

American Fisheries Society

Fisheries Administration Section

Joint Meeting with the Fisheries Management Section

2024 Annual Meeting

September 15, 2024, 1:00-3:30 PM (Hawaii)

Room 306AB



Agenda

1:00 - Welcome/Call to Order

Lynn Quattro/George Scholten

- Introduction of AFS and FAS officers/staff, guests
- Determine quorum – there were not enough members present for a quorum so no official business was conducted
- Review agenda
- Approve March 2024 meeting minutes – not approved due to lack of a quorum
- Financial Update and approval of Treasurers Report – report presented.
- Membership Report: 92 members as of September 10, 2024

SFR Project Awards

Christian Waters

- 2024 Awards Report
 - 10 submissions, multiple in each category
 - The 2024 winners are:
 - Sport Fishery Development and Management: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) – Implementation and Evaluation of Strategic Wood Addition in Vermont Brook Trout Streams
 - Research and Surveys: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) – Niche Overlap, Diets, and Consumption of Muskellunge and Other Piscivores in Minnesota Lakes
 - Angler Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3)/ Aquatic Education: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (ODNR) – Erie ProOH Lake Erie Fishing Guide Certification Program

Reports and Updates

- Section Workplan Lynn Quattro
 - Continue to increase visibility and membership in the Section.
 - Have continued to serve on the AFS Management Committee and attended meetings throughout the year.
 - I continued to serve on the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee as a representative from the Fisheries Administration Section attended meetings on this throughout

the year. I also serve as President of Friends of Reservoirs Board (401c3 group supporting the partnership). Of note...the Outdoor Fund from Bass Pro Shop has provided \$475 K for projects funded between now and next May, which more than doubled the funding we have available for Reservoir Fish Habitat Projects.

- Have begun discussions with AFS leadership about ways to increase participation by state agencies in the Section and AFS in general at next year's annual meeting. Julie and I will continue these discussions over the next several months.
- Please feel free to suggest any ideas for increasing Section Membership.
- Continue our relationship with the Fisheries Management Section.
 - The FMS and FAS continue to work together on projects. Updates of several of these projects will be provided during this meeting.
- Continue promoting policy engagement and develop new avenues to coordinate Section responses and activities
 - Defer to upcoming reports.
- Create a Procedures Manual for the Section with input from the Executive Committee.
 - Work has stalled on this as I simply ran out of time, but it is at the top of my list for next year's activities.
- Reestablish our relationship with the Institute of Fisheries Management, England
 - We will continue this in the upcoming year.
- Strategic Planning Committee Update Christian Waters
 - Met multiple times to review vision, strategic plan
 - Still in working form, draft presented to Governing Board on September 14, 2024 – well received
 - Plan to get back to GB for approval later this year.
- Executive Director Search Committee Update:
 - 10 members on Committee
 - Consensus on top 5 applicants
 - 36 applicants
 - Jeff Kopaska is our current ED!
- FAS Logo Update Lynn Quattro
 - Tasked with re-doing logo to match AFS logo
 - Presented the logo that was selected by the Executive Committee's
 - Will be submitted to Beth Beard as our official logo
- Membership Fees Lynn Quattro
 - Current Fees are \$10
 - If we do want to continue partnership with the Institute and want to provide funding for important projects, we need to consider a membership increase.
 - Olive: if fisheries administrators knew how much AFS ED listened to this section, they would be more active
 - Scholten: expenditures were fairly typical this year, and revenue covered it, but that was because we received the one-time refund for the AFS book. If it wasn't for that, our financial situation would look much be a lot worse.
 - Members present discussed the need to increase dues to \$15 or \$20.
 - Send a survey to gauge interest in going to \$15 or \$20 then ask members to vote electronically.
- IFC/AFS MSCG Update (Christopher Estes)
 - IFWLC Training Center Project extension request to Spring 2025 was approved by Federal Aid.

- Doug Austen will continue to rep AFS on the MSCG IFWLC SC Training Center project post his AFS retirement
- Please share the resulting copy of AFS' IFWLC Training Center AFS' support resolution (that hopefully will be adopted on this Sat) by the AFS Governing Board with all 3 committees
- Alert all 3 committees that the AFWA FWRPC will vote on approving a similar AFWA IFWLC Training Center endorsement/support resolution version (specific to AFWA) at its Madison, WI meeting the week of Sept 23 as part of AFWA's approval processes to adopt. The AFWA FWRPC Subcommittee on Water already endorsed approval in virtual Aug. 2024 pre-mtg.
- IFC will be voting on adopting its own version in late Sept/ or no later than Oct.
- The IFWLC Training Center MSCG Project IFC/AFS Steering Committee (SC) submitted a draft article (describing this Center project) to Fisheries on Aug 30. The article is in the early AFS publications review/edits phase and may be published by Nov. or Dec.
- The IFC/AFS MSCG project SC is continuing to work on refining the training center business plan and other related what next Center development steps.
- Questions, ask Doug Austen, at the meeting, or Christopher by email or phone call.
- NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
 - Doug Austen will continue representing AFS on the National Fish Habitat Board post his AFS Executive Director retirement.

New Business

Lynn Quattro

- New Funding Requests
 - Black Bass 2025
 - Asking for contribution from FAS and FMS
 - Carter: how can we get more fish chiefs at this parent society meeting. Is there anything we can do with this symposium to help with that?
 - Olive: if you can market it to Chiefs, make sure you point out the need for decision makers to be present.
 - Quattro: will you be presenting this at AFWA meeting? Yes, we will have several committee members there.
 - <https://storymaps.com/stories/baf0dddafa2b4ba08ea6e1781a361ff5>
 - Will there be a potential source of revenue associated with this contribution? Yes, still being worked out due the AFS publisher selection
 - Discussed contributing \$250-\$300 based on current budget – will send something out to section members.

Dave Philipp

**** Joint Meeting will begin at the conclusion of the FAS Meeting, if that meeting ends early****

2:30 – 3:30 – Joint Fisheries Management Section and Fisheries Administration Section Meeting

- AFS Update
 - Officer Perspective
 - Doug retiring in 4 days – Cecil led search for his replacement
 - Hybrid open access subscriptions system – Oxford was selected – they align well with our mission. Not going to be as lucrative as last contract, but the publication world has changed substantially since last contract was signed.
 - More frequent news from AFS – intentional, to provide more information to membership
 - Working to visit each chapter once every three years, may be closer to 4 or 5 some years. Looking for help with meals and registration when we get there.
 - Encourage staff to visit with officers when they are there.

Gary Whelan

- DEI Initiative incorporated into conference this year again. Cecil has encouraged work at all levels to make us a more welcoming society.
- Hutton Program – another successful year. Summit in Mansfield Georgia
- Honolulu meeting is shaping up to be a success – close to 2,200 attendees.
- JASM will be a joint meeting in 2028. Over 5,000 attendees expected. Good opportunity to see talks you normally wouldn't get to see.
- New 5-year plan is almost ready for comment. Lot of work to improve messaging and engage partner agencies/AFWA.
- Executive Director Perspective Doug Austen/Jeff Kopaska
 - Austen
 - Oxford Press will be new publisher effective January 1. Non-profit that aligns with us philosophically. Discuss ramifications of publishing with AFS versus other journal outlets. Open access is a great deal for membership.
 - Membership is up – around 6,700. Goal is to get to 10K.
 - Agency outreach – Jeff will be meeting with agency directors about value of their employees being involved with AFS.
 - Continue to be a big part of a number of partnerships – AFS is fighting on behalf of these groups. Important that we maintain relevancy in these forums.
 - Kopaska
 - Professional certification/development – is AFS doing the right things? Do we need to make changes?
 - AFS needs to be locally relevant and valuable to fisheries professionals at local levels.
- AFWA Government Affairs Update Ali Schwaab

Legislative Updates

FY25 Federal Budget Update

At this stage, the most likely outcome is a Continuing Resolution passed by September 30 to avert a potential government shutdown, with final spending decisions postponed either until the new year (Republican preference) or until the lame duck session (Democrat preference). As of September 10, Speaker Mike Johnson is vowing to push ahead with a vote on H.R. 9494, a 6-month stopgap spending bill that includes controversial language to institute stricter proof-of-citizenship requirements for voting, despite strong opposition. If the bill were to pass the House, we would likely see big changes made to it in the Senate.

State Boating Act Update ([S 4113](#))

For decades, states across the country have used boating registration as a mechanism for collecting nominal fees to fund state programs and initiatives that support boating access, increase boater safety, and maintain aquatic environmental quality. In 2022, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) issued new policy guidance to states regarding acceptable state fees for issuing a vessel certificate of number (CON). In the guidance, the USCG stated that states cannot levy a fee unrelated to the costs associated with issuing the CON as a condition of boating registration and directed those states that did attach unrelated fees to develop and submit a Corrective Action to the USCG.

