

The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs>

Reminder: An archive of these updates is posted on the website with the password: fhs

## **FHS NEWS**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT, APRIL 2009**

Greetings to all in fish health! I hope your fish have survived the winter well and are enjoying the spring. Your Fish Health Section committees have been busy so I have quite a bit to report:

First, it's ELECTION TIME! Kyle Garver (chair) and the nominating and balloting committee have put together a fine ballot of candidates for the elected offices and committees in the section. It will be sent out by listserv and also on the website soon, so PLEASE VOTE!!

Next, Chris Wilson and his team have worked hard preparing for our joint meeting of the Fish Health Section and Western Fish Disease Workshop in Park City Utah, June 8-11. They have lots of good abstracts so it promises to be an excellent meeting as always. Come "stimulate" your scientific interest and enjoy your Fish Health colleagues.

Also the Technical Standards committee is to be congratulated on completion of a new BlueBook chapter on White Spot Syndrome Virus of Shrimp. Thanks are due to authors Trish Varner and Ken Hasson, as well as tech standards chair Cliff Starlipper for all their hard work to keep us up to date - the chapter looks great.

Finally, the biggest news I have comes from the Communications Committee, who strive to provide the most effective ways to share important news about our section and the fish health field. The big news is that, after a long and truly illustrious career of service, the FISH HEALTH NEWSLETTER HAS RETIRED! Historically the newsletter has been the principle source of communication within the Fish Health Section, so I want to explain this step, and offer huge thanks to Lora Petrie-Hanson, your hard-working newsletter editor since 2002.

Luke Iwanowicz, chair of the FHS Communication Committee, provides the following to explain the changes we will see. Communications transferred by the newsletter included:

- The President's Report
- Meeting and Workshop announcements
- Notice of FHS involvement in political discussions
- Announcements of aquaculture/fish health book publications
- General fish health related news
- Short scientific reports

- Occasional committee reports
- ExCom (FHS Executive Committee) and business meeting minutes
- Laboratory Spotlight (new in 2008)

Dissemination of this information has largely been absorbed by the (bi)monthly listserv (Fish Health Update) and the webpage (<http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/>). The Fish Health Updates are sent to all FHS members via email. They contain many of the communications listed above, and distribute them in a more timely manner than the quarterly newsletter.

The newsletter also provided a means of archiving the above communications. We are now in the process of overhauling the website such that all FHS communications can be logically archived. While much of the information will remain open-access, we plan to include a password protected section of the website that will be accessible by FHS members only. We will provide more information to members once these changes are implemented.

As we continue to improve our website and electronic communications many exciting changes are planned for the FHS website, including links for "Laboratory spotlight" articles, and for "Short Investigative Reports" such as those that used to be in the newsletter. We welcome feedback and suggestions regarding changes to the website that will improve FHS communications.

In closing, get out and VOTE, come to the Annual Meeting, enjoy reading the Blue Book, and show your appreciation (however you like) to Lora Petrie-Hanson and to all the Communications Committee members: Luke Iwanowicz, Jerri Bartholomew, John Hawke, Wes Baumgartner, and Ben LaFrentz.

I will have more exciting news in May. See you in Utah!

Gael Kurath  
Western Fisheries Research Center  
6505 NE 65th St.  
Seattle, WA 98115 USA

**FEATURED STUDENT** [http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/student\\_feature.htm](http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/student_feature.htm)

We have a new featured student, Heather Ellery – please check out what our students are doing!

**IT IS TIME TO VOTE!** See attached **FHS Ballot 2009.doc**, **FHS biosketches 2009.doc**

The FHS Nominating and Balloting Committee has done a great job putting together the attached ballot and biosketches for the 2009 elections, thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help guide the section into the future!

This information, along with photos, is also available on the FHS website <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/nominations.htm>

The last day to vote is May 22. Send the attached ballot to Kyle Garver:  
[Kyle.Garver@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Kyle.Garver@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

## **UPDATE ON FHS/WESTERN FISH DISEASE WORKSHOP**

### **IMPORTANT DEADLINE!!!!**

Room Block Cut Off Date is Today, April 21!!! If you are planning on coming to the meeting, please make your room reservations ASAP!!!

