



Gill Raker Gazette

The Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Editor: Rob Van Kirk

President's Message - "Why we became fisheries scientists"

ICAFS Colleagues,

Greetings Chapter members. As our summer field seasons draw to a close, I think we can all agree that 2020 has been a year for the books. And while I would hope it was filled with sounds of Kingfishers monitoring streams and the crackling of camp fires, I am sure it was just as likely riddled with the echoes of frustrations surrounding politics and the pandemic. Regardless of how your year turned out, this is a good time to do a little reflection on the past year's accomplishments. I think if I could pick one thing I am sure we all became skilled at together in this past season, it would be the art of video conferencing!

In doing some personal reflecting on this past year, it struck me that my well-intentioned plans to get out and enjoy my old fishing haunts were continuously altered by other more pressing matters. I am sure many of you can relate. This also led me to realize that as time goes on, my calendar becomes increasingly jammed with more work and family responsibilities, causing a dwindling margin for my personal connection to the fisheries resources I have so enjoyed throughout my life. And while I understand that it is all about prioritizing, it is just the reality I am continually faced with, and I suspect I am not alone. That being said, I challenge each of us to work hard to find space in our lives to reconnect with the reason we became fisheries scientists. Aside from the wealth and fame, I would assume that for some of us, it simply began from a passion for fishing that grew into a deeper desire to maintain the source of that passion into the future. But for others, I am sure it began from an interest in the scientific process, for which the never ending questions governing fish populations inspired a curious mind to keep searching for answers. Whatever the case, I would urge each of us to occasionally hit the "pause button" and be intentional on finding ways to reconnect and rekindle the passion that started it all.



Now that you have your 2021 calendar open to write in your fishing expedition wish list, do me another favor, and write in some other very important dates. Please be sure to mark down our next Annual Chapter meeting dates of March 1st-5th. Tim Copeland has put together an excellent meeting line-up that will be nothing short of amazing. And since it is an all virtual meeting, we will need everyone's help in keeping our Chapter financially whole by making a firm commitment to register for this meeting and participate as you would at an in-person event!

—Ryan Hardy



The 2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Is Coming!

March 1-5, 2021

The best ICAFS Virtual Meeting Ever! The most convenient ICAFS Meeting Ever! Coming to your favorite digital device!!!

Help make ICAFS history by being part of our first virtual annual meeting! Attend from wherever you are. Simply browse and click. All you need is a good internet connection. Meeting events will be scheduled from 10 am to 4 pm Mountain (9 am - 3 pm Pacific) in order to fit smoothly into your day. Log in and connect with colleagues from around Idaho!

- Anyone can attend - no travel restrictions!
- Family and work-friendly schedule
- Networking opportunities on the virtual platform
- Online auctions and raffles for trips, artwork and outdoor gear

The meeting theme is "**Aquaculture in Idaho: Putting the Fish in Fisheries**" and presentations related to this topic are particularly encouraged. Please contact Aquaculture Committee Co-Chairs [Eric Pankau](#), [Riley Brown](#), and [Shawn Young](#) if you have questions about the theme.

Fundraising is online, too! Our annual art auction and raffles are a huge part of our annual meetings, and 2021 will be no different! The Fundraising Committee has been hard at work developing online options for many of our popular fundraising events. Idaho AFS will be using a professional online fundraising service to host our virtual raffles and auctions. To participate, you'll need to register with our [GiveSmart](#) platform. After the simple registration, you'll be able to browse all our items, place bids, buy raffle tickets and pay all in one place from your mobile device or computer! Look for texts and emails on how to get registered and when the auctions will start!

Registering for AFS Fundraising auctions and raffles is easy! Just text **2021IDAHOAFS** to 76278 from your mobile device.

We need donations! Chapter members are a great source of auction items! Please consider donating artwork, fishing trips, gift baskets, event tickets or other items. Just contact Martin Koenig to get set up.

martin.koenig@idfg.idaho.gov



Want to be a sponsor? We love corporate sponsors and donations, and our virtual meeting will have several options to network with attendees and advertise your products! Contact Heiden Bliss to sign up as a sponsor.

heiden.bliss@merck.com

2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Is Coming!

Plenary Session: Aquaculture in Idaho: Putting the Fish in Fisheries

In 2020, the American Fisheries Society celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding as a fish culturists' association. The AFS quickly grew to incorporate many more aspects of fisheries, broadening the scope of its membership. Now, we have the opportunity to acknowledge the roots of AFS and showcase aquaculture's contributions to fisheries science and management. The ICAFS 2021 plenary will be an overview of aquaculture in the United States with talks about how aquaculture in Idaho has contributed to commerce, to fisheries, to conservation, and to science. Our five speakers are eminent everywhere and now you can see them from anywhere!

