



Gill Raker Gazette

The Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

Volume 40, Issue 2

August 2021

Editor: Kevin Meyer

President's Message - "Resilience"

ICAFS Colleagues,

Resilience is the capacity to recover from difficulties. This is an important concept in fisheries and ecology. Resilient fisheries are sustainable into the future. Resilience is also important in human societies, including the American Fisheries Society. Last year was stressful on society in unprecedented ways, which impacted our work, our careers, and our lives. Many of us are resuming normal activities but many are still in crisis mode. The new normal is still evolving. At this time, it is important for us to reconnect to our passions, our colleagues, and the resources we love to find the inspiration and motivation to move towards that new normal (see AFS President Brian Murphy's May 2021 *Fisheries* column, "Let Nature Nurture"). As we have seen, many people took advantage of the fisheries resources in Idaho as a safe, socially-distant activity. What we do is important work.

Resilience doesn't imply that we stay the same. What changes will happen in our profession? I have learned that true growth is painful, marked by disruptions and transitions. Yet we must grow as our environment and society changes. ICAFS has been growing in terms of its membership in recent years. For example, our choice of meeting venues is limited because of the size of our growing chapter. Economic and other factors have made it difficult for all ICAFS members to engage in our annual meeting. Flat budgets, travel restrictions, and financial solvency issues afflict us and our colleagues. The pandemic and accompanying restrictions/uncertainties fell on top of these issues. ICAFS needs to grow to better serve our members (you) and be sustainable into the future. The pandemic brought that need to a head.

ICAFS is a resilient group. We have dedicated members and a powerful tradition to help us. In 2021, we were forced to do something completely different: a virtual meeting (see the following two pages). This was very painful. However, ICAFS members responded with a surprising level of support and participation. The lessons learned will help us address our financial position to increase sustainability and position ICAFS to serve members well into the future. In the next several months, EXCOM will consider advancing the annual meeting planning timeframe, hybrid meeting options, priorities for our financial accounts, transparency of expenditures, and guidance for budgeting. EXCOM needs your input and feedback on financial sustainability for our chapter. Please send your ideas to our chapter email or to me personally. Together we will lay the foundation for ICAFS resilience to future difficulties. Or maybe just ask what the heck is this stuff and why is it important!

—Tim Copeland



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Summary

Communicated by Rob Van Kirk

The Chapter held its 59th annual meeting on March 1-5, 2021, going virtual for the first time. The organizing committee put in a huge amount of effort to learn virtual platforms, rehearse the details of moderating live sessions, and expand meeting access beyond ICAFS members. The meeting was attended by 238 regular AFS members, 134 non-members, 70 students, 8 retirees, and 32 sponsors and exhibitors. There were 54 contributed talks (live-streamed in real time), 16 posters (also live-streamed), a virtual job board, a student-mentor session, fundraising, the business meeting, and even the spawning run. Individual session attendance was high—in many cases higher than at in-person meetings. As many as 178 people joined contributed presentation sessions, in addition to session moderators and speakers. Even without the traditional catered lunch, 158 Chapter members attended the business meeting, and over 200 people participated in virtual raffles and auctions.

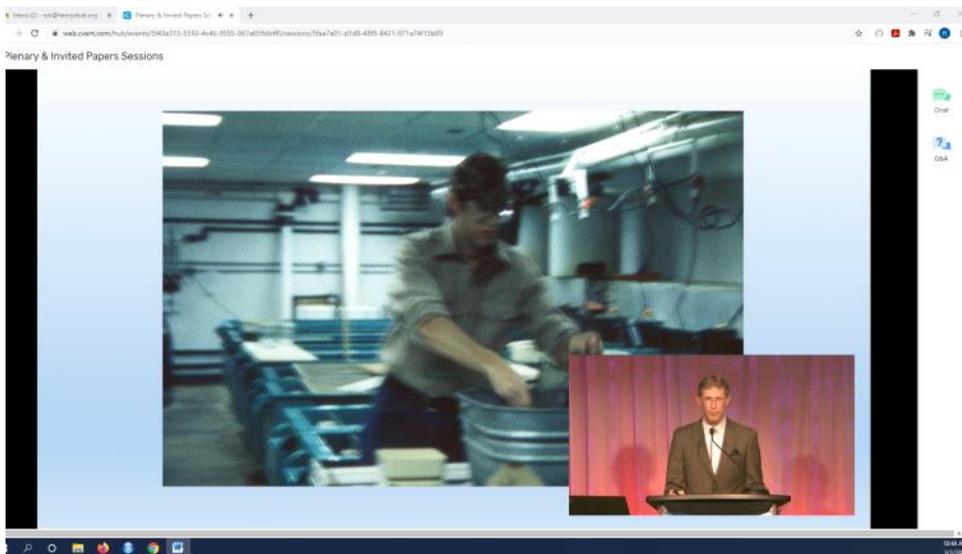
A post-meeting survey indicated that attendees were very satisfied with the virtual format and grateful to the organizing committee for its efforts. Workshops, fundraising, and the business meeting exceeded expectations for effectiveness and attendance. The GiveSmart fundraising application allowed people from all over the state to bid against each other, and the chapter set a new record in raising funds to support programs and activities including student scholarships and Trout in the Classroom. Although everyone missed in-person interaction, the virtual format increased access to the meeting to those who could not otherwise afford the time and expense to attend. Based on the survey, future ICAFS meetings will incorporate some of the aspects of this year's virtual meeting into a hybrid format that is likely to become the new standard for professional conferences.

