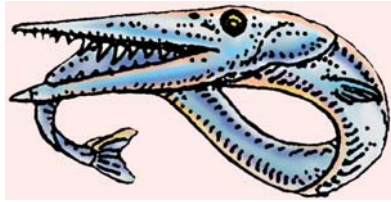


American Fisheries Society

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: Jaws in Alaska



Daggertooth by Ray Troll used with permission

Salmon and halibut aren't the only fish in the sea. Alaskan waters are home to a myriad collection of sharks and skates. As fish stocks are depleted, more of these predators are being exploited for food. These unique fishes, called elasmobranches by the scientists who study them, are the top predators in the ocean and help keep fish stocks healthy.

The American Fisheries Society is sponsoring a symposium on shark and skate research during their annual meeting in Anchorage. Twenty-two researchers will present their findings on a wide range of topics ranging from migratory female salmon sharks in Prince William Sound, to the life history of the California skate, to a presentation on the dogfish populations in the Gulf of Alaska entitled, "Are Dogfish Really Everywhere?" The shark symposium starts Monday at 1:20 pm, Alaskan artist Ray Troll will give a scientific paper on sharks at 5:20 pm and the symposium will continue Tuesday morning until noon. Shark and skate experts will be available in the Egan mezzanine conference room for press interviews immediately after the session ends at noon on Tuesday, September 13.

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.

Speakers will be available for press interviews in the media room (mezzanine conference room) immediately after the session ends at noon on Tuesday. For more information, visit our website at: <http://wdafs.org/Anchorage2005/media.htm> or contact Kate Wedemeyer at 929-3633.



Skates by Ray Troll used with permission