Jesse Trushenski is a fisheries scientist with specific interests in conservation and commercial aquaculture. She is the Chief Science Officer and Vice President for Animal Welfare for [Riverence](#), the largest producer of farmed Rainbow Trout and Steelhead in the Americas with operations based in Washington and Idaho. Riverence also produces premium Rainbow Trout genetics and is the only commercial supplier of Atlantic Salmon and Coho Salmon eggs located in the USA. Jesse manages Riverence's R&D portfolio and provides executive-level science leadership across the company's operations. In short, she is responsible for helping Riverence find better ways to put fish on the table—to produce a better fish, to raise it sustainably and ethically, and to put wholesome seafood within everyone's reach. Whether it's fish nutrition, physiology, or health, Jesse has always been driven by the practical applications of science, going from data to information and information to action. Before joining the private sector, Jesse was an Associate Professor at Southern Illinois University and Fish Pathologist Supervisor for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Jesse has also fulfilled numerous leadership roles within the fisheries and aquaculture communities. She has chaired or served on multiple advisory panels and other committees addressing aquaculture research, regulation, and policy on a national scale, and is the immediate Past-President of the American Fisheries Society. [See Jesse's article on North American aquaculture in the September 2020 issue of [Fisheries](#) magazine -Editor.]



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Is Coming!

Plenary Session: Aquaculture in Idaho: Putting Fish in Fisheries

Gary Fornshell is a retired University of Idaho Extension Aquaculture Educator with 28 years of extension experience, devoted primarily to the production of trout in flow-through aquaculture production systems. Prior to his career with the University of Idaho, he managed the Mississippi State University aquaculture research facility in Starkville, received a Master of Aquaculture degree from Auburn University and was a Peace Corps volunteer. With more than 37 years of aquaculture experience, Gary has worked with trout, sturgeon, tilapia, catfish, burbot, hybrid striped bass, Asian carp, freshwater shrimp and crawfish and with flow-through, pond and RAS production systems. Fornshell is known for his work related to aquaculture discharge permitting, best management practices for improved effluent water quality, coldwater aquaculture course, and seafood education. Fornshell served as past-President of the U.S. Trout Farmers Association and past-President of the U.S. Aquaculture Society, served on the Board of Directors, Western Regional Aquaculture Center and currently serves as an advisor to the Board of Directors, U.S. Trout Farmers Association. He has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Aquaculture Society, Clark and Mimi White Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Trout Farmers Association, Ugliest Trout Farmer Award from the USTFA, Golden Sturgeon Award from the Idaho Aquaculture Association and University of Idaho Faculty Outreach in Excellence Award.



Jim Fredericks was raised in northern Idaho where he grew up engaged in a range of outdoor pursuits. He earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Idaho in 1988 and worked in a psychiatric hospital in Maine long enough to know he needed a change in direction. He returned to the UI, earned an M.S. in Fishery Resources, and joined the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1994. As a biologist, he worked on a variety of species and waters in the Idaho Panhandle until 2001, when he became a Regional Fishery Manager in eastern Idaho. He returned



to the Panhandle as a Regional Fishery Manager in 2008, and then in 2015 he moved to Boise to become the Chief of the Fisheries, where he is now engaged in "all things fisheries" in Idaho. Jim has been actively involved with (and very appreciative of) the American Fisheries Society since graduate school. He served as President of the Idaho Chapter from 2008 to 2010, and is currently the President of the Fisheries Administration Section.



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Is Coming!

Plenary Session: Aquaculture in Idaho: Putting Fish in Fisheries

Sue Ireland received her undergraduate degree from University of Idaho and her M.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University. She has had the honor of working for the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho since 1996 as their Fish and Wildlife Department Director. She is involved in the restoration of the endangered Kootenai River White Sturgeon, Burbot, and other native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats in the Kootenai drainage, a unique transboundary subbasin.



