



Gill Raker Gazette

Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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Editor: Joe Kozfkay

President's Message – “The Only Thing We Have to Fear is Fear Itself”

Those famous words were spoken by President Franklin Roosevelt at his first inaugural address in 1933, speaking of the financial crisis gripping the nation at that time. I print them here because fear (or actually, fearlessness) was on my mind a lot this year. My son Nathan played Little League baseball on the Tigers, and I was the team's coach. From the very beginning, I wanted the kids to work at being as fearless as possible. Anyone who knows 10-12 year olds know that when it comes to competing at anything, some show almost no fear, some are petrified, and most are somewhere in between. Since we were the Tigers, I made Nathan watch Rocky III, and you might remember that the theme song was Eye of the Tiger. Remember the lyrics? They speak of the thrill of the fight, rising to the challenge of your rival, and having the Eye of the Tiger. We all know how that phrase describes someone who is very focused and determined. I talked to Nathan and then the rest of his teammates about this idiom and this song, and how it could represent our team motto for the season. I preached to them that there is no reason to be afraid during practice or in games, that you should just embrace each moment and do your best, and not worry about making errors, striking out, getting hit by a pitch, or any other bad things happening. Just focus your mind and body on what's going on on the field, and do your best. It was amazing how much these kids embraced this message. After a few weeks, they were singing our theme song repetitively throughout each inning while we were batting. They still played with some fear at times, but I also witnessed times where they ALL truly had the Eye of the Tiger, and those moments were special.

On the topic of fear, I often think about graduate school, and how worried I was that I wasn't good enough to complete a Master's degree or become a good biologist. By the time I got to my defense, I had gone from fearing I was unexceptional to KNOWING I was. However, that realization was actually liberating, because I also realized that if I put my mind to any fisheries project, I could make it a success as well as anyone else could, despite my mediocrity. My other son Jack just finished kindergarten, and his teacher focused all year on the word “try”. Don't say you can't do something without trying to do it: if you really try, you might realize that you can do it after all. And if you aren't successful, you still might learn something valuable in the process.



ICAFS President Kevin Meyer (left) and a former ICAFS President Bart Gamett (right) are all smiles while preparing to electrofish in central Idaho.

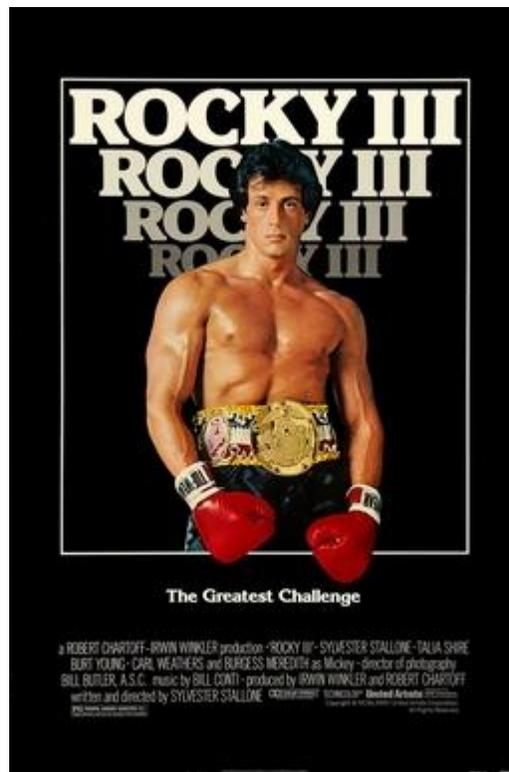


President's Message (continued)

So why am I bringing all of this up here? It's because as an Idaho AFS member, I think one of our main goals is to help our peers, our coworkers, and our young professionals be fearless when it comes to pursuing grad school, or new jobs, or new opportunities that are outside our comfort zone. We should be encouraging them to try: try new scripts in R that you're unfamiliar with, try new data collection methods that are challenging yet seem ideal for the situation, try new ways to resolve conflict, etc. Such encouragement is what a good mentor or peer would do. Don't lament later in your career that you missed an opportunity to provide this sort of inspiration to others. And if you do feel some regrets regarding missed opportunities, it is never too late to apply this sort of inspiration moving forward, to whoever crosses your professional - or personal - path. I challenge each of us to put fear of failure or inadequacy aside and help others do the same, and just go for it each and every day. Watching mentees take flight and blossom into the biologist they always wanted to be has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career, and I'm sure you all would echo that feeling. If you don't directly supervise staff, encourage peers to be fearless. Encourage them to have the Eye of the Tiger. And rejoice in their successes when they do. Our chapter will be stronger if we all pitch in.

