQS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES*  
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the USEPA offices of water and research by President Lampman. Also an omission of Maryland from the list of states employing probability surveys and biological indicators was corrected in the final version thanks to an email from an alert WQS member from that state).

### **AFS/WQS Membership Survey**

President Brown reported the results of the membership survey that had been distributed in the Summer 2003 Newsletter. He stated that he originally sent the survey via e-mail to the members who had not renewed their membership. Because most of those were not deliverable, he believed that these were students that had moved on. Of those that responded to the survey in the Newsletter, most responded positively to the questions. (See survey results below).

Additionally, most surveyed indicated that AFS/WQS should have a website. President Brown stated that he would begin the efforts on the design of the website. The website would be connected to the AFS website. It was suggested that he could contact the AFS Computer Users Section for help in preparing the website. Thom Whittier noted that effective websites are frequently updated. Bob Hughes moved that President Brown be authorized to spend whatever is reasonable to establish the website; seconded by Bob Gray; passed unanimously.

### **Governing Board Report**

President Brown summarized the proceedings of the AFS Governing Board Meeting that preceded the 2003 Annual AFS Meeting. His report consisted of the following 10 topic items: (1) The InfoBase (the electronic database of AFS journal articles) continues to grow, with 25 years of articles from Fisheries now included. (2) The Hutton Program is doing well and is growing. (3) The AFS book publishing program is growing with eight to sixteen publications per year. AFS is now recognized as an important publisher in the field of fisheries science. (4) The mortgage on the AFS Headquarters Building has been paid. (5) Because of stable finances, there will be no dues increase this year. (6) The final draft of Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research has been accepted by the Governing Board. These will be published in the near future. (7) The effort to establish the Fisheries Conservation Foundation is nearing completion, with bylaws and IRS requirements being completed. (8) The disposition of the AFS Raffle proceeds has been resolved

to perpetually allocate 70% of the proceeds to the Skinner Fund and 30% to the AFS unit that hosts the AFS Annual Meeting. (9) The efforts to increase the visibility and stature of AFS's aquaculture journals, North American Journal of Aquaculture and Journal of Aquatic Animal Health, will be furthered by prompting the Editorial Boards to recruit international editors and to add an editor for each journal to solicit articles. (10) The forthcoming Fourth World Fisheries Congress meeting is progressing very well, with fund raising for the meeting exceeding the goals.

### **AFS/WQS Urbanization Symposium and Book**

President Brown reported that the AFS/WQS symposium, The Effects of Urbanization on Aquatic Ecosystems (one of 20 concurrent sessions held at this year's AFS Annual Meeting), was well attended, with 25 to 40 people being in attendance throughout the symposium. AFS Books has approved the publication of the symposium. Most of the papers presented during the symposium will be included in the book. The book is expected to be out next year.

### **Electronic Newsletter**

AFS/WQS Newsletter Editor and AFS/WQS Past-President, Bob Hughes, reported that two editions of the electronic version of the Newsletter had been produced. He requested feedback on these to determine where improvements could be made. He noted that having an electronic newsletter was "tidier" to prepare, easier to mail and halved the newsletter cost. Past-President Carlos Fetterolf suggested looking at the International Fisheries Section Newsletter as an example of a "user-friendly" electronic newsletter.

### **AFS/WQS Election Results**

President Brown announced the results of the election of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer for the next two years. There were three excellent candidates for the office of President-Elect: Anne Brasher, Tom Simon and Kevin Whalen. President Brown reported that it was a close race, with Tom Simon the winner. John Meldrim was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

### **AFS/WQS Poster Awards**

In an effort to give AFS/WQS higher visibility within the Society, this is the second year the Section will present an award for the Best Student Poster and the Best Non-Student Poster addressing water quality and aquatic habitat concerns consistent with the mission of the Section. President Lampman reported that, at the time of the AFS/WQS Business Meeting, the judges had not yet



reached a decision concerning the winner in either category. Certificates and checks for \$100 will be awarded for each of the winning posters when the judges reach their decisions.



### Installation of President Lampman

With a round of applause from those in attendance, President Brown changed chairs with President-Elect Gina Lampman, and turned the meeting over to (now) President Lampman. President Lampman stated that one of her first duties and privileges was to present (now) Past-President Brown with a plaque of appreciation for his service as President of AFS/WQS. She read the certificate aloud and presented it, in its frame, to Past-President Brown.