Ken Cain completed BS and MS degrees in Fish and Wildlife Resources from Michigan State University and a PhD in Fish Immunology from Washington State University. He gained hands on experience working in both the public and private sector, and his first aquaculture job was at the McCall Fish Hatchery in 1988. Ken began a career at the University of Idaho in 1999 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences (FWS) and served as the Associate Director of the Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI) from 2002-2020. He is currently a Full Professor. Ken's areas of expertise include Fish Health and Disease Management as well as Aquaculture Development. Ken teaches courses in Fish Health Management, Aquaculture, and Wild/Hatchery Fish Interactions. In the past 20 years his lab has become widely recognized with a core program focused on Fish Immunology and Vaccine development. Ken's lab conducts research linked to integrating fish nutrition and fish health with an emphasis on sustainable aquaculture practices. Work in the area of Aquaculture Development has led to a broadly successful program focused on burbot: an emerging aquaculture species. The burbot aquaculture program began as a multiagency conservation effort involving the UI-ARI, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, British Columbia Ministry of the Environment, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and various other agencies. This research set the stage for a successful conservation program, and re-stocking efforts have contributed to burbot recovery and fisheries enhancement in the Kootenai River. Ken says, "I see aquaculture research as an essential tool that can help solve many of the challenges that fisheries professionals face. I also feel that as scientists and professionals we are all ultimately working toward a common goal of conserving wild fisheries while attempting to meet the vast societal demands placed on our fisheries resources."



FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!! ICAFS ANNUAL MEETING 2021 - Streaming to your device!

It's that time!! The Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held March 1-5, 2021 entirely on-line. Participate from the comfort of your work place or your own home. The plenary session theme is "Aquaculture in Idaho: Putting the Fish in Fisheries". All submissions for the meeting are welcome and needed! The presentation format choices are poster, 20-minute talk, or a 5-minute IGNITE! talk. The deadline for abstract submission is **Friday, January 15, 2021**.

You may submit abstracts directly via [Google forms](#) or visit [the ICAFS website](#). If you go to our website, click on 2021 Annual Meeting and select Mtg Info in the menu bar. In the dropdown menu, select Overall Meeting Info to get access to the Abstract Submission Form (350 word limit). Before submitting your abstract, read the guidelines for presenting a poster or talk, just so you know what is expected. Please follow the format instructions carefully. When you submit your abstract, you should receive a confirmation containing the responses you gave in the form. Save the notification because you can edit your submission if necessary. We look forward to receiving your abstract! There will be a second call for abstracts and more information via email as the date gets closer. Please direct questions to Program Co-Chairs [Nicole Mucciarone](#) and [Eric Stark](#).

Continuing Education

Three workshops will be offered at the 2021 ICAFS annual meeting.

Fishes Without Borders: This workshop will be hosted by the Anadromous Committee. The purpose is to explore the socioeconomic, political, and biological implications that are central to the conservation of anadromous fishes. Workshop material will primarily focus on issues important to anadromous fish conservation in the Columbia River basin.

Fish Health and Biosecurity: This workshop will be hosted by the Aquaculture Committee and IDFG Eagle Fish Health Lab. Course material will be tailored to members with interest in aquaculture facility operation. Content will focus on the philosophy, development, and implementation of biosecurity at aquaculture facilities and its importance to disease control. In addition, the workshop will explore fish health and disease management concepts with a focus on the presentation of emerging topics in the field including updates to INAD and VFD regulations. Presentations will include specific content background, practical applications, case studies and an open panel discussion.

Habitat - Stage 0 follow-up and Fish Response: This workshop hosted by the Aquatic Habitat Committee (with help from Continuing Ed.) will be a follow-up to the very popular Stage 0 workshop from 2020. It will be a half day covering design, examples, recovery and biological response. Included will be habitat quantification and better understanding impaired habitat through LiDAR.



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Executive Committee Candidates

We thank all of the candidates for being willing to step up and serve our chapter. Serving on the Executive Committee requires time, dedication, and creativity. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the candidates and watch for online voting instructions in the next issue of the newsletter.

Vice President

Kevin Meyer- Kevin is a fisheries research biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He has been a member of AFS since 1992. He grew up in central Michigan and received a B.S. from Michigan State University. After graduation he moved to Wyoming, successfully navigated graduate school at Idaho State University under Dr. Jack Griffith, and worked three years for the Winema National Forest in Oregon before moving to Boise. He has published dozens of journal articles, mostly in AFS journals, and has filled several roles with ICAFS, including Fundraising co-chair (2000/2001), Nominations Chair (2002), Mentoring Committee Chair (2007/2009), and Secretary/Treasurer (2016/2017). Since 2018, he has served as an Associate Editor for NAJFM. He has also been active in putting together several Wild Trout Symposia which are held every 3-4 years in the greater Yellowstone area, and is currently serving as the Symposium Chair for the 2021 meeting. Conducting management-oriented fisheries research, direct involvement with AFS in a number of capacities, and mentoring biologists and students in seasonal positions are Kevin's three primary career passions. If elected Vice President, Kevin hopes to continue the commitment to excellence that ICAFS continually displays, and would focus his term on 1) mentoring, 2) training opportunities for students and biologists, and 3) continuing the tradition of informative, compelling annual meetings.



Kajsa Van de Riet- Kajsa Van de Riet has been an active AFS member since 2002 and she values the Idaho Chapter AFS for the strong legacy of science and leadership, network of professionals, and opportunities for learning and professional growth. Kajsa earned a B.S. in Biology at Kansas State University in 2000 and an M.S. in Fishery Resources from the University of Idaho in 2004. Her AFS involvement began with the University of Idaho Palouse Unit where she served as Co-President in 2003-2004. After graduate school, Kajsa mentored a student for the AFS Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program. Kajsa spent several years in Montana and was the Conservation Coordinator for the Federation of Fly Fishers where she worked on diverse fisheries projects including mangrove habitat restoration. She then worked for the Montana Water Center at Montana State University on fish health and habitat research initiatives. From 2007-2009, Kajsa served as Newsletter Editor for Western Division AFS. In 2007, Kajsa joined the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Panhandle Region where she works in Clean Water Act-related programs to ensure swimmable and fishable waters in north Idaho. This work expanded in 2012, when she took on a leadership role for DEQ within the Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Partnership. The Partnership includes State, Tribe, and Federal entities as joint trustees managing settlement funds to restore natural resources injured from metals in mine waste contamination. Habitat restoration for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout is a major focus of the Restoration Partnership and she enjoys planning and implementing fisheries projects. The collaborative work includes the trustees and partners like Trout Unlimited, Idaho Forest Group, local Conservation Districts, and landowners. If elected Vice President, Kajsa



will bring her dedication to collaboration and diverse perspectives to help produce meaningful outcomes for Idaho fisheries and fishery professionals.



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Executive Committee Candidates

Secretary/Treasurer

Rebekah L. Horn- Rebekah has been a Fisheries Geneticist for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Hagerman, ID since 2018. Her primary roles in this position include developing genetic markers to distinguish genetic stocks of salmonid species in the Pacific Northwest. Rebekah



ah grew up near Detroit, Michigan and has a BA from Adrian College (Adrian, MI) in Biology and Environmental Sciences in 2005. She received a Master of Science in Marine Biology from Nova Southeastern University (Dania Beach, FL) in 2011 where she worked toward understanding the population genetic structure of global distributed shark species. Rebekah earned a PhD in Molecular Biology from New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM) in 2015. Her dissertation focused on the genetic basis of adaptation and reproduction in the tadpole shrimp, an ephemeral pond crustacean species. Rebekah worked from 2016 to 2018 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Trent University (Peterborough, ON, Canada) where she helped to develop genomic resources for Canadian caribou. Despite an educational background grounded in genetics, Rebekah is passionate about conserving our natural resources and is beyond thrilled that her current position allows her to use her skills in genetics to provide additional information to be used in the conservation of anadromous fish. When not working, Rebekah can most often be found running, cycling, camping, fishing,

paddling, or hiking. Rebekah is looking forward to getting more involved with the ICAFS and would make an excellent Secretary/Treasurer due to her attention to detail and diverse background.

Jens Hegg- Jens Hegg is a recent Fulbright post-doctoral researcher in Brazil and currently lab manager for the Kennedy LIFE Lab at University of Idaho. His research is motivated by the complexity of fish migration and uncovering the ecological conditions that select for life-history diversity. Jens has been a participant in AFS meetings since 2009, presenting research at numerous Idaho Chapter meetings as well as Division and National meetings. His journey into aquatic ecology began as an undergraduate at Macalester College with a degree in biology and field experiences in river mussel ecology, mosquito control, and limnology in the US and Brazil. Despite multiple years in private industry working in biodegradable plastics and coronary stent R&D, he ultimately returned to his passion of ecology as a graduate student. He received his Masters and Ph.D. from the Water Resources program at University of Idaho, focusing on changes in migratory life-history in juvenile Fall Chinook salmon in the Snake River. For Jens, AFS has been an important window into the fisheries field as a student and an important venue for networking and communicating his research. He looks forward to giving back to the organization, with specific interests in maintaining undergraduate opportunities, diversity and inclusion, and international collaboration within AFS and fisheries research more broadly.



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Executive Committee Candidates

Nominations Chair

Jie (Jessie) Ma- Jie (Jessie) Ma is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Ken Cain's Fish Health Lab at University of Idaho. Jie has over ten years of experience working with fish health and diseases. She received her B.S. in the Department of Animal Sciences from the Hebei Normal University of Science & Technology. She then went on to complete her Ph.D. in Aquaculture at Huazhong Agricultural University, studying Aquatic Animal Medicine. Following the completion of her doctorate, Jie studied Molecular Biology at University of Hawaii at Manoa. She then was an Associate Professor at the Yangtze River Fisheries Research Institute before starting in Dr. Ken Cain's Fish Health Lab in January 2017. Jie has authored or co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed publications and her current research interests include fish vaccine development/strategies, fish disease/health, fish immunology, and fish virology. She is currently a member of the AFS and looks forward to the opportunity to assist the ICAFS in 2021!



Katharine Coykendall- Katharine has been working as a fisheries research geneticist for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission at Eagle Fish Genetics Lab since the fall of 2018. She grew up



in the Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee, with aspirations of being a marine biologist. She earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of South Carolina, where she developed an interest in conservation and population genetics of aquatic and marine species. She went on to complete her PhD in Genetics at the University of California, Davis, where she conducted research at Bodega Marine Lab on the effect of hatchery supplementation on the genetic diversity of wild white seabass. Post-PhD, her research path veered toward deep sea invertebrates. While working at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Rutgers University, and USGS in Leetown, West Virginia, she worked on many projects involving metapopulation dynamics, population genetics, and DNA barcoding of deep sea invertebrates. These projects afforded her the opportunity to participate in 15 research cruises to Monterey Bay Canyon and other submarine canyons, cold water coral reefs, methane seeps in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, and hydrothermal vents in the Pacific. Now back to her aquatic conservation genetics roots at EFGL, she mostly works on developing methods to identify sex-determining genetic markers in non-native fish as well as side projects using genomic markers to assign anadromous returns back to their population or

hatchery of origin. As Nominations Chair, Katharine hopes to meet more of her Idaho colleagues, learn more about the different facets of the Idaho Chapter of AFS, and foster diverse voices and backgrounds within the organization.



Scholarships and Grants Available!

The Idaho Chapter and the Public Education Committee is pleased to announce four annually awarded scholarships for students attending Idaho schools. These are as follows:

Idaho High School Student Scholarship - This \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an Idaho High School senior that is planning to attend a college or university located in Idaho.

Idaho Undergraduate Student Scholarship - This \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an undergraduate student enrolled at any Idaho college or university or have been involved with the Idaho Chapter including student units.

Idaho Graduate Student Scholarship - This \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduate student that is enrolled at any Idaho college or university or involved with the Idaho Chapter including student units.

Susan B Martin Graduate Student Scholarship - This \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduate student that is enrolled at any Idaho college or university or involved with the Idaho Chapter including student units.

These scholarships were developed by the Executive, Mentoring and Public Education Committees, funded by ICAFS, and administered by the Public Education Committee. Information and application materials are available on the [Chapter website](#). Download and complete the application form and obtain a copy of your college transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable). Email completed form and transcripts to scholarships@idahoafs.org. A letter of recommendation to support the application must be emailed from a biology professional, faculty advisor, school administrator, or supervisor. Applications must be received by **January 31, 2021**. Winners will be announced during the business luncheon at the annual meeting. For more information, contact [Lauri Monnot](#), Public Education Committee Chair, at (208) 373-0203.

ICAFS Grant Opportunity - An ICAFS Training Opportunity and Project (TOP) Grant up to \$750 is available for students. The grant money can support attending a professional conference, workshop, or training; conducting research outside typical degree requirements; implementing education projects; or other activities that support the Idaho Chapter mission and goals. For more information please visit this [link](#) or contact [Lauri Monnot](#).

Aquatic Education/Trout in the Classroom Grants - Please pass the word to educators. ICAFS has a long history of promoting aquatic education efforts. In 2013, ICAFS formally established an Aquatic Education/Trout-in-the-Classroom Grant. These \$50-1250 grants are available to Idaho K-12 teachers to assist aquatic education efforts, including the Trout-in-the-Classroom program or other efforts. The number of grants awarded annually is dependent on available funding and need. For more information contact [Lauri Monnot](#) and please visit this [link](#).



Call for 2021 ICAFS Award Nominations

There are many who deserve recognition. Think about those who do, and take the time to nominate them this year!

An important function of ICAFS is to recognize our colleagues for noteworthy service or contributions to our chapter and profession. The Executive Committee is soliciting nominations for awards to be presented at the 2021 virtual business meeting. These awards are independent from awards presented by the Native Fish, Mentoring, Fish Habitat and Aquaculture committees (see next page). This is a great opportunity to recognize those who have made important contributions to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. Please send nominations to Brett High no later than **January 8, 2021**. If you have any questions please contact Brett at 208-525-7290 or email at brett.high@idfg.idaho.gov.

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Criteria: Awarded to individuals who are either retired or within five years of retirement and have made significant and sustained contributions to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. This work may include but is not limited to making significant contributions in advancing fisheries and aquatic science, implementing important fish and aquatic management, or promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

Nomination Process: Submit a one to three page nomination detailing how the individual meets the criteria. The nomination must be supported by at least five Chapter members; their names and contact information should be listed on the nomination.

Distinguished Service Award:

Criteria: Awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions in furthering the work of the Chapter. This award is specific to service within the Chapter.

Nomination Process: Submit a nomination not longer than one page detailing how the individual meets the criteria. Although not required, nominations supported by more than one Chapter member will receive the strongest consideration. List the names and contact information of Chapter members supporting the nomination.

Outstanding Fish Professional:

Criteria: Awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. This award is specific to service outside of the Chapter.

Nomination Process: Submit a nomination not longer than one page detailing how the individual meets the criteria. Although not required, nominations supported by more than one Chapter member will receive the strongest consideration. List the names and contact information of Chapter members supporting the nomination.



More ICAFS Awards!

These awards are sponsored by standing ICAFS committees and recognize individuals or teams that have done outstanding work in the areas of conservation, aquaculture, and mentoring.

Richard L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award

This award was created by the Native Fish Committee in 2004 and is presented annually to an individual, group, or organization for outstanding achievement in native fish conservation in Idaho. Please send nominations outlining the nominee's accomplishments to [Pat Kennedy](#) or [Nicole Mucciarone](#) no later than **January 22, 2021**.

Excellence in Aquaculture Award

The Excellence in Aquaculture Award is sponsored by the Aquaculture Committee. The award was created by the Aquaculture Committee in 2008 and is presented annually to an individual or aquaculture facility for outstanding achievement in the field of aquaculture or aquaculture related research. Nominations can be emailed to [Shawn Young](#), [Erik Pankau](#) or [Riley Brown](#) no later than **January 22, 2021**.

Habitat Improvement Award

The ICAFS Habitat Improvement Award is given either to individuals or a team who have demonstrated significant contributions towards improving fish and aquatic habitat, restoring floodplains, and enhancing riverine systems for fish spawning and rearing. This work may include, but is not limited to, landowner coordination efforts, design and implementation of habitat features, restoring fish passage, and restoring conditions closer to natural and native river landscapes. Please submit a nomination not longer than one page detailing how the team or individual meet the criteria to [Jeanne McFall](#) or [Ken Bouwens](#) no later than **January 22, 2021**. Nominations supported by more than one Chapter member will receive the strongest consideration. List the names and contact information of Chapter members supporting the nomination.

Outstanding Mentor Award

It is time once again to consider those amongst us who have gone above and beyond the call in mentoring students and/or young professionals during their career. The Idaho Chapter annually recognizes a member with the Outstanding Mentor Award. Please nominate one (or more) of your peers who have invested their time over the years to make a difference in the development of folks within our profession. The recipient of this award should meet or exceed the following criteria: a current or previous fisheries professional; provided substantial assistance to Idaho fisheries professionals/students, with preference given to those who are or were active in ICAFS; demonstrated a sincere interest/devotion in seeing students and professionals succeed; and provided ample learning and training opportunities for students and professionals to gain experience otherwise unobtainable without the assistance of the nominated professional. Please send nominations to [Joe Thiessen](#) or [Robert Hand](#), no later than **January 22, 2021**.



Even More Awards!

Each year, the Western Division AFS bestows awards on individuals and entities who have distinguished themselves through their contributions to fisheries education, science, management, and conservation. Please consider nominating a worthy person or group. Send nominations no later than **February 1, 2021** to WDAFS Past President [Dan Dauwalter](#).

Award of Excellence - This award recognizes sustained professional excellence; it is the most prestigious award offered by WDAFS. It is given annually to an AFS member who demonstrated outstanding achievement and exceptional competence in fishery resource applications through monumental works, new methodologies, or multiple successful contributions that benefit our resources and profession.

