

Lucy Wins Conservation Award

Mr. Jon Lucy, a Marine Recreation Specialist in the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program at VIMS, has received the Bob Hutchinson Conservation award from the Portsmouth Anglers Club for his continuing efforts to promote more effective management of Virginia's recreational fisheries.

Lucy was recognized for his long-standing leadership with the state's game-fish tagging program, which he coordinates in concert with Mr. Claude Bain, Director of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

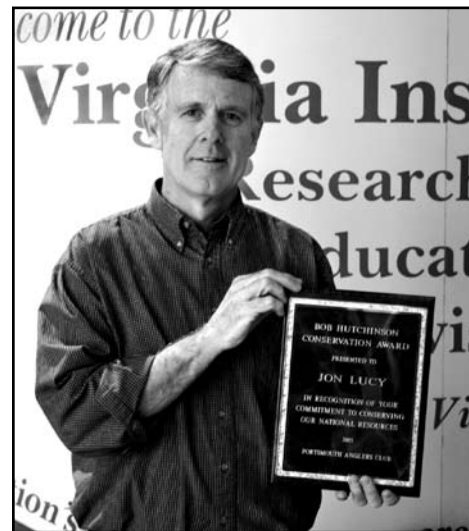
Lucy's work expands understanding of catch-and-release fishing as a management tool in marine sport fisheries, and includes studies of release-mortality issues in fish discarded by anglers. Working with both conventional and telemetry tagging projects, he also studies small- and large-scale movement patterns of important recreational species.

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program, initiated in 1995, coordinates the tagging efforts of a dedicated group of trained recreational anglers who help gather new and updated information on seasonal movements and habitat preferences of marine fish targeted by Virginia's anglers. The program's database now includes more than 87,000 records of tag-released fish and approximately 8,400 recapture records. The program is primarily funded with revenues from Virginia's saltwater recreational fishing license.

In response to the award, Lucy says "To give credit where credit is due, significant funding for much of my work has come from saltwater license revenues. So I think it's only fair to say that the award, while presented to me, really also recognizes the growing conservation ethic of our saltwater angling community."

This is the fifth year the club has presented the award, which is named after Bob Hutchinson. Still looked to as a leader by Virginia's saltwater angling community, Hutchinson retired in 2001 after 37 years as outdoor editor of *The Virginian-Pilot*.

The Portsmouth Anglers' Club was founded in 1965 and now has more than 300 members. The club has been the principal anglers' club in Portsmouth for several decades.



Jon Lucy displays his award.

Dr. Mark Brush

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"What we try to do," he says, "is come up with different ways of formulating, simplifying, and aggregating major processes, to decrease the parameterization and error propagation. We're trying to take out some of the uncertainty in these models and to make them more useful for making a prediction for management applications." That philosophy guides Brush's current project with several colleagues at his alma mater to better predict low-oxygen levels in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island.

Today's models have a litany of key uses, both for management and basic science. "Modeling developed as a way of synthesizing disparate data sets that had been collected by a variety of investigators on a variety of different processes," says Brush. "Models allow you to understand how all those processes and different trophic groups interact as

a complete ecosystem. Usually when we do fieldwork or lab experiments we focus on a particular organism or a particular process that we're studying, but models give you a way to piece all of those things together, to see how the whole system works together as an integrated unit."

Perhaps most important for VIMS' advisory role is that models allow for what-if scenarios.

"That's really the key," says Brush. With a model, "you can do a series of virtual experiments that you could never do on a natural system. No one would ever allow you to dump 100 times the ambient load of nitrogen into the York River to see how it responds. But you can do that in a model in about 30 seconds, push the run button, and see what happens. It's the virtual what-if. What-if scenarios have great potential for guiding sound management practices."

Calendar of Events

July 2006

Entire month: Dr. Maynard Nichols Marine Paintings
Exhibit in the Hargis Library
Friday Public Tours

- 5 MAST Visit
- 5-12 Oceanography Field Workshop for Teachers, Wachapreague
- 7 W&M STAR Program
- 18-19 Estuarine Aquarium Keeping in the Classroom
- 20 Bay Exploration Field Trip
- 25-26 Water Quality Workshop for Virginia Teachers
- 27 Bay Exploration Field Trip

August 2006

Entire month: Dr. Maynard Nichols Marine Paintings
Exhibit in the Hargis Library
Friday Public Tours

- 2 Summer Intern Reception
- 9-10 York River Habitat Workshop
- 25, 28 Student Orientation
- 30 Classes Begin
- 31 NOAA/VIMS Marine Debris Congressional Briefing

September 2006

- 29 Council Meeting
- 29 Maury Society Dinner
- 30 VIMS' Raft-Up at Seaford Yacht Club

October 2006

- 4 "A Healthy Bay for Healthy Kids" with Virginia's First Lady
- 11-11/1 Global Warming in Chesapeake Bay Mini-School, Science Museum of Virginia, Richmond (Wed. evenings)
- 13 Tools for Shoreline Management Workshop
- 17 Chef's Seafood Symposium

Future Events

After Hours Lectures - to resume upon completion of renovations to McHugh Auditorium ; the last Thursday of the month

For an up-to-date listing of public events and seminars at VIMS, visit www.vims.edu/events/

For more information call
804/684-7846 or 804/684-7001.

Visit our website at www.vims.edu