



President's message

by Dave Buzan

Exciting news for our Chapter! Dan Daugherty and a group of enthusiastic volunteers have taken the bull by the horns and started planning for our chapter to host the 2019 Southern Division AFS meeting in Texas. And Randy Rushin has contracted with a hotel in Corpus Christi to host our 2017 chapter meeting. Start working on your tans now so you will be ready for the beach next January. You should read the details in this newsletter.

In last June's newsletter, Kevin Storey, our Past-president reviewed the extreme rains that fell on Texas last May, causing millions in property damage and personal tragedy associated with loss of 12 lives along the Blanco River through Hays County. A recent article in Texas Monthly reviewed some of the history that laid part of the foundation for that tragedy and serves as a reminder of the tension between scientific recommendations, public policy, and societal responsibility.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was hired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1984 to study flood hazards in Hays County. The county participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and hence must regulate development within the flood plain. The 5-year study resulted in substantially larger floodplain boundaries. Wimberley residents were skeptical and formed a group, Guardians of the Blanco River Watershed, to oppose implementation of the new boundaries.

County commissioners sued FEMA, sought support from U. S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, argued the map was federal overreach and that it greatly exaggerated flood risks. As a result, Hays County was allowed to play a major role in developing new floodplain boundaries in 1996 which were considerably reduced from the Corps study boundaries.

Although FEMA's newest draft floodplain boundary map, developed since the May 2015 devastating floods has similar boundaries to those of the Corps study in the 1989, local opposition continues because increased area in the floodplain limits where people can build, affects property taxes and local control. For now, residents can continue to build in areas shown both in the 1989 Corps study and the FEMA post-2015 flood study as likely to flood in a 100-year flood. It reminds me that as scientists we play important roles in generating scientific information that supports policy development. Your science and the ways in which you communicate it lay the paths we travel in using science to guide policy and society in making a healthier Texas to live and play in.



President-Elect's message

by Randy Rushin

It's hard to believe that a third of a year has passed since our Chapter meeting at the YO Ranch! They say that as you get older, time goes by much faster than in our youth. That saying is certainly true for me. It's been a long time since we held a TCAFS meeting on the coast and even longer since we've had one along the coastal bend. In fact, the last time we had TCAFS in Corpus Christi was way back around the turn of the century (1999, to be exact).

At that Corpus Christi meeting, the Panel Discussion was "Water Use Issues in Texas - A 21st Century Challenge for Fisheries Managers." Cindy Loeffler opened the panel presentation with an overview of the recently signed Senate Bill 1. The panel discussed concerns about the rapid growth of Texas' population, especially in urban areas, and its effect on our State's natural resources, especially its lakes, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries. Dr. Larry McKinney spoke about the politics of water. Other presentations were made about reservoir fisheries, instream flows, freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries, and wetlands. Coincidentally, the person who currently chairs the Scholarship Committee, Mike Morgan, was awarded a scholarship at this meeting.

You can read more at: <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/TCAFShist.pdf>

Oh, how history has a way of repeating itself!

Although that Corpus meeting was held nearly 2 decades ago, the issues surrounding our water resources have not changed, but instead, have become even more complex. Our focus at the next TCAFS conference will be to continue this discussion about how we will meet the future water demands of our population, agriculture, and industry without negatively impacting the ecology of our water bodies.



SAVE THE DATE!

January 19 – 21, 2017

We're meeting at the Holiday Inn Downtown Marina – just a block down the street from where we met in 1999! It's in a PRIME location, the heart of downtown, just across from the People's T-head, Water Street, and just down the street from the Texas State Aquarium, USS Lexington, and the original Whataburger. As a bonus, the hotel has agreed to extend the discounted rate for Saturday night. You certainly do not want to miss out this meeting. For those of you in the know, this will be my 20th consecutive TCAFS meeting, and I've got some surprises in store!

TCAFS needs you

• Secretary/ Treasurer

Nominations are currently being accepted from prospective candidates interested in running for the office of TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer for the 2017-2019 term. Some of the important responsibilities of this position include:

- Preparation of minutes for Chapter and ExCom meetings
- Responsibility for pre-registration and registration for annual meeting and other planned activities
- Receiving, holding and disbursing funds as needed for Chapter functions
- Maintaining financial records for the Chapter bank account
- Preparing financial records for the annual meeting



If you have good organization skills and can keep track of money and people, this could be a good avenue for you to serve the Chapter. Duties of the Secretary/ Treasurer are listed on page 5 of the TCAFS Procedures handbook at:

http://sdafs.org/tcafs/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/TCAFS_Procedures_updated_10-3-11.pdf

Contact Dan Bennett at dan.bennett@tpwd.texas.gov".

