



# Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society

NEWSLETTER

July 2004

Summer 2004

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### President's Message

By Anita M. Kelly

The annual AFS meeting in Madison, WI is rapidly approaching and it promises to be an eventful meeting. I urge all FCS members to look at the program, which is currently available, on-line at <http://www.fisheries.org>. The FCS will be actively participating in this meeting. We are hosting two special symposia. The first symposium is entitled *The Role of Fish Propagation in the Recovery of Pallid Sturgeon* and will be held on Monday afternoon. The second symposium is *Nutritional and Physiological Strategies for Sustainable Aquaculture* and will be held on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. I urge you to attend if possible and show your support for the section. In addition, our annual FCS business meeting will be held on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. It is important to attend the business meeting, as this is when items of importance to all members are discussed.

The mid-year meeting of the FCS was held in Hawaii in conjunction with the triennial meeting of WAS, FCS, and NSA. Unfortunately, this is the first year that we have lost money on the triennial meeting. We will need to pay an additional \$5,000 plus for our share of the loss. As you may know, we count on the proceeds from these meetings to help fund the activities of the section. As a consequence of this loss and the funds spent to help defray the cost of the past presidents to attend a retreat in Hawaii, our coffers are low. Therefore, we will need to be extremely fiscally responsible in the next few years. I will be presenting a budget at our business meeting and ask for additional input as to where we should be focusing our efforts that require monetary commitments.

I am once again making the plea for anyone having a student that is graduating to send the newsletter editor or myself a copy of the abstract from his or her thesis or dissertation. We want to publish them in the newsletter to let our members know the types of research being conducted and to get the student more visibility.

To those of you who have volunteered, I wish to thank you. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact me at [akelly@siu.edu](mailto:akelly@siu.edu). Without the help of those that take the time to volunteer, the jobs of the officers would be much more time consuming and perhaps even overwhelming. You truly do make a difference.

# **Aquaculture Research Station Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**

**By Robert P. Romaine and Sandra Malone**

## History and Background

The fisheries and aquaculture program at Louisiana State University (LSU) had its origins following World War II. Two pond and stream management courses were developed in 1949 by wildlife professor Dr. Bryant Bateman, who, in addition to teaching the courses conducted field research in fish pond management. In 1959 Dr. Jess Muncy was hired to teach the two fisheries courses and organize an inland fisheries research program. In 1962, the first Master of Science degree in fisheries at LSU was granted to Jerome Shireman. The Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit was established at LSU in 1963, and Dr. R. O'Neal Smitherman became Unit Leader in 1964. Dr. James W. Avault, Jr. joined the fisheries faculty in 1966. Dr. Avault taught the existing fisheries courses and began a collaborative research program with Dr. Smitherman that eventually focused on aquaculture of crawfish, catfish, and other species with aquacultural potential in Louisiana and the southern USA. In 1998 to bolster the effectiveness and efficiency of aquaculture research to meet the needs and challenges of Louisiana's aquaculture industries, the LSU Agricultural Center administration established the Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), by segregating the research component of aquaculture from the School of Renewable Natural Resources. Currently, 2 research stations and 7 departments at LSU have active involvement in aquaculture research, extension, and teaching including the Aquaculture Research Station, Rice Research Station, School of Veterinary Medicine and Department of Veterinary Science, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Department of Food Science, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Office of Sea Grant Development.

## Offices/Administrative

The Aquaculture Research Station (ARS) is located 5 miles from the Louisiana State University campus in Baton Rouge. The ARS comprises a 22,000 square foot laboratory and office complex, where aquaculture faculty, research associates, graduate students, and undergraduate student workers are housed.

## Pond Facilities

The Aquaculture Research Station has 146 experimental ponds, ranging in size from 0.02 to 19.0 acres and totaling 50 surface water acres; more than 200 outdoor above-ground fiberglass pools/tanks; a fish hatchery, fish holding facility, and a greenhouse for overwintering tropical aquatic species. These facilities are used in research projects with crawfish, catfish, hybrid striped bass, tilapia, and other species of value to Louisiana producers. Projects at the station involve research dealing with feeds and nutrition, genetics and breeding, water management, physiology, production systems, fish health, and virtually every other discipline involved in commercial production of aquaculture species. The aquaculture research facility at the Rice Research Station, Crowley, Louisiana, about 90 west of the main campus in Baton Rouge and located in the heartland of Louisiana's 130,000 crawfish aquaculture industry, has 24, 1-acre experimental crawfish ponds. Ponds are designed as typical rice-field crawfish ponds representative of those used in southwest Louisiana where the majority of crawfish are produced.



