

## FAS-FMS Joint Meeting – Spokane, Washington – August 21, 2022 2:30 PM

April Croxton in for Leanne Roulson to give AFS President's Report.

- 22 students plus AFS staff and Leanne attended Hutton Summit held at Montana State University Campus in Bozeman. They hope to continue in future years.
- A handful of Indigenous and HBCU activities at the Spokane meeting. Symposia on August 22 at 8 am in room 206/207. Many of these participants have a special badge to identify themselves.
- Leanne will be continuing Procedures Manual work. A special committee will be formed to work on that and Leanne will roll in to that as Past-President.

April's Plan as President

- Work on improving society communication from top to bottom and bottom to top.
- Ensuring that DEI efforts within the society are sustainable.
- Preparing for Doug Austen's retirement.
- Preparing for future meetings.

Doug Austen's updates

- Latin American Caribbean Fisheries Conference – May 2023 in Cancun, Mexico
  - Never before organized
  - Hoping to form new AFS entity within that region
- World Fisheries Congress – August 2024 in Seattle, Washington
  - First time being held in North America
  - Advance planning for visa process
  - 70 nations participating in the meeting
- Future AFS meetings
  - Grand Rapids -2023
  - Honolulu – 2024
  - San Antonio – 2025
- Multi-state Conservation Grants
  - Known Age Fish database is the only current one AFS is involved in
  - Would love more involvement/proposals
  - More money out there, need more project proposals
- Publications
  - Meetings to steer direction and ensure journals are meetings needs
  - Nominations for participation in steering committee
    - Want all groups/voices covered
- Convey to Agency heads the importance of AFS
  - AFS wants more participation from state and federal agency staff
  - Doug is willing to talk to agency heads and commissions if needed
- Grey Literature Database
  - A searchable database of unpublished agency reports
  - Check it out: <https://graylitreports.fisheries.org/about/>
  - Submit your agency's grey literature
- E-books Program
  - Agencies can buy a subscription for all employees

Drue Winter's Policy Update

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
  - Excited about prospects
  - Passed House, Bill in senate, out of hearing/markup

- Working on pay for
- Not a done/sure thing, need more engagement (call your senators)
- Hoping first up after August recess
- If doesn't pass before elections, start from scratch due to new congress
- WOTUS
  - Filed grief, worried and tracking, looking for room for engagement
- Comment letter on Pebble Mine
- Policy and Communications program growing
  - Adelman/Bickford fund to bankroll program
    - Currently at \$130K, hoping to fundraise up to \$250K
  - Climate Fellows and Climate Ambassadors Program
    - Funded by NOAA and MSCG
    - One class of each has come through training
    - Next round of ambassadors starting soon with fellows following next year

#### Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update

- Once in a lifetime type of funding
- Involves 60 programs and \$2.5 billion
- Money already hitting – USFWS and NOAA funds
- Discussions on implementation – meeting at AFS August 23 at 1:20 PM

#### National Fish Habitat Partnership

- Filled all seats on board
- Action plan revised soon (hasn't been since 2013)
- Moving toward implementation
- Working on reporting requirements and determining what to look for in 2025 national habitat assessment

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

- Assistant Director recently retired
- Communications staff is celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Fish Hatchery system
  - Check out “America's Bountiful Waters”
- NFH – wild fish health survey and aquatic animal health plan have been revamped
- AIS – EDRR framework creation
- Received money to strengthen Lacey Act
- Aquatic Animal Drug

#### AFS Creel Committee

#### Joint Awards

- FAS SFR Project Awards
  - Sport Fishery Development and Management Category
    - New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation – Evaluation of Steelhead Stocking Size and Location on Emigration and Adult Returns in Chautauqua Creek, NY.
  - Fisheries Research and Surveys Category
    - North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission – Exotic Invasive Trout Pathogens in North Carolina
  - R3/Aquatic Education
    - Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation – Operation Retention
- FMS

- Hall of Excellence
  - Rob Neumann
  - Dan Isermann
- Conservation Achievement Award
  - Nez Perce Tribe
- Award of Excellence
  - Scott Bonar