### Pew Report 10% Urbanization Threshold

President Lampman reported that AFS/WQS had been requested by AFS/WQS member Bruce French to discuss the 10% urbanization (impervious surface) limitation threshold needed to protect aquatic ecosystems in a watershed, as stated in the Dana Beech Report (done for the Pew Report). Past-President Brown noted that what was being requested was a discussion of the adequacy of a limitation of 10% impervious surfaces for that threshold, and if not 10%, what should the threshold be. Past-President Bob Hughes suggested that the topic be addressed as a chapter in the forthcoming publication of the AFS/WQS symposium on the Effects of Urbanization on Aquatic Ecosystems. Past-President Brown stated that he

would attempt to do so. President Lampman noted that the AFS Marine Fisheries Section and AFS Estuaries Section were preparing reports for AFS on sections of the Pew Report. Those sections could provide resource contacts on the topic. Past-President Carlos Fetterolf recommended that the program developed under the Connecticut Sea Grant to advise governments concerning reducing urban runoff into streams be included in the forthcoming urbanization symposium publication. He stated that he would send information on the Connecticut program to Past-Presidents Brown and Hughes, who are editors of that book.

### AFS/WQS Membership Decline

Past-President Carlos Fetterolf noted that all AFS Section memberships are in decline. The decline does not reflect poorly on AFS/WQS, it is a matter that members are attempting to save money.

### Environmental Advocacy

Past-President Carlos Fetterolf noted the request for AFS to provide scientific information to the US President and Congress that was made during the impassioned acceptance speech of the Canadian politicians who received the AFS Fishery Conservation Award. That, he said, is responsible environmental advocacy.

### AFS/WQS-Sponsored Symposia for 2004

Past-President Carlos Fetterolf noted that the focus of the 2004 AFS Meeting in Madison, WI was on watersheds, and recommended that AFS/WQS sponsor symposia on that topic. Past-President Bob Hughes stated that he and Li Wang & Paul Seelbach (both with Michigan Institute for Fisheries Research) were organizing such a symposium, and President Lampman stated that she was organizing such a symposium with respect to agriculture.

### AFS/WQS Book Sponsorship

Past-President Larry Brown moved that AFS/WQS contribute \$1,000 as a sponsor to publish the AFS/WQS symposium at the 2003 meeting, *The Effects of Urbanization on Aquatic Ecosystems*. Carlos Fetterolf seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion (in which it was noted that AFS will publish the book without our support, but would not share any of the profits from its sale with AFS/WQS), the motion passed unanimously.

### Adjournment

Bob Gray moved for adjournment; seconded by Thom Whittier. The motion passed unanimously.

# *ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE AFS - WQS*

## *FOR 2002-2003*     *by John Meldrim, Secretary-Treasurer*

### **Membership**

The American Fisheries Society Water Quality Section (WQS) membership through July 2003 is about 9% below the July 2002 level. As of July 31, 2003, WQS had 275 members, as compared to 302 members on July 31, 2002; 317 members on July 31, 2001; 321 members on July 31, 2000; 332 members on July 31, 1999; and 345 members on July 31, 1998. At the end of 2002, WQS had 309 members, an increase of 7 members above the level on July 31 of that year. AFS membership renewals for 2003 are still being received, and it is likely that the 2003 WQS membership will again increase by year's end.

### **Financial Status**

The following WQS treasury report is for the 2002-2003 fiscal year (August 1, 2002 - July 31, 2003). The First Union National Bank checkbook balance on August 1, 2002 was \$657.98, with an additional \$2,505.03 in the First Union National Bank savings account and \$9,014.06 in Delaware Investments American Government Bond Fund (a mutual fund that "seeks high current income consistent with safety of principal by investing primarily in debt obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities"), totaling \$12,195.07 in the WQS treasury. As of July 31, 2003, the checkbook balance was \$955.44, the savings account balance was \$1,511.14 and WQS owned 1,207,484 shares of the American Government Bond Fund. The closing price of the American Government Bond Fund on July 31, 2003 was \$7.76 per share, resulting in an account balance of \$9,370.08. The resulting total in the WQS treasury as of July 31, 2003 was \$11,836.66. This is \$358.41 less than the July 31, 2002 balance of \$12,195.07.

