



## AFS Estuaries Section Newsletter Summer 2012

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### **Estuaries Section Officers**

Lee Benaka—President  
Abigail Franklin—President-Elect  
Anthony Overton—Treasurer  
Lynn Waterhouse—Secretary  
<http://www.fisheriessociety.org/estuaries/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/EstuariesSectionAFS>

### **SECTION NEWS**

#### **President's Message**

I hope this summer is beginning well for all of you! For the Estuaries Section, early summer is a time to solicit applications for student travel awards and order food and drinks for our annual business meeting in Minneapolis-St. Paul (August 19, 2012—Mark your calendars!!).

This also is a time to be thankful for a great bunch of Estuaries Section Officers, including new Secretary Lynn Waterhouse, who continue to bring good energy and ideas to the Section.

In addition, this is a time to look forward to the AFS Annual Meeting, and especially the super symposium that the Estuaries Section has organized. I must extend special thanks to President-Elect Abigail Franklin for her leadership in organizing this symposium.

We are all facing increased challenges in getting travel funded in 2012, but I hope as many of you as possible can make it to Minneapolis-St. Paul. I also hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please let me know if you have any feedback or ideas for future issues.

--Lee Benaka, President, Estuaries Section

### **Issue Highlights**

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#### **The Estuaries Section is on Facebook!**

Estuaries Section Secretary Lynn Waterhouse has created an Estuaries Section Facebook page for us. You can find it here:

<http://www.facebook.com/EstuariesSectionAFS>

Please visit the site, "like" it, and check it for important news and updates regarding the Estuaries Section. And please post your own news, photos, etc. to the page.

#### **Estuaries Section Members Study Herring Habitat**

Estuaries Section members and East Carolina University researchers Anthony Overton and Roger Rulifson were featured in the Spring 2012 article in Coastwatch, published by North Carolina Sea Grant.

The article, entitled "Hoping for a Comeback: Researchers Eye River Herring," describes a study to assess herring nursery habitat in tributaries of Albemarle Sound in order to identify which locations support growth of juvenile river herring and survival of adults. The article also describes a study on the availability of food for herring and shad after they emerge from eggs in the Roanoke River and part of Albemarle Sound.

You can read the full article at the following URL:  
<http://www.ncseagrant.org/home/coastwatch/coastwatch-articles?task=showArticle&id=733>

Keep up the good work, Anthony and Roger!

## 2012 Student Travel Awards

The Estuaries Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is pleased to offer financial awards for three undergraduate or graduate students in support of their attendance at the AFS 2012 Annual Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 19-23 August 2012 in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. The amount of each award will be \$500 and will include a one-year membership in the Estuaries Section.

The Estuaries Section will fund one award, and the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML) will fund two. For the Estuaries Section award, priority will be given to students who are presenting their own research at the conference (in an oral or poster presentation), are AFS Estuaries Section members, and have a demonstrated financial need. For the two SAML funded awards, in addition to the criteria listed above, preference will be given to those students representing a SAML institution. Recipients of the SAML sponsored awards will also be required to provide a brief, one-page report to SAML regarding his/her research and how the funds were used.

You can find full award application instructions on the Estuaries Section website:

<http://www.fisheriessociety.org/estuaries/>

Please submit applications to Lee Benaka ([Lee.Benaka@noaa.gov](mailto:Lee.Benaka@noaa.gov)) via email by 5pm on 9 July 2012. Those selected for awards will be notified by telephone or e-mail mail no later than 23 July 2012.

## 2012 Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Awards

The 2011 Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Awards were presented on April 16 at NOAA Fisheries headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. Coordinated by the Office of Habitat Conservation, in partnership with the American Fisheries Society's Estuaries Section, we recognized Stan Moberly, Bob Hoffman, and Robin Bruckner, who are honored for their commitment to and success in coastal and marine habitat conservation.



Robin Bruckner (l) and Stan Moberly (r)

Robin Bruckner, nominated by her colleagues, is the first NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation employee to win the award. Robin has been with NOAA since the mid-1990s and is responsible for establishing the community based habitat restoration program, which she now leads.

Stan Moberly is a well-known leader in habitat conservation. Besides being elected president of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), he also received the Meritorious Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award. Stan's push for national conservation action led to the signing of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan by the secretaries of Commerce and the Interior in 2006.

Although not in attendance at the award ceremony, Bob Hoffman was recognized for his long career in conservation along with Robin and Stan. Bob retired from NOAA Fisheries Southwest Regional Office earlier this year after 35 years of service in habitat conservation. Among his many achievements, Bob's personal involvement on mitigation associated with port and harbor development led to 100s of acres protected or restored, with benefits to fish, birds, and local citizens.

Established by NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation in May 1997, this annual award honors a commitment of excellence in service to habitat conservation in the marine environment. The first award was presented to Dr. Nancy Foster in 1997 for her outstanding long-term contributions and organizational efforts to protect, conserve, and restore coastal and marine habitats.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### **Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project—Restoring Estuarine Habitat in Massachusetts**

by Abigail Franklin

Cape Cod, Massachusetts is one the country's most popular areas for summer vacationing. The white sandy beaches, refreshing ocean breezes, plentiful public access ways for swimming, boating, and shellfishing, and ample opportunities for finfishing are the main reasons why people flock to the peninsula every summer. However, despite the abundance of bright green saltmarsh vistas, many of the estuaries on Cape Cod have been compromised by development.