States were warned that the USCG would consider their compliance with the policy when assessing State Recreational Boating Safety grant programs, suggesting those boating safety grants would be in jeopardy if a state was not in compliance.

In April, Sen. Shaheen (D-NH) introduced a bipartisan bill, along with cosponsors, Crapo (R-ID) and Risch (R-ID), to allow states to collect fees to fund activities directly related to improving recreational boating programs, boater safety, boating access, use of waterways by recreational boaters, and aquatic invasive species prevention and management program. AFWA is close to securing a Republican co-sponsor for a House companion to S 4113, which we hope to see introduced this month.

America's Conservation Enhancement Act Reauthorization ([S 3791](#) , [HR 8811](#))

This year saw the introduction of both Senate and House bills to reauthorize the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, which authorizes several successful conservation programs including the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP).

Passed by unanimous consent in May, the Senate bill, [S 3791](#), reauthorizes NFHP at \$10M (up from \$7.2M), provides a separate \$1M authorization for the National Fish Habitat Assessment, and includes important technical amendments that would render partnership coordinators eligible for NFHP funding and exempt them from the 50% match requirement calculated at the partnership level. The House bill, HR 8811, is similar to the Senate version, but it maintains current authorizations rather than incorporating the plus-ups from the Senate bill is to adhere to House rules on spending. A markup is anticipated on September 17. We are hopeful that the numbers can be negotiated in conference, likely during the lame-duck.

Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (S 4367, HR 8812)

Both the House and Senate have approved their Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA) bills, the differences between which will now be resolved in conference. WRDA is the biennial bill that authorizes US Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure projects and studies. Both bills include extensions of several aquatic invasive species programs.

Angling and Boating Alliance Efforts on Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Reauthorization

Discussions among members of the Angling & Boating Alliance (ABA) on the reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund continue to progress. The current authorization for the fund expires at the end of FY26, and the ABA is aiming to have draft legislation ready for introduction by November of this year to lay the groundwork for reauthorization in the next Congress. At this point, we are not anticipating many big changes in this reauthorization round.

Administrative Updates

AFWA 2024 USFWS NWR Hunt Fish Rule Comments

On August 2, the USFWS published the proposed National Wildlife Refuge System 2024-2025 Station-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. While there are no phase-outs for lead ammunition or tackle where currently used, the new opportunities opened do not allow for lead use either. AFWA [has submitted comments](#) thanking the Service for the increased coordination with affected state agencies and the expanded/new opportunities, but expressing concern with the Service's characterization of the scientific impact of lead ammunition and tackle and their intention to not allow lead use for any future openings/expansions.

Rotenone

The EPA recently reviewed rotenone's registration under FIFRA and, in its 2021 interim decision, identified an outstanding 21-day sub-chronic inhalation neurotoxicity study which must be fulfilled. The registrant of rotenone, Central Life Sciences, is unwilling to pay for the study, so end users must decide whether to provide funding. If the requested data are not provided to EPA, rotenone's registration may be cancelled, in which case rotenone products would no longer be available. With a lot of help from AFS, AFWA is working to provide state fish and wildlife agencies with the information they need to determine whether—and if so, how—to fund this study. A decision will likely be needed by January 2025.

Formaldehyde

The US EPA is currently reviewing formaldehyde under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). There is the potential for this risk evaluation to result in risk management decisions that make formalin, a key fish therapeutant, difficult to obtain and/or administer. In its draft risk evaluation, EPA found that formaldehyde poses unreasonable risk to human health, and that workers who are in workplaces where formaldehyde is used are at the most risk from formaldehyde exposure. Worker protections, such as protective equipment, were not taken into consideration when making these conclusions. The final risk evaluation is anticipated in December. Any potential rules to reduce unreasonable risk would be developed in 2025 at the earliest.

According to the EPA, they are not permitted to consider impacts on critical uses and costs at this stage—those considerations will come into play when developing any proposed rules. AFWA provided a letter to the EPA that details our concerns about how potential regulations might impact cost and availability of formalin in the U.S and the fisheries work of state fish and wildlife agencies.

