

# American Fisheries Society

## Fish Health Section

### 2021 Business Meeting

July 15, 2021  
 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
 (CDT)  
 Virtual

<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Tom Loch	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Annual Business Meeting
<b>Note taker:</b>	Carolyn Richards	<b>Attendees:</b>	
<b>Presenters:</b>	Tom Loch, Ben LaFrentz, Carolyn Richards, Stacy Strickland, Nicholas Phelps, Wade Cavender, Jeff Wolf, Esteban Soto, Myron Kebus, Jan Lovy, Ken Cain, Sascha Hallett, Danielle Van Vliet, Ken Phillips, Kathleen Hartman, Gary Marty		

### Minutes

**Agenda item:** Welcome/Zoom “Ground-Rules”/Determination of Quorum **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

Quorum was determined by Carolyn Richards; Tom discussed the procedure and Zoom “Ground Rules” for the virtual meeting.

**Agenda item:** Old Business – Goede Index Update **Presenter:** Ben LaFrentz

**Discussion:**

The committee (Ben LaFrentz, Myron Kebus, and Wade Cavender) has compiled information on the history of the index and how it can be used. They are also currently working on creating a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the different approaches to use the index. Once completed, information will be posted to the website and shared at future meetings and workshops.

**Agenda item:** Old Business – Dues Increase; PayPal Update **Presenter:** Carolyn Richards

**Discussion:**

The Student/Early Career Membership and Regular Membership dues were increased last year and did go into effect for the 2021 calendar year. Also, The PayPal processing fee structure will be changing as of August 2. Currently, a member wishing to utilize PayPal is charged an additional fee of 2.9% + \$0.30; this will be changing to 2.59% + \$0.49.

**Agenda item:** Old Business – Blue Book Revision Project Manager Selections **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

A FHS search committee worked closely with the AFS Executive Director, Doug Austen, to review applications for the Project Manager position for the Blue Book revisions. Dr. Jan Lovy and Dr. Ken Cain were chosen to be co-Project Managers.

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**Agenda item:** Committee Reports – Section Communications Committee      **Presenter:** Stacy Strickland

**Discussion:**

Visits to the website (primarily the Blue Book) continue at a steady rate while the number of visits to the Section's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FishHealthSectionAFS/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AFSFishHealth>) account have increased over the past year, with the Twitter account being initiated in 2021.

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**Agenda item:** Committee Reports – Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee      **Presenter:** Nicholas Phelps

**Discussion:**

The Summer Seminar Series has been averaging 50-60 attendees/week and it has been a mixture of students and professionals, in North America and overseas. There will be/have been 22 student/early career presentations and five keynote presentations, all of which are recorded and available on the website (<https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/fishhealthseminar>). A Best Student Presentation award will be awarded this year and \$4000 has been solicited from sponsors to support future student travel awards to in-person meetings. The committee will also be working on ideas for outreach at the upcoming ISAAH 2022 meeting.

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**Agenda item:** Committee Reports – Fish Health Laboratory QA/QC Committee      **Presenter:** Wade Cavender

**Discussion:**

Three laboratories were approved for Tier I status in 2020 and one laboratory was approved for Tier II status in 2021. The committee is working on exactly what Tier III status will include.

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**Agenda item:** Committee Reports – Journal of Aquatic Animal Health      **Presenter:** Jeff Wolf

**Discussion:**

Jeff Wolf provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting journal statistics over the past year.

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**Agenda item:** AVMA-AqVMC      **Presenter:** Esteban Soto & Myron Kebus

**Discussion:**

As Esteban Soto is the FHS liaison to the AVMA-AqVMC and Myron Kebus is the AVMA-AqVMC liaison to the FHS, they provided an update on three important topics discussed at recent AqVMC meetings (*see links below to official AVMA policy*) and encouraged FHS members to share comments on the policies with either of them to pass on to the AqVMC.

1. National Aquatic Animal Health Plan implementation ([National Aquatic Animal Health Plan implementation | American Veterinary Medical Association \(avma.org\)](#))
2. AVMA statement on veterinarians in aquatic animal medicine ([AVMA statement on veterinarians in aquatic animal medicine | American Veterinary Medical Association](#))
3. Aquatic animal health and disease regulations ([Aquatic animal health and disease regulations\\* | American Veterinary Medical Association \(avma.org\)](#))

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**Agenda item:** New Business – Blue Book Revision Project Update      **Presenter:** Jan Lovy & Ken Cain

**Discussion:**

Two working groups have been developed, the Natural Resource Agency Working Group and the Industry Working Group, to work alongside the 13-member steering committee and represent the diverse interests that are impacted by updating the BB. The committee is looking to add new chapters in parallel to Section 2 of the BB, focusing on mollusks, crustaceans, warmwater finfish, and coolwater finfish, in addition to a chapter on validation of diagnostic assays. There are plans to include alternative inspection methods in aquatic animal populations (e.g., risk-based assessments) in the new chapters. The current focus is on creating the new outline/template for these chapters and identifying potential authors. It was strongly encouraged in discussion that the Steering Committee consider how the Blue Book is utilized as a regulatory tool by several states.

