

# Education Section of the American Fisheries Society

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2017

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## PRESIDENT'S LINE

Warm greetings from South Dakota, where we are experiencing a balmy January thaw! You will read lots of updates in this issue—our membership, standing committees, and executive committee have made tremendous progress on action items that were developed during our annual business meeting in Kansas City. If you missed the meeting, the minutes are enclosed in this issue and also will be posted on the website in the newsletter archive. Please read those, let us know if you spot changes that need to be made, and we'll entertain a motion to accept those minutes during the 2017 Meeting in Tampa, FL.

There are several issues of interest, and I will highlight a few. First, after more than a year of dedicated service, our Secretary-Treasurer, Ty Wagner, requested to step down from his position. We were sad to see him go, but we greatly appreciated his efforts. Thanks, Ty! I soon learned that there is a protocol in place in our Section bylaws when this situation occurs. The Executive Committee can appoint a Secretary-Treasurer to fill the vacancy until the next election cycle. Marty Hamel, from the North Central Division, had expressed interest in becoming more actively involved in Section Governance, and he graciously agreed to take on the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer until the 2017 Meeting in Tampa. During the 2017 Meeting in Tampa, we will install

a new Secretary-Treasurer, President-Elect, and 2 Division Representatives. Marty will have the opportunity to be nominated for any of those roles, if he is



interested, but the membership will have the usual opportunity to nominate anyone else for the roles and vote on all of the offices. Thanks, Marty, for stepping up in a big way!

Second, speaking of Marty Hamel, you will read a compelling proposal from him in this issue. At the 2016 Meeting in Kansas City, we had a lengthy discussion of the treasurer's report (see meeting minutes). We voted to invest \$20,000 in the AFS Portfolio and evaluate. Marty has done some research on the AFS Portfolio, and he also drafted some alternative investments strategies for us to consider as a Section. It's a compelling read!

Third, our Membership and Early Career Professional Committee is continuing to charge ahead with new initiatives and great contributions. Dan Demkowski, from the North Central Division, volunteered to lead the

committee, following Rebecca Krogman's terrific service. You'll read more about the exciting new ideas Dan is spearheading and ways you can get involved in his column in this issue!

Finally, we're going to experiment with the focus of our newsletters beginning in the Summer of 2017. Based on suggestions made during the 2016 Meeting in Kansas City, our newsletters will be division focused, with the goal of soliciting a greater proportion of membership generated content. The Summer 2017 Newsletter will focus on content from The North Central Division and the Western Division, whereas the Winter 2018 Newsletter will focus on content from the Southern Division and the Northeastern Division. Our Division Representatives will be the primary points of contact for submitting and soliciting content.

Thank you for all that you do, and as always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or ideas.

Katie N. Bertrand

[kanbertrand@gmail.com](mailto:kanbertrand@gmail.com)

605-690-8582

## Utilizing Education Section Funds for the Future



I wanted to take a moment and formally introduce myself. My name is Marty Hamel and I am a research assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I was approved by the Education Section (ES) Executive Committee to fill in for Ty Wagner as the Secretary/Treasurer in November, 2016. I want to take this time to thank Ty for his service and for helping me transition to this role. I am pleased to be able to serve the ES and I look forward to working with both the officers and members in the upcoming year. My first task as Secretary/Treasurer is to form an ad-hoc committee to address concerns about the short and long term goals of the ES financial accounts. This issue was a topic of debate at the annual business meeting in Kansas City, MO and it was formally

decided to appropriate \$20,000 of ES funds to the AFS investment account. However, continued discussion ensued to determine how remaining and/or future funds should be allocated. These discussions generally fit into three categories: 1.) maintaining sufficient funds for ES operating costs and allocating surplus funds to various ES or AFS initiatives; 2.) investing a large portion of funds to the AFS investment program to obtain a higher return on investment; and 3.) maintain current structure of conservative saving for operating expenses and future funding requests (i.e., upfront book costs, scholarships, etc.). There are many variants of these basic options and my intent in this article is to provide a few for members to ponder. In the upcoming months, myself and the newly formed committee will be distributing an online poll to gather information about how we should manage ES funds. These results will direct how ES funds will be allocated and we ask that you please take a moment to fill out the forthcoming survey.

To get everyone up to speed, several years ago, the AFS solicited professional investment management advice from AXA Equitable Financial Services. This company created a portfolio that is in accordance with the desires put forth from the AFS Investment Committee. The portfolio is roughly 70% equities (in the form of mutual funds), 25% fixed income (bonds) and 5% in a money market account. The 10-year average annual return has been 7.0%. To participate in the AFS investment program, several guidelines must be met. They are:

A minimum investment of \$10,000 is required to participate.

Minimum time for investment should be three years. Funds can be accessed prior to three years without penalty, but entry into the program should be with funds not essential for operational expenses. \*This policy is currently being revisited as some participating groups have removed money on a more frequent basis. Different investment options may be available for different strategies in the near future.

Additional funds can be added to the account at any time.

A 30-day advance notice is required for withdrawal of funds from the account. This allows AFS and AXA to best determine which investment is most timely to be sold to access the requested funds.

There is an annual investment fee of 0.5% in addition to the administrative expenses of the underlying mutual fund investments. This is applicable for each group participating in the program. There are no additional fees assessed to a group for participating.

Now that you know a bit about the investment program, I want to provide a few different scenarios of how we could manage ES funds. The major source of income for the ES are from book sales (e.g., Fisheries Techniques). This income stream ebbs and flows based on the release of new books or editions. Over the last four years (2013-2016), our assets minus liabilities resulted in a total mean net gain of \$10,569, meaning that we have been self-sufficient and have not had to use our current investment (i.e., certificate of deposit [c.d.]) or savings account monies.

Scenario 1: Maintain a modest checking/savings account to cover annual operating expenses and emergency or unforeseen expenditures. Average expenditures over the previous five years has been around ~\$10,000-\$15,000 without accounting for initial AFS book expenses and the subsequent revenue generated from sales. Maintaining \$40,000 in the main account would free up approximately \$8,000 from the checking account and \$103,000 (\$123,000 - \$20,000 for AFS investment account) from the current investment account (c.d.'s). The \$111,000 could then be used for activities such as scholarships, travel, conferences and meetings, workshops, and educational materials. Another option is to set up an endowment to fund a series of scholarships for ES members. Given a similar rate of return as the AFS investment program (7%),

the endowment fund of \$111,000 could potentially generate ~\$7,700 in income per year for scholarships. The premise behind this scenario was the concerns voiced at the business meeting about how the section should be spending our funds rather than trying to grow or save our funds for the future.

