



American Fisheries Society
June 2020 Management Committee Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2020

Management Committee Participants:

Scott Bonar, Brian Murphy, Jesse Trushenski, Leanne Roulson, April Croxton, Jud Kratzer, Michelle Walsh, Trent Sutton, Dan DauWalter, Todd Pearsons, Tom Kwak, Joe Conroy, Jim Fredericks, Randy Schultz (Constitutional Consultant, non-voting), Doug Austen (Executive Director, non-voting)

Emerging Leaders: Heather Stewart, Aaron Bunch

Guests: Troy Brandt, Cecil Jennings

AFS Staff: Dan Cassidy, Drue Winters, Lauren Maza

Minutes of the Meeting:

1. **Welcome/Determination of Quorum** – Quorum established by Schultz. Meeting called to order by Bonar at 3:05 p.m.
2. **Agenda accepted** with no changes.
3. **Review and approval of minutes** from the Management Committee meeting on April 15, 2020. Accepted with no changes.
4. **AFS Climate Change Efforts** –
 - a. Updates on special committee work and related activities – Bonar reported that the three special committees (Policy, Science, Communications) are all progressing on their tasks.
 - b. AFS submitted a pre-proposal for funding through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCG) to support climate communication. A decision on the preproposal will be made by AFWA committees in July.
 - c. Status of climate and aquatic systems letter to the aquatic societies (full information found at <https://fisheries.org/2020/06/draft-statement-of-world-aquatic-societies-on-human-caused-climate-change/>) – Bonar reported that this letter has been sent to over 200 aquatic science or conservation organizations and about 40 have responded. Comments will be incorporated, and a revised version will be submitted to the AFS Governing Board for approval.
5. **AFS 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting Update**
 - a. Overview of general schedule of events – Austen provided a rough framework of the schedule of events for the September 14-25 event. The organizing committees have been re-designed to address the new meeting structure.

- b. Timing of MC and GB meetings – will be scheduled prior to the virtual event, likely Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 10-12.

6. Constitutional Consultant’s report (Schultz)

- a. **Motion:** Approval of registration rates for AFS 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

Regular		Student / LMIC/Retiree		Early Career	
Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member
\$200	\$295	\$125	\$150	\$150	\$200

Background: See Attachment A

Action: Moved by Murphy; 2nd by Walsh

Motion amended by Joe Conroy; 2nd by Roulson.

Regular		Student / LMIC/Retiree		Early Career	
Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member
\$195	\$320	\$100	\$175	\$150	\$200

Discussion: It was noted that some states will be dealing with possibly severe budget challenges this year and that registration for meetings may be limited. There may also be some challenges for students particularly if they do not have project funds to support registration. Providing background on the derivation of these rates will be important to help members and administrators justify the expense. It was also pointed out that it is likely that, even at this rate, it is likely that AFS will not retain any profit from this event when all costs are incorporated in the financial analysis.

Amendment adopted, and revised motion approved with unanimous consent.

- b. **Motion:** Approve the proposed AFS Statement on Aquaculture (Attachment B)

Background:

(Provided by Patrick Shirey, chair, AFS Resource Policy Committee).

The Resource Policy Committee requests that the Governing Board consider the attached policy statement put forward by the Fish Culture Section. The policy statement was drafted by the leadership of the Fish Culture Section with help from Drue Winters, reviewed by subject matter experts, and reviewed by the RPC.

Unlike resolutions, this type of statement does not require an RPC vote. But, it does require input from unit representatives on the RPC before the RPC chair makes the decision to send to the Governing Board (pages 87-88 of the procedures manual). I confirmed this with Randy Schultz. We received input from representatives of NED, NCD, CARS, Fisheries Administration, Bioengineering, Education, and Physiology, which we then provided to Mick

Walsh for Fish Culture Section consideration. Mick provided the revised statement today, and I am excited to pass it along to you for consideration by the Management Committee and Governing Board. Thanks to the Fish Culture Section for their efforts working on this statement.

Action: Moved by Walsh; 2nd by Roulson.

Discussion: Conroy and Kratzer suggested that the statement could be expanded to include freshwater aquaculture. Winters responded that the purpose of this statement needs to be relatively narrow and focused on marine aquaculture because of the intent to impact federal legislation that specifically addresses marine aquaculture.

Motion adopted with unanimous consent.

- c. **Motion:** Approve the proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Alabama Chapter.

Background: The proposed extensive amendments to the bylaws (Attachment C) were reviewed by the Constitutional Consultant and deemed consistent with the AFS Constitution and Rules. Major changes included committee and officer updates.

Action: Moved by Conroy; 2nd by Murphy. Adopted with unanimous consent.

7. President/Officers activities report
- A. Scott Bonar – Noted that his earlier comments on climate change activities stand as his report.
 - B. Brian Murphy – reviewed a revised draft Presidential plan of work (Attachment D) with a renewed emphasis on diversity and inclusion (D&I). Aaron Bunch expanded on the role of D&I by introducing the concept of his new podcast and Heather Stewart reported on a new effort by student members of multiple science societies to develop accountability measures for their organizations.
 - C. Leanne Roulson – Participated in Western Division business meeting, Meetings Oversight Committee and Code of Conduct issues from Southern Division meeting with particular mention of the need to develop better procedures for implementing the Code of Conduct.
8. Executive Director and AFS staff reports
- a. Financial update (Dan Cassidy; Attachment E)
 - b. Policy update (Drue Winters; Attachment F)
 - c. Activity and related reports and updates
 - i. Update on MSCG submissions – AFS is involved in four MSCG pre-proposals. The first two of these AFS is the principal investigator. For the second two projects, AFS is a partner with the primary role of hosting a symposium or related workshop at the Baltimore 2021 annual meeting. Funding in the grants would support the annual meeting activity.
 - 1. Communicating the effects of climate change on fish and fisheries (\$118,870)

