

Education Section of the American Fisheries Society

President's Line

Once again the year has flown by and we are getting prepared for the AFS Annual Meeting in Québec City. As such, I will use this opportunity to tell you a few things that the Education Section has been working on this past year, and we will discuss at our business meeting in Québec City.

Our business meeting will have the usual highlights of awards and updates from various committees. I am always excited to see the great young students coming through our ranks and receive the Skinner Memorial Award, the Best Student Paper and Poster, and the shining examples of our young professionals and (usually more 'seasoned'!) educators through the Young Professional Award and Excellence in Fisheries Education Award. In addition, this year we will also be electing new Northeast and Northcentral Division representatives.



Inside this issue:

Education Section & Student Activities in Québec.....	3
Best Student Paper/Poster Presentations.....	4
Proposed Bylaw Changes.....	6
Funding Requests:	
1. Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program.....	11
2. Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award.....	13
Division Representative Candidate Bios.....	15
Fisheries Education Program in Nebraska.....	17
Student Subsection Update.....	18
AFS Policy Fellowship.....	19
Aquatic Resources Education Association.....	20
Student Subunit Updates.....	21

However, we also have some somewhat boring business to conduct this year. We are proposing bylaw changes that are relatively minor, but still need a membership vote at the annual meeting. You will see those changes in this newsletter (page 6). We also will need to vote on two funding requests, which are also in this newsletter (page 11 & 13). These have come to our membership before as the Hutton Program regularly requests funding from us. The Undergraduate Travel Award is relatively new as we supported it three years ago and the Student Subsection has now made the request for the next three years. The Subsection will be discussing how effective they believe that award has been in the first three years and also discuss the future of the award.



President's Line (cont'd)

Finally, AFS has asked the Education Section to help select the candidate for a new position called the Director of Student and Professional Development which they developed at Headquarters. As the Education Section President, I was on the search committee for this person, along with representatives from the Hutton, Continuing Education and Certification. I really appreciated that AFS leadership reached out to us to participate to ensure the Education Section is engaged. This new position will act as a liaison between the Bethesda office and programs like the Hutton, Continuing Education, and the Education Section, and could be a real asset for us, particularly as we look for more ways to communicate with our members, students, and other educators. Beverly Pike was selected for the position and brings to AFS an amazing depth of experience, education, and training in distance learning and continuing education. Beverly taught communications and worked as a direct developer and manager of continuing education at Gannett Healthcare. She has detailed understanding and experience with virtually all of the technology used in the provision of distance learning programs. I am looking forward to meeting Beverly at the Québec City meeting.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Québec and another productive year with the Education Section.

Craig



Québec 2014

From Fisheries Research to Management: Think and Act Locally and Globally

Education Section and Student Activities:

Sunday, August 17

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Leadership at All Levels in AFS	Hilton Québec	Beauport
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Education Section Meeting	Convention Centre	Room 2105

Monday, August 18

1:30 PM – 5:20 PM	Best Student Paper Presentations	Convention Centre	Room 2105
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	AFS Hutton Oversight Committee Meeting	Hilton Québec	Salon Hilton
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Best Student Poster Presentations	Convention Centre	Exhibit Hall

Tuesday, August 19

8:20 AM – 12:10 PM	Best Student Paper Presentations	Convention Centre	Room 2105
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Best Student Paper/Poster Judge's Luncheon	Convention Centre	Room 201B
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Student Subsection of the Education Section Meeting	Convention Centre	Room 2103
3:40 PM – 5:40 PM	Student Career Fair	Convention Centre	Exhibit Hall
3:40 PM – 5:40 PM	Student Speed Mentoring	Convention Centre	Exhibit Hall
6:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Student Networking Event (Students only)	La Ninkasi du Faubourg	

Wednesday, August 20

3:40 PM – 6:00 PM	AFS Business Meeting (Announcement of BSPP)	Convention Centre	Room 200C
6:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Grand Networking Event	Cruise Terminal Québec	





Best Student Paper and Poster Presentations

By: Dr. Katie Bertrand

The Education Section has been busy organizing the Best Student Paper and Poster (BSPP) Symposia for the 2014 annual meeting in Québec. Interested students submitted a standard abstract, an extended abstract, and requested a recommendation from their advisor, in order to be considered for the competition. This year there were 33 complete applications for oral presentations and seven poster presentation submissions.

Division Representatives from the Education Section and the Student Subsection judged the applications using a scoring rubric that awarded points in eight categories: background, methods, results, tables and/or figures, discussion, references, stage of completion, and overall abstract presentation. The top 20 oral presentations and six poster presentations were selected to be included on the Best Student Paper/Poster Symposia.