Scenario 2: The money currently invested in c.d.'s (~\$123,000; ROI: 0.01%) will be cashed out and applied to the AFS investment program. The following are potential returns on investments (ROI; assuming 7% return) for 3, 5, and 10 years:

Present value: \$123,000 \$123,000	Present value: \$123,000	Present value:
Rate of return: 7%	Rate of return: 7%	Rate of return: 7%
Number of years: 3	Number of years: 5	Number of years: 10
Future value: \$150,680	Future value: \$172,513	Future value: \$241,959
ROI: \$27,680.29	ROI: \$49,513.86	ROI: \$118,959.62

The income generated from these returns are tax-exempt and may be used for anything related to non-profit activities including (but not limited to): scholarships, travel, conferences and meetings, workshops, and educational materials. Similar to Scenario 1, an endowment could be set up, but only after sufficient funds were generated through investment returns (e.g., ~\$100,000 after 10 years). A caveat for those not familiar with the stock market is that this is a long-term strategy as market returns widely fluctuate through time. For example, the 7% average return (net gain) over the past 10-year period has ranged from an annual net loss of 32% to an annual net gain of 29%. To reiterate, the principle on this investment is not touched and interest would only be available for spending.

Scenario 3: This is the status quo option where we maintain our checking/savings and conservative investment accounts (c.d.'s). An advantage to this option is that the funds are fairly liquid and could be available for future projects requiring a "larger than

normal” expense. This scenario is similar to Scenario 1 with the exception of attempting to spend down the account.

To reiterate, these scenarios are merely suggestions that were based on ideas that were voiced at the annual business meeting this past August and are provided to generate discussion and garner feedback from the ES members. As previously stated, we will be soliciting your thoughts on how we should manage ES funds in the future through an online poll in the upcoming months.

If you are interested in serving on this newly formed ad-hoc committee, please contact myself (mhamel2@unl.edu) or president, Katie Bertrand ([kanbertrand@gmail.com](mailto:kanbertrand@gmail.com))

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and I welcome any feedback.

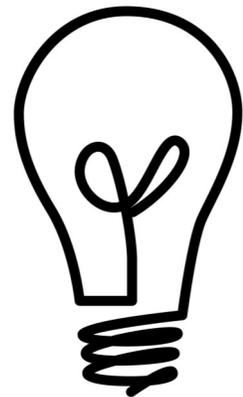
Marty Hamel



## Did you know...?

The Winter meeting season is upon us! But did you know that, between the four division meetings, there are over 20 different continuing education workshops scheduled? And, if you assume that each of the 50 Chapters each has at least one continuing education course, that means that there are over 70 courses to choose from at the Division and Chapter level!

Keep up the great work, AFS members! Now get out there, and learn something!



### **Aspiring outdoor writers and photographers wanted.**



The Northwest Outdoors Writers Association (NOWA) has initiated a “student” membership category for 2017. Students must be at least 18 years of age, be enrolled in a university program, and have active interest in the craft of outdoor journalism, which broadly includes writing, blogging, websites, photography, and video. The annual membership cost of \$20 includes a free NOWA t-shirt.

Please contact Dr. Dennis Dauble at [DennisDauble@charter.net](mailto:DennisDauble@charter.net) or 509-375-4903 (home) for additional information. Also see <http://northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org/>

## Nominations Sought For Education Section Officer Positions

The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society is seeking nominations for several positions with the Executive Committee. Each serve two year terms with information of the duties in the by-laws:

<http://education.fisheries.org/governance/>

We are seeking nominations for:

**Western Division Representative:** The candidates must be members of the Western Division and the Education Section (or become a member prior to elections). The primary responsibilities are to represent the Division on any matters that need an EXCOM vote (typically 1-3 funding requests per year). In addition the representatives help judge abstracts for the inclusion of the Best Student Poster and Best Student Paper Award at the annual meeting.

**Southern Division Representative:** The candidates must be members of Southern Division and the Education Section (or become a member prior to elections). The primary responsibilities are to represent the Division on any matters that need an EXCOM vote (typically 1-3 funding requests per year). In addition the representatives help judge abstracts for the inclusion of the Best Student Poster and Best Student Paper Award at the annual meeting.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** The candidates must be members of the Education Section (or become a member prior to elections). The primary responsibilities are to 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.

**President Elect:** The candidates must be members of the Education Section (or become a member prior to elections). The primary responsibilities are to serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and preside at the business meetings of the Section, appoint all committees, and serve as an Ex Officio member thereof, and represent the Section and perform other duties and functions as authorized and necessary.

If you are interested please contact Craig Paukert by **May 1, 2017**. Nominees will be asked to submit a biographical sketch to be included in the summer newsletter with the voting commencing soon after, with the announcement of the new officers at the AFS meeting in Tampa on August 20 to 24.

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## Early Career Professional Committee Update

A few brief updates related to the Membership and Early Career Professional Committee:

First off, a big thanks to Rebecca Krogman for her past service as Chair of the Membership and Early Career Development Committee. Though she is stepping down as Chair, Rebecca will still be active with the Committee and we anticipate that her institutional knowledge will facilitate a smooth transition and keep things rolling right along. Also joining the Committee are Tyler Stubbs (Iowa DNR), Wes Larson (USGS, Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit), Willie Fetzer (Wisconsin DNR), and Trevor Krabbenhoft (Wayne State University).

During the 2016 Education Business Meeting in Kansas City, the Membership and Early Career Professional Committee was charged with developing a way to honor recipients of the Excellence in Fisheries Education Award (EFEA). It was suggested that we follow the model established by Hilary Meyer through her work in compiling video diaries for inductees to the Fisheries Management Section Hall of Excellence. In addition to the video diaries, we are also working to construct an interactive genealogical “tree of influence” for each EFEA recipient. Both the video diaries and genealogical tree(s) will be made available on the Education Section website. If you have additional ideas on how to honor EFEA recipients or would like to be involved in the process, feel free to contact me at: [dan.dembkowski@uwsp.edu](mailto:dan.dembkowski@uwsp.edu).

Lastly, the Membership and Early Career Professional Committee is responsible for selecting recipients of the Early Career Professional Travel Award. We are excited to announce that funds are available this year to provide the award to up to three deserving individuals. Multiple calls for applications have been made, including one in this newsletter on page 34. For more information about the travel award, please visit the Education Section website at: <http://education.fisheries.org/awards/young-professionals-travel-award/>.

Looking forward to a productive year!

Dan Dembkowski  
Chair, Membership and Early Career Professional Development Committee





Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting—Education Section  
2016 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society  
Kansas City, Missouri; August 21, 5-7 pm, Sheraton Kansas  
City Hotel at Crown Center – Empire A

**Call to Order:** President Katie Bertrand called the meeting to order. Bertrand introduced herself and provided agendas and copies of the treasurer's report to attendees.