PS - To the Core Planning Team who helped put together all the pieces of the spring 2023 WDAFS meeting in Boise, I am forever in your debt for all your hard work and dedication. Thank You!

-Kevin Meyer
ICAFS President



2023 Western Division & Idaho Chapter Joint Annual Meeting Summary

Managing Aquatic Ecosystems and Shifting Baselines: Challenges and Opportunities—Communicated by Lauren Andrews

The Idaho Chapter was pleased to host the Western Division Annual Meeting at the Boise Centre on May 8-11, 2023, ten years after hosting the last WDAFS meeting in Idaho. Our first fully in-person meeting since 2020, we saw a total of 451 attendees hailing from 22 states and 4 Canadian provinces. Additionally, 54 students representing 24 colleges and universities participated.

Seven workshops kicked off the week on Monday with 250 attendees participating. These workshops offered a wide variety of educational opportunities from technical programming to fish printing art. Specific workshops were Small Stream Restoration Summit, Drones and Remote Sensing in Fisheries Science, Using Program R in Fisheries: A Primer, Primer on the Human Dimensions of Fisheries Management, Identifying and Preventing Harassment in the Field: A Training by FieldFutures, Everything you ever wanted to know about monitoring stream temperature but were afraid to ask, and Fish Printing Workshop.

President-Elect Kevin Meyer and Western Division President-Elect Laurie Earley put together an excellent plenary program featuring three speakers from across the country and four invited talks. Plenary speaker Dr. Frank Rahel of University of Wyoming began with the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework. Dr. Mary Donovan from Arizona State University spoke about the changing climate's effects on Hawaiian coral reefs, followed by Dr. Amy Teffer from UMass Amherst discussing climate adaptive stocking. The whole meeting included 12 symposia of 118 talks, as well as 51 contributed talks, 7 Ignite presentations, and 23 posters.

We saw some new traditions added to our socials and extracurricular activities. In addition to the Welcome Social on Monday evening, an Alphabet Social was held at the Idaho State Museum for meeting attendees identifying as LGBTQIA2S+ and BIPOC. First-generation college students and early career professionals had the opportunity to network at lunch on Tuesday. A Film and Photography Festival coincided with the meeting with two showings offered during the week of 8 film finalists and 52 photos. All 23 submitted films can be viewed online via links in the meeting program on the

ICAFS website. Six of the winning photos were sold at the live auction at the banquet. We also had 44 athletes compete in the Spawning Run on the Boise River Greenbelt on Tuesday before a fun student/professional pizza mixer featuring career experience bingo cards.



WESTERN DIVISION
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
MANAGING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND SHIFTING BASELINES
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
BOISE, ID 2023



2023 Western Division & Idaho Chapter Joint Annual Meeting Summary (continued)

Several Chapter members were recognized for their contributions at the Business Luncheon on Wednesday. The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Sharon Keifer along with a custom fish carving from Ken Cain. Kevin Meyer was awarded the R.L. Wallace Fish Conservationist of the Year Award. Katharine Coykendall was named Outstanding Mentor and Audrey Harris was named Outstanding Early Career Professional in the first year of the award. The Aquatic Habitat Award recognized Eagle Valley Ranch for their ongoing commitment to habitat restoration in the Lemhi Valley. Awards of Merit were presented to Rebekah Horn and Rob Van Kirk for their service on EXCOM. Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Christine Stewart, Conor McClure, Luciano Chiaramonte, Carson Watkins, Robert Hand, Lonnie Parry, Sage Unsworth, Tyler Breech, and Pat Kennedy (inset picture). Additionally, ICAFS members were awarded at the WDAFS Business Luncheon, including Matthew Campbell (Award of Excellence), Jessica Buelow (Award of Merit), and Sage Unsworth (Eugene Maughan Graduate Student Scholarship). The Tincup Creek project on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest was presented with the USFS Riparian Challenge Award, received by Lee Mabey and Corey Lyman. Finally, our Idaho Chapter was recognized as the Outstanding Large Chapter and also given the Diversity and Inclusion Service Award.