Plenary Session: "Aquaculture: Putting the Fish in Fisheries"

Jesse Trushenski, Gary Fornshell, Jim Fredericks, Sue Ireland, and Ken Cain covered the history of aquaculture, specific aquaculture practices and facilities in Idaho, and applications of aquaculture to food production, sport fisheries management, conservation, and Tribal fisheries restoration.

Workshops

- Fishes Without Borders sponsored by the Anadromous Committee
- Fish Health and Biosecurity hosted by the Aquaculture Committee
- Habitat: Stage 0 Follow-up and Fish Response hosted by the Fish Habitat and Continuing Education committees



Tim Copeland introduces the plenary—that's him as an MS student in the photo!



2021 ICAFS Annual Meeting Summary (continued)

Committee Awards

- R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year: Arnie Brimmer, Idaho Fish and Game
- Excellence in Habitat Improvement Award: 1) Big Creek Ranch and 2) Bayha Island Research Project implemented by the Snake River Stewardship Program
- Excellence in Aquaculture Award: Snake River Sockeye Recovery Team
- Outstanding Mentor Award: Eric Billman, BYU Idaho

Scholarships

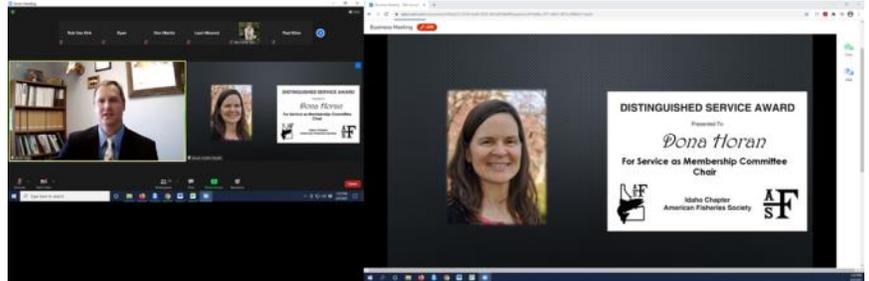
- TOP Grant: Drew Suhomel, BYU Idaho
- High School Scholarship: Sarah Cole, Mt View High School
- Undergraduate Scholarship: Hannah Bluth, BYU Idaho
- Graduate Scholarship: Darcy McCarrick, U of Idaho
- Susan B. Martin Scholarship: Darcy McCarrick, U of Idaho

Annual Merit Awards

- Ryan Hardy, President 2020-2021
- Lauren Andrews, Secretary/Treasurer 2019-2021

Distinguished Service Awards

- Kade Holling, Palouse Unit President 2020-2021
- Ben Kline, Portneuf Unit President 2020-2021
- Hannah Bluth, BYU Idaho Unit President 2020-2021
- Keats Conley, Nominations Chair 2020-2021
- Dona Horan, Membership Committee Chair, ongoing
- Ken Cain, Anadromous Committee Co-Chair 2004-2020



