



President's message:

by Tim Bonner

Texas Chapter AFS has been busy this spring planning the 2009 TCAFS Annual Meeting. Co-hosting an international symposium, while organizing our regular meeting agenda and events, has kept President-elect Brian VanZee and several others extremely busy. Efforts will be worthwhile once the meeting kicks off on January 27 in Ft. Worth. Please save the dates now. Meanwhile, consider submitting an abstract for TCAFS contributed session. There are a number of ongoing fish-related projects in the state. Presentations of these projects allow quick dissemination of study results and inform our membership about pressing questions and issues.

While on the topic of membership, we need to actively recruit new members. TCAFS is a great organization, providing opportunities for fisheries workers to interact and sponsoring a number of Texas university students through scholarships and research awards. Please make an effort to encourage long time and recently hired co-workers to become active in TCAFS. We have plenty of opportunities for new members (and old) to become involved with our society. Contact committee chairs to volunteer.

As a follow up to our plenary session this year (Native Fish Conservation and Game Fish Management-Conflict or Compatibility), I highly recommend a new book published by AFS entitled "Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: Proceedings of the Fourth World Fisheries Congress", editors Nielsen, J. and five co-editors. The book has 146 peer-reviewed papers, describing fisheries conservation issues in marine and fresh waters. I haven't read all 146 papers, but so far the articles are very informative and will be a great resource. Only \$53.00 for AFS members.

President-elect's message:

by Brian Van Zee

Greetings Everyone!

The TCAFS and Golden Alga Symposium steering committee has been hard at work planning for what is shaping up to be a great meeting! The meeting is scheduled for January 27-31, 2009 and it will be held at the Radisson Fort Worth Fossil Creek Hotel near historic Fort Worth and the Fort Worth Stockyards. This 4-day conference will begin with an International Symposium on Golden Alga *Prymnesium parvum* with invited speakers from around the World, the U.S. and Texas. The conference will also include the Annual TCAFS meeting which will include a special contributed session dealing with harmful alga blooms (e.g. Red Tide, Brown Tide and Blue-Green's) and their impact on Coastal as well as Inland waters. In addition, there will be contributed sessions where Inland and Coastal fisheries based management or research can be presented. Thus, this conference will provide an



excellent opportunity for everyone to share their research regardless if it deals with harmful algae or other fisheries related topic. To find out more information regarding the meeting be sure to visit the meeting website at http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/2009_Golden_Alga/09meethome.htm and refer to it often as it will be getting updated frequently with new information. If you have any questions or comments regarding the conference or the TCAFS please send me an email brian.vanzee@tpwd.state.tx.us or give me a call at 254-867-7974.

Treasurer's Report

by Craig Bonds, Secretary Treasurer

On behalf of the Chapter, Form 990EZ, accompanying Schedules A and B, and appropriate attachments were submitted to the Internal Revenue Service prior to the May 15th deadline for 501(c) (3) organizations. As of April 30, 2008, the TCAFS cash account's balance was \$9,320.25 and the scholarship fund's balance was \$80,756.98.

Bass Brigade keeping Texas Chapter volunteers busy

by Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Committee Chairperson

Part of the Texas Chapter's student outreach efforts is contributing money, time, and expertise to an extraordinary fish-focused youth leadership camp called Bass Brigade. This camp, scheduled for July 7-11, is part of the Texas Brigades system of youth development programs that uses fish and wildlife subjects to teach high school students about conservation, management, outdoor recreation, and leadership.

In March of this year, two Texas Chapter members—Darin Gossett and Greg Cummings—answered my call for volunteers to the steering committee, and both have been outstanding contributors. They are both planning to work at the camp all week, Darin as an instructor, and Greg as a cook and instructor. Other Brigade volunteers from Texas Chapter include Ralph Manns, who is planning to be there as a full-time instructor, and Dr. Tim Bonner and his students who will instruct a session during the camp. I know the camp cadets will be inspired by all of these awesome volunteers.

TCAFS Awards

by Greg Conley - Awards Committee Chairperson

The joint TCAFS/GATF meeting in Fort Worth in 2009 looks to be a great one, promising to attract several great presentations, both oral and poster. It is never too early for Chapter members to start thinking about nominating their peers for Chapter Awards. The Award categories are as follows: Administration, Culture, Education, Management, Research, Special Recognition, Student, and Technical Support. At the 2008 meeting in Junction there were no nominations for Culture and Management, so let's add these two categories to the list of nominations this year. I would like to see at least 3 nominations per category so my committee will be challenged to pick a good candidate for the award. There's a lot of great work being conducted out there in fisheries work, nominate someone. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.