Aquaculture Research Station's pond research facility



Lobby of Aquaculture Research Station's

administrative/office/laboratory complex.



Fish Nutrition Laboratory at the Aquaculture Research Station

### Wet Labs

The ARS has nearly 12,000 square feet of wet laboratories dedicated to research in nutrition, fish genetics and breeding, water quality and toxicology, and production systems, with a wide variety of tanks, aquaria, and recirculating systems to accommodate research with a wide variety of both freshwater and marine finfishes, crustaceans, and mollusks. The Rice Research Station has in excess of 1,600 square feet of wet laboratory space dedicated various facets of crawfish research. The School of Veterinary Medicine has two wet laboratories assigned to fish disease research. The School of Veterinary Medicine also houses the Aquatic Diagnostic Laboratory, whose staff provides disease diagnosis and control measure recommendations to Louisiana's commercial aquaculture industries and state agencies. Additional wet labs to support engineering research in aquaculture process control and re-circulating systems are located in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

### Degrees Offered

Degrees with emphasis in warmwater aquaculture production are offered through the School of Renewable Natural Resources (<http://www.rnr.lsu.edu/>), and include the B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries (area of concentration available in aquaculture), and the M.S. (Fisheries) and Ph.D. (Wildlife and Fisheries Science). Since completion of the first Master of Science thesis in fisheries in 1962, more than 230 M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in fisheries and aquaculture have been awarded through the School of Renewable

Natural Resources (SRNR). Graduate degrees are also offered through the School of Veterinary Medicine,

Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering where graduate students can specialize in aquaculture research in those respective disciplines.

### Faculty

Dr. Robert Romaine is the Director of the Aquaculture Research Station and Professor of Aquaculture. His research interests are in water quality; improve crawfish management practices; he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in aquaculture.

Dr. Robert Reigh, Professor, Aquaculture Research Station, conducts research in aquatic animal nutrition; improve feeds and feeding practices for warmwater species; he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in aquaculture and nutrition.

Dr. Terrence Tiersch, Professor, Aquaculture Research Station, conducts research on genetic improvement in aquaculture. Research interest concerns the genetic improvement of aquatic organisms for aquaculture, and the preservation of germplasm resources. This work integrates technology from a number of areas: gene transfer and genetic engineering, genome analysis, cryopreservation, and reproductive biology, selective breeding and genetic manipulation.

Dr. Charles 'Greg' Lutz, Professor, Aquaculture Research Station, has state-wide extension responsibilities for all commercial aquaculture as well as recreational and ornamental residential pond management. His research interests are quantitative genetics, alternative species commercialization, and practical genetic evaluation through field trials.

Dr. John Hargreaves, Associate Professor, Aquaculture Research Station, conducts research in water quality and methods to improve efficiency of fish production. His research interests are pond dynamics, phytoplankton ecology, off-flavor, sediment-water interactions, effluents, production systems engineering. He teaches courses in Limnology and Principles of Aquaculture.

Dr. Ray McClain, Professor, Rice Research Station, has full-time responsibilities in crawfish aquaculture research, which focuses on characterization and evaluation of forage-based food systems for crawfish production, evaluation of supplemental feeds and feeding scenarios in crawfish production, crawfish reproduction and population dynamics in commercial culture ponds, and

integration of aquacultural and agricultural production systems.

Dr. John Supan, Associate Professor, Office of Sea Grant Development. Dr. Supan's research focuses on oyster culture and economics, polyploidy and selective breeding, clam culture, and hydroacoustic evaluation of oyster grounds & management of Grand Isle Oyster Hatchery.

Dr. Ronald Thune, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, conducts research in finfish immunology and vaccine development. He teaches a graduate level course in aquatic animal diseases.

