



# Gill Raker Gazette

Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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Editor: Joe Kozfkay

## President's Message – The Only Thing New is the History You Don't Know

I recently finished reading *The Founding Brothers*, a book about the Founding Fathers that focuses on specific topics and the larger role that topic played in the events of the time. For example, one chapter was about the Hamilton-Burr duel, another was about Washington's farewell address, and another was about the lost and rekindled friendship between Jefferson and Adams. What struck me was how much animosity there was between opposing sides of the issues of the time. In modern America, it sometimes feels like no one can get along anymore, and the level of angst on one side of the political spectrum being leveled upon the other side has never been higher. Yet when I read that even Washington was accused (cursorily usually, but sometimes even overtly) of treason because of his stance on some issues, you realize that maybe the discord we all feel in society these days isn't much different than at other times in the past. I also remember reading, in a book about Abe Lincoln, how one southern senator, in the lead-up to the state successions that culminated in the Civil War, took a club onto the Senate floor and assaulted a northern senator right in front of everyone else in the chamber.

I bring this up because we often forget that the trials, tribulations, and questions we are now facing might have been faced before. The title of my letter is a quote by my favorite President, Harry Truman. He was a voracious reader and well-versed historian, spending hours and hours combing through biographies and history books to learn about the past. One of the primary lessons he was digging for in these books was to find good leadership qualities to emulate and bad ones to avoid. I'll get into leadership in my final column, but another reason he was doing so much reading was to learn from the past so that he could avoid common mistakes made by prior leaders.

As fisheries biologists, it is easier than ever to find a plethora of publications or book chapters on just about any scientific subject matter we can think of. But are we digging into this material? Are we making sense of our own findings in the context of prior work? Are we taking the time to archive prior reports and publications, and our own work, for future reference when we (or a colleague) might need it? And are we mentoring students and young professionals in a way that encourages them to find out what has already been learned while at the same time opening their mind to broad, new ways of thinking? Those are keys to successfully hurdling any adversity we face.

As many of us toil away this winter, attending meetings or making sense of the data we gathered in the last field season, I encourage you to think about how biologists in the past might have tried to answer questions like our own. Go find their work, see what they learned, and incorporate your findings into the broader world of fisheries science and management. In the process, heavily sprinkle three ingredients into your work: motivation, perseverance, and enthusiasm. The late great basketball coach Jimmy Valvano said that nothing good in life was ever accomplished without these ingredients. We have to be motivated to work hard and succeed, we must persevere in whatever obstacles come our way, and we need enthusiastic passion for what we are trying to accomplish. Let's foster this inside ourselves, and help to spread it to our staff, coworkers, and colleagues.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming ICAFS meeting in Spokane (see inside for preliminary details), and may 2024 be your best year ever!



Hiking into the Bruneau Canyon to conduct mountain whitefish snorkel surveys.

Kevin Meyer  
ICAFS President



## ICAFS FINANCIAL SUMMARY, FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

**Communicated by Kevin Meyer and Jesse McCane**

Each fiscal year (FY: May 1st to April 30th) ICAFS operates under two budgets. The FY Annual Budget covers expenses *not* associated with the annual meeting. Every year varies, but May 2022 to April 2023 expenses were as follows:

**ICAFS FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget**

Committee	Activity/Expenditure	Paid by ICAFS	Paid by Other	Comment
Education	Trout in the Classroom	\$ 614		
"	High School student scholarship	\$ 500		
"	Undergraduate student scholarship	\$ 1,500		
"	Graduate student scholarship	\$ 1,500		
"	SB Martin Scholarship		\$ 2,000	Paid by endowment
"	Best Student Presentation	\$ 500		
"	Best Student Poster	\$ 500		
"	TOP Grant	\$ 734		
Native Fish	Richard L. Wallace fish mount		\$ 500	Paid by Idaho Power Company
Mentoring	Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program		\$ 5,000	Paid by Idaho Fish and Game Dept.
Aquaculture	Coldwater Aquaculture Course Scholarship	\$ 500		
Fundraising	Fundraising Outlay	\$ 2,134		
	Venue Deposits for 2023 Meeting	\$ 10,990		
	In-Person EXCOM Meeting	\$ 318		
	Western Division EXCOM Travel	\$ 1,000		
	Chapter awards: plaques, certificates, etc.	\$ 1,800		
	Miscellaneous expenses	\$ 165		
	Website Maintenance	\$ 384		
	Latin America & Caribbean Conference Sponsorship	\$ 250		
	WDAFS/National AFS Meeting Sponsorship	\$ 500		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$ 23,889</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>	

The other budget accounts for income and expenses generated from holding an annual meeting (i.e., The Meeting Budget). Each year, EXCOM strives to generate enough profit from the annual meeting to cover the upcoming FY Annual Budget. However, in spring 2023, our annual meeting was a joint meeting with WDAFS, so we shared meeting profit. Based on the net meeting income objective set by WDAFS to cover their annual budget and the profit splitting formula for the meeting, ICAFS made more from this meeting (\$52,015) than we usually do (see adjacent table).