At the closing of the meeting, best student and poster presentations were awarded to Jeremy Brooks and Thomas Doolittle, respectively. Jon Masingale was recognized for the best Idaho student poster. Kevin See was voted best professional presentation and Katharine Coykendall was voted best professional poster.

We're looking forward to our 2024 annual meeting, which will be a joint meeting with the Washington-British Columbia Chapter. The meeting will be held at The Centennial Davenport Hotel in Spokane, WA on April 29-May 2, 2024. We hope you will join us!



2023 ICAFS Scholarship Winners

The development of fisheries professionals is an important part of the mission of the Idaho Chapter. As part of this effort, the Chapter sponsors several scholarships. Here are our 2023 scholars!

- | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------------------|
| • ICAFS Student Training & Opportunity Grant: | Conrad Robbins | Coldwater Aquaculture Course |
| • ICAFS High School Scholarship: | Nick Drobish | Orofino High School |
| • ICAFS Undergraduate Scholarship: | Lonnie Parry | BYU- Idaho |
| • ICAFS Graduate Scholarship: | Courtne Ghere | University of Idaho |
| • Susan B. Martin Scholarship: | Nick Voss | University of Idaho |



ICAFS Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Communicated by Jesse McCane

Each fiscal year (May 1st to April 30th) ICAFS operates from an operating budget sourced from fundraising income and a meeting budget that is covered by registration fees. In the 2022-2023 FY, there was a surplus of \$13,274 in the operating budget and a net profit of \$23,106 from the annual meeting with \$52,485 raised in fundraising. It's fair to say that the chapter is in a financially sound place.

Operating Budget

Committees	Activity/Expenditure	Anticipated Expenses (\$)	Actual Paid by ICAFS (\$)	Actual Paid by Other (\$)
Education	Trout in the Classroom	500	614	
	Scholarships and Awards	7,250	5,234	2,000
	Electrofishing Course	500	127	
Native Fish	Richard L. Wallace fish mount	500		500
	2016 Committee Cost Challenge	1,100	1,100	
Mentoring	Hutton Program	5,000		5,000
Aquaculture	Coldwater Aquaculture Course	500	500	
Fundraising	Fundraising Outlay	4,500	2,134	
2023 Annual Meeting	Venue Deposit	4,710	4,710	
	Venue Deposit	6,280	6,280	
EXCOM	Meetings & Travel	3,000	1,318	
	Chapter awards: plaques, certificates,	2,500	1,800	
	Admin Costs	200	165	
	Website Maintenance	1,100	384	
	LACFC Sponsorship	250	250	
	WDAFS/NAFS Meeting Sponsorshi	500	500	
Totals		38,390	25,116	7,500

2023 Annual Meeting Budget

Expenditures	Anticipated Expenses	Actual Paid by ICAFS
Venue/AV/Registration	12,100	2,991
Meeting Swag	3,906	3,906
Logo and Artwork	300	300
Spawning Run	150	150
Film and Photo Festival	325	342
Meeting rooms and Social	110,362	122,760
Continuing Education	2,419	2,419
Speaker Travel/Room Costs	8,633	10,686
Totals	138,195	143,554
Total Registration Revenue		166,660
Net Profit/Loss		23,106
Total Fundraising Revenue		52,485



Student Spotlights—Palouse Unit

Joshua Heishman

M.S. Candidate - Natural Resources

Thesis title: Population dynamics and fishery management of burbot (*Lota lota*) in the Kootenai River, Idaho

Bio: In my research, I use demographic data to better understand the complex relationships between native fish populations and management decisions. Specifically, I build models to quantify the contribution of different ecological processes to population vital rates, then use this information to evaluate the effects of resource management strategies.



