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FISH HEALTH SECTION Newsletter

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May 1974

FHS CONVENES WORKSHOP

Technical Procedures & Professional Standards To Be Drafted

A "Workshop on Procedures and Standards" is scheduled to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Denver, Colorado during the week of August 12 to 16, according to FHS President "Pete" Bullock. The workshop is open to all agency, industry, university and other specialists involved in safeguarding the health of fish. Because of rapid developments in the fish health field requiring coordination throughout the United States and Canada, this meeting is especially timely, Bullock said.

The FHS Executive Committee has been appointed as an ad hoc Program Committee and has been assigned the task of developing the program and making the necessary arrangements. FHS Secretary-Treasurer Jim Warren was named Program Chairman. Plans to date indicate that the workshop will consist of concurrent sessions devoted to discussing and drafting technical procedures for the detection and/or diagnosis of certain bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases. Professional standards will be discussed and drafted at plenary sessions.

All participants are urged to bring any publications or data which are pertinent to the actual drafting of technical procedures and professional standards.

Radisson Denver Hotel To Host FHS Workshop

The Radisson Denver Hotel, located at 1790 Grant St. in downtown Denver has been chosen as the site of the FHS "Workshop on Procedures and Standards".

This modern hotel has a roof-top pool, and most rooms have refrigerators, wet bars and balconies. Single rooms are \$22.00 and twin or double rooms are \$28.00. Major credit cards are accepted. Reservations should be made as soon as practicable and no later than early July. The hotel phone number is (303) 292-1500.

The Radisson is the home of the Denver Playboy Club. Registered guests are extended Playboy Club privileges.

Canadian Procedures To Be Published Soon

"Methods for the Detection of Certain Disease Pathogens of Salmonid Fishes" by D. C. Gillespie, T. P. T. Evelyn, C. Frantsi, R. M. MacKelvie, and N. Neufeld will be published soon, likely in May or June, by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. It will be listed as Misc. Pub. #23 and will be distributed to subscribers of the Journal of the FRBC and to FHS members free of charge. Watch for your copy.

This publication is of great interest to specialists as a laboratory guide and will be an important reference for consideration by the participants at the FHS Workshop in Denver.

Professional News & Views

1. The new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FISH DISEASE CONTROL CENTER, P.O. Box 917, Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701, will be opening soon. This laboratory replaces the Springville, Utah Hatchery Biologist Laboratory which closed on April 22, 1974. Ivan McElwain, Center Director, advises that all correspondence should be sent to the Ft. Morgan address and that services formerly provided through the Springville facility will soon be handled at the new center. Word on the operational date will be forthcoming. Other professional staff members at the facility are Paul Janeke, formerly on the staff at Springville and Dennis Anderson, formerly with the Hatchery Biologist's Laboratory at Genoa, Wisconsin. Additional staff members, as laboratory technicians, will be hired in the near future to complete the present staffing of the new center.
2. A PAPILLOMA has been diagnosed for the first time in an Ocean pout (Macrozoarces americanus) found in Block Island Sound, Rhode Island. The specimen, a 25 cm female, had a hard lobulated white mass (0.6 x 1.0 cm) attached to the lower left lip. Histopathological examination revealed islands of hyperplastic squamous epithelium. Tissue, slides and photos were submitted to the Registry for Tumors of Lower Animals, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. (For further information contact: Dr. R.E. Wolke, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.)
3. Limited DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES for parasite and virus diseases of shellfish are available from the Gulf Breeze Laboratory of EPA in Florida. The aquatic animal pathobiology program at the lab centers around the interactions between natural pathogens and pollutants. (For further information contact: Dr. John Couch, Gulf Breeze Laboratory, Sabine Island, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.)
4. DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES are available on a limited basis for disease problems of marine and freshwater fishes at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences. (For further information contact: Dr. David Zwerner, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.)
4. The Oregon Wildlife Commission reports that it has evidence indicating that egg transmission of Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV) has fouled attempts to eradicate IPNV from the Fall River State Fish Hatchery (where approximately 1.8 million fish were destroyed in June 1973 because they were found to harbor the virus). During late 1973, attempts were made to locate a suitable virus-free source of brook trout eggs to restock the disinfected Fall River station. In short, sampling of viscera and ovarian fluid failed to detect a low level carrier rate of IPNV, Wescodyne disinfection of the eggs failed to destroy the virus, and suspected egg transmission resulted in an epizootic in the fry (900,000 were ultimately destroyed). (For further information contact: Jim Sanders, Fish Pathologist, Oregon Wildlife Commission, Research, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.)

The NEWSLETTER of the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society is published four times annually in accordance with Section objectives. Use of company or trade names does not constitute endorsement but serves to keep members informed. NEWSLETTER contributions should be sent to a committee member no later than the 15th of January, April, July or November to be included in issues that follow these dates.

Newsletter Committee - 1974

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Can You HELP ?

