



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION

American Fisheries Society

June 2014

President's Message

Brian Graeb

Greetings!

We have several updates and announcements to report. First of all, Mark Porath (President-Elect), and Quinton Phelps (Secretary/Treasurer) have been hard at work on our two ad hoc committees. They have made great progress on their charges and have developed several great ideas (see below). They have merged their activities and developed a plan that integrates both the Hall of Excellence and Young Professionals. The Section is also getting ready to elect new officers, regional representatives, and we are soliciting

nominations for our many awards. We have a lot to accomplish prior to our annual business meeting in Quebec City. We plan to present several ideas to the membership and gain some guidance on future direction.

Finally, the Fisheries Management Section lost a great friend and supporter in January 2014 when Dave Willis passed away. Dave was an active member of FMS, and served as president from 2005-2006. Dave recruited me (and several others) to FMS. He will be greatly missed.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions, comments, or input. I can be reached at Brian.Graeb@sdstate.edu.

Thanks!

Brian



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Increasing Student and Young Professional Involvement

As you may recall, we put together an article in the last Fisheries Management Section (FMS) newsletter dealing with getting students and young professionals involved in AFS. We had some very good discussions as it relates to

this topic. First off, the FMS Annual Meeting was a huge success last year at Little Rock. Both subcommittees (Hall of Excellence and Young Professionals Activities) reported on our activities. We provided our list of potential ideas to

increase awareness and involvement of young professionals in the FMS. **Refer to pages 13-15 of this newsletter for an update on what we've found!**



“Please take time to nominate a mentor or colleague.”

FMS Award Nominations

Hello AFS Fisheries Management Section (FMS) Members.

Each year the FMS accepts nominations for the Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, Conservation Achievement Award, and induction into the Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence. There is a description of each award on the FMS web site <http://www.sdafs.org/fmsafs/awards/> including past recipients and nomination criteria.



FMS President-elect Mark Porath receiving an award from former FMS president Dave Willis

Please take the time to nominate a mentor or colleague who has made significant contributions in fisheries management.

Most of you know someone who is deserving of one of these awards. Please consider submitting a nomination by June 20, 2014 in the form of a detailed letter describing the nominee’s qualifications for the specific award. Electronic versions of nominations are requested to facilitate Awards Committee review. I look forward to your nominations. Please feel free to contact Mark Porath if you need more information.

Thanks,

Mark Porath, FMS President-elect
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“Email Mark Porath to cast your votes for officer positions!”

Officer Voting

It's time to vote for new officers for the American Fisheries Society Fisheries Management Section. Officer biographies are on the following pages of this newsletter.

Email polling will take place until **June 20, 2014**. Please take the time to cast your vote by emailing Mark Porath at **Mark.Porath@nebraska.gov**. Please list your selected candidates for each officer position from the list below OR a write-in candidate of your choice.

President-Elect

- ✓ **Lawrence Dorsey (page 4)**
- ✓ **Randy Shultz (page 5)**
- ✓ Write in

Secretary/Treasurer

- ✓ **Quinton Phelps (page 7)**
- ✓ Write in

Northeastern Division Regional Representative

- ✓ **Eileen O'Donnell (page 8)**
- ✓ Write in

North Central Division Regional Representative

- ✓ **Jeff Koch (page 9)**
- ✓ Write in

Southern Division Regional Representative

- ✓ **Jason Olive (page 10)**
- ✓ Write in

Western Division Regional Representative

- ✓ **Mike Colvin (page 10)**
- ✓ Write in



Officer Candidates

President Elect Nominees

Lawrence Dorsey

I am a District Fisheries Biologist with the North Carolina Resources Commission. My responsibilities include fisheries management activities for several reservoirs along the Yadkin-Pee Dee River and Catawba River systems in North Carolina. My recent work has focused on population characteristics of Blue Catfish in Piedmont reservoirs. I have also focused on outreach efforts to anglers including development of videos detailing



sampling methods and habitat enhancement as well as maintaining our agency's online fish attractor database that is available for public use.

I received my B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from North Carolina State University in 1995 and my M.S. in Biology from Tennessee Tech University in 1997. While at Tennessee Tech, I served as President of the TTU Student Fisheries Association (1996).

Since beginning my professional career in 1997 with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, I have been actively involved with AFS at the Chapter, Division, and Parent Society levels. I served as the President of the North Carolina Chapter of AFS from 2006-2007. I also served as Chair of the NCAFS Education Committee from 2001-2005. At the Division Level, I have served as the North Carolina representative to the SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee since 2003 and I served on the Fundraising Committee for the 2007 Reservoir Symposium. I also served as the General Chair for the 2010 Southern Division AFS Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. Since 2010, I have served as the Southern Division AFS Representative to the Fisheries Management Section. **...CONTINUED**



Officer Candidates

President Elect Nominees Continued...

Lawrence Dorsey– Continued

...I have been an AFS Certified Fisheries Professional since 2003. I believe that the mission of the Fisheries Management Section should be to facilitate information transfer between fisheries managers across the broad spectrum of the American Fisheries Society. This has traditionally been accomplished through periodic newsletters and by providing financial support for publications and symposiums. While these avenues are still worthwhile, shrinking agency travel budgets and the expansion of electronic media have guided other AFS units to use social media as a vehicle for information transfer. I would like for the Fisheries Management Section to gain a presence on social media as a way to connect section members and as a more real-time means of collaboration and information sharing. A social media presence will also allow information to be shared with anglers and the public in general who are often unable to gain this type of information otherwise.

A recent focus of the Fisheries Management Section has been the development of young professionals who are in the transition phase between their academic career and their professional career. The Ad Hoc Young Professionals Committee is working to develop ways to support the development of new fisheries managers during this transition phase. I support this effort and want to ensure that this effort is carried through to implementation so that we can begin to develop the professionals who are ultimately the succeeding generations of fisheries managers as well as the future leaders that are needed in the American Fisheries Society.

I am honored to be considered for this position and I appreciate the opportunity to continue my service to the American Fisheries Society.

Randy Schultz

I am very excited to run for President-elect of the Fisheries Management Section. This Section has been an integral part of my professional career. I have benefitted immensely from membership in the FMS through its dissemination of fisheries management and applied research information, plus the opportunity for professional growth associated with meetings, workshops, symposia, and publications.

I have been a member of FMS since 1995, was a former North Central Division Representative for the Section, and served on its Nominating Committee. Additionally, I received the Section's 2010 Award of Excellence, which is one of the most humbling and proud accomplishments in my career. My early involvement in the FMS as a regional representative plus the mentoring of FMS members fostered my service to the American Fisheries Society. I have been an AFS member since 1988, and I have enjoyed an active role in AFS participation and leadership, including NCD President, Chapter President, and Centrarchid Technical Committee Chair...**CONTINUED**



Officer Candidates

President Elect Nominees Continued...

Randy Schultz– Continued

I have also served as Division Secretary/treasurer, Chapter Newsletter Editor, and Finance Chair for the Second International Catfish Symposium. I provided leadership as Program Chair for the 2002 Midwest Fisheries Conference, for which I received the NCD's Award of Merit and the AFS Distinguished Service Award, and was Program Chair for the 72nd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. I have always been an active supporter of our students while serving on Student Scholarship and Continuing Education Committees.



After graduating from St. Cloud State University (Minnesota) and Tennessee Tech., I began my career as a district/urban fisheries biologist with Kansas Wildlife & Parks, eventually moving into reservoir research. Beginning in 2003 I led the reservoir research program for the Iowa DNR. I recently moved back into management, currently serving as the Southeast Regional Fisheries Supervisor for the IDNR.