Oral presenters are scheduled Monday afternoon (1:30-5:20PM in Convention Centre Room 2105) and Tuesday morning (8:20AM-12:10PM in the same room), whereas poster presenters will be available at their posters for questions during the Monday evening Trade Show and Poster Networking Event (6:00-8:30PM in the Convention Centre Exhibit Hall). We've secured a large (seats 113), quiet room for the BSPP this year, so please join us for as many of the presentations as you can. These are typically some of the best talks and posters at the entire meeting, and we wouldn't be the Education Section if we didn't support our student members, right?



Best Student Paper and Poster Presentations (cont'd)

Thank you to the 122 people who volunteered to serve as BSPP judges!!! Five judges (four professionals and one student) will evaluate oral presentations, and three judges (two professionals and one student) will evaluate poster presentations during the symposia. Following the symposia, judges will deliberate during a Tuesday luncheon (12:00PM-3:00 PM in Convention Centre room 201B) and announce the award winners for Best Student Paper and Poster at the 2014 Society Business Meeting (Wednesday at 3:40-6:00PM in Convention Centre room 200C).

The BSPP committee was led by Katie Bertrand, Matt Catalano, and Mark Fincel. An important recent change to the structure of the committee is that the President-Elect of the Section now serves as a co-chair. The reason for the change was to increase continuity among years and provide institutional knowledge of the process in the Education Section's leadership (i.e., officers). The Section and Student Subsection continue to discuss ideas for promoting and enhancing student presentations; ideas include posting award-winning presentations and posters on the Section web page and(or) sponsoring student colloquiums and web-based presentations focused on effective presentation styles and formats. Students will be able to use these resources to help develop and enhance their scientific presentations.





ATTENTION MEMBERSHIP!

Education Section Members:

The Education Section EXCOM would like the membership to be aware of couple items we will be discussing at our annual meeting in Québec City Sunday, August 17 from 5-7 PM in room 2105 in the Convention Centre. We are proposing a couple changes in our bylaws and two funding requests, which require a membership vote at our Annual Meeting. Both can be found in this newsletter but also on our website:

<http://www.fisheriessociety.org/education/>

Proposed bylaw changes:

At last year's Education Section Business Meeting the membership brought a motion to increase the amount of money the EXCOM has the authority to approve without full membership vote from US\$1,000 to \$2,500. We did not vote on the motion last year because it required a bylaw change and approval of the constitutional consultant. We have made this change in our proposed bylaw changes.

We also have added that the President Elect will be co-chair of the Best Student Paper/Poster Committee. We are currently doing this but the bylaw change would formalize this additional duty.

Bylaw Changes

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the EDUCATION SECTION of the American Fisheries Society as provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

Article II. Goals of the Section

The EDUCATION SECTION is an association of persons whose goals are to:

1. Improve the quality of college and university education for fisheries scientists,
2. Promote exchange of post-secondary education information, techniques, and materials among educators and among educational institutions; and
3. Foster improved communication and information exchange among fishery educators, employers, fisheries specialists, students, and the public.

Article III. Membership

Membership in the EDUCATION SECTION shall be open to all members in good standing of the American Fisheries Society. Each SECTION member is entitled to one vote on all matters requiring the approval of the membership. Members of the Student Subsection shall be recognized as SECTION members.

Article IV. Officers

The officers of the SECTION shall be President, President-Elect, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

1. All officers shall be elected for a term of two years, or until a successor is duly elected.
2. Officers shall serve without salary or other compensation for their services. Expenses may be defrayed from funds available to the SECTION when authorized by the Executive Committee (see Article VIII).
3. No officer shall hold the same office for consecutive terms.
4. Candidates for office shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the President. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting or by mail or electronic ballot received by members at least 30 days prior to that meeting. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the returned ballots.
5. In the event of a vacated position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement for the unexpired term.

Article V. Duties of Officers

1. President shall:
 - A. Serve as Chair of the Executive Committee
 - B. Preside at the business meetings of the SECTION, appoint all committees, and serve as an Ex Officio member thereof.
 - C. Appoint a webmaster to maintain and update the SECTION web site and assist with electronic voting and communication to the membership.
 - D. Represent the SECTION and perform other duties and functions as authorized and necessary.
2. President-Elect shall:
 - A. Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall appoint a newsletter editor.
 - B. Serve as Program Committee Chair.
 - C. **Serve as Best Student Paper and Poster Chair**
 - D. Advance to the office of President at the end of the term.



