

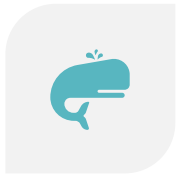


# The Water Quality Section of AFS

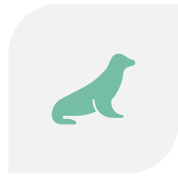
AFS 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# Mission



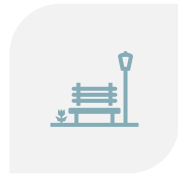
MAINTAIN AN ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE PROTECTION OF WATERSHEDS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT AND IN THE ABATEMENT OF WATER POLLUTION AND AQUATIC HABITAT AND WATERSHED DETERIORATION



ENCOURAGE IMPROVED PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN THE INVESTIGATION, ABATEMENT, AND REGULATION OF WATER POLLUTION, AQUATIC HABITAT, AND WATERSHED PROBLEMS



FOCUS ATTENTION ON WATERSHED, AQUATIC HABITAT, AND WATER QUALITY CONCERNS BY CONDUCTING SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS, COLLECTING AND ASSEMBLING INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION, AND DISTRIBUTING RESULTS TO SOCIETY MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC



PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF STANDARDIZED PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES FOR INVESTIGATING AND REGULATING WATER QUALITY, AQUATIC HABITAT, AND WATERSHED PROBLEMS



# AFS Water Quality Section

Water quality has long been an important concern for fisheries scientists

AFS had a Standing Committee on the topic for many years prior to formation of the Water Quality Section (WQS)

The Water Quality Section has provided important content for AFS and fisheries professional for the past 40 years

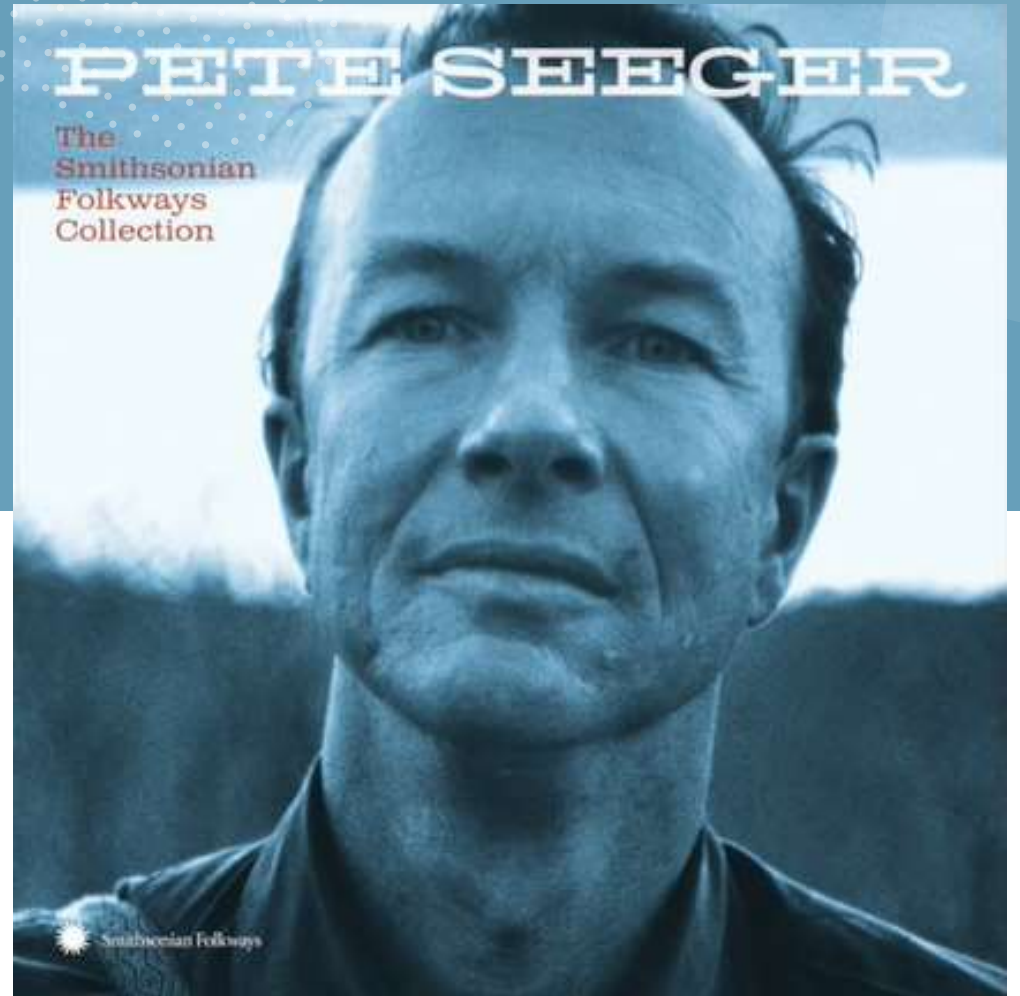
In a changing climate the importance of water quality and fisheries cannot be understated



Some History.....

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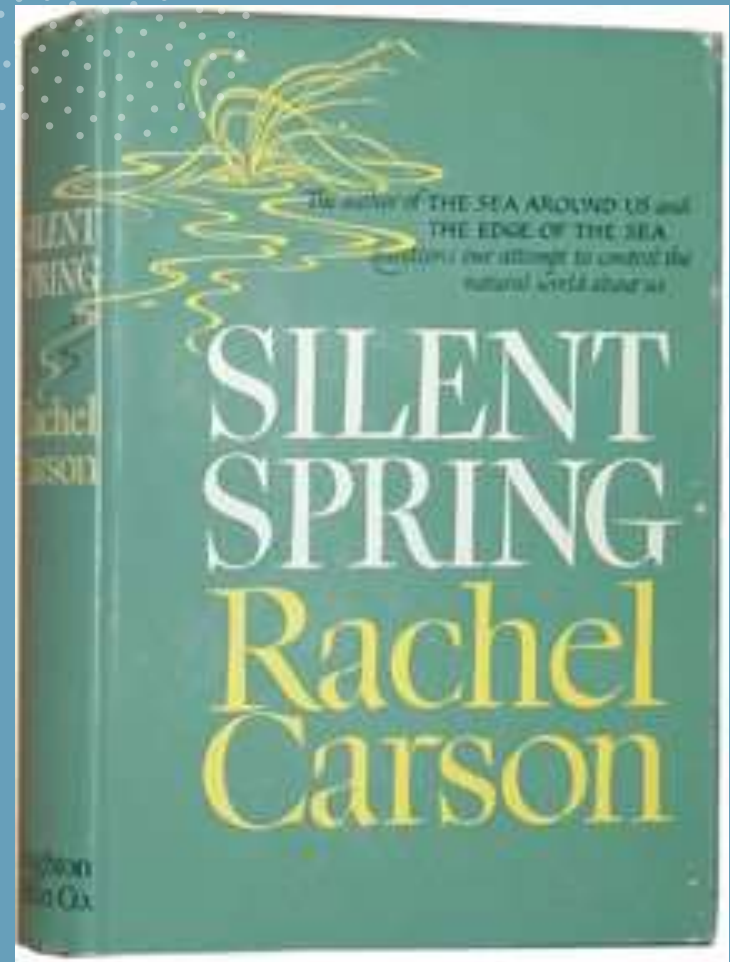
# Musicians Get Involved



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzyYCuY161E>



Environmental  
Movement gets a  
jumpstart in 1962





A polluted area of the Androscoggin River near the border between Maine and New Hampshire, June 1973. Charles Steinacker/US National Archives

Since the start of the industrial age, water quality was declining

By the 1960s, water quality conditions in the United States had deteriorated to such an extent that many fisheries biologists were consumed with studying, managing, or abating water quality problems.

**Remember every time someone tells you  
Big Government is not the answer and  
business will solve the problem itself...**



**This is what the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland  
looked like in 1967 before the creation  
of the EPA and Clean Water Act.**

fb.com/SideOfTheSaint



**An aerial view of polluted water in Puerto Rico, February 1970.** John Vachon/National Archives

The Water Quality Act, the first federal legislation requiring states to set water quality standards, became law in the mid-1960s.



A polluted stream near Telluride, Colorado, May 1972. Boyd Norton



A channel is choked with waste at the Municipal Incineration Plant at Crossand Bay in New York, May 1973. Arthur Troop (National Archives)



Betty Klaric, an environmental reporter for the Cleveland Press, on a boat holding a wine glass of Cuyahoga River water. Courtesy of Cleveland State University, Michael Schwartz Library, Special Collections.



Like most things in our society, especially those dealing with our environment, it takes a crisis to get any committed action for improvement.



An EPA-supervised clean-up of an oil slick on the San Juan River in October 1972. David Hiser/National Archives



An outflow pipe at the Oxford Paper Company Mill on the Androscoggin River in Maine, June 1973. Charles Steinhacker/US National Archives



Trash and old tires litter the shore of the Baltimore Harbor, January 1973. Jim Pickerell/Documerica/US National Archives

# Serious commitment in the regulatory arena did not begin until the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire (not the first time) on 22 June 1969



View of semi-submerged automobile wreckage lining the shore of a curve of the Cuyahoga River (looking south), near Jaito, Ohio, 1968. A railroad bridge is visible in the background. Alfred Eisenstaedt/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images



Oil burns on Cuyahoga River flats in March 1951. Courtesy of Cleveland State University, Michael Schwartz Library, Special Collections.



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/cuyahoga-river-caught-fire-least-dozen-times-no-one-cared-until-1969-180972444/>



- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) took effect in January 1970
- The Clean Water Act, amended in 1977, incorporated the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 and changed legislative focus from general water quality to criteria for pollutants toxic to aquatic life
  - Orientation shifted from human health to concern for aquatic life
  - **to restore and maintain chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our nation's waters, including the improvement of water quality for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife**

In 1976, Howard Johnson (chair of Water Quality Committee) arranged an organizational meeting at the annual AFS meeting in Dearborn, Michigan to create Water Quality Section

The Water Quality Section was chartered in 1977 as the fourth Section within AFS

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## WATER QUALITY-POLLUTION ABATEMENT

A NEW AFS SECTION

(See reverse side)

A new section for Water Quality-Pollution Abatement has been proposed for the American Fisheries Society. AFS members interested in receiving information on this new section should complete and return the following form:

Name Kenneth R Fite  
Address 910 Ichthyological Assoc, Frick Lake Rd  
City Pottsville State Pa Zip 19464

Date July 15, 1977

Mail to: Howard E. Johnson  
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife  
13 Natural Resources Building  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

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AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
WATER QUALITY SECTION

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