FHS Member Dr. G.R. Bouck has recently written the Newsletter editor regarding the lack of news in these pages concerning aspects of fish health other than the diagnosis and therapy of infectious diseases. Dr. Bouck would like to see, in particular, more on nutrition, physiology and toxicology. The Newsletter staff would like to honor Dr. Bouck's request, particularly since many of you would likely want to see more on these topics, also. SO, HERE IT IS ... A PLEA TO ALL OF YOU TO PLEASE forward your newsy items to your nearest committee member or to the editor. It appears, from what I hear from committee members, that response to written invitations to submit news items is minimal. Of course, there is a tendency for the "news-makers" to not consider their information news since they've already heard about it and, it also seems, many want to hear the news but are reluctant to supply it. So, please volunteer your news and we'll try to evaluate it fairly and get it into the Newsletter. (Ed.)

Meetings and Miscellany

1. Western Fish Disease Conference: June 25 & 26, 1974, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada
2. Midwest Fish Disease Workshop: July 9 & 10, 1974, Continental Hotel, Kansas City, MO
3. Wildlife Disease Association Conference: July 31 - August 3, 1974, Asilomar Conference Center, Asilomar, CA
4. Fish Health Section Workshop on Standards and Procedures: August 12 - 16, 1974, Radisson Denver Hotel, Denver, CO (see announcements in this Newsletter)
5. The Parasitology Section of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences has been conducting investigations concerning systematic and ecological studies of monogenetic trematode parasites of fishes of the World Ocean. Increased attention is being given to the dynamics of parasitic infection and diseases on estuarine fishes. The Institute has one of the finest reference collections of trematode, cestode and nematode parasites of marine fishes on the east coast. (For further information contact: Dr. David Zwerner, VIMS, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062.)
6. The Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Route 1, Box 17 A, Kearneysville, WV 25430) has recently announced that it will be offering its comprehensive course in fish pathology from September 1, 1975 through January 15, 1976. This course includes coverage of bacterial, parasitic, viral and nutritional diseases, immunology and histopathology taught by the laboratory staff and visiting lecturers. Course prerequisites include four semester hours of lecture/laboratory in the following: general or introductory bacteriology, parasitology and animal virology. Eight of the ten enrollees in the course will be Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and the other two enrollees will be selected on the basis of need to know, likelihood of application, and prerequisite qualifications. Additional people may audit the lectures and up to four may observe laboratory instruction.
7. Couch, John 1974. Free and occluded virus, similar to Baculovirus, in hepatopancreas of pink shrimp. Nature, 247:5438:229-231.

A rod shaped, free and occluded virus exists in a marine shrimp indicating that marine crustacea are potential hosts for viruses similar to certain viruses infecting insects and mites. So far, the virus has been found only in shrimp taken from near Cedar Key, Florida, and experimentally exposed to the toxic chemical, Aroclor 1245 (PCB). The virus probably is a natural parasite, however, previously undetected, of estuarine and marine shrimp. (Author abstract)

Members Favor Legislation

Due to delays in the mail, the opinion poll cards on fish disease legislation kept dribbling into Chuck Hicks' office well past the return deadline of March 1. The rest of the cards have been tabulated now and the final results are:

Question 1: Do you favor a national fish health program authorized by federal legislation?
yes 56 no 7

Question 2: Do you agree with the provisions of HR 6397 (enclosed bill) ?
yes 36 no 8 in part 19

The comments that came in with the cards were quite diversified and difficult to summarize. For your information and possible food for thought, here are some of the comments:

Answer - No. 1, NO; No. 2, NO - " We do not need more govt. regs! "

Answer - No. 1, YES; No. 2, NO - " I support HR 6692 as it would place the responsibility of fish health programs in the Dept. of Agric. "

Answer - No. 1, YES; No. 2, YES - " A good start "

Answer - No. 1, YES; No. 2, IN PART :

1. " Fish farmers object to the fact that the Act (HR 6397) does not provide for enforcement of state or federal agencies from doing what would be prohibited by fish farmers. "
2. " Elaborate more on the compensation payable to Farmers affected "
3. " Pass no laws if compensation money not included. Program should be separate from state and federal fisheries. Disease list to be limited. Delete in his opinion as deemed appropriate. Advisory panel should have concrete power. "
4. " Dept. of Interior should not enforce the regulations. "
5. " Pg. 11, l. 18-19, should say a controlled or reportable fish disease. We are not interested in all diseases- only the biggies. Pg. 13, l. 17-18, disagree re: w/o a warrant. "
6. " Page 10, line 22, federal agency should also be included. Page 6, lines 14-20, state should have the majority say so on that they will not pay for compensation. "
7. " Sec. 2 (2), 4, 5, not proved; Sec. 3, (3), 3 - Dead? FDA covers; Sec. 3 (9) 21 - FDA covers dead fish; Sec. 4 (3) 14 - would close down most commercials and state; not enough room on this card to list all disagreements "
8. " ... I have very strongly advocated an independent executive advisory panel as specified in H.R. 6397, p. 4, l. 24 (b) to p. 5, l. 7 inclusive. The key word is executive which means that no government agency can act against the two-thirds majority decision of the executive panel. This is to protect fish cultural establishments from any arbitrary action of the government. We all are aware that government is not infallible and that governments tend to be arbitrary. In a democracy, or a republic, government is a servant and not a ruler of the people. We must remember that fishes have monetary value and if fish control services cost more than the monetary value of the fish they save, it is a deficit and wasteful operation. The purpose of the executive panel is to prevent the occurrence of such a situation. "