2. Fisheries Gray Literature Database State Agency Expansion and Support (\$105,191)
 3. Instream Flow and Water Level Conservation Training and Research Center (with the Instream Flow Council)
 4. Retaining 2020's Surge of Licensed Anglers (with RBFF, Southwick Associations and Responsive Management)
- ii. National Fisheries Summit – Austen reported that AFS is being asked to be a co-host of the planned 2021 federal agency fisheries summit to be held at the National Conservation Training Center.
- d. Need for Summer GB call – To be scheduled as a joint July MC and GB call on July 20, 2020
9. Adjourned meeting at 4:30 p.m. EDT

Attachment A – Proposed Registration Rates

American Fisheries Society								
Virtual Meeting Registration Rates								
Background Information for Rate Pricing								
Option #1 - Top-down Analysis								
		Regular	Student	Early-career				
Member early rates		\$595	\$360	\$450				
Avg cost / attendee *		\$333	\$333	\$333				
Net revenue / attendee		\$262	\$27	\$117				
* Columbus Meeting Budget								
Total expenses			\$583,000					
Projected attendance			1,750					
Average cost per attendee			\$333					
(F&B only portion is \$195pp)								
Option #2 - Bottom-up Analysis								
Projected staff costs		\$235,000						
Online meeting platform est.		\$25,000						
Total expected costs		\$260,000						
Projected attendance		750	1,000	1,250	1,500			
Cost per attendee		\$347	\$260	\$208	\$173			
Option #3 - Comparative Analysis								
			Student / LMIC					
		Member	Non Member	Retiree	Non Member	Early Career	Non Member	
CSSP		\$200	\$250					
AOS (for NAOS conference)		\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50	
ESA		\$190	\$260	\$60	\$90			
Proposed Virtual Meeting Registration Rates								
		Regular		Student / LMIC/Retiree		Early Career		
		Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member	Member	Non Member	Totals
		\$200	\$295	\$125	\$150	\$150	\$200	
% of attendance		27%	11%	42%	4%	12%	5%	100%
(based on Atlantic City results)								
Projected revenue for 1,000		\$53,712	\$31,043	\$52,442	\$5,713	\$18,108	\$10,000	\$171,018

Attachment B – Aquaculture Statement

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) supports sustainable growth of aquaculture. The demand for fish is expected to grow significantly in the next decade, but it is unlikely that capture fisheries can sustainably accommodate increased harvest pressure to meet this demand. Domestic freshwater and marine aquaculture present existing and emerging opportunities to sustainably address America's ongoing dependence on imported seafood, while relieving local pressures on wild stocks and impacts on aquatic ecosystems and waterfront communities. AFS calls for a clear, predictable, regulatory framework that will enable industry growth in a conscientious, environmentally sustainable manner. Further, we call for continued, consistent investments in research to understand effects of aquaculture development on fisheries and aquatic resources, and innovation to minimize negative environmental and social impacts of fish cultivation.

U.S. policymakers must address the future of our seafood supply and food insecurity. Seafood demand in the U.S. has grown steadily, driven by increases in both population and per capita seafood consumption¹. Yet, capture fisheries landings have not increased appreciably for 30 years. The anticipated impacts on wild fish populations from climate change make it less likely that wild stocks will be able to withstand additional harvest pressure.

Worldwide, fish farming has overtaken wild harvest of fish as the leading source of seafood, producing nearly 80 million metric tons in 2016². Today, the majority of seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported and more than half is farm-raised. Enabling expansion of the marine aquaculture industry in the USA would increase domestic seafood supplies in accordance with strong environmental, food safety, and labor standards and protections.

While finfish and shellfish culture has supported traditional communities and working waterfronts in state waters for more than a century in the U.S., offshore finfish aquaculture has not kept pace. By establishing a clear and predictable legal and regulatory structure for marine aquaculture in the U.S., we can reduce the overreliance on seafood imports and improve seafood security with wholesome, domestically farmed seafood that minimizes the environmental and social footprint of the industry on our marine habitat and resources. Implementation of best practices and improvements has already reduced environmental impacts substantially (e.g., reduced use of fish meal and oil in feeds, siting tools to minimize user conflicts and effects of discharge, improved biosecurity practices and strict veterinary oversight of therapeutic use), and ongoing innovation will continue to reduce the environmental footprint of fish farming. Furthermore, existing law and regulatory frameworks in the U.S. ensure aquaculture operations are held to high standards with respect to environmental impacts. Healthy wild fisheries and responsible marine aquaculture can and must coexist if we are to feed ourselves and still fulfill our commitment to wild fish and wild places.

¹ FAOSTAT. 2020. Food Supply - Livestock and Fish Primary Equivalent. Database. Available: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/CL> (4 May 2020).

² FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). 2018. State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome. Available: <http://www.fao.org/state-of-fisheries-aquaculture> (4 May 2020).

Attachment C – Alabama By-Laws Update

Alabama Chapter of the American Fisheries Society BYLAWS

Article 1 - Name and Objectives

- (a) The name of this organization shall be the Alabama Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (**ALAFS**), hereinafter referred to as the Chapter and Society, respectively.
- (b) The objectives of the Chapter shall be those of the American Fisheries Society as set forth in Article 1 of the Constitution of the Society, including active involvement in support of the wise use and management of Alabama’s aquatic resources, and exchange of information among Chapter members.
- (c) All activities of this Chapter shall conform to the Society’s Constitution, Rules, and Procedures.

Article 2 - Membership

- (a) The membership of the Chapter shall be composed of individuals who have an interest in the fisheries and related issues of importance to the State of Alabama.
- (b) Only active (dues paying) members of the Society may hold office, chair a committee, and vote on Chapter affairs.
- (c) Affiliate members, defined as members of the Chapter but not the Society, are encouraged to attend and participate in Chapter functions. Affiliate members are entitled to receive any correspondence distributed by the Chapter and can attend the Annual Meeting. Affiliate members are also permitted to discuss business at the Annual Business Meeting and serve on a Chapter committee with prior notice to the Chapter Executive Committee. Affiliate members may not vote, hold office, or chair a committee.

