The Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its Annual Meeting in the Louisbourg/Port Royal Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana, on 27-28 January 2011. The meeting theme was “Beyond the Horizon, A Bright Future for Louisiana Fisheries.” The meeting was organized by members of the Chapter’s Executive Committee (Matti Lynn Dantin, Quenton Fontenot, Dave Hickman, Melissa Kaintz, Tim Ruth, and Brac Salyers). Additional help was provided by John Supan, coordinator of student awards and chair of student judging, and Michael Kaller and William Kelso, abstract book editors.

The meeting was opened by Chapter President, Tim Ruth, on Thursday morning, 27 January. The keynote presentation was made by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary, Mr. Robert Barham and addressed the LDWF response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010, with past, present, and future roles. Twenty-nine oral presentations and five poster presentations were made during the two day meeting. The meeting social was held onsite Thursday evening in the atrium of the Holiday Inn Lafayette.

The 2011 LA AFS Business Meeting was called to order at 10:45 am, Friday, 28 January, by Tim Ruth.

QUORUM VERIFICATION
Quorum verification – 50 LA AFS Chapter members were needed for a quorum. More than 50 Chapter members attended the business meeting; therefore motion items could be passed.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS (Tim Ruth)
The Chapter thanks all members for attending the meeting.

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT (Brac Salyers)
It was noted that the Business Meeting minutes from the 2010 Baton Rouge meeting had been posted to the website. A motion to accept these minutes was made by Melissa Kaintz, and seconded by John Supan. The 2010 minutes were accepted.

As of August 2009, prior to activity associated with the 2010 LA AFS meeting in Baton Rouge, the Chapter balance (checking and savings) was $9,204.73.

As of early January 2011, prior to activity associated with the 2011 LA AFS annual meeting to be held in Lafayette, the Chapter balance (checking and savings) was $8,627.57.
Due to multiple ongoing expenses with the hotel that had not yet been calculated at the
time of the business meeting, the new Chapter balance was unable to be estimated.
A total of 124 participants registered for the 2011 LA AFS meeting.

**Note:** From the 2010 LA AFS meeting, the Executive committee voted to increase the
value of student awards to $75 for first place, $50 for second place, and $25 for third
place for all three categories: abstracts, oral, and poster presentations.

SDAFS UPDATE (Steve Lochmann, SDAFS President)

On behalf of the SDAFS Executive Committee, Dr. Lochmann, unable to attend the
meeting, sent several video clips to play at the business meeting. Dr. Lochmann
encouraged students and researchers to utilize sound scientific techniques, and also
encouraged fisheries managers to utilize the best science available for management
decisions. He also encouraged continued involvement with AFS.
The 2012 SDAFS meeting will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

OLD BUSINESS
Committee Reports
- **STUDENT ACTIVITIES (Gregory Lech, Aquaculture and Fisheries Club [AFC] at LSU)**
  Thanks were extended to all individuals and businesses that provided items for the
  student raffle and to everyone that purchased tickets. The student raffle was held on
  Thursday night at the social at the Holiday Inn Lafayette, and resulted in a profit of over
  $600 for AFC. In 2010, AFC participated in Ocean Commotion at LSU, teaching school
  kids about coastal Louisiana environmental issues. They also held a Beach Sweep,
  cleaning the shores of LSU lakes. Over a 4-hour period, 20 bags of trash were collected
  and disposed of. A fall pig roast was held to promote student/faculty bonding, as well as a
  spring crawfish boil that is being planned. Money from the last year’s raffle was used to
  pay the registration of a fellow student, Matthew Songy.

- **HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT (Quenton Fontenot)**
The Chapter Past-President serves as Chair of the History Committee. No business to
report. The Chair asked that anyone wishing to report items should contact him.

- **WEBMASTER REPORT (Dave Hickman)**
No new business to report. Send items for posting or suggestions to the Webmaster.

- **NEWSLETTER REPORT (MattiLynn Dantin)**
Requested all members to update e-mail addresses, if needed, and assist with updating e-
mail addresses of former students to keep chapter email database current.

- **EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Angela Capello)**
See attached.

- **MEETING ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (Tim Ruth)**
Becoming more ecofriendly with Chapter meetings wasn’t as easy as planned, and will continue to be a work in progress. Chair extended thanks to the Executive Committee for help in planning the meeting, and also to Jill Jenkins for her continuing help, as well as Bill Kelso and Mike Kaller for their help editing the abstract book.

STUDENT AWARDS (John Supan)
Chair extended thanks to all the volunteer judges. Nineteen student abstracts were submitted for the competition. Chair also wanted to note to students when submitting abstracts, it needs to include a hypothesis, and to know the difference in a goal and an objective.

ABSTRACT CATEGORY
1\textsuperscript{st} Place – E Hu - Scaling of high-throughput cryopreservation for fishery and aquaculture applications.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Place – Chris Bonvillian – Acute effects on Atchafalaya River Basin physicochemistry associated with the passage of Hurricane Gustav.
3\textsuperscript{rd} Place – Chris Bonvillian – Can hemolymph lactate, protein, and glucose concentrations serve as physiological biomarkers of hypoxic stress in red swamp crayfish (\textit{Procamburus clarkii})?

POSTER CATEGORY
1\textsuperscript{st} Place – Chris Bonvillian - Acute effects on Atchafalaya River Basin physicochemistry associated with the passage of Hurricane Gustav.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Place – Jonathan McKenzie – Habitat use by young lemon sharks (\textit{Negaprion brevirostris}) at the Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana.
3\textsuperscript{rd} Place – Patrick W. Smith – Relation of prey availability to habitat selection for red drum (\textit{Sciaenops ocellatus}) in Bayou St. John, an urban waterway in New Orleans, Louisiana.