Contact info: Prospector Square Lodge & Conference Center, Park City, Utah

(<http://www.prospectorsquarelodge.com/index.php>)

Room rates: \$90 single, \$110 double

Rooms will be held under "Western Fish Health" (WFH) for individual call reservations. Guests must call in to the front desk (435-658-3030 or 888-283-3030) or send an email request to [info@prospectorsquarelodge.com](mailto:info@prospectorsquarelodge.com) to confirm reservations with this group.

Otherwise, things are coming together nicely for the upcoming meeting.

Continuing Education Session: Here's an overview of the session from Mark Lawrence

- 1) Introduction to bacterial genome structure and genome sequencing methods. This is not intended to be a technical session so participants would then be able to go out and sequence genomes. It will be a brief overview to show participants the limitations and potential pitfalls of genome sequences, so they'll know how to critically evaluate the quality of the sequence and use them for what they need.
- 2) Demonstration of the *Edwardsiella ictaluri* and *Flavobacterium columnare* genomes showing practical and diagnostic implications
- 3) Tools available for analysis of bacterial genomes and practical applications for design of diagnostic tools/ research experiments
- 4) The future of bacterial genomics in fish diagnostics/ research. Hopefully this will include some time for discussion and perhaps formation of research/diagnostic collaborations to utilize the sequences.

Participants are asked to bring along laptop computers, if possible.

General Session: We have 53 papers and 11 posters submitted, so the meeting will stretch well into Wednesday afternoon (June 10).

**MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER  
UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:**

<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/meeting.htm>

**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
VIRUSES OF LOWER LOWER VERTEBRATES**

Santiago de Compostela, Spain

April 25-29, 2010

We hope to have the symposium web ([www.usc.es/congresos/8thISVLV](http://www.usc.es/congresos/8thISVLV)) ready soon.

Looking forward to seeing you in Santiago

Carlos P. Dopazo

Symposium Organizer and Chairperson

**JOBS**

**POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP** – see attached Job Ad NSERC  
[Post doc\\_2009.pdf](#)

**POTENTIAL GS9 TERM POSITION AT THE NATIONAL FISH HEALTH  
LABORATORY**

Kearneysville, WV.

Person would be involved in ongoing studies on fish lesion/kills and reproductive endocrine disruption within the Chesapeake Bay drainage and surrounding watersheds. The studies involve a team of scientists at the Fish Health Lab as well as collaborators in the FWS and numerous state agencies. Duties would include field collections throughout the Northeast, necropsy-based health assessments, collections of tissue for histopathology and molecular assays. Laboratory analyses would focus on PCR and other molecular techniques to assess both disease resistance factors and endocrine-related/reproductive factors, hence we would prefer someone with molecular/genomics experience. Other potential involvement would include histopathological and parasitological analyses and statistical/risk assessment. Anticipated start date June 1, 2009. Information contact Vicki Blazer, [vblazer@usgs.gov](mailto:vblazer@usgs.gov) or 304 724 4434.

**POST-DOCTORAL POSITION IN CELLULAR IMMUNOLOGY AND  
BIOSENSOR DEVELOPMENT -**

[http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/employment\\_files/VIMS2009.pdf](http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/employment_files/VIMS2009.pdf)

A position is available to participate in two immunological projects. One project involves the development of monoclonal-based biosensors for the real-time detection of pollutants (e.g. PAHs) in the aquatic environment. The successful candidate will work with chemists in devising new immunogens and optimizing

immunization schemes to generate new mAbs to important classes of chemical pollutants. Expanding the use of these biosensors to clinical, industrial and other applications will be pursued. The second project examines the efficacy of chimeric (protein-lipopolysaccharide) vaccines for aquaculture. This project will compare the relative efficacy of these vaccines in the development of affinity maturation to defined epitopes as well as memory, plasma cell, and plasmablast development. A Ph.D. in immunology, chemistry, biochemistry or a related discipline is required. Previous experience in cytometry, lymphocyte culture, or bioconjugation techniques would be desirable. Salaries will be dependent upon the level of experience.

Send Curriculum Vitae and e-mail addresses of three references to:

Dr. Stephen Kaattari,  
Dept. of Environmental and Aquatic Animal Health,  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science,  
College of William and Mary,  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062  
e-mail kaattari@vims.edu

Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. The College is an EEO/AA employer.