Bylaw Changes (cont'd)

Secretary-Treasurer shall:

- E. Maintain a current list of the membership, receive all funds, pay all bills, keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements, and present a semi-annual report to the membership.
- F. Submit a report to the Executive Director of the Society within 30 days after the annual meeting of the SECTION is held and at other times as requested by the Governing Board of the Society.

Article VI. Committees

Committees and their Chairs, except as listed in ARTICLE VIII of these Bylaws, shall be appointed and charged by the President. Except for Standing Committees, these committees shall cease to function upon the discharge of the duties for which they were appointed or with the end of the term of the appointing officer.

Standing Committees help the President and the Executive Committee conduct SECTION affairs, and the Chairs should report their committee's activities, findings, and recommendations at annual SECTION meetings and interim meetings of the Executive Committee.

The SECTION has established the following Standing Committees:

Newsletter

The Newsletter Editor is appointed annually by the President-Elect and may be reappointed for an indefinite number of terms. The Newsletter Editors responsibilities include solicitation of information, production of the newsletter according to policy and schedule established by the Executive Committee, and distribution of newsletters to the membership.

Nominating

The Nominating Committee prepares a slate of candidates for the SECTION Offices and Division Representatives, conducts the annual election, and reports the results to the President. This committee is chaired by the immediate Past-President.

Membership

The function of the Membership Committee is to maintain and increase SECTION membership by actively identifying and contacting potential members.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award

This committee publicly recognizes excellence in organized teaching and advising in fisheries science or management, including college level, extension, and continuing education. The committee is responsible for soliciting nominations, selecting an award recipient, and publicly recognizing the recipient's accomplishments. The Award is presented once per year, provided that at least one acceptable nomination is reviewed by the committee.

Skinner Award

This committee administers the John E. Skinner Awards by soliciting applications and selecting outstanding students for receipt of travel awards to the annual meeting.

Student Papers/Posters Awards

The purpose of this committee is to encourage participation and award excellence through the evaluation of student platform presentations (papers) and posters at the annual meeting. The committee judges both papers and posters presented by students and selects the best in each category for receipt of monetary awards.

Program

The Program Committee is responsible for organization of the SECTION's contribution to the program at the annual meeting. This may be in the form of a technical session, symposium, panel discussion, posters, or other participation typically focusing on student-mentor interactions.

Article VII. Meetings

The SECTION shall hold at least one business meeting annually at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

Bylaw Changes (cont'd)

Article VIII. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the immediate Past-President, the President of the Student Sub section, and one representative elected from each of the Divisions of the Society (nine members total). The Newsletter Editor will serve as a non-voting member. The Executive Committee shall have authority to determine policies and conduct business consistent with the objectives of the SECTION. The Executive Committee is authorized to approve individual funding requests up to ~~\$1,000~~ **\$2,500** without a vote of the membership. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at the call of the President when a majority of the committee members can meet and conduct business.

A quorum is required for transactions of official business at an Executive Committee meeting. A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of five of the nine members. Executive Committee members can appoint a proxy. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote on Executive Committee decisions. In the event of a tie, the President's vote shall be the deciding vote. Business and voting by the Executive Committee may be conducted by mail or electronic media.

Article IX. Voting and Quorum

A quorum at business meetings shall be 10 percent of the members of the SECTION. Business and voting may be conducted via mail or electronic media if approved by the Executive Committee. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or the Constitution of the Society, business shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Decisions at meetings are by simple majority of Active Members voting, except 2/3 majorities are required in special cases such as amending the Bylaws and suspending a Rule. Other less frequently used voting requirements are described in Robert's Rules of Order.

Article X. Dues and Fees

The Executive Committee may assess those attending a meeting of the SECTION a registration fee as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Annual membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws

1. The Bylaws are the defining document for the Unit and take precedence over all other rules and procedures of the Unit. The Bylaws cannot be suspended and cannot be changed without prior notice to member.
 - A. The Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of Active Members choosing to vote, provided that the proposed amendment(s) are circulated in writing to the membership at least 30 days prior to voting.
 - B. In accordance with the Society Constitution, an adopted amendment shall be reviewed by the Society's Constitutional Consultant for conformity with the Constitution, Rules and Procedures of the Society. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society Governing Board for approval.
 - C. Amendments take effect when the Unit receives written notice of their approval by the Governing Board from the Executive Director.
2. Rules are the next highest level of documentation of Unit operations. They are generally established to facilitate the conduct of Unit business, and to describe duties and responsibilities of officers and committees. They may be suspended or amended as follows.
 - A. The Rules may be suspended during an Executive Committee meeting until the next annual or special Unit meeting by a 2/3 majority of the Executive Committee.
 - B. The Rules may be suspended for the duration of a meeting by a 2/3 majority of Active Members voting at an annual or special Unit meeting.
 - C. The Rules may be amended by a simple majority of Active Members voting at an annual or special Unit meeting.
3. Procedures are the lowest level of documentation of Unit operations. They are generally established to provide continuity in the conduct of Unit business. The Procedures may be suspended or amended by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.





