

# American Fisheries Society - Mid-Atlantic Chapter

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## President's Rants, Rambles, & Edicts

With the new newsletter, I was told that I could have my own presidential space for whatever I wanted, so here goes!

### Rambles:

I would like to thank our past-president Jason Morson for his guidance and the successful November meeting at Cape Henlopen's Biden Center in Lewes. After pulling off the meeting, he cared enough about the future of the chapter to sit down and create a helpful guide for future presidents and it has helped me out already.

Congratulations to students Matt Breece of Delaware State University and Matt Yergey of Rutgers University for best student presentation and poster, respectively.

Our past-past president, Jim Armstrong has agreed to stay on as

webmaster and Lori Brown has offered her talents (we begged a little) to create this newsletter.



**President Matthew Fisher in his day job.**

Congratulations to Roland Hagan of Rutgers University on becoming the president-elect (read his exciting information later in the newsletter).

### Rants:

John Clark was good enough to nominate me when I wasn't even

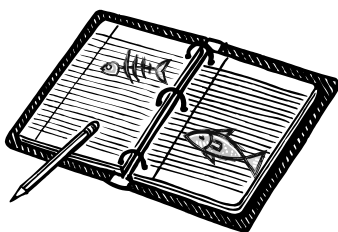
there! I imagined everyone saying, "Matt Fisher? Who is that? He isn't here...perfect!" Honestly, it was discussed ahead of time and I am willing to serve and do my best.

### Edicts:

In the interest of funding student travel, we would like to have a live raffle at the meeting social. We are looking for items that will interest the membership: a vintage MAC t-shirt, and nice fishing rod combo from a local vendor, or maybe you dabble in naturalist artwork and would like to donate something you have designed.

For this to work, we need donations. It is for a worthy cause and we can provide a donation letter with our 501-C number and meeting information if needed.

## Editor's Notes



So, as you can see, we are going to attempt to put out a newsletter twice a year (give or take) to update the MAC-AFS members on what is going on in the Mid-

Atlantic region. The first one is a little later than hoped for, but it has taken a bit of time to work out the bugs.

We plan to highlight exciting research going on in the area conducted by students and professionals as well as provide information about upcoming events, highlight adventures from previous events, etc.

We will need input from the chap-

ter members to make this worth while, so send us your articles, updates, announcements, pictures, etc.

Please feel free to send any information you would like to see in the newsletter along with any comments or suggestions to [lbrown@desu.edu](mailto:lbrown@desu.edu).

This is a great opportunity to get information to peers and students in the mid-Atlantic region.



Dana Sackett getting out in the field and doing some sampling in North Carolina.

## Where are they now? Student Updates.

### Dana Rowles Sackett

Dana (Rowles) Sackett is nearly finished with her PhD at NC State University in fisheries ecology with a minor in environmental toxicology. She has worked on mercury (Hg) contamination and it's movement through aquatic ecosystems for her dissertation and plans to finish this June. Her work has focused on many aspects of Hg accumulation in freshwater fish; a few of these aspects include identifying environmental factors that

help predict Hg levels in fish, understanding the effects of coal-fired power plant proximity on Hg bioaccumulation, and how fisheries harvest regulations effect human health risks. She also plans to begin a post-doc this summer with NC State examining how endocrine disruptors in aquatic environments impact fish populations. She has remained an active member of the American Fisheries Society, attending and presenting at national,

regional and state meetings since her time in the AFS-MAC. She looks forward to the national AFS meetings each year so she can see her old colleagues from the New Jersey Delaware area.

On a more personal note, Dana was married to Doug Sackett in 2006 and they recently had their first child, Gavin Sackett. He is currently 3 months old.



Phil Simpson and Dewayne Fox releasing a tagged Atlantic sturgeon.

## Where are they now? Student Updates.

### Phil Simpson

Phil Simpson moved to Delaware from Oregon to obtain a Master's degree from Delaware State University. In 2008 he received a Master's of Science in Natural Resources from focusing on Atlantic sturgeon habitat in Delaware Bay and River. Once done, Phil returned home to the west coast. He was hired by the Oregon Department of Fish



and Wildlife (ODFW) as a Habitat Restoration Biologist. For the past three years, Phil has worked to implement restoration projects that increase the survival of juvenile salmonids through restoration of tributary, floodplain and estuarine habitats. Starting

this month Phil will begin a Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist position with ODFW to help develop strategies to restore natural salmon and steelhead production in the Hood River watershed.