**Introduction of Guests:** Bertrand recognized current officers of the Education Section, including Past-President, Craig Paukert; President-Elect, Mark Fincel, and Secretary-Treasurer, Tyler Wagner. Bertrand also recognized past presidents of the Section and the Society in attendance: Donna Parrish, Joe Margraf, Steve Chipps, Mike Quist, Tom Kwak, Brian Murphy, Jim Reynolds, and Don Orth.

**Determination of Quorum:** A quorum (10% of membership) was present and confirmed by Bertrand.

**Approval of Agenda:** Bertrand made a motion to approve the agenda. Rebecca Krogmen moved to approve and Hae Kim seconded the motion.

**Approval of Minutes from 2015 Business Meeting:** Melissa Wuellner moved to approve the 2015 minutes from the 2015 Business Meeting, Amanda Rosenberger seconded the motion. There were no objections and the 2015 minutes were approved.

**President's Comments:** Bertrand discussed how the Section recognizes outstanding work of students and professionals – the Section made 34 awards last year. The newsletter is also produced each year and the new website is up and running. The Section occasionally gets funding requests and Bertrand described the process the Section follows to consider funding requests. Specifically, there is a form (available on the website) that must be used for requests for amounts greater than \$2,000. Small awards (<\$2000) can be approved by ExCom. Bertrand also discussed some new issues that the Section is addressing and/or is involved with at some level. (1) The issues of certification standards and

## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

how the Section is helping the pipeline from student to professional was raised. In particular, are certification standards useful and are they meaningful? (2) The Section is involved in a review policy for use of wild vertebrates in research, which is a policy document to help address differences between wild animals and lab animals. (3) The Section has a lot of resources and Bertrand discussed that the Section is open to ideas regarding how to use those resources.

**Treasurer's report:** Wagner presented the Education Section Financial Summary Report. It was noted that the CDs are not generating much income, so it was suggested that the Section consider other investment strategies. Jason Vokoun suggested "testing" an alternative investment strategy by investing 20k with AFS, as a trial run. Jason made a motion to do this, Rebecca Kroger seconded the motion. Amanda Rosenberger asked what are other ways we can invest? – an analysis suggested that AFS's way was not the optimal way to invest. It was also suggested that the Section could do another analysis to a preferred investment strategy, rather than investing with AFS. It was acknowledged that this would require a lot of effort and that AFS has already done this. Christine Moffitt recommended that a strategic committee be formed to work on this topic. An amendment to Jason's movement was considered, which was to form a committee to create a study report and then make investments with AFS. Jason withdrew his original motion and there was a vote on the amended version of Jason's motion. Rebecca Krogman mentioned that AFS investigated 4 investment options and chose to remain with the existing firm that invests AFS funds. There have been, however, transparency issues in the past with AFS investments and hopefully that will improve. Mike Quist agreed with Christine Moffitt's proposal to put a committee together to investigate investment strategies. Dan Shoup suggested that there needs to be a team to determine the goals for investment. However, it was highlighted that AFS has been doing this analysis and a new committee to do this would be redundant. Finally, there was a vote for investing 20k with AFS on a trial basis – the motion passed. **The Section will invest 20k into AFS portfolio and evaluate investment.** Christine Moffitt recommended the need to assess investment goals and strategy and that some internal goals need to be developed. It was discussed that an Ad Hoc committee could be formed.

**Comments by AFS officer (this agenda item was moved up after the determination of a quorum):** Joe Margraf welcomed everyone to the meeting. Margraf briefly discussed his plan of work as incoming president, The two main issues he wishes to address are (1) the relevance of AFS and (2) the relevance of AFS journals. Margraf wants to make AFS journals the top-tier journals in aquatic sciences and will strive to have relevance beyond just impact factor (e.g., to make the journals the place where members want to publish, and where fisheries scientists look for information). (2) Margraf will seek to increase the relevance of our profession so people understand what fisheries scientists do, beyond them thinking "you fish for a living?". Katie Bertrand asked how the Education Section can help to achieve the goal of "relevance" and Margraf stated that we to move forward the public perception of our field.

### Committee Reports:

**Newsletter:** Hilary Meyer and David Schumann provided a report on the newsletter and discussed that a challenge is getting student subunits involved and the



## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

fact that the Section needs to encourage those subunits to participate in the newsletter. It was discussed that anything related to education would be relevant material for the newsletter. Questions: Rebecca Krogman asked if a call could be sent to student subunits, but Brian Murphy stated that general calls get ignored. There was also an idea to focus certain newsletters on specific divisions.

Web page: Steve Ranney could not attend the meeting – report not provided.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award: Greg Whitledge stated that the committee that determines this award is looking for new members including a PhD representative. The award was presented to Dr. John Orth from VA Tech.

Skinner Committee. Julie Harris was unable to attend and a brief update was provided by her husband.

Best Student Paper-Poster Award 2015: Awardees were acknowledged.

Best Student Paper-Poster Award 2016: Dan Shoup provided an update and stated that they received 33 applicants - 14 oral and 17 posters.

Membership & Early Career Professional: Rebecca Krogman recognized the winner and asked for someone else to take over this committee. However, Krogman was willing to stay on for one additional year to help.

Nominating: Craig Paukert provided an update on elections, stating that officer elections for the North Central and North East Divisions occurred this year and that elections for the South and West will occur next year.

### **Ad hoc committee & Special projects:**

Inter-section Committee on Education: Trent Sutton discussed the formation of a new committee that formed last winter (ICE). ICE was formed to address questions that previous committee did not address and in particular is looking for two more members (including student sub-sections). This new committee contributed to special issue in fisheries, where a short article introduced the committee to members. The committee is also assessing certification programs and how they meet employer needs and they will make a recommendation by the mid-year meeting.

The committee is also examining the feasibility of program accreditation and will make a recommendation at the 2017 AFS meeting.



## Education Section Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

AFS Special Committee on Research on Wild Aquatic Vertebrates: Steven Cooke was not in attendance and this was not presented.

Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award: No one from student subsection attended the business meeting, so this was not presented or discussed.

Incredible Skinner Challenge (ISC): Craig Paukert mentioned that the Education Section donated \$25,000 to Skinner and was ready to match up to an additional \$25,000. The ISC continued for over one year and received \$5,665 from 25 donors. The Education Section matched the \$5,5665 which resulted in \$36,330 in total contributions. Paukert mentioned that if we assume a 4% interest (which we would spend) then the Section could spend approximately \$12,000 per year.

### **Additional Reports:**

Student Subsection: No report.

### **Awards and Recognition:**

No reports.

**New Business and Announcements**: Jason Vokoun mentioned that the Education Section needs something on its website to recognize the great work of its members, perhaps similar to the Fisheries Management Section's "Hall of Excellence".

