



The American Fisheries Society
Genetics Section
Newsletter
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June 2012



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President's Message

Dear Genetics Section Members,

In my last message I discussed the value that students and young professionals bring to the parent society, the section, and to our professions. In the past we have also discussed the vital part that active volunteers younger and older, experienced and inexperienced play in the success of our organization and the value they add to membership in the section. We are now close to completing the steps necessary to recognize the men and women who have contributed to the society and the field over the course of their careers. In the activities of these three areas I see an integrated system that we can look to when we evaluate the health of the Genetics Section or when we need to answer questions about our purpose and/or the value of membership. I've been looking and I like what I see. It isn't perfect and we can get better, but we are healthy. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged someone to join, sponsored a symposium, helped with an event, presented a paper, voted on an issue, responded to a request for information or an opinion, reviewed a paper or policy statement, or contributed in any of the many other possible ways.

Sincerely,

Bill Templin, *AFS Genetics Section President*

**AFS Genetics Section Graduate Award in Memory
of James E. Wright
Deadline Extended to July 6**

The Genetics Section of the American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce the James E. Wright Graduate Award. This award is presented annually by the Genetics Section at the AFS Annual Meeting and is intended to recognize excellence in graduate-level work in fisheries genetics and to assist graduate students with travel to the national meeting. The section anticipates awarding an award for \$500 to attend the 2012 AFS annual meeting in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. All graduate

students are encouraged to apply.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Potential for success in research in fisheries genetics (60%)
2. Anticipated contribution to upcoming annual meeting, e.g. paper, poster, or other contribution (20%)
3. Service to the Society, its Sections, or Chapters (10%)
4. Demonstrated need for travel assistance (10%)

Application Procedure:

1. Applicant must be a full or affiliate member of the Genetics Section at the time of application.
2. Application package should include:
 - a. A brief curriculum vitae including anticipated degree, date of completion, and career goals.
 - b. A statement of the thesis or dissertation and abstract of progress to date.
 - c. The names and addresses of two references familiar with the applicant's background and abilities.
 - d. A statement of previous service to the Society, its Sections, or Chapters, and need for travel assistance.
 - e. A statement addressing anticipated contribution to the upcoming annual meeting.

Deadline for application is: **July 6, 2012**

All application materials should be sent via postal or email to:

Jeffrey B. Olsen, Conservation Genetics Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Phone (907) 786-3598, Email: jeffrey_olsen@fws.gov.

Section Officers Election Announcement

Please join me in congratulating **Jeff Olsen** and **Wendy Stott** as newly elected officers of the AFS Genetics Section. Jeff will be joining the Executive Committee as President-elect and Wendy as Secretary/Treasurer. They will be installed at the August business meeting, so be sure to attend and provide them a rousing start to their terms in office.

Genetics Section Social and Fundraiser at AFS 2012

Everyone, Section member or not, is invited to the 2nd annual Genetic Section social and fundraiser at the 2012 AFS meeting in St. Paul/Minneapolis. The event will be from 6-9 pm on Tuesday, August 21 at a bar/restaurant near the convention center and hotels. The cost should be approximately \$35. The only major meeting event that

this overlaps is the Student Social, but our social should be within a 5-10 min walk so students can party hop.

We sent a link to a SurveyMonkey poll on June 12 to gauge interest. Please respond to this poll ASAP if you haven't yet. If you can't track this link or know someone else interested, send an e-mail to LMM@umn.edu.

Genetics Section Hall of Excellence: Status update

The Genetics Section of the American Fisheries Society recently approved by 92% of the voting members an amendment to the section bylaws to establish a Genetics Section Hall of Excellence. Following AFS protocols, the section recommended bylaw change is being forwarded to the AFS Governing Board for approval. If approved by the Governing Board, the Genetics Section Executive Committee is proposing to begin the process of nomination of the Hall of Excellence Committee member-at-large during the normal section election cycle, sometime late fall. Nominations for the Hall of Excellence will be due June 15, 2013, and the first award (s) to up to three inductees will be presented at the AFS annual meeting, in 2013. If you are interested in being nominated to join the committee, please contact Bill Templin. If approved by the AFS Governing Board, Hall of Excellence information and nomination forms will be posted on the Genetics Section website. Thanks for your participation and comments during this process.

Genetics News in *Fisheries*

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I was contacted by Sarah Gilbert Fox, managing editor of *Fisheries*, about the possibility of our section providing a regular submission of news relating to genetics and fisheries. Given the increasing importance and application of genetics to fisheries, they would like to begin highlighting the Genetics Section. **Marissa Jones**, a graduate student at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Washington, has volunteered to coordinate this opportunity to highlight the section and the many people and applications that we represent. Thank you, Marissa.

