

Outstanding Chapter Award Application

To be given to the chapter that exhibits a commitment to the mission of the American Fisheries Society by actively working to achieve the following goals set forth in the Parent Society's Strategic Plan. Additional information from the Strategic Plan is provided on the AFS web site.

1. BACKGROUND & CHAPTER STRUCTURE

- 1a. Chapter Name: Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
- 1b. AFS Division: North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society
- 1c. Chapter President: Geoffrey Steinhart (gsteinhart@lssu.edu)
- 1d. Address: Lake Superior State Univ., 650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
- 1e. Structure of Chapter:

Officers:

President – Geoff Steinhart (LSSU)
Past-President – Mark Tonello (MDNR)
President-Elect – Dave Clapp (MDNR)
Treasurer – Dan Traynor (MDNR)

Committee Structure:

Standing:

Auditing – John Bauman (MSU)
Awards – Bob Stuber (USFS)
Centrarchid – Heather Dawson (EMU)
Communications – Liz Hay-Chmielewski (MDNR)
Continuing Education – Becky Papke (MDNR)
Fenske Award – Jessica Mistak (MDNR)
Membership – Ralph Tingley (MSU)
Program – Geoff Steinhart (LSSU)
Resolutions – Jay Wesley (MDNR)
Rivers and Streams – Chris Eilers (LRBOI)
Student Concerns – Jared Ross (MSU)
Water Quality – Doug Bradley (LimnoTech)

Ad hoc:

Raffle – Joey Oberski

Membership Report (*note that membership gain is unusually large because LSSU Student Subunit members were mistakenly not included in previous membership totals)

Membership Type	Total Number	% increase (or decrease) from previous year
Total Membership	374	+25%*
New Members	110	+229%*
Lost Members	42	-28%
Student Members	156	+85%
Parent Society Members	288	+10%

Please describe your Chapter or Student Subunit activities related to the objectives under each AFS 2020 Goal. When necessary, provide examples (e.g., paper copy or web address) of each completed activity. Refer to the AFS Strategic Plan for more details on the individual strategies set by the Society to meet the objectives within the Goal Areas and the activities that address each objective. Portions of the plan are included below to serve as examples of objectives for each Goal Area

AFS Mission Statement

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to advance sound science, promote professional development, and disseminate science-based fisheries information for the global protection, conservation, and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems.

AFS 2020 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

AFS will be a global leader providing information and technical resources for the sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources.

Objective 1.1. Promote fisheries conservation throughout North America and the world, at all levels of government and society, and among all levels of AFS by supporting sound science and networking opportunities (see also Objective 3.4)

The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MIAFS) held their annual meeting (6-7 April, Petoskey, Michigan) as a joint meeting with the Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society (MITWS) and the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative (MIBCI). The joint meeting was planned to increase communication across disciplines and to “kick-start” the state TWS chapter.

- Over 150 paid registrants (at least 120 were there primarily for the MIAFS meeting)
- MIAFS, MITWS, and MIBCI held a joint plenary session on climate change
- 26 Oral presentations and 12 poster presentations for the MIAFS portion of the meeting
- Held joint socials, lunches and dinners provided on-site
- The LSSU Student Subunit hosted a panel discussion on finding, applying, and preparing for a job or graduate school
- Hosted other activities described in other sections

Many members of MIAFS are actively involved in different levels of AFS

- Heather Dawson serves as our Centrarchid Technical Committee Representative to the NCD
- Esocid Technical Committee - Patrick Hanchin serves as our representative; Chris Eilers spoke at with the committee at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference; James Diana served as past chair
- Becky Papke serves as the NCD Continuing Education Committee Chair and

organized a suite of workshops for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in addition to soliciting feedback from the membership on various CE topics

- Jessica Mistak served on the NCD Nominating Committee Chair
- Kregg Smith served on the NCD Rivers and Streams Committee
- Randy Claramunt volunteered to become the Chair of the Salmonid Technical Committee and is working to revive this committee
- Patrick Hanchin served on the NCD Walleye Technical Committee
- Gary Whelan serves as the MIAFS-NCD Representative

Objective 1.2. Increase science-based fisheries conservation by increasing interactions with AFS members and government policy makers.

Jay Wesley, MIAFS Resolution Committee, created two resolutions that were discussed, modified, and approved by the MIAFS membership. These resolutions were regarding the ecological separation of the Chicago Waterway System and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Both resolutions were approved and sent to the NCD and AFS.

Objective 1.3. Promote fisheries conservation through development and dissemination of public outreach materials. (See also Objective 3.4)

The LSSU Student Subunit and MIAFS member Ashley Moerke designed a Salmon in the Classroom program that was presented in multiple venues (Whitefish Township Schools, Transitions, Mind Trekkers). All together, more than 1,500 students had the opportunity to see the program.

The LSSU Student Subunit and MIAFS hosted a screening of the film “Lake Invaders: The Battle for Lake Huron” at the annual MIAFS meeting. Members of the local Trout Unlimited Chapter were invited to the screening (and social) and encouraged to help advertise the event.

MIAFS Chapter President, Geoff Steinhart, participated in a screening and panel discussion of the film “The End of the Line” in Gaylord, Michigan. The screening was possible because of the LSSU Student Subunit.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

AFS will facilitate life-long learning through world-class educational resources at all academic levels and provide training for practicing professionals in all branches of fisheries and aquatic sciences.

Objective 2.1. Encourage educational institutions at all levels to maintain excellent academic programs in fisheries science.

The MIAFS Student Concerns Committee held a special student gathering at the MIAFS annual meeting. The gathering was especially important this year because of

the desire to increase student collaboration among universities and colleges because of a new Fisheries and Wildlife degree program (at Northern Michigan University) and plans to for a new student subunit (at Michigan State University). Students met and discussed ways to increase activity among student groups.

