

American Fisheries Society

Organized 1870 to Promote the Conservation and Wise Utilization of the Fisheries
Alaska Chapter organized in 1974

135th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage.
September 11-15, 2005, Egan Center and Performing Arts Center.

MEETING UPDATE: Expert Interview Opportunity

Scientists, Managers and Fishers Working Together For Their Resource



silver spotted sculpin by Ray Troll used with permission

Organizers of the American Fisheries Conference in Anchorage have arranged for experts on cooperative fisheries research and management to be available at 3:20 pm Tuesday, September 13 in the Discovery Theatre of the Alaska Centre for the Performing Arts for media interviews.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in greater stakeholder collaborative involvement in the fisheries research and management process. Direct involvement by fishers and other stakeholders in these processes is generally referred to as cooperative research and cooperative management.

A special 1 ½ day symposium entitled, “Partnerships for a Common Purpose: Cooperative Fisheries Research and Management,” will be held on September 13-14, 2005, at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts-Discovery Theatre in Anchorage, as part of the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. The focus of this symposium is to review and build upon the current understanding of cooperative fisheries research and management programs by discussing lessons learned, characteristics of successful cooperative programs, and future opportunities for working cooperatively. Planned panel discussions promise to move forward our understanding of the critical issues facing cooperative fisheries research and management today.

The program is divided into three parts (Impacts, Lessons Learned, Opportunities for the Future) with panel sessions addressing questions aimed at promoting panelist and audience discussion. The panels are made up of a diverse mixture of stakeholder groups, with each consisting of a fishing industry representative, a manager, a scientist, and a community participant. A format such as this will offer a broad range of perspectives and discussions will be moderated to facilitate extensive audience participation. Background material is available at: http://www.fisheries.org/apa_symposium05/index.htm.

The symposium is co-sponsored by approximately 20 government agencies (principally NOAA's National Sea Grant Office and National Marine Fisheries Service), non-governmental organizations, academic/research institutions, and the American Fisheries Society. The symposium proceedings will be published by AFS and will be an extremely valuable resource to fisheries scientists, managers, fishermen, and other stakeholders interested in cooperative strategies for promoting effective fisheries management.

Posters that describe case studies and empirical research on cooperative fisheries research and/or cooperative management will also be displayed. All accepted posters will be featured during a poster social on Tuesday evening from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the Discovery Theatre, Alaska Centre for the Performing Arts (*This is an excellent opportunity for media to mingle with the speakers and participants*).

Approximately 2,200 fisheries scientists are expected to attend, including some of the world's foremost experts on fish and fisheries. The technical program includes 1,800 oral and poster presentations over four days.

The American Fisheries Society is the world's oldest and largest fisheries science society, with more than 9,000 members in 70 countries. Its mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The society publishes four journals, Fisheries magazine, and up to a dozen books every year.

For more information about the meeting, visit our website at: <http://wdafs.org/Anchorage2005/media.htm> or contact Kate Wedemeyer at 334-5278.