Caleb Wilson

Undergraduate - Fisheries Resources

Bio: I have a strong and personal connection to native fish and the habitats that support them. I enjoy getting to work in the beautiful places to monitor and help conserve these fish and fisheries. In terms of research, I have been interested in learning about age and growth of fish to evaluate populations to make important management decisions.



Committee/Subunit Updates

Aquaculture Committee (by Riley Brown)

The Aquaculture Committee worked throughout the winter and spring months recruiting speakers for a symposium at WDAFS in Boise titled “Applying Research in Hatcheries”. The symposium was a success, filling an entire day’s slot during the meeting. The committee will join forces with the WA/BC chapter this year and help to plan a symposium focused on hatchery evaluation methods at the 2024 joint meeting in Spokane. The committee will also work with the WA/BC chapter to plan an aquaculture workshop focused on fish nutrition. With IDFG hosting the Northwest Fish Culture Concepts workshop in Boise in 2023, the aquaculture committee is planning to sponsor one or two students/young professionals to attend the conference free of charge. With funds from the Aquaculture committee and potentially the TOP Grant, these students will receive a great educational opportunity and get to meet many fish culture professionals from around the Pacific Northwest.

Native Fish Committee (by Dan Kenney)

The Native Fish Committee began distribution of the “Native Fishes of Idaho” poster to Idaho Department of Education “Science Coaches,” (who would then further distribute the posters to public schools and teachers) in April and have continued through August. These posters amount to about 40% of the printing run. Further distribution of posters to other educational institutions, state and Federal agencies, Tribes, and other relevant organizations will continue through the summer and fall.

The Committee’s newest project is to facilitate acquisition of fish voucher specimens for college/university ichthyology and fisheries classes and labs. Our current activity is soliciting a “wish list” of specimens from the relevant instructors. It seems likely that the actual capture and preservation of the specimens would best be performed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game crews (in part because of ease of permitting), but particular individual specimens may be more-easily obtained from other agencies or organizations.

The Committee will once again present the prestigious Richard L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award at the 2024 annual meeting in Spokane, so please start giving some consideration to nominations; a formal request for nominations will be made this winter.

Public Education Committee (by Lauri Monnot)

The Idaho Chapter AFS supports the Trout in the Classroom program through an annual support grant administered by the Public Education Committee. Schools can apply for grants to pay for bus transportation for classroom field trips to learn about aquatic resources and release trout raised in Idaho Trout, Steelhead, or Kokanee in the Classroom programs. This year field trip grants were awarded to 11 schools in spring 2023 allowing about 600 students in grades 2-12 to get outside and learn more about fisheries resources. Classrooms got a chance to practice angling skills, learn to clean and cook fish, tour fish hatcheries, visit education centers, and participate in educational activities mentored by fisheries professionals.



Other 2023-2024 Fisheries Meetings Of Interest

Northwest Fish Culture Concepts 72nd Annual Meeting

The 2023 Northwest Fish Culture Concepts Meeting in Boise, Idaho will be held December 5-7 at the Riverside Hotel. This meeting is being hosted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and supported by the Fish Culture Section of The American Fisheries Society. The final deadline for paper submission is Friday October 27, 2023. Registration is now open for [participants](#) and [vendors](#). Additional information about the meeting can be found [here](#). If you have questions about the meeting please email Beau Gunter (beau.gunter@idfg.idaho.gov).



9th World Fisheries Congress

Fish and Fisheries at the Food-Water-Energy Nexus will be the theme for the 9th World Fisheries Congress in Seattle, Washington from 3-9 March 2024.

Organized through the [World Council of Fisheries Societies](#), every four years delegates from around the world meet to exchange ideas and perspectives about new research, emerging issues, scientific breakthroughs, and governance related to fisheries science, industry, conservation, and management. More information may be found at: [World Fisheries Congress 2024 – 3-9 March 2024, Seattle, Washington, USA](#)



2024 ID/WA/BC Joint Meeting

2024 JOINT CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE
 APRIL 29 to MAY 2, 2024
 Spokane, Washington

WASHINGTON-BRITISH COLUMBIA
 COOPERATIVE



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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!