Outstanding Fisheries Professional Award

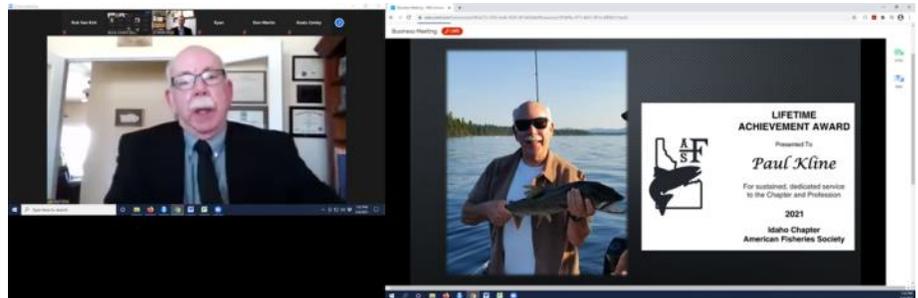
- Andy Dux, Idaho Fish and Game

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Paul Kline, Idaho Fish and Game

Distinguished Service Awards

- Best Professional Oral Presentation: Brandon Bentz, Idaho Power Company
- Best Student Oral Presentation: Megan Heller, U of Idaho
- Best Professional Poster: Steve Hughes, Idaho Fish and Game
- Best Student Poster: Mitchell Tree, BYU Idaho



Student Spotlight

Lizzie Jossie

Lizzie is a current student at ISU being co-advised by Colden Baxter and Morey Burnham. She grew up in Oregon and began fishing as a youngster. Following her passion for fish, Lizzie completed her Bachelor's degrees in Fishery Resources and Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho in 2016. She worked for Idaho Fish and Game as a fisheries technician for two years, before returning to school to start her Master's program in Biology in 2019. Lizzie works on an interdisciplinary research project exploring the social-ecological systems surrounding trout fisheries and stream habitat in the Teton River. She spends her free time chasing trout all around Idaho.



Habitat Committee Update

In an effort to attract well-deserving projects (we know they're out there!), the Habitat Committee is restructuring their annual "Best Project" award. We want to give folks the opportunity to enter their own projects for this worthy competition, and have therefore replaced "nominations" with a short-form to accept written entries. More than anything, we want everybody to show off the good things that they do! We also will be accepting entries early enough to hopefully assist the project team in a short video production. Not only will the winning recipient be given a (very-prestigious) award at the annual luncheon banquet, but if all goes well they will now also be assigned a video production assistant to help promote their great work. Because, let's face it, most of us don't have a professional marketing department to produce videos! Contact Ken Bouwens (ken.bouwens@idfg.idaho.gov) to request your entry form for this fantastic award!!

We also would love to be contacted by any professionals or students who would like to see firsthand a habitat project in construction. They're occurring all over the state and we'd love to support you to get onsite and possibly even put you to work if you're interested. Contact Ken Bouwens or Jeanne McFall (jeanne@rivhab.net) if you're interested (potential for travel reimbursement of expenses).

Hutton Program Funding Challenge

As the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program dives into its 21st summer of internships, another Hutton Funding Challenge is being launched. Last year, during the first Hutton Funding Challenge (March-May 2020), contributions were received from 78 individual donors - totaling \$4,565! To put that in perspective, individual donations to the Hutton Program increased by 650% compared to the past 10 years.

The goal for the Hutton Funding Challenge 2.0 is to raise \$5,000 from 100 individual donors by September 1. These funds will be used to offer future Hutton Scholars more opportunities to open their eyes to the many different paths and careers within the fisheries profession. Your participation is needed! You can donate by clicking [here](#). All individuals who contributed over \$150 to the Hutton Program are now a part of the 1870 Society.

New textbook on popular percids soon to be published

Walleye, one of the most sought-after species of freshwater sport fishes in North America, have demonstrated appreciable declines in numbers from their original populations since the beginning of the 20th century. Similarly, Yellow Perch, once the most commonly caught sport fish and an important commercial species in North America, have also shown declines. Compiling up-to-date information on the biology and management of Walleye, Sauger, and Yellow Perch, including research on systematics, genetics, physiology, ecology, movement, population dynamics, culture, recent case histories, and management practices, will be of interest to managers, researchers, and students who deal with these important species, particularly in light of habitat alterations, population shifts, and other biotic and abiotic factors related to a changing climate.

Order online [here](#), by calling 212-460-1500, or by emailing to customerservice@springernature.com

Bruner, John Clay, and Robin L. DeBruyne, editors. 2021. *Yellow Perch, Walleye, and Sauger: Aspects of Ecology, Management, and Culture*. Springer Fish & Fisheries Series Cham, Switzerland Vol. 41, 402 pp.



ICAFS membership passes RAWA support-letter resolution

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in April 2021 and in the Senate just last month. The bill would provide \$1.3 billion annually for state fish and wildlife agencies and \$97.5 million annually for tribal nations to work on at-risk species recovery.