ICAFS 2023 Annual Meeting	\$
Food and meeting space expense	\$122,760
Miscellaneous other expenses	\$ 20,794
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$143,554</b>
Registration Revenue	\$175,410
Corporate and Fundraising Revenue	\$ 52,485
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$227,895</b>
<b>Total Net Profit</b>	<b>\$ 84,341</b>
WDAFS Portion of Revenue	\$ 32,326
ICAFS Portion of Revenue	\$ 52,015

In summary, ICAFS is in a better cash position than ever before, with \$73,000 in discretionary funds, plus one endowed scholarship, and a “rainy day” mutual fund that WDAFS holds, as they do for other chapters; see final table. Annual expenses in FY 2023-2024 are forecasted to be similar though slightly higher than last year.

Our goal for the 2024 meeting has been to minimize registration costs in light of our current surplus. However, due to another joint meeting and forecasted profits and sharing distributions amongst the chapters, we are unable to reduce registration costs slightly for the 2024 meeting.

We are presenting this information for two reasons. First, EXCOM is committed to transparency. Second, EXCOM would like your input (via the link below) on what to do with surplus cash balance. We appreciate your input and will share these results in a future newsletter!

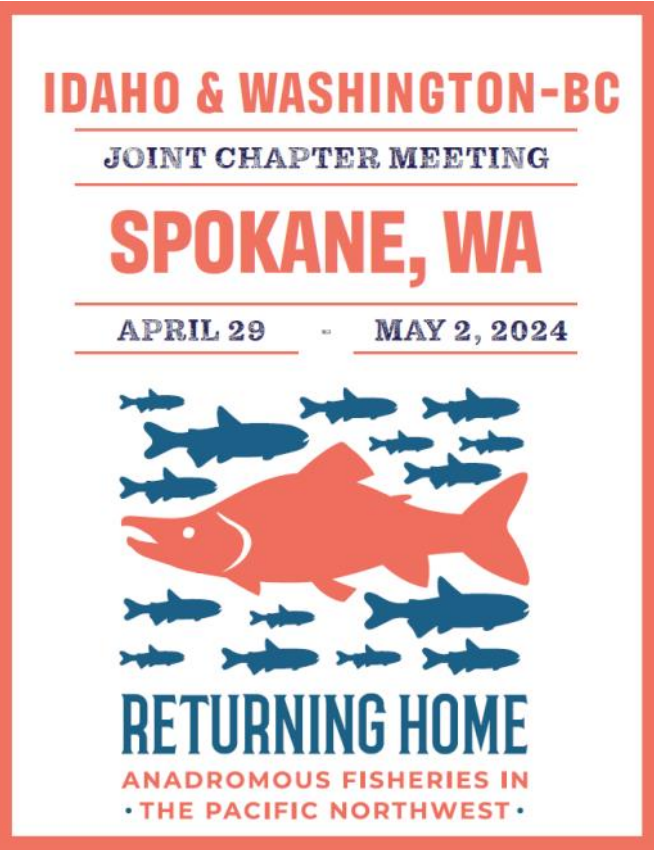
ICAFS Assets	As of 11/15/2023
Checking	\$29,092
Savings	\$40,104
PayPal	\$4,150
Mutual Funds	\$53,767
SB Martin Endowment	\$66,318



**Please take the survey!!**



# Announcing the 2024 WA-BC & Idaho Chapters Joint Meeting!



**April 29—May 2, 2024 at the Centennial Hotel in Spokane, WA**

## Theme

This meeting’s theme is Returning Home: Navigating the Challenges of Anadromous Fisheries.

## Call for Abstracts!

We have a plethora of [symposia](#) for this year’s joint meeting. Get inspired by the many topics, covering not just anadromous issues and submit an abstract or poster to be seen by both the Idaho and WA-BC Chapters! The presentation choices are standard 20-minute talks, 5-minute IGNITE! talks, and posters. The first deadline for abstract submission is Thursday, February 29, 2024. You may submit abstracts directly [here](#) or visit the 2024 meeting [website](#).

## Early Registration & Lodging

We are planning to open early registration on February 1st. Check back then on the meeting website [2024 Meeting – AFS-Washington British Columbia Chapter \(fisheries.org\)](#) for details. There are drastically reduced rates for students and retired fisheries professionals, as well as for young professionals. Young professionals are those who are no longer students but are not yet in a situation where their employer will pay registration costs. Examples include college graduates working part-time or seasonal positions. If you are uncertain if you qualify as a young professional, contact Lauren Andrews at [president-elect@idahoafs.org](mailto:president-elect@idahoafs.org) for further information. Lodging will be at The Centennial meeting venue and can be booked through this [link](#).