Funding requests:

The Education Section has received two funding requests that will require a membership vote at our Annual Meeting. Below are brief descriptions of those requests, but both can be found in this newsletter and on our webpage:

<http://www.fisheriessociety.org/education/funding.htm>

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

The Education Section has a tradition of funding the Hutton Program and we have a request again this year. Because it's over \$1,000 it requires a membership vote.

Student Subsection of Education Section Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award

The Education Section funded this award several years ago and this request is a renewal of the original request. The Subsection has been in discussions with the Skinner Committee to differentiate this undergraduate award from the Skinner, or to possibly combine this award with the Skinner in the future. However, in the meantime, the Subsection is asking for funding to continue this award. Because it is over \$1,000 it requires a membership vote.

Procedures and Evaluation Criteria for Funding Requests:

The objectives of the Education Section of the American Fisheries Society are to: (i) improve the quality of college and university education for fisheries scientists; (ii) promote exchange of post-secondary education information, techniques, and materials among educators and among educational institutions; and (iii) foster improved communication and information exchange among fishery educators, employers, fisheries specialists, students, and the public.

To obtain the greatest value from the limited Section resources, projects that meet the objectives of the Education Section will be prioritized for funding over those that do not.

The Executive Committee will consider the following project elements when making grant funding decisions:

Does the proposal:

1. Promote the objectives of the Education Section?
2. Elevate the visibility of the Education Section?
3. Appeal to a broad audience?
4. Have potential for generating revenue for the Education Section?



Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program Funding Request

Contact: Kathryn Winkler, Hutton Program/Continuing Education Coordinator

Address: 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110 Bethesda, MD 20814

Phone: (301) 897-8616, ext. 213

Fax: (301) 897-8096

Email: kwinkler@fisheries.org or hutton@fisheries.org

Project description: The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a summer mentoring program for high school students sponsored by AFS. The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Students accepted into the program are matched with professional mentors and enjoy a hands-on fisheries science experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting. Each Hutton scholar receives a \$3,000.00 scholarship award. The Hutton Program falls into the Education Section objective (iii); “foster improved communication and information exchange among fishery educators, employers, fisheries specialists, students, and the public.”

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program Funding Request (cont'd)

Time to completion: N/A

Amount requested: \$5,000.00

Other funding sources: BLM; BLM – Alaska; NOAA/NMFS; NWFSC/NOAA; USDA Forest Service; USGS; Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources; Lake Superior State University Fisheries and Wildlife Club; University of Maryland Eastern Shore – AFS Student Subunit; MI Chapter AFS; MN Chapter AFS; WI Chapter AFS; Fisheries Management Section; Fisheries Administration Section; AFS members

How the contribution of the Education Section will be acknowledged: The Education Section will be listed in *Fisheries* magazine and on the Hutton page of the AFS website. The Education Section will also be mentioned in any future recruitment materials. The Hutton Program Coordinator will attend the Education Section meeting at the AFS 144th Annual Meeting in Québec City, Québec Canada, to give a brief Hutton update and show appreciation.

Disposition of unused funds: There will be no unused funds. The \$5,000 donation will be deposited into the Robert F. Hutton Endowment Fund.



Student Subsection of Education Section Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award

Contact: Landon L. Pierce

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400
Pierre, SD 57501
Email: landon_pierce@fws.gov; llp5yc@mail.missouri.edu
Phone: (605) 224-8693 ext. 230

Andrew K. Carlson

Department of Natural Resource Management
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007
Email: andrew.carlson@sdstate.edu
Phone: (651) 280-7013

Project description: Membership in the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is decreasing (Wuellner and Jackson 2012). This decline is likely a result of decreased recruitment and retention of new members, particularly undergraduate students who may lack travel assistance to attend the Annual Meeting.

