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And more . . .



New Zealand mud snails are probably the most serious threat facing Alaska with transport possible by both sport fishers and biologists. Presently there are no known populations in Alaska.

Invasive Species in Alaska

Bob Piorkowski

Picture yourself in the future coming upon an aquatic system that you either recreate in or manage. Your gut tells you that something is significantly different, but that traditional factors causing such a change don't apply. Maybe adult and/or young fish are decreasing or gone. Maybe nonnative fish dominate. Maybe you have more trouble sampling because of unusual heavy weed growth. Maybe fish are there but appear to be starving or diseased. Perhaps there are fewer insect hatches or the biting insects are worse than ever. As an aquatic professional, you should be asking yourself what is going on? And, more importantly, what can I do?

These and other negative scenarios are becoming more frequent nationally and internationally. They are often caused by the introduction of non indigenous invasive species (NIS). By definition, NIS cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Most NIS typically share the same characteristics. They

can live in a wide range of habitats, are expert in gathering many types of food, reproduce prolifically and have few natural predators or diseases in their natural habitat. They thrive in disturbed areas and are introduced both intentionally and unintentionally by humans.

The most difficult thing to come to grips with on the NIS threat is how long it might take a non-indigenous species to become invasive if it does. Sea lampreys in the Great Lakes took over 100 years before they became problematic. Scientists warned about zebra mussels over 50 years before their populations soared. The record holder may be the common periwinkle which took almost 1,000

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Pike have impacted salmonid populations in some areas south of the Alaska Range.

The President's Column

Hal Geiger

Although the gavel has officially been passed on, Scott has allowed me this opportunity to say thanks and to have a few parting comments too. First, thanks for letting me have a turn at being the Chapter president.



I had fun, and helped get a few important things accomplished. Having resources sure helps get things done. The Chapter is now pretty wealthy. This is in contrast to an earlier period when the Chapter barely had enough money to put out the newsletter. Thanks to past executive committees, our Chapter has a well-funded cultural diversity fund, a well-funded student travel fund, we have funds to put on high-end annual meetings, and our money is now better managed. In other words, with our wealth we are in a position to do new things to affect the fishery profession in Alaska. With that thought in mind, for me, the most important Chapter accomplishment that I was involved in this last year was setting up the Molly Ahlgren scholarship fund.

When we started working on this scholarship, we imagined that if we had a total of \$100,000 we could make a meaningful award each year, and sustain the awards indefinitely. Now, it looks like we will have more than that—substantially more. In five years the Chapter could easily be in a position to make two or more meaningful annual awards each year. The most emotionally jarring experience I had as Chapter president—even more than finding out Molly Ahlgren had died last year—was meeting her parents and discussing our plans for the scholarship in her name. They are turning over more than a large sum of money to us; they are entrusting us with the memory of their only daughter. I can't use words to bring across the effect talking to them had on me. Having the responsibility to care for these funds, to help carry on Molly's work, is part of what makes our Chapter more than just a club of people that go to a party once a year—it is a big part of what is making us grow as a real scholarly society in Alaska.

At this time of transition, it is an appropriate point for introspection, and an examination of what I wish I

had done. I really regret not spending more time trying to help find meaningful and appropriate ways to get the Chapter more involved in advocacy. We have the ability to influence public policy if we use our influence wisely. I have tried to speak out against simply being against development, or being against one project or another. We need to figure out what we want to be for. That's hard for a Chapter like ours. Still, if you are not too tired of contrived lessons from the Federal failures in New Orleans, we need to work against what should be called the Michael D. Brown phenomenon. That's where government agencies find that rather than doing all the complicated, expensive, and unpleasant things they formerly did, they can simply have some loyal person who looks good in a starched dress shirt tell the public to be assured that we are doing everything possible to protect you and your valuable shared assets. It was not true at FEMA and it darn sure is less and less true in the larger picture of fishery management in Alaska. Some of the recent decisions about habitat management in Alaska are right out of the Michael D. Brown script. Again, it is hard to be for something here, not just against something. But our Chapter needs to be for substance in fishery management, and our cause should be, substance matters. The message that we are for substance is a really hard message to get across—much harder than just complaining about some development project that might affect fish. In the next year I hope the new executive committee can do a better job than we did at monitoring fishery management agencies and speaking up for substance.