My vision for the Fisheries Management Section is continued promotion of sound fisheries management practices, including new management concepts and techniques, supporting professional growth of our members by maintaining the Section's excellent communication opportunities provided by workshops, symposia, and publications, and supporting and increasing student and young professional involvement, especially as it relates to the Young Professional Committee's efforts.

I appreciate your consideration in allowing me the opportunity to serve the members of FMS in this leadership role.

Officer Candidates



Secretary/Treasurer

Quinton Phelps

My affinity for natural resources became apparent early in life with family outings of fishing (particularly emphasized), hunting, and just simply being outside doing family related activities. From that point forward, I decided that a career in fisheries was what I wanted to do with my life.

As such, I began working in fisheries with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism in 1998 while completing an Associates of Science Degree at Coffeyville Community College. In 2001, I at-

tended South Dakota State University to complete my bachelor's of science degree in wildlife and fisheries science and obtain valuable fishery experience and education with new people. After completing my undergraduate work, I continued my education by also completing a master's of science in Wildlife and fisheries Sciences at SDSU. Because of the passion and enthusiasm I have for teaching and research, I continued on to gain more experience and education at Southern Illinois University where I completed my Ph.D.

Since completing my formal education, I acquired a fisheries research position with the Missouri Department of Conservation and faculty position with Southeast Missouri State University. The focal point of my research uses both basic and applied techniques to answer important management questions. Specifically I concentrate my efforts in fisheries management and ecology with primary interests in stream ecology, biostatistics, invasive species, endangered species, pond management, population dynamics, animal movement patterns, life history attributes, trophic ecology, and stable isotope technology. Ultimately, my research merges ecological theory across disciplines (e.g., ecology, biometry, and fisheries) to thoroughly understand ecosystem dynamics on broad spatiotemporal scales.

With all of the cool research that I have been involved with, I possess more than 40 peer reviewed publications in text books and refereed ecological/fisheries journals, grant experience/assistance (from several state fish and wildlife agencies, the Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United States Geological Survey), mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, presenting at national and international conferences, and possess real-world knowledge from my time working with several state/federal agencies and academic institutions.

I would love the opportunity to continue to be involved with the fisheries management section. Over the course of my fisheries career, I have been intimately involved with the...**CONTINUED**





Officer Candidates

Secretary/Treasurer Nominee

Quinton Phelps — CONTINUED

...American Fisheries Society and have provided service to AFS, including, student subunit vice-president, student subunit president, fisheries management section newsletter editor, Illinois AFS newsletter editor, AFS book editor, early-life history section co-representative, governing board mentee, the North Central Division student chair, and my new role as faculty advisor to the student subunit. I am also a reviewer for both North American Journal of Fisheries Management and Transactions of the American Fisheries Society.

To this end, I hope that the Fisheries Management Section will continue to allow me to stay in my role as the secretary/treasurer of the section and continue to move the joint venture of the young professionals and hall of excellence forward. I believe that I have a diverse background in fisheries management/ecology, have provided much service to AFS, and possess unique professional experiences that would strengthen and provide further exposure of FMS.



District Rep Candidates

Northeast District

Eileen O'Donnell

Originally from New York, I received a B.S. in Biology from SUNY at Oswego and a M.S. in Environmental and Forest Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science. I was hired by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in 1987 to conduct a statewide electrofishing survey of Connecticut lakes and ponds. This research culminated in the publication of "A Fisheries Guide to Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut: Including the Connecticut River and Its Coves" on which I am a co-author with Robert Jacobs. Subsequently we published "A Pictorial Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Connecticut"...**CONTINUED**



District Rep Candidates



Eileen O'Donnell – CONTINUED

...Although I am the Project Leader for Connecticut's Warmwater Management Program, my research focus has been on black bass biology and management. Most recently and in collaboration with a PhD student at the University of Connecticut, I have been looking at the management potential of aggressive, unexploited Largemouth Bass from drinking water supply reservoirs.

I have been an active member of AFS since 1983 and if approved I look forward to representing the Fish Management Section for the NE Division of AFS.