Article 3 - Meetings

- (a) The Chapter shall hold at least one meeting **annually** at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called by the President with the advice and consent of the Chapter Executive Committee, and with sufficient advance notice, as per Article 3(b), to the membership via email or electronic notification. The special meeting notice shall include topics that will be covered on the agenda.
- (b) **The Chapter shall hold an annual business meeting and membership must be notified by mail or email at least 30 days before the annual business meeting, and at least 14 days before a special meeting.**

- (c) Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or the Constitution of the Society, Chapter business meetings shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article 4 - Officers

- (a) The officers of the Chapter shall consist of President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.
- (b) Chapter officers shall be selected from the membership and be in good standing with the Society. Officer candidates shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee which shall be chaired by the Immediate Past President. The slate of nominees shall be presented to the membership at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Electronic voting shall conclude a minimum of 10 days prior to the annual meeting. If the candidate position has not been presented to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting, then nominations may be submitted from the floor at the annual business meeting. A candidate must receive a simple majority of votes cast to be successfully elected to office. Election of officers shall be at the discretion of the President by electronic ballot or voice vote.
- (c) The President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by vote via electronic ballot or voice vote and installed at the upcoming business meeting. The President-elect shall advance to the office of President and the President shall advance to the office of Immediate Past-President at the end of the term. The Secretary and Treasurer's terms of office will be three years.
- (d) If an office is vacated, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement to fill the remainder of the term. If the presidency is vacated, the President-Elect shall serve the remainder of his/her term.
- (e) In the event of a cancellation of an annual meeting the officers and the members of any committees shall continue to serve until the next scheduled meeting.
- (f) All officers shall be members of the Society.
- (g) No elected officer or appointed committee member shall receive any salary or other compensation except for payment of Society dues. Expenses may be defrayed from funds available to the Chapter when authorized by the Executive Committee.

Article 5 - Duties of Officers

- (a) The President of the Chapter shall preside at all meetings, chair the Executive Committee, make committee appointments, serve as a voting member of the Southern Division's Executive Committee and a non-voting member of the Society's Governing Board, and perform other duties and functions as authorized by the Chapter's Executive Committee.
- (b) The President-Elect shall chair the Program Committee, assume the duties of the President if the latter is unable to act, and advance to the office of President at the end of the term.

- (c) The Secretary shall keep the official records of the Chapter, **serve on the Membership committee, prepare official correspondence, including newsletters, maintain a current list of Chapter members in good standing**, and submit minutes of the Chapter meetings to the Society's Executive Director and the Southern Division's Secretary-Treasurer within 30 days after each meeting.
- (d) The Treasurer shall disburse funds as authorized by the Executive Committee or the membership, submit a record of receipts and disbursements accompanied by a general financial statement at the annual Chapter meeting, prepare and submit necessary tax forms, **email monthly bank account statements that include all transactions to the Executive Committee, receive annual meeting registrations**, and discharge other duties as requested by appropriate Society officers.
- (e) **The Immediate Past President shall serve on the Executive Committee and chair the Nominating Committee.**

Article 6 - Executive Committee

- (a) The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of elected officers, up to 2 at-large members who may be appointed by the President for 1-year terms, and the Presidents of all approved AFS Student Subunits in Alabama.
- (b) The Executive Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Chapter between annual meetings.
- (c) A quorum is required for transaction of official business at an Executive Committee meeting. A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of at least 4 of the 5 officers.
- (d) Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote per motion brought before the Executive Committee.
- (e) **Binding contracts or financial transactions that are on behalf of the Chapter and have contractual obligations or payments that are equivalent to or exceed \$500 in Chapter funds need full Executive Committee review and majority approval by 4 of 5 officers.**
- (f) **The Chapter's bank account(s) will be accessible by the Treasurer, President, and President-Elect. It will be the duty of the outgoing Treasurer and Immediate Past President to ensure the newly-elected Treasurer and President have control of the Chapter's bank account(s).**

Article 7 - Chapter Committees

- (a) Committees and Chairpersons of committees, except as listed in Articles 5 and 6 of the Bylaws, shall be appointed and charged by the President. Except for Standing Committees, these Chapter committees shall cease to function upon the discharge of the duties for which they were appointed.

(b) Standing Committees help the President and Executive Committee conduct the Chapter's affairs, and the chairs should report their committee's activities, findings, and recommendations at the annual business meeting and interim meetings of the Executive Committee.

(c) Standing Committees:

- a. Award/Scholarship Committee: This committee shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) chapter members and shall review and nominate candidates for Chapter awards as approved by the Executive Committee. Award winners will be selected by vote of the committee members.
- b. Membership Committee: This committee shall be composed of a minimum of two (2) Chapter members and responsibilities are to recruit new members, encourage former members to rejoin, and promote participation in the Chapter and Society.
- c. Nominations Committee: This committee shall be composed of a minimum of two (2) chapter members and responsibilities are to name a slate of candidates for the Chapter offices of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Immediate Past President shall chair this committee.
- d. Program Committee: This committee shall be composed of a minimum of two (2) Chapter members, including the President-Elect as chairperson. The Program Committee shall work with the Executive Committee to coordinate arrangements for the annual meeting, including determining the meeting location, administering registration (if applicable), collecting fees, generating publicity, and assembling and administering the program.
- e. Student Affairs Committee: This committee shall bring student needs, concerns, and issues to the attention of the Executive Committee.
- f. Audit Committee: This committee shall be composed of a minimum of two (2) Chapter members that are not current or incoming Executive Committee members and shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer and report to the Chapter at the annual business meeting.
- g. Sponsorship Committee: This committee shall consist of at least two (2) Chapter members. Duties of the committee shall include soliciting and securing donations/sponsorships for meeting functions from vendors and other potential donors, coordinating with Program Committee regarding funds available for meetings, and communicating possible changes to sponsorship levels.
- h. Website Committee: This committee shall be composed of a minimum of two (2) Chapter members. Duties of the committee shall include developing and maintaining the Chapter's website to provide information and newsworthy items relevant to the mission of the Chapter and ensuring that all links and information are current and functional.

(d) Special Committees may be commissioned by the President at any time for specific, time-limited purposes. A special committee shall be disbanded upon completion of the specified project and subsequent report to the Executive Committee or the Chapter.