Income during the 2002-2003 fiscal year was \$2,247.56. Of this, \$1,892.00 came from membership dues. This compares to \$2,114.00 received in dues over the same period during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The additional 2002-2003 income consisted of \$6.11 in interest on the savings account and \$349.45 in dividends from the Delaware American Government Bond Fund. During the

2002-2003 fiscal year, the savings account had an interest rate between 0.24% and 0.51%, and the 30-day yields for the Delaware American Government Bond Fund were between 1.35% and 2.60%. As of July 31, 2003, the 30-day yield was 1.35% and the annual yield was 7.08%.

Total expenses during the fiscal year were \$2,594.54, of which \$1,235.98 was for publication and mailing costs for the WQS Newsletter; \$885.08 was for WQS President travel; \$246.96 was for expenses related to the 2002 WQS Business Meeting; and \$226.52 was for the WQS poster awards.

### **Concluding Remarks**

As of July 31, 2003, the WQS had 27 fewer members than on the same date in 2002. The decrease is higher than in previous years and the trend of declining membership in WQS needs to be addressed.

The WQS treasury had a net decrease of about \$360. From time to time, the Section has had such decreases, and the decrease is not large in comparison with previous years. WQS last had a net decrease in the treasury during the 1998-1999 fiscal year of about \$600. In 2002-2003 (as in 1998-1999), the decrease resulted from delays in cash flow in our receipt of dues from the AFS home office and reduced membership. The amount of the decrease in 2002-2003 was reduced by the positive performance of our mutual fund (which had an annual yield of over 7%). Total expenses during the 2002-2003 fiscal year (\$2,594.54) were \$357.60 greater than in the previous fiscal year (\$2,236.94), but included the costs for three Newsletters (two Newsletters in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, plus carried-over expense for the second of the two Newsletters published in the previous fiscal year) and the cost of our poster awards instituted in 2002. Nonetheless, with declining membership, the increase in value of our Delaware American Government Bond Fund account will not ultimately sustain spending at the 2002-2003 level. Membership needs to increase. That means we all need to recruit at least one new member.



Budget Items	2002-2003 Budgeted	Actual (8/1/02- 7/31/03)	2003-2004 Budgeted	2004-2005 Projected
<b>Income</b>				
Dues	\$2,240	\$1,892	\$1,995 <sup>5</sup>	\$1,995 <sup>5</sup>
Interest on Savings	\$10	\$6.11	\$10	\$10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,250</b>	<b>\$1,898.11</b>	<b>\$2,005</b>	<b>\$2,005</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Newsletters	\$1,050 <sup>1</sup>	\$1,235.98 <sup>2</sup>	\$790 <sup>6</sup>	\$830 <sup>6</sup>
President's Travel	\$1,200	\$885.08	\$1,200 <sup>7</sup>	\$1,200 <sup>7</sup>
Office Supplies	\$70	\$0	\$70	\$70
Business Meeting	\$230	\$246.96	\$250	\$250
Poster Awards	\$200	\$226.52 <sup>3</sup>	\$300 <sup>8</sup>	\$260 <sup>9</sup>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,750</b>	<b>\$2,594.54</b>	<b>\$2,610</b>	<b>\$2,610</b>
<b>Income-Expenses</b>	<b>(\$500)</b>	<b>(\$696.43)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>(\$605)</b>	<b>(\$605)</b>

The price per share performance of our mutual fund (the Delaware American Government Bond Fund) continues to be positive, primarily as a result of continued low interest rates and the mediocre performance of the U.S. stock market. When interest rates are low, the demand for high yield bonds goes up, increasing the price of the shares of our fund. Volatility in the U.S. stock market also contributes to the continued high share price of the fund. However, short-term volatility in the share price can be expected to occur with this investment as well and to affect its value. Nonetheless, given the condition of the economy in the U.S. and internationally, the outlook for this fund, as a fixed-income investment, continues to be good in the short term. As the economy improves and funds begin to flow back into the stock market, the performance of this fund may decline. Thus, the WQS Finance Committee continues to watch the economic situation for adverse conditions that may affect the value of the investment, and will take appropriate action should the situation warrant. For the foreseeable future, WQS remains financially sound.