Help wanted! - Golden Alga TCAFS meeting in January

by Joan Glass

Here is your opportunity to be involved!

If you would like to help with the soliciting of donations for the Golden Alga TCAFS meeting in January, please contact me (joan.glass@tpwd.state.tx.us). I have:

- 1) Solicitation letter for Sponsorship
- 2) Sponsor Levels and perks
- 3) Tracking who has been contacted, their responses, tracking perks
- 4) Thank you letter when we get \$\$\$

There is a long list of people that have to be notified on any donations but I am happy to be in the middle. Charlie Munger and I are the Sponsorship Committee and Greg Conley is helping.

Thanks for any and all help!

Call for Papers for 2009 Annual Meeting

by Dan Daugherty- Editorial Committee Chairperson



January 27-31, 2009
Radisson Fort Worth Fossil Creek Hotel
Fort Worth, Texas USA

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are requested for the 2009 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS). Submissions are being accepted for a harmful algae bloom (HAB) Session and the general fisheries sessions. To submit an abstract to be considered for the technical program, please provide the following information:

1. Author name(s) (presenting author should be noted with an *).
2. Presentation type (oral or poster... please indicate whether you are willing to present the data in the alternative format if requested).
3. Contact information (affiliation, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, and e-mail address).
4. Presentation title
5. Abstract (Single paragraph, 300-word maximum length).
6. Indicate whether you would prefer to be included in the HAB session or the general fisheries session.

In addition, please indicate your intentions for the presentation in the 2009 TCAFS Proceedings (abstract-only or manuscript) and indicate whether the presenter is a STUDENT or PROFESSIONAL. To be considered a student presenter, you must be enrolled at the time the abstract is submitted. PROFESSIONAL PRESENTERS... Please indicate your willingness to judge student presentations.

Oral presentations will be allowed 15-minutes total for the presentation and question and answer period. Presentations should be created in MS PowerPoint®. Poster presentations should be formatted to include a title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion/conclusion, and literature cited. Posters must not exceed 48" in any dimension. Poster presenters should plan on standing next to their posters during the morning and afternoon breaks on Thursday (January 19th) and Friday (January 30th). DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 1ST, 2008. Please submit your presentation abstract ELECTRONICALLY (preferably in MS Word®) to: Dan.Daugherty@tpwd.state.tx.us. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

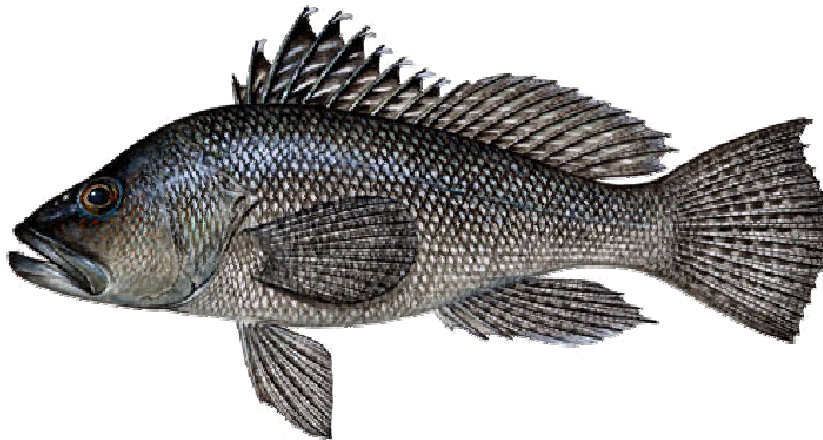
Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

➤ “Aqua ranching” and fish that catch themselves

Although this may sound like the title of a science fiction movie, it is an idea being investigated on the east coast. Scientists are testing a plan to train fish to catch themselves by swimming into a net when they hear a tone that signals feeding time. If it works, the system could eventually allow black sea bass to be released into the open ocean, where they would grow to market size, then swim into an underwater cage to be harvested when they hear the signal. The Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, received a \$270,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to train these Pavlovian fish. The project began last summer using 6,500 black sea bass.