Northcentral District

Jeff Koch

I received a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2003 and a MS in Fisheries Biology from Iowa State University in 2008. I held several fisheries technician and biologist positions for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission from 2003-2006. Since 2009, I have worked as a district fisheries biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. My current duties include management of small and large reservoirs in south-central Kansas. My main interests include general fisheries management, refinement of age and growth techniques, evaluation of fish sampling procedures, and predator-prey interactions.

I have served as the President of the Kansas Chapter of AFS, a Science Editor for *Fisheries*, a representative on the NCD Awards Committee, and as a member of the Steering Committee for the 73rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. I have been a member of the AFS parent society since 2006 and a member of the Fisheries Management Section since 2009. Additionally, I have been a member of the Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas Chapters of AFS.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a representative for the Fisheries Management Section, as I feel strongly about the objectives of the FMS including the encouragement of publication, refinement of techniques, and the promotion of professionalism





District Rep Candidates

Southern District

Jason Olive

I am a District Fisheries Supervisor for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. I am a native of Florence, Alabama, and attended college at Mississippi State University. I received a B.S. degree in Fisheries Management from MSU in 2002 and a M.S. degree in Fisheries Management from MSU in 2004.

I have been employed by AGFC for six years. I previously worked for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for 4 years as the Northeast Mississippi Fisheries Bureau Project Manager in Tupelo. My primary emphases in both states has been managing sport fish populations in reservoirs and sampling catfish populations in large rivers. I have served as Chair and Secretary/Treasurer for the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, President of the Mississippi Chapter of the AFS, and Treasurer of the Arkansas Chapter of AFS. I am a Certified Fisheries Professional and was presented with the Fisheries Conservationist of the Year Award by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation in 2010. I reside in El Dorado, AR with my wife, Magen, and two children. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, eating, black bass fishing, and the occasional trip to the coast to fish for Redfish and Tarpon.



Western District

Mike Colvin

Mike has been involved with fisheries issues in the Western US for over a decade and is a postdoctoral scholar at Oregon State University where his research focuses on development of decision support tools for evaluating fisheries management and restoration actions. He is currently involved with projects evaluating alternative spring Chinook Salmon translocation strategies and modeling support for Pallid Sturgeon recovery efforts...**CONTINUED**





District Rep Candidates

Western District

Mike Colvin—CONTINUED

...Mike has served in AFS at all levels, as president of the Palouse Student Subunit, webmaster of the Oregon and Iowa Chapters, president of the Student Subsection, and on the Education section's new initiatives committee. He received a PhD majoring in fisheries resources from Iowa State University where his research focused on developing a lake ecosystem model to evaluate alternative management strategies on water quality and fishery yield. He received a master's degree from the University of Idaho, and a bachelor's degree from Unity College, Maine. More information about current and past projects and experiences can be found at <http://people.oregonstate.edu/~colvinmi>.



Fishy News

Methodology to Assess the Vulnerability of Fish Stocks to Climate Change —

NOAA Fisheries, in collaboration with the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (<http://research.noaa.gov/News.aspx>), is finalizing the first methodology of its kind to rapidly assess the vulnerability of U.S. marine fish stocks to changing climate and ocean conditions.

This methodology, which uses information on climate and ocean conditions, species distributions, and life history characteristics, will help fisheries managers and scientists identify which species are most vulnerable or adaptable to climate change impacts. The methodology is designed to be the first step in providing fishery managers, scientists, and others with information they can use as they consider how to adapt management strategies for those fish stocks.