Hillary Meyer mentioned that there need to be more support, potentially, for early career scientists (quite a bit goes to students). Rebecca Krogman agreed and stated that early career professionals have hard time finding funds to attend annual meetings. Brian M. **motioned that the Education Section triple contribution to early career travel – asking for additional \$2,000/year, for a total of \$3,000/year (three \$1,000 awards/year)**. Jason Vokoun seconded the motion. Tom Kwak offered as an amendment to offer additional award to post-Masters and PhDs and Brian accepted the amendment. There was also an amendment to have the **ECP committee review scoring criteria** and Brian accepted the ammendment. Amanda Rosenberg suggested that **awardees also get lifetime AFS memberships** and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Rebecca Krogman discussed creating a new section about science communication.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn – motion seconded. Motion carried.





## Student Subsection News

By: Clint Llyod

President, Student Subsection of the Education Section

The Student Subsection of the Education Section has enjoyed a productive start to the year! Our focus thus far this year has been to improve communication, both within the Executive Committee of the Subsection as well as among Student Subunits. To start improving communication, we have reignited our social media presence on Facebook, rejuvenated our webpage, and launched a new communication forum within the fisheries.org webpage. As the year continues, we plan to continue our efforts to enhance communication for the student members of AFS. Additionally, we are beginning to plan for our involvement with the Tampa AFS meeting. We would like to assist with the second annual networking scavenger hunt, host a student colloquium, and we are in the process of working toward the ability to offer Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award.

The Subsection created a Facebook page a few years back and have used it sparingly. At our business meeting in Portland in 2015, David Bogner (North Central Division Student Representative) and Tomas Ivasauskas volunteered to revamp the Facebook page and they have done a great job. With daily and weekly updates on jobs, news and entertaining fish tunes, we have increased our number of page likes by over 100 and substantially increased post reach and engagement. We look forward to continuing our social media presence so come check us out (<https://www.facebook.com/AFS-Education-Student-Subsection-166970639986229/>)!

Similar to our social media push, we have also been cleaning and streamlining the Subsection webpage. Although we do not post as much to the webpage, we try to post relevant news, jobs, and announcements for AFS students. On the webpage, students can find suggestions for establishing and running a sub-

## Student Subsection News

unit, information on how to become more active in AFS, and resources for graduate research, writing, and jobs. As the year progresses, we plan to add links to job boards (AFS, Texas A&M, EcoJobs, etc.) and publish current contact information for student subunits from across the continent. To peruse our webpage, please visit us at <http://students.fisheries.org/>.

Due to the Subsection's large membership of registered AFS students and young professionals, sending mass emails had become very cumbersome. To combat having to create and upkeep multiple email lists, we have created a forum that is housed at [fisheries.org](http://fisheries.org). Student and young professional members are automatically added to the forum when paying dues, but they have complete control over how active they would like to be. Forum members will also have the control to follow posts that they are interested in, but not receive notifications on posts that members deem less important. The forum was launched in early January and has started to slowly be seeded with discussions and announcements. Students and young professionals can find the forum under the "Membership/Community Forums" on [fisheries.org](http://fisheries.org).

As we move forward into the second half of the year, our main focus will be preparation and planning for a few events at the Parent Society meeting in Tampa. The Subsection will assist in the planning and awards for the networking scavenger hunt, so look for announcements in the coming months for how to participate in the hunt! We are also working with the Tampa planning committee to secure time and space for a student colloquium and the Subsection's business meeting. In the past the Subsection has offered travel assistance for undergraduate students to attend the Parent Society meetings. We had a lapse in the award last year but plan to get the announcement out early this spring so stay tuned!

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order promptly at 1:00pm by Clint Lloyd

I. Guest in attendance:

- A. Quinton Phelps
- B. Katie Bertrand
- C. Trent Sutton
- D. Brian Murphy
- E. Jessie Trushenski
- F. Julie Claussen

II. A quorum (> 15 members) was not present (n =13).

III. Motion was made to approve minutes of 2015 annual business meeting. Motion seconded. No comments on the minutes. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

IV. Education Section Report (Katie Bertrand):

- A. Invited and encouraged students to attend and become involved with the Education Section by attending the Education Section's Business Meeting.
- B. Concerns brought up about the undergraduate travel awards and the lack of applicants (n = 0 this year).
  - i. Suggestion to extend the 3 year window.

V. Governing Board meeting (Jesse Trushenski):

- A. Background: The Governing Board represents all the units of AFS. It is a large body so divided labor between Governing Board and Management Committee. The Management Committee deals with finance and day to day operations, which frees up the Governing Board to deal with broader issues with AFS. This division of labour became formal at the last Governing Board meeting and the Governing Board now has the freedom and time to deal with other bigger initiatives like communication.
- B. Announced new section: Imperiled Aquatic Species Section
  - i. Replacing T&E section.
  - ii. Opportunities for students to become involved with section related to future employment interests
    - 1. Especially in the use of social media

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### VI. International Fisheries Section (Julie Claussen):

- A. Informed members of the existence of the International Fisheries Section
- B. Looking for student involvement
  - i. Particularly in the editorial service for English as English for speakers of other languages
- C. Good way for students to get editing experience

### VII. Formation of a new Section: Science Communication Section

- A. Look for more information

### VIII. Old Business

- A. Few emails sent or received this year
- B. Attempts to increase activity on website and facebook page
- C. Midyear Governing Board meeting: No representative sent in person. Clint Lloyd did sit in on the call remotely
  - i. Request for becoming a voting member again denied
    - 1. Voted because of the possibility of other units creating subunits to increase their presence on the Governing Board.
- D. No undergraduate travel award given as there were no applicants

### IX. Treasurers report

- A. Clint Lloyd, transferred all funds from the US Banking Checking Account into a Wells Fargo Checking Account at the beginning of 2016
- B. 2013-2014 section membership dues were deposited 02/15/2016
- C. 2015-2016 section membership dues were deposited 08/02/2016
- D. No Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award was distributed.
- E. Records update for AFS subunits was sent in 5/1/2016
- F. Ending balance of \$2656.44
- G. Pending transactions from 2014-2015 still active:
  - i. Need to contact Karen Dunmall



## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

1. 2014-2015 membership dues of \$70 will be deposited shortly.

ii. Were reimbursements for UTAA mentoring lunches at 2015 annual meeting provided?