## Recognition for Roy Miller

Congratulations to Roy Miller. He received the Meritorious Service Award from AFS. We recognized him at the Winter Chapter Meeting in Lewes, DE. Thanks for everything you have done for the Chapter and Fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic.



Roy Miller receiving his award from Jason Morson, MAC's past president.



Beautiful and scenic  
Cape Henlopen State  
Park, Lewes, DE.  
Our 2010 meeting  
location.

## 2010 MAC Annual Meeting and News for 2011

We had a great turn out for the 2010 mac meeting this past winter. Thanks to everyone that made it a great event. We are getting things prepped for our next one, and the president-elect has been working hard to get things planned, Here are some details from Roland!

Get excited about the 2011 MAC Meeting at the Lighthouse Center in Waretown, NJ. The Center is owned by the NJ DFW and is situated on 194 acres coastal habitat adjacent to Barnegat Bay in Ocean Township, NJ. There are a variety of opportunities to explore the maritime forest, the salt marsh, two tidal streams and a freshwater impoundment on this unique site.

Onsite dormitory, dining area and Lodge will allow ample interaction with scientists and students in a casual setting.

The poster session will be hosted by John Wnek of the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, just down the road from the meeting site. Here members will receive a tour of the fascinating facility and be able to view posters of the High school students research next to our own.

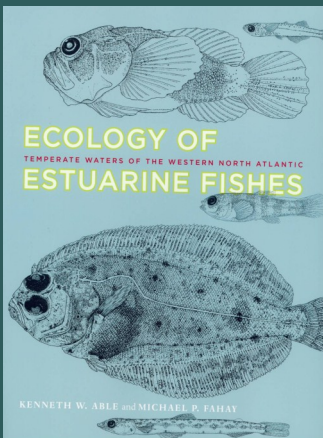
We are looking for leaders to participate in breakout workshop sessions on topics relating to fisheries management. This will be a great opportunity to interact with the up and coming students who will be

the new critical thinkers in fisheries biology and technology.

We look forward to following a similar 2 day format and agenda to recent meetings and anticipate an increased presence from the New Jersey fish and wildlife researchers with its location being in their backyard.



For more information, about the location, visit the website. [www.experiencebarnegatbay.org](http://www.experiencebarnegatbay.org)



"No one else could have written this book. I am amazed by the depth and range of knowledge demonstrated. This synthesis is a major contribution to estuarine fish studies." - David H. Secor, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

## Researcher's Corner

From the John Hopkins University Press

**Ecology of Estuarine Fishes: Temperate Waters of the Western North Atlantic**

Kenneth W. Able and Michael P. Fahay

This comprehensive reference book details the life history and ecology of the fish species that occupy the estuarine and coastal habitats along much of the eastern United States.

The life history and ecology of fishes in estuaries is poorly known relative to the interest and needs of ichthyologists, estuarine ecologists, pollution biologists and resource managers at local, state and federal levels. Also, it is while they are in estuaries that they encounter several critical "bottlenecks" that can greatly affect survival rates and the resulting abundance of populations that we wish to harvest or are important components of these ecosystems. This book addresses missing information in a data-rich synthesis based on both historical and new information from a variety of sources embracing both temperate estuaries and the adjacent Atlantic Ocean where many of these species are spawned and spend the winter. This monograph comprehensively treats the how, when, and why of the dominant fishes in estuaries. Synthesis chapters summarizing the patterns of reproduction and development, larval supply, settlement, growth, mortality, habitat use and migrations are based on individual chapters for 94 species.

For more information about this publication, including Table of Contents visit:

<http://marine.rutgers.edu/rumfs/pubsbooks.htm>

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[www.fisheries.org/units/mid-atlantic/mac-afs.htm](http://www.fisheries.org/units/mid-atlantic/mac-afs.htm)