Dr. John Hawke, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, conducts research in finfish diseases and vaccine development and directs the Aquatic Diagnostic Laboratory in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Mark Mitchell, Assistant Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, conducts research to control Salmonella in aquatic chelonians, focusing on production of farm-raised "pet" turtles, and PIX and West Nile Disease in farm-raised alligators.

Dr. Jerome LaPeyre, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Science, conducts research in oyster diseases with focus on selective breeding for control and management of "Dermo" in oyster stocks.

Dr. Steven Hall, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Hall conducts research in several areas of aquacultural engineering but with emphasis on process-control systems for both intensive tank and semi-intensive pond systems. Dr. Hall teaches an advanced undergraduate/graduate level class in aquacultural engineering.

Dr. Ronald Malone, Chevron Endowed Professor of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, conducts research in design and development of biofilters and recirculating filtration systems for high density culture of aquatic animals. He teaches a graduate level course in biological treatment of recirculation systems in aquaculture.

In addition to the faculty listed, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension service employs 11 area aquaculture/fisheries/wetlands extension agents to service needs of the aquaculture sector in the state's 64 counties. Numerous graduate students, research associates, and by the faculty.

research technicians support research programs developed Aquaculture research and extension programs in the LSU AgCenter address many issues of importance to the State's diverse aquaculture industries, which include crawfish, catfish, oysters, turtles, alligators, tilapia, gamefish, bait minnows, and soft crabs. These include developing management procedures for minimizing water use, effluent discharge, and recycling water resources; genetic improvement of cultivated finfish and shellfish stocks through selective breeding, hybridization, polyploidy, sterilization, and transgenic manipulation; improving fish feeds for cost reduction and enhanced growth, and development of environmental friendly feeds that minimize nutrient release to the aquatic environment; developing water management systems that limit water use, minimize waste discharge, minimize off-flavor in cultivated species, and maintains a healthy environment of the cultivated fish, crustacean, or mollusk; development of vaccines and other management procedures that reduces the incidence and severity of diseases in cultivated aquatic animals; investigating the potential for culture of non-indigenous species and their impact on native species; improving production strategies and management programs to improve culture efficiency; development of value-added products from aquaculture and improvements in product quality; and addressing issues associated with economic sustainability of aquaculture in Louisiana.

Aquaculture faculty LSU Agricultural Center scientists are poised to meet the challenge of developing research, extension, and education programs to improve the competitiveness and profitability of the state's aquaculture producers, while providing comprehensive undergraduate and graduate curricula to develop quality aquaculture professionals. For more information on the LSU Agricultural Center's aquaculture research and educational programs visit our website at:

[www.agctr.lsu.edu/inst/research/stations/aquaculture/](http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/inst/research/stations/aquaculture/)

Aquaculture Research Station  
Louisiana State University  
2410 Ben Hur Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70820



# Newsworthy to Fish Culturists



## Catfish prices finally return to profit range

*Source: 5<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Herald Sun via Growfish Newsletter*

May 16, 2004

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**Mississippi catfish producers saw a profit in 2003 and they hope for a repeat in 2004, if feed prices will cooperate.**

Jim Steeby, with the National Warmwater Aquaculture Center in Belzoni, said feed prices last year averaged \$230 a ton. "This year's feed prices are going to be at least \$50 a ton above that price," he said.

Feed, which is primarily made of soybean meal, accounts for half the cost of catfish production. Mississippi State University agriculture economists say producers can continue to make a profit if they get 75 cents a pound or more for their fish and feed doesn't rise above \$280 a ton.

Soybean prices had been low in recent years, but last fall they began to rise. As of early May, feed costs about \$300 a ton.

MSU farm economist Terry Hanson said the cost of production in Mississippi is typically between 60 and 70 cents a pound. "They've been losing money for about three years," Hanson said of producers.

Prices hit a low in January 2003 of 52.9 cents a pound, well below the cost of production. By early May, prices had rebounded to about 75 cents a pound, Hanson said.

"Farmers have been trying to stay alive by feeding less and stocking less," he said. "A few years of doing this created lower numbers in the ponds, so processors are having to bid up the numbers to get the fish they need."

Since more than half the catfish are sold in restaurants, Hanson said the improved economy means more people are eating out, which also is helping prices.