#### 2002-2003 Budget Notes

<sup>1</sup>Budget based on 2 Newsletters

<sup>2</sup> Cost based on 3 Newsletters. Cost of first 2 Newsletters = \$861.62. Cost of first electronic Newsletter = \$375. Estimate based on 2 Newsletters plus 5% increase.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate did not include price of certificates and frames.

<sup>4</sup> Loss partially offset by interest gain in investment fund. The net budget decrease for the Section is approximately \$360.

#### 2003-2004 Budget Notes

<sup>5</sup> Based on projected 285 members by year's end.

<sup>6</sup> Estimate based on most recent issue at \$375 plus contingency for increase.

<sup>7</sup> Actual costs depend on President's arrangements with employer

<sup>8</sup> Includes prizes, ribbons for 3 years, AFS certificates and frames

#### 2004-2005 Budget Notes

<sup>9</sup> Prizes, certificates and frames

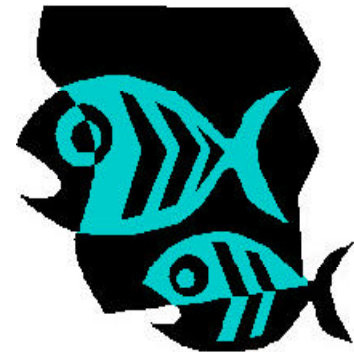
## *MOVING ON TO THE PAST-PRESIDENCY*

*by Larry Brown, Past-President*

I was pleased to pass the presidency of the Water Quality Section to Georgina Lampman at the Annual Meeting of the Parent Society in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. I am confident that Georgina will provide excellent leadership and I know she is already working hard. I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Past-President Bob Hughes for all his help over the last 4 years in learning and fulfilling the duties of the presidency. I hope I can provide similar support to Georgina. I also hope that Bob maintains his high level of involvement in WQS leadership and activities.

I also thank John Meldrim for his long-term involvement in WQS as its perennial Secretary-Treasurer. I'm sure that few members realize the extent of John's activities for WQS, which include managing WQS finances, taking notes and preparing minutes for the annual business meeting, and making the arrangements for the always excellent refreshments served at the annual business meeting. Anyone who has ever dealt with hotel caterers knows that this is not necessarily a trivial task! John also contributes a long and sharp institutional memory.

Additional thanks to Bob Gray, another Past-President who has maintained a high level of involvement in WQS activities. Bob also contributes a considerable institutional memory to the WQS leadership and continues to help in many ways. For example, he served as a moderator at the WQS sponsored symposium at the Annual meeting. Finally, I offer a sincere thank you to all the WQS members that contributed their time to any aspect of WQS activities during the 2 years of my presidency. The WQS depends on your involvement to stay active and relevant.



# *RESULTS OF THE WATER QUALITY SECTION SURVEY*

*by Larry Brown, Past-President*

In the last Newsletter and via a follow-up posting on the WQS listserv, I circulated a survey to determine two things. First, why does WQS lose members? Second, does the WQS fulfill the expectations of the membership? To help answer the first question, I also sent direct e-mails to members that did not renew their memberships for 2003. In all, I received 38 completed surveys. I summarize the results below.

## **Question 1: For non-renewing members, why did you choose not to renew?**

First, I must apologize for the wording of question number 1. Several members were led to believe that they had not renewed their membership when they had. I received very few responses to the first question. Most of the direct-mails I sent bounced back as undeliverable. I suspect these bounces were the result of general turnover in membership. Many of these addresses were academic and I suspect they belonged to students that had graduated and moved on to professional areas outside of fisheries or decided not to renew membership after losing student status. Two members indicated they had simply forgotten to renew WQS membership, 1 member felt uninformed about WQS activities, 1 member indicated the WQS did not address the areas expected by the member, 1 member switched Section affiliations to one closer to his interests, and 1 person was no longer an AFS member.

## **Question 2: Are you aware of the mission of the WQS as laid out in the bylaws?**

Twenty-four members answered yes and 14 members answered no to this question. The number of no responses to this question concerned me. Many members and nonmembers remain unaware that the WQS addresses issues of habitat quality in addition to issues of traditional chemical water quality. To help resolve this concern I requested that the Newsletter include a statement of the WQS mission in every issue (see page 3). Have a look in this issue to see if you really do understand the breadth of the WQS mission.