That's it for me as president, although I will still be around. And good luck to Scott. Thanks to all of the committed Chapter members who put in so much time on the national meeting. Thanks to the many other people that put in so much time and effort to just keep the Chapter running. Thanks so much to all the committee members and to John Thedinga who has been our newsletter editor for so long. Thanks especially to Ray Hander who spent so much time, and was so effective as our treasurer. And thanks the most to Allen Bingham, who has done more than anyone else in the last several years to keep our Chapter running. 🐟

New Onchorhynchus Editor

John Thedinga

This is my last edition of the Onchorhynchus newsletter. It's been a wonderful experience editing the newsletter for the past six years, and I appreciate the opportunity to have been able to serve the Chapter as Editor. It has been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated and professional individuals. Please welcome the next newsletter editor, Gretchen Bishop, and remember to send her your articles for the Onchorhynchus.

Send articles for the Winter 2006 newsletter to Gretchen, Gretchen_bishop@fishgame.state.ak.us 🐟

ONCORHYNCHUS

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Alaska Chapter's Internet Home Page Address

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/>

Meetings and Events



Aquaculture America 2006

Aquaculture America 2006 returns to one of the favorite tourist spots in the world for the only major national aquaculture conference and exposition held in the U.S. Aquaculture America will be held in Las Vegas, Feb. 13-16, 2006 at the Riviera Hotel & Casino. This meeting will have the largest aquaculture trade show in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest anywhere in the world with nearly 200 booths! For more information visit the web site: <http://www.was.org/Meetings/pdf/AA2006RegBrochure.pdf> or call the Conference Manager: 760-432-4270.

AFS Annual Meeting

The 136th Annual AFS Meeting will be held at the legendary Olympic Village of Lake Placid, NY, Sept. 10-14. The theme of the meeting is "Fish in the Balance" and will explore the interrelation between fish, aquatic habitats, and man, highlighting the challenges facing aquatic professionals and the methods that have been employed to resolve conflicts between those that use or have an interest in our aquatic resources. Symposium proposals must be submitted by Jan. 13, 2006 to Don Einhouse, dweinhou@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Contact Betsy Fritz, bfritz@fisheries.org, 301-897-8616, ext. 212 for more meeting information.

ICES 2006

The 2006 ICES Symposium, Fishing Technology in the 21st Century, will be held at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center, Boston, Oct. 30 – Nov. 3 and will focus on the theme of integrating commercial fishing and ecosystem conservation. Abstracts are due by Dec. 7, 2005. Visit the Symposium website for more information: www.ICESBoston2006.org.

ASLO 2006

The American Society of Limnology and Oceanography's Summer Meeting, Global Challenges Facing Oceanography and Limnology, will be held June 4-9, 2006 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information visit the Meeting web site, <http://aslo.org/victoria2006/>, or contact Helen Schneider Lemay, business@aslo.org, 254-399-9635.



8th Biennial River Management Society Symposium

The River Management Society and the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee is sponsoring a symposium, Collaborating in the Current, May 9-12, 2006 in Sioux City, Nebraska. For more information visit the web site: <http://www.river-management.org/symposium.htm>.



Western Groundfish Conference

The 14th Western Groundfish Conference will be held Jan. 30 – Feb. 3, 2006 in Newport, Oregon. For more information visit the Conference website: <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/groundfish/gc2006/welcomeb.htm>.

Western Division AFS Annual Meeting

The 2006 Western Division meeting will be held in Bozeman, Montana, May 15-19. The meeting's theme is "Natives and Newcomers" and will address the ramifications of the ever encroaching development in the West on fisheries and related resources. The meeting will convene on the campus of Montana State University. Contributed paper and poster abstracts are due Jan. 11, and symposium proposals are due by January 15 and should be submitted to Bob Hughes, 541-754-4516; hughes.bob@epa.gov. For general meeting information contact Leanne Roulson, lroulson@garcianandassociates.com or visit the meeting web site: <http://www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana/2006AFSWesternDivisionAnnualMeeting.htm>.



