



Socioeconomic News

<http://www.fisheries.org/socioecon/>

Newsletter of the Socioeconomic Section of the American Fisheries Society

Fall 2005

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From the President's Desk

Greetings!

There are lots of socioeconomics happenings in the AFS! First, the meetings in Anchorage were a big time. We had our annual meeting, sponsored a research symposium and enjoyed the debate in the economic growth and fisheries conservation symposium. Along the way, we ate a bunch of halibut, salmon and reindeer sausage (\$5 on the sidewalks of Anchorage will get you a reindeer sausage on a bun, chips and a drink) and drank a few beers.

Continuing the gastronomical theme, one highlight of the section's annual meeting were the refreshments (beach party!). The meeting began with another highlight, the presentation of the "Distinguished Service" plaque to Peter Fricke. Peter plans to retire from NOAA and as Section Treasurer at some point in the near future. He has served as president of the section (before my time) and secretary/treasury for as long as I can remember. Peter, thanks for your service!

We reached a quorum (10 section members) about half-way through the annual meeting but, alas, had nothing to vote on. On the serious side, intrigued by the economic growth and fisheries conservation issue, an AFS past-president and future president attended the meeting and explained where the governing board stood on the Water Quality Section's steady state economy proposal to the Resource Policy Committee (more elsewhere in the newsletter). Check out the minutes from the meeting to get a feel for where we are on this and other issues.

The section sponsored an all day Thursday symposium that was well attended (40-60 attendees), especially considering it was the last day of the meeting. All of the presentations were great. We all learned much about the anthro, socio and eco aspects of west coast/Pacific fisheries. The highlight of the symposium came at the end of the day when I presented the Weithman Award (and \$\$\$) to Courtney Carothers (see details elsewhere in the newsletter). Later that day, I saw Courtney with a large crew of her peeps (is that redundant?). In answer to my shouted question of whether

Courtney had told everyone about her award, one crew member said that she was buying the drinks! I guess graduate school culture hasn't changed much in the past 15 years.

We are in the planning stage for the Lake Placid meetings. We're working with the Sea Grant extension folks on a symposium tentatively titled "Responding to Social, Economic and Environmental Change in the Fishery: Enhancing Stakeholder Interactions" (see page 14 of this newsletter). This symposium might look similar to the one we co-organized with Sea Grant Extension two meetings ago in Madison: extension and socioeconomics people co-existing and learning from the other. That symposium went well and we're looking forward to another. Plans are also underway for a symposium focused on NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (<http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>). Stay tuned for the call for papers.

Finally, after 3 years of tepid leadership of the Socioeconomics Section it looks like we will have an election for 2006-07 president-elect. Whoa. We are going to have an election for president-elect! This means that my reign as president of the section will come to an end after five years at the September 2007 annual meeting in San Francisco. More importantly, the section will be able to enjoy the inspiration of new leadership and new ideas. And, the new president will be a non-economist for the first time in forever. Read more about the candidates and the election details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Land Ho!
-John

Fish and Mussel Kill Workshops

Wayne Davis and Rob Southwick continue to do a fantastic job representing the Socioeconomics Section by conducting "Investigation and Valuation of Fish and Mussel Kills" workshops around the country. Their latest two, the fifth and sixth overall, were held in September in Niles, MI for the Indiana and Michigan AFS chapters, and in November in Brookings, SD for the Dakota Chapter. Both workshops were well attended, with 35-40 enthusiastic attendees enjoying the informative instruction.

Rob pointed out that the Dakota workshop *happened* to be scheduled during pheasant season. In an effort to assist other chapters in scheduling successful workshops, Rob provided the following guidance:

"We highly encourage other AFS chapters to plan workshops around quality hunts or fishing trips to ensure a lively and positive delivery by the instructors (at least this instructor!). Otherwise, we'll mix supply and demand graphs into the presentation..."

So there you have it, folks -- an inside tip direct from one of the instructors!

Kudos, Wayne and Rob, for an awesome job representing the Section, and all of your efforts in providing quality training through these workshops. Many thanks for a job well done!!

Congratulations to Courtney Carothers -- The 2005 Weithman Award Winner!!!

The Missouri Chapter and the Socioeconomics Section of the AFS are pleased to announce that the A. Stephen Weithman Best Student Paper Award in Socioeconomics goes to Courtney Carothers, a graduate student at the University of Washington, for her paper "Fishing Quotas and Communities: A Case Study from the Gulf of Alaska."

The award is presented for the best platform or poster paper presented by a student at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Papers are judged on content, originality, organization, contribution to the field of fisheries science, and overall presentation of the study. The award winner receives \$150 and an award certificate.

Her presentation can be viewed at the section's webpage: <http://www.fisheries.org/socioecon/Awards/>.