Accordingly, we propose to continue a travel assistance award for undergraduate students interested in fisheries or a closely related aquatic science discipline. The Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award (UTAA) provides monetary support for undergraduate students with financial need demonstrating involvement in student and professional organizations. The UTAA promotes increased undergraduate involvement in the AFS Parent Society, the Education Section, and the Student Subsection by providing opportunities for learning and networking at the Annual Meeting. As such, this award is directly related to the second and third objectives of the Education Section (i.e., promote exchange of education information, techniques, and materials among educators, and foster improved communication and information exchange among fisheries educators, employers, and students). The UTAA complements the existing John E. Skinner Award by providing travel assistance to students that are unlikely to be competitive for the more merit-based Skinner Award.

The UTAA is intended to defray costs associated with attending the Annual Meeting. Travel awards in the amount of \$500.00 (intended to be used for early registration, Parent Society membership, and per diem for 5 days) will be given to four deserving undergraduate students.

The UTAA will be administered primarily by the Student Subsection with support of the Education Section. Applicants will be judged according to their reasons for attending the meeting, their involvement (past, current, and anticipated future) in student and professional organizations (including AFS). We do not wish to determine whether one student's financial need is greater than another's and therefore assume that all applicants have similar financial need. The award selection committee will consist of Student Subsection Division representatives and at least one non-student AFS member. Award recipients will be polled after each Annual Meeting to gather feedback on the award and for the selection committee to identify potential areas of improvement. Continued AFS involvement of awardees will also be monitored using membership directories.

Student Subsection of Education Section Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award (cont'd)

Project description (cont'd): The UTAA is designed to complement the Skinner Award by providing travel assistance to undergraduate students that would otherwise lack the financial means to attend the Annual Meeting. Therefore, undergraduates that receive full Skinner Awards will not be eligible for the UTAA. However, undergraduates that receive honorable mention Skinner Awards are eligible for the UTAA.

Reference

Wuellner, M.R., and D.C. Jackson. 2012. Population characteristics of AFS membership: special focus on the Millennial Generation of fisheries professionals. *Fisheries* 37:60-65.

Time to completion: Applications will be due annually by June 1.

Amount requested: We request \$2000.00 annually for the next three years.

Other funding sources: At this time, none.

How will the contribution of the Education Section be acknowledged?

The Education Section will be acknowledged in on the Student Subsection Facebook page and website and at the Subsection Business Meeting as a contributor to the 2014 UTAA. Award recipients will be required to attend Student Subsection Business Meeting and the student colloquium. In addition, they will be encouraged to attend the Education Section Business Meeting and participate in all student activities throughout the meeting (e.g. student mentor lunch, volunteering).

Disposition of unused funds:

Leftover funds will be used the following year or returned to the Education Section.



Education Section Elections

It's election time and every vote counts!

Members of the Northcentral and Northeast divisions are encouraged to vote and help elect a representative to serve on the Education Section Executive Committee. Please read through the candidate biographies in the following sections and prepare to vote!

Candidate Biographies: Northcentral Division Representative

(Division members only: vote for one)

Daniel Isermann

Daniel Isermann currently serves as acting Unit Leader for the Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit and as the director of the Fisheries Analysis Center (FAC) which is funded by the Wisconsin DNR to address research needs associated with fisheries management. Dan received his PhD in Biological Sciences from South Dakota State University, his MS degree in Biology from Tennessee Tech University, and a BS in Zoology from Southern Illinois University. Before working for USGS, Dan worked for 4 years as an assistant professor of fisheries in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. During this time Dan taught courses in fisheries management, population dynamics, life history, and research while advising more than 100 undergraduate fisheries students. Currently, Dan advises between 4 and 5 graduate students and supervises up to a dozen undergraduates who work as research assistants in the FAC. Dan also worked previously as a fisheries scientist with the Minnesota DNR and as a fisheries biologist with the Ohio DNR. Dan is a member of both the Fisheries Management and Education Sections and serves as an associate editor for the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. Dan has also served as chair of both the Esocid and Walleye Technical Committees that are part of the North Central Division. Dan spends most of his free time with his wife and two daughters. They enjoy fishing, camping, hunting, and canoeing.

Candidate Biographies: Northeast Division Representative

(Division members only; vote for one)

Tyler Wagner

Tyler Wagner is the Assistant Unit Leader – Fisheries at the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Adjunct Associate Professor of Fisheries Ecology in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at The Pennsylvania State University. He also has an adjunct appointment in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Idaho, and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Prior to joining the PA Coop Unit, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University. The primary focus of his research program is on understanding ecological patterns and processes in aquatic systems across broad spatial and temporal scales, and how they interact with, or emerge from, processes at finer spatial scales. Within this broader framework the primary research interests that direct the types of projects he develops are (1) fisheries and lake ecology and management, (2) the study of cross-scale interactions and their management implications, and (3) monitoring and assessment of freshwater resources, including trend detection and design evaluation. Tyler is committed to education and mentoring. He sits on many graduate committees, advises M.S., Ph.D., and postdoctoral researchers, and teaches graduate courses and seminars, with a focus on Bayesian hierarchical modeling.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Official ballots and voting instructions will be sent out by email to all members.