2006 Alaska Chapter Conference

The 2006 Alaska Chapter Conference will be held in Fairbanks in Oct. or Nov. See the winter *Oncorhynchus* for details. ☺



Carol Lewis (left) and Lynne Santos working at the Registration Booth at the 2005 AFS Meeting in Anchorage, Sept. 2005.



From left, Jessica Geubtner, Eva Foster, Jackie Machado and Anne Grist sold books and memberships at the 2005 AFS Meeting in Anchorage, Sept 2005.

Invasive Species in Alaska, continued from page 1

years after it was introduced into North America before it denuded the northeastern seacoast. The best policy with all nonindigenous species is to simply not allow them outside their normal range. Ecosystems are just too complicated for us to play God with.

While Alaska has been relatively immune from NIS to date, scenes like those described above can happen here. Alaska's relatively tight fish transportation laws will not be loosened but our previous protective geographic isolation is effectively lessening due to increases in world travel and trade. In addition, our climate appears to be moderating, making it easier for invasive species to gain a foothold. The pathways by which invasive species come into our state (ballast water, pet trade, nursery trade, research, tourism, and shipping) are effectively becoming broader.

While no one has been able to definitively predict which non-native species may become invasive, a few of the top species of concern for Alaska include the following;

- Pike—Indigenous north of the Alaska Range, introductions into the south-central, Kenai Peninsula and Yakutat areas have significantly impacted salmonid populations. Copper and Situk River invasions could mean many millions of dollars in negative impacts.
- Atlantic salmon—While improved farming operations mean fewer recent Pacific Northwest escapees, the threat of eventual Atlantic salmon establishment and competition with our own salmonids is real.
- New Zealand mud snail—This tiny snail, transported on contaminated fishing gear, is expanding its range in stream systems throughout the West leaving reduced insect production for trout in former world class waters. Alaska's streams could follow.

- Crayfish—When introduced by either bait fishermen, disenchanted aquarists or kids trying to save them from being cooked, nonindigenous crayfish typically sequester most system primary production and become the dominant species pushing out others.
- Bull frog—Brought in by aquarists and water gardeners, bull frogs have exterminated other species of frogs, increased the number of biting insects by preying on insect predators like dragonflies, and carry a fungus responsible in part for the worldwide decline in amphibians.

Fortunately, State and federal agencies, such as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service to name a few, recognize the yet unrealized threat from NIS. In Alaska, efforts are now underway to develop a statewide council to improve information sharing, coordination and planning. Just as important is educating aquatic professionals such as you as to the problems of NIS.

Colleagues, please learn all you can about invasive species as part of a holistic approach to protecting Alaska's aquatic resources. One good source is the Alaska Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. It can be found at http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/invasive/ak_ansmp.pdf or you can begin web surfing with <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>.

Further, consider developing your own HACCP plan so that you and your staff do not become part of the problem. Need invasive species HACCP training? Call 1-907-465-6109. To report suspected invasives via the ADF&G toll-free number, call 1-877-INVASIV. 🐟

Ray Troll, second from right and his fellow Ratfish Brothers entertain at the Trade Show/Poster Session Social at the 2005 AFS Meeting in Anchorage, Sept. 2005.



Successfully Creating a Fisheries Mosaic

Scott Maclean

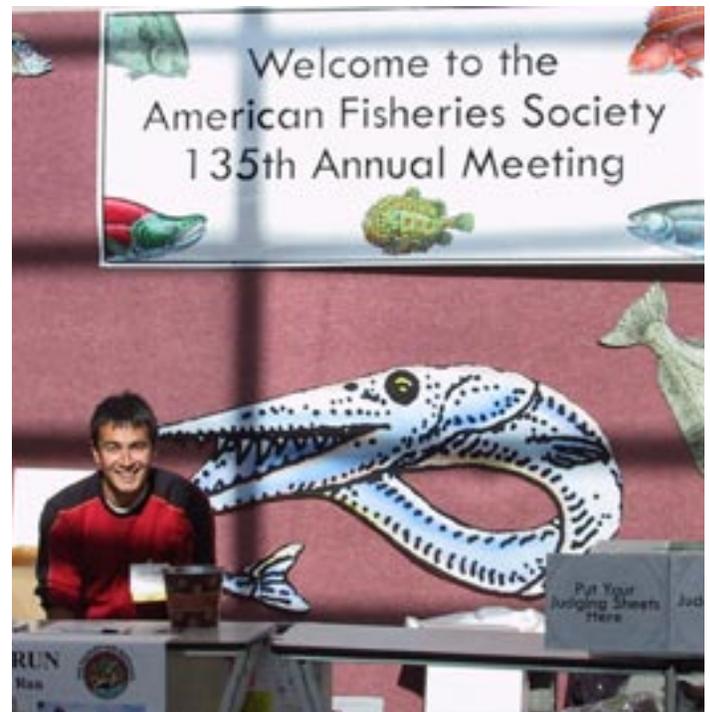
Anyone who attended this year's National AFS meeting in Anchorage can testify that it was big, as suggested by the theme of the meeting and the title of this article. Many of you also know the conference was dedicated to Dr. Molly Ahlgren. Molly was remembered and honored at the plenary session, and we were all honored when her parents received the Western Division AFS Award of Excellence on her behalf.