Fishing Quotas and Communities: A Case Study from the Gulf of Alaska



Courtney Carothers
University of Washington

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting
September 14, 2005

2006-07 Election of President-Elect of the AFS Socioeconomics Section

From the By-Laws (Duties of Officers):

President – The president shall serve as Chairperson of the Section Executive Committee, preside at all meetings of the Section, appoint all committees, and chairpersons thereof, except as they may be designated in these bylaws and serve as ex officio member of all committees. The president shall submit an annual report to the Executive Committee of the Society. The president also shall represent the Section on the Executive Committee of the Society, and shall make appointments and perform such duties related to the Section as the Society may deem necessary.

President-Elect – The president-elect shall assume the duties of the president if the president is absent, and shall insure that all functions of the Section are in compliance with the bylaws.

The president-elect assumes the office of president after one year.

The election of the 2006-07 President-Elect will follow the by-laws of the Socioeconomics Section:

Election of officers shall be by mail ballot. The ballot will consist of two nominees in good standing for each office. Votes for write-in candidates can be cast on the official ballot. Ballots will be furnished to the membership by May 15. Ballots postmarked before July 1 shall be counted. Results of the election shall be announced by mail. Elected officers shall be installed and take office at the annual meeting of the Society.

We will request a membership list of the Socioeconomics Section during the middle of February of 2006. If you would like to vote, you must make sure that you are a member of AFS and the section by this time. The winner of the election will be announced via the section's e-mail list maintained by Herb Holloway. If you are not on this list and would like to be, please e-mail Herb (his address is on the front page of this newsletter).

Two candidates have been nominated for the office of President-Elect of the Socioeconomics Section (2006-07). Both nominees are willing to serve (thanks to both). See their biographies below.

Brian Czech

Brian Czech has a B.S. in wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an M.S. in wildlife science from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in renewable natural resources with a minor in political science from the University of Arizona. He has provided 17 years of public service. He is a conservation biologist in the national office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he helps develop policies, objectives, and land acquisition priorities for the National Wildlife Refuge System. He also coordinated an assessment of the economic value of ecological services provided by the Refuge System.

Czech is also an adjunct professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, National Capitol Region, Alexandria, VA. He teaches ecological economics, endangered species policy and management, and sustainability science. He also serves on graduate student committees.

Czech has published in numerous natural science, social science, and professional journals, including *Science*, *Bioscience*, *Conservation Biology*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, *Fisheries*, *Society and Natural Resources*, *Ecological Economics*, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *Politics and the Life Sciences*, *Renewable Resources Journal*, and *Natural Resources Journal*. He is the author of Shoveling Fuel for a Runaway Train, which combines a

critique of conventional economic growth theory using ecological principles. He is also the author (with Paul R. Krausman) of [The Endangered Species Act: History, Conservation Biology, and Public Policy](#).

Czech is active in a variety of sustainability issues. He established the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which has helped professional natural resources and economics societies to address the challenges to environmental protection posed by economic growth. He has had some success in getting the federal government to formally acknowledge the conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation.

(Brian's full resume is available at http://www.steadystate.org/files/Brian_resume.pdf .)

Robert A. Robertson

Robert Alex Robertson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Development in the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire. Current research and outreach involvements are focused on the social and economic dimensions of natural resource planning and management. More specifically, Dr. Robertson is actively involved in research and outreach activities intended to improve the process (and develop new tools) by which stakeholders participate in natural resource and economics development related decision-making and on reducing non-response bias in survey research.

He has published in a diverse range of peer reviewed journals, including *Marine Policy*, *Society and Natural Resources*, *Human Organization*, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, *Journal of Leisure Studies*, *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, *Journal of Aquaculture Economics and Management*, *Environment and Behavior*, and *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, among others. He has completed applied research projects for the Northeast Consortium, the Northeast Science Center, NH Sea Grant, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Coastal and Ocean Science, the Federal Highway Administration, NH Fish and Game Department, the NH Office of State Planning, the NH Department of Environmental Services, White Mountain National Forest, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, among others.

He serves on a number of technical advisory committees with a focus on the evaluation and application of social science research methods to resource management programs and policies, including the Social Science Advisory Committee of the New England Fishery Management Council, the Social and Economic Advisory Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission, NH Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Advisory Committee, Coastal Training Program Advisory Committee associated with the Sandy Point Discovery Center, NH Sea Grant Scientific Advisory Committee, Faculty Liaison to the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Technical Advisory Committee to the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (formerly), and he currently serves as an alternate to the at-large seat on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary's Science Advisory Committee.

(More information on Rob is available at <http://www.dred.unh.edu/Rob.htm> .)



Alligator Gar
USFWS/Duane Raver

Fisheries Conservation and Economic Growth

As reported in the Spring 2005 newsletter of the Socioeconomics Section, AFS President Barbara Knuth directed the AFS Resource Policy Committee (RPC) to request the Water Quality Section to form a working group with the Socioeconomic Section to revise the draft resource policy statement on economic growth and fisheries conservation.

