

## Why should you join AFS?

Students often wonder why they should join a professional society during the course of their college career. Besides providing opportunities for relevant experience, AFS provides many benefits to student members. Here we outline a few of the advantages students receive as members of AFS.

- 1) *Reduced membership rates.* Students pay on \$19 a year for membership in the Parent Society. This is just 25% of the membership rates for non-student members!
- 2) *Reduced cost of AFS Parent Society meetings/symposia.* Members of AFS receive major discounts for registration at AFS meetings and symposia.
- 3) *Free access to all AFS journals.* Students can access past and current AFS journals for no cost, right from their own computer.
- 4) *Free copies of Fisheries magazine.* All AFS members receive a monthly online and printed copy of the Society's magazine that highlights the latest on fisheries science, legislation, trends, and professional development.
- 5) *Discounts on AFS books.* Students are always trying to find textbooks at the lowest cost. Your AFS membership saves you 30% off of the list price you will find at your local campus bookstore!
- 6) *Employment opportunities.* Your AFS membership will allow you to find job opportunities in *Fisheries* magazine, the AFS listservs, or on the Society's website.
- 7) *AFS certification.* Members can participate in the AFS certification program to become Associate Fisheries Professionals or Certified Fisheries Professionals. Certification may qualify you for salary premiums in several states.
- 8) *Fisheries InfoBase.* This internet database of fisheries science and management, enhanced by information from the AFS journals, is available for your class research or to satisfy your curiosity.
- 9) *Grants and scholarships.* Let's face it: college is expensive. Student members of AFS are eligible for a number of scholarships. You can even apply for travel grants to help offset the cost of professional meeting attendance.