H. In the future the account can be put in the president elect business

i. Why have a secretary/treasurer was brought up

X. Division Representative Reports (Late reminder sent out):

A. Western Division (Tracy Wendt): Not present but sent update via email

i. Active and growing student contingency (five new student subunits in 2015-2016 school year

ii. Hosted annual student colloquium

iii. Mentioned awards presented at the 2016 WD AFS meeting in Reno

B. North Central Division (Nick Sievert): Not present but sent update via email

i. Discussed upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska February 5-8

ii. Mentions the student awards given out by the North Central Division at Midwest including the Fenske, Duffy, Sander and Young Professional Travel Award

iii. Brought up the continuing education workshop available through the North Central Division

C. Southern Division (Chelsey Crandall): No update

D. Northeastern Division (Shannon White): No update

E. Canadian Division (Mike Lawrence): Not present but sent update via email

i. There are two strong student subsections in Canada: Ontario and British Columbia.

ii. Participated in the 2016 Annual General Meeting in Orillia Ontario

iii. Hosted World Fish Migration Day highlighting issues and challenges facing migratory fish to the public

iv. Completed workshop on the R statistical package

v. Have regular pub trivia night

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### XI. Recognition of outgoing officers and Division Representatives

- A. Past president: Andrew Carlson
- B. President: Ross Bourcek
- C. President Elect: Clint Lloyd
- D. Secretary/Treasurer: Nathan Lederman
- E. Canadian: Mike Lawrence
- F. North Central: Nick Sievert
- G. Northeastern: Shannon White
- H. Southern: Chelsey Crandall
- I. Western: Tracy Wendt

### XII. Officer elections: Only one nomination for the Executive committee position and two for Division Representatives

- A. Possibly related to communication issues
- B. After email listserve is updated another call for nominations will be made
- C. Elections to follow by survey monkey

### XIII. New business

#### A. Communication

- i. Need to increase communication between division representatives
- ii. Division specific email group for subsection?
- iii. Possibility of creating a newsletter
  - 1. Good idea as it is felt an update web communication/ presence is needed.
- iv. Social media presence
  - 1. Clint ask for members to become involved with the subsection by being the social media coordinator
    - a. David Bogner and Tomas Ivasauskas volunteered

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### B. Travel awards

#### i. Re-instate undergraduate travel award

##### 1. Advertise more

#### ii. Support officers travel

1. Difficult for their attendance, but necessary for them to be present

2. Previously Education Section has supported some travel but not a sustainable source for travel

3. AFS has a development Coordinator and this person may be helpful in coordinating fundraisers

### C. Strategic plan

i. Past President's was reviewed by the executive committee

ii. Will be emailed out for review, posted on the webpage for viewing and a link post onto the facebook page

### D. Student Subsection webpage

i. "How To" documents

ii. Need to find a way to tie social media to the webpage

iii. Kyle Bales volunteered to take over webmaster duties

iv. David suggested the officer transition period be used to update website

### E. Official name change: The student subsection is supposed to be inclusive of all AFS members but the name could be limiting involvement of members

#### i. Name suggestions

1. Swim-up section

2. Student and young professional subsection

3. Student and early career professionals subsection

ii. Doodle poll will be created for the vote

### F. Student Angle

i. One publication, one submission and two in review

ii. Members besides executive committee can act as reviewers/editors

## Student Subsection Business Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

iii. Suggestion to create a poll to see how the “Student Angle” is being utilized

1. Potential to publish as a “Student Angle”

G. Lack of attendance

i. Probably related to communication

ii. Meet right after Education Section???

1. Normally meet during lunch on the second day, but a room was not reserved in time

iii. Call was made for ideas to get student involved in AFS and their transition to prof/career

AXIV. djournment

a. Motion and second at 2:05 pm

\*\* Secretary notes taken by Ani Popp in place of Nathan Lederman who was unable to attend.



## Arkansas Tech Student Sub-Unit Update

Submitted by: Tyler Savage

Conservation is an enormous task often requiring massive input from volunteers and user groups to improve fish and wildlife resources. The Arkansas Tech subunit has done its part on several occasions by volunteering over 500 hours with habitat restorations, and trash cleanups at Bearcat Hollow Wildlife Management Area, Bona-Dea Wildlife Sanctuary, and with the Army Corps of Engineers on Lake Front Drive. We also assisted with the Arkansas River Valley Chapter of the Forever Quail Initiative, helping with their shooting events and fundraisers. We have several members that volunteer with the Yell County Wildlife Federation, Arkansas Game and Fish, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forestry Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NWTF, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Keep Arkansas Beautiful. The Arkansas Tech subunit has been proactive in education of the public by volunteering at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge's annual "Bowjam". At this event, we taught bow safety to all age classes of children. We also held an educational field day this past fall where graduate students taught over 40 undergraduate students how to sample fish assemblages using seine nets and backpack electrofishing, identify. Four graduate students attended the National meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Several members of the subunit have been actively involved in both graduate and

The Arkansas Tech Students Sub-Unit put in over 500 volunteer hours!



## Arkansas Tech Student Sub-Unit Update Cont'd

undergraduate research. Nearly half of our subunit has been involved with research on Paddlefish and Catfish movements, efficiency of chase boats for sampling Blue Catfish, predation on White and Black Crappie by piscivorous predators, Smallmouth spawning movements, genetically describing Eastern Fence Lizards, and Endangered Least Terns. Several of our members have received internships with the Army Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Game and Fish. Graduate student Bennet Grooms earned 1<sup>st</sup> place for his research presentation on citizen science at the Arkansas Academy of Science this past spring. With multiple incoming freshman applying for technician jobs, we hope to continue our subunit involvement with professional research of fisheries and wildlife. For fundraising opportunities, we have designed and sold t-shirts as a large fundraiser as well as having our annual wild-game banquet along with a silent auction to raise money for students to attend the southeastern wildlife conclave.



## Duke University Student Sub-Unit Update

Submitted by: Kelsey Dick, Sara Cleaver, Caitlin Starks, Tess Petesch and Walter Wright

This year, our main focus is highlighting fisheries research and management from many perspectives from the seafood industry to recreational fishers, scientists, fisheries managers, entrepreneurs, and activists. We hope that by taking this approach, DukeFish and its members will be able to gain not only a better understanding of fisheries science, but also a broader knowledge of the multifaceted issues that can arise in fisheries management and a familiarity of what is going on out on the water and on our coasts. So far this year, DukeFish has been busy and has held some very successful events!

### Year-round: Walking Fish Community Supported Fishery

In 2009, a group of graduate students at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment developed Walking Fish in partnership with a number of North Carolina-based for-profit and non-profit organizations. Every Thursday, fresh, locally harvested NC seafood is brought to the Triangle area from Beaufort. In Durham, members of the community who have prepaid for a seafood share pick up their share in the Duke Gardens parking lot. Our volunteers from DukeFish interact with customers and help with the distribution of shares every week. The goals of this program are to foster economic opportunities, cultivate healthy communities, and encourage environmental stewardship. It has been a great way for our volunteers to interact with fishermen, learn more about fisheries, and promote sustainable fisheries within our community.

### March: Ocean Awareness Week, Red Gold Film Screening

In honor of Ocean Awareness Week DukeFish held a film screening of the documentary Red Gold, which highlights the issues surrounding the proposal of Pebble Mine and the implications for the world's most prolific sockeye salmon fisheries, in Bristol Bay, Alaska. After the film, students engaged in an informal discussion about some of the recent updates surrounding the Pebble Mine proposal since the documentary came out in 2008.