Elections will close on August 15, 2014

Fisheries Education Programs: Teaching, Learning, and Fun for Fisheries Students

By: Larry Pape
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



Education programs in natural resource agencies have recently been bolstered by a national emphasis on Recruitment, Development and Retention (RDR) efforts. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission began an RDR initiative in 2006 when it was recognized that fishing, hunting, and park-entry permit sales were generally declining. Believed to be the result of changing user lifestyles, we now compete against the comforts of air conditioning, the distractions of electronic media, and a social and cultural separation from unstructured outdoor activities.

The Fisheries Division Education Program has contributed to the NGPC RDR effort with a variety of educational programs. Tapping into the heartstrings of twenty and thirty year-olds, Family Fishing Events were devised to help those who had a fond memory of fishing and a desire to introduce the activity to their children, but not enough confidence to embark on their own. Started in 2006 as a fishing equipment trailer parked by an urban lake in Lincoln, Nebraska and entertaining passers-by, the Fisheries Division now hosts about 35 Family Fishing Events across the state. With the promise of loaner tackle, bait and support by agency staff and student volunteers, we attract approximately 3,000 participants each summer.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission benefits from a close working relationship with fisheries students within The University of Nebraska system who are encouraged to participate in the presentation of educational programs. The agency is rewarded by having the assistance of these intelligent and engaged young professionals. During the various educational events in which they volunteer, Nebraska students have been thrilled to share their enthusiasm for aquatic resources with the public. The students not only expand their professional networking base within the state but have repeatedly acknowledged the invaluable experiences gained by teaching and interacting with interested public. Students involved with regional Outdoor Education Expos build confidence instructing topics that range from aquatic entomology to bow-fishing basics to area school students and families interested in fisheries management and ecology all the while enjoying a great day outside!

Beginning in 2015, we are initiating two school based programs. Trout in the Classroom (TIC), an experiential egg to fingerling curriculum, will be placed in 56 schools over the next three years. Fishing in Schools (FinS) will offer teachers the opportunity to access equipment, curriculum and NGPC support for presentations in their classrooms.



For more information visit, FishingNebraska.wordpress.com



Student Subsection News

By: Landon Pierce
President, Student Subsection of the Education Section

The Student Subsection has focused its energy on improving the Undergraduate Travel Award (UTA), Young Professional involvement and retention in AFS, and communication with our members, subunits, and AFS sections.

The UTA was initiated for the 2012 Annual Meeting to increase undergraduate participation at the Annual Meeting. This is our final year of funding for the award and we created the UTA Committee (Andrew Carlson, Janice Kerns, Cari-Ann Hayer, Dan Dembkowski, David Bogner, and Steven Cooke) to discuss the future of the award and to provide comments for improving the award. Andrew Carlson summarized the Committee's comments and submitted a funding request to the Education Section to extend the award. Meanwhile, David Bogner (a past recipient of the award) organized the 2014 UTA application process. Lastly, Janice Kerns has been working to identify mentors for the 2014 UTA recipients.

Like most sections, the Subsection is concerned about the lack of young professional recruitment and retention in AFS. This year, the Subsection has become involved in a collaborative effort with the Fish Management Section and Education Section to help identify potential bottlenecks to young professional involvement in AFS and ways to overcome these issues.

The Subsection currently maintains an email list for all student members of AFS and contact information for student subunits. If you need to email our membership, then please contact our incoming president Andrew Carlson (Andrew.carlson@sstate.edu). The Subsection has also become more active in social media, thanks to Laura Heironimus and Jeremy Kientz.

Finally, Sarah Larochelle and Élodie Lavissee have done an excellent job organizing the student events at the 2014 Annual Meeting and I'm sure students will have a great time.

Please check out the student events on Tuesday, August 19th:

1. Student Subsection Business Meeting
 - (2:00-3:00PM; Convention Centre 2103)
2. Student Career Fair and Speed Mentoring
 - (3:40-5:40PM; Convention Centre Exhibit Hall)
3. Student Networking Event
 - (6:30-10:00PM; La Ninkasi du Faubourg)





NEW AFS Policy Fellowship Program

Call for Applications! AFS has established a competitive Policy Fellowship Program. For our pilot in 2014, we seek applications for one half-time, six-month Policy Fellow to work on science/management/policy issues related to threatened and endangered fishes.

