

No. 18	Fish Habitat Section	Kyle Hartman
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Habitat Section Annual Report for 2012/13

TO: John Boreman, President
 FROM: Kyle Hartman, President, Fish Habitat Section
 DATE: 7/31/2013

I. Motion Report – (None)

II. Activity Report

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

The Fish Habitat Section was established in 2009 to encourage the advancement of knowledge and exchange of information on the broad scope of multidisciplinary fish habitat issues, including marine, estuarine, and freshwater. The officers of the Section for the past 2 years were Dr. Kyle Hartman, President, Dr. Joe Margraf, Past President, Dr. John Sweka, President-elect, and Dr. Amanda Rosenberger. At the 2013 annual meeting, Hartman will become past-president and Sweka will replace him as president. The Section is currently holding elections for president-elect and secretary/treasurer. Polls close on August 30, 2013 and results will be announced at the FHS annual meeting at Little Rock.

The Fish Habitat Section has made great strides in communicating to members and non-members of the section. Throughout 2013, FHS member Thomas Bigford has taken the lead and developed a series (N=5 so far) of articles titled Fish-Habitat Connections for *FISHERIES*. In addition, we maintain membership communication via email using an AFS list server (habitat@lists.fisheries.org) and our new web site can be found at <http://afshabitat.org/>. During 2013 Section members have reviewed fish habitat-related AFS Policy Statements provided by the AFS Policy Review Committee and members have commented on pending Marcellus Shale BMPs.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

The section has been active in co-sponsoring several habitat-related symposia and a habitat-related continuing education workshop during the 2013 annual meeting. The FHS has sponsored the following symposia at Little Rock:

FHS-Sponsored Symposia:

Ecosystem Connections: Watershed health, anadromous species, and ocean production. Wednesday 8:00 – 5:00, September 11, 2013 Hoffman Room, Marriott Little Rock.

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Restoration: New life for an aging resource. Monday 1:00 – 5:00, September 9, 2013 IZARD Room, Statehouse Convention Center; and Tuesday 8:00 – 12:00, September 10, 2013 on IZARD Room, Statehouse Convention Center

In addition, the Fish Habitat Section has joined the Fisheries Information and Technology Section in sponsoring a workshop entitled, “Advanced GIS Techniques for Fisheries Biologists” at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The course is approved for continuing education credit and is being put on by Joanna Whittier and Joe Gerken.

Work is already underway for developing education and continuing education activities in 2014 and beyond. President Kyle Hartman appointed Bill Janowsky to chair an ad hoc committee tasked with identifying the needs of fish habitat section membership in terms of education and continuing education and proposing activities to meet those needs in coming years.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

Efforts are underway by the Section to identify and meet the needs of membership relative to habitat education and workshops.

Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration: None.