ORAL PRESENTATION CATEGORY
1\textsuperscript{st} Place – Justin J. Merrifield – Bactericidal activity of spotted gar (\textit{Lepisosteus oculatus}) serum mediated by complement activity.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Place – Danniele H. Kulaw – Habitat-specific fecundity of red snapper (\textit{Lutjanus campechanus}) in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

COVER ART CONTEST WINNER
Cheryl Fisher

NEW BUSINESS (Melissa Kaintz)
- Thanks were expressed to Tim Ruth for organizing the meeting.
- The 2012 SDAFS meeting in Biloxi, MS will be too close to the same date as the LA chapter meeting dates; therefore we will need to change our dates to accommodate.
- In order to build back up the Chapters finances, the 2012 meeting location will be in Baton Rouge at the LDWF Headquarters building on Quail Drive.
- The website needs to be updated. If you have experience with websites, please volunteer to help update the Chapter’s site. We need to create a user-list that we can all use, update, and manage better.

CALL FOR ELECTION NOMINATIONS (Tim Ruth)
Nominations were taken for elections to be held at the 2012 meeting. Included are:
For President – Brian Alford – LDWF, Mike Kaller – LSU, Kyle Pillar – Southeastern Louisiana Univ.
For Secretary/Treasurer – Matt Duplessis – LDWF, Chris Green – LSU

MEETING RESOLUTION
Whereas the 32nd Annual Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana, 27-28 January 2011, and, whereas we enjoyed 29 oral presentations and 5 poster presentations and, whereas the Chapter was informed about the LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries ongoing role with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010 and, whereas abundant food and drink were enjoyed at the banquet at Holiday Inn, and finally the LA AFS Chapter has enjoyed another successful meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Submitted by:
Brac Salyers
25 February 2011
LA Chapter AFS
Education Committee Report
January 27, 2011
Lafayette

LDWF Sponsored Aquatic Events:

• In collaboration with other conservation-oriented agencies, LDWF is continuing with fishing opportunities and knowledge of fishing for our youth. Each year over 10,000 students throughout Louisiana participate in LDWF sponsored aquatic events.

• A new LDWF education initiative involving parents/communities in fishing will begin this spring and continue through the summer. The LDWF Education Section will be hosting family fishing days using our fishing trailers as a focal point. The fishing trailer will be advertised at a specific location. Families can register at the trailer, borrow fishing gear and enjoy an outdoor fishing experience. The goal is to create future anglers through family involvement.

• On Free Fishing Weekend (June 12), LDWF again partnered with the Office of State Parks to host a “Day in the Park” to promote family fishing opportunities to the public at 5 State Park sites. Fishing related door prizes and goody-bags were
distributed to the public. Fishing equipment and bait were loaned to participants without equipment.

Wetland Teacher Workshops: LDWF/BP (British Petroleum)/BTNEP Partnership:
- WETSHOP did not take place last year due to the oil spill; however, we successfully reapplied for a LaSIP grant which will require a stewardship component in that teachers must return to their parish and train/equip teachers and students on LA wetland functions, values and issues.
- Other agencies that provided classroom resources to WETSHOP participants are CWPPRA, DNR, Lafourche Port Authority, La Sea Grant College Program, LUMCON and NRCS Plant Materials Center.

NATIVE FISH IN THE CLASSROOM:
- This LDWF aquaculture stewardship project in partnership with LA Sea Grant College Program is in its 10th successful year. The project is in 20 schools and with over 8000 students (intermediate to high school) participating in the project.
- In this stewardship program, paddlefish are raised from eggs to fingerlings in a classroom nursery tank. Under LDWF supervision, the fish are released back into the environment.
Ocean Commotion: A Louisiana Sea Grant College Program Sponsored Event

- Many of you here today have participated in Ocean Commotion which usually occurs in November.
- Ocean Commotion is a one-day educational event celebrating Louisiana’s coastal and marine resources.
- Since 1998, Ocean Commotion has reached over 29,419 K-8 students. This year the event drew 2,095 students, 148 teachers and 252 parent/chaperones from 24 different schools.

- Currently, both the Native Fish in the Classroom Project and Ocean Commotion are piloting evaluations of these projects on student attitudes, student experiences with the environment and knowledge gained through participating in the programs.

In response to the oil spill, LA Sea Grant College Program solicited oil spill lesson plans to be create/written from other conservation based agencies throughout the state. This resulted in a compilation of at least a dozen oil spill lesson plans for K-12 teachers.

LUMCON:
- Is hosted a Water Quality Teacher Workshop in the summer which is primarily funded through a BTNEP
grant as well as a B WET (Bay Watershed Education & Training) grant. This workshop gives teachers an opportunity to work with scientists.

- LUMCON’s Bayouside Classroom Stewardship Project is still ongoing. This is a watershed stewardship project involving students in surrounding southeastern parishes also funded by the B WET grant.

In addition to coordination of programs and events, educators/biologists from Audubon Nature Institute, BTNEP, DNR, UNO, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, LDWF, LA Sea Grant College Program are board members on:

- Aquatic Resources Educators Association
- BTNEP Action Planning Team
- Environmental Education Commission
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Gulf of Mexico Ocean Observing Systems
- Sea Grant Healthy Ecosystems Restoration
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation
We also give presentations, poster presentations and workshops at national, regional and state conferences.

The Environmental Education Symposium is scheduled to take place in Baton Rouge on February 11 -12, 2011. Many educators/scientists will be presenting and exhibiting at this symposium which is focused just on environmental education.

The No Child Left Inside Act supports environmental and outdoor education in our nation’s pre-K through 12 public schools. It provides incentives for state to create and implement State Environmental Literacy Plans to ensure that students have a basic understanding of the environment before they graduate.

www.nclicoalition.org