Requirements: Each applicant must be an AFS member, and the opportunity is open to members ranging from the youngest student to the oldest retiree. The Policy Fellow may have academic training and/or professional experience in the sciences, resource management, policy, or another relevant field. Applications (a one-page statement of interest and a separate resume) should be submitted as attachments to an email sent to Tom Bigford, AFS Policy Director (tbigford@fisheries.org). Each application should recommend two potential mentors, one of whom will be selected to provide non-supervisory guidance to the Policy Fellow during the work period.

Closing Date and Schedule: Applications are due by August 22, 2014. Nominations must be submitted as one email with the two required attachments. No other materials need be submitted. The first Policy Fellow will be selected by early autumn and begin as soon as possible.

Pay: This half-time fellowship will be paid at about \$8,000 to \$10,000 for the six-month period. That pay is intended to reflect typical compensation for a student assistantship, research assistantship, and other similar programs in academia and governments.

Tasks: This Policy Fellowship focuses on an AFS need to:

1. Review the scientific literature related to three existing AFS policy statements on endangered, threatened, or imperiled species;
2. Develop a plan to combine those statements and more recent scientific and management advances into one new statement; and
3. Complete the new statement and related documents within a six-month period.

The Fellow is expected to work half-time, and may work remotely. AFS will provide a supervisor, a mentor, and administrative support to ensure the Policy Fellowship is successful.

Background: This Policy Fellowship focuses on an effort to review and merge three existing AFS policies into one concise background document that supports a single policy. The three policies are:

- #10 - Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species; approved 1982;
- #19 - Introductions of Threatened and Endangered Fishes; approved 1989; and
- #27 - Conservation of Imperiled Species and Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; approved 1993.

For more
information

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2014 Aquatic Resources Education Association (AREA) Conference



The biennial Aquatic Resources Education Association (AREA) Conference will be held in Traverse City, Michigan, October 26-30, 2014. The conference is designed for fisheries and educational professionals from state, federal, and industry sectors involved in fishing and aquatic resource education programs and the recruitment/retention of recreational anglers.

The Aquatic Resources Education Association is a not-for-profit association dedicated to furthering aquatic education. Members of AREA participate in a national effort toward education, conservation, legislation, cooperation, science, research, information dissemination, restoration, evaluation, management, recognition, and similar functions related to aquatics and aquatic programs. Incorporated in 1994, members represent Local, State and Federal agencies, NGOs and industry from across the nation.

The conference is \$500, but participants may save \$100 by registering by September 15 and another \$50 by becoming an AREA member (\$25).

For more information about the conference visit AREA's website (www.AREAnet.org) or the conference website (www.michigan.gov/area)

South Dakota State University Student Subunit Update

By: Laura Heironimus



The AFS Student Subunit at SDSU has had an event-filled year. In spring 2014, we hosted a number of events, workshops, speakers, and served as volunteers for various activities. Our primary objectives have been to increase undergraduate involvement and networking within the subunit and to provide our members with opportunities to enhance fisheries skills and techniques that are difficult to convey through traditional coursework.

To begin our spring semester with a 'bang', the Subunit hosted an ice-fishing derby on Lake Pactola in the Black Hills. Many students had never ice

fished at depths of more than 80 feet and everyone caught at least one Lake Trout. The first fish above the minimum size limit was eaten that night! A few weeks later we hosted an ice-fishing tournament on a pond close to the university to attract those students who were unable make the Black Hills trip. Unfortunately, the pond had mostly winterkilled before our tournament began. Many anglers were persistent and sat out in the cold for hours hoping to catch a fish. The ONLY fish to be caught the whole tournament was a European Rudd, caught by a wildlife professor, and it swam straight up the ice-hole gasping for air.

To help our undergraduate members find summer employment, the Subunit hosted a job fair that included employers from the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, and many graduate students from the SDSU Natural Resources Department. This was a hugely successful event, netting more than 50 students and 22 prospective employers.