• Publicity / Exhibits Committee



The annual meeting will be here before you know it and we need to begin the process of contacting exhibitors and soliciting donations. We need a chair for the Publicity/Exhibits committee and we could also use additional committee members to help in this effort. This committee plays an extremely important role in raising funds for our scholarship fund. Two critical tasks of the committee are:

- Soliciting items as gifts to the Chapter to be used in Auctions and Raffles during the annual meeting fundraiser to be used by the Endowments Committee for scholarship awards.
- Facilitating exhibitor solicitation, set-up, and payment for Chapter annual meetings.

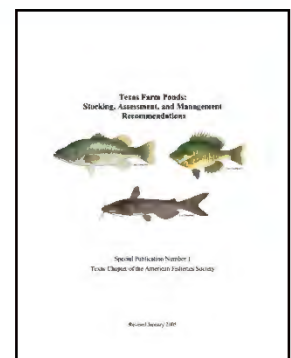
If you are extroverted, and are comfortable asking people to give in support of a good cause, there's a place for you here. If not, it's time to step out of your comfort

zone! Interested members should contact Chapter President Dave Buzan at David.Buzan@freese.com or President-Elect Randy Rushin at randy@water-monitor.com.

• Pond Management Committee

TCAFS's Special Publication Number 1, "Texas Farm Ponds: Stocking, Assessment, and Management Recommendations" is over 10 years old so it's about time for the document to be reviewed and possibly revised. If you've got some expertise in the field of Pond Management and you'd like to serve on an Ad hoc committee, please contact committee chair Greg Binion at greg.binion@tpwd.texas.gov

Members who serve on committees and as officers of TCAFS get service credit when applying for Professional Certification through the American Fisheries Society. The Secretary/ Treasurer and Committee chairs get 10 Professional Development Quality Points (PDQPs) for each year served in multiple year appointments. The maximum requirement in Category V: Service is 35 points. Committee members receive 4. If you are interested in getting AFS certification check out <http://fisheries.org/membership/afs-certification/> for details. Serve the Chapter, and help yourself.



Texas Chapter AFS Annual Business Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2016

EXCOM Conference Call

by Michael Homer, Secretary Treasurer

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Michael Homer Jr.

Approval of minutes: Kevin Storey requested a motion for approval of the 2015 Business Meeting minutes by those in attendance. Michele Nations gave the initial motion; Danny Lewis gave the second motion. The minutes were approved by the quorum.

President's Report: (Dave Buzan): Dave apologized for scheduling the meeting on Good Friday. He introduced Randy Rushin for his update on planning for the 2017 annual meeting.

SDAFS Officer Update: (Craig Bonds): Not present; no report

President-Elect - (Randy Rushin):

- Randy has proposed the meeting dates for Feb 2-4, 2017 and he has been inquiring hosting the meeting at Embassy Suites in Grapevine as well as Sheraton in downtown Ft. Worth. Randy is also considering planning the meeting in Waco. He would like to also consider having the meeting at the convention center but would to find a host hotel. Randy has also mentioned that he has not received bids from the hotels he has been considering hosting with, and January dates are completely booked. He plans to visit the sites in the DFW-area soon.
- The Waco location is intriguing in that having the meeting at the Baylor University Convention Center would provide many accommodations for meeting space as well as for socials.
- Randy is open to suggestions; multiple members suggested Austin, Houston, and Corpus Christi. Randy will look into Corpus Christi/Port Aransas venues.
 - Many of the meeting participants were very supportive of a coastal meeting particularly to draw more coastal TPWD employees and universities to participate.
- Dan Daugherty suggested that Randy connect with Christopher Mace and Brian Bartram for help with the planning efforts. Dan will send their contact information to Randy.