Award of Merit - This award is given to AFS member(s) who have made positive and regionally significant contributions to the Western Division, to our profession, and to fisheries resources.

Award of Special Recognition - WDAFS gives this award to an AFS member or non-member (or, alternatively, to an organization) whose actions have directly benefited the Western Division and its members.

Robert Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award - This award is presented to an AFS member or non-member who has significantly contributed to fisheries conservation within the geographic region of the Western Division.

Diversity & Inclusion Service Award - The WDAFS Diversity & Inclusion Committee presents this award to an AFS Member exhibiting strong evidence of service and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within the fisheries profession. Self-nominations and peer-nominations will be accepted and multiple nominations are encouraged. Partial reimbursement for meeting registration and travel costs may be available based on need.

Diversity & Inclusion Mentorship Award - The WDAFS Diversity & Inclusion Committee presents this award to a promising student or early career professional interested in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion leadership skills. The recipient will receive up to \$1,000 (USD) for meeting registration, travel costs, and one year of AFS membership (if needed). For the duration of the year, the recipient will be mentored by Diversity and Inclusion Committee members and have the opportunity to participate in Committee activities. Application materials should include a cover letter detailing the applicant's interest in fisheries and in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion-related leadership skills, and additional materials as needed (e.g., letters of recommendation, resume). We highly encourage application packets from individuals belonging to historically underrepresented minority groups in the fisheries field. For more information contact the WDAFS [Diversity and Inclusion Committee](#).



2020 Hutton Scholar Kate Anderson

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology program is a paid internship and mentoring program for high school students that is sponsored by the American Fisheries Society. The program's vision is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Idaho has a long record of hosting Hutton scholars. This year Kate Anderson from Ammon, a Hillcrest High School graduate, was a Hutton Scholar mentored by John Heckel, regional fisheries biologist with Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Idaho Falls.

Kate's experience in her own words

[Editor's note: Kate's statement and photo appear here with her permission.] *I had a blast with the Hutton Program. I was able to learn so much through it. I found the internship through a google classroom that my school counselors had set up. They would post information about colleges and internships every once in a while. They posted an announcement about the Hutton program and it sounded like something I wanted to do. I loved hiking and being outdoors, and at the time, I was thinking about going into something like wildlife and thought it would give me some good experience. I am so glad I applied! I learned so much about the world of fisheries. It was like a whole new world to me. I didn't know anything when I first started, but I was able to see the in's and out's of everything they do. It also helped me learn about the jobs and how to get involved in the future. I had a lot of fun while also doing a lot of hard work. Everyone involved was super friendly and encouraging. My favorite part was just working outdoors and hands-on everyday. We travelled all over and worked with a bunch of fish in gorgeous locations. I had never thought about going into fisheries and I had no idea what they did. I'm so grateful I was able to participate in the Hutton Program. It gave me some great summer experience right before I headed off to college. I hope to learn more about the fisheries world and see more people get involved with the program.*



For more information on the Hutton program, visit the [program website](#). Applications for 2021 are due from students on February 15, 2021 and from mentors on March 1, 2021.



Division and Subunit News

WDAFS seeks Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee members

Western Division AFS is seeking members to serve on its Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns [Committee](#). Please contact [Jeanne McFall](#), ICAFS Habitat Committee Co-chair for more information.

Utah Chapter hosts 2021 WDAFS meeting

In conjunction with its annual meeting, the Utah Chapter of AFS will host the [2021 Western Division meeting](#). The meeting is currently being planned as an online/virtual meeting, held May 10-14 2021. The meeting theme is "Amplifying Science in a Changing World." Symposia proposals are now being accepted.

WDAFS Graduate Student Scholarships Available

Western Division AFS is pleased to once again offer Eugene Maughan Graduate Scholarships. Application deadline is **February 1, 2021**. See the WDAFS [scholarship website](#) for more information

Palouse Student Unit

The Palouse Unit held its first meeting of the year via Zoom on October 6. Despite the online format, meeting attendance was high, and undergraduate students were well represented. The guest speaker was ICAFS Vice President Rob Van Kirk, who talked about fisheries careers with non-governmental organizations. The Palouse Unit also sponsored a socially distanced fly-tying night featuring Pat's Rubblerlegs.