## 2024 Joint Annual Meeting (continued)

### Plenary Session and speakers



#### Spokane Tribe of Indians

We will kick off the conference hearing from a Tribal Councilwoman, followed by the debut of the short film from the 2022 salmon release into the Spokane River which took place at the 152nd AFS Annual Meeting.



#### Update on Snake River Dam Breaching from AFS

During the past two years, an ad hoc group of AFS members has been working at the parent society level on policy positions and congressional briefings relative to anadromous fish recovery and restoration in the Columbia Basin, with much emphasis on Snake River dam breaching. An update on this topic will describe: 1) the current status of Snake Basin anadromous fish, 2) AFS's position statement and letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, as well as 3) an update on the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative, the Presidential Memorandum, and the recent USG Commitments that advance the work necessary to obtain congressional authorization for breaching the four Lower Snake Dams. With his close involvement, presenting on this topic will be Jay Hesse, the Director of Biological Services for the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management.



Jonathan Armstrong is an associate professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences at Oregon State University. His lab focuses on landscape ecology, animal behavior, and physiology to understand how animals interact with heterogeneity in habitat conditions. The lab strives to benefit conservation and is focused on improving climate change adaptation planning for wide-ranging fishes. He and his lab members work with stakeholders to co-produce science and communicate research to the general public.



Christopher Caudill is an associate professor of fisheries in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences at the University of Idaho. His research interests include animal movement and population biology, fish migration and fish passage, life history variation, climate effects, conservation and management of freshwater resources, and endangered species.



Scott Hinch is a professor and Associate Dean of Students in the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences at the University of British Columbia. His areas of research include salmon migration behavioral physiology and ecology; land-use effects on fish ecology and habitat; and adult salmon migration survival, behavior, energetics, physiology, habitat use, environmental cues, effects of fisheries and capture-release, passage in regulated rivers, disease and pathogens.

## 2024 Joint Annual Meeting (continued)

### Workshops on Monday April 29, 2024

(lunches not provided; sign up during registration)

#### **Genetics 101** (Full day; 8 h)

Instructors: Rebekah Horn and Hayley Nuetzel, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC); and Audrey Harris, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)

Genetic data are becoming more widely incorporated into fisheries management, with applications including the quantification of adaptive diversity and population resiliency to climate change, genetic identification of samples to species and origin in forensic cases, and genetic monitoring of hatchery stocks through pedigree-based analysis. Though managers and biologists may not collect genetic data firsthand, a baseline understanding of the types of genetic data available, their utility, and how results may apply to management plans can prove extremely useful. This workshop is designed for non-geneticists within the field of fisheries and will cover: 1) introductory genetic basics and terms, 2) best practices for DNA sample collection, 3) the laboratory workflow from sample to genetic data, and 4) the types of genetic analyses, as well as results fisheries managers and biologists can expect to encounter. Participants in the workshop will experience a mix of lectures from experienced geneticists and hands-on activities with workshop material that participants can take home for future reference.

#### **Aquatic Connectivity, Flood Capacity, and Structural Integrity Associated with Road-Stream Crossings: Concepts and Tools for Management** (Full day; 8 h)

Instructors: Kat Hoenke, Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership; Dan Dauwalter, Trout Unlimited; and Carlos Camacho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Aquatic organism passage (AOP), capacity to pass flood flows, and infrastructure integrity are important features of road-stream crossings. This full day workshop will cover these basic features associated with road-stream crossings, how to assess them using common protocols, and how the data can be integrated into frameworks and tools to prioritize crossings for removal, replacement, or improvement. The workshop will highlight a protocol used by the Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP) and show how using it will help build a national database to help prioritize crossings that should be removed or modified to allow for aquatic organism passage. The workshop will include half-day classroom portion and half-day field training portion where organizers will train attendees on how to collect data using the SARP protocol and its associated tools, access the data from SARP's database, and see how collected data are used in the National Aquatic Barrier Prioritization Tool ([Aquaticbarriers.org](https://aquaticbarriers.org)).

#### **All about PIT Tagging** (Half day; 4 h)

Instructor: Nick Porter, BioMark

In this workshop we will discuss PIT tag theory and function, site selection, examples, and species-specific tagging. Armed with knowledge you will better understand the capabilities of PIT technology and when to use it.

