

## SUMMARY REPORT SOUTHERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 24-27, 1967, in conjunction with the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners.

Technical meetings, which included separate sessions on fish, game, law enforcement, and information and education were attended by more than 1,200 persons. The fisheries sessions were highlighted by several outstanding papers on striped bass, population dynamics, life history, management, physiology and farm ponds. An average of over 200 persons attended the fisheries sessions.

Business meetings were held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The Reservoir Committee announced that the Proceedings of the Reservoir Fisheries Resources Symposium will be available in early 1968. A resolution was passed supporting the stand taken by the American Fisheries Society and the Western Division on calling for the title and ownership of fish and wildlife to remain in the several states.

New officers elected for 1967-1968 were as follows:

PRESIDENT — Robert G. Martin, Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT-ELECT — Buford L. Tatum, Oklahoma

SECRETARY-TREASURER — James Harry Barkley, Mississippi

AFS NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Felix (Jerry) Banks,  
Florida

The 1968 meeting of the Southern Division will be held in Baltimore, Maryland.

### THE AMERICAN ALLIGATOR — PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Of the many species of reptiles found in the United States, only two native representatives of the order Crocrodilia exist today. These are the American alligator, *Alligator mississippiensis*, and the American crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus*. Both species are found only in the Southeastern States and both occur in very low numbers when compared with past populations.

Of the Crocrodilia there are four forms including the alligator, crocodile, caiman and gavial. From these 21 species are recognized throughout the world (Ditmar, 1964). In addition to the American alligator the only other member of this group is *Alligator sinensis* of the Yangtze-Kiang River in China, which reaches about six feet long when fully grown.

The American alligator occurs throughout all of Louisiana and Florida and inhabits parts of Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Kellogg (1929) reported that the original range extended as far north as New Jersey. Today, however, the range extends from the North Carolina coast (Louden, 1966) southward along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, inland to the mouth of the Arkansas River and westward to the 100th meridian in Texas. Many alligators have been reported far distant from their natural range, but they were probably purchased for pets and later released when they became a nuisance.