

Idaho AFS and TWS Chapters Hold 2017 Joint Annual Meeting – “Where Land and

2017 Joint Partners



Waters Meet”

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A joint session of Idaho’s fisheries and wildlife societies was held at the Boise Conference Centre in downtown Boise between February 28 and 3 March, 2017. The first such combined meeting in 20 years generated a diverse slate of papers (103 oral, 12 Ignite! and 56 poster presentations) from 59 organizations and staff hailing from two countries and 11 states. Outgoing Pres-Elec, now President, Helen Neville teamed with TWS officers to create a meeting attended by an amazing 652 joint society registrants, and kicked off with a Plenary session entitled “Climate Unites Us”. The 380 ICAFS registrants, including 71 student attendees were treated to diverse array of sessions including 7 workshops on topics ranging from “Amphibian Identification” to “Surviving Peer Review” taught by National AFS President-Elect Jesse Trushenksi. We heard 64 ICAFS oral talks presented in 9 concurrent sessions, along with two linking interests of the two societies including “Connecting Fish and Wildlife: Ecological Linkages Between Land and Water” and “The Northwest Power Act and Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program”. The AFS portion of the poster session featured 32 presentations and the presentation energy seemed to last longer than usual, perhaps because of the joint meeting aspect. [Other than President Jay Hesse miraculously keeping it on time](#), the Business Meeting highlights included an unusually busy slate of award presentations including five student awards, an Excellence in Aquaculture Award, two Mentoring Awards, a Habitat Improvement Award, an Outstanding Fisheries Professional award and the R.L Wallace Native Fish Conservation Award. Two well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to long-time ICAFS stalwarts Bill Horton and Virgil Moore for their collective 7+ decades of Idaho Chapter service and notable contributions to the fisheries profession.

On the social side, the 2017 joint meeting included a highly attended welcoming social and perhaps the biggest student social/professional mixer on record with a new feature, a spirited game of trivia insisted upon by the wildlife types! The annual ICAFS spawning run was, by necessity, replaced with the dubiously-named “Creature Crawl” walk/run since the wildlife folks [apparently do not like to spawn while running](#). By general membership acclaim, it is hoped that the two societies not wait two decades for the next joint ICAFS/TWS meeting. In the meantime, the next ICAFS meeting is scheduled for Feb 28 to 3 March, 2018 at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls!



Fig 1 IWS Pres-Elect Anna Owsiak addresses attendees during the “Climate Unites Us” Plenary session. Photo Credit Bart Gamett



2. Bill Horton (left) and Virgil Moore receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards. Photo Credit Bart Gamett



3. Great interactions were had at the Poster Session including Capital High Senior Brook Schill discussing her poster with *Emeritus* Professor Jim Reynolds. Photo Credit Bart Gamett



4. Aquaculture Committee meeting breakout. Photo Credit Bart Gamett



5. ICAFS and ITWS student Mixer and Trivia Session. Photo Credit Dan Schill



6. 2017 student ICAFS and Ted Bjornn scholarship recipients