## **Question 3: Do you think the Section's level of activity (letters, reviews, symposiums, etc.) is sufficient?**

Twenty-three members answered yes, 5 answered no, and 8 were unsure. The high number of yes votes was gratifying, indicating that the WQS is perceived as active and responding to the needs of the membership and the resources. One response requested more advocacy from the WQS. Presumably, that would mean more activities such as the resolution on monitoring voted on in the last issue of the Newsletter. Several members observed in their response to this question that the growth of SETAC has drained away membership and consequently lessened the ability of WQS to become involved in issues. Finally there was a suggestion for more activities at the Parent and Division levels targeted at informing managers about water quality and habitat issues of importance to fisheries management. I certainly agree that there is room for additional communication regarding WQS issues at all levels of AFS. However, such activities will require additional involvement of interested members. If you have ideas for such activities, feel free to approach the leadership for help.

## **Question 4: Do you tend to agree or disagree with the positions taken by the section in its letters?**

Thirty-five members usually agree. Two members indicated a variable level of agreement and 1 new member indicated no opinion. This response was gratifying but it probably simply shows that AFS members that usually disagree with our positions either never join the WQS or drop their WQS membership after the first year. The response does demonstrate that the WQS leadership does reflect the prevailing opinions of the membership.

## **Question 5: Are there other activities you think the Section should be doing?**

Fifteen members simply answered no, suggesting they thought the range of activities already undertaken was adequate. Four members responded yes but offered no specific suggestions. There was actually a fairly long list of suggested activities from other members. Some were described in detail and others in more general terms. I have summarized the list below:

*(continued on page 12)*

*WQS MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS**(continued from page 11)*

Four members proposed regular symposia at Parent Society Annual Meetings. WQS-sponsored symposia are fairly common at the Parent Society Annual Meetings but they have not occurred every year. If you have a good idea for a symposium topic, please forward it to the leadership several months in advance of the deadline for symposium proposals for the Annual Meeting.

Four members suggested more outreach activities to inform managers and the public.

One member suggested outreach specifically on the topic of endocrine disruptors but was unsure what other groups had done on this topic.

One member suggested outreach concerning the relative importance of water quality issues and overfishing to managing aquatic resources. Several other members also suggested outreach related to various aspects of the interaction of water quality and habitat issues with aquatic resources management issues.

One member suggested selecting a global issue and soliciting input from the membership about that issue.

One member suggested highlighting an issue of interest to WQS on a regular basis (monthly was suggested) and providing contact information for policy makers (legislators or regulators) involved in that issue.

Several members suggested that addition emphasis should be placed on watershed management and habitat issues.

Finally, it was suggested that updates on WQS activities could be published in Fisheries and SETAC publications to increase visibility of WQS.

I did not list these suggestions in any particular order and all of them have merit. Members with an interest in any of these suggestions are encouraged to contact the leadership to explore ways to make things happen.

**Question 6: Do you feel well informed about Section activities via the e-mail list and Newsletter?**

Twenty-three members indicated that they felt well informed. Two members were dissatisfied with the level of contact. Two new members had no opinion as of yet. Fourteen members indicated that they think that the Section needs a web site. Web site development has been discussed within the leadership for many years now. We had hoped to find a member with enough web experience to get a site on line; however, none has stepped forward to date. I have volunteered to get a rudimentary site on line as soon as possible. If anyone with web experience is willing to help, please contact me.

**Question 7: Do you want to become more involved in Section activities?**

Two members indicated that they were willing to become more involved. Ten members answered no. Six members indicated an interest but were unsure about how to get involved. Fifteen members indicated an interest in involvement but felt they had no time. I was encouraged that there are members that have a desire to become more involved with the activities of the Section. There are many ways to become involved in Section activities and not all of them are time consuming. One of the easiest ways is to simply respond to one of the requests for review or input that come out periodically via the e-mail list. Otherwise, contact someone in the leadership of the WQS regarding your interest in a particular issue or to simply express a willingness to help.