The LSSU Student Subunit hosted a panel discussion on finding, applying, and preparing for a job or graduate school. Over 30 students attended the discussion.

The Lake Superior State University Student Subunit continued their high level of professional activity and was recognized for their efforts with the NCD 2010 Most Active Student Subunit and the AFS 2010 Best Student Subunit awards.

Objective 2.2. Ensure that the fisheries professional certification program reflects the integration of many sciences relevant to fisheries while ensuring its recognition as a mark of scientific excellence and expertise.

In 2010, Michigan had 19 Certified Fisheries Professionals (seven Emeritus, eight Certified, and four Associate). In addition, MIAFS member Becky Papke has been actively assessing the MIAFS membership's interest in professional certification and the values of certification.

Objective 2.3. Provide a wide array of continuing education opportunities using innovative methods to reach the widest possible audience of fisheries professionals.

MIAFS members Geoff Steinhart and Ashley Moerke taught an advanced Excel workshop, with John Roesse (TWS), at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

MIAFS organized a fish disease workshop, taught by Mohamed Faisal, which filled up so quickly that a second workshop is planned for 2011.

Dan Traynor, MIAFS Secretary/Treasurer, led a workshop on identifying partially digested fish remains using cleithra. The participants, including nine undergraduates and six professionals, were all given a copy of Traynor's cleithra identification guide.

The LSSU Student Subunit hosted a panel discussion on finding, applying, and preparing for a job or graduate school. Prior to the discussion, the MIAFS membership was polled for the content and format of the discussion. Panel members included federal and state agency representatives, academic faculty, recent graduate, and tribal biologists. Over 30 people attended the discussion.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

AFS will serve its members and fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic science constituencies to fulfill the mission of the Society.

Objective 3.1. Determine and respond to the needs and opinions of AFS members.

MIAFS solicited input on the location of the 2011 chapter meeting. Student feedback was requested to guide the structure and content of the panel discussion on finding jobs and graduate positions. Member feedback was solicited through the MIAFS Listserv and via online polls.

Objective 3.2. Enhance participation of students and professionals at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future.

The MIAFS Executive Committee decided to increase funding for student travel to professional meetings. First, MIAFS added a second chapter travel grant. Previously, one grant of \$125 was given to a student attending the MIAFS annual meeting who lived in the “opposite” peninsula from where the meeting was held. Starting with the 2012 annual meeting, \$125 awards will be available to one student from EACH peninsula, regardless of meeting location. MIAFS also voted to increase the student travel award from \$500 to \$750 for travel to the annual AFS meeting. Over the last couple of years, these two travel grants have been supplemented by up to \$200 each from an anonymous donor.

MIAFS annual awards \$250 for a MIAFS student to attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (in addition to the \$100 from the NCD Joan Duffy Student Travel Award).

Funding support (\$500) was provided to Geoff Steinhart and three LSSU students to attend the annual AFS meeting in Pittsburg. The LSSU students were on hand to receive the Outstanding Student Subunit award, while Steinhart attended as a representative from MIAFS and an Associate Editor for TAFS. Travel support to this meeting was approved for Kelly Smith, but he was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

MIAFS made a \$500 donation to the Hutton program and agreed to make the donation a standing, annual contribution for the foreseeable future. In addition, MIAFS makes an annual contribution to the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award. This year’s Fisheries Award winner was MIAFS member Briann Lunn (several other MIAFS members were finalists for this award). MIAFS members Gary Whalen and Geoff Steinhart participated in the Fenske Award brunch to meet and network with all the Fenske finalists.

MIAFS presented a number of awards at its 2011 Annual Meeting to honor the hard work and dedication of its members:

- Amy Schueller received the Albert S. Hazzard Award
- Mike Wiley was given the Justin W Leonard Award
- Roger Greil received the Grayling Award
- Kyle Battige won the Best Student Presentation Award
- Rob Cross won the Best Student Poster Award

Objective 3.3. Promote diversity within AFS and the fisheries profession.

Several tribal biologists were invited to participate in the annual MIAFS meeting. Specifically, we targeted individuals to present in the joint plenary session on climate change and to participate in the panel discussion on finding jobs. In addition, tribal representatives gave multiple contributed presentations.

MIAFS member Kelly Smith received the Mentoring for Professional Diversity in Fisheries/Aquatic Sciences Award. Kelly is an enthusiastic mentor and established the

Janice Lee Fenske Fellowship program and is active with the Fenske Memorial Award. MIAFS agreed to make standing, annual contributions of \$500 to both the Equal Opportunity Section and Hutton Program of AFS. Previously, donations were made on a yearly basis, but had to be approved each year.

Objective 3.4. Develop innovative and cost effective methods to make fisheries science and management information readily available to AFS members and all levels of government entities worldwide.

MIAFS distributes an annual newsletter via email and the web (www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/newsletters/2010s/2011_January.pdf). MIAFS maintains a web site that is frequently updated with news about meetings, awards, and other announcements. Links to both the parent society and division websites are prominently displayed. Finally, MIAFS has an active listserv where all members can submit and receive emails about MIAFS news and activities.

Objective 3.5. Practice good governance and organizational management.

The MIAFS Executive Committee holds monthly conference calls to discuss chapter activities, finances, awards, and other events. Additional communication is handled via phone, email, or the listserv. To communicate with the chapter membership, MIAFS uses the listserv, web site, and annual business meeting (held at the MIAFS annual meeting). This year's business meeting was deliberately scheduled in the middle of the MIAFS conference, with no conflicting events, to encourage attendance. The business meeting agenda is distributed to all Executive Committee members and MIAFS and NCD committee representatives well in advance of the meeting to allow them time to prepare an update for the annual business meeting.