"The industry will survive because they have a good product and there's a large quantity being sold, but prices need to go up more to enable producers to survive the short-term squeeze," Hanson said. "It's going to be rough and some more folks will probably go out of business."

Hanson said there was an oversupply of catfish in 2001 and 2002, but acreage in Mississippi dropped from 113,000 acres in 2001 to 101,000 acres when tallied in February.

Steeby said acreage leaving catfish is going into timber, wetland programs or soybeans. Most of the lost acreage has been older ponds in need of repair, and Steeby said he doesn't expect the acreage leaving catfish production to return.

# Newsworthy to Fish Culturists



## Chesapeake Oysters and Oystermen Are Dwindling

*Source: Washington Post via Growfish Newsletter*

By Susan Kinzie April 26, 2004

**Sam Richards had seven floats off his pier in St. Inigoes, in southern St. Mary's County, this winter. But of the 35,000 oysters inside, 80 percent died, he said, victims of the diseases that are emptying the Chesapeake Bay of oysters.**

"When you open the baskets up, dump them out on a piece of plywood, you can see [that] the mouth is open, the shell is open," he said. "That's how you can tell which ones died. Also by weight -- you can feel it by hand. There's nothing in it. It's just an empty shell."

At 78, he's never seen a harvest this bad in a region known for its oysters and crabs. He's not a commercial waterman, but in a place such as St. Inigoes, on a skinny finger of land bordered by the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, everyone feels the impact of the changes in the bay. "It's devastating," he said. "The oysters are practically gone. And there are hardly any oystermen left."

The oyster season that just ended was the worst ever in the bay, according to Chris Judy, shellfish program director for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. And he doesn't expect a turnaround this year. "It is a crisis situation," Judy said, "a disaster for the industry and the bay."

In the oyster season that started in October and ended this month, about 17,000 bushels were reported harvested, Judy said. Last year was a record low, too, of 53,000 bushels. "Just in the last four years, we've gone from 347,000 to this," he said. It's a terrible situation for oysters and oystermen, he said. And buyers and processors have been struggling as well. "The only thing keeping a few of our processors in business are out-of-state oysters," Judy said.

At many of the traditional church suppers and community dinners this year in St. Mary's County, organizers have had to do what was once unthinkable: take oysters off the menu or serve oysters harvested from outside the region.

In the Potomac River, just over 200 bushels of oysters were caught last year, said A. C. Carpenter, executive secretary of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. The year before, it was 2,000. "But if you go back to the 1960s, the Potomac River harvest was on the order of half a million bushels," he said.

Dermo and MSX, two diseases that flourish in salty water, have been killing oysters at record rates. There's no cure for the diseases, which aren't harmful to people eating oysters, just harmful to the oysters, Judy said.

# Newsworthy to Fish Culturists



The other thing that hurt oysters in the Potomac, Carpenter said, was a record flow of rainwater into the river in 2003, because of all the storms. That made it hard for oysters in the middle and upper parts of the river to grow. It's tough all around for the oysters.

"The lower the salinity, the lower the disease level," Carpenter said. "But if the salinity gets too low, the oysters die anyway."

Oysters have suffered through other lousy years in the Chesapeake, with a cycle of disease in the early 1990s that wiped out many. And they're good at reproducing, so the population has bounced back in the past. But this year is the worst yet, and now there are so few oysters left in the bay that scientists aren't sure what will happen.

Given enough time, the population could rebound, Carpenter said, "but I think you are talking in terms of decades, not a year or two."

Richards is going to try again this year, hoping, like just about everyone else along the bay, that things will get better.

Besides, last year he threw out most of his oysters and still had 7,000 left. He ate every one of them, he said. They were delicious.

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## Some Interesting Websites

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### **Online Conversion**

<http://www.onlineconversion.com>

Use this website to make conversions between any units of measure.

### **SeaWeb Aquaculture Clearinghouse**

<http://www.seaweb.org/resources/sac/index.html>

SeaWeb is an independent not-for-profit ocean information center that reaches out to government officials, the media, and interested public.

### **US and World Population Clocks**

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html>

This is a cool website that is constantly counting US and world populations. You can download a clock for your computer that will also display the current populations.