Overall my interpretation of the survey results is that the membership is generally satisfied with what the WQS is doing. There were a number of good suggestions for additional activities and an indication that some members are willing to help with some new activities. You will note that I have emphasized the need for member involvement to accomplish new activities. The one clear message is that the WQS needs a web site. I will do my best to get something on line as soon as possible. I should also say that there did not appear to be any particular reason for declining WQS membership. In fact, the membership of all Sections has been declining for a number of years. The issue may be as simple as the desire to save a little money or AFS members just being too busy. However, I hope that WQS can reverse the trend and increase membership in coming years.

*MEMO TO:*

*U.S. SENATORS & USEPA CONCERNING PROPOSED EPA  
LABORATORY CLOSURES*

Date: 30 October 2003  
 Subject: Proposed EPA Laboratory Closures  
 To: U.S. Senators Bob Graham, Bill Nelson, Saxby Chambliss, Zell Miller, Norm Coleman, Mark Dayton, John Ensign, Harry Reid, Elizabeth Dole, John Edwards, James Inhofe, John Nickles, Mike DeWine, George Voinovich, Gordon Smith, Ron Wyden  
 From: Georgina Lampman, President, Water Quality Section, American Fisheries Society  
 C: Gus Rassam, AFS; Paul Gilman, USEPA; Mike Leavitt, USEPA

The Water Quality Section of the American Fisheries Society represents the Society (over 8600 members) in matters dealing with water quality, habitat structure, and watershed condition. Our members are professional fisheries scientists and managers employed by a broad spectrum of society, including state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, universities, and private and public corporations. As such professionals, the Water Quality Section wishes to offer comment on the funding of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) laboratories in the 2004 Congressional budget proposal.

The Water Quality Section recognizes the proud history of applied research by the USEPA at its laboratories. The laboratories provide important economic benefits to the cities of Gulf Breeze, Florida; Athens, Georgia; Duluth, Minnesota; Las Vegas, Nevada; Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; Ada Oklahoma; Cincinnati, Ohio; Corvallis and Newport, Oregon; and Narragansett, Rhode Island. Each laboratory employs 100 to 300 scientists and support personnel, paying millions in federal and contractor salaries. The laboratories also bring in related project money to state agencies, local cities, and universities.

The continued status and success of the USEPA laboratories should have bipartisan appeal to Congress. Laboratory funding has been declining for several years; with the 2004 Congressional budget proposal, it is conceivable that several laboratories could close altogether. This would be a serious economic and environmental mistake.

We offer the following as supporting information:

- The Gulf Breeze, Narragansett, and Newport laboratories continue to develop marine/estuarine toxicity tests and bioassessments that stimulate widespread improvement in coastal water quality.
- The Corvallis laboratory conducted National Stream and Lake Eutrophication and Acid Rain surveys in addition to conducting research on Tropospheric Ozone, Global Climate Change, Wildlife Toxicology, and Hazardous Waste bioassessment. It currently is developing an Environmental Monitoring & Assessment program applicable to all USA fresh waters.
- The laboratories at Ada and Athens are international leaders in ground water research and water quality modeling, respectively.
- The Duluth laboratory remains the leading site for developing toxicity tests for assessing effects of freshwater pollutants and for analyzing Great Lakes pollution.
- The Cincinnati laboratory is the center for assessing and developing methods for more effective sewage and drinking water treatment.
- The laboratory in Las Vegas is the leading site for remote sensing research in the Agency.
- Research Triangle Park houses USEPA's research on the toxic effects of air pollutants on humans.

*(continued on page 14)*

*MEMO TO USEPA**(continued from page 13)*

The following are considered roadblocks to continuing or expanding laboratory success:

1. For the last 10 years, a significant portion of USEPA's Office of Research and Development budget (\$100 million) has been diverted to academia (STAR grant program), leaving insufficient funds to conduct vital applied research at USEPA's own laboratories. In addition, although academic collaboration is a necessary ingredient to quality science, university research projects typically lack the broad scope necessary for national application. The USEPA laboratories cannot readily coordinate the smaller studies to meet USEPA's national mandates, especially when those studies are not linked to those mandates or when university grantees do not work closely with USEPA laboratories.
2. USEPA is strongly encouraging its scientists to pursue the "academic model" of scientific research. This means that a USEPA scientist and a few technicians work on individual research projects. The result is that within the USEPA laboratories, focus has shifted to numerous small projects, with little coordination and limited opportunity for national impact or application. Under such a system, the research needed to meet USEPA national mandates has been compromised as fewer federal employees are available to manage the field work, logistics, and analysis for useful results at the broader scale. In addition, that research has resulted in strikingly less collaboration than 10 years ago between the USEPA scientists who conduct the research and the staff in the USEPA program offices and regions who must apply the research results. This results in inefficient application of results, and research in areas of marginal value to USEPA managers.
3. There are many restrictions on communications between federal and onsite contract employees that waste time and precious research money. It is impossible to produce good science without communication, collaboration, and a free exchange of ideas. The rationale for such activities is the avoidance of the appearance of improper conduct or "personal services" by contract employees; however, the focus has shifted to meeting process requirements at the expense of the quality of the research products.