The ICAFS recently sent a letter of support for this bill to Idaho's congressional delegation after our membership passed a resolution to do so (with a >95% approval margin). The bill has 92 co-sponsors in the House, including Representative Simpson of Idaho. It also has broad support from a coalition of state agencies, tribes, sportsmen, environmental groups, and outdoor recreational enthusiasts. However, it has been introduced in congress several times before (first in 2017) and despite its broad support, it has stalled in all prior attempts to get the legislation passed. The full version of the bill can be read at www.congress.gov or by clicking [here](#). To see a summary of the act from National AFS's perspective, click [here](#).

2022 ICAFS Annual Meeting at Fort Hall—Save The Date!

Next year the annual meeting will be held at a new venue for us—The Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel in Fort Hall! The Chiefs Event Center provides 15,000 feet of meeting space for the plenary session, contributed sessions, committee meetings, the business luncheon, and the banquet/fundraiser. The date for the meeting will be March 1-4, 2022. While the meeting will once again be in-person, we will likely use a hybrid format that still allows for virtual participation; stay tuned for more details. And if anyone would like to volunteer to help with meeting logistics, please contact Rob Van Kirk (see back page for contact info).



Join ICAFS EXCOM in 2022

For some, working on ICAFS's Executive Committee is one of the highlights of their fisheries career. Word to the wise: you don't have to pine for an invitation to run for any of these spots. Take it upon yourself to express interest, and you might just find yourself on the 2022 ballot! We are still looking for candidates for all three positions, including Nominations (1-year commitment), Secretary/Treasurer (2-year commitment), and Vice President (4-year commitment, going from VP in year 1 to President Elect in year 2, then President, then Past President). And don't worry about whether you win or lose the election, you can always throw your name in the hat again (the current newsletter editor has both won and lost EXCOM nominations). A great way to improve your chances of winning is to boost name recognition by being active in the chapter, including involvement in committees (see our website for details) and helping with logistics for each annual meeting (contact Rob Van Kirk [contact info on back page] to help with the 2022 meeting highlighted above).

If you are up to the challenge of running for office in 2022, contact current Nominations Chair Katharine Coykendall (see back page for contact info).

ICAFS Continuing Education Opportunity in September 2021

A Primer on Stream GIS Datasets and Spatial Modeling of Fish and Water Quality Attributes in Idaho

Need: Ongoing stream research and monitoring projects in Idaho result in ever-increasing amounts of fisheries and water quality data. Geographical information systems (GIS) are powerful tools for organizing, manipulating, and summarizing these data across large areas ranging in size from individual river basins to much broader areas. Combining such information with geospatial representations of stream environments (e.g., hydroclimatic attributes, reach morphology) and watershed conditions (e.g., land-use type, geological attributes, vegetation cover) provides consistent data sets and tremendous analytical opportunities. The amount and quality of stream geospatial datasets for stream analyses have increased rapidly over the last decade such that many fisheries professionals may be unaware of the scope of these advances and their potential applications.

The Boise Spatial Streams Group at the U.S. Forest Service's Aquatic Sciences Laboratory has been a pioneer in the development and use of geospatial data with large observational datasets for stream research throughout the western U.S. Such datasets include stream temperature, fisheries surveys of trout and salmon abundance, and presence/absence surveys of species occurrence for dozens of aquatic species sampled via eDNA, snorkeling, and electrofishing. In this short-course, instructors will provide an overview of key GIS concepts, multiple examples relevant to stream resources in Idaho, live demonstrations of common GIS procedures, online tours of websites that host important stream geospatial resources, and extended question and answer periods to address participant requests. Researchers and managers in this short-course will acquire better knowledge about available geospatial resources and how these may be employed to enhance some aspects of their job duties.

Course instructors:

Dan Isaak, research fisheries scientist (daniel.isaak@usda.gov; 208-373-4385)

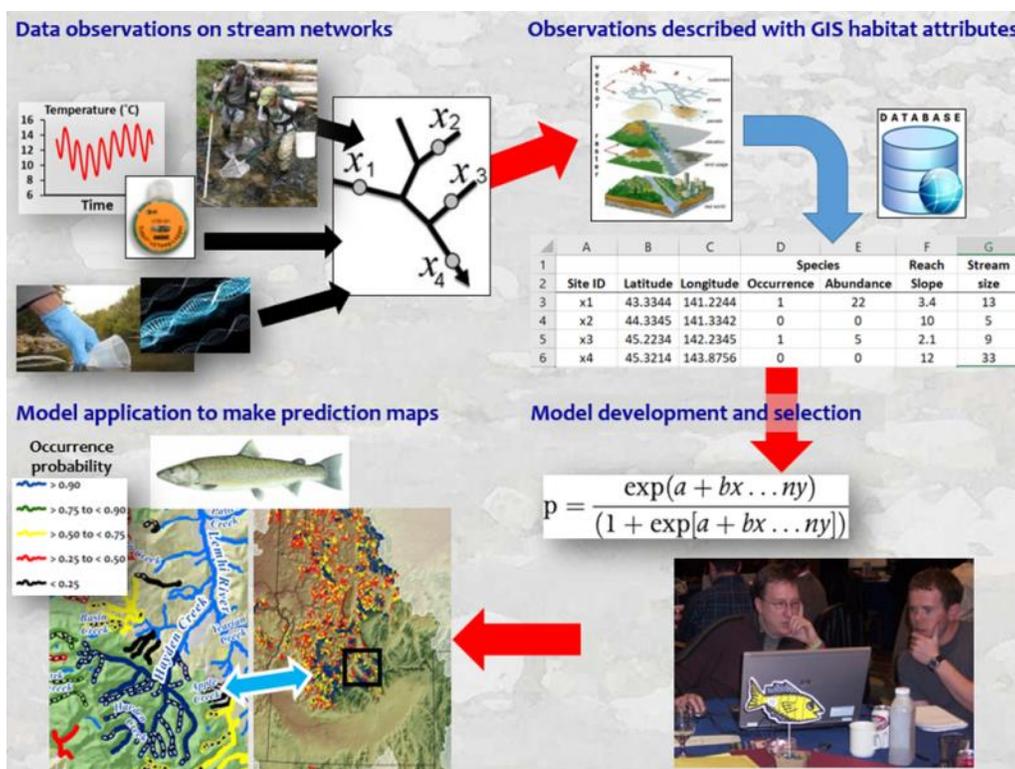
Dave Nagel, geospatial analyst (dave.nagel@usda.gov; 208-373-4397)

Dona Horan, fish biologist (dona.horan@usda.gov; 208-373-4399)

Format and cost: 2-3 hrs of online instruction. Course is free of charge and will be conducted via Zoom meetings.

Date: September 8, 2021

Enrollment instructions: contact Carson Watkins (carson.watkins@idfg.idaho.gov) or Kat Gillies-Rector kat.gillies-rector@idfg.idaho.gov for details.



Executive Committee

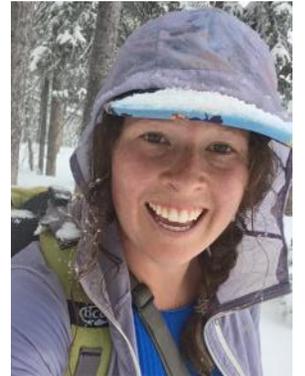
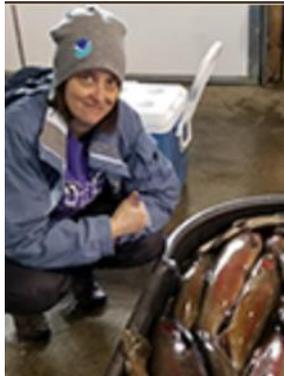


President
Tim Copeland
Phone: 208-287-2782
tim.copeland@idfg.idaho.gov

President Elect
Rob Van Kirk
Phone: 208-881-3407
rob@henrysfork.org

Vice President
Kevin Meyer
Phone: 208-854-8916
kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov

Past President
Ryan Hardy
Phone: 208-769-1414
ryan.hardy@idfg.idaho.gov



Treasurer
Lytle Denny
Phone: 208-239-4560
ldenny@sbtibes.com

Secretary
Rebekah Horn
Phone: 208-837-9096
rhorn@critfc.org

Nominations Chair
Katharine Coykendall
Phone: 208-939-6713
katharine.coykendall@idfg.idaho.gov

Portneuf Student Unit President
Laurel Faurot
Phone: 208-315-1683
laurelfaurot@isu.edu



Palouse Student Unit President
Lynsey Harris
harr7041@vandals.uidaho.edu

BYU Idaho Student Unit President
Trevor Wheeler
twinwheelz@gmail.com

The EXCOM wants your ideas ...

Please do not hesitate to contact any EXCOM Member about questions or ideas

This is your Chapter !