**Visit the new FCS  
website:**

**[ws3.coopfish.siu.edu/fcs](http://ws3.coopfish.siu.edu/fcs)**

# Newsworthy to Fish Culturists



## U.S. Shift on Organic Rules Proved Costly

*Source: Reuters via Growfish Network*

By Samuel Fromartz

May 30, 2004

**Bart Reid had been struggling hard to keep his West Texas shrimp farm afloat since April, when U.S. regulators relaxed the rules covering organic food.**

Reid was suffering because the rules under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program were altered, taking seafood out of the program.

It meant he couldn't label his Permian Sea Shrimp product "USDA organic," which prompted retailers to cancel purchases. That, in turn, scared off investors interested in his business -- the first organic shrimp farm in the rapidly expanding \$11 billion U.S. market for organic foods.

But Reid and the organic industry won a reprieve on Wednesday, when Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman rescinded the April rule changes made by the National Organic Program. And, that means Reid will be able to use the USDA label after all. "It may be too late, but at least it will give us a ray of hope," said Reid, speaking by telephone from Imperial, Texas.

The April ruling that Veneman reversed had removed a number of industries -- including personal-care products, dietary supplements, and pet foods -- from the organic program's purview.

"Everybody who was looking to do business with me ran like cockroaches under a spotlight," Reid said, when the April rule change was made.

His friends, family and lenders had chipped in to invest \$1 million in his business.

### **CONTROVERSIAL RULINGS**

The ruling was one of several the USDA issued in April, raising alarm among consumer groups and the organic industry, which expressed concern that the rulings diluted "organic" standards.

Before Veneman's decision, the USDA had said the changes were only interpretations of existing regulations.

What also had organic proponents up in arms was that the USDA issued the rulings by fiat, rather than in consultation with the National Organic Standards Board, an advisory panel of industry, consumer, farmer and environmental representatives.

Veneman directed the department's National Organic Program to revisit the issue with input from the board and the public.

Reid said he had worked for two years to make sure his own practices met the standards of the organic law.

He avoided chemicals and antibiotics, did not crowd his pens and fed the shrimp organic feed -- all in line with U.S. regulations.

Marty Mesh, executive director of Florida Organic Growers in Gainesville, Florida, said his U.S.-accredited group certified the shrimp "USDA organic" because Reid followed the rules.

Reid thought this label might help his products compete with foreign shrimp flooding into the United States from Asia and South America.

He said he could charge \$5 a pound wholesale for the organic shrimp, compared with \$2 for conventional shrimp. Consumers have been willing to pay a premium for organic products to avoid chemicals in conventional food production.

If aquaculture were to be placed outside of the U.S. program -- as the USDA ruled in April -- any producer could have labeled its fish "organic" without having to follow any regulations.

The same would also have been true for makers of pet food, supplements and personal care products, rendering the organic label meaningless in those segments.

Although it's unclear whether those industries will permanently be part of the USDA Organic program, at least now the producers have a chance to be heard.

## **ORGANIC FISH FUTURE?**

The NOSB advisory panel approved recommendations for organic aquaculture in 2001, but the USDA never acted upon them -- in part, observers say, because they were contentious.

Recently, the USDA suggested forming another working group to develop organic standards for aquaculture. This may have been prompted by competition.

European countries already certify organic fish and could capture the bulk of the developing global market, especially in big seafood-consumer countries like Japan.

"Chile is also moving very fast," said Richard Nelson, vice president of Nelson & Sons Inc., a fish food company in Murray, Utah, participating in the new organic working group. "They will have an organic salmon product, probably in six months."

Until the USDA comes up with new rules -- perhaps in two years -- Reid will be able to sell his product under the USDA Organic label, barring other action from the department.

But the reprieve might be too late. "I'm in dire straits," he said.



# Minutes



## FISH CULTURE SECTION Semi-annual meeting March 3, 2004 Honolulu, Hawaii

Minutes recorded by Sue Kohler, AFS/FCS Secretary/Treasurer.

### In Attendance:

Sue Kohler	Chris Kohler	Ryan Lane
Jim Steeby	Steve Lochman	Don MacKinlay
Gary Carmichael	Vince Mudrack	Tommie Crawford
Carole Engle	Mary Nickum	John Nickum
LaDon Swann	Joe Tomasso	Arden Trandahl
Jeffrey Silverstein	Bill Shelton	Bruce Barton
David Bergerhouse	Nick Parker	Pat Mazik

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by President Anita Kelly. Sufficient members were present for a quorum.