### April: Earth Day Fish Prints

Every year, the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment hosts an Earth Day celebration where DukeFish puts on some sort of fish-related event. This year, we chose to make traditional fish prints using a couple of extra fish from Walking Fish and cloth. This event was a total hit, despite the downpour! We had a huge crowd of people surrounding our table, patiently awaiting their



## Duke University Student Sub-Unit Update

turn to make their own fish print or t-shirt. Many people were nervous about touching a real fish for their first time, but we exposed them to what kind of fish they were making a print of, and informed them of our partnership with Walking Fish. The pictures speak for themselves!

### September: The North Carolina Annual Seafood Festival

First, DukeFish invited Bill from FishTowne, a local seafood business, to come speak about his experience helping develop a CSF (Walking Fish) as well as answering questions about the local shrimp DukeFish sold in our shrimp tacos for the Annual North Carolina Seafood Festival. Seafood Festival was a huge success; our famous local shrimp tacos hit the spot. After we braved it through a stormy, wet Friday (during which our coolers were afloat in the tent), eager festivalgoers came out by the bunches on Saturday and Sunday. Consumers were thrilled with the delicious flavors of our grilled channel-net and skimmer trawl-caught shrimp seasoned with our home-made spice blend, chopped purple and green cabbage and carrot slaw, and drizzled with our special homemade chipotle crema sauce. Our unbeatable tacos drew crowds into the stand, where DukeFish was able to reach out to many consumers about the importance of supporting local fishermen, learning more about our food systems, and why it is important to ask questions about where our seafood comes from and how it is caught. Several consumers came by just to check out our educational materials or to pick up Seafood Watch cards, and several of our customers were so pleased with our tacos that they started cheering on other potential customers to come give them a try! It was not uncommon to hear positive feedback such as, “this is the best shrimp taco I’ve ever had”! We had some friendly competition with the booth next to us, and the fireworks on Saturday night just added to the fun.

Many folks from the Duke University Marine Lab came by to visit; thank you to all faculty and staff, their families, and students who came to support our mission and work! Sustainable seafood lovers from the Division of Marine Fisheries also stopped by to show their support and grab their share of tacos. We were in the local newspaper, and had Festival Director and NOAA employee Chris Smith come by with his family and take a photo with us as well! We were also able to keep fellow DukeFish lovers and taco



eaters pleased by exchanging a new DukeFish t-shirt or slap-on koozie for a suggested donation. We would like to thank everyone who helped us out with this fabulous event. All of the hard work was well worth it!

## Duke University Student Sub-Unit Update

### **October: Dr. Andre Boustany, Management & Conservation of Bluefin Tunas**

Later this semester, DukeFish organized a talk by Dr. Andre Boustany, Research Scientist and Senior Nippon Foundation-Nereus Fellow in Dr. Patrick Halpin's Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab at Duke University. Dr. Boustany's talk was titled, "Looking for a Way Forward on the Management and Conservation of Bluefin Tunas". Atlantic, Southern and Pacific bluefin tunas share similar ecological and life history traits, which affect their susceptibility to exploitation. The current management status of the three species vary, in both current population size and trajectory. This talk examined how the biology of bluefin tunas impacts their sensitivity to overfishing, and how institutional and organizational differences in the international bodies that oversee bluefin tuna management influence the ability to positively impact conservation. We looked at the history of bluefin tuna management at the International Commission of the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT, the international body responsible for the management of Atlantic bluefin tuna) and the Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT, the management body responsible for southern bluefin tuna), and how the decades of failures and successes under those bodies can inform strategies to positively impact Pacific bluefin tuna conservation.

### **November: Net Effect Film Screening & Discussion**

In November, DukeFish hosted a documentary showing of the WRAL production Net Effect, followed by a discussion with local recreational fishermen, guides, conservation NGO representatives, and representatives of commercial fishing interests. The documentary explored the complexities of fisheries management and the tensions between recreational and commercial fishermen in North Carolina. The film examined the recreational claim that commercial practices are having devastating effects on fish stocks and depleting a common resource. After the film, members heard from both commercial and recreational fishermen in a question and answer session. Members were able to witness tensions between the parties first hand and understand how policies and management can affect resource users on a personal level. This was an incredibly valuable experience exposing the complexities of fisheries management to our members.



## Duke Student Sub-Unit Update

### December: NC State's Fish Barn

DukeFish took a trip out to North Carolina State's Fish Barn outside Raleigh in early December. First, we took a tour of their greenhouse aquaponics facility where they grow lettuce and herbs with tilapia. We learned about the bio-filtration system and their secret to maximizing plant and fish production: a decoupled system which allows the pH of the water to differ for the plant side and the fish side. Though the Fish Barn exists for research purposes, we learned that species like tilapia have low commercial value and the lettuce drives the profitability of these types of operations, if there are profits left! Next, we took a tour of their facilities where they rear flounder and striped bass, species that should command a higher value on the market but are slightly more difficult to rear. To induce spawning more than once a year, the managers at the Fish Barn manipulate the light in the room, since spawning is responsive to changes in photoperiod. We talked a lot about feed and disease control as well. Disease spreads fast in these types of systems and it's very difficult to prevent. Overall, a successful and highly educational visit that left us with an appreciation for the difficulty of raising aquatic species indoors. DukeFish looks forward to a more speakers and a field trip in the spring, plus our traditional events for Earth Day and Ocean Awareness Week.



# How Well Are You Teaching One of the Most Important Biological Concepts for Humankind?

## A Call to Action

We represent several generations of biology educators – with teaching experiences beginning in the 1940s and continuing to the present, from elementary school to graduate-level programs. We find the vast array of subjects that biology teachers can now cover both thrilling and mind-boggling. Depending on the grade level, units exist that focus on neurobiology, forensics, DNA analysis, biotechnology, marine biology, and a host of other topics. Although science teachers cover a potpourri of advanced topics, we must ask ourselves – no matter our biology-teaching responsibilities – how well we are teaching carrying capacity, one of the most fundamental biological concepts for our society, knowledge of which becomes more important every day. As biology teachers, most of you know that carrying capacity is defined as the maximum population an environment can sustain, given the amounts of food, habitat, and other resources available. Every environment – from your goldfish bowl to the local forest to planet Earth – can only sustain a set number (weight) of a particular species, based on available resources and space. Currently, most science classes teach that humans should conserve resources and live sustainably. However, do we adequately emphasize why this is vital? Do our students understand that a particular area – or our planet – only has so much to provide a given species living there? Why should carrying capacity receive increased emphasis in our biology classes? Perhaps the most compelling reason is that if we don't emphasize its importance, grave consequences for humankind await. Inability to live within the limits imposed by carrying capacity has repeatedly contributed to the demise of societies – including, for a very few examples, ancient cultures such as the Mayan and Mediterranean Bronze Age civilizations, many Chinese dynasties, and the Greenland Norse, as well as modern societies such as Rwanda, the Empire of Japan, U.S. Dust Bowl communities, Canada's cod-fishing communities, and nations in the Horn of Africa. These societies collapsed because their human populations and resource use increased to unsustainable levels, or to levels barely sustainable with existing resources, and then additional stress – through a change in climate or other factors – was placed on the system, reducing the carrying capacity of the area. Unavailability of sufficient resources to support these populations contributed to tragic consequences such as abject poverty, massive societal re-