My hat is off to those that organized this meeting as it went off with out a hitch. Bringing over 2,600 scientists together under three separate roofs, having over 50 excellent symposia with 18 concurrent sessions, 640 poster presentations and a variety of social events certainly was not an easy task, but those involved did it. This meeting was put on by a committee of 40-50 people who worked over a 4-year period to make the meeting successful. These volunteers not only succeed in their efforts but did it with enthusiasm, and it showed.

The continuing education workshops offered something for everyone and were followed by an opening night social including an incredible Alaskan seafood spread. Ray Troll's contribution to the conference began with his art-work displayed on the program guides, brief cases, convention center walls, T-shirts, and even the wrappers for chocolate bars. Ray Troll's contributions continued with a humorous review of fish and art during the Plenary Session and into the night as one of the Ratfish Brothers singing "Lumpsuckers of Love". The student social was held in the historic 4th Avenue Theatre and offered students the opportunity to meet with prospective employers, and university professors while having fun in a relaxed atmosphere. It's always a good bet that there will be students nearby when there is free food, beverages, and live entertainment. A large crowd attended the Off-site Social at the Alaska Native Heritage Center providing folks the opportunity to observe many cultural items, events, and activities that are unique to Alaska. These are only a few examples of the events that took place in which I feel fortunate to have been able to attend. I believe these social events are an important aspect to these meetings because they provide the most direct

opportunity for interchange of ideas between large numbers of scientists in a relaxed atmosphere.

However, the success of the meeting is not simply measured by the fact that the attendance surpassed the old record by more than 700 people but rather by the convergence of people from across jurisdictions, disciplines and cultures. People with similar interest and issues that come from different parts of the world are able to meet and talk, each bringing with them a slightly different perspective. Sharing knowledge and experience is what these meetings are really about. Every participant gained something in Alaska this year and I am sure that they will do the same in Lake Placid in 2006. 🐟



Tyler Dann volunteering at the AFS Spawning Run booth at the 2005 AFS Meeting in Anchorage, Sept 2005.

AFS Alaska Chapter 2005 Elections – Candidates for Office

Bert Lewis for Vice President

As an undergraduate, I majored in Environmental Population and Organism Biology at the University of Colorado and received a Bachelor of Science in 1988. Early work experience included time as a fishing guide and later as a fisheries technician for Fisheries Research Institute at the University of Washington and in Dillingham. I also did some seasonal work with the USFS, several tribes, and private sector consulting before going back to graduate school.

I received a Masters degree in Watershed Science with an emphasis on aquatic ecology at Utah State University in 1998. Subsequent experience included working with endangered fishes of the Colorado River, a tropical ecology study in Puerto Rico, and work as a research biologist for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon Recovery Program. Research freedom during

that time led me into a paleolimnology study and marine derived nutrient research.

In 2001, I was hired by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Ketchikan to work on sockeye salmon stock assessment projects. In 2003, I transferred to Cordova to the position of Assistant Area Management Biologist. This spring I was selected to be the Prince William Sound Area Management Biologist and remain in that position to this day.

I feel that I could provide guidance and direction to the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society with my education and experience. I look forward to serving the Chapter as Vice President and will work hard to insure the Chapter provides the opportunities for its members to share their knowledge and experience with others in the aquatic resources field.