### Minutes of FCS

Minutes from the annual meeting in Quebec, Canada, August 12, 2003, were presented. A motion was made by Don MacKinlay and seconded by Chris Kohler to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted and presented by Sue Kohler. A motion was made by Bill Shelton and seconded by Steve Lochman to accept the report. Motion passed.

The FCS account will be moved to AG Edwards in Carbondale, Illinois. The current account manager with Merrell Lynch is not licensed in Illinois. Secondly, AG Edwards does not presently have an account management fee.

### Newsletter

The newsletter will have two new editors at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Drs. Craig Kasper and Cortney Ohs. The newsletter will have a new format. The goal is to include 1) Culture tips from hatcheries, 2) Profiles of hatcheries and aquaculture programs, and 3) abstracts of AFS/FCS students presenting at the annual meeting. The newsletter will still be published in hard copy and copies will be donated to hatcheries.

### Hall of Fame

There were no Hall of Fame inductees in 2003. Bobby Combs will be inducted in 2004. There was considerable discussion at the 2004 Past President's Retreat concerning guidelines for nominations and induction into the Hall of Fame. Steve is still in need of pictures for several inductees.

## FCS Display Board

The display board will be redesigned to “tell a story”. The display should also promote the journal. It was suggested that someone be present at the booth at meetings to answer questions, hand out membership information, etc. Mary Nickum volunteered to assist with redesigning the display. It was suggested that FCS students may receive travel awards to help with the display at meetings.

## Book: Aquaculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Currently, one chapter remains outstanding. All other chapters have been submitted to AFS. The book should be published in 2004.

Website: The website will be moved from Mississippi State University to Southern Illinois University and maintained there.

Bylaws: The bylaws were discussed at length at the past president’s retreat. It was decided to abbreviate the bylaws and develop a procedural manual with enhanced detail. A committee will be appointed by President Kelly to development the procedural manual.

## Reviving Membership

There was considerable discussion on the following:

1. What we do differently from the USA Chapter of WAS?
2. How can we make the AFS/FCS more visible at the annual AFS meetings?
3. What are the benefits of joining AFS/FCS?

Suggestions included (which were also discussed at the past president’s retreat):

1. Plan a FCS “hot button issue” symposium at every AFS meeting;
2. Inform people that AFS/FCS educates on the “science of aquaculture” not just commercialization issues;
3. Strive for two days of fish culture sessions/presentations at the annual AFS meetings;
4. Form a committee for outreach;
5. Have a “join the society gift”; and
6. Promote FCS activities at the division and state level.

## Activities in Collaboration with WAS

AFS/FCS and the WAS/USA Chapter will co-sponsor a symposium in Alaska.

## NAJA Journal

Chris Kohler is the new Development Editor for the NAJA. He distributed the new promotional brochure. Major reviews and feature articles will be included in the journal. AFS/FCS special symposia will also be published. The main office is in support of increasing the size of the journal so the number of articles will not be an issue. AFS members can request a waiver of page charges when publishing in the journal.

Status of manuscript submissions was reported. On-line submissions are saving about two months time and lag time is compressed. Any hold up now is in the publication of the article. The journal is seeing more international submissions.

In the past, the Journal had an advisory committee that meant that the AFS/FCS “adopted” the Journal. However, the committee was never officially incorporated into the bylaws and thus has waned. It was suggested that the committee be reactivated to serve as a liaison to the editors.

The FCS needs to encourage the publication of more FCS articles in Fisheries since this is seen by the entire membership.

#### Skinner Fund

In the past, we have been giving money to the Skinner fund. However from now on, the Skinner fund will receive 50% of the raffle proceeds and will be a well-funded endowment. It was suggested that the FCS eliminate contributions to the Skinner fund and establish a travel fund for AFS/FCS students attending the AFS annual meeting. Travel stipends could be awarded for students presenting at the meetings and students agreeing to help with the display. It was also suggested to seek travel awards from various aquacultural-related companies and vendors.