NOAA Fisheries used the methodology in March 2014 to assess 79 fish stocks in the Northeast Region. These efforts fulfill NOAA commitments under the President's Climate Action Plan, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan and the National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Information on this methodology is available at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/activities/assessing-vulnerability-of-fish-stocks>

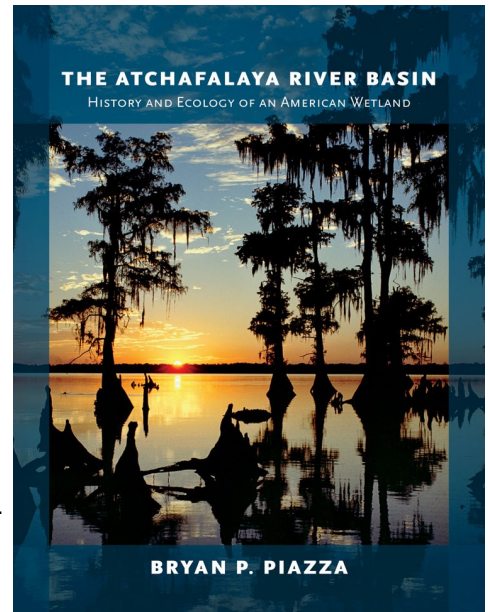


Fishy News

Nature Conservancy Scientist Evaluates State of Atchafalaya River Basin

In this comprehensive, one-volume reference, Nature Conservancy scientist Bryan P. Piazza poses five key questions: What is the Atchafalaya River Basin? Why is it important? How have its hydrology and natural habitats been managed? What is its current state? How do we ensure its survival?

For more than five centuries, the Atchafalaya River Basin has captured the flow of the Mississippi River, becoming its main distributary as it reaches the Gulf of Mexico in south Louisiana. This dynamic environment, comprising almost a million acres of the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley and Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, is perhaps best known for its expansive swamp environments dominated by bald cypress, water tupelo, and alligators. But the Atchafalaya River Basin contains a wide range of habitats and one of the highest levels of biodiversity on the North American continent. Piazza has compiled and synthesized the body of scientific knowledge for the Atchafalaya River Basin, documenting the ecological state of the basin and providing a baseline of understanding. His research provides a crucial resource for future planning. He evaluates some common themes that have emerged from the research and identifies important scientific questions that remain unexplored.



Piazza is director of freshwater and marine science at The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana, based in Baton Rouge, where he leads the applied science program in support of conservation projects across the Gulf states. He also serves as a consultant, providing technical and scientific advice on a range of environmental damage, restoration, and compliance issues.



UPDATE—Increasing Student and Young Professional Involvement

FMS member suggestions at the Little Rock meeting, from email traffic, and phone conversations include:

1. Reduce FMS membership costs to young professionals (already free to students).
2. Develop an exchange program with the IFM. Students and young professionals would benefit greatly from this program.
3. Direct our efforts towards state and regional meetings to bolster involvement.
4. Entice students to be more involved in FMS by connecting with the student subsection. Might be beneficial to provide a presentation to student subsection in Quebec.
5. Develop a mentor program that is state, provincial and federally supported.
6. Society level membership dues should also be reduced for young professionals.
7. Increase online communication (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)
8. Create projects where young professionals across the Society can work together.

However, after some more discussion there are some major bottlenecks facing young professionals. These include but are not limited to-

1. First professional position:
 - In some instances, the first job that a young professional (YP) acquires may be of temporary/term employment. Without job stability, a YP may be hesitant to get involved in AFS, particularly if the YP is anticipating bouncing around to different jobs/states/regions. Furthermore, supervisors are less likely or willing to support participation by temporary/term employees.
2. Lapse in time:
 - Relating to #1, when a permanent position is finally attained, a YP may not be classified as a “young professional” anymore or there may be a feeling of being “out of the loop” after lapsing their membership during the temporary/term employment period.
3. Low-man on the totem pole:
 - Employer may only support involvement from a select few individuals from the agency.
 - Entry level position (technician, field biologist) may not feel that they have enough time for involvement in AFS (more sampling obligations and less office time).
 - Intimidated to ask fisheries administrator to get involved or simply intimidated to get involved in AFS with more “seasoned” veterans.
4. Travel restrictions:
 - May limit participation in attendance of meetings/conferences.
 - Perceived thought that travel restrictions has to limit participation...**CONTINUED.**