On July 29, 2005, the president of the Water Quality Section, Georgina Lampman, formally requested that the issue paper and draft resource policy statement be distributed to the members of the RPC for their comments and questions (see pages 7-12 of this newsletter). The request highlighted the agreements and disagreements between the Water Quality Section and certain members of the Socioeconomics Section on this issue (see past issues of Socioeconomics News that are available in PDF format at the section's webpage: <http://www.fisheries.org/socioecon>.) On July 29, 2005, John Whitehead sent a letter to the RPC clarifying his position (see page 13).

Peter Fricke attended the AFS Governing Board meeting in Anchorage and reports:

Agenda Item 54 of the AFS Governing Board meeting on September 10, 2005, "Resource Policy Committee Report to the Governing Board", covers the issue of the proposal of an AFS "policy statement on economic growth". The following motion was proposed by the Resource Policy Committee and passed without dissent by the Governing Board at the meeting (neither the Socioeconomics Section nor the Water Quality Section have votes in the Governing Board meetings because each Section has less than 200 members):

"Move that the AFS Governing Board approve formation of a committee comprised of members of the Water Quality Section, Socioeconomics Section, Resource Policy Committee and other interested and knowledgeable members to develop a study report/background paper on economic development and fisheries. The document would be used to help inform a decision [by the Resource Policy Committee] about whether or not to develop an AFS policy statement on the issue."

After the motion passed Peter indicated that the Socioeconomics Section would be prepared to work with the Resource Policy Committee. To date, John hasn't heard anything from the RPC, but he is ready to participate in the working group. Several other section members have also indicated their willingness to serve.





4659 West 2200 South, Ogden, UT 84401-9710, (801) 625-5358

29 July 2005

Mary Gressner, Co-Chair
Resources Policy Committee
c/o American Fisheries Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

Kim Hyatt, Co-Chair
Resource Policy Committee
American Fisheries Society
Dept Fish & Oceans PBS
3190 Hammond Bay Rd
Nanaimo , British Columbia V9T 6N7

Subject: Proposed resource policy on economic growth

Dear Dr. Gressner and Dr. Hyatt:

Over the past winter, the general membership of the AFS Water Quality Section (WQS) voted to seek the adoption of a resource policy statement on economic growth by AFS at large. A WQS committee, chaired by Brian Czech, was formed to develop a short issue paper and draft resource policy statement. The WQS submitted the issue paper and draft statement (copy attached) to you on February 16, 2005 for consideration by the Resources Policy Committee.

In an e-mail message of February 26, 2005, Dr. Gressner inquired about involvement of others, especially the Socioeconomics Section. Already aware of this need, the WQS had previously contacted the Socioeconomics Section, beginning in October 2004 with e-mail exchanges between John Whitehead, Socioeconomics Section President, and me. John indicated some interest but also indicated that most of their members tend to work on topics of microeconomics. John had previously co-authored a letter in *Fisheries* that summarizes their thoughts on the subject (Whitehead et al., *Fisheries* 30(4):32-34). Brian, who is a member of both Sections, co-authored a response, which was also published in *Fisheries* (Czech et al., *Fisheries* 30(4):34-35). The actions relating to the *Fisheries* publications overlapped with the dialogue regarding the draft resource policy statement.

John and Brian have continued to communicate via email and telephone, and based on their communications and the letters in *Fisheries* the interested parties in both Sections agree that a conflict exists between economic

growth and fisheries conservation. The difference between the Sections lies in the approach on what the AFS can or will do about it. The WQS would like to see a resource policy statement adopted by the AFS explicating this conflict and identifying a steady state economy (non-growing, non-shrinking economy) as a potential solution. John and others in the Socioeconomics Section are reticent with regard to an AFS resource policy statement on economic growth and generally do not favor macroeconomic policies for establishing a steady state economy.

We feel that the WQS has made ample effort in inviting participation by the Socioeconomics Section to the discussion on the resource policy statement; however, we also think the issue of economic growth and fish conservation requires even more involvement than just our two sections. We think economic growth is an issue of scale (macroeconomics and public policy) rather than an issue of valuation and the allocation of resources (microeconomics and the market). As such, we feel it is an issue for consideration by the Resources Policy Committee itself, as prelude for participation by others who may be interested in the issue and for consideration by the AFS membership at large. The Spring 2005 newsletter of the Socioeconomics Section references direction to the RPC from AFS President Barbara Knuth to request the WQS to form a working group with the Socioeconomic Section to revise the draft resource policy statement; however, I have received no such instruction from either the RPC or President Knuth. We feel that the longer the draft resource policy statement lingers in the current informal discussion stage, the more confusion there will be for both the WQS and Socioeconomics Section. The more serious consequence is that this fish conservation issue will continue to remain unresolved while present economic policies continue to result in depleted aquatic resources.