## A Call to Action, cont'd

structuring, human migrations, and warfare. With the human population on Earth exceeding 7.2 billion, many scientists argue that our population size and our resource use are approaching the carrying capacity of our planet. Human-caused climate change exceeds anything that could be expected under natural climate cycles. Solutions to the problem include family planning, resource-use management, or improving technology to increase carrying capacity. However, if solutions are to be found and employed, students must understand the concept of carrying capacity and the consequences of ignoring it. Here biology teachers can make a major difference. You might say, “I already teach about carrying capacity!” That may be, yet somehow, its importance and relevance are still not widely understood or accepted. In the latest four Gallup polls, only 1–3% of Americans consider environmental problems the most pressing issue our country faces. Approximately 40% of Americans think that climate change is a natural cycle, contrasted with 97% of climate studies which state that humans are causing it. Natural resource scientists hear government officials, newscasters, and members of the general public offer as ecological “facts” notions that are breathtakingly wrong. It seems clear that scientific information has outpaced the efforts of science educators and communicators to help society move towards understanding carrying capacity and taking action to live within our means. Fortunately, the prognosis is not all bad. Humans, unlike wildlife, can consciously reduce our effects – if we understand carrying capacity, and incorporate its importance into our value systems. Biology educators are in a powerful position to effect change by reemphasizing the concept of carrying capacity at every educational level, in all nations, as part of core curricula. Groups such as POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning; <https://pogil.org>), Population Education (<https://www.populationeducation.org/content/what-carrying-capacity>), and Lesson Planet (<http://www.lessonplanet.com/lesson-plans/carrying-capacity>) provide exciting suggestions for teaching the subject in various grades. Educators could refamiliarize themselves with carrying capacity by studying the excellent overviews offered by writers such as Jared Diamond, Gretchen Daily, and Paul R. and Anne Ehrlich. If our societies are to endure, the concept of carrying capacity and living sustainably should be as familiar to every student as  $2 + 2 = 4$ . Almost 60 years ago, one of us, John Bonar, then a young biology teacher, watched Soviet Sputnik I, the first satellite to orbit Earth, pass overhead. Americans feared the Soviet triumph, and a revolution in science teaching occurred as our country shifted gears to emphasize science education in order to compete with the Soviet Union in the “space race.” With changing climate and human population growth reaching critical levels, another “Sputnik moment” may be necessary to help

## A Call to Action, cont'd

us avoid exceeding our planet's carrying capacity. This problem is arguably more critical than the space race, and it is within humankind's ability to control. In this endeavor, educators can play an indispensable role. To those of you who are already emphasizing carrying capacity in your classrooms, congratulations. To those who are not, please consider taking up the challenge to teach the concept and its implications wherever possible. Our future may depend on the success of this mission.

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# EDUCATION ON THE FLY

REID BREWER—UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY

The goal of the University of Alaska Southeast Fish Tech program is to offer our students an information base and skill set that will serve them in the fisheries industry while being flexible to suite their needs. The Fish Tech program offers classes live face to face, love over the internet, and semi-asynchronously with students completing coursework at their own pace without regular meetings. The program has two main emphasis areas: fisheries management and Alaska salmon enhancement and offers a variety of degrees to include 13 credit occupational endorsements, 33 credit certificates and a 60-credit associate's of applied science. Since all of the credits for the occupational endorsements transfer to the certificate and associate's programs, many students are able to take classes at a slower pace, beginning with an occupational endorsement with the option to go to the next level. Many of the Fish Tech graduates have gone on to work with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, various private, nonprofit aquaculture associations, tribal organizations, and other government and nonprofit programs.

In 2014, the Fish Tech program was funded by a grant from the Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training program to offer Fish Tech curriculum using innovative teaching technology to make all the classes available on iPads. All of the lectures, reading materials, videos, frequently asked questions and even exams are loaded on the iPad, so coursework can be taken to a remote location without internet access. Brig Malessa, a former Fish Tech student from cake, who had to drop classes as a result of poor bandwidth said, "This is an absolute game changer for those of us that live remote! I had pretty much given up on the idea of classes for the time being—not anymore!"

In summer 2016, 33 students took three classes using the iPad format, and coming fall 2016 all six of the Fish Tech OE courses will be available on iPads.

Though many of the Fish Tech students take classes via distance delivery either online or via iPads, the program does require a hands-on component, which can be met by taking one-credit intensive labs that are taught each semester at hub locations throughout the state of Alaska or in the form of internships that can be done almost anywhere.

"I have been to big universities that offer only face-to-face classes and have dabbled on online courses, but the UAS Fish Tech program is different from all of the others," says Alex Lyons, a 2016 Fish Tech associate's graduate. "From the flexibility of online and iPad classes to faculty engagement to job placement assistance, the Fish Tech program is doing education the way it should be, with students' needs first."

For more information see:

<https://vimeo.com/134580079>

<http://www.fishtechalaska.com/>

Or Contact the program director, Reid Brewer at (907) 747-7799



## 2016 Young Professional Travel Award Recipient



Firstly, I would like to thank the Education Section and Membership Committee for the opportunity to attend the AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City and be honored with the Early Career Professional Travel Award. This meeting was particularly special as a homecoming of sorts and a chance to see and visit with many fisheries comrades from my long time in the Great Plains. I would encourage all of you to learn about and, if eligible (i.e., within 5 years of graduation), apply for the Early Career Professional Travel Award (see page 33 of this issue) for the upcoming meeting in Tampa. Although tradition suggests that the awarded individual write about their time at meeting and I certainly had a very rewarding and enjoyable experience in KC (unquestionably one of my best meetings), I would rather take this opportunity to (1) thank my mentors who are without argue the reason that I would or even could be considered for the Early Career Professional Travel Award and (2) highlight the importance of mentoring to professional development and maintaining the highest quality professionals possible within AFS.

As I know many of you would also attest your mentor(s) are the reason you would even consider reading the Education Section newsletter and this in the first place. The power that a good mentor has to inspire, educate, and create long lasting effects is pretty incredible and I know many of those throughout AFS have similar stories of their experiences with their professional mentors. I am fortunate to have numerous outstanding mentors throughout my early career that includes graduate advisors, supervisors, and numerous colleagues at state and federal agencies that have helped me develop into the professional that I am today. Three of the most significant mentors that have ingrained the importance of professional society involvement and used AFS to enable mentoring are my M.S. (Craig Paukert) and Ph.D. (Mike Quist) advisers and my postdoctoral supervisor (Tom Kwak). I owe all of three of these gentlemen a great big THANK YOU and my award is merely a reflection of their outstanding mentoring capabilities. I should also mention that if your first inclination to look for commonalities among these three you will probably notice that all are former presidents of the Education Section, but more importantly outstanding mentors.