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**Agenda item:** New Business – AFS-FHS *ad hoc* Extramural Funding Committee      **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

The new committee will seek out ways to dedicate resources to allow the expanded BB to continue to be updated on a regular basis. The committee currently consists of the members below.

Jesse Trushenski	Tim Bruce	Jan Lovy	Marcia House	Janet Warg ( <i>advisory</i> )
Nicholas Phelps	Ken Cain	Joel Bader	Tom Loch	

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**Agenda item:** New Business – AFS-FHS *ad hoc* Long Range Planning Committee      **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

The new committee will review the goals of the Section and evaluate how well we are meeting them, along with providing recommendations, if needed. The committee currently consists of the members below and based on discussion during the EXCOM meeting, additional international members are being considered.

Stacy Strickland	Jim Winton	Esteban Soto	Tom Loch
Myron Kibus	Courtney Harrison	Nicole Nietlisbach	Ben LaFrentz
Andy Goodwin	Taylor Heckman		

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**Agenda item:** New Business – [151st Annual Meeting in Baltimore](#)      **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

There will not be a Section display for the annual Parent society meeting this year; see the above link for more information related to the meeting.

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**Agenda item:** New Business – President Elect Report      **Presenter:** Gary Marty

**Discussion:**

The FHS Procedural Manual has been updated with gender-neutral pronouns. The By-laws will also be reviewed by the President and President Elect.

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**Agenda item:** New Business – 9th ISA AH (September 4-8, 2022, Santiago, Chile)      **Presenter:** Esteban Soto

**Discussion:**

The current plan is to proceed with a hybrid (in-person and virtual) ISA AH in Chile in 2022, with the intent to re-evaluate the potential impact of the pandemic on attendance in September of 2021. At that time, a final decision will be made whether to proceed or not with an in-person component. There is the potential for a limit on the number of in-person attendees. A website has been created and will be updated regularly (<https://www.isaah9.com>). The registration cost will likely be ~\$400-500, which is similar to other the registration costs of previous ISA AHs.

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**Agenda item:** New Business – 2022 WFDW      **Presenter:** Sascha Hallett

**Discussion:**

Next year's WFDW will be May 16-19, 2022 at the Hood River Inn in Hood River, Oregon ([Best Western Plus Hood River Inn | Waterfront hotel Hood River, Oregon](#)). Follow the FHS website for updates (<https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/wfdw/>). The tentative schedule is below.

May 16 – Happy hour and clinical cases/rounds

May 17 & 18 – Presentations

May 19 – Continuing education (Nutritional diseases and management)

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**Agenda item:** New Business – 2022 EFHW      **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

The 45th EFHW will be April 4-8, 2022 in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. Follow the EFHW's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/164449723610923>) and the FHS website for updates (<https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/eastern-fish-health-workshop/>).

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**Agenda item:** Committee Reports – Nominating and Balloting Committee      **Presenter:** Danielle Van Vliet

**Discussion:**

The committee successfully completed another election, with 52% participation from the Section membership. A Google Drive containing documents, timelines, etc. was created for future Nominating & Balloting committees to utilize and assist with passing down relevant information. The results are as follows:

Vice President: Wade Cavender

Technical Standards Committee: Amy Long

Professional Standards Committee: Matt Stinson

Policy/Position Development Committee: Janet Whaley

Nominating and Balloting Committee: Tim Bruce

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**Agenda item:** Other new business from attendees?      **Presenter:** All

**Discussion:**

None.

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**Agenda item:** Presentations: Contemporary Challenges/Opportunities in Aquatic Animal Health **Presenter:** Esteban Soto, Ken Phillips, Kathleen Hartman

**Discussion:**

- Dr. Esteban Soto presented on “Lactococcosis in California: What we know so far ... “
- Dr. Ken Phillips presented on “The Emergence of Lactic Acid Bacteria as Pathogens of Salmonids in the Great Lakes Region”
- Dr. Kathleen Hartman presented on “National Aquaculture Health Plan & Standards 2021-2023: Working to Protect and Promote U.S. Aquatic Livestock”

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**Agenda item:** Achievement Awards for Committee Chairs **Presenter:** Tom Loch

**Discussion:**

At the beginning of the year, each committee chair was asked to come up with 3-5 goals to accomplish throughout the year and the following chairs were recognized for their achievements: **Dr. Danielle Van Vliet** (Nominating and Balloting Committee Chair), **Dr. Nicholas Phelps** (Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee Chair), **Stacy Strickland** (Section Communications Committee Chair), and **Wade Cavender** (Fish Health Laboratory QA/QC Committee Chair).

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**Agenda item:** Passing of the Presidency **Presenter:** Gary Marty

**Discussion:**

The Past-President Award was presented to Dr. Tom Loch, who did a tremendous job leading the Section through an entire year of virtual meetings and interactions. Job well done!

Meeting was adjourned by the 2021-2022 AFS FHS President, Gary Marty.

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Submitted,  
/s/ Carolyn Richards  
Fish Health Section Secretary-Treasurer