At this time, the Water Quality Section requests that the issue paper and draft resource policy statement be distributed to the members of the Resources Policy Committee for their comments and questions. We feel that the technical merits of the draft resource policy statement are well established and that there is little disagreement over those merits. The immediate question is whether or not the AFS finds it appropriate to adopt a resource policy statement based on those merits. We believe it is appropriate and in the interest of aquatic resources to do so. However, this question must be answered by the Resources Policy Committee before further action on such a resource policy statement can be taken.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please let me know if there is anything I or the WQS committee members can do to help.

Sincerely,

/s/ Georgina Lampman

Georgina Lampman
President, Water Quality Section
American Fisheries Society

Cc: Larry Brown, John Meldrim, Lou Reynolds, officers, AFS Water Quality Section
Brian Czech, Bob Gray, Bob Hughes, John Meldrim, Ron Preston, AFS Water Quality Section Committee on Economic Growth
Barbara Knuth, AFS President
Gus Rassam, AFS Executive Director
John Whitehead, President, AFS Socioeconomics Section

Attachment

Attachment 1

4659 West 2200 South, Ogden, UT 84401-9710, (801) 625-5358

16 February 2005

Mary Gressner, Co-Chair
Resource Policy Committee
c/o American Fisheries Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
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Kim Hyatt, Co-Chair
Resource Policy Committee
American Fisheries Society
Dept Fish & Oceans PBS
3190 Hammond Bay Rd
Nanaimo , British Columbia V9T 6N7

Subject: Proposed resource policy statement addressing the conflict between economic growth and fish conservation and supporting the alternative of a steady state economy

Dear Dr. Gressner and Dr. Hyatt:

On behalf of the Water Quality Section of the American Fisheries Society, I am writing to request that the Resource Policy Committee consider the attached proposed resource policy statement in support of managing for a steady state economy as an alternative to managing for economic growth in order to reduce conflict with fish conservation.

This issue was brought to the attention of the Water Quality Section at its business meeting in August 2004 at Madison, WI. At that time, the Section voted to develop the proposed policy statement for sponsorship. The proposal was prepared, and in January 2005 the Section voted in favor of sponsoring and forwarding it to the Resource Policy Committee.

To assist you in your discussions, I am recommending Brian Czech, a Section member, as a person knowledgeable of the issue. Dr. Czech headed the committee that drafted the proposal and has been working with other professional societies as they adopt similar policies. He can be reached at (703) 358-2485 or brian_czech@fws.gov. Others on the committee who may be able to assist you are Robert Gray, Robert Hughes, John Meldrim, and Ron Preston. Contact information will be provided if requested.

Please let me know if you require further information from me at this time. The Water Quality Section appreciates the Resource Policy Committee's consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,

/S/ Georgina Lampman

Georgina Lampman
President
AFS Water Quality Section

Attachment

Cc: Barbara Knuth, President, AFS
Gus Rassam, Executive Director, AFS

ATTACHMENT
Issue Paper – Economic Growth
Prepared by American Fisheries Society Water Quality Section
January 27, 2005

Topic: Economic growth

Issue: Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services. It is a function of increasing human population and per capita consumption, and is generally indicated by increasing gross domestic product. It has become a primary domestic policy goal of the American public and polity.

It is becoming increasingly apparent, based on well-established principles of ecology and empirical evidence, that there is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and fish conservation. Due to the tremendous breadth of the human niche, which expands via technological progress, the human economy grows at the competitive exclusion of nonhuman species in the aggregate. Causes of species endangerment in the U.S. reflect the structure of the American economy, including agricultural and extractive sectors, manufacturing sectors, service sectors, economic infrastructure (e.g., wells, canals, reservoirs), byproducts (i.e., pollutants), and incidental effects including the introduction of non-native invasive species.

Numerous fisheries, commercial and non-commercial, serve to illustrate the conflict between economic growth and fish conservation. For example, the Atlantic cod, a significant economic good throughout American history, has declined primarily as a result of fishing (an extractive sector). Numerous Colorado River fish species have been endangered largely by the construction of dams (economic infrastructure). Salmon stocks in the Pacific Northwest are threatened by a combination of economic sectors (agriculture, logging, mining, livestock grazing, and fishing) and infrastructure (dams, roads). These and many other fisheries are impacted by the byproducts of economic production (i.e., pollution) and incidental effects of economic production (e.g., invasive species as a function of international trade and interstate commerce). The causes of fish species endangerment invariably reflect the propensity of the human economy to grow at the competitive exclusion of fish and other non-human species.

Many Americans do not appear to be aware of the conflict between economic growth and fish conservation. This is due partly to a lack of ecological training among the public, and partly to a lack of ecological expertise among conventionally trained economists who provide the most prominent recommendations to policy makers.

The typical position taken by growth economists is that more economic growth is required to afford environmental protection and conservation programs. That position is known in the economics profession as the “environmental Kuznets curve” but has been severely criticized in and out of the economics profession, especially when applied to macroeconomic scenarios such as economic growth and the environment at large. The environmental Kuznets curve is promoted by various economic interests in the private and public sectors which benefit in the short term from strong pro-growth policies.