### **FISH HEALTH SPECIALIST**

Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
Phone:4064441223  
Fax:4064449765  
TTY:4064441200  
E-mail:fwpemp@mt.gov

Position Number(s): 52113850  
Department: Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Date Posted: 4/8/2009  
Location: Great Falls  
Job Status: Full-Time Permanent  
Salary: \$33,787.00 - \$42,234.00  
Closing Date: 5/1/2009

#### **Duties:**

Incumbent will work in all areas of fish health management. Conducts both routine and diagnostic fish health inspections on both wild and hatchery reared fish, including preparation of culture media and field sampling materials, sample collection in the field and in the lab, preparation of samples for shipping to appropriate laboratories, and conducting laboratory work necessary to identify bacterial and parasitic fish pathogens. Incumbent is responsible for collecting and managing data, communicating findings, and providing reports to various parties.

Must maintain technical competence in the fish health and fisheries fields by participating in workshops, professional meetings, and other educational opportunities. Participates in educational and public relations activities. Performs laboratory work related to fish health investigations and health condition assessments. Provides assistance in reviewing and issuing import permits and transport permits. Works with hatchery staff to develop strategies to prevent and control diseases in Montana's 10 State fish hatcheries.

#### Competencies:

This position requires considerable knowledge of fish disease, fish health management, fish biology, fish culture, microbiological techniques, statistics, algebra, chemistry, and computers, and must have strong speaking and writing skills. The position requires the ability to work with minimal or no supervision, schedule time effectively, work effectively with other people, and possess the interest and ability to learn and apply fish disease concepts, laws and policies. Must have the ability to grasp and learn new techniques to keep up with changing technologies. Must have the ability to utilize proper laboratory procedures to identify fish pathogens and the ability to interpret laboratory results. Must have knowledge of the use of compound and dissecting microscopes and other laboratory equipment. Must have a valid driver's license. If the successful candidate does not hold a certification by the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society as a Fish Health Inspector, they will be expected to work towards obtaining one.

#### Education/Experience:

The knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the duties of this position are usually acquired through a bachelor's degree in fish health management, fish & wildlife management, fish and wildlife biology, microbiology or closely related field and 1-2 years prior work experience. Combinations of education and experience that could provide such knowledge, skills and abilities will be evaluated on an individual basis. Certification by the American Fisheries Society as a Fish Health Inspector is required for this position.

#### Contact:

Ken Staigmiller  
Fish Health Coordinator  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
4801 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
406-452-6181  
kstaigmiller@mt.gov

## **RESOURCES**

## **NEW WEB SITE FOCUSES ON VHS DISEASE PREVENTION**

AMES, Iowa - Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a serious and often fatal disease of fresh and marine fish species, has been found in the Great Lakes region of the U.S. and Canada. As part of a national outreach campaign to educate the public about VHS, a new Web site – [www.FocusOnFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusOnFishHealth.org) – has been launched. The campaign and Web site are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) and was a collaborative effort of fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders from industry, universities, state and federal agencies and national organizations.

The Web site is designed to help boaters, anglers, aquaculture producers, and bait fish dealers learn more about the serious nature of VHS and it encourages them to take measures that will slow or prevent the spread of the disease.

VHS has caused die-offs in recreational and sport fish species like muskellunge, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch as well as a number of baitfish. Fish can become infected from the urine or reproductive fluids of infected fish, or by eating infected fish. The virus spreads to new locations primarily by the movement of infected fish or water.

While VHS has not been found in aquaculture facilities in the United States, the virus can affect commercially farmed species, so biosecurity and prevention resources for aquaculture producers are included on the Web site.

The [www.FocusOnFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusOnFishHealth.org) Web site also serves as a clearinghouse for VHS resources. Extension specialists, educators and researchers can view the resources developed by their colleagues and download the latest information about VHS. Visitors can submit their resources to the site.

“This Web site helps the public and individuals involved in recreation and aquaculture to understand that the simple precautions they take can help prevent the spread of this serious disease,” said Dr. Gary Egrie, APHIS Senior Staff Veterinary Medical Officer, Aquaculture Program.

In the future, based on stakeholder input and support, as well as available funding, we envision that the site could offer information on other aspects of fish health.

The Web site was developed by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The CFSPH has an award winning Web site.

**VHS & BIOSECURITY WORKSHOPS – Biosecurity workshop brochure.pdf, 2009 NCRAC HACCP Biosecurity workshop.doc**

The attached files have details and registration information for six upcoming NCRAC funded VHS & Biosecurity Workshops to be held throughout the North-Central region starting May, 2009 through June, 2010. These will focus on developing specific fish disease HACCP plans for each host facility. The facilities will represent three production types - pond, flow through and RAS. .