2019 Division Planning – (Dan Daugherty):

- There was a motion to host a SDAFS meeting sometime between 2018-2020. Craig Bonds was going to take this information to the SDAFS meeting in Wheeling, WV, which the report got great support from the division. There was some uncertainty if and when Puerto Rico was going to commit to an annual meeting, which Dan has since learned they did commit to the 2018 meeting. TCAFS will be responsible for hosting the 2019 SDAFS meeting.
- Dan Daugherty, Michele Nations, Kevin Storey, Jake Norman, Debbie Wade, Dave Buzan, and Dave Terre expressed interest in serving on a planning committee. The suggested location for the 2019 meeting was Austin with San Antonio would be a backup location. Dan mentioned we have plenty of time to plan but suggests getting started with the planning early.
- Dan mentioned that we will soon be breaking up the planning efforts into various committees to assist with planning efforts.
- Dave Buzan asked how SDAFS meetings were structured. Dan Daugherty mentioned that meetings can have 300-700 members, but attendance depends on the meeting location. Meetings can last up to 5 days with concurrent sessions, technical committee meetings, continuing education workshops, vendor displays, poster sessions, banquet, and extracurricular activities. Dan also mentioned that the meeting is a big source of income for the chapter.

- Dave Buzan suggested setting up a conference call within 4-6 weeks to discuss the 2019 meeting planning with other individuals who were involved with previous SDAFS meeting planning efforts. Mike Homer suggested speaking with Joey Slaughter (GA Chapter) about his experience with planning the SDAFS meeting in Savannah, GA.
- Michele Nations suggested that chair of the Finance committee for the SDAFS planning committee. Greg Southard was not interested, and Michele has asked Mike Homer if he would be interested. Mike Homer said he would strongly consider the role, but would be willing assist the Secretary-Treasurer if needed. Dave Buzan suggested that in the next planning meeting get as many details about what committees have been effective and then gauge interest for taking on roles with those who want to be involved. Dan Daugherty would like to have committees identified soon so the planning committee can be prepared to solicit help from the TCAFS membership.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - (Michael Homer Jr.):

- Mike Homer reported the Chapter's current finances.
 - To date, the chapter had \$20,617.69 in the chapter checking account.
 - All \$6,500 in scholarship checks have been cashed by the recipients.
 - \$500 was sent to the parent society for the Skinner contribution.
 - \$5,500 was deposited into the endowment account on 3/25/2016.
 - Pending the endowment transfer, the remaining balance was \$15,117.69.
- Mike Homer is prepared to send \$500 contribution to Texas Coastal Brigades. Deborah Wade said that contribution should be sent Derek York or Greg Cummings. Mike Homer will send the contribution next week.
- Dave Buzan mentioned that the Best Student Presentation Award winner should be notified that the travel award option is available. Michele Nations will notify the winner.

Committee Reports

Awards – (Michele Nations): Michele mentioned she received a good comment on the judging format, and she will adopt the same approach next year.

Continuing Ed – (Lynn Wright) Not present; no report

Editorial (Dan Daugherty and Allison Pease [not present]): Dan will be sending abstracts to Allison to incorporate into the 2015 Annual Meeting Proceedings, and she will be working on putting those together. Dan contacted the company that manages the online abstract submissions, but has yet to receive a response. He will try them once more but will also explore other options for online abstract submissions.

Endowments – (Dave Terre) Not present; no report.

History – (Michele Nations): Michele is still working on the 40-year document)

Internet – (John Taylor and Danny Lewis; both not present): Michele Nations gave the report. Michele mentioned that the 2016 annual meeting podcasts are online. Michele has been working on a new TCAFS job posting Facebook page which she has been posting job opportunities.

Issues – (Mark Webb and Gene Wilde): Not present; no report

Membership – (Debbie Wade): Debbie will be sending an email to remind members to renew their membership. Kevin Storey questioned if those who wish to not renew should be removed from the TCAFS list serve.

Newsletter Editor – (Kevin Storey): Kevin has set the deadline for the newsletter for 4/15/2016.

Pond Management – (Greg Binion): Not present; no report

Nominating – (Dan Bennett): Dan mentioned he will soon be looking for candidates for Secretary-Treasurer and President-Elect. Dave Buzan asked what approach Dan will be taking for nominating candidates, which Dan responded that he searched for candidates from various affiliations aside from TPWD. However, he had difficulty finding interested members. He will continue to search for interested members.