Last but not least, I would like you to reflect on your previous mentors (if you haven't started to do so already) in hopes to rekindle the appreciation that mentoring has to make large differences in the professional lives of both entities involved. I would also like you to begin to think about what you and AFS can do to continue and expand the promotion of mentoring opportunities throughout all levels. For example, find what you can do within your chapter to promote mentoring (e.g., are undergraduate and young professionals attending meetings and if not, why?) or think about opportunities that may exist to more deeply engage summer technicians to assist in their professional development. The early registration deadline for the 2017 annual meeting is just around the corner so please think twice about the boxes you can check and the opportunities that exist to be a mentor in Tampa and bring your ideas to the Education Section meeting so that we can continue to improve our Section and Society and reap the tremendous benefits that mentoring has and continues to offer.

Jesse is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Ecology where he works in conjunction with the North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at North Carolina State University.  
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## Excellence in Fisheries Education Award

The Excellence in Fisheries Education Award (EFEA) Committee is soliciting nominees for 2017. This award is presented to an individual in recognition of their excellence in teaching and advising/mentoring in fisheries education, extension or continuing education, traditional college and university instruction, and/or instructional curriculum development. Nominees must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this award:

- (1) current members of the American Fisheries Society;
- (2) actively engaged in fisheries education within the last five years; and
- (3) at least 10 years of professional employment experience in fisheries education.

Two or more people may act as nominators, but at least one of these nominators must be an AFS member. The nominator(s) is responsible for compiling supporting material and submitting the application. For an example of the suggested format for applications, please see the Education Section web site.

In the nomination letter, please include the nominee's title and full contact information (i.e., address, e-mail, phone number, etc.).

**Nominations are due by 01 April 2017** and should be sent via email to EFEA chair Trent Sutton ([tmsutton@alaska.edu](mailto:tmsutton@alaska.edu)).

In addition to award nominees, the committee is also seeking a representative from the Western Division (3-year term) and a student representative (1-year term). If you are interested in serving on this committee or have a recommendation for someone to serve on this committee, please contact committee chair.



# Interested in Competing for Best Student Paper/Poster?

Apply to participate in the Best Student Paper/Poster Symposium!

147th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

August 20-24 in Tampa, FL

The Best Student Paper Symposium will be held Monday (8/21) morning and afternoon and the Best Student Poster Symposium will be held on Monday (8/21) evening. Award recipients will be announced at the AFS Business Meeting on Tuesday (8/22). **Attendance at AFS Business Meeting Required!**

For more information, including abstract examples, go to the “Best Student Presentation and Poster Awards” page: <http://education.fisheries.org/awards>

We look forward to reviewing your applications and if you have any questions, please contact your 2017 student paper/poster symposium co-chairs:

Mark Fincel ([Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us](mailto:Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us))

Amanda Rosenberger ([rosenbergera@missouri.edu](mailto:rosenbergera@missouri.edu))

Dan Shoup ([dshoup@okstate.edu](mailto:dshoup@okstate.edu))

## **Best Student Oral Presentation – by Friday March 17th:**

- Self identify during the online abstract submission
- Upload both a standard AND an extended abstract. Examples available at the Education Section website: <http://education.fisheries.org/awards/best-student-presentation-and-poster/>
- Arrange for your advisor to submit an e-mail to the symposium co-chairs indicating that the study is at a stage appropriate for consideration for this award:
- **Only student research projects at or near completion will be considered for the Best Student Oral Presentation Award**

## **Best Student Poster Presentation – by Friday March 17th:**

- Self identify during the online abstract submission
- Upload only a standard abstract
- Arrange for your advisor to submit an e-mail to the symposium co-chairs indicating that the study includes data analysis representing either ongoing or completed work
- No extended abstract is required to be considered for the Best Student Poster Presentation.

## 2017 Early Career Professional Travel Award

The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society is currently accepting applications for the Early Career Professional Travel Award for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida.

The Early Career Professional Travel Award was established to promote attendance of early career professionals at the Annual Meeting who have made substantial contributions to the field through continued education, outreach, and AFS service. The award provides up to \$1,000 in travel support. Funds are available to provide the award to up to three deserving individuals. Preference will be given to individuals presenting at the meeting, those involved in continuing education or outreach, and those in need of financial assistance for travel.

All early career professionals (within 5 years post-graduation at the time of application), including agency biologists, postdoctoral associates, and faculty are encouraged to apply. The award recipients will be required to attend the Education Section business meeting to receive the award and will be asked to contribute to the Section's winter newsletter.

The application should consist of the following:

- Letter of interest, including:
  - Statement of service to the Society, Sections, Divisions, or Chapters and why you want to attend the meeting
  - Statement of continued education and outreach
  - Statement of financial need
  - Statement of career goals
- Current resume/CV, including:
  - Degree(s)
  - List of publications and presentations
  - Honors and awards.
- Title and abstract of the contributed paper(s) or poster(s) being presented at the Annual Meeting.

Applications should be submitted online at <http://students.fisheries.org/awards-and-scholarships/annual-meeting-2/young-professional-travel-award/> and must be received by April 1, 2017. Note that you must be logged in and recognized as an AFS Member to apply for this travel award. Applications can also be submitted as a single PDF file to Dan Dembkowski, chair of the Membership and Early Career Professional Committee, at [dan.dembkowski@uwsp.edu](mailto:dan.dembkowski@uwsp.edu). Award recipients will be notified by April 28, 2017 .

## John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award

The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, former California-Nevada Chapter and Western Division AFS President. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the AFS annual meeting. **The 2017 meeting will be held in Tampa, Florida, August 20-24.**

Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply. Awardees are chosen by a committee of the AFS Education Section. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, and reasons for attending the 2017 meeting. Travel support (up to \$800 per award) will be made available to successful applicants. Award winners will also receive a one year paid membership to the American Fisheries Society.

Applications are available at:

- Student form: [AFS Skinner Application Form - Part I 2017](#)
- Mentor form: [AFS Skinner Application Form - Part II 2017](#)

Both the student and mentor applications must be received no later than **April 1, 2017.**

For more information about the John E. Skinner Award, contact:

**Julianne Harris**

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## Editors' Note

If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. We encourage submissions and ideas for future issues of the newsletter (June/July 2017). Contributions, comments and suggestions may be emailed to us at any time.



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AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
*147TH ANNUAL MEETING*  
**TAMPA, FLORIDA**  
AUGUST 20-24, 2017