Grants

- F24AS00414 **Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act Fiscal Year 2024:** \$5M for projects to decrease fish mortality associated with the withdrawal of water for irrigation in the Pacific Ocean drainages of the States of California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, or Montana. Applications due April 30, 2025.
- NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2025-27597 **NOAA Species Recovery Grants to States:** grants to support conservation activities for any endangered or threatened species, as well as monitoring of candidate species, recently delisted species, and species proposed for listing under the ESA. Applications due October 31, 2024. Awards of up to \$250,000.
- NOAA-NMFS-FHQ-2025-2651 **FY2025 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) - NOAA Fisheries Citizen Science Funding Opportunity:** to support citizen science projects that can help support federal fisheries stock assessments and climate-ready fisheries management. Funding will prioritize projects that: provide information that can supplement and/or inform stock assessments or increase understanding of current and/or future impacts of climate change on fish stocks and/or fishing communities. \$600,000 available, with awards of between \$75,000 and \$200,000 per project. Applications due November 4, 2024.
- NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2024-28122 **NOAA Great Lakes Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership Grants:** Up to \$12M over three years available for habitat restoration that will lead to significant and sustainable benefits for Great Lakes native fish species. First round of applications (for projects starting October 1, 2025) are due October 28, 2024.

- **693JJ324NF00025 Federal Highways National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grant [NOFO](#)** : \$196M available over 3 years for projects to meaningfully improve or restore anadromous fish passage through the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs, which may include infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir and weir improvements. Applications for the current round of funding are due September 23, 2024.
- USFWS FAC Update Allan Brown

- **Branch of Hatchery Ops and Applied Science**

- **Hatchery Operations**

- **Propagation Program Assessment: Coming to completion**

- This assessment identifies strengths and gaps in high priority captive conservation programs in the NFHS.
- Working with academic and Service partners, the results have been synthesized and written into a manuscript for submission to peer review.
- Areas of strength include genetic management, and recovery planning. Opportunities for improvement include structuring restoration programs.

- **Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) funding for Asset-Based Protection in the National Fish Hatchery System: Early adoption, protection, and success**

- Funds were secured and allocated to regions from BIL to incorporate environmental DNA (eDNA) technology in existing biosecurity planning processes at NFHS.
- Some regional AIS coordinators have worked with NFH staff to develop surveillance plans for several National Fish Hatcheries, with projects already underway.

- **Applied Science**

- **National Aquatic eDNA Strategy: The Service works to ensure partners are engaged.**

- FAC staff have been engaged in writing the Implementation Plan to follow the release of the National Aquatic eDNA Strategy.
- Service representatives on the writing team have emphasized the need to engage partners in the implementation of the Strategy.
- FAC presented a briefing on the Strategy to the AFWA Fish Chiefs call in August, and additional outreach planning for Tribal partners is underway.
- The Implementation Plan is being developed and is scheduled for public release by the end of 2024.

- **National Aquatic Animal Health Plan 2024-2026 IN DRAFT:**

- An interagency team is drafting the 2024-2026 version of the National Aquaculture Animal Health Plan and Standards. It is anticipated a first draft will be completed in early 2025.
- The writing team has members from the Service, NOAA - NMFS, and USDA APHIS.

- **Title 50:**

- Since June 2024, there have been 3 import requests equaling 2.4 million Salmonid fish. They have come from 2 countries.
- During this same period 4 new Title 50 Signing officials have been approved from 2 nations.
- Authority to approve Certifying Officials has been officially delegated from the Service Director to AD-FAC.
- This will streamline Title 50 processes, a goal of the program and our industry partners.

- **Facilities and Asset Management**

- **Deferred Maintenance: A growing challenge**

- The total deferred maintenance backlog for the National Fish Hatchery System is currently \$480M, and the funding for addressing it is \$16M.

- In FY19, the total deferred maintenance backlog has grown from \$250M, and funding was \$13M.
- The backlog is increasing almost four times the rate of the funding available to fix it.
- **Branch of Aquatic Species and Habitat Conservation**
 - FAC recently drafted a plan to increase our investment in native fish conservation across multiple program areas including hatcheries, habitat conservation, assessment and monitoring, and AIS management. Happy to share if folks are interested in learning more.
 - We continue to make good progress implementing BIL fish passage dollars. Obligation rates for FY22 and FY23 funding at nearly 100% and FY24 obligations progressing at a steady clip, with over 89% obligated by FY24 Q3. NFPP BIL has moved into a stronger project implementation phase. We have one more year of BIL funding remaining that is uncommitted at this point. We anticipate releasing a Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY26 funds sometime in late summer/early fall 2025. Thanks to all of our project partners and their efforts to lead and/or support implementation.
 - We continue to spearhead the Federal Interagency Fish Passage Task Force (Task Force). Most recently, the Task Force in collaboration with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has been working to advance a short list of 10 transformational fish passage projects, with the goal of highlighting the diverse and substantial benefits of this work, and serving as a mechanism to leverage and focus BIL/IRA resources from multiple federal agencies going forward. In parallel, the Task Force is actively collaborating on the development of an accomplishments report and a complementary strategic action agenda, both of which are expected to be released by the end of the year.
 - We continue to make progress with other federal agencies on a revision to Interagency Operational Plan through NFHP. The draft IOP is getting close to completion and will be submitted for approval by agency leadership in the coming months. The portion of the IOP that catalogues federal agency resources devoted to aquatic habitat conservation will be in an online, searchable, filterable database around the end of 2024.
- **Branch of Communication and Partnerships**
 - *Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council*
 - The Council met in-person in May 2024 for the first time under a new Charter. The Council now advises DOI through the Fish and Wildlife Service and DOC through the National Marine Fisheries Service.
 - At the first meeting, DOI Assistant Secretary Shannon Estenoz and Director Martha Williams were among the speakers providing opening remarks.
 - Members were briefed on the history, past accomplishments, and near-term priorities for the Council, including studying the impact of derelict vessels and identifying recyclable solutions for recreational vessels, reviewing the GAO Recreational Boating Study that documents the impact of nonmotorized vessels on waterway access points, and evaluating the 2016—2020 Assessment of the National Outreach Communications Program.
 - Since that meeting, the subcommittees (Infrastructure and Access, Conservation and Restoration, and Communications and Outreach) have met ten times and are fully engaged on the issues. The Council also formed an ad hoc working group to provide input on the developing Fish and Aquatic Conservation Strategic Plan.

- The Council plans to meet in-person on October 29-30 in Bozeman, MT to discuss progress to date and take action on a new board seat for the National Fish Habitat Partnership and board seats for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.
- **AADAP**
 - The Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership's (AADAP) National Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) Program continues to provide legal access to 19 different drugs as they go through FDA's approval process. Examples include treatments for disease, anesthetics for safe handling, and aids for reproduction such as for recovery enhancement, which are only legally available through this program. In 2023, 22.7 million fish were treated using AADAP's INADs with 75 different fish species through 898 studies conducted by participants including states, Tribes, academia, private industry, and federal agencies, that are then used to support new drug development for aquatic animals.
 - AADAP successfully hosted the 30th Annual Aquaculture Drug Approval Coordination Workshop in-person on July 22-25th, 2024 in Bozeman, MT. Presentations covered status and updates for drug approvals from AADAP, FDA, sponsors, researchers, and many other partners. Please mark your calendars for next year's workshop which will be held in combination with the Western Fish Disease Workshop and the AFS Fish Health Section Annual meeting during the week of June 23rd, 2025, back in Bozeman, MT!
- **Branch of Aquatic Invasive Species**
 - **Marimo Moss Ball Response:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Plant Protection and Quarantine program (PPQ) oversees Marimo moss ball (a filamentous algae) importation into the United States. All shipments must be under a PPQ permit, have a phytosanitary certification, and are subject to inspection by PPQ. The USFWS does not prohibit or otherwise regulate the import of moss balls. However, zebra mussels are listed as injurious under Title 18 of the Lacey Act, and as such are prohibited from importation into the United States and some shipment. The USFWS is authorized to enforce the injurious provision of the Lacey Act; accordingly, PPQ refers any shipments suspected to be contaminated with viable zebra mussels to the USFWS where they are subject to enforcement actions including, but not limited to, seizure of the shipment.
 - In early August, USFWS and USDA were informed that a shipment of Marimo moss balls in Washington contained zebra mussel shells (no confirmed live mussels have been found). This shipment was from a distributor in Florida that reported the shipment originated from Ukraine. It has been determined that shipments of moss balls between this exporter overseas and the Florida distributor have bypassed the required evaluation at a plant inspection station in violation of permit requirements and regulations by going directly from the exporter to U.S. importer through International Post. USDA-Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance have been coordinating with state and regional fish and wildlife and law enforcement contacts to address Marimo moss balls that were distributed that were not appropriately imported into the country and inspected. USFWS' FAC Program and Office of Law Enforcement continue to work with USDA to address this commodity with potential hitchhiking invasive zebra mussel.
 - **Pilot Rapid Response Fund:** The Department invested \$1 million to establish this pilot fund, with an additional \$1 million envisioned each year 2024 through 2026 as part of advancing a National EDRR Framework. Funding recipients are listed on FAC's website

as they are awarded and can be found here: Rapid Response Funding to Combat Aquatic Invasive Species | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)