Publicity/Exhibits – (Jake Norman and Alice Best): Not present; no report

Scholarships – (Mike Morgan): Not present; no report

Student Outreach – (Joe Beach): Not present; no report

Student Subunit Chapter Reports –

- Texas Tech University - (Aaron Urbanczyk): Angler Education workshop will occur on 4/25/2016. There is a conflict with a course he is teaching an ichthyology lab with Gene Wilde, which many students that would be involved would be involved in the workshop.
- Texas A&M University - (Kenneth Zachary): Not present; no report

Old Business (Dave Buzan): No old business

New Business (Dave Buzan):

- Randy Rushin attended a meeting with a student at TAMU Corpus Christi who is interested in creating a subunit to TCAFS. Randy discussed ways the group could do fundraising, but the student also was wondering if TCAFS could contribute money to help fund the potential subunit.
- Michele Nations mentioned that there was a previous mentioning of increasing TCAFS dues, but Kevin Storey suggested waiting to discuss this until we have more information regarding the 2017 meeting. Dave Buzan mentioned concerns that costs for venues seem to be increasing, and that the chapter may need to make changes to dues to prevent loss of money from annual meetings.

Adjourn: Dan Bennett made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Kevin Storey seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 2:23PM.

Have Green Egg, will travel!

On April, 25, Dave Terre delivered a BBQ lunch to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Tyler South Fisheries management office. The Tyler staff won the bid for this meal at the TCAFS annual meeting in Kerrville in January. As promised, Grillmaster Dave prepared several meats on his Green Egg, and fed 10 people more than they could ever eat for lunch, with leftovers to last all week. This auction item was a great success, bringing in over \$700 for the Student Scholarship fund. The wheels are already spinning for next year's meeting, and for every year after that. Get ready to make a pig of yourselves while supporting Texas' upcoming fisheries scientists.



TPWD 2016 Employee Recognition Awards

By Michele Nations, Awards Chair

I like to let people know about TCAFS members who win awards from entities other than the Chapter. Last week, Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, announced the agency's winners of the Employee Recognition Awards program for 2016. This program recognizes some of TPWD's most exceptional personnel for their extraordinary efforts and important contributions toward advancing the Department's mission. The winners, those who have gone above and beyond in their performance to reflect the professionalism, service, integrity, and proficiency for which the Agency is so widely recognized, are selected from individuals and teams nominated by their peers and then carefully chosen by the Division Directors. The winners will receive their awards at a special Employee Recognition event and banquet on August 23, 2016. The following articles introduce you to TCAFS members from TPWD's Inland Fisheries and Coastal Fisheries Divisions who won awards this year and provide a glimpse of their accomplishments.

Individual Category - Community Outreach – Michael Homer

By Michele Nations

For Michael Homer, current TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer, community outreach starts at home. He has been blessed with his wife, Nikki, and his two daughters: 5-year-old Averie and 1-week-old Georgia Marynn, born 4/28/2016.



Michael with his daughter Averie and a nice catch.

When asked about his award, Michael said, "In order to get a community service award, you have to have a great community to work with that has a similar vision and that is open to new ideas. It also helps to have great mentors like Mark Webb, Craig Bonds, Spencer Dumont, Brian VanZee, Tom Lang, and Dr. Cecil Jennings, my graduate professor at the University of Georgia." He said he saw a drive in these people, showing that if you have an ability to do more, you should do more, especially as it relates to your community.



Michael, Averie, and his new daughter, Georgia.

His focuses his outreach on promoting fishing opportunities, fish stockings, the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, how reservoir water levels impact fish populations, and how groups can pull together to enhance the habitats in their local fisheries. The media are some of his important tools that have a wide reach and a great influence. He gives interviews to radio and television stations, and he and Natalie Goldstrohm contribute articles biweekly to the Abilene Reporter News fishing column and monthly to Fishing Hotspots. They also maintain a Facebook that helps keep people in the Abilene District up-to-date with things happening in their area <https://www.facebook.com/tpwdifabilene>

Michael is coordinating and promoting Abilene Outdoor Adventures, which is an educational event for citizens of Abilene and surrounding areas to learn about outdoor recreational opportunities, environmental conservation, and environmental stewardship. The event, which includes fishing education and a catfish fishing derby, will be held at Abilene's Nelson Park on June 4th (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1095643667172917/>). The groups involved are TPWD and the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, Texas Big Country Master Naturalists, My Parks & Recreation, City of Abilene, Keep Abilene Beautiful, and the Abilene Zoo.



Michael at an NFP event in 2013.

He and Natalie have worked with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Blind Services in Abilene to co-sponsor an angler education for the visually impaired. The most recent event was held Saturday, May 7th.