Article 8 - Voting and Quorum

- (a) All decisions at meetings are decided by a simple majority vote by eligible members, except for bylaw revision which requires a 2/3 majority of members casting vote.
- (b) A quorum at any meeting for transaction of official business shall be ¼ of the Chapter membership.
- (c) Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or the Constitution of the Society, all Chapter meetings are conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
- (d) Business and voting may be conducted via mail or electronic media if approved by the Executive Committee. Chapter decisions via electronic voting shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Society.

Article 9 - Dues and Fees

- (a) The Executive Committee shall establish annual dues subject to approval of the Chapter members voting at the annual business meeting.
- (b) The Executive Committee may assess registration fees for an annual meeting of the Chapter.

Article 10 - Amendment of Bylaws

- (a) The Bylaws of the Chapter may not be amended, nor may the Chapter adopt a plan of merger, consolidation or dissolution without the affirmative votes of no less than two-thirds (2/3) majority approval of those members voting, provided that notice of the proposed changes(s) be given to the membership at least 30 days prior to a meeting. Further, the Chapter may not sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets without the affirmative votes of no less than two-thirds (2/3) majority approval of those members voting. If voting is by electronic ballot, members must be given at least 2 weeks to return their ballots.
- (b) In accordance with the Society Constitution, an adopted amendment shall be reviewed by the Society's Constitutional Consultant for conformity with the Constitution, Rules and Procedures of the Society prior to Chapter vote. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society Management Committee for approval.
- (c) Amendments take effect when the Chapter receives written notice of their approval by the Society's Management Committee from the Executive Committee.

Article 11 – Dissolution

- (a) Upon the dissolution of the Chapter, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Chapter, transfer all assets to The American Fisheries Society.

Article 12 – Liability

- (a) No member of the Executive, Standing, or Special Committee shall be liable to anyone for any acts in behalf of the Chapter or any omissions with respect to the Chapter committed by such director, except for his or her own willful neglect or misconduct, nor shall any member of the Executive, Standing, or Special Committee be liable to anyone for any act of neglect or default on the part of any one or more of the other members of the Executive, Standing, or Special Committee.

Attachment D – Brian Murphy Draft Presidential Plan of Work

DRAFT_12 (6.15.20)

**President's Plan of Work (DRAFT)
Brian R. Murphy
September 2020-August 2021**

Preamble

An effective presidential Plan of Work should be one that implements critical actions and new directions to advance the Society, while protecting the core functions that have made AFS what it is today. To this end, a Plan of Work should be in concordance with the Mission and Vision of the Society:

- **Mission of AFS:** *“To improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.”*
- **Vision of AFS:** *To address our mission, AFS needs to advance fisheries knowledge and strive to be the home society for all fisheries disciplines. In that pursuit, AFS seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of AFS professional certification.*

A team of dedicated AFS members has just completed an updated Strategic Plan (Bowker et al. 2019) to guide the Society forward over the next 5 years, which includes these specific objectives:

- Objective 1. Advance fisheries disciplines, conservation, and management.*
- Objective 2. Develop fisheries professionals.*
- Objective 3. Communicate the importance of both the science and the value of fisheries discipline.*
- Objective 4. Increase diversity among fisheries professionals and promote an inclusive environment in AFS.*
- Objective 5. Provide effective governance of AFS and high-quality service to AFS's members.*

Plan of Work (2020-2021)

I have identified four high-priority areas of focus (objectives) for my term as AFS president:

1. To increase public visibility and trust in the work of our profession and of our Society.
2. To continue and expand efforts to promote and increase diversity and improve inclusion within our profession and our Society, and to help eliminate racism in human society itself.
3. To help AFS members further their careers by: a) developing or enhancing critical professional skills; and b) enhancing the benefits of professional certification.
4. To move forward to action related to rebranding needs for AFS as we celebrate our 150th anniversary.

Strong ties between these objectives make it impossible to completely separate them relative to actions needed. Actions executed in this plan will support the theme of the 151st Annual Meeting of AFS in Baltimore, Maryland: *Investing in People, Communications, and Science for the Future of Fisheries.*

Plan Objectives

1. *To increase public visibility and trust in the work of our profession and of our Society.*

The unassailable truth is that public trust in scientists and their work has been severely eroded in recent years. This is in part due to a rise of populism, wherein “the people” are pitted against “the elite” (who are commonly described as the political, economic, cultural, or educational establishment, “who put their own interests above those of the people”). Distrust of “educated elites” (including scientists) is often the result of propaganda campaigns against facts that do not serve the personal interests of those in power. Thus we are now said to live in a “post-truth world” where fact and expert opinion are given less weight than emotion. Fisheries science is not exempt from these phenomena, particularly as we take a larger role in disseminating “unpopular facts” such as the impacts of climate change and various policy decisions on aquatic resources.

Actions:

- Strategically intensify AFS policy efforts to distribute engaging, factual fisheries information to policymakers and the public, including continuation and expansion of significant outreach efforts regarding climate change.
- Expand as possible AFS staff in the area of outreach communications.
- Train AFS members how to communicate better with lay audiences across a variety of media outlets.
- Expand public access to important articles from AFS publications, and aggressively advertise and distribute these.
- Increase the amount of “publically digestible” content produced and distributed by AFS.
- Invite the creators of the “The Fisheries Blog” to discuss how their approach and efforts might be integrated with AFS efforts to accomplish this objective.

AFS Strategic Objective(s) addressed: 2, 3

Units to engage: Committees (Communications, Resource Policy, Continuing Education), Sections (Education; Fisheries Administration; Fisheries Management; Science Communication; others); Staff

2. *To continue and expand efforts to promote and increase diversity, improve inclusion within our profession and our Society, and to help recognize and address racism in human society itself.*

American society, and people around the globe, are awakening to the truth that racism and related bias have long denied basic human rights and constitutional freedoms to members of many minority groups, particularly people of color, and to women. AFS recognizes we must be active agents for change to right these injustices. We must speak and act publicly to demand

meaningful societal change and eliminate racism and other discrimination, and we must take actions to ensure that our own organization is a group that welcomes and equitably provides development opportunities for all students and professionals with an interest in aquatic conservation. We must seek to build a membership that is representative of the stakeholders that we serve, and we must take all possible actions to ensure that our professional activities are inclusive and welcoming to all.