Meeting Announcement: 2012 Coastwide Salmonid Genetics

The Coastwide Salmonid Genetics Meeting is a biennial forum for presenting advances in genetic techniques as well as empirical genetic research involving salmonids. This conference aims to promote and further improve use of molecular techniques in conservation and restoration of salmonid biodiversity.

The 2012 meeting will be held from July 9th to July 12th at the University of California

Davis. There are several hotels within a reasonable walking distance of Putah Creek Lodge and Buehler Alumni Center. If you prefer to stay outside of Davis there are several public transportation options for commuting to Davis and from the airport.

To register, please e-mail your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and meal preference (meat or vegetarian) to bpnay@ucdavis.edu. For payments, contact Kelly Wade at the UC Davis Department of Animal Science by e-mail (kswade@ucdavis.edu) or phone (530-752-4512) for credit card payment OR write a check payable to "Regents of the University California" and mail to: Kelly Wade, Business Office Supervisor, Department of Animal Science, University of California Davis, 1 Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616

Registration Costs:

- Registration with wine tour \$175 (non-student)
- Registration with no wine tour \$140 (non-student)
- Registration with wine tour \$125 (student)
- Registration with no wine tour \$90 (student)
- Wine tour for SO's (\$35)

Registration fees include a conference program, lunch, and beast roast or veggie evening feast.

For more information, please see the website at http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Coastwide/2012_Coastwide_Salmonid_Genetics_Meeting/Home.html.

Symposium Announcement: Role of Molecular Genetics in Fisheries Management in the Great Lakes Region

In 1980, the Stock Concept International Symposium (STOCS) brought together scientists and managers from the United States, Canada, and Europe to synthesize the state of knowledge about the stock concept and examine its potential role in fisheries management and rehabilitation of fish stocks in the Great Lakes region. Genetic methods were highlighted as having great potential to describe genetic variation and population structure in aquatic species. Since STOCS molecular techniques have advanced significantly and continue to play a role in stock assessment in the Great Lakes region. Researchers across the Great Lakes have contributed collected genetic data for numerous species in all lake basins that have contributed significantly to management and rehabilitation efforts. As issues that may impact past rehabilitation efforts and pose entirely new challenges emerge, this is an excellent time to assess the role of population genetics in stock based management of Great Lakes aquatic ecosystems by reviewing past research, examining the use of molecular techniques to address current and emerging issues and to learn about novel approaches that might be used to address emerging (and continuing) challenges. Therefore, we propose a symposium to review the role of population genetics in stock based management and rehabilitation of Great Lakes aquatic ecosystems and to identify and prioritize future issues in fisheries management and rehabilitation in the region that may be addressed using genetic methods. This symposium will bring together AFS members who work in the Great Lakes region on issues concerning stock based management to share ideas

and learn more about the use of molecular techniques as well as researchers and biologists who work in other regions.

Organizers:

Wendylee Stott, Michigan State Univ/USGS Great Lakes Science Center, (734) 214-7242, wstott@usgs.gov

Kim Scribner, Michigan State University, 517-353-3288, scribne3@msu.edu

Chris Wilson, Ministry of Natural Resources and Trent University, 705-755-2260, chris.wilson@ontario.ca

Brian L. Sloss, USGS WI Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, (715) 346-3522, brian.sloss@uwsp.edu

Symposium Announcement:

Teaming up Atlantic and Pacific Salmonid Biologists to Enhance Recovery of Endangered Salmon in the North

Salmon hold an iconic status along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America. These fish historically provided critical ecosystem services and substantial economic benefits to these regions. Over harvest, fish passage barriers, habitat destruction, in combination with other factors have resulted in extirpation of approximately 30% of Pacific and over 90% of Atlantic salmon populations in the contiguous United States. Many of these remaining native populations of Atlantic salmon, steelhead, and Pacific salmon are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Significant population declines are also occurring on both coasts in southern Canada. This conservation crisis has resulted in extensive research on salmon to inform management decisions associated with recovery of these endangered populations.

There is a large and productive research effort in North America focused on conservation of endangered salmonid populations. Numerous partnerships are in place to facilitate collaborations among researchers within the Pacific and Atlantic salmon research communities. In contrast, opportunities for sharing information between these two communities are less structured and usually occur on a small scale.

We are organizing a symposium to bring together pairs of Pacific and Atlantic salmonid biologists to identify areas where collaboration between these research communities would be beneficial. Each member of the pair will give an oral presentation synthesizing major findings for a management or research topic from a Pacific or Atlantic salmon viewpoint. After the symposium is completed, each pair will co-author a manuscript to distill research from both viewpoints in an effort to identify new perspectives or techniques to enhance recovery of endangered salmon populations. Potential topics include: hatcheries, pelagic ecology, smoltification, fish passage, estuarine environments, ESA listing and recovery, dam removal, landlocked forms, reintroductions, genetics, freshwater ecology, life history variation, population dynamics, fisheries, contaminants, climate change, and aquaculture.

