



Fish Health Section - American Fisheries Society

Dear AFS-FHS Colleagues,

I cannot believe that the “gateway to the summer” is already here, with Memorial Day weekend in the USA soon upon us. In the meantime, I wanted to bring a few items to your attention.

First and because the Joint 2021 AFS-FHS and Northeast Fish Health Committee in-person meeting was postponed due to the pandemic, **please mark your calendars for the virtual AFS-FHS Business Meeting (July 15th, 1 pm eastern; to be held via Zoom)**, which is open to all AFS-FHS members/affiliates and is a great way to hear about some of the exciting efforts underway within our section. The agenda for this meeting is forthcoming; of note and because one of the tasks of the AFS-FHS EXCOM is to “...maintain an awareness of serious aquatic animal health problems, significant advances in aquatic animal disease control...” there will also be several short presentations on contemporary aquatic animal health challenges. Looking forward to “seeing” you all there!

Next, the 2021 AFS-FHS Elections are now complete! All candidates for these crucial positions have been notified of the election outcome, and the official election results will be presented at the AFS-FHS Virtual Business Meeting. A big thank you to the Nominating and Balloting Committee (NBC) Chair, Dr. Danielle Van Vliet, and the NBC members, for soliciting officer nominations and making the election run so smoothly. Likewise, thanks to all AFS-FHS members who voted in these elections, and of course, to our candidates for being willing to step up and volunteer their time to keep our section at the forefront of the Aquatic Animal Health fields!

If you have yet to tune in for the AFS-FHS Summer Seminar Series (**Fridays at 12 pm central**; seminar schedule, pertinent links, previously recorded seminars, etc., can be found at this [website](#)), I strongly encourage you to do so. We still have four more Keynote Seminars by world-renowned aquatic animal health experts and quite the lineup of presentations by graduate students and early career researchers; not to be missed! Thanks again to the AFS-FHS Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee for leading this effort, and to multiple entities for sponsoring these seminars with funds that will allow AFS-FHS student members to attend future in-person AFS-FHS meetings.

As a reminder and if you are on social media, be sure to check us out on Facebook and our newly established AFS-FHS Twitter account (@AFSFishHealth; thank you Section Communications Committee!).

Last, during my remaining time as AFS-FHS President, I will be moving forward to establish two Ad Hoc Committees: a) the **Long-Range Planning Committee**, with the (unsurprising) purpose of long-term strategic planning for the AFS-FHS; and b) the **Extramural Funding Committee**, with the purpose of seeking and applying for extramural funds that support continued AFS-FHS Blue Book revisions and updates (i.e., to aid in “Promoting development and use of standardized, reliable techniques for detection, diagnosis, and management of certain diseases of aquatic animals” as described in the AFS-FHS Procedural Manual). I have been in contact with several AFS-FHS members who are interested in serving on these committees; likewise, if you have interest in serving on one of these committee for the betterment of our section, please let me know (contact information below) **by June 15th, 2021**.

With that, please allow me to graciously wish you and your families a safe and restful upcoming weekend, a luxury uniting and afforded to us through the enduring sacrifices made by persons that have and/or continue to serve in the armed forces.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Loch'.

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