#### **Indigenous aquatic resource management** (Half day; 4 h)

Instructor: TBD

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Continuing Education committees of the Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society (ICAFS) and Washington/British Columbia Chapter American Fisheries Society (WA/BCAFS) present a half day workshop which will provide attendees with a fundamental introduction to indigenous perspectives and practice of aquatic resource management. Attendees will gain a basic understanding of and appreciation for indigenous perspectives and concerns that will inform productive co-management and collaboration with Tribal/First Nations partners on aquatic resource issues around the Pacific Northwest. More information to come on the specifics of this workshop.



## 2024 Joint Annual Meeting (continued)

### Workshops on Monday April 29, 2024

(lunches not provided; sign up during registration)

#### **The Lamprey Lens - Incorporating Lampreys into Restoration and Monitoring Projects** (Half day; 4 h)

Instructors: Monica Blanchard, Christina Wang, Ann Grote, and Max Calloway US Fish and Wildlife Service

Pacific and Western River lampreys are native anadromous fish that live throughout the northwest; however, though their populations have declined in concert with Pacific salmonids, they are rarely incorporated into stream monitoring projects and restoration efforts. Lack of awareness has been identified as a key threat to the protection and restoration of Pacific Lamprey and other native lamprey species across their historical range. This is especially true in the northern reaches of their range, in Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. The goal of this workshop is to address this lack of awareness and train biologists and practitioners to evaluate projects through a “lamprey lens”. This workshop will educate participants about native lamprey species, basic biology and habitat use, ecological importance, and known distributions. Participants will learn how to incorporate lampreys into project planning and implementation, with a focus on restoration and passage projects. The workshop will provide tools that participants can apply in their home watersheds, including techniques for monitoring and identification of lamprey species and life stage, as well as best management guidelines for incorporating lampreys into projects.

#### **Nutrition in Aquaculture: What are we feeding our fish and why?** (Half day; 4 h)

Instructors: Riley Brown, Idaho Power; Tyson Fehringer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and Melissa Wagner, College of Southern Idaho

This workshop will encompass a wide perspective on fish nutrition. Talks from fisheries professionals around the Pacific Northwest will focus on the key ingredients in common feeds, species-specific needs, the importance of quality nutrition for overall fish health, and the nuts and bolts of developing feed projections.

#### **Communicating Science: a guide to scientific storytelling** (Half day; 4 h)

Instructor: Katherine Strickler, Washington State University

Communication is an essential part of being a scientist. Fisheries biology is generally an applied science, and for it to be effectively used, we need to share scientific knowledge with other scientists, managers, the public, journalists, and policymakers. Many of us have been trained to share our work with other scientists but have had little (or no) training in communicating fisheries science with other audiences.

Regardless of the audience, the heart of all effective communication is the ability to tell a good story. In this half-day workshop, participants will learn and practice principles of good storytelling, including crafting narratives of their work, targeting messages for different audiences, and using their excitement about their work to create a story that sticks. The majority of the workshop will feature a format of interactive, hands-on activities. Participants will use their own or others' research to create messages to communicate with their intended audiences. The skills we practice in the workshop will help participants tell better science stories, whether in a journal article, a newsletter, a policy paper, or a conversation with a landowner concerned about fisheries management.

#### **Predicting Salmon Returns - A survey of existing models and an exploration of new methods for building better predictions** (Half day; 4 hours)

Instructors: TBD

Predicting salmon returns is a critical part of salmon management, however models used in the past such as the Ricker stock recruit relationship, are not performing well in today's rapidly changing environments. This workshop will walk participants through the range of models used to predict salmon returns, and then explore new strategies for building better models.



## 2024 Joint Annual Meeting (continued)

### 2024 Annual ICAFS Meeting Awards

The following is a list of Chapter awards given out annually at the Chapter business meeting. Deadlines for submittal of most ICAFS award nominations is **March 1, 2024** (see Wallace Award for exception).

#### Lifetime Achievement Award

This is the most prestigious award granted by the Chapter and is awarded to individuals who are either retired or within five years of retirement that have made significant and sustained contributions to advance the mission of the Chapter. This work may include, but is not limited to, advancing fisheries and aquatic science, implementing important management, or promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to Rob Van Kirk at [rob@henrysfork.org](mailto:rob@henrysfork.org).

#### Distinguished Service Award

This award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution in furthering the mission of the Idaho Chapter and is specific to work completed within the Chapter. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by EXCOM or Chapter members to Rob Van Kirk at [rob@henrysfork.org](mailto:rob@henrysfork.org).

#### Outstanding Professional Award

This award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution in furthering the mission of the Chapter and is specific to work completed outside the Chapter. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to Rob Van Kirk at [rob@henrysfork.org](mailto:rob@henrysfork.org).

