



Fish Health Section - American Fisheries Society

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Fellow AFS-FHS Members and Friends,

I hope you and your families are all well and feeling some of the benefits as COVID-19 vaccination efforts continue to progress. Here at Michigan State University, we are gradually shifting to a safe but vigilant new normal thanks to the tremendous efforts of scientists and medical professionals from around the world.

As the 2020-2021 term ends, please accept my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your representative and AFS-FHS President, which allowed me to work shoulder to shoulder with the phenomenal Committee Chairs and Members that are the engine of our prestigious section. Despite the many challenges of 2020 that continue into 2021, I have been blown away by the dedication and productivity of so many FHS members and friends that selflessly volunteered their time for the betterment of aquatic animal health, our professions, each other, and the AFS-FHS. On behalf of our entire AFS-FHS membership and to each and every one of the Chairs and members of our *ad hoc* and standing AFS-FHS Committees, a gargantuan thank you!!!

To that end and accompanying this outgoing message as AFS-FHS President, you will find the compiled committee reports that were submitted by the Committee Chairs and other volunteers who are leading a range of AFS-FHS efforts. From generating a “louder voice” via a growing AFS-FHS social media presence (follow us on Twitter at @AFSFishHealth), to spearheading an extremely successful and ongoing [AFS-FHS virtual summer seminar series](#) (Fridays at 12 pm Central), to keeping the AFS-FHS in excellent financial standing, to completing “regular” AFS-FHS business in earnest, to improved AFS-FHS inclusivity, to fostering collaborative relationships with other aquatic animal health and fisheries entities, to planning the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> ISAAC in Chile, to substantial progress in the arduous Blue Book revision process and so much more, this is indeed an exciting time to be an AFS-FHS member! I hope you will take the time to review these reports and also attend the **upcoming AFS-FHS Virtual Business (Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm EDT; <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96620971083>; Passcode: AFSFHS; Meeting ID: 966 2097 1083)** so you can hear more about these and additional ongoing efforts. I’m equally excited about the three invited and renowned aquatic animal health experts that will be giving brief presentations on contemporary aquatic animal health challenges and opportunities (please see the attached agenda) at the upcoming Business meeting. Hoping to see you all there!

In addition to supporting both the Blue Book revision efforts now being led by the Project Managers (Drs. Jan Lovy and Ken Cain) and the hard work of the AFS-FHS Committees, you’ll recall that two additional goals at the outset of my presidency were : a) to support the future procurement of extramural funds towards keeping the “soon-to-be revised” Blue Book in a contemporary state for years to come; and b) to establish an *ad hoc* AFS-FHS long-range planning committee. To those ends, I am pleased to say that two *ad hoc* committees (e.g., the Extramural Funding Committee and

the Long-Range Planning Committee) are now fully populated with AFS-FHS superstars and will soon begin their work in earnest. That said, it is not too late to volunteer if you have interest in serving on these committees (i.e., many hands make light work); please contact me if you are interested. To hear more about these committees and their tentative goals, please attend the upcoming virtual AFS-FHS Business Meeting!

With that, I'd like to thank you all again for the opportunity to represent our premiere (and of course, the first-ever formed) AFS section; the AFS-FHS. As I began my presidency, I quoted Past President Fryer (e.g., "The future of the FHS lies in the members, individually and collectively") and as I complete my term, I will quote yet another Past-President from "the early days," Mr. Courtney Gustafson, who said "I realize that we are a rather young Section and if we are to survive and prosper, each one of you should offer your contributions to help this cause." Given all of the exciting opportunities and challenges at the forefront of aquatic animal health, I hope those of you that continue to selflessly volunteer your time for the AFS-FHS will continue to do so, and I look forward to serving with those of you who have yet to cease that opportunity in the near future!

Wishing You My Very Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Loch', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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