The Water Quality Section believes that the long-run prospects for fish conservation will depend on the establishment of a steady state economy (stabilized population times per capita consumption). The optimum size of a steady state economy may vary based upon the technological regime, but there is a limit to economic growth and a fundamental conflict between economic growth and fish conservation no matter which technological regime is adhered to. This position has been clearly taken by The Wildlife Society, the Society for Conservation Biology’s North America Section, and the United States Society for Ecological Economics. Only by developing solidarity on this issue can the natural resources professions lead the American public and policy makers into a more informed discussion and decision-making process to plan for the appropriate amount of compromise between economic growth and ecological integrity, including fish conservation.

Recommendations: The Water Quality Section envisions and seeks the adoption of an AFS position on economic growth. This position should begin by clearly and concisely articulating the following points:

- 1) Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services.
- 2) Economic growth occurs when there is an increase in the product of population multiplied by per capita production and consumption.
- 3) Economic growth is often and generally indicated by increasing real gross domestic product (GDP) or real gross national product (GNP).
- 4) Based upon established principles of physics and ecology, there is a limit to economic growth.
- 5) A steady state economy is generally indicated by stabilized (or mildly fluctuating) real gross domestic product (GDP) or real gross national product (GNP).
- 6) A steady state economy, with a stabilized (or mildly fluctuating) product of population multiplied by per capita consumption, is an alternative to economic growth; and;
- 7) A steady state economy, with stabilized (or mildly fluctuating) production and consumption of goods and services, is an alternative to economic growth.
- 8) The American economy grows as an integrated whole consisting of agricultural, extractive, manufacturing, and services sectors that require physical inputs and produce wastes.
- 9) There is increasing evidence that North American economic growth is having negative effects on the long-term ecological and economic welfare of North America and the world.

Therefore, the Water Quality Section suggests an AFS position include the following, at a minimum:

- 1) There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and fish conservation based on the ecological principle of competitive exclusion.
- 2) There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and the ecological services underpinning the human economy (for example, pollination, decomposition, climate regulation).

- 3) Technological progress occurs via research and development that requires funding and the use of natural resources, has many positive and negative ecological and economic effects, and may not be depended upon to reconcile the conflict between economic growth and fish conservation.
- 4) A steady state economy is a viable, sustainable alternative to a growing economy and has become a more appropriate goal in the larger, wealthier economies of North America.
- 5) The long-run sustainability of a steady state economy requires its establishment at a size that does not breach ecological and economic capacity during expected or unexpected supply shocks such as droughts and energy shortages.

The Water Quality Section suggests AFS also consider including the following points in a position on economic growth:

- 1) Because of its negative effects on long-term ecological and economic welfare, economic growth is an increasingly dangerous and anachronistic American goal.
- 2) A steady state economy does not preclude economic development, a qualitative process in which different technologies may be employed and the relative prominence of economic sectors may evolve.
- 3) Upon establishing a steady state economy, it would be advisable for the United States to assist other nations in moving from the goal of economic growth to the goal of a steady state economy, beginning with those nations currently enjoying the highest levels of per capita consumption.
- 4) For many nations with widespread poverty, increasing per capita consumption (or, alternatively, more equitable distributions of wealth) remains an appropriate goal for the time being, yet the ultimate goal should be the establishment of healthy ecological and social conditions within the framework of a steady state economy.

Primary contact:

Georgina Lampman, AFS Water Quality Section Chair
USDA Forest Service
Intermountain Region
324 25th St., Ogden, UT 84401
Phone: (801) 625-5358
Fax: (801) 625-5756

Water Quality Section Committee on Economic Growth:

Brian Czech, Chair
Robert Gray
Robert Hughes
John Meldrim
Ron Preston



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29 July 2005

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3190 Hammond Bay Rd
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Subject: Proposed resource policy on economic growth

Dear Dr. Gressner and Dr. Hyatt:

Several Socioeconomics Section members are willing to participate in AFS's discussion of economic growth and fish conservation. I agree with Georgina's characterization of our differences with the Water Quality Section's proposal:

John and others in the Socioeconomics Section are reticent with regard to an AFS resource policy statement on economic growth and generally do not favor macroeconomic policies for establishing a steady state economy.

The source of this disagreement can be found in a subtlety in the following statement:

John and Brian have continued to communicate via email and telephone, and based on their communications and the letters in *Fisheries* the interested parties in both Sections agree that a conflict exists between economic growth and fisheries conservation.

We believe that there is a conflict between some economic *activity* and fisheries conservation. In other words, (macro) economic growth, per se, is not the problem. The problem is individual (microeconomic) decisions that negatively impact fisheries conservation. As such, macroeconomic policies (e.g., interest rate rules, government spending and taxation) are not the answer. In fact, these may exacerbate the problem if falling incomes leads to increased individual behavior that negatively impacts fish conservation. We support environmental and natural resource policies that explicitly target the problem.