#### Richard L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award

This award is sponsored by the Native Fish Committee. It was created in 2004 and is presented annually to an individual, group, or organization for outstanding achievement in native fish conservation in Idaho. Recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to committee co-chairs (contact info [here](#)). The physical award is a beautiful hand-carved version of a fish species that is a meaningful representation of the recipient's work. **THE DEADLINE FOR THIS AWARD IS FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2024.**



## 2023 Joint Annual Meeting (continued)

### 2023 Annual ICAFS Meeting Awards (continued)

#### Outstanding Mentor Award

This award is sponsored by the Mentoring Committee. It was created by the Palouse Subunit in 2006 and they selected and presented the award that year. Since 2007, the award has been administered by the Mentoring Committee. The award is presented annually to an individual who has shown substantial devotion to mentoring of fisheries students or professionals in Idaho. Nominees should have made significant contributions in furthering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their mentoring activities, and in supporting the mission of the Idaho Chapter to “promote the development of fisheries professionals”. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to Kat Gillies-Rector or Eric Billman (committee co-chairs; contact info [here](#)). Nomination packages should include the name of the nominee and one or more letters highlighting their achievements in mentoring.

#### ICAFS Early Career Professional Award

This award is intended to celebrate exceptional work in early career professionals. To be eligible, professionals must be within five years post-graduation and be working at any level in the fisheries profession including technician, biologist, culturist, etc. Nominees should have made significant contributions in furthering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their work or volunteer activities, and in supporting the mission of the Idaho Chapter during the short time they have been working in the fisheries profession. Nominations should be sent to Kat Gillies-Rector and Eric Billman (committee co-chairs; contact info [here](#)). Nomination packages should include the name of the nominee, information about most recent degree completed including graduation date, current position of the nominee, and one or more letters of support highlighting achievements. Self-nominations are accepted.

#### Excellence in Aquaculture Award

This award is sponsored by the Aquaculture Committee. It was created in 2008 and is presented annually to an individual or aquaculture facility for outstanding achievement in the field of aquaculture or aquaculture-related research. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to Eric Pankau, Thomas Lindenmuth, or Riley Brown (committee co-chairs; contact info [here](#)).

#### The Aquatic Habitat Award

This award is sponsored by the Aquatic Habitat Committee. It was created in 2016 and is presented annually to an individual, group, or organization that has made significant contributions to the field of fish habitat restoration and enhancement in Idaho. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to Ken Bouwens or Eric Berntsen (committee co-chairs; contact info [here](#)).

**Awards reminder:** Because this is a joint WDAFS/ICAFS meeting, there also will be awards given by the Western Division. Please click [here](#) for more details to submit nominations for Western Division awards.





## 2024 ICAFS Executive Committee Candidates

### Vice President

**Tom Bassista**—Tom is a Natural Resource Program Coordinator for the Technical Assistance Program with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and a Certified Public Manager for the State of Idaho. His position is within the newly formed Technical Services Bureau housed at Headquarters in Boise. In this capacity Tom provides statewide support and expertise on fisheries and aquatic habitat issues centered around water and land use, development, and extraction. Critical for this position is successful collaboration with IDFG Fisheries Managers and biologists and effectively working with many state and federal agencies to help achieve positive outcomes for fisheries resources. After receiving his master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Resources from West Virginia University (WVU) and working 4 years with the WV Division of Natural Resources as an Aquatic Ecologist, Tom moved to Idaho in 2001 and started working for IDFG in Northern ID. Tom moved to Eastern ID in 2006 and took a slight turn in his career and worked as a Stream Channel Protection Specialist for Idaho Department of Water Resource. Tom returned to IDFG in 2010 and has remained since, splitting that time working in regions and Headquarters. Tom first joined AFS in 1996. In graduate school Tom was the President for the WVU Chapter of the Wildlife and Fisheries Society (1997-1998). Tom happily served as the ICAFS Membership Chair (2005-2007) and Nominations Chair (2007). Tom is Idaho's Governing Council Member for the Instream Flow Council (IFC), serving in that capacity since 2015. He has served as Secretary for the IFC and currently serves as IFC's Regional Director, which provides him with the privilege to sit on the IFC Executive Committee. Tom would be thrilled to bring his gregarious nature, diverse skill set, and experience back to the ICAFS and would be honored and humbled to be selected as the Vice President.