Roads and road crossings have particularly affected Cape Cod's estuaries. Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution in all coastal areas and periodically causes the closure of shellfish beds to harvesting. The bridges that once allowed colonial era roads to cross rivers and creeks have over time been replaced by culverts that are too small to carry tidal salt water upstream. These same culverts often block the passage of migratory fish species such as river herring and American eels.

In the early 2000s federal, state and local agencies and the 15 Cape Cod towns partnered to identify these problems and formulate solutions. After years of planning, the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project (CCWRRP) was officially launched in 2010. The CCWRRP was developed through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Small Watershed Program, which targets watersheds less than 250,000 acres and presents a unique and flexible approach to area-wide water resource planning and management. The Small Watershed Program uses conservation land treatment measures to improve water quality in the watershed and emphasizes the creation of interdisciplinary teams to develop comprehensive watershed plans.

The CCWRRP plan identifies 76 sites throughout Cape Cod for possible restoration including 26 stormwater discharge sites, 26 tidally-restricted salt marshes, and 24 obstructed fish passages. The costs and benefits of various alternatives have been evaluated and sponsors' decisions are

contained in the watershed plan. The watershed plan describes the work to be done, the responsibilities of each agency, financing arrangements, and maintenance provisions. The estimated total cost of the project is nearly \$30 million, of which \$23 million would be provided by the federal government and the remainder through non-federal sources.



*A new culvert in Harwich, Massachusetts*

A variety of techniques are being used to implement these projects and restore estuarine habitat on the Cape. Stormwater remediation is accomplished through the strategic placing of flow diffusers, leaching basins, and leaching fields underground. When the projects are completed often the only signs of new infrastructure are the storm grates. The restoration of tidal flow to saltmarsh sites has been accomplished by installing new, larger culverts that allow tidal saltwater to reach further upstream. One project involved the removal of an earthen dike that was built long ago to create a cranberry bog. Larger culverts aid the passage of American eels and river herring as well, and the Project also identified many aging fish ladders in need of rebuilding.

Phase I of the project began with 6.5 million dollars of funding through the American Reinvestment Act of 2009. To date, 9 stormwater remediation and 3 saltmarsh restoration projects have been completed, and designs for 6 fish passage projects are underway. For updates on the progress of the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project, please check out the blog and Facebook page.

<http://capecodwatershed.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CapeCodWatershed>

## MEETINGS

### **142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN August 19-23, 2012**

The meeting focus is Fisheries Networks: Building Ecological, Social and Professional Relationships. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to network with fisheries professionals and students, stay current on the latest in fisheries science, and enjoy the sights and scenes of the Twin Cities and beyond.

**The Estuaries Section and Marine Fisheries Section combined Annual Business Meeting will take place Sunday, August 19, at 5pm in the Crowne Plaza, State Room II.** We will present 2012 Student Travel Awards and enjoy some food and drinks before the Welcome Social. We hope to see you there!

### **6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Tampa, FL October 20-25, 2012**

Restore America's Estuaries' 6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration is the only national conference focused on the goals and practices of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. Estuaries and coasts are an important part of America's economy, history, and living culture. The five-day Conference will explore the state-of-the-art in all aspects and scales of restoration, and will be comprised of field sessions, plenary sessions, expert presentations, special evening events, workshops, a poster hall, and the nation's only Restoration Exposition.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

## OTHER NEWS

### **Estuaries Section Symposium—August 23, 2012**

The Estuaries Section has organized a great symposium for the AFS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, which will take place August 23, 2012, beginning at 1:15pm. The symposium is entitled Fish Habitat and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 didn't just fund road infrastructure improvements, it also supported work to improve fish habitat across the country. Millions of dollars went toward a diverse portfolio of projects such as dam removals, culvert replacements, and efforts to remove marine debris. The objective of this half-day symposium is to report on the progress of these projects, describe the successes and frustrations associated with managing this funding, and ponder the long-term effects. Presenters will relate their experiences with managing high-value, high-visibility projects on a short timeline.

Presenters include the following:

- Terry Heatlie (NOAA Fisheries)
- Madeleine Lyttle (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
- Carter Kruse (Turner Enterprises)
- Kristen Ferry (NOAA Fisheries)
- Robert Stuber (U.S. Forest Service)
- James Turek (NOAA Fisheries)
- Andrew Struck (Ozaukee County, WI)
- Abigail Franklin (Cape Cod Conservation District)
- Serena McClain (American Rivers)
- Amanda Meadows (The Nature Conservancy)
- Paul Burnett (Trout Unlimited)

Please stick around and check out these interesting presentations on important habitat restoration efforts from around the United States!

AFS Job Center Online (and other employment resources):  
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/jobpage.php>

Renew your AFS Membership online at:  
<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership>