

Fisheries Administration Section
Mid-Year Meeting
89th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference
March 27, 2024, 1:00-3:00 PM (EDT)
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel – Nelson Room (3rd Floor)

Welcome/Call to Order (Lynn Quattro/George Scholten)

- Introduction of AFS and FAS officers/staff, guests
- Determine quorum (15 members) – thirteen members were present so there was not a quorum.
 - Members Present:
 1. Lynn Quattro (SC DNR)
 2. George Scholten (Iowa DNR)
 3. Dave Miko (USFWS)
 4. Christian Waters (NC WRC)
 5. Vic DeCenzo (AGFC)
 6. Julie Carter (AZ GFD)
 7. Ben Batten (AGFC)
 8. Gary Whelan (AFS)
 9. Kyle Briggs (NC WRC)
 10. Lance Hebdon (Idaho Fish and Game)
 11. Scott Hale (Ohio DNR)
 12. Christopher Estes (Chalk Board Enterprises)
 13. Doug Austen (AFS)
 - Guests
 1. Ali Schwaab (AFWA)
 2. David Hu (USGS)
- Gary Whelan was presented with an award in recognition of his contributions to the Section.
- Review agenda
- Approve August 2023 meeting minutes
- Financial Update and approval of Treasurers Report

SFR Project Awards (Lynn Quattro/Christian Waters)

- We are caught up! Outstanding 2022 and 2023 awards have all been presented. Since the last meeting, Lynn Quattro presented the following:
 - 2022 Award for R3/Aquatic Education was presented to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at their Commission meeting in Bartlesville, OK on October 2, 2023.
 - 2023 Awards for Research and Survey AND Fishery Management were presented to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at their Commission meeting in Lewiston, ID on November 16, 2023.
- Gary Whelan presented the 2023 Award for R3/Aquatic Education to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources at the Marine Advisory Committee meeting in Charleston, SC on January 12, 2024.
- Lynn Quattro additionally had the honor of presenting Bob Curry with the Fisheries Management Section's Hall of Excellence award at the NC AFS Chapter meeting on February 24, 2024.
- Ken Kurzawski has updated the website with all of this information.
- Planning for 2024 Awards
 - We discussed the FAS award process for this year. Christian is working to get judges.
 - Carter: FMS is trying to get award notifications out before early registration
 - Because it would be good to have the awards selected and the winner notified prior to the end of early registration for the AFS meeting in Hawaii, Christian will adjust the timeline to get the process started as soon as possible. Gary checked on early registration and it ends on July 19.

Reports and Updates

- Section Workplan (Lynn Quattro)

- Continue to increase visibility and membership in the Section.
 - This work is ongoing and will continue anywhere that I can get an audience to listen to me. Some of these opportunities are...
 - At the FAS Meeting in Grand Rapids, I was voted onto the AFS Management Committee and have been serving as an at large member representing the Section.
 - I was invited to serve on the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee as a representative from the Fisheries Administration Section and started my tenure this past fall. I was elected President of Friends of Reservoirs Board (401c3 group supporting the partnership).
 - Attended the World Fisheries Congress in Seattle on March 3 – 7. Had several opportunities to promote the work of the FAS with other attendees and some specific conversations that will be discussed later.
 - 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 project will be provided during this meeting.
- Continue promoting policy engagement and develop new avenues to coordinate Section responses and activities
 - I attended 2023 Fish Passage Partner Workshop held in Charleston, SC on December 5 – 6. The objectives for this meeting were:
 - Provide feedback on actions and activities underway by federal agencies to transform approaches to improving fish passage and aquatic connectivity.
 - Hear from tribes with more specificity about the work they are doing in fish passage and how the Task Force can improve opportunities for tribally led projects.
 - Provide states and partners with a venue to express challenges and highlight successes during the first two years of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding.
 - Better understand and communicate the community benefits of fish passage efforts (e.g., public safety, infrastructure resiliency, revitalization) and bring them to various communities of practice.
 - Coordinate partner accomplishments and benefits to tell the fish passage story to the nation.
 - We are still waiting for unified guidance for BIL projects from the Federal Interagency Task Force. While some federal agencies have well developed guidance for applying for these funds, others still do not. The state representatives met after the first day to discuss things and the gist of that discussion is that we still don't have unified guidance from the federal agencies and that guidance varies from region to region. Smaller projects are often overlooked in favor of larger project (large scale dam removals vs culvert improvement). The overall message that we believe we have sent to the federal agencies is that we need to have unified guidance, a unified portal for apply for funds and that information needs to be provided to all regions.
 - I did attend the ASA Summit in Florida last October and had some great conversations with Chuck Sykes (Director in Alabama) about the importance of states engaging with ASA and industry partners. I will continue to work with ASA on issues as they arise and encourage others to do the same.
- Create a Procedures Manual for the Section with input from the Executive Committee.
 - I have gotten a copy of the FMS operating procedures manual; that section has a similar structure to FAS. I have begun working on drafting such a document for our section and will have a draft to the Ex Comm in the next few months. We will work together to ensure it is as correct as possible and will provide it to membership once complete. It will be put on our website to guide operations within the Section. After putting all of our procedures on paper, we will see if any bylaw changes might be necessary. If so, those changes will be brought to membership and will then need to go to the Management Committee and Governing Board for approval. More to follow...
- Reestablish our relationship with the institute of Fisheries Management, England
 - Mission Accomplished! (see update below)
- Procedures Manual
 - Carter: FMS had to change bylaws to allow for a joint committee – may need to do the same for FAS