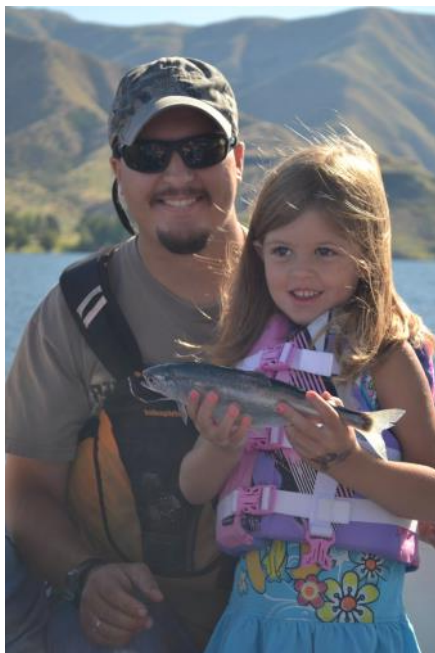
**Paul Kusnier**—Paul is a Fisheries Biologist with Avista. He is responsible for implementing multiple fishery and water quality programs associated with the operation of Cabinet Gorge Dam on the lower Clark Fork River in Idaho. This work involves extensive interaction and collaboration with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service and includes performing and supporting fisheries sampling and research in the Clark Fork River-Lake Pend Oreille watershed. With the goal of making fish a part of his employment, Paul earned a B.S. in Biology with a Minor in Fisheries from the University of Maine and then an M.S. in Biology at Northern Michigan University. His graduate work involved studying the movement and growth of Coaster Brook Trout in tributaries of Lake Superior. Paul has attended American Fisheries Society meetings and served on committees at the Chapter, Division, and Society levels;

most recently serving as the President of the Society's Water Quality Section. Paul has benefitted from AFS through interaction with other fisheries professionals, reading and contributing to AFS journals, and volunteering at meetings. Paul has seen first-hand the value that the Idaho Chapter provides to its members. As a member of the Excom, Paul would support the high-quality learning and professional opportunities that the Chapter provides, encourage membership growth and retention through engagement of students and non-fisheries aquatic professionals, and work to ensure that the Chapter's activities are known and recognized at the Society level.



## 2024 ICAFS Executive Committee Candidates

### Secretary/Treasurer



**Jake Hughes** – Jake is a Fisheries Biologist with Idaho Power Company, based in Boise. Born and raised in Alaska, Jake ventured south to earn a B.S. in Biology Eastern Oregon University (2007), working seasonal fish jobs in Alaska, Oregon, and Idaho along the way. Jake then went East, earning his M.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation biology at North Carolina State University (2012). It was in NC when he was first introduced to AFS. Jake was an active member and co-president of the NCSU Student Subunit, helping the subunit earn the AFS Outstanding Student Subunit Award (back-to-back, go Wolfpack!). While he found fish research in North Carolina fascinating and an unforgettable experience, Jake returned West for a brief stint with IDFG before joining Idaho Power Company's White Sturgeon Program as a Fisheries Biologist in 2013. Since 2014, Jake has been an active member and governing board member (2021-2022) of the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society. Since his return to Idaho, Jake has also been an ICAFS member, contributing as a volunteer during annual meetings, meeting planning committee participant (2017-2022), and co-chair of the Public Education Committee (2018-2022; although he's quick to point out that no one is on the level of his co-chair, Lauri Monnot, she's an absolute rockstar). Jake says his involvement with AFS has been invaluable to his career and feels blessed to have experienced such great leadership and professionalism from ICAFS leaders and members. Looking to further his involvement, Jake is excited for an opportunity to serve the Idaho Chapter as ICAFS Secretary/Treasurer.

**Zak Robinson** — Zak is a Fisheries Geneticist with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), based in Hagerman, Idaho. In 2022, Zak earned his Ph.D. in Fish and Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and started work for CRITFC. Since his undergraduate days as a fisheries technician for the U.S. Forest Service, Zak has primarily focused on researching small, isolated populations of inland salmonids. He is excited about his recent transition to the world of big-river, anadromous salmon and is proud to call the Gem State home. In his current role, Zak contributes to the long-term genetic monitoring of anadromous salmon in the Columbia River Basin using parentage-based tagging and genetic stock identification. Additionally, he leads diverse research projects that not only cater to the informational needs of tribal partners but also address enduring questions in fisheries science and management. Zak has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society for 11 years. Throughout this time, he has co-organized symposiums, volunteered at state and divisional meetings, and presented at numerous conferences. Zak is highly motivated to serve and contribute to an organization that has been integral to his educational and professional development. He is dedicated to advancing the mission of ICAFS and appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee as Secretary/Treasurer.



## 2024 ICAFS Executive Committee Candidates

### Nominations

**Katie McBain**—Katie is an M & E biologist for hatchery steelhead programs with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. She was born and raised in Idaho and has spent the last 14 years dedicated to fisheries and conservation. Prior to landing a permanent position, she held multiple positions as a fisheries technician throughout Idaho. Katie earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Fishery Resources and Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho (2015) and was an active member of the Palouse Student sub-unit during her time there. She then moved to Blacksburg, Virginia to pursue a M.S. degree in Fish Conservation from Virginia Tech. During her time at Virginia Tech, she served as the President of the Virginia Tech Chapter (2019-2020). AFS has played an integral part in her professional development and has afforded her opportunities to network and collaborate with passionate people. Katie is looking forward to giving back to her “home” chapter and is excited for the opportunity to serve as the ICAFS Nominations Chair.



