



October 30, 2020

Happy Halloween from the Water Quality Section of AFS!



I hope that you are doing ok -- it has been a difficult year for many with the COVID pandemic. Yet making sure that science informs water policy has never seemed more urgent than now. The issue of climate change is one aspect, one that outgoing AFS President, Scott Bonar, made a primary focus and one that will continue with an elevated profile.

In case you have not been getting enough election news, here's some more: Our section is looking for a few good people to run for president-elect, a 2-year term. Please reach out if you would like to learn more.

Responsibilities are given in Section by-laws, see the Section website <https://waterquality.fisheries.org/>. Participating in a professional society is a great way to form collaborations and help us to address important societal issues related to water.

Student Poster Award

Congratulations to Olivia Balkcum, student at Clemson U. for winning our 2020 student poster award for her poster entitled 'How Do Warm Winters Affect Energy Allocation Trade-offs in Cool-Water Fish?' with coauthors William Sims, Hannah Mulligan, John Cannaday, & Troy Farmer. Many thanks to AFS Fellow Bob Hughes for leading the effort to judge posters with help from Paul Kusnierz, myself, and thanks to our treasurer, Gregg Lomnicky for sending the award check.

The Water Quality Section business meeting

The meeting was held GoToMeeting and we had a quorum for the second year in a row (see zoom photo). Having remote access seems like a good idea to engage those unable to travel. We'd be interested to hear your

opinions about the virtual meeting format, things to keep, things that were not ideal.

Jesse Trushenski (Past AFS president) reviewed AFS news including the creation of a new Section focused on Climate Change. Brian Murphy (incoming AFS president) will be working toward engaging retired members.

Kudos to Barry Baldigo who developed a webinar, 'The Clean Air Act, a success story'. Check out this and other webinars produced by the continuing education section: <https://fisheries.org/category/webinars/page/3/>.

Pres-Elect Paul Kusnierz suggested a publication or special issue related to thermal ecology and standards, and several people expressed interest.

We are in the process of updating our By Laws, so stay tuned for more on that. We appreciate help from Bob Hughes and the governing board in making that happen.



Upcoming Events

With any luck, the annual AFS meeting will be in Baltimore with the theme Chesapeake headwaters to estuary <https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/2021-annual-meeting-in-baltimore/>. Future meetings are planned in Spokane, Grand Rapids, and Honolulu.

Symposium proposals will be solicited soon for next year's meeting. Below are some topics that will likely be pursued, and we are happy to support others:

- Jonathan Leiman, Temperature TMDLs
- Than Hitt and Ryan Argo, Past, present, and future water quality in the Ohio River Basin
- Vicky Blazer, Forever chemicals (PFAS) in the Chesapeake Bay
- Margaret Murphy will be leading the effort to produce a poster celebrating 150 years of progress.



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A meeting of the Joint Aquatic Sciences is being planned <https://aquaticsocieties.org/event/aquatic-sciences-meeting-2021/> with participation from AFS. The Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS) organization has been spearheading policy engagement on topics such as the WOTUS rule.

Policy News

There are opportunities to elevate science relevant to protection of the Nation's water quality. For example, proposed changes to the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act would establish national standards for marine pollution control devices for discharges into the waters of the United States or the contiguous zone. Please contact Joanne Whittier if you wish to contribute to crafting a response for AFS in the next few weeks, whittierj@missouri.edu. More information can be found on the AFS policy website.

Recent Member Publications, Awards

Please don't be shy about letting us know when you have a new research product (report, publication, website) or win an award. Here are a few that we are aware of:

1. Lomnický, G.A., Hughes, R.M., Peck, D.V. & Ringold, P.L. (2021) Correspondence between a recreational fishery index and ecological condition for U.S.A. streams and rivers. *Fisheries Research*, 233, 105749.
2. Herlihy, A.T., Sifneos, J.C., Hughes, R.M., Peck, D.V. & Mitchell, R.M. (2020) The relation of lotic fish and benthic macroinvertebrate condition indices to environmental factors across the conterminous USA. *Ecological Indicators*, 112, 105958.
3. Kusnierz, P.C., Jager, H.I. and Todd, A.S. (2020), A Call for Collaboration among Water Quality and Fisheries Professionals. *Fisheries*, 45: 157-162.
4. Tsang, Y., Infante, D.M., Wang, L., Krueger, D. & Wieferich, D. (2021) Conserving stream fishes with changing climate: Assessing fish responses to changes in habitat over a large region. *Science of the Total Environment*, 755, 142503.

Please friend us www.facebook.com/AFS-Water-Quality-Section-369954383031160/ and feel free to post water quality news. We also invite you to send news items to include in future quarterly news 'streams.' Ideas are always welcome.

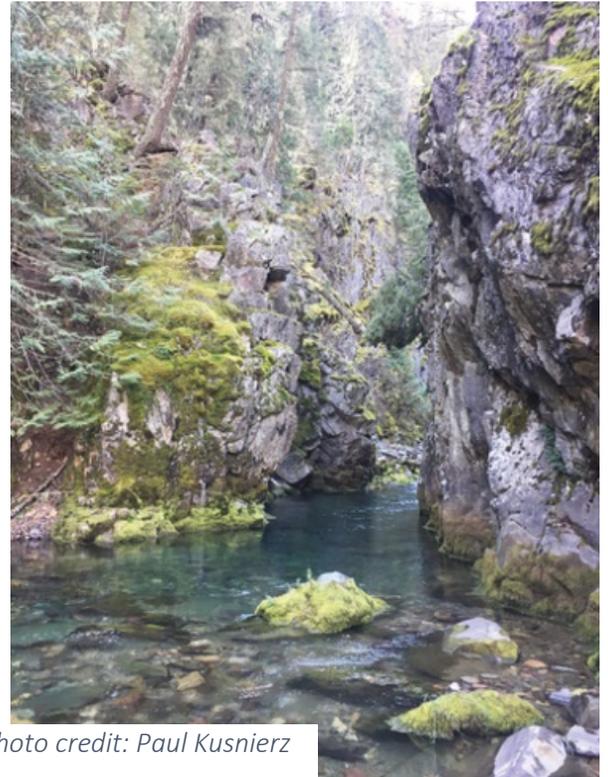


Photo credit: Paul Kusnierz

Please stay well and wishing you the best getting through the winter.

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