*Summary:*

*Many federal, university, and contract employees have worked at USEPA laboratories as colleagues for decades. Many are in danger of losing a life's work, and the USEPA is in danger of losing irreplaceable scientific expertise and infrastructure.*

*Congress can help by doing the following:*

- *Supporting USEPA research and new national scale research initiatives;*
- *Adequately funding the USEPA laboratories, which conduct and coordinate the research useful for national application;*
- *Allocating funding such that university grant money comes from the National Science Foundation rather than directly out of USEPA laboratory research budgets;*
- *Requiring that university grantees funded by USEPA work closely with USEPA laboratories rather than independently;*
- *Reorganizing USEPA laboratory administration to give individual research laboratories enough autonomy to produce quality science without administrative constraints that diminish their capacity to conduct and collaborate on research for national application;*
- *Supporting increased coordination and collaboration between laboratories and USEPA program offices (e.g., Office of Air, Office of Water) and the 10 USEPA regional offices;*
- *Restoring sensible contract management that emphasizes open communication and collaboration among scientists, regardless of their employers;*
- *Visiting the USEPA laboratories (including visits with USEPA scientists and onsite contractors and university employees) during Congress' periodic recesses; and*
- *Opposing proposed closures of USEPA laboratories—each laboratory has unique research capabilities, and all are vitally important to local economies and national environmental protection.*

Thank you for considering the comments of the Water Quality Section of the American Fisheries Society.



# NEW ECOTOXICOLOGY BOOK

*Submitted by Jim Wiener*

Handbook of Ecotoxicology, 2nd Edition, D.J.Hoffman, B.A. Rattner, G.A. Burton, Jr., & J. Cairns, Jr. 2002.  
CRC Press. 1344 pp. \$189.95

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	Environmental Factors Affecting Con- taminant Toxicity in Aquatic and Terrestrial Vertebrates, B.A. Rattner & A.G. Heath

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*ECOTOXICOLOGY BOOK**(continued from page 15)*

- The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Reactor Accident: Ecotoxicological Update, R. Eisler
- Pesticides and International Migratory Bird Conservation, M.J. Hooper, P. Mineau, B. Woodbridge, & M.E. Zaccagnini
- Effects of Lead from Mining on Birds: A Case History at Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho, C.J. Henny
- White Phosphorus at Eagle River Flats, Alaska: A Case Study of Waterfowl Mortality, D.W. Sparling
- A Mining Impacted Stream: Exposure & Effects of Lead & Other Trace Elements on Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Nesting in the Upper Arkansas River Basin, Colorado, C.M. Custer, T.W. Custer, A.S. Archuleta, L.C. Coppock, C.D. Swartz, & J.W. Bickham
- The Hudson River-PCB Case Study, J.P. McCarty
- Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment for Aquatic, Wetland, & Terrestrial Habitats Along Clark Fork River, Montana, G. Linder, D.F. Woodard, & G. Pascoe
- Global Disposition of Contaminants, R.M. Harrison, S. Harrad, & J. Lead
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- Ecological Risk Assessment Example: Waterfowl & Shorebirds Feeding in Ephemeral Pools at Kesterson Reservoir, California, E.R. Byron, H.M. Ohlendorf, G.M. Santolo, S.M. Benson, P.T. Zawislanski, T.K. Tokunaga, & M. Delamore
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- Role of Ecotoxicology in Industrial Ecology & Natural Capitalism, J. Cairns Jr.
- Indirect Effects of Pesticides on Farmland Wildlife, N.W. Sotherton and J. Holland
- Trace Element & Nutrition Interactions in Fish & Wildlife, S.J. Hamilton & D.J. Hoffman
- Animal Species Endangerment: The Role of Environmental Pollution, O.H. Pattee, V.L. Wegner, & D.L. Bounds