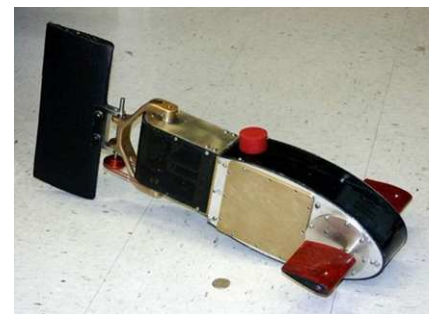
Simon Miner, a research assistant associated with the project said the specially trained fish could hopefully some day be used to bolster the depleted black sea bass stock. Farmed fish might become better acclimated to the wild if they can be called back for food every few days. The bigger goal is to defray the costs of fish farming, an increasingly important source of the world's seafood. If fish could be trained to return to the farmer after feeding in the open ocean for several days, farms could save money on feed and reduce the amount of fish waste released in concentrated areas.

The first objective was to see if the fish could truly be trained. Fish were kept in a circular tank, then a tone was sounded before food was dropped into an enclosed "feeding zone" within the tank that the fish could enter only through a small opening. Researchers played the tone for 20 seconds, three times a day, for about two weeks. Afterward, whenever the tone sounded, fish reacted. Some fish forgot after five days. Others remembered as long as 10. The strength of their memory seems tied to how long the fish are trained. This summer researchers hope to bring about 5,000 black sea bass to a feeding station called an "AquaDome," a structure about 33 feet across and 16 feet high that will be anchored to the ocean floor in Buzzards Bay, 45 miles southeast of Boston. The sea bass will be fed in the dome after a tone sounds. After researchers feel they've been sufficiently trained, they will be freed from the dome. A day or two later, scientists will sound the tone again and see how many bass return. They'll do the experiment again around summer's end.



➤ Robofish

Researchers at the University of Washington have built three robotic swimming “creatures” that are able to communicate with one another and successfully swim in either one direction or in different directions. These “robofish” are each about the size of a 10-pound salmon and they are propelled by a fin that flaps back and forth. This makes them potentially more maneuverable and creates lower drag than propeller vessels, and also could be less conspicuous by generating fewer air bubbles. Messages were sent between the robots using low-frequency sonar pulses, or pressure waves. Each robot is equipped with a computer, depth sensor, compass, and radio and powered by nickel-metal hydride rechargeable batteries. All three broadcast their headings to the others



which use the information to adjust their courses. The next experiments will have the bots communicate with sonar-like pings instead of radio waves and school in open water.

Kristi Morgansen, assistant professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the University of Washington worked with collaborator Julia Parrish, an associate professor in the UW's School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, to record patterns of fish schools' behavior. She recently presented results on the performance of Robofish at the International Federation of Automatic Control's Workshop on Navigation, Guidance and Control of Underwater Vehicles showing that the robots had successfully completed their first major test. Co-authors on the recent study were UW doctoral students Daniel Klein and Benjamin Triplett in aeronautics and astronautics, and UW graduate student Patrick Bettale in electrical engineering. The research was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Eventually, researchers hope that these mechanical bots can explore underwater caves, track moving targets or plunge beneath ice sheets, but there's still work to be done before the creature's coordination ability is up to the challenge.

http://vger.aa.washington.edu/fish_project.html

➤ **Kingman reef – where predators rock**

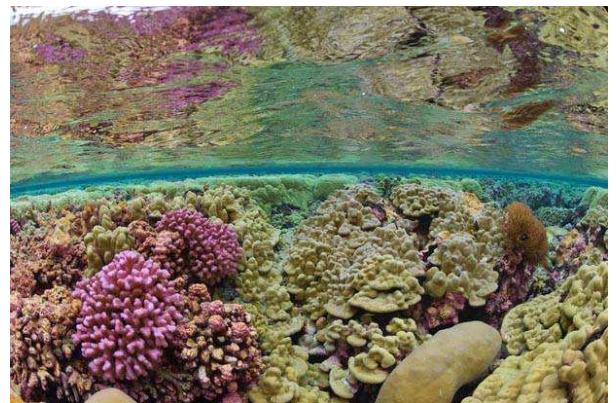
Eric Sala, a marine ecologist, and National Geographic Fellow, has observed an unusual biomass pyramid during two recent expeditions to Kingman Reef, part of a chain of Pacific atolls and islands (called the Line Islands) that straddles the Equator 1,000 miles south of Hawaii. On this reef, 85% of fish biomass is in the form of apex predators, and 75% of predator biomass is sharks. Kingman's proportion of apex predators is the highest seen in any coral reef ecosystem. This is a complete reversal of the pattern observed in other coral reefs.