- Institute of Fisheries Management Relationship Update (Lynn Quattro/Gary Whelan)
 - While at the World Fisheries Congress, Gary had the opportunity to meet Paul Coulson from the Institute of Fisheries Management and scheduled a meeting that included me and Julie Carter (President, FMS).
 - Paul is eager to re-establish the reciprocal arrangement that AFS has with the Institute. This relationship is through a joint effort of FAS and FMS.
 - Historically, the Institute sent a representative to the annual AFS meeting every year and AFS sent a representative of either FAS or FMS to the Institute's annual meeting. FAS and FMS alternated attendance. The host country paid the registration fees and lodging expenses; the traveling party paid for their airfare. The visitor provided a presentation at the host's meeting.
 - We discussed timing and Paul was eager to get started and indicated that they could host a visitor at this year's meeting. Paul will be attending the AFS meeting in Honolulu. The meeting is scheduled for October, 2024 in Wrexham, UK. Julie and I were unsure if we could get spun up quickly enough to attend. Gary indicated that he may be able to attend. We believe the last representative of AFS to attend was Ken Kurzawski as a member of FAS before the Covid pandemic. Funds may also be an issue.
 - The 2025 meeting would be in Ireland (likely Dublin?) and we may be better prepared to attend this one. We also need to look into finances. More to follow at the annual meeting in Honolulu.
- FAS Website (Lynn Quattro/Gary Whelan)
 - Ken Kurzawski continues to do an excellent job maintaining our website as best as we are able. Ken continues to have issues with formatting photos and getting them added to the rolling banner, but is working on it.
 - We will add the Procedures manual as soon as it is finalized.
 - If anyone has suggestions for the website, please let the Ex Com know so we can address those.
- Committee Assignments
 - Strategic Planning Committee: At the recent mid-year Governing Board Committee Meeting, we discussed update of the AFS Strategic Plan. The current plan needs to be updated and the Strategic Planning Committee asked to have a representative from FAS on that committee. I reached out to Christian and asked if he could represent us on this committee and he graciously accepted. The Committee is shooting for having a draft Strategic Plan (2025 – 2029) by August 31. Christian has contacted the chair of this committee for preliminary information.
 - Executive Director Search Committee (Lynn Quattro): At the GB meeting, we were told that the search for the soon to be vacant AFS Executive Director position will be conducted by a committee appointed by President Cecil Jennings. During discussion, the importance of having additional state representation and representation from the FAS would be desired. After a motion was passed to include FAS representation and polling of the Ex Com, it was decided that I would be that representative. A final job description was approved by the GB and sent back to the Search Committee. Currently, the committee is working with Lauren Maza to set up the portal for applications. Once that is done, committee members will test the portal and once we are convinced it is working, the position announcement will be distributed. The committee will be responsible for reviewing applications and forwarding a select group to the Governing Board for interview.
- AFS Update (Gary Whelan/Doug Austen)
 - Professional Development Workshop in April
 - AFS is providing lots of professional development opportunities at all levels, but there isn't a plan or a comprehensive list of available courses.
 - Bringing partners and agency leadership on how to build a program with the assets we have now.
 - Not going to replicate what other partners are doing.
 - Day and a half, facilitated workshop
 - People are excited about this opportunity, big need
 - AFS Officers 2023-2024



**Cecil
Jennings -
President**



**Miguel
Garcia-
Bermudez
- President
- Elect**



**Gary
Whelan -
1st Vice
President**



**Margaret
Murphy - 2nd
Vice
President**



**April
Croxton -
Past
President**

A remarkable group of professionals with varied backgrounds. Get to know them!!!!

- AFS Stats
 - 154 years old – Oldest and largest in the world
 - Geographic Units
 - 4 Divisions with a 5th being considered for international members
 - 45 Chapters
 - 83 Student Sub-units
 - 3 other
 - Discipline Units - Sections
 - 24 Sections from Administration to Water Quality
 - Membership – 6000-7000
 - Regular 44%
 - Retired 7%
 - Early Career 14%
 - Students 17%
 - Life Members 15%
 - Others 2%
- Capital, Assets, and Expenses
 - Annual Revenue - \$3.5-3.9M
 - Annual Expenses - \$3.4-3.7M
 - Assets - \$5.8M investments
 - \$3M restricted funds
 - \$1M obligated reserve
 - \$900K unrestricted funds
 - A flat budget this year and stable due to dues increase
 - Large asset in office space in Bethesda under sale consideration but HOA blocking options
 - Dues payment timing is a critical issue for cash flow – Please pay early in year
 - Development Program – Jenna Hanks
 - Asking members to donate something to attract other donors
- Journals
 - Publication Contract – 20% of our income

- Looking for publishers that value professional societies
 - 8 statements of interest with 4 examined further
 - The best are being reviewed currently
 - Will be a 7-year contract
 - Need to convey to authors the importance of publishing with society
 - Cecil Jennings' Current Plan of Work Focus Areas
 - Recruit and hire new ED by August 2024
 - PD created and approved at March GB with recruitment underway
 - Salary range \$210-230K with remote work
 - 2024 Annual Meeting – Honolulu (9/15-19)
 - Theme – Conserving Fishes and Fishing through Knowledge Co-production
 - 50 years since the last time there
 - HI themed logo design
 - Meeting website up and running and all committees staffed
 - 120 sessions submitted so attendance is likely between 1500-2000
 - Native HI plenary – Biocultural restoration, traditional mgt with current science, conservation aquaculture, and traditional fishpond mgt
 - Session on TEK, service opportunity, and respectful guest training
 - World Fisheries Congress – Seattle WA
 - Cecil Jennings provided the opening welcome
 - AFS ED and officers hosted multiple receptions for international professional fisheries society leadership and plenary speakers including USGS and NMFS leaders
 - 1630 attendees from 82 countries
 - New Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 with futures from the SPC
 - Regular assessments of objectives and more adaptive planning
 - Emphasis on future resources to make members better
 - Reaching out to agency and employer leadership on the value of AFS membership
 - Policy engagement
 - Increasing diversity and ensuring services for all members
 - Effective Society governance including clear Sections role and AFS Ambassadors at all levels
 - Membership
 - Down since COVID – retirements and slow re hiring
 - Key area is retention of young professionals and retirees
 - Renew your membership online and consider joining a Section to increase your network
 - Remember that affiliate members are not Society members so join the community
 - NO SOCIETY, NO DIVISION, NO CHAPTER OR SUBUNIT
 - DEIJA
 - Evaluating potential educational and financial barriers to professional certification
 - Support EOS efforts
 - Fisheries article coming out in April
 - DEI Plenary talk to the Canadian Society of Aquatic Sciences
 - HI meeting - TEK mega session with subsections on knowledge co-production
 - Hutton Summit at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (Mansfield, GA)
 - Now accepting 40-60 Hutton Scholars annually
 - Improving Society and Science
 - Working to develop the Pacific Islands Chapter and improve CASS
 - Program reviews underway– Books, Pubs, Hutton Program, and Meetings
 - Six special committees formed
 1. ED Search