## *SYMPOSIUM ON WORLDWIDE DECLINE IN FISH ASSEMBLAGES: FISH-BASED INDICES AS ASSESSMENT TOOLS*

*Submitted by Bob Hughes*

This session, organized by Nathalie LaViolette and me for the Annual Meeting in Quebec, was very interesting (at least to me) but not particularly well attended (usually 20-50 persons), which was typical of the other sessions I attended. However we did attract two of the plenary speakers. It also featured speakers from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the USA. Papers were grouped by small streams, large rivers, estuaries, and lakes. The small systems mixed completely, had less habitat complexity, and supported no or few vertebrate species, meaning that they could be sampled with a single gear, but often required population-level (vs. assemblage-level IBIs). The large systems did not always mix completely for long distances, had greater habitat complexity, supported many species, and were often sampled with more than one gear or at night. Minimally disturbed reference sites were often available for small streams, but reference conditions for the large systems were based on modeling or least-disturbed reaches. Typically, in small streams, all species could be collected in a sample, and at proportions representing their occurrence in the assemblage, but all species were rarely collected from large systems, nor were they necessarily proportionate to their true proportions (which were unknown). Effects of sampling effort on

species and IBI scores were reported (or are available) for some small systems, but rarely for large waters. Composite samples were employed for all sizes of systems and the preferred index period was the dry or warm season. Because of the Water Framework Directive, EU nations are standardizing and calibrating sampling gear, sampling methods, and sampling effort, and evaluating IBI candidate metrics. These would be noble directions for Americans to take, possibly through a set of workshops and field comparisons. In all waters, presentations indicated that it was feasible to develop useful IBIs.



*WORLD NEWS - Compiled Bob Gray***2004**

Fourth World Fisheries Congress, Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: The Challenge of Managing Aquatic Systems.

Vancouver, BC, Canada

May 2-6

Contact: fish2004@advance-group.com; (800) 555-1099;  
www.worldfisheries2004.org

Coastal Zone Canada. St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

June 25-30

Contact: CZC2004@mun.ca;  
www.czca-azcc.org/

Third International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application. Townsville, Queensland, Australia

July 11-16

Contact:  
Otolith2004@ozacom.com.au;  
+61 (0) 7 3854 1661;  
www.Otolith2004.com

2004 International Congress on the Biology of Fish. Manaus, Brazil

August 1-5

Contact: Chris Kennedy,  
ckennedy@sfu.ca,  
(604) 291-5640,  
www.fisheries.org/phys/

## *SYMPOSIUM (AND BOOK) ON THE EFFECTS OF URBANIZATION ON AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS*

*Review by Larry Brown, Past-President*

The Water Quality Section sponsored the symposium titled “Effects of Urbanization on Aquatic Ecosystems” at the Annual Meeting of the Parent Society in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. Co-moderators of the symposium were Bob Gray, Mike Meador, and myself. The symposium was spread over two days from Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning. The symposium included a total of 17 presentations on a variety of topics ranging from the design of urban studies to the effects of urbanization on habitat, macroinvertebrates, and fishes. Study area locations ranged from southern California to New York.

Although I spent most of my time staring at the timer and worrying about the symposium staying on time, I had reliable reports that the symposium was well attended. Estimates differed a bit but it sounds like there were from 30 to 60 people in attendance at various times in the symposium. This attendance was quite respectable given the large number of concurrent sessions (20!) and stiff competition from sessions of high local interest such as status of Atlantic salmon, marine protected areas, and essential habitat for sturgeon.

The co-moderators plus Bob Hughes now change hats to become editors for the symposium proceedings to be published by AFS. The majority of papers presented at the symposium will be included in the book. The book will also include a number of articles that were not presented during the symposium. At present the book has commitments for 28 articles. The book is on a fairly ambitious schedule and we hope to have the manuscript submitted to AFS for publication by late 2004.

### Remember to Renew!

This is just a reminder to renew your AFS membership and your Water Quality Section membership. You can do this online at [www.fisheries.org](http://www.fisheries.org).

While you're at it, ask a colleague to join and update our directory information as well.

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***ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED***