



Update September 2005

Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (CARS) of the American Fisheries Society

Dear CARS members,

This is our September 05 email bulletin from the CARS-AFS and is intended as an update, discussion and comment on issues relevant to Canadian fisheries and aquatic resource issues. The e-bulletin is also available for download at www.canadianaquaticresources.org

The CARS AGM is scheduled at the AFS 2005 meeting, Anchorage, September 11, 2005 3:00-4:30pm Willow Room, Hilton Anchorage.

The list of the current CARS Executive committee and contact information and past presidents is listed at the bottom of this message and on our new website.

We welcome input into content of e-bulletins for distribution to CARS members. Submissions for the CARS fall e-bulletin are due Oct 15, 2005.

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www.canadianaquaticresources.org

**CARS has a new look and commitment for the future.
We wish to continue a tradition of good work.**

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Aug 2005 Message from the Out-Going CARS President, Chris Goddard

Dear CARS members,

For two years I have had the great privilege to serve as the president of the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section. I came to my term of office absolutely committed to continuing the tight knit collegial leadership within the executive committee. To this end, we focused on the energies generated within CARS to revisit the founding principles of the section and to chart a course of achievable objectives that could be built upon by future leadership.

It has been an exciting time of reflection, rejuvenation, and growth for the section. Our executive committee saw the need to focus on two strategic areas of importance to our members: improving member representation, and increasing member participation in the activities of the American Fisheries Society and the section. Reflecting the commitment of all the members of the executive committee, three major efforts geared to achieve these strategic objectives have been completed during the preceding two years: holding a second annual meeting, increasing CARS involvement in Canadian fisheries issues, and improving the communication tools to better serve our members.

In recognition of the importance of the Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research (CCFFR) as both a well-established forum for Canadian fisheries professionals and as a potential recruiting ground for society and section members, CARS began holding an additional annual section meeting in conjunction with the CCFFR at the 2005 CCFFR meeting in Windsor, Ontario. I am confident that CARS members will continue to demonstrate strong support for this joint meeting, through attendance at the 2006 CCFFR meeting in Alberta.

From its inception, CARS has worked very hard to achieve similar recognition from Canadian fisheries professionals and scientists that the U.S. Society members enjoy. The section remains concerned that AFS has not demonstrated the necessary interest or commitment to have a prominent role in fisheries issues that are on the forefront of Canadian provincial or federal government's concerns. CARS, therefore, has been actively engaged during the last two years in increasing and effectively representing Canadian interests, both within the society and to the Canadian government. As a critical first step, CARS has taken action to modify our constitution and bylaws to include, in the CARS executive committee, delegates of Society Chapters with Canadian jurisdictions. These include the North Pacific International Chapter, the Ontario Chapter, and the Atlantic International Chapter. This expansion of the CARS executive committee will allow the section to integrate Society activities in Canada and to rapidly focus AFS resources on Canadian issues. Furthermore, the section has also been active in responding and providing comments about Canadian resource issues of interest. CARS worked with Dr. Barb Knuth, AFS president and submitted a comment paper to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans about their draft policy "A Policy Framework for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon." The section also sent a letter to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) commenting on the draft proposal in Canada to ban the use of lead in fishing sinkers, jigs, spinners, and spoons, as well as offering Section assistance to provide the CWS with expertise and to assist with the dissemination of information through the CARS website and newsletter. CARS now has representation on the AFS-The Wildlife Society joint technical review committee to address this issue.

Effective communications are absolutely vital in a section responsible for representing the geographically, biologically, and politically diverse interests of Canada. Recognizing the importance of the internet as an

effective and rapid communications tool, CARS was fortunate to recruit Dr. Mark Johannes, Section Communication Officer, to spearhead the rejuvenation of our website, which can be found at www.canadianaquaticresources.org. This exciting and innovative site is providing more information to members and non-members about fisheries issues in Canada. It also serves as a forum for the Section Newsletter "Literal Zone", and invites comments on current topics of interest and informs members of workshops and meetings. A new CARS logo will be adopted during the 2005 section business meeting in Anchorage. The logo will better represent the role of CARS and its members and will adorn the website as a symbol of the rejuvenation of the section and its new approach to information sharing.

In addition to these three major achievements, CARS increased its' visibility by sponsoring and participating in the following scientific events:

- World Fishery Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia (2004);
- Effects on Fisheries and Aquatic Resources: Exploring the Reality of Adaptation in the Great Lakes Basin in Windsor, Ontario (2005);
- Conference/Workshop on Climate and Fisheries: Impacts, Uncertainty, and Responses of Ecosystems Victoria, British Columbia (2005); and,
- North Pacific International Chapter Annual Meeting - organization of the annual meeting's science program (2005).

With an eye towards the future, CARS has shown great resolve to expand student participation in fisheries conferences. CARS generated nearly CDN\$1,000 in sales of The Virgin Sturgeon, by Dr. Howard Powles (you can obtain a copy for \$12.50 by emailing powlesh@sympatico.ca), proceeds from which support the section's Clemens-Rigler Student Travel Fund. Significant contributions from several sponsors, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Northeast Division of the AFS have allowed the Section to award 104 Clemens-Rigler Student Travel Awards, representing a total of \$33,125 for the 2004 and 2005 CCFR meetings. In addition, CARS has supported student travel to the AFS annual meeting by awarding the Peter A. Larkin Travel Fund to 4 students in 2004 and 2005. Additionally, the executive committee is developing a more formal means to provide travel support to the section student representative to allow active participation in both of our annual meetings. This effort is being lead by the CARS student representative, Brett Van Poorten.

Together, the executive committee has worked hard to improve the section's ability to meet our members' needs and to assume a more active role in Canadian fisheries research and policy. The Section is growing in both membership and in its capacity to serve Canadian members. CARS has a well-deserved place at the AFS Governing Board table and we are being heard in that venue. Our future is bright. Our new president, Dr. Kim Hyatt, is committed to moving CARS forward and to carrying Canadian concerns and opportunities to the American Fisheries Society.

I have been delighted to work with our executive committee, and with you, in taking steps towards achieving our strategic objectives, and in laying the groundwork for our future. I would like to thank both Nancy Leonard and Dale Burkett for the exceptional assistance they have provided to me during my tenure. In closing, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve CARS and I look forward to future section initiatives and growth.

Chris Goddard, CARS President

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The following individuals have been nominated for Executive Committee positions for the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society.

Vice President - David Stanley
Secretary / Treasurer - Peter Amiro
Communications Officer - Mark Johannes
Assistant Communications Officer - no nominee
Student Representative - Brett van Poorten

For official election of officers, please send your cast ballot voting for the above nominees to Nancy Leonard at nleonard@glfc.org or Mark Johannes at mjohannes@shaw.ca by SEPTEMBER 8th 5:00pm EDT. Martin Castonguay (Past President CARS) is at sea on research and not available to take ballots. Nominee biographies are available from mjohannes@shaw.ca (sent on a previous email) or Nancy Leonard nleonard@glfc.org .

The ballot results will be announced at the business meeting / annual general meeting in Anchorage, September 11, 2005 3:00-4:30pm Willow Room, Hilton Anchorage. Results will also be posted on our new website at www.canadianaquaticresources.org

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CARS will help coordinate the Clemens-Rigler Travel Funds to foster student attendance at CCFR Calgary 06.

CARS ExCom are participating in the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AFS Governing Board and Management Committee meetings.

The CARS AGM is scheduled at the AFS 2005 meeting, Anchorage, September 11, 2005 3:00-4:30pm Willow Room, Hilton Anchorage.

CARS will is helping sponsor and coordinate the upcoming Climate and Fisheries: Impacts, Uncertainty and Responses of Ecosystems and Communities meeting at the Victoria Conference Centre, Oct. 26-28, 05. details available at www.fishclimate.ca/climatefisheries-2005.htm

CARS is holding its second all-Canadian business meeting at CCFR 2006, Calgary. Details to follow.

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Fishes and Canada's New Species at Risk Act - Howard Powles

Since Canada's new Species at Risk Act (SARA) came fully into force in June 2004, its practical implications for aquatic species are becoming apparent.

SARA's process for adding new species to the list of species at risk (Schedule 1 of the Act) includes an assessment step and a formal listing step. The assessment step is the responsibility of the Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) (www.cosewic.gc.ca), an arm's-length scientific committee including members from federal and provincial jurisdictions, from academia and from non-government organisations. The formal listing step is the responsibility of Canada's "Governor in Council" (GIC), in practice a committee of Cabinet, which has several options: to list the species as advised by COSEWIC, not list, or return the assessment to COSEWIC for further consideration. In making decisions on whether to list, GIC considers the COSEWIC assessment plus social and economic issues which come to light in consultations with stakeholders. It is illegal to kill or harm individuals of species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened, and a recovery strategy must be prepared within a fixed time period (1 year for endangered species, 2 years for threatened species).

Fishes, like other species, move through the listing process as COSEWIC provides batches of assessments to the Minister of Environment, which triggers consultations and the GIC decision-making step. COSEWIC provides assessments to the Minister of Environment annually in August. Consultations and analyses prior to the GIC listing step can take a variable amount of time, mainly depending on time needed to consult with stakeholders, in particular with Aboriginal groups and wildlife management boards.

A number of fish species are now on SARA Schedule 1, some of which were included when SARA entered into force (eg northern and spotted wolffishes), others of which were subsequently added by GIC in January 2005 (eg Salish sucker, northern madtom). GIC has also decided in January 2005 not to add two species to Schedule 1 (Sakinaw and Cultus Lake populations of sockeye salmon) and to return one species to COSEWIC for further consideration (the speckled dace of southern British Columbia). Decisions are pending on a number of species for which COSEWIC assessments were forwarded to the Minister of Environment in January 2004, August 2004 and August 2005.

Several species demonstrate the range of concerns and issues underlying application of the new legislation to fish and the ways fish can be handled under the Act. Northern wolffish, a bottom-living species distributed with species which are targetted by commercial fisheries off Newfoundland and Labrador, was listed as threatened on Schedule 1 when SARA entered into force. A recovery strategy for this species and the related spotted wolffish (threatened) and Atlantic wolffish (special concern) was developed through close collaboration between industry and governments and identified measures to foster recovery, in particular live release of captured individuals (which is now mandatory off Newfoundland and Labrador). The recently-announced first prosecution under SARA involved this species, specimens of which had been found, headed and gutted, on a fishing boat.

The GIC decision not to list Cultus and Sakinaw sockeye populations ended a year-long series of consultations and discussions on whether to list these populations under SARA. Discussions set the need to protect biodiversity against the economic and social impacts on fisheries and coastal communities of the stringent management measures required to fully protect small populations in mixed-stock fisheries. The decision not to list was based on

the perception that the costs would outweigh the benefits.

The species currently under consideration for listing include a number for which listing and the resultant prohibitions on harming individuals might have significant impacts on commercial fisheries, for example Atlantic cod (the Newfoundland and Labrador population was assessed by COSEWIC as endangered, the north Laurentian population as threatened), cusk (COSEWIC threatened), and bocaccio (COSEWIC threatened). Consultations on these species have been going on since summer 2004. COSEWIC's most recent group of assessments, communicated to the Minister of Environment in August 2005, included an endangered and a threatened population of winter skate and the Okanagan population of chinook salmon which was assessed on an emergency basis as endangered.

Howard Powles Aug 2005.

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Canada's Ocean Action Plan has been announced, see the url below for details.

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/infocus/2005/20050527_e.htm for details.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has launched an online Science Articles series:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/story/salmon_e.htm

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CARS new website.

www.canadianaquaticresources.org is being launched. Updates will occur regularly once the website is up and running in September 2005.

Check back regularly!

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(G)

Along with our new CARS website, enhanced look and feel, we are requesting input into selection of a new CARS logo. Logos are presented on the front page a www.canadianaquaticresources.org

Please send your selections (by letter) in order (best - worst) to mjohannes@shaw.ca, or cgoddard@glfc.org, or hyattk@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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Benefits of CARS membership

Along with the general benefits of membership in the American Fisheries Society (i.e. Professional development, conferences, workshop, publications, policy development), Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (CARS) members can:

- * Influence Canadian provincial and national fisheries and aquatic resource policies in Canada
- * Participate in creating a provincial, national, and international dialogue among professionals in Canada
- * Receive regular updates about Canadian issues in the CARS Newsletter
- * Help create a voice and greater visibility for Canadian fisheries and aquatic science professionals to provide independent perspectives
- * Participate in and create 'made in Canada' events (symposia, workshops)
- * Help fashion made in Canada events
- * Contribute to CARS sponsored publications
- * Help define professional development and standards for Canadian fisheries and aquatic science professionals
- * Contribute to improving services for CARS members

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CARS - Executive Committee for 2004-2005

- President - Chris Goddard cgoddard@glfc.org
- Vice President - Kim Hyatt hyattk@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Past President - Martin Castonguay castonguaym@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Treasurer - Peter Amiro amirop@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Communications - Mark Johannes mjohannes@shaw.ca
- Student Representative - Brett van Poorten b.vanpoorten@fisheries.ubc.ca

Past Presidents:

1999/2001 Bruce Ward, 1998/99 John Casselman, 1997/98 Bill Franzin, 1996/97 Dana Kinsman, 1995/96 David Evans, 1994/95 Brian Nakashima, 1993/94 Howard Powles, 1992/93 Don McDonald, 1991/92 Terry Marshal

2004-05 Special CARS Advisors: Dale Burkett, Howard Powles, Nancy Leonard

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