2. AFS History and Archiving
 3. Use of ChatGPT/AI for content
 4. Strategic Plan
 5. Publisher Contract Review and Bidding
 6. Status of Standing Committees
- Communication Transparency – Officer outreach
 - Member Services
 - Certification Program review
 - Professional Development Workshop with 25 attendees – Microcredentialling will be a topic
- Miguel Garcia-Bermudez’s Plan of Work
 - Lead society toward international status with IFS
 - Latin American and Caribbean Unit
 - Support new Pacific Islands Chapter
 - Lead World Council of Fisheries Societies
 - Cultivate and strengthen fisheries – Go beyond traditional fisheries and improve CASS
 - Support strategic positioning efforts and new ED
 - Increase communications
 - Officer meeting attendance
 - Better information exchange
 - Work with employers and educate them on AFS and reduce misconceptions
 - DEI – Make AFS welcoming
 - Highlight links between DEIA and benefits of diversity to the Society
 - Partner with CASS on DEIA efforts
 - Target outreach to minority serving institutions using local units and others
 - Gary Whelan’s Plan of Work Ideas
 - Columbus 2026 Meeting
 - Retiree Corps of Experience
 - Reactivating Sections and Sub-Units – History and Law
 - Continue transparency, diversity and communication efforts with DEI extended to employers
 - Assist ED
 - Strengthen relationships with AFWA, particularly on policy and state employee membership in AFS
 - Rebuild policy program
 - Facilitate adaptive planning efforts
 - Upcoming Annual Meetings
 - 2025 – San Antonio, TX (8/10-14)
 - 2026 – Columbus, OH (8/30-9/3)
 - Habitat Theme
 - Idea – “Protecting and improving fish and habitat through focused science and efforts”
 - 20th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership
 - Large sessions on habitat and the history of select fisheries in OH (Lake Erie, inland waters, and the Ohio River)
 - Plenary Ideas – 2 or 3
 - National Fish Habitat Board Chair (Likely Robert Boyles SC DNR) on NFHP and a picture of the nation’s fish habitat
 - Ohio’s fisheries resources to include where they have been, today’s status, and the why
 - Lots of opportunities for you to be a part of this memorable event

- Committees from the Program to Funding Raising to Networking – Where can you help
 - There will be a lot of logistic support from AFS staff
 - Start thinking about logo, student events, sponsorships and donations
 - 2027 – NED – Likely Pittsburgh
 - 2028 – JASM3 with AFS meeting (May)
 - 2029 – Joint AFS/TWS Meeting
- USFWS Update (Dave Miko)
 - Branch of Aquatic Invasive Species:
 - Please find BAIS talking points attached in a separate document. Please note, Craig included more than the two high-level points because Dave or Teresa are expected to provide an agency update at the Invasive Species Committee meeting (Tues. March 26, 9-12 pm CT).
 - The "Partner Update" is at 9:50am to 10:35am on Tuesday, March 26th. There is 9 minutes scheduled per agency update for FWS, ANSTF, NISC ISAC, USGS, and USDA/APHIS. Once we know who will be representing the FWS, Craig can let Kerry Wixted know so it is reflected on the agenda. Please note, Kim Bogenschutz provides the ANSTF update because she represents the AFWA as an ANSTF ex-officio member. Craig says this can be unusual because Dave is the co-chair and has management oversight of the ANSTF; however, we coordinate with Kim before hand so communications are seamless.
 - Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership:
 - In partnership with AWFA, we are helping to develop a new Unmet Drug Needs Survey. AFWA will be sending the survey out to fish chiefs and other state points of contact in early spring of this year. This survey will be similar to the last one that the DAWG helped develop about 5 years ago but will contain some new or modified questions including questions that pertain to marine species. Very helpful survey for AADAP as it helps drive their priorities and workplans for several years.
 - AADAP will be hosting the 30th Annual Aquaculture Drug Approval Coordination Workshop on July 22-25, 2024 in Bozeman, MT. Topics that will be covered include new and emerging aquatic animal drug needs, how vaccines work and updates on approvals for existing drugs.
 - Branch of Hatchery Operations and Applied Science:
 - Priority Propagation Report Synthesis: The Branch completed a qualitative analysis synthesizing outcomes of 20 Priority Propagation Reports to identify system-level data strengths and gaps in assessing individual program success for both recovery and restoration.
 - Strengths:
 - Genetic management planning.
 - Recovery: The system has strong planning and assessment in recovery programs.
 - Gaps:
 - Habitat assessment prior to propagation and supplementation.
 - Restoration: The system lacks consistent, effective planning in restoration programs which impacts the ability to assess and monitor success.
 - Next: This analysis be included in a synthesis manuscript to be written in partnership with Dr. Kai Lorenzen and others.
 - National eDNA Strategy: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) staff from Headquarters (HQ), Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Fish Technology Centers (FTCs) and the Conservation Genetics Community of Practice (CoP) provided detailed comments to National Aquatic eDNA Strategy writing team, led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). As a result of this feedback, Service staff have joined the implementation plan writing team expected to be completed in June.
 - Branch of Communications and Partnerships:
 - RBFF