Several recent AFS presidents have made increasing the diversity of our profession and of AFS membership important objectives during their administrations, and AFS has made some advances in these areas. But still, neither our profession nor our membership are yet close to being representative of the public that we serve. Overall, membership in AFS is still 74% male and 92% Caucasian. *This problem will increasingly limit future capacities and possibilities for our members, our organization, our profession, and society as a whole.* We must continue all the diversity initiatives that we now have in place and expand them wherever possible, and we need to look for new ways to recruit underrepresented groups into our profession and AFS.

One almost untapped potential pool is high-school students. If we can recruit high-school students into AFS to give them a chance to see what our profession does, this should help increase the flow of students into fisheries higher-education programs and eventually our profession. And carefully targeted high-school recruitment efforts also should help increase the proportions of underrepresented groups in AFS, higher education, and our profession as a whole.

Actions:

- Elevate the Special Committee on Diversity & Inclusion to Standing Committee status through constitutional amendment. Engage the Equal Opportunities Section regarding recommendations for Committee staffing and priorities. Empower the Committee to annually conduct a critical review of AFS efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in our organization, and to make a biannual report to the Governing Board that evaluates AFS efforts and makes recommendations (motions) for improvement. Empower the Committee to make recommendations to the Officers and Governing Board regarding public statements of the Society on these issues.
- Implement as possible all upcoming recommendations from the Meetings Oversight Committee to make AFS meetings more welcoming and inclusive for all members. Charge the 2020-21 Committee to address gaps in awareness/implementation of the AFS Meetings Code of Conduct, to ensure that all units are aware of the Code and are reinforcing its importance to attendees at their unit meetings.
- Investigate ways for AFS to help strengthen the Diversity Joint Venture for Conservation Careers.
- Integrate appropriate CE opportunities that help people identify implicit biases and actions that reduce/prevent inclusivity, and to develop strategies to improve these issues at personal, professional, and Societal levels.
- Appoint a Special Committee for Student Outreach Planning to develop a strategic plan for how to best disseminate information regarding the new AFS High School Membership category, and to recruit new High School members to AFS. When this strategic plan is complete, convert the Committee to a Special Committee for Student Outreach to prioritize outreach efforts and recruit appropriate units and members to help implement them, as resources allow.

- Assist the new TIA Alliance (Trout Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, and AFS) in expanding their programs to more high schools, particularly schools serving underrepresented communities.
- Encourage student subunits and state chapters to reach out to local high schools, particularly those serving underrepresented groups, regarding AFS and career opportunities in fisheries science, and to invite high school students to their events.
- Continue and expand as possible the Hutton Scholars Program. Investigate means to expand the impact of Hutton Program investments.
- Create collaboration between the Hutton Program and university fisheries programs (possibly through NAUFWP) to provide information to all Hutton applicants regarding university fisheries programs and careers in fisheries science.
- Engage appropriate Committees and Sections as advisors on these efforts.

Strategic Objective(s) addressed: 2, 3

Units to engage: Special Committee; Meeting Oversight Committee; Sections (Education; Equal Opportunity; Native Peoples Fisheries; Student & Early Career Professionals; others); Chapters and Student Subunits; Staff

3. *To help AFS members further their careers by: a) developing or enhancing critical professional skills; and b) enhancing the benefits of professional certification.*

The world is not static, and we all know that professionals must be lifelong learners. AFS is committed through its Mission Statement to help members stay current in our field, and to learn new skills to operate in a world that is changing rapidly both physically and politically. AFS should be instrumental in offering professional development opportunities for members at all levels. Professional certification by AFS should be tied closely to professional development opportunities, and members should see tangible benefits to becoming certified.

Actions:

- Survey all AFS subunits, and other organizations similar to AFS, to determine what types of training they offer that have been popular with their members.
- Continually solicit members' suggestions regarding specific training needs that they perceive as critical to their further professional development.
- In partnership with the Instream Flow Council, investigate reactivation of training programs for Instream Flow methodology, and possibly offer such training as part of AFS's Continuing Education programs. Initiate this effort with a special workshop/symposium at the Baltimore Annual Meeting in 2021.
- Expand training for AFS members regarding how to communicate better with lay audiences across a variety of media outlets and live interactions (e.g., writing for lay audiences, press releases, fact sheets, briefing documents, letters to the editor, media interviews, etc.).
- Increase onsite and online offerings of courses identified as highly valuable by members; partner with Divisions and Chapters as appropriate to increase geographic spread of offerings.
- Consider a tiered system of certification credit toward AFS certification for CE offerings, based on difficulty and timeliness of the topic.

- Initiate discussions with agency administrators and other employers regarding creation of tangible benefits for AFS members and AFS-certified employees.
- Recognize certified members with a unique ribbon at AFS meetings, and/or a professional pin for general use in their professional work.

Strategic Objective(s) addressed: 2, 3, 5

Units to engage: Continuing Education Committee; Education Section; Board of Professional Certification; Student and Early Career Professionals Subsection; Staff

4. *To move forward to planning and action related to rebranding needs for AFS as we celebrate our 150th anniversary.*

AFS contracted the firm Potomac Communications Group (PCG) in 2018 to help evaluate our brand, including our name, logo, perception among key stakeholder groups and the “value proposition” that it communicates to internal and external audiences. The results showed that AFS members and stakeholders feel that the mission and values of AFS are not always clearly identified, particularly to outside groups. The Communications Committee has been discussing the results of the study, and seeks to formulate a plan for instituting changes to “rebrand” AFS in ways that make it more visible and relevant to parties both inside and outside the Society.