BYU-Idaho Student Subunit

The BYU-Idaho student subunit started off this unusual semester with a Zoom meeting with BYUI Alumni, Darby Byington, who spoke to our students about her graduate school experience and gave advice for students considering graduate school. In October we had student volunteers help gill net Ririe Reservoir to determine population abundance of invasive Walleye with John Heckel (IDFG). In November we teamed up with Jim Gregory (Lost River Fish Ecology) to salvage fish from the St. Anthony Canal to mitigate fish killed in a privately owned hydropower plant. We also had a panel of women in natural resource professions do a Q&A for our female students. The panelists were: Liz Davy with the US Forest Service, Kamberlee Allison with Henry's Fork Foundation, and Windy Schoby with Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The panel provided an opportunity for female students to ask women in the field for advice and about their perspectives on natural resource occupations. We are in the process of planning activities as we go into the winter months. If anyone is interested in providing a seminar on zoom or social distancing on the ice, we would love to hear from you.



Just Let Go!, Relying on the same old solutions...by Jim Reynolds

[Editor's note: During 2017-2018, Jim Reynolds wrote a series of philosophical articles for *Oncorhynchus*, the AFS Alaska Chapter newsletter. These articles revolve around the role of uncertainty in fisheries science. With approval of the Alaska Chapter Excom, these articles are being re-printed in the *Gill Raker Gazette*. This is the last in the series.]

The *Einstellung* effect occurs when we depend on previous experience to solve a new problem and fail to see that a better solution exists. *Einstellung* literally means "installation" in German, but also refers to a person's attitude. In other words, we are reluctant to let go of a familiar approach to problem solving. Trapping monkeys is a good example of the *Einstellung* effect. A banana is placed in a tethered container with an opening just large enough for a monkey's hand. Upon reaching in and grasping the banana, the monkey is trapped because it won't let go.

As another example, our governments have had a hard time letting go of bounties. In its simplest form, a bounty is a payment by government for the body, or body part, of an animal considered to be damaging to plants or animals desired by human society. Bounties have long been used as a method of fish and wildlife management, usually with little or no effect on the targeted population and at substantial taxpayer expense.

Perhaps the greatest boondoggle in Alaskan fisheries history was the bounty paid by the former U.S. Bureau of Fisheries (USBF) for caudal fins of Dolly Varden *Salvelinus malma* during 1921-1940. The bounty was paid to protect juvenile salmon from predation by Dolly Varden. The program highlighted two major problems common to bounties: unintended consequences and ineffectiveness. Robert Armstrong, an Alaskan naturalist and retired fisheries biologist, studied this case history and reported that the bounty program was finally evaluated in 1939, nearly 20 years after it began. In the Yakutat USBF office, for example, 20,000 fins were examined; of these, only 10% were from Dolly Varden; all other fins were from Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* or Coho Salmon *O. kisutch* ([Hubbs 1940, cited by Armstrong and Wilson 2014](#)).

At present, 18 states still have active bounty programs; most are aimed at rodents in the East and South and coyotes in the West. But there are no more bounties on fish, right? Wrong. Since 1990, a bounty has been offered for Northern Pikeminnow *Ptychocheilus oregonensis* in the Columbia River (<http://www.pikeminnow.org/>). The Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Program, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration, administered by the Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission, and in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, pays anglers that catch and check-in Northern Pikeminnow with a total length of 9 inches or larger. Anglers receive \$5.00 per fish for 1-25 fish, \$6.00 each for 26-200 fish, and \$8.00 each for ≥ 201 fish. The program is certainly more science-based than the century-old Dolly Varden bounty. Studies of Northern Pikeminnow have shown that it is a serious predator of juvenile salmon and that if it could be exploited at 10-20%, predation on juvenile salmonids could be substantially reduced. While predation has been reduced, exploitation has remained at an average 12% and the actual effect on salmon returns is unknown; nor can it be known because of the confounding effects of other management actions such as water releases, fish transport, and habitat improvement. Furthermore, the program has emphasized money making (website theme: "Catch Cash, Save Salmon") and other websites promote angler "side hustles," part-time activity for profit. In 2015 alone, the federal government paid \$1.8 million in bounties with no proof that salmon returns were increased as a result.

Some predator/competitor reduction programs are proving successful (e.g., Lake Trout *S. namaycush* suppression in Yellowstone Lake), but these are science-based goals that can be evaluated for effectiveness with no profit motive. Bounties have been notoriously ineffective at taxpayer expense, but governments continue to rely on them.

Sometimes, we just need to let go.

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The EXCOM wants your ideas ...

Please do not hesitate to contact any EXCOM Member about questions or ideas

This is your Chapter !

