

President's Blog

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Greetings from Minnesota! In my first blog as NCD president, I will give you an update on what I have been up to in my first couple of months of office.



My term official began in late August at the parent society meeting in Spokane, WA. It is always great to have the chance again to attend in-person meetings after a pandemic hiatus and be able to learn about things happening in the field beyond your usual scope of interaction. Examples for me were talks on bowfishing in Oklahoma, management of the Yangzi River in China and Indigenous perspectives on natural resource management. I also learned a bunch about opportunities for new federal infrastructure funding toward fisheries habitat work. Although talks were given by people who work far from Minnesota, they were all applicable to the work I do back home. These connections are exactly why participation in AFS is so beneficial for people in our field.



While in Spokane I participated in the Management Committee and Governing Board meetings where we made decisions including the location of the 2025 annual meeting (San Antonio) and the finances of the society. I also attended the Fisheries Management Section's business meeting. We are fortunate to have a great group of dedicated people volunteering to serve on these committees that help the society to run. I also managed to get out and enjoy Spokane, including the Spawning Run along the river with views of several waterfalls, various socials and even a visit to a local establishment that included a karaoke performance by NCD past-president Mark Fince!



One of the highlights of the meeting was the opportunity to attend an event with the Spokane Tribe to release adult salmon in a reach of the river they have not had access to since the building of major dams on the Columbia River. It was moving to hear how important salmon are to the culture of the tribe and their work to hopefully restore salmon once again to the river.

I would encourage folks who have not attended a parent society meeting in a few years to consider attending the August 2023 meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. I believe you will be glad if you do! There are also opportunities to learn from your peers this winter at AFS chapter meetings or the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference that will be hosted by Kansas Feb. 12-15, 2023. I have been joining planning committee meetings for both, and they have great programs planned.

Take care as you wrap up any fieldwork you do this fall. I'll be in touch again next month.

Brian Nerbonne