One impediment to moving rebranding forward has been the question of a name change for the Society. The PCG interviews showed that most members recognize the limitations created by the current name, and the dissatisfaction of Canadian members with the current Society name has long been known. But PCG also reported that the majority of their interview pool felt that despite the fact that AFS has chapters in Mexico and Egypt, and members in some 60 countries, the name and the emphasis of the Society should remain focused on North America. Recent discussions by the Governing Board demonstrate that there is little support at this time for a name change, but our planning and branding must take into account our Canadian and Latin American members.

Actions:

- Charge the Communications Committee to create recommendations regarding Society rebranding, including strategies to make our branding more inclusive for AFS members from outside the United States, particularly members in Canada and Latin America.
- Begin implementation of these recommendations as possible during 2020- 2021.

Reference

Bowker, J., T. Bigford, S. Bonar, J. Defilippi-Simpson, R. Essig, J. Jackson, S. Midway, and M. Murphy. Charting the course for the American Fisheries Society: Strategic Plan for 2020-2024. *Fisheries* 44(3):119-122.

Attachment E – Financial Report



American Fisheries Society

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Scott Bonar, PhD
President 2019-2020

Douglas J. Austen, PhD
Executive Director

April 2020 Financial Update – 6/10/20

Summary. A lot has happened in the U.S. economy over the past few months due to the coronavirus, some of which has impacted AFS. Certainly the financial markets were greatly depressed, bottoming out in March, while some AFS income sources such as Jobs have fallen off and others requiring deferral (opening Columbus annual meeting registrations). Despite these seismic changes in our economy, AFS operating results have been stable through the first part of 2020-- mainly because a good portion of membership dues and journal income is locked in already for the year. The more difficult challenge is forecasting and responding to the longer term impacts from the economic downturns. In response, staff have taken steps to minimize the economic impact on our financial position. AFS has obviously suspended all travel and non-essential program disbursements and reduced staff costs through salary reductions and not filling open positions. AFS also applied for and received \$381,000 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan funds, the majority of which may be forgiven.

Financial Position. Our financial position is reasonably solid, especially when investment declines are omitted (as of this writing, the capital markets rebounded and are now positive for the year). The cash position is lower from later receipt of the Wiley year-end royalty payment (the 2019 royalty is \$33,000 vs. \$136,000 the prior year). Recall, AFS had accessed its bank credit line for \$250,000 in April 2019 boosting cash. Most other accounts are about even with the prior year.

Program Highlights. Excluding investment activity, income total \$1.2M versus \$1.5M last year and reflecting membership growth, grants income and book sales (including the new eBooks program). Expenses are lower compared to last year, an ideal position but also reflective of an organization, to some extent, waiting out the virus situation. Other key changes are highlighted below:

- Multi-state grant income appears earlier this year with the continuation of 2019 projects into 2020
- Annual meeting income is trailing last year with zero registration fees and lower exhibits
- Membership dues is up about over 7% from higher regular, life and early-career join/renews
- Journals royalty income is higher (on account of timing of publisher remittances)
- Staff costs are lower by about 6% from fewer filled full-time positions
- Multi-state grants revenue and expense activity from the 2019-2020 projects
- Annual meeting deposits occurring earlier this year, no more expected
- Membership expenses reflect the software license payment

2020 Budget Forecast. Projecting year-end financial results is extremely difficult in this climate given the economic uncertainties and potential impacts on our member organizations (who generally fund participation in and purchases of AFS programs/services). Still, staff are projecting a loss of about \$330,000 for 2020 before including any net revenue from the Virtual Annual Meeting and before any other budget adjustments. This loss does include PPP funding and removes nearly all discretionary items such as travel, board meetings along with the CE program and the entire Columbus Annual meeting net revenue.

The Management Committee needs to decide if it wishes to press for a balanced (or close to breakeven) budget this year or ride out the year with a goal to minimize budget losses with the intent to recoup at least some of this shortfall in 2021. With the potential income from the new Strategic Partners Program, new multistate grants and a potential member dues increase, looking to 2021 might be a sound option-- especially if the Virtual Meeting brings in substantial net revenue. Otherwise, expense reductions in the 2020 budget may need to come in the

form of deferred or canceled unit dues rebates or similar cuts to programs / staff since nearly all the remaining expenses are program related.

American Fisheries
Statement of Financial Position
As of 4/30/2020

	2020	2019	Variance
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking	\$190,104	\$385,405	(\$195,301)
Accounts Receivable	48,013	35,325	12,688
Allowance of doubtful accounts	(14,170)	(14,170)	
Inventory	262,468	252,638	9,830
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	9,279	7,553	1,726
Current Assets	<u>495,694</u>	<u>666,751</u>	<u>(171,057)</u>
Property and Equipment	1,204,663	1,183,339	21,324
Accumulated Depreciation	(795,870)	(752,868)	(43,002)
Net Property and Equipment	<u>408,793</u>	<u>430,471</u>	<u>(21,678)</u>
Long Term Assets			
Long-Term Investments	3,864,782	4,524,223	(659,441)
Other Assets	7,300	4,500	2,800
Total Long Term Assets	<u>3,872,082</u>	<u>4,528,723</u>	<u>(656,641)</u>
Total Assets	<u>4,776,569</u>	<u>5,625,945</u>	<u>(849,376)</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	(316)	731	(1,047)
Accrued Expenses	17,100	0	17,100
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	<u>16,784</u>	<u>731</u>	<u>16,053</u>
Payroll Salary and Taxes	(368)	(3,495)	3,127
Accrued Benefits	106,542	119,558	(13,016)
Loan Payable	0	250,000	(250,000)
Hold Account	13,967	(73)	14,040
Subunits Dues Payable	142,110	144,029	(1,919)
Subunits Books Payable	3,850	16,207	(12,357)
Deferred Royalty Revenue	600,000	728,572	(128,572)
Deferred Membership Dues	(46,994)	0	(46,994)
Deferred Revenue	(1,968)	0	(1,968)
Deferred Revenue - Other	69,582	59,224	10,358
Total Current Liabilities	<u>903,505</u>	<u>1,314,753</u>	<u>(411,248)</u>
Other Liabilities			
Chapter Investment Liability			
Chapter Investment Liability	262,093	217,030	45,063
Total Chapter Investment Liability	<u>262,093</u>	<u>217,030</u>	<u>45,063</u>
Net Assets			
Net Assets - Unrestricted	1,727,581	1,325,070	402,511
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	2,154,720	2,154,720	
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets - Curr Year	(271,330)	614,372	(885,702)
Total Net Assets - End. Balance	<u>3,610,971</u>	<u>4,094,162</u>	<u>(483,191)</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>4,776,569</u>	<u>5,625,945</u>	<u>(849,376)</u>

