The Water Quality Section of AFS

AFS 150\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary
Mission

Maintain an association of persons involved in the protection of watersheds, water quality, and aquatic habitat and in the abatement of water pollution and aquatic habitat and watershed deterioration.

Encourage improved professional and technical standards in the investigation, abatement, and regulation of water pollution, aquatic habitat, and watershed problems.

Focus attention on watershed, aquatic habitat, and water quality concerns by conducting symposia, workshops and projects, collecting and assembling information for publication, and distributing results to society members and the public.

Promote development and use of standardized procedures and techniques for investigating and regulating water quality, aquatic habitat, and watershed problems.
Water quality has long been an important concern for fisheries scientists.

AFS had a Standing Committee on the topic for many years prior to formation of the Water Quality Section (WQS).

The Water Quality Section has provided important content for AFS and fisheries professional for the past 40 years.

In a changing climate the importance of water quality and fisheries cannot be understated.
Some History......
Musicians Get Involved

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzyYCuy161E
Environmental Movement gets a jumpstart in 1962
Since the start of the industrial age, water quality was declining. By the 1960s, water quality conditions in the United States had deteriorated to such an extent that many fisheries biologists were consumed with studying, managing, or abating water quality problems.
The Water Quality Act, the first federal legislation requiring states to set water quality standards, became law in the mid-1960s.
Like most things in our society, especially those dealing with our environment, it takes a crisis to get any committed action for improvement.
Serious commitment in the regulatory arena did not begin until the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire (not the first time) on 22 June 1969.


https://www.businessinsider.com/vintage-epa-photos-reveal-us-waterways-before-pollution-was-regulated-2019-6?fbclid=IwAR2x5ihu8-fbpaQHHFekHzSPB1XXkQnkuY3fi90xNqLC6OZseHykY
• The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) took effect in January 1970

• The Clean Water Act, amended in 1977, incorporated the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 and changed legislative focus from general water quality to criteria for pollutants toxic to aquatic life
  - Orientation shifted from human health to concern for aquatic life
  - to restore and maintain chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our nation’s waters, including the improvement of water quality for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife

https://www.flickr.com/photos/usepagov/albums/72157713508912198
In 1976, Howard Johnson (chair of Water Quality Committee) arranged an organizational meeting at the annual AFS meeting in Dearborn, Michigan to create Water Quality Section.

The Water Quality Section was chartered in 1977 as the fourth Section within AFS.
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
WATER QUALITY SECTION

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