Michael and his staff worked with the City of Abilene Parks and Community Services, Abilene Animal Services, and TPWD Wildlife biologist Analyse Scoggin in a massive bird removal at the Abilene Zoo. Ducks (Mallard, Mandarin, and Muscovy) and hybrid Canadian geese had been causing littoral degradation, so the groups removed 60 to 70 % of the bird populations by donating a majority of the birds to area ranchers. Since the removal of the birds, attempts are being made to restore vegetation and provide habitat enhancement.

Other locations where he and his staff have been partnering with groups include:

- Hords Creek Reservoir – Still Water Bass Club (Friends of the Reservoir Chapter) with habitat structures/fish attractors;
- Lake Brownwood – Brown County Water Improvement District, Still Water Bass Club and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, with reef-like systems to diversify habitat
- Lake Cisco – Still Water Bass Club, with artificial habitat
- Lake Proctor – Brazos River Authority and US Army Corps of Engineers, with approximately 100 artificial habitat structures
- Lakes Kirby and Ft. Phantom Hill – City of Abilene, with brush piles
- Ft. Griffin State Historical Site – Texas Historical Commission, helping to get the fishery established.



Michael with his daughter Averie. With all of his hard work, he also likes to enjoy his family and community outreach.

Outstanding Team - Lone Star Lionfish Symposium Team

By Robert Adami, Jr

Coastal Fisheries: Robert Adami, Aaron Adams, Julie Hagen, Leslie Hartman, Adriana Leiva, Brooke Shipley-Lozano, Dave Shively, and Robert Vega

Communications: Darcy Bontempo, Caleb Harris, and Janis Johnson

Inland Fisheries: Luci Cook-Hildreth

Law Enforcement: Larry Young

The Lionfish Symposium took place on February 2-3, 2016, at the Harte Research Institute on the Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi campus and was put together by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff. The team spent many months and countless hours organizing the well-needed event. The TPWD staff members who worked together to make the event happen came from Coastal Fisheries, Communications, Inland Fisheries and Law Enforcement, all working together to achieve a common goal. The TPWD team was able to garner sponsorship and support from other groups such as: Texas A&M Corpus Christi/Harte Research

Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas State Aquarium, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Sea Grant-Texas, Coastal Conservation Association-Texas, Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association, The Nature Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Houston Advanced Research Center, Environmental Law Institute, and Reef Environmental Education Foundation. In all, 39 attendees were brought together for the brainstorming event.



The lionfish, *Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*, has been known to invade reef structures and decimate reef fish populations.

The TPWD team put together the event with the sponsors and collaborators to find out what we could do as a team to educate each other and the public about the invasive lionfish (*Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*). The lionfish has been known to invade reef structures and decimate reef fish populations, which has caused ecological and economic impacts. It can survive in estuarine and deep waters and has no known predators. The lionfish was initially seen off the coast of Florida on the Atlantic side possibly due to an aquarist releasing a pet in 1985. Soon thereafter, they made their way up the Atlantic coast, and then into the eastern Gulf of Mexico by 2006 and into the western Gulf of Mexico around 2010. Since initially seen, more and more sightings have been documented on this invasive species in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

The TPWD Lionfish Team led the efforts in organizing the meeting to cover slide presentations by the collaborators on topics such as: control efforts, research, outreach, monitoring, funding, and lessons learned from other states and countries. Brainstorming breakout sessions were also conducted throughout the two-day event and one public outreach forum was held at the Texas State Aquarium (TSA) which included attendance by the local media outlets (TV news stations and newspapers). The TSA outreach forum consisted of an open “social hour” ahead of a formal public Q&A session with experts in the field. The Q&A session was well received with lots of engagement and support by the general public.

We hope to make this an annual event with ongoing collaboration with the attendees. The work group is currently working on action items discussed and will finalize a document of the meeting.



TPWD Lone Star Lionfish Symposium Team. Left to right: Larry Young, Robert Vega, Luci Cook-Hildreth, Dale Shively, Robert Adami, Adriana Leiva, Leslie Hartman, Aaron Adams, Brooke Shipley-Lozano, Julie Hagen, Caleb Harris. Not pictured are Darcy Bontempo and Janis Johnson.

Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

❖ Dramatic die-off of Australian kelp forests

Scientists have recently concluded that an extensive die-off of kelp forests along a stretch of Western Australia's coast was triggered by a surge in ocean temperatures between 3 and 5 degrees Celsius above normal in 2011. This marine "heatwave" persisted for over 10 weeks and resulted in an abrupt change in marine plant life with temperate kelp forests being replaced by subtropical and tropical reef communities. Five years later, kelp forests show no signs of recovery since subsequent regrowth of kelp is hampered by intense grazing by tropical fish species.

Marine scientists surveying reefs along a 2,000 km stretch of Western Australia's coast between 2001 and 2015 found temperate reefs were clearly defined by the distribution of dense, highly productive kelp forests. Since 2011 the boundary between temperate reefs and more tropical reefs has been replaced by an intermediate region. Approximately 150 square miles of kelp forest have been completely wiped out.



Rocky reefs in Kalbarri in 2005, and in 2013 after a heatwave wiped out extensive underwater forests of kelp.
Picture: T. Wernberg

Research has shown that kelp forests on the Great Southern Reef's (GSR) western side are being pushed towards Australia's southern edge. The GSR extends almost 5,000 miles around the southern half of Western Australia all the way to southern Queensland, along a coastline that is home to about 70% of Australians. The GSR feeds a unique collection of temperate marine species and supports some of the most valuable commercial and recreational fisheries in Australia along with scuba diving, surfing and tourism-related activities with a combined value in excess of US \$7.58 billion annually.

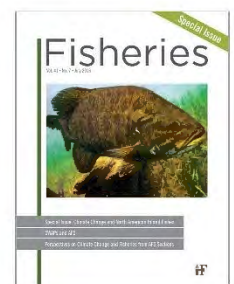
Dr. Scott Bennett, co-lead author of a study recently published in Science about this phenomenon, concluded "The impact has been particularly prominent at northern reefs, where kelp forests have disappeared completely..Recovery is unlikely because of the large grazing pressure, continued warming and likelihood of more heatwaves in the future."

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/353/6295/169>

❖ Fisheries Magazine special issue

AFS has published a special Climate Change issue on inland fisheries in the July 2016 issue (Volume 41. No. 7). <http://fisheries.org/books-journals/fisheries-2/>

As a perk to non-members, access to Fisheries Magazines is free for the month of July. If you are not a member of AFS, this little perk might just persuade you to join. Go ahead, jump in <http://fisheries.org/membership/join/>





Freebies for the busy fisheries professional!

❖ Make collages in a snap

If you need to create collages for presentations or to spruce up your social media presence, Pic Collage offers a convenient way to churn out a wide range of graphics. You can select from a diverse selection of layout grids, backgrounds, fonts and stickers to customize your image. The base application is free but you can upgrade it through in-app purchases. If you want to remove the Pic Collage watermark, it'll cost you \$1.99. It's available on iOS, Android, Windows, and Amazon devices.

<http://pic-collage.com/>

Need some inspiration? <https://www.facebook.com/piccollage>



❖ Step up to Windows 10



Windows 7, 8, and 8.1 users have until July 29, 2016 to take advantage of a free upgrade to Windows 10. If you're jittery about the move, you can upgrade and then revert back to your current Windows version. That will entitle you to the free upgrade when you eventually make the decision to migrate permanently. Traditionally you had 30 days to revert back but at this stage you're running out of time.

For those of us committed to Windows 10, the Anniversary Update (aka Redstone 1) will start rolling out on August 2. This update includes improvements in security, modest improvements in usability and numerous cosmetic changes.

The fish that didn't get away

By Lily Rothman

The mass of salmon is invisible under the calm surface of the water—at least at first. Put out a net, however, and everything changes. "It absolutely erupts," says Corey Arnold, a photographer who also works as a commercial fisherman during the summer sockeye run in Bristol Bay, Alaska. "They come in like a wall."

These days the hardest thing about fishing for salmon, Arnold says, is being careful not to catch so many that your boat sinks. His experience is borne out by hard data: the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimated that 58 million sock eye salmon made the run last year, the third most since 1960. That bounty isn't by chance—Bristol Bay is one of the world's best-managed salmon fisheries, according to scientist Gregory Ruggione, who studies them.

And it's not just salmon. Years of concerted effort to fight the effects of overfishing are paying off across the nation. From the Pacific canary rockfish to the mid-Atlantic tilefish, 39 once distressed ocean fish stocks have been officially rebuilt since 2000. Of the 473 fish populations tracked by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), just 16% are considered overfished and only 9% are subject to overfishing. (The subtle difference: if the population is too small to be healthy, it's overfished; if too many

fish are harvested, that's overfishing.) Since 2000, NOAA's Fish Stock Sustainability Index—like the Dow of American fisheries— has nearly doubled.