AMERICAN FISHERIES
Summary of All Units
For the Four Months Ending 4/30/2020

	Year to Date - Actual			Budget	2019 Annual	
	2020	2019	Var \$	2020 BUDGET vs YTD Actual	Actual	
Revenue						
Administration	(\$509,420)	\$470,147	(\$979,567)	\$213,000	(\$722,420)	\$699,811
Web	4,560		4,560	8,000	(3,440)	5,920
Continuing Education				15,000	(15,000)	32,865
Certification	1,950	3,250	(1,300)	5,000	(3,050)	5,150
Other Education				12,000	(12,000)	
Hutton	7,750	5,000	2,750	100,000	(92,250)	(20,000)
Multi State Grants	38,800		38,800		38,800	68,182
Cornell						22,616
Other Grants & Contracts				87,000	(87,000)	
Annual Meeting	21,260	45,300	(24,040)	1,119,000	(1,097,740)	1,246,326
Membership	540,138	502,034	38,104	555,000	(14,862)	551,943
Awards	3,184	3,349	(164)	5,000	(1,816)	3,112
Mem Other	8,175	11,790	(3,615)	46,000	(37,825)	31,392
Jobs	10,200	13,450	(3,250)	45,000	(34,800)	47,282
Advocacy						14,641
Books	44,126	28,211	15,916	124,000	(79,874)	148,055
Journals	521,151	538,948	(17,797)	1,185,000	(663,849)	1,137,506
Fisheries		25	(25)			105
Total Revenue	691,874	1,621,504	(929,629)	3,519,000	(2,827,126)	3,994,906
Expenses						
Administration	114,798	124,901	10,103	330,000	215,202	350,230
Staff Costs	698,519	741,301	42,782	1,882,000	1,183,481	2,108,897
Technology	19,272	14,391	(4,880)	45,000	25,728	45,276
Communication	949	2,605	1,656	9,000	8,051	2,605
Web	14,885	10,829	(4,056)	20,000	5,115	39,385
Development		1,075	1,075	10,000	10,000	3,221
Continuing Education	52	(1,000)	(1,052)	10,000	9,948	18,263
Certification	57	33	(24)	1,000	943	125
Other Education		109	109			2,149
Board	23,398	21,799	(1,599)	55,000	31,602	44,266
Hutton	340	(138)	(478)	82,000	81,660	110,140
Multi State Grants	19,400		(19,400)		(19,400)	63,952
Cornell	(1,307)	(773)	534		1,307	9,576
Other Grants & Contracts		12,603	12,603	7,000	7,000	12,235
Annual Meeting	21,841	4,429	(17,413)	665,000	643,159	633,922
Other Meetings		1,538	1,538			1,788
WCF World Council of Fisheries	1,464		(1,464)		(1,464)	
Membership	50,375	53,732	3,356	128,000	77,625	107,683
Awards	1,941	3,168	1,227	3,000	1,059	16,624
Mem Other	498	543	45	1,000	502	873
Jobs	2,101		(2,101)		(2,101)	13,948
Units	69		(69)		(69)	
Advocacy	2,946	2,013	(933)	14,000	11,054	6,270
Books	5,053	4,647	(406)	16,000	10,947	98,445
Journals	2,163	20,670	18,507	174,000	171,837	117,874
Fisheries	318	1,487	1,169	27,000	26,682	9,134
Total Expenses	979,132	1,019,962	40,829	3,479,000	2,499,868	3,816,881
Net Change from Operations	(287,258)	601,542	(888,799)	40,000	(327,259)	178,025
Non Operating (shown on a net basis)						
Restricted contributions	15,675	12,832	2,843		15,675	224,481
Total Non Operating	15,675	12,832	2,843		15,675	224,481
TOTAL NET CHANGE	(271,583)	614,374	(885,956)	40,000	(311,584)	402,506

American Fisheries Society
 Restricted Fund Report March 2020

Fund Name	As of 3/31/20	As of 12/31/19	Change in Value
Skinner Memorial Fund *	\$347,642	\$430,686	-\$83,044
Publications Endowment Fund	\$719,118	\$890,899	-\$171,781
J. Francis Allen Scholarship Fund	\$231,535	\$286,844	-\$55,308
Snieszko Endowment Fund	\$62,366	\$77,264	-\$14,898
Sully Fund	\$6,644	\$8,231	-\$1,587
CRS/International Fisheries Endow. Fd	\$270,342	\$334,920	-\$64,578
CRS/International Fisheries Endow. Fd	\$0	\$0	\$0
Shelby Gerking Education Fund	\$75,165	\$93,120	-\$17,955
Hutton Fund	\$118,357	\$146,930	-\$28,573
Steve Berkeley Fellowship	\$317,014	\$392,741	-\$75,727
AFS 2000 Fund	\$113,729	\$140,896	-\$27,167
Obligated Reserve	\$132,584	\$164,255	-\$31,671
DJV National Park Foundation	\$11,487	\$14,231	-\$2,744
Grants & Contracts-Multi State Grants/Contracts	\$6,688	\$8,286	-\$1,598
Total Award / Program Funds	\$2,412,671	\$2,989,302	-\$576,631
Joan Duffy	\$313	\$388	-\$75
Developing Countries	\$568	\$704	-\$136
Disaster Relief Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
World Council of Fisheries	-\$1,361	\$0	-\$1,361
Past president's Endowment Fund	\$39,278	\$47,996	-\$8,718
Puerto Rico Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Combined Federal Campaign/ Disaster Relief	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Special / Relief Funds	\$38,798	\$49,088	-\$10,290
TN Chapter	\$10,711	\$13,270	-\$2,559
North Central Division (NCD)	\$16,069	\$19,907	-\$3,838
ICTALURID Tech Committee	\$16,388	\$20,303	-\$3,915
Nebraska Chapter	\$5,463	\$6,768	-\$1,305
MS Chapter	\$11,131	\$13,789	-\$2,659
Wisconsin Chapter -***	\$26,102	\$32,337	-\$6,235
IL Chapter- ***	\$10,439	\$12,933	-\$2,494
NY Chapter	\$10,442	\$12,936	-\$2,494
MN Chapter	\$26,104	\$32,340	-\$6,236
GA Chapter	\$20,883	\$25,872	-\$4,989
MI Chapter	\$10,442	\$12,936	-\$2,494
Education Sec	\$20,883	\$25,872	-\$4,989
Indiana Chapter	\$10,428	\$12,918	-\$2,491
Southern Division	\$9,132	\$11,313	-\$2,181
Walleye Technical Committee	\$6,974	\$8,640	-\$1,666
Total Chapter Funds	\$211,591	\$262,135	-\$50,544
Total All Funds	\$2,663,059	\$3,300,524	-\$637,465