Jamal Moss for Vice President

One year after graduating from Connecticut College, I decided to indulge my long time fascination with aquatic life by pursuing a career as a fisheries biologist. The first action I took toward turning this dream into reality was to become a member of the American Fisheries Society. I meticulously read Fisheries magazine while preparing for graduate school, and was particularly pleased to discover Society-sponsored programs crafted to aid newcomers such as myself in gaining valuable experience in the field. My first glimpses of the field of fisheries were through the lens of AFS, and have continued to rely on our organization as a young professional today. In 1999, I was fortunate enough to attain a scholarship at the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences where I earned a Master's degree studying the ecology of prickly sculpins. My enrolment has continued to this day, and I'm nearing the completion of a dissertation on the ocean ecology of juvenile pink salmon and it's relationship to climate change and variability. Presently I work for the Ocean Carrying Capacity Program at the NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau where I'm involved in research programs focused on the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

As I'm sure many of you experience, each time I step

out of my front door, I'm reminded of how wondrous our state is with its plethora of life and resources. One less obvious Alaska resource is we the numerous fisheries professionals living and working here. Moreover, a major goal I have for the Alaska Chapter is to increase the number of connections between seasoned members with new comers and students. It has also become apparent to me that the Alaska Chapter membership is involved in a diversity of activities, and I believe that we can create a conduit to better disseminate the knowledge we already possess amongst our membership and others. If elected as an officer, I would work toward organizing forums particularly designed to facilitate the flow of information between scientists and managers. Such activity is needed to help those involved in research activities better understand the needs of management, and for managers to be more informed as to newly acquired knowledge and questions being perused by scientists.

AFS, and particularly the Alaska Chapter membership are near to my heart and it would be a distinguished honor to serve the Chapter in this capacity. If elected as an officer I will be accessible, open to any and all comment, and serve our membership to the best of my ability.

Steve Zemke for Secretary

I would be honored to serve a term as the Secretary of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I have been a life member of the American Fisheries Society since 1978. After graduating from the University of Idaho in 1973 with a degree in Fisheries management, I began work for the USDA Forest Service in south central Idaho. I worked primarily in developing vegetation management prescriptions with stipulations for protection of fish and wildlife resources.

In 1978, I moved to western Oregon to work on the Siuslaw National forest, since my interest was in working

with anadromous fish resources. While there I became involved in the challenge of protecting fisheries resources within a large scale timber management program. We designed some of the first riparian habitat protection and management measures for the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service.

In 1985, my interest in Alaska, particularly salmon fisheries, resulted in my accepting the position of fisheries program manager for the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest. I was responsible for providing direction for the fisheries program, dealing with protection of

Officer Ballot For Chapter Vice President and Treasurer

Cut off ballot (must be original) and mail in stamped envelope before December 5, 2005 to:

Tim Joyce
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574
Phone: 907-424-4747

Vice President:

_____ Bert Lewis _____ Jamal Moss _____ Write-in _____

Secretary:

_____ Steve Zemke _____ Write-in _____

You may also vote online at <http://www.fisheries.org/afs-ak/elections/2005/oclist2005.htm>

Cut Here

Cut Here

Cut Here

fisheries resources and rehabilitation and enhancement of these resources in relation to societal needs.

Next, I moved on to a 2 year stint in an interagency development of the Federal program for management of subsistence uses on all Federal Public lands in Alaska and helped write the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for management of subsistence uses on all Federal Public lands in Alaska. I was also part of the team that developed the Chugach Forest Land Management Plan and EIS. These broad scale planning efforts have given me expertise in public participation methods and development of stakeholder processes critical to the success in resolving contentious issues.

From these positions, I moved on to being the current Chugach National Forest Subsistence Coordinator/ Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Liaison. In this position, I have

developed an understanding of the importance of fisheries resources to rural populations as a means of sustenance and maintenance of their culture. I think these insights would be helpful in diversifying the knowledge base of the Executive Committee. My long understanding of the fisheries resource and social issues surrounding them, particularly those related to rural Alaska, would be an asset to the Alaska Chapter Executive Committee. Also, working with the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council has given me new knowledge and insight into Alaska’s marine ecosystem and resources fisheries resources.

I have worked on several subcommittees for the Chapter, but wish to become more involved in the Society’s activities because I have gained much from the volunteer assignments, as well from being a member. ☺



Marie-Hélène Thériault explaining her poster to Carol Kerkviet at the 2005 AFS Meeting in Anchorage, Sept. 2005.



Milton Love gave the keynote speech at the 23rd Wakefield Fisheries Symposium in Anchorage, Sept. 13-15, 2005.

Oncorhynchus

Allen Bingham
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Anchorage, AK 99522-1804

RETURN REQUESTED - DO NOT FORWARD

2006 Alaska Chapter Officers

President Scott Maclean, ADNR, Habitat Mgmt. & Permitting, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1420, Anchorage 99501, 907-269-6778 wk, 907-622-6245 hm, scott_maclean@dnr.state.ak.us

President-Elect Open pending results of the election

Vice President (Acting) Carol M. Kerkvliet, Sport Fish Division, ADF&G, 3296 Douglas Place, Homer, 99603-8027, 907-474-6044

Treasurer Ray Hander, Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office, 101 12th Ave., Room 110, Fairbanks 99701, 907-456-0402, Fax: 457-3656, ray_hander@fws.gov

Secretary Bob Piorkowski, ADF&G/CF, 1225 W. 8th St., Juneau 99802, 907-465-6109, Robert_Piorkowski@fishgame.state.ak.us

Past President Hal Geiger, ADF&G/CF, P.O. Box 240020, Douglas 99824-0020, 907-465-4257, Harold_J_Geiger@fishgame.state.ak.us

Student Unit President Kyle Deerkop, Sheldon Jackson College-225 801 Lincoln Street, Sitka 99835, kdeerkop@yahoo.com

Feel free to contact the Executive Committee members.

2006 AFS Membership Application

You can JOIN the AFS and the Alaska Chapter on-line (or by fax/phone), see <http://www.fisheries.org/html/membership/choicenew.shtml> for details, or fill out the application form and process as noted below.

Print or type applicant's name in full _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Nation _____ Membership year* _____

Kindly make checks payable to American Fisheries Society in U.S. Currency or drawn on a U.S. bank.

Please mail to
Allen Bingham
P.O. Box 221804
Anchorage, AK
99522-1804

Professional recruiting others (PROCLUB) _____

If applicant is a student as defined below, the teacher endorsing him signs here.** _____

Name of institution where student is enrolled _____

Date _____

Please provide phone numbers for directory and Society use only:

Home _____ Work _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Employed by:
 federal gov't. state/prov. gov't. industry academia self

- Alaska Dues: \$10.00** **Alaska Student Dues: \$5.00**
Membership Dues (includes *Fisheries* and Membership Directory)
 Regular (North America): \$76.00 (Other than North America, \$88.00)
 Student (North America)**: \$38.00 (Other than North America, \$44.00)
 Young Professional***: \$38.00
 Retired (North America): (65 or over): \$38.00 (Other than North America \$44.00)
 Life (All): \$1,737.00 (includes *Fisheries* and one other journal of choice)

¹ Prices are for AFS members only ² Membership not required for subscription
* New members accepted Jan. 1-Aug.31 are credited to full membership for that year. (Back issues of Journals are sent.) Members accepted Sept. 1-Dec. 31 credited to full membership as of next Jan. 1, unless requested otherwise. Membership on calendar year only.

Journal Subscriptions (Optional)

- Transactions of the AFS¹ N.A. Journal of Fisheries Management¹
 \$43.00 Paper in North America \$48.00 Paper other than N.A.
 \$25.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet
 North American Journal Journal of Aquatic Animal Health¹
 of Aquaculture² \$41.00 Paper other than N.A.
 \$38.00 Paper in North America \$25.00 E-Pub via WWW/Internet

** Bona fide students of fisheries subjects are eligible for Student membership (limited to 6 years). Persons employed full-time not eligible. Teacher endorsement required (see above).

*** Within 3 years of graduation.

NOTE: Retired membership for Active members upon retiring at age 65. Sustaining membership for commercial firms, conservation clubs, or others desiring to support the Society. Library Subscriptions include bimonthly *Transactions*, quarterly *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health*, quarterly *The Progressive Fish-Culturist*, bimonthly *Fisheries*, and Membership Directory.