In sum: we support economically sound fisheries policies, such as ITQs, but not macro policies, such as interest rate or tax rate hikes designed to slow growth.

Thanks for your patience with this clarification.

Sincerely,

John Whitehead
President, Socioeconomics Section

AFS Socioeconomics Section

Draft Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting

Anchorage, Alaska; September 11, 2005

Members present: John Whitehead (Section President), Peter Fricke (Section Secretary-Treasurer), Jack Thigpen, Steve Coghland*, J.V. Mead*, Patricia F. Thompson*, Brian Czech, Tom Lang*, Bonnie McCay, Ray Rhodes. (* indicates student members)

Guests: Ira Adelman (AFS Past President), Jennifer L. Nielsen (AFS President), Beth Beard (AFS)

Apologies for absence: Herb Holloway, Newsletter Editor

Call to Order: President Whitehead called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm after a quorum (10 members) had assembled and welcomed new members to the meeting.

Award Presentation: President Whitehead presented the Secretary-Treasurer with the Section's award for distinguished service

Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting: The Secretary-Treasurer noted that these had been circulated to members in the Newsletter and were posted on the Section's website. Ray Rhodes moved, seconded by Jack Thigpen, that the minutes of the Socioeconomic Section's 2004 Annual General Meeting in Madison, WI, be adopted as read. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Matters arising:** It was noted that there had been no nominations for Section leadership posts, and thus there were no elections held in 2004-2005. The President hoped that there would be nominations forthcoming for all positions in the Spring of 2006 and that elections could be conducted by mail ballot at that time in accordance with the bylaws. In the meantime all the officers had agreed to stay in position until the election was held. It was noted that a nomination for President had been received just prior to this meeting, and Herb Holloway had expressed an interest in being nominated for Secretary-Treasurer. Tom Lang said that he would be willing to tackle the post of editor of the newsletter if nominated.

Treasurer's Report: The Section had an opening bank balance on August 1, 2004 of \$8,322.45. The balance on July 31, 2005 was \$7,411.26, for a decrease of \$911.19 during the year. Income for the year was \$924.59, and was composed of membership dues (\$535.00), Madison continuing education workshop fees (\$337.50), and bank interest (\$52.09). Expenses during the year were \$1,835.78, and were composed of the Weitheman Student Paper Award (\$150.00), workshop expenses for Madison and regional workshops (\$1,585.78), and AFS website fees (\$100.00). It was noted that these expenditures were in line with the Section's decision at Madison to reach out to AFS Chapters and Regions with workshops on resource damage assessment. The Section's decision to cover guest speakers' travel costs to the Anchorage, if the expenses were not covered by an employer, had been implemented but the final amount was not yet known. Ray Rhodes moved, seconded by Tom Lang, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks by Guests: President Whitehead introduced our guests and invited them to speak to the meeting. **Jennifer Nielsen** noted that her interest and goals during her term of office was to expand student membership of AFS and to continue developing programs of outreach, publications, and fisheries science for members. She welcomed the input of social scientists in all aspects of AFS and looked forward to working with the Section during the year. **Ira Adelman** said the parent society, AFS, was stronger and better managed than in the past. He noted that costs to members had not increased for a number of years, and that the budget was balanced. Membership dues contributed 18 percent only of the budget, while publications contributed some two-thirds of the Society's income. The balance came from donations and income from the AFS Annual Meeting. He encouraged section members to use the Society's resources and to build a bigger section.

Meetings of the AFS Governing Board: Peter Fricke reported on the Mid-year and Annual Meetings of the AFS Governing Board which he had attended as the proxy for President Whitehead. It was noted that Socioeconomics

Section did not have a vote on the Governing Board, since the Section had fewer than 200 members, but otherwise participated in discussions, workshops and proceedings of the Board with all other sections. At both meetings there was discussion of the role of economics and the other social sciences in sustaining or hindering achievement of healthy ecosystems. In 2004, at the Madison meeting, the Water Quality Section had passed a resolution calling on the AFS to adopt a policy calling for a stable state economic growth approach to sustainability. This had been discussed at the Mid-Year meeting in Rockville, MD, and referred to the Resource Policy Committee of AFS. At the Governing Board meeting on September 10 in Anchorage, the Resource Policy Committee proposed, and the Governing Board adopted, that an ad-hoc working group on the issue of stable state economic growth and an AFS policy related to this approach be formed by the Resource Policy Committee. Membership of the ad-hoc working group would be drawn from the Water Quality and Socioeconomic Sections and other AFS members interested in this issue.

