



October 8, 2019

Greeting from the Water Quality Section of AFS!

We are pleased to report a modest increase in the number attending our business meeting in Reno. Please read the highlights from the recent meeting:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B0esFlhjwu_pQv7ohA6Kgt7XbXRqX96uBADswmyLLGM/edit?usp=sharing. The meeting notes highlight opportunities for you to engage in blue.

This is the first of Quarterly updates that will be sent out to the membership, and we invite you to send news items to include in future news 'streams.'

Next year's meeting

We hope that many of you will plan to attend the 2020 meeting in Columbus, Ohio, which will be the 150th anniversary of AFS. Please send a short paragraph with your suggestions or ideas for next year's meeting (e.g., symposia, debates, field trips, or short courses) that you would like the Section to support. In addition, if you would like to try organizing a symposium on fracking/oil-gas exploration and water quality, please let us know. We are also seeking a volunteer to help organize next year's student poster award.

Water quality policy

Because of threats to future water quality in the US and beyond, the WQ Section is actively supporting policy initiatives that are protective.

EPA has proposed changes to **Section 401 Water Quality Certifications**:

www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/22/2019-17555/updating-regulations-on-water-quality-certification AFS, as part of a larger Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS), has formulated a comment in response.

More details about AFS policy initiatives are described in the business-meeting minutes. In addition, below are some current news items.

In January 2020, The **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**, will gradually increase groundwater restrictions in **California** over the next 20 years with the overall goal of bringing groundwater aquifers to sustainability - meaning that withdrawals will no longer cause "chronic lowering of groundwater levels." The California State Assembly passed this bill in 2014.

The **Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014** requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and EPA to advance the scientific understanding and ability to detect, monitor, assess, and predict HAB and hypoxia events in marine and freshwater in the U.S. The act also requires maintaining and enhancing a national program to control and mitigate HAB and hypoxia events, delineates the role of the Task Force Interagency Working Group to develop plans to reduce the likelihood of HAB formation and mitigate their damage. A recent amendment will provide EPA with the statutory authority to determine if a HAB or hypoxia event in freshwater is an "event of national significance."

Check out news updates on our Section website at <https://waterquality.fisheries.org/> and please friend us on facebook www.facebook.com/AFS-Water-Quality-Section-369954383031160/.

Thank you for caring about water quality!

Yetta Jager, President
Water Quality Section, AFS
myjgoo@gmail.com