Organizers:

William R. Ardren, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 802-872-0629, william_ardren@fws.gov

John F. Kocik, National Marine Fisheries Service, 207-866-7341, john.kocik@noaa.gov

Call for a New AFS-GS Newsletter Editor

Hello,

Beginning professionals have a vital role to play in our section, and their absence diminishes our collective creativity, vitality and adaptability. My first experience with AFS Genetics was when, while a graduate student, I volunteered as the newsletter editor. I knew almost no one in the section (or at least, I could not associate faces with the papers I had read). Now the time has come for me to pass this on to someone else. I welcome any and all volunteers, but I specifically call on those knowledgeable in a broader range of communications. While we need someone to do a newsletter (for oldsters like I have become), I hope that a graduate student might take on the post and expand our efforts. Social media, texting and our own AFSGS smartphone app could be in the future of the section...but only if you add a (very small) amount of time and (a larger amount of) willingness to learn.

If you are interested in doing this small service, please contact myself (jcarlin@gustavus.edu) or **Bill Templin** (bill.templin@alaska.gov). I will be happy to help the new person with the next newsletter(s) if they wish.

Meanwhile, the deadline for the August 2012 issue is on or before **July 25**. Send your notices, announcements and the like to Bill Templin (bill.templin@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

Joel Carlin

AFS Genetics Section Newsletter Editor (pro tempore)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June

6/18-22 — **MCEB 2012**, the meeting for Mathematical and Computational Evolutionary Biology. Hameau de L'Etoile, France. See <http://www.lirmm.fr/mceb2012/index.php>.

6/20 — Early registration deadline for the 17th Summer Institute in **Statistical Genetics**. To be held 9-25 July at the University of Washington, Seattle WA. See <http://www.biostat.washington.edu/suminst/sisg/general>.

6/23-26 — **SMBE 2012**, the Annual Meeting of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution. Convention Centre Dublin, Dublin Ireland. See <http://www.smb2012.org/>.

July

- 7/6 – Application deadline for the 2012 Genetics Section **Graduate Award in Memory of James E. Wright**. See this issue for more details.
- 7/6-10 – Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology (aka '**Evolution 2012**'), includes the *American Society of Naturalists* (ASN), the *Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution* (CSEE) the *European Society for Evolutionary Biology* (ESEB), the *Society for the Study of Evolution* (SSE), and the *Society of Systematic Biologists* (SSB). Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa ON Canada. See <http://www.confersense.ca/Evolution2012/index.htm>.
- 7/8-13 – 2012 ASLO Aquatic Sciences meeting. Lake Biwa, Otsu, Shiga Japan. See <http://aslo.org/meetings/japan2012/>.
- 7/9-12 – **Coastwide Salmonids Genetics 2012** at UC Davis Buehler Alumni Center, Davis CA. See http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Coastwide/2012_Coastwide_Salmonid_Genetics_Meeting/Home.html.
- 7/9-25 – 17th Summer Institute in **Statistical Genetics**, University of Washington, Seattle WA. Early registration deadline is 20 June. See <http://www.biostat.washington.edu/suminst/sisg/general>.
- 7/15-18 – **North American Congress for Conservation**, sponsored by the Society for Conservation Biology. Oakland CA. See <http://www.scbnacongress.org/>.
- 7/20 – Application deadline for short course on **Multivariate data analysis for Ecology and Evolution**. Offered 5-9 November at Campus Agrario de Vairao, Vila do Conde, Portugal. See http://webpages.icav.up.pt/AK/WEBPAGE/multivarEE_inR.html.

August

- 8/12-14 – **Ichs and Herps 2012**, the joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Elasmobranch Society, and the World Congress of Herpetology. Vancouver BC Canada. See <http://wch2012vancouver.com/index.php>.
- 8/19-23 – **American Fisheries Society annual meeting** at Minneapolis MN. AFS Genetics Section is sponsoring (entirely or in part) symposia on **Role of Molecular Genetics in Fisheries Management in the Great Lakes Region** and **Teaming up Atlantic and Pacific Salmonid Biologists to Enhance Recovery of Endangered Salmon in the North**. See: <http://www.afs2012.org/>.

September-November

- 10/2-3 – Nobel Conference 48: **Our Global Ocean**. Top researchers discuss biological, chemical and physical oceanography, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter MN. Simulcast on <https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/>

2012/.

- 10/15 — Fall application deadline for **Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research** undergraduate and graduate research grant program. See www.sigmaksi.org/programs/giar/index.shtml.
- 11/9 — Full proposal deadline for **NSF DDIG**, the Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in the Directorate for Biological Sciences, National Science Foundation. See www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5234&org=NSF.
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