UPDATE—Increasing Student and Young Professional Involvement

...CONTINUED

5. Money:
 - Personal costs such as dues and subscriptions.
 - Agency cost for allowing YP to get involved.
6. “Recharge Period”:
 - After students graduate and attain their first professional position, they may want a break from the rigors of school.
7. Unaware of the benefits:
 - YP’s may not realize the benefits outside of just being a “resume builder”. What can involvement do for the YP after that professional position is attained?
8. Unaware of the various sections/committees/sub-committees:
 - If a YP doesn’t go looking for them, how do they know they exist?
9. Intimidation
 - A big part of the lack of involvement with YP is simply intimidation. In graduate school, you are surrounded by individuals that have similar levels of expertise and are of similar age (typically). However, when you graduate and get a professional job, you find yourself mixed in with a bunch of professionals that have many years of experience. A YP may feel that they do not have anything significant to bring to the table.
10. Work Load:
 - The workload during the first few years of a YP’s professional position may feel daunting. Besides the required job duties they are hired for, there are extra or new tasks such as learning how to supervise technicians, learning new areas of the state or becoming familiar with new aquatic systems.
11. Competition for time:
 - The first few years post-graduate school is often a time that corresponds to getting married, starting a family, or being involved with family activities.

So, as you can see, all of the information above generated good discussion and the membership agreed that this was a great idea! The Hall Of Excellence (HOE) Subcommittee determined that the HOE display could be improved with interviews (both audio and visual) of inductees. From the discussion generated during both subcommittee reports, the membership suggested that these two subcommittees should work together. The goal of the joint subcommittees would be provide students and young professionals the project of interviewing previous inductees. This really makes sense! Two-fold benefit, this will likely increase awareness and involvement of students and young professionals about the section while interviewing our past HOE inductees...**CONTINUED**



UPDATE—Increasing Student and Young Professional Involvement

...CONTINUED

So what are the next steps to make these two subcommittees work in unison to accomplish this newly established joint goal? We will need between 10 and 15 questions that would be asked of Hall of Excellence inductees about their career in fisheries, as well as insight about their close colleagues and their contributions. We plan on using a Go Pro camera to perform the interviews and edit using adobe software. Here are a few sample questions:

- How did you become involved in the American Fisheries Society?
- Why did you decide to be part of the Fisheries Management Section of AFS?
- What do you believe is/was your biggest contribution to fisheries?
- Who were your mentors as a young grad student or biologist? (or sub “early in your career” when applicable)
- Did you ever consider other careers and why?
- What does being inducted into the HOE mean to you?
- What “words of wisdom” would you share with students and young biologists?
- How did being involved with AFS help your career?
- How do you think AFS can help prepare our profession for the challenges ahead?
- How has AFS changed over their career and/or where the future of AFS is heading?

As you can see, the FMS has been working towards answering some of the questions surrounding student and young professional involvement. Stay tuned to find out what results from the interview process. Don't be surprised if you are called upon to contribute your wisdom and experience to this endeavor in the future!



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION
American Fisheries Society

<http://www.sdafs.org/fmsafs/>

President– Brian D.S. Graeb
South Dakota State University

President Elect– Mark Porath
Nebraska Game and Parks

The Section is composed of people who wish to develop, apply, and evaluate effective management concepts or techniques as well as programs in education and information to solve fisheries management challenges. The Section promotes the exchange of fisheries management information and the results of applied research among professionals, students, user groups, resource management agencies, and the general public who share interest in fish and the habitats supporting them. The Section sponsors workshops, symposia, topical sessions at professional meetings, and special projects to examine fishery management challenges. Section membership provides a credible voice for a wide range of fisheries management issues. The Section continues active involvement with legislative initiatives as well as governmental and private-sector activities



FMS President Brian “Babyface” Graeb with former FMS president Dave Willis