This revival isn't just good for fish: it has been a boon for many women and men who make their living from our waters. In 2014, the most recent year for which NOAA figures are available, the commercial fish industry (which includes imports) brought in \$153 billion in sales, up 8% from 2013, and accounted for 1.39 million U.S. jobs, a recovery to pre— Great Recession levels.

"We are recognized by almost everyone as being one of the most sustainable models in the world," says Eileen Sobeck, the assistant administrator for fisheries at NOAA.

This moment is more than 60 years in the making. The roots of America's modern fisheries laws date from the hectic years after World War II. With many economies on the rebound, European and Asian fishermen ventured near the coastal U.S. for their catch. At the same time, domestic fishermen were plucking huge hauls to feed a prosperous and growing population. Soon, America's fish stocks were seriously depleted: TIME reported that the New England catch had nearly halved from 1957 to 1974. Many feared stocks would never rebound.

In 1976, after decades of decline, Congress passed the law now known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act, giving the federal government fishing jurisdiction over waters from 3 to 200 nautical miles offshore. (The first three miles are mostly controlled by states.) The feds used the law to limit foreign fishing within that zone and to direct national and regional fishery authorities to use "the best scientific information" to set catch limits.

The law was strengthened in 1996 and again a decade ago. Now it requires that fish habitats be protected and that fishery-management plans be designed so overfished stocks are rebuilt by a set deadline. Those timelines are what sets the U.S. apart as a "global leader in sustainable fisheries management," says Robin Pelc, fisheries program manager at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

These measures have their critics. Florida Senator Marco Rubio has introduced a bill that would make the timelines less rigid. Arnold—who took the photo above—says he's heard that some fishermen in slower-to-recover areas are "pulling their hair out" over complying with rules. Even Sobeck acknowledges that the rebound has come "on the back of a lot of pain to fishermen and their families."

Many fishermen, however, recognize that their livelihood depends on having enough fish in the ocean to catch. "Commercial fishing not a right, it's a privilege," says Christopher Brown, a commercial fisherman in Rhode Island and president of the industry group Seafood Harvesters of America. He praises the law he describes as the fisherman's "contract with America."

That's a point that's hard to argue with. "There definitely are areas where we need to continue to improve," says Brad Sewell, director of fisheries at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. "Fisheries management is hard work, and I mean that in the truest sense of the word."

The challenges are daunting. Bycatch, the accidental netting of the wrong fish, remains a problem, as does loss of fish habitat due to climate change and pollution. Even regulations that have been successful can always be walked back. And when it comes to saving fish—which don't exactly heed borders—the U.S. can't go it alone. But there's hope too: New nets can reduce bycatch, and improvements in domestic fish farming might relieve some of the burden on wild populations while nudging the market away from the foreign aquaculture that supplies nearly half the seafood Americans eat. The implementation in June of the first international treaty to reduce illegal fishing should also help.

If the feds and fishermen continue to abide by their contract, it should mean more fish for all of us—including Corey Arnold, who has gone back up to Alaska for this year's salmon run. If the forecast holds, he's looking at a major haul.

Reprinted from TIME Magazine - July 11—18, 2016, pp 98-99

Join the Texas Chapter

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site, www.sdafs.org/tcafs/index.htm or by contacting Deborah Wade, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2234, Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us

If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the chapter newsletter.

Members are encouraged to make submissions to the Newsletter Editor by mail or e-mail to one of the addresses listed below.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Dave Buzan
PRESIDENT-ELECT..... Randy Rushin
PAST-PRESIDENT..... Kevin Storey
SECRETARY-TREASURER..... Michael Homer

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS..... Michele Nations
CONTINUING EDUCATION Lynn Wright
EDITORIAL..... Dan Daugherty & Allison Pease
ENDOWMENTS..... Dave Terre
HISTORY..... Michele Nations
INTERNET..... Danny Lewis / John Taylor
ISSUES..... Mark Webb
(includes Stocks-at-Risk & Exotic Species Sub-committees)
MEMBERSHIP..... Deborah Wade
NOMINATING..... Dan Bennett
POND MANAGEMENT..... Greg Binion
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