Attachment F – Policy Update

WOTUS

Last month, the Trump administration finalized the NWPR, a rollback of the 2015 WOTUS rule. The NWPR rule largely ignored the scientific understanding of how streams and wetlands contribute to the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of downstream waters. The agencies failed to quantify the number of waters that the Rule would remove from Clean Water Act protection and made no effort to estimate the reductions in water quality and ecosystem services.

Seventeen states filed suit challenging the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California asserting that the NWPR is contrary to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and arbitrary and capricious, in part, because of the EPA's and the Army Corps' disregard of scientific evidence. The plaintiffs asked the court to issue a nationwide injunction to prevent the Rule from going into effect. AFS, along with 11 science societies, filed an amicus brief with the court highlighting available data and a scientific tool that were part of the rulemaking record and demonstrate the negative impact the 2020 Rule would have on the nation's waters.

Last week, the Court denied the motion for a preliminary injunction, and the Navigable Waters Protection Rule and the rule went into effect on Monday, June 22. The court noted in the order, *"It is no secret that a motivating factor in choosing to go the opposite direction was a "change in administrations," but that does not make it improper. Plaintiffs' arguments that the Agencies disregarded the scientific evidence they previously had gathered is ultimately a policy disagreement as well. The Agencies have articulated reasons they contend the science does not compel a different result, but the real difference in opinion is whether the statute clearly compels the Agencies to extend federal regulation to the broadest permissible extent under the Commerce Clause, in the name of providing all of the benefits for water quality the science suggests might be achievable. Because the Agencies may reasonably conclude they have no such statutory duty, discounting evidence of possible benefits is not plainly arbitrary or capricious."*

A separate suit was filed federal court in Colorado and the court granted preliminary relief and enjoined the rule there. We are evaluating next steps.

Maui

The Clean Water Act survived a significant challenge in May with the U.S. Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in *County of Maui v. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund*. Relying heavily on aquatic science, the Court closed a major loophole for polluters to evade the Act's jurisdiction. The court rejected the County of Maui's attempt to categorically exclude pollutants conveyed through groundwater from the scope of the Act. Instead, it ruled that a permit is required when a discharge, like one into groundwater, is "the functional equivalent" of a direct discharge into navigable waters. AFS joined with a number of science societies and aquatic scientists in a brief to the Supreme Court in support of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund that explained the hydrology of groundwater, its importance to water quantity and quality, connectivity between point sources, groundwater, and surface waters, and pathways for pollution dispersal. The brief set forth the scientific methods used to estimate and empirically quantify the magnitude and timing of groundwater connections between point sources and surface waters including physical measurements, chemical tracers, and groundwater models. The brief explained how these tools are used to determine if, and to what extent, pollutants discharged from point sources contaminate surface waters through groundwater. We

argued that the “Act’s mandate of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters is based on science and thus can only be achieved through the consideration of science.”

Look out for a panel discussion at the AFS Virtual Annual meeting on Sept. 23 to discuss our CWA engagement with other science societies.

Climate

AFS’ Climate Policy Committee is working to have an updated suite of climate policy recommendations for GB approval by September. It will also evaluate AFS’ climate statement for consistency with its policy recommendations. The group has previously evaluated a suite of recommendations developed by TRCP for its Policy Council engagement on Capitol Hill. Individual climate bills are gaining some momentum in the Senate. It is also possible that the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis – Minority – may release a package this summer focusing on conservation, agriculture and resilience. TRCP’s Policy Council will be evaluating timing to submit its recommendations and it would be good for AFS to coordinate as closely as possible with the larger efforts of our conservation partners. Timing of an in-person Hill briefing will be influenced by COVID.

RAWA

AFS signed on to a letter to House and Senate leadership expounding on the economic benefits of proactive conservation and requested that the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act be included in future COVID-19 stimulus packages.

LWCF

Last week, the Senate passed the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) on a 73-25 vote, advancing the landmark conservation legislation to the House for consideration and final passage. The GAOA would fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund with \$900 million annually, paid for by oil and gas leasing revenue. It also would create a five-year trust fund to address a \$20 billion backlog of deferred maintenance projects at national parks and on public lands. In the House, the bill enjoys broad bipartisan support and has a highly motivated group of legislators and conservation organizations backing it, but the exact timeline for its passage is unclear. House leadership must weigh their desire to quickly pass it with the pressing need to address several recurring, must-pass appropriations and authorizing bills.

Marine Aquaculture

AFS Fish Culture section reviewed a draft of the AQUAA Act and we submitted some comments to staff for Sen. Wicker and Sen. Schatz. The bill has not yet been introduced. Our goal is to participate in some Hill activities later this year, if possible, on marine aquaculture. We would use our statement, if approved by the GB, as a springboard and would discuss the advances in science and technology that have decreased the environmental footprint of marine aquaculture.