Resource Policy Committee's Ad-Hoc Working Group on Stable State Economic Growth: The President invited discussion of issues before, and Section membership on, the Ad-Hoc working Group. Brian Czech was concerned that economic growth, as currently envisioned, relied on an exponentially increasing consumption of goods and services which in turn depleted natural resources and ecosystems. He and the Water Quality Section were concerned about this and wanted to engage the AFS in a dialog which would further conservation and sustainability of fisheries and other natural resources. This dialog needed to be multidisciplinary and needed to integrate the goals of societal benefits and costs with ecosystem maintenance and protection. Peter Fricke noted that quality of life issues are an important element in such a discussion and social scientists other than economists also should be included in these discussions. A lively discussion continued for sometime on the issues.

Ira Adelman explained the AFS process of policy discussion and formulation to the meeting. He noted that the Resource Policy Committee receives suggestions for action, in this case from the Water Quality Section, and determines whether the issue is sufficiently timely and important for action to be taken. Complex issues, such as the one on effects of economic growth on ecosystems, were assigned to working groups which would consider whether a policy was needed and then draft a report on the results of their deliberations for the Resource Policy Committee to consider. If the Resource Policy Committee agreed that an AFS policy on an issue was appropriate and scientifically justified, it would propose the policy to the Governing Board for concurrence. If the Governing Board agreed, the policy question and supporting documentation would be put before the membership for their concurrence. In this case the working group would be appointed by the Resource Policy Committee from nominees of the Water Quality and Socioeconomic Sections and other interested AFS members.

The President said that he would put the issue to the Section membership and ask for volunteers who would be nominated to serve on the ad-hoc committee. It was agreed that this was the best way of providing the Resource Policy Committee with a slate to choose from.

Fish Kill Symposia and Books: The President reported that several successful symposia on the valuation of fish kills had been held around the country and more were planned. AFS Chapters and Regions had welcomed the opportunity to sponsor them, and they were much better attended than the continuing education symposia at the AFS Annual Meeting. The honoraria paid to the instructors, Rob Southwick and Wayne Davis, by the Section was seen as a good investment in developing awareness of economic issues among AFS members. The AFS publication of the Valuation of Fish Kills would soon need to be reprinted.

Weitheman Student Social Science Paper Award: The President noted that this award, given jointly with the Missouri chapter, would require a panel of members to review student presentations during the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that Bonnie McCay, Peter Fricke, Ray Rhodes and John Whitehead would ensure that all student social science presentations were heard or reviewed, and as a group would select the best presentation.

There was a discussion of how best to attract social science presentations by students. It was recognized that few social science majors were involved in fishery studies. Suggestions for attracting those students to AFS meetings included direct contacts with, and encouragement by, student faculty advisors and the involvement of the AFS Student Section through campus chapters. Other suggestions included grants towards travel funds or meeting registration fees.

New Business:

- **AFS Meeting 2006, Lake Placid, NY:** The President noted that this was a good venue for Great Lakes and New England fishery papers, and hoped that the Section could organize a number of symposia on fresh- and salt-water fisheries. It was suggested that Jerry Mead, Tracy Dobson, and Tommy Brown be contacted and asked if they would be interested in organizing symposia. Other suggestions for organizers would be welcome.
- **AFS Meeting 2007, San Francisco:** Tom Lang said that he was one of the organizers of an Urban Fishing Symposium for the conference. It was envisioned as a two day symposium with some 40 peer-reviewed papers which would be published by AFS. The symposium would revisit the topics and themes of the 1994 urban fishing symposia in an introductory section, provide current urban fishing case studies in a second section, and conclude with a section on aquatic education and a section of scientific papers. Section members were invited to submit proposals for papers.

Motion to Adjourn: Steve Coghlan moved, seconded by Ray Rhodes, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

AFS 2006 Draft Symposium Proposal Socioeconomics/Extension

Title: Balancing Stakeholder Interactions: responding to social, economic and environmental change in the fishery

Organizers: Dr. Terrence P. Smith, NMFS liaison to Sea Grant, NOAA National Sea Grant Office and Dr. John C. Whitehead, Department of Economics, Appalachian State University

Recent events like hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and tsunamis in southeast Asia have had dramatic impacts not only on society and the environment, but also in raising questions about the way we respond to such natural disasters, how impacts can be mitigated, and future events better anticipated. From an analytical perspective the fisheries science community has begun to consider the human dimension of the response. New, augmented and continuing research is, of course, necessary, but so also is communication with, outreach to, and understanding of how the community that values fish, fisheries and the fisheries environment is affected. As the AFS 2006 theme states, the real issue is “Fish in the Balance”, that is, the analysis of and communication about the tradeoffs that emerge when one contemplates rebuilding fisheries, fisheries infrastructure and the society that depends on viable fish stocks.

Fisheries extension agents deal with the people side of fishing and social scientists attempt to better describe human behavior in the face of changing conditions. Unfortunately, we're beginning to learn that change can be rapid, as well as environment-altering. Environmental impacts are large and the impact on fish populations not well understood. Likewise, the official response to such events results in the rapid input of enormous amounts of dollars, new governance systems, and new infrastructure. The impact on the fisheries, the fleets and the fisheries infrastructure can be cataclysmic. As a grand fishery rebuilding experiment gets underway in the United States and other parts of the world it is important to illustrate how the tradeoffs can be evaluated, examined and acted upon and how outreach plays a role in rebuilding fisheries and the people who depend on fish.