South Dakota State University Student Subunit Update (cont'd)

To enhance career skills and techniques the subunit hosted four workshops, led by students for students. The topics included: (1) Aging Fish Using Various Hard Structures, (2) Intro to Fly Tying, and (3) The Basics of Fish Photography. In addition, the Subunit voted to sanction two long-term projects that include a boat restoration fundraiser and the Six-Mile Creek monitoring project. The Boat Restoration Team is working to restore a donated boat and sell it at auction later this year to pay for undergraduates to attend next year's AFS meeting in Portland. The Six-Mile Creek Monitoring Team is designing and implementing a monitoring program on a nearby stream to begin a long-term data collection. Students involved hope to present their findings at the regional AFS meeting next spring. This fall we intend to include a third team to focus on the long-term monitoring of one or more local ponds. We hope that by incorporating these different types of teams, students will be able to find their niche within AFS and pass on their passion and excitement to other students.

Last fall our speakers focused primarily on urban lake management and meeting public needs. This spring, our speakers included University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) professor – Dr. Casey Schoenebeck and Nebraska Game and Parks employee and UNK adjunct-professor – Dr. Keith Koupal. After the speakers talks we treated them to dinner and fish jeopardy with the Subunit. This event allowed undergraduate students to network with the professors and snag graduate positions at UNK for this upcoming academic year.



Finally, the subunit has volunteered for many AFS and community events. At the Dakota Chapter AFS Meeting, many students volunteered to help set-up posters, cater the opening social, and sell raffle tickets. The money raised in last year's raffle was split four ways: the Dr. David Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Dr. Robert Klumb Memorial Scholarship Fund, a donation to the Center of Biological Diversity in memory of Maegan Spindler, and to fund next year's Sauger Scholarship recipients (an undergraduate travel award to attend Dakota Chapter AFS). Additionally, students volunteered for many community events in 2014 including: the local Pinewood Derby, FFA Judging at SDSU, the Trout Extravaganza in Brookings, the Big Sioux Water Festival at SDSU, and the Party for the Planet at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls.

The members of SDSU AFS are excited for another great semester. We hope to include many more workshops and host more speakers from a broad spectrum of fisheries professions. We also have several students finishing up projects and attending the AFS meeting in Québec City, Québec, Canada. Feel free to stop by our presentations as SDSU students are always excited to share!

British Columbia Student Subunit Activities Report

In our third year of existence, the British Columbia Student Subunit has continued to grow its membership base with students from University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University and other universities and colleges across the province.

Recent Activities:

In March 2014, we hosted a screening of the documentary “Alaska Gold”, highlighting issues associated with the impact of pebble mines on salmon habitat. The event was well attended and provided a relaxed and fun networking opportunity for students.

Members of our subunit have been active participants in recent AFS meetings. At the Western Division Annual General Meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico, president-elect Katrina Cook organized a symposium entitled Fate of fish released from fisheries: issues and solutions focusing on the short and long term impacts of released bycatch.

Subunit president Sean Naman and vice president Natalie Sopinka were part of the organizing committee for the 2013 WA-BC Chapter Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, WA in April 2014. This included coordinating a silent auction - with help from the University of Washington Student Subunit – which raised over \$600 of funds for student activities. Additionally, Natalie organized the symposia, The Science of Storytelling: Using Web, Traditional, and Social Media to Hook Our Audiences. She also topped off a great meeting by winning the award for best student presentation for her talk entitled From 3 minutes to 3 lines: My quest to share fisheries research in creative ways.

Looking forward, we hope to capitalize on our momentum moving into the next academic year which is set to include a beach BBQ and new officer elections in September and the WA-BC Annual General Meeting in February!

Awards: Natalie, Sean, and Katrina each won travel awards to their respective meetings. Additionally, Natalie received the Eugene Maughan Student Scholarship from the Western Division.

Best wishes for a great rest of the summer from the BC Student Subunit Executive Committee!

Sean Naman (president), Katrina Cook (president-elect), Natalie Sopinka (vice president), Amy Teffer (Communications officer), Shannan May-Mcnalley (Secretary and Treasurer)

World Fish Migration Day 2014

Sponsored by the Ottawa Student Subunit



On May 24, 2014, researchers from Carleton University's Fish Ecology and Conservation Physiology Lab put on an interactive event to raise awareness of the importance of migratory species and open rivers. They were able to interact with over 250 participants with games such as "spawning run plinko", which taught kids the challenges of fish migration (including fisheries capture, predation, pollution, dams, etc.), fish face painting, and "migrate" your migratory fish postcard. Additionally, participants were able to engage with researchers and understand more about the issues and how scientific research can help. The event finished with a Pub Talk in the evening.



Editor's Note

If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We encourage submissions and ideas for future issues of the newsletter. Contributions, comments, and suggestions may be emailed to us at any time.



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