**Brett Kelly** – Brett is a Regional Fisheries Biologist with Idaho Department of Fish and Game based out of Salmon, ID. His primary responsibilities include investigating sportfish populations in rivers, streams, high mountain lakes, and community ponds to improve fishing opportunities and inform native fish conservation. Previously, Brett was based out of Lewiston, ID from 2020 to 2022 where he worked for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission with IDFG to help implement and monitor habitat restoration projects aimed towards steelhead recovery in the Potlatch River. Brett grew up in South Carolina and received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Clemson University in 2017. During his time in the southeast he worked a variety of seasonal jobs involving wildlife habitat improvement, water quality monitoring, stream and wetland restoration, stream fish ecology, and a large-scale assessment of riverine fish populations throughout South Carolina. Brett then earned his M.S. degree in Fisheries Biology from Iowa State University in 2020 where he studied the distribution and habitat associations of Brook Trout and Brown Trout in the Iowa Driftless Area.

Brett has been a national AFS member since 2016 and has been associated with and held positions for multiple student sub-units (Clemson University and Iowa State University) and state chapters (South Carolina, Iowa, and now ICAFS). Brett has also presented undergraduate and graduate research at state and division level AFS meetings. Aside from work, Brett enjoys rowing rivers, fishing alpine lakes, and learning about big game and bird hunting with his wife and two dogs. Brett is excited for the opportunity to hold an ICAFS Executive Committee position for the first time and serve as the Nominations Chair.



## Student Spotlight

### Bryce Marciniak, Palouse Subunit

M.S. Candidate (College of Natural Resources), University of Idaho

Thesis Title: Interactions Among Yellow Perch, Northern Pikeminnow, and Smallmouth Bass in Lake Cascade, Idaho

Biography: Bryce obtained his bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University (Go Wildcats!!!); and after working as a technician for a couple seasons, he is now a third-year master's student within the Quist Lab - Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Bryce's research is focused on understanding fluctuations in abundance of Yellow Perch, especially juveniles, in Lake Cascade, Idaho, a fishery well known amongst anglers for producing trophy individuals and state records. Bryce is using a combination of age and growth estimation, stomach content analysis, and temperature data to build bioenergetics models that will improve understanding and inform management efforts. Bryce is currently spending his time wading through a couple million stomach samples; well, not really, but close to it, and hopes to finish his thesis and graduate in 2024. Bryce is heavily involved in the Palouse subunit as the Graduate Student Representative and has mentored several undergraduate students who have worked as technicians for him in the lab and the field.



## Updates and Opportunities

### ICAFS Establishes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

At its fall retreat, the ICAFS EXCOM considered a proposal to establish Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as a new standing Chapter Committee. Per ICAFS bylaws, committees can be established as needed by the Chapter President, and Kevin Meyer did so after discussion of the proposal. The mission of the new committee is "to increase the participation and equitable treatment of members of the Idaho Chapter of AFS by creating programs, educational opportunities, and annual meeting accommodations that further inclusion and representation of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups." The committee will provide support and resources to other chapter committees in achieving this mission. The DEI committee will hold its first meeting at the upcoming Chapter meeting in Spokane and will schedule that meeting at a different time than the other committee meetings so that chairs of other committees can attend the DEI Committee meeting. Rob Van Kirk and Kat Gillies-Rector will serve as DEI Committee co-chairs and as Chapter representatives on the Western Division Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Please contact them if you would like to become involved with this new chapter committee.

### Aquaculture Committee Update

The ICAFS Aquaculture Committee was able to utilize committee funds, paired with TOP Grant dollars to sponsor two young professionals to attend the Northwest Fish Culture Concepts Workshop in Boise in December. This unique opportunity allowed Tyrell Holmes and Parker Miller to meet fisheries professionals from all around the Western United States and British Columbia and watch quality presentations on a variety of subjects related to aquaculture. The committee received wonderful feedback from the individuals regarding how unique and beneficial this opportunity was! The committee is also looking forward to hosting a "Nutrition in Aquaculture" workshop at the upcoming annual meeting.



### Fundraising Committee Update

We thank you for your continued support at the banquet and conference. We will continue to use the GiveSmart platform which Nick Porter will be taking on this year. Susie Frawley joined the fundraising team and will be taking on corporate sponsorship, and Tucker Brauer will be taking care of gear donations. We look forward to seeing you at this year conference in Spokane!