#### Adjournment

The motion was made by Steve Lochman and seconded by Bruce Barton to adjourn.  
Motion passed.

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## Showcase of University Aquaculture Programs and State and Federal Fish Hatcheries

Future FCS newsletters will continue to showcase university aquaculture programs and state and federal fish hatcheries. The newsletter editors will be soliciting contributions from individuals at universities and hatcheries to write articles summarizing various aspects of their programs.

If you would like to volunteer to submit an article for your university aquaculture program or state or federal fish hatchery please contact the newsletter editors.

Newsletter Editors:  
Cortney Ohs at [cohs@siu.edu](mailto:cohs@siu.edu)  
Craig Kasper at [ckasper@siu.edu](mailto:ckasper@siu.edu)

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The new FCS website is located at: <http://ws3.coopfish.siu.edu/fcs>



## **AFS Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, August 21–26, 2004**

**Fish Culture Section will be sponsoring two symposiums:**

1. The Role of Fish Propagation in the Recovery of Pallid Sturgeon
2. Nutritional and Physiological Strategies of Sustainable Aquaculture

**For all the complete information about the conference visit :**

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

**or**

**<http://www.afs2004madison.org/index.shtml>**

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### **Roundtable on Zero Withdrawal Anesthetics to be held at the AFS Annual Meeting**

As many of you are aware, the lack of chemicals and therapeutants that we can use on foodfish is limited. The Aquaculture Chemicals Subcommittee is sponsoring a roundtable to discuss the need for a zero withdrawal anesthetic at the AFS annual meeting in Madison, WI. If you are interested in discussing this issue and the need for an approval, please attend. We are seeking input from private, public and academic entities. If you have suggestions for funding to provide approval of zero withdrawal anesthetics, such as Aqui-S, please let us know. The meeting will be held Sunday, August 22, 2004, 3-5 PM in the Monona Terrace, Meeting Room N. If you would like further information, please contact Rosalie (Roz) Schnick, National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications, Michigan State University, 3039 Edgewater Lane, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603-1088, Phone: (608) 781-2205, Fax: (608) 783-3507, E-mail: [RozSchnick@centurytel.net](mailto:RozSchnick@centurytel.net)

# Nomination for Fish Culture Section Hall of Fame

## **Dr. James William Avault, Jr.**

Dr. James W. Avault, Jr. was born 20 May 1935 in East St. Louis, IL. He earned a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Missouri in 1961. While an undergraduate, he was introduced to the discipline of aquaculture by working summers in Federal fish hatcheries in Florida, Louisiana and Kentucky. His graduate studies were at Auburn University, receiving a M.S. and Ph.D. in 1963 and 1966, respectively. He began his professional career at Louisiana State University in 1966, progressing through the ranks of Assistant, Associate and Full Professor.

During his 30-year tenure at LSU, Dr. Avault taught many aquatic courses, several of which he developed. He was the mentor for 17 Ph.D. and 59 M.S. students. His research added knowledge to the culture of several finfishes, particularly channel catfish, and shellfish, most notably crayfish. He published over 450 scientific papers. In 1996, Dr. Avault published a textbook of aquaculture, which benefited from his breadth of experience. He has been a regular column writer for commercial trade magazines for nearly 30 years.

Dr. Avault contributed significantly to the profession through his many and long editorial services. He edited the Proceedings (Journal) of the World Mariculture Society for 16 years from its inception. He served as an Associate Editor for the Progressive Fish-Culturist for two years. He has been an AFS member since 1963 and was President of the Fish Culture Section in 1976. He was a founding member of the WMS, coordinated the first annual workshop in 1970, and he was President in 1975. He was also a founding member in the International Association of Astacology, serving as President in 1974.

In recognition of his many achievements, Dr. Avault has been honored with a variety of awards. He has been given Honorary Life Membership in two professional societies, both of which he was instrumental in forming.

Dr. Avault is married to Peggy Tyson Avault and they have two children, James William, III and Mary Catherine.

Dr. James Avault Jr. has been nominated for the FCS Hall of Fame. Please vote as to whether Dr. Avault should be inducted.

Yes

No

Please vote, remove this page, and return this ballot to the FCS President,  
by August 15, 2004.

Mailing Address:

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