- Through a cooperative agreement, FAC is working with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation on their outreach efforts with an emphasis on greater conservation messaging and engaging under-represented audiences in fishing and boating.
- Holly Richards and Steve Guertin attended RBFF's February board meeting in Orlando, where the RBFF board members approved the budget allocations and initiatives for the year. Holly and Steve also updated the board on FWS broadly.
- Holly and others from the NWRS attended RBFF's annual state marketing workshop in March. The goal was to see the marketing campaigns presented and see how they were received by the State marketing representatives in attendance.
- The 2024 Budget Amendment to the NOCP was reviewed and signed off recently, and the funding for this coming year will be processed in Grant Solutions soon.
- BCP meets with RBFF quarterly to discuss opportunities to collaborate and leverage FAC programs, our next meeting is scheduled for April 18th.
- SFBPC
 - The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council will hold it's first meeting under the new charter on May 14 and 15 in Washington D.C. at the Main Interior Building.
 - The Charter now requires the Council to advise the Secretaries of Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service.
 - The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new rules for the Charter and require the Council to consider
 - Studying the impact of derelict vessels and identifying recyclable solutions for recreational vessels.
 - Reviewing and identifying potential recommendations from the Comptroller General of the United States' study that documents the impacts of nonmotorized vessels on waterway access points and the use of funding sources to improve access issues and provide nonmotorized boating safety programs.
 - The Council will also continue oversight of the National Outreach and Communications Program, currently being executed by RBFF.
- Branch of Budget and Information Management:
 - FY2024 Enacted
 - Funding for the Service was provided on HR 4366 PL118-42 through Sept 30, 2024
 - The Service overall saw a reduction of -\$50,627 with the FAC program seeing an overall - \$14,778M reduction
 - FY2025 President's Budget
 - Green Book is published and can be found at <https://www.doi.gov/media/document/fy-2025-fish-and-wildlife-service-greenbook>
 - Narratives addressed the following priorities, while highlighting the work FAC program and everyone who contributed to that work.
 1. Climate challenges and building resilience
 2. Strengthening tribal nations
 3. Advancing and incorporating science across the Service
 4. Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion of underserved communities
 5. Building agency capacity
- Branch of Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation:
 - Fish Passage
 - USFWS will soon announce the slate of Year 3 projects funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the National Fish Passage Program.

- The Year 3 funding opportunity provides the option to use two fiscal years of funding (up to \$70M) and connects with the "transformational projects initiative" through the Interagency Fish Passage Task Force.
 - The recommended funding package includes diverse projects from over 20 states, including several that have not previously received NFPP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds, and many of the projects overlap the geographic or species priorities of the Fish Habitat Partnerships.
 - NFPP base appropriations were reduced by \$3.5M in FY24. We anticipate this will reduce some staff capacity and our ability to help advance projects outside of BIL funding.
 - ACE Act talking points
 - the bill was passed unanimously by the Senate EPW Committee and will soon head to the floor for a vote. If passed as written:
 - The Board will be able to fund Partnership coordination independent of projects, with \$10 million annually authorized.
 - The 1:1 non-federal match requirement for projects will be at the FHP level rather than the individual project level, which will allow good projects that are lacking in non-federal match to be funded as long as the FHP secures plenty of match from other projects.
 - Bonus point: BLM will be given a Board seat and there will be separate Board seats for Marine Fisheries Commissions and Fisheries Management Councils.
- Q&A Session
 - Carter: applied for a fish passage project that was packaged with others. When do we find out if projects were funded?
 - Miko: reviewed applications, looked at funding for FY24 and FY25, took prioritized lists of scores, looking for transformational projects distributed across the country. \$80M package submitted to Fish, Wildlife, and Parks yesterday. Should hear an answer by the end of April.
 - Quattro: Does this mean there will not be a call for FY25 projects?
 - Miko: not sure yet
 - Whelan: given the trillions dollar need for connectivity projects, it would be good to see projects selected that will result in measurable change
- Legislative Update from AFWA (Ali Schwaab)
 - ACE Act
 - On March 12, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) advanced the America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act of 2024, S3791.
 - The bill will ensure continuation of a number of AFWA's priorities benefiting state conservation efforts, including the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP)
 - reauthorization at \$10M (up from \$7.2M)
 - separate \$1M authorization for the National Fish Habitat Assessment
 - 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.
 - WRDA 2024
 - Biennial bill that authorizes USCAE water resource studies and projects relating to navigation, floor protection, and coastal restoration.
 - Senate: EPW held a WRDA hearing on February 28, which focused
 - primarily on the understanding the reasons for delays in implementing Congressional direction in previous WRDAs. Chairman Carper and ranking member Capito emphasized the WRDA 2024 will be more limited in scope, focusing on individual project solutions so that USACE can fully implement projects from past WRDAs. Over half of the 1200 requests received relate to provisions in past WRDAs that have not yet been implemented.
 - Working with an informal coalition to advocate for PPA reform via WRDA 2024.