- **Eradication Notice of Funding decisions announced on August 28, 2024:** The Department of Interior is working with partners to identify, enhance and collaborate on invasive species eradication activities, build new tools and support coordinated processes to eradicate existing populations of invasive species that are harming our nation's land, waters, and wildlife. These eradication activities are being implemented with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds through the FAC Program and complements the National EDRR Framework. Six projects were selected from 76 applicants seeking more than \$34 million in funding. The projects are (two or three projects may be highlighted):

- Alaska: Advancing island ecosystem restoration – Research on Norway rat eradication on Great Sitkin Island, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge - \$448,237.
- California: Argentine ant eradication to protect biodiversity and ecosystem function on Santa Cruz Island - \$813,155
- Hawaii: Eradication of two high-risk invasive plants from Hawaii Island - \$134,184
- U.S. Virgin Islands: Eradicating invasive black rats on an offshore island to benefit an endangered boa - \$423,920
- Washington: American bullfrog eradication for the recovery of the federally listed Oregon spotted frog at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Lake Refuge - \$600,504
- Nationwide: Rapid response, early intervention and eradication of invasive fish using YY male technology - \$540,000. This funding is going to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

- FAC Program developing a new Strategic Plan and they will be reaching out to a wide variety of Survey design and estimation

- Data partners. Starting by reaching out to tribal partners.

- Angler Survey Committee Update from Dave Smith

- Purpose of Angler Survey Committee – foster a network of fisheries professionals with interest or expertise in angler surveys.

- Four subcommittees

- Survey design and estimation
- Data management
- Human dimensions
- Emerging technology

- Duties

1. Improve tools feeding into fisheries management
2. Improve communication across boundaries
3. Develop and publish a best practices manual – creel manual published in 1994, many advancements since then

- Looking for a new chair

- National Fish Habitat Partnership Update Gary Whelan

- Board met for the first time in Alaska, where 25% of projects are currently

- Alaskans showed their amazing work.

- DOI approved most recent project list – 127 projects for \$8.5M at a 2.6:1 match.

- Draft reauthorization legislation – Few key items

- Moving match requirement from individual projects to program
- Adding two members for representatives from fisheries councils/commissions
- Ensuring that congressional action is not required to approve a new partnership
- Additional funding being requested for both projects (\$10 million annually) and for the National Fish Habitat Assessment (\$1 million over 5 years)
- Reauthorizes program to 2030
- NFH Assessment is currently underway – funding is from NFHP (carved out of project funding along with potential MSCG)
 - Hoping to get \$125K multi-state grant for assessment – half of what we requested
 - Assessment will be similar to 2016 with a bit more modeling – makes data more assessable to partnership
- Board Chair is retiring early next year – new board chair
- Couple of in person meetings next year and 2 virtual meetings
- Update to website – going live soon
- NFHP dashboard going live soon, huge amount of information will be available
- Instream Flow Water Level Training Academy – funded by multistate grant, going to AFWA for approval
- Names of Fishes Committee Discussions Julie Carter/Lynn Quattro
 - Publication updated early this year. Lots of changes that caused serious issues in many states including:
 - Black bass name changes have affected things in a lot of states regarding legislation and managing state/world records
 - Endangered species designations have changed resulting in management and regulatory issues.
 - Many states use this publication to reference correct nomenclature for fish in regulations, research and management. Fish Chiefs are very interested in the reasons for these changes and documentation used to make these decisions.
 - FMS and FAS have discussed these changes with Fish Chiefs from around the country during AFWA monthly calls. Many states are very concerned about this and created a list of questions for which they would appreciate some answers.
 - During meetings with the Names of Fishes Committee, FMS and FAS learned that the representatives of this committee consider the publication to be a list of “recommendations” and were not aware that states were using this publication for regulations and management.
 - FMS and FAS will continue to meet with Names of Fishes committee members to get additional information and clarification about their processes.

3:30 – 5:00 – Fisheries Management Section Meeting