The proposed symposium is co-sponsored by the AFS Socioeconomic Section and representatives of the Sea and Land Grant fisheries extension community. Papers will focus on how society in general, and managers and policy makers more specifically, balance conflicting goals in resolving fishery resource use issues, especially in situations where change can be sudden and/or permanent.

Format: One full-day session, 20 speakers (to be determined by response to internal call for papers).

2006 AFS Annual Meeting Draft Symposia Proposal Estuaries Section

Symposium Title: Death by a Thousand Cuts: Developing and Evaluating Indicators and Policies to Assess and Contain Cumulative Impacts of Human Activities in Estuarine Environments

Organizers: Syma Ebbin

Format: ? depends on response

Moderator: Steve Jordan (?)

AV requirements: must obtain laptop (I do not have one)

Special Seating Requests:

Sponsors: Estuaries Section, Marine Fisheries Section, Socioeconomics Section

Draft Symposia Abstract/Description:

State and federal regulations call for the assessment of cumulative effects in developing environmental impacts statements or evaluations as a requirement of permitting certain types of developments. Cumulative effects or impacts result from the combined, incremental impacts of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future human activities. When evaluated in isolation, a given activity may be seen to cause negligible changes in a natural system. However, when viewed in conjunction with other environmental impacts, the same activity may cause systems to exceed their tipping points, cross thresholds of system stability and health. Evaluated together and over time, cumulative impacts from one or multiple sources can pose serious threats to the environment, responsible for “*death by a thousand cuts*”.

The identification and analysis of cumulative impacts poses significant challenges within the regulatory arena and is a source of conflict among the various stakeholders in these arenas. These challenges and conflicts bring us to the intersection of science, management and policy. Scientific perspectives provide baseline understandings of natural systems, indicators to measure stability, health, and deviations, and models to understand temporal and spatial feedbacks, thresholds, synergisms, alternative ecological states and regime shifts. Managers translate science into regulation, balancing a variety of objectives in their analyses and reviews. Many factors including limited financial and human resources, competing agency mandates, and institutional fragmentation can impede temporally and spatially and comprehensive analyses of cumulative impacts.

Following the theme of the 2006 AFS Annual meeting “Fish in the Balance”, this symposium seeks to explore the relationship between cumulative impacts of human activities and estuarine systems and the methods and policies that have been devised to assess and regulate these impacts. The challenges facing aquatic resource professionals in developing indicators to assess cumulative impacts of development in estuarine environments and in developing policies to contain these impacts require research and insights from different disciplines. This symposium will include presentations from a variety of different perspectives, including those of researchers, managers and policy-makers.

2006 AFS Annual Meeting Draft Symposia Proposal Estuaries Section

Symposium Title: Environmental Responses to Hazards: Identifying Characteristics of Resilience and Vulnerability in Coastal Systems

Organizers: Syma Ebbin, Tom Bigford

Format: ? depends on response but I think papers AND a panel would be great

Moderator: Syma Ebbin and Tom Bigford

AV requirements: must obtain laptop (I do not have one)

Special Seating Requests:

Sponsors: Estuaries Section, Marine Fisheries Section, Socioeconomics Section

Draft Symposia Abstract/Description:

In the US, over half of the population lives near the coast and globally about 2.2 billion people live within 100 km of the coast and this is expected to increase in the future. As Hurricane Katrina demonstrated so forcefully, by changing the structures and processes of coastal systems, humans have blurred the distinction between natural and human disasters. Hurricanes constitute an extreme coastal hazard, but coastal erosion, barrier migration, river and estuarine flooding, subsidence, as well as other changes and events, also comprise significant hazards to these areas.

Vulnerability and resilience constitute different ends of a continuum marking a system's ability to cope with, resist and recover from adverse effects. Coastal hazards impact both natural and human systems. Human actions have the capacity to either exacerbate vulnerability or to enhance the resilience of systems to such events. Fisheries and fishing communities are a logical currency for discussions of these topics in this symposium.

Following the theme of the 2006 AFS Annual meeting "Fish in the Balance", this symposium explores the interrelationships between fish, aquatic habitats and humans in coupled social-ecological systems (SESs) with respect to promoting the characteristics that maintain or enhance resilience of communities of fish and fishing communities. Vulnerability and resilience have biophysical, social and institutional components. Because of this, participants from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including both natural and social sciences are invited to present papers. The papers will contribute to our understanding of the nature of vulnerability and resilience in coupled SESs and propose ways in which the vulnerabilities of coastal SESs to environmental hazards can be ameliorated.

Th-th-th-that's all folks!!!!

Have a Merry Christmas and a fantastic 2006!!!!