- 6 week timeline, expecting to see drafts in the spring
- Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund
 - The Association has initiated discussions with the members of the Angling & Boating Alliance (ABA) on the reauthorization of Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The current authorization expires at the end of FY26. Based on feedback from the group, we will be organizing monthly calls to reach consensus on legislative priorities and draft language and aim to have a marker bill introduced in early Fall 2024. This will lay the groundwork for reauthorization in the 119th Congress
- Administrative
 - CON: AFWA has been providing input on a potential legislative fix to resolve the Certificate of Number issue between state agencies and the USCG. If you recall, the USCG has recently been auditing state boating programs and finding some states out of compliance with USCG regulations because they have been attaching fees as a condition of registration. These fees are often AIS-related. The legislative fix would provide more flexibility for states to continue to collect these fees alongside those relating to boating registration.
- Formaldehyde Review: 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 recently released draft risk evaluation, EPA preliminarily finds 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. EPA is not permitted to consider impacts on critical uses and costs at this stage— those considerations will come into play when developing any proposed rules. Comments on the draft risk evaluation are due May 14.
- Other: Unmet Drug Needs Survey: The DAWG and AADAP will shortly be releasing the newest iteration of the Unmet Drug Needs Survey, which asks fisheries professionals for their input on priority needs for aquatic animal drugs. The survey is conducted every 5-6 years and the input provided helps guide the DAWG and AADAP's work to ensure that fisheries professional have a stocked fish medicine chest. For this year's survey, we are looking for as much input as possible, so please distribute widely among your hatchery staff, fisheries biologists, fisheries managers, etc. We do not want one response per state!

New Business

- FAS Logo (Lynn Quattro)
 - All Divisions, Sections and Units were tasked with incorporating the new AFS logo into their logos and this should have been completed by the end of last year.
 - There was a misunderstanding ... we thought that the instructions were to incorporate it if the OLD AFS logo was part of our logo, but in fact, ALL needed to be updated.
 - We need to get this accomplished asap. There are several ways we can do this:
 - FMS had a logo contest with membership (describe their process)
 - Pay for a new design
 - I believe I can get SC DNR graphics to come up with a new design that could be vetted with membership
 - Alter existing logo to add the new AFS logo (show logo and describe) based on some discussions with a friend of mine who used to manage our graphics section.
 - After providing the current logo and discussion with the group, I will reach out to my graphics folks to see if they can amend the current logo (drastically). If so, I will provide a proof for review prior to or at the Annual Meeting.



- Reciprocal Arrangement with New Zealand (Lynn Quattro) Also at the WFC, Julie and I were introduced to Rasmus Gabrielson from New Zealand Department of Fish and Game. He is interested in setting up an arrangement with AFS where he would attend our annual meeting along with a group of students. Either before or after the meeting, the students would have the opportunity to shadow fisheries managers from state agencies. The number of students and the number of state agencies is up for discussion. He indicated that he would like to host representatives of AFS and their students in New Zealand as well. Julie and I are happy to start working on this relationship, but need to know if it is a direction that our sections are interested in pursuing.
- Membership Fees (Lynn Quattro):
 - At the AFS meeting in Grand Rapids last August, FMS intended to have a discussion of increasing membership fees and in a surprise move, there was a motion to do so and it happened. I'm not suggesting that happen here, but I do want to discuss it.
 - Our membership has been decreasing and costs have been going up. If we do want to resurrect our relationship with the Institute and establish new ones like it, this may be something we think about doing.
- AFS Gray Literature Database
 - Only a few months left on multistate grant
 - About 8,000 documents submitted
 - Haven't received many new submissions lately
 - Send flyer to Section membership