Kingman Reef is one of perhaps 50 reefs worldwide that are remote, pristine, and un-impacted by human activities particularly fishing. For this "inverted" biomass pyramid to function, there must be rapid turnover of biomass at the lower levels. Prey must grow rapidly and be replenished quickly, to support slow-growing, long-lived predators. At another nearby protected reef, Palmyra Atoll, researchers have found the stomachs of red snappers, an apex predator, are usually empty. It appears that in a healthy reef, predators are abundant but they live in perpetual hunger and depend on a scarce prey base.

In coral communities that are impacted by fishing, the removal of large predators creates the familiar population boom of small brightly-colored fish traditionally associated with coral reefs. "Eliminating the top predators speeds the turnover rate of the entire reef community," Sala says. This apparently encourages growth of microbes which contributes to reef degradation. The removal of large grazers, leads to development of algae which increase dissolved organic carbon which boost growth of bacteria.

Microbe levels at Kingman are one tenth those found at a nearby impacted reef, Kiritimati

To Sala the message is clear: Overfishing is ecological sabotage. "It's like removing vital parts from a machine and expecting it to keep functioning," he says. This ecosystem is largely intact, and stable and resilient enough to recover from environmental stresses as long as it can be protected from overfishing. According to Sean Connolly, a reef expert at James Cook University in Australia, "Protecting reefs from overfishing is within our power and might help mitigate adverse effects of other changes, such as global warming."



<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/07/kingman-reef/warne-text>



TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
**Fisheries & Harmful Algae:
 Can They Co-Exist?**
 TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

2009 Golden Algae International Symposium and
 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter American
 Fisheries Society
 January 27 – 31, 2009
 Radisson Fort Worth Fossil Creek Hotel
 Fort Worth, Texas

MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 STREET ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
 PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____
 _____ STUDENT* _____ PROFESSIONAL

**Students willing to work at the conference may be eligible for reduced lodging rates. Please contact Dr. Timothy Bonner (email: TBonner@txstate.edu) for details.*

Registration	Cost/person	Total
Member/Attendee - Early Registration (received by 12-20-08)	\$85	_____
Late Registration (received after 12-20-08)	\$105	_____
Student/Spouse - Early Registration (received by 12-20-08)	\$65	_____
Late Registration (received after 12-20-08)	\$85	_____
Chapter Dues - Professional/Student**	\$12/\$5	_____
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST (please make checks payable to TCAFS)		\$ _____

*** - Please note that student registration/membership is reserved for full-time, actively enrolled individuals only.*

STUDENT-MENTOR LUNCH – FRIDAY, January 30th, 12:00 to 1:15 pm

____ Yes, I would like to participate in the Student-Mentor Luncheon. My desired/current career field is:
 State Gov't. Federal Gov't. Academia Private Sector

COMMITTEES – Please indicate which member committee(s) you are willing to serve:

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> | Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pond Management | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Editorial | <input type="checkbox"/> | Endowments | <input type="checkbox"/> | Publicity/Exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | Student Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stocks at Risk | <input type="checkbox"/> | Continuing Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Exotic Species | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

EXHIBITORS – Exhibitors registering for the symposium/annual meeting may purchase display space at a rate of \$75.00 per space. Each space includes a table, table skirt, 2 chairs, and access to electricity.

TOTAL \$ _____

PRESENTATION DEADLINES: *The deadline for submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations in the harmful alga/fisheries and general fisheries technical sessions is 01 December 2008. The technical program for the Golden Algae Symposium has been filled. Please submit abstracts (contact information, abstract, and presentation type) electronically to Dan.Daugherty@tpwd.state.tx.us.*

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Craig Bonds
 11810 FM 848
 Tyler, TX 75707

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 Dennis Smith, Dundee State Fish Hatchery, Rt. 1 Box 123A, Electra, TX 76360, (940) 586-1203, Dennis.Smith@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.

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