## Updates and Opportunities

### Palouse Subunit Update

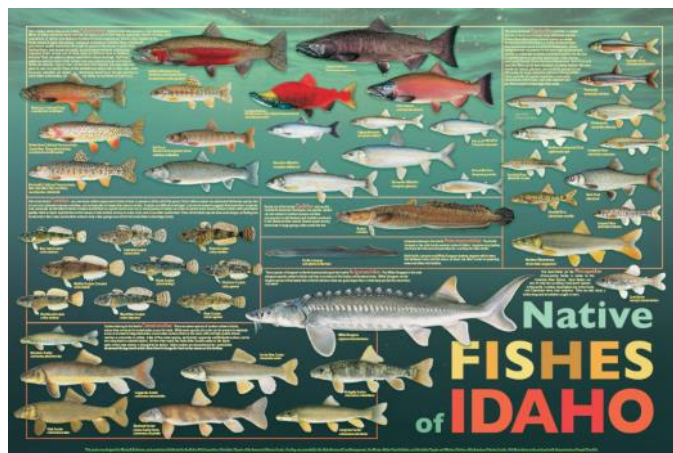
This fall the Palouse Subunit hosted several speakers for research talks, as well as fly tying, resume help, and trivia nights. We also sent 14 students into the field with Idaho Department of Fish and Game for White Sturgeon sampling in the Snake River in November. Students were able to meet agency staff and learn firsthand about White Sturgeon research and sampling techniques. In addition, the subunit met bi-weekly last semester and plan to continue that schedule into the spring. This spring we are hosting several speakers from state, federal, and tribal agencies for more research talks. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to hear the perspectives of a diverse group of professionals last fall and we are looking forward to continuing that trend into the spring. We are also currently preparing for our annual Wild Game Feed, which is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> here in Moscow. The Wild Game Feed is our biggest fundraiser and funds student travel for field trips and events. We hope to use these funds to aid students in attending the annual meeting in April as well.

### Portneuf Subunit Update

The Portneuf Subunit has spent fall through early winter participating in outreach and fundraising events around our community in SE Idaho. In the fall we spent two days working with students from Pocatello High School at the Cherry Springs Bioblitz. At this event we demonstrated electrofishing and kick net sampling and got high school students excited about trying to ID insects and fish in their local waterways. We hosted our annual ice fishing derby this year at Chesterfield Reservoir in January, and it was a great success raising funds for student travel grants and invited speakers. The trout that won the grand prize at the derby was a 21.7 inch beauty pulled through the ice. Looking forward to the upcoming spring we are hosting a seminar speaker to give a talk to Idaho State's Biology Department about applications of genetic methods for conservation of native fish species.

### Native Fishes of Idaho Posters Available

The Native Fish Committee has produced two sets of printings for the new Native Fishes of Idaho Poster. One set is on heavier stock and is meant to be used in classrooms or for other educational purposes. A second printing is on thinner paper but is still high quality; these can be distributed to educators as well, but they are also meant to be available to any ICAFS member who wants access to the poster for any reason, including display in their office or common area. Let's try to maximize use of the heavier stock posters for educational purposes over the next several years, while also making the thinner posters available as needed. If and when we run out, we can re-print. Keep in mind that the thinner posters cost less than \$2 each, so please make use of them as you see fit. They are primarily being held at IDFG regional offices so please contact local IDFG biologists, or EXCOM members, for details on how to obtain copies in your area of the state. Great job Native Fish Committee, this new poster is beautiful and very educational!



# Executive Committee



President  
Kevin Meyer  
Phone: 208-854-8916  
[kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov)

President-Elect  
Lauren Andrews  
Phone: 208-484-7984  
[president-elect@idahoafs.org](mailto:president-elect@idahoafs.org)

Vice President  
Joe Kozfkay  
Phone: 208-697-1117  
[joe.kozfkay@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:joe.kozfkay@idfg.idaho.gov)

Past President  
Rob Van Kirk  
Phone: 208-881-3407  
[rob@henrysfork.org](mailto:rob@henrysfork.org)



Treasurer  
Jesse McCane  
Phone: 208-939-6713  
[jesse.mccane@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:jesse.mccane@idfg.idaho.gov)

Secretary  
Eric Stark  
Phone: 208-816-0314  
[eric.stark@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:eric.stark@idfg.idaho.gov)

Nominations Chair  
Rob Ryan  
Phone: 208-215-8652  
[rob.ryan@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:rob.ryan@idfg.idaho.gov)

Portneuf Student Unit President  
Adam Zambie  
[adamzambie@isu.edu](mailto:adamzambie@isu.edu)



Palouse Student Unit President  
Courtnie Ghere  
[courtnie.ghere@gmail.com](mailto:courtnie.ghere@gmail.com)

BYU Idaho Student Unit President  
Robert Gregory  
[robegreg16@gmail.com](mailto:robegreg16@gmail.com)

**The EXCOM wants your ideas!**  
**Please do not hesitate to contact any EXCOM member about questions or ideas.**

**This is your Chapter!**

