

<b>No. 19</b>	<b>Fish Health Section</b>	<b>Paul K. Hershberger</b>
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## ***Fish Health Section Report***

TO: **John Boreman**, President  
FROM: Paul K. Hershberger, Fish Health Section  
DATE: 8/22/12

### **I. Motion Report – None**

### **II. Activity Report**

(A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments

#### *Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership*

*Objective 1.1 Promote fisheries conservation throughout North America and the world, at all levels of the government and society, and among all levels of AFS by supporting sound science and networking opportunities*

*Strategy 1: Continue to host and sponsor excellent conferences and meetings at local, regional, and international levels of AFS to provide the platform for managers and scientists to exchange ideas.*

- The 54th American Fisheries Society- Fish Health Section Meeting was held June 18-20, 2013 in conjunction with the Western Fish Disease Workshop and was attended by approximately 100 national and international fish health professionals.

The meeting was organized by Paul K. Hershberger and Jacob L. Gregg

- The 2014 Fisheries Society- Fish Health Section Meeting is scheduled to occur as the International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH) from August 31 – September 4, 2014 at the Downtown Hilton in Portland, OR. The ISAAH has been held every four years since 1988, typically in North America. This meeting is an important forum for international scientific exchange with many scientists from attending from overseas. AFS-FHS is the founding organization for ISAAH and is one of several fish health organizations that sponsor this meeting. The meeting is being organized by an oversight committee that includes, Jerri

Bartholomew, Andrew Goodwin, Sascha Hallett, Larry Hanson, Jill Rolland and Paul Hershberger.

*Strategy 6: Maintain and improve the excellence and expedience of AFS publications.*

- The FHS continues to promote the Journal of Aquatic Animal Health through member paper contributions, editing and subscriptions. This has been a forum for traditional scientific papers as well as group authored papers and reviews dealing with specific problems identified by FHS committees.

JAAH editors Jeffrey Wolf and David Speare

- The AFS Bluebook is a critical reference for Diagnostic Labs and is used by State and Federal regulators. This publication is in two parts. The Blue Book consists of disease information and disease diagnosis procedures. It is available for purchase and is updated every 2 years by experts in the field. A new edition is scheduled for release in early 2014. New chapters will include bitter crab disease, *Weisella* sp., viral erythrocytic necrosis, Heterosporis, epizootic endotheliotropic disease, and possibly withering disease. Revised chapters will include infectious salmon anemia and motile aeromonas. Revision of the Blue Book is directed by the Technical standards Committee. The second part is the Inspection Manual which recommends procedures for inspecting fish lots and facilities. This manual is available on line and is a reference guide for many state and federal agencies; content is directed by the Inspection Handbook Committee consisting of FHS members and representatives of USFWS, USDA-APHIS and NOAA. This committee has established a two year revision schedule.

Technical Standards Committee: Maureen Purcell (Chair), Nick Phelps, Chris Whipps, and Kevin Snekvik.

Inspection Manual Committee Chairs: Terrence Ott and Linda Vannest (USFWS): Maureen Purcell (AFS-FHS), Janet Warg (USDA-APHIS), Kevin Amos (NOAA)

*Objective 1.3: Promote fisheries conservation through development and dissemination of public outreach materials:*

Policy and Position committee has been established to address issues of concern among the FHS. This especially relates to scientific based policies of government agencies. The committee is currently studying upcoming USDA-APHIS regulation

focused on containment of viral hemorrhagic septicemia. The committee has recruited 4 volunteers to help with this project.

Policy and Position Development Committee: Christine Moffitt, Linda Cope, Eveline Emmenegger

*Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education*

*Objectives 2.1 Encourage educational institutions at all levels to maintain excellent academic programs in fisheries sciences and related disciplines to assure recruitment of fisheries professionals that meet the needs of employers*

*And*

*Objective 2.3: Provide a wide array of continuing education opportunities using innovative methods to reach the widest possible audience of fisheries professionals*

Resources for university courses were made available on the FHS web. These include two web based CE short courses "Histology" and "PCR techniques" (Maureen Purcell) and images of fish diseases (Andrew Goodwin). Two CE short courses were developed and taught by FHS members and sponsored by the FHS. The FHS is a RACE certified continuing education provider (No. 546) with the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

Course offered:

Freshwater and Marine Biotoxins Continuing Education Course held in conjunction with the AFS-FHS National Meeting and the Western Fish Disease Workshop in Port Townsend (June 18-20, 2013).

CE committee: Sascha Hallett (Chair), Mark Fast, David Gauthier, George Sanders

*Goal 3: Value of Membership.*

*Objective 3.1. Determine and respond to the needs and opinions of AFS members*

*Strategy 3: Information may be gathered via web-based forums, surveys, or other means*

Voting occurred by web based-Survey Monkey. New elected officers include: Vice-President- Doug Munson, Professional Standards Committee- Trace Peterson, Technical Standards Committee- Nick Phelps, Nominating and Balloting

Committee- Amy Long, Policy/Position Development Committee- Evelin Emmenegger.

Nominating and Balloting Committee- Attila Karsi (Chair), Lincoln Tubbs, Larry Hanson, Amy Long.

The listserv was initiated in 2002 and updates are released every 2-4 weeks. The list serve is provided to members as a rapid method of communicating fish health, and government related news, AFS-FHS updates, job and education opportunities and information about other fish health related organizations. The List serve is maintained and assembled by Jerri Bartholomew.

*Objective 3.2. Enhance Participation of students and professionals at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future*

*Strategy 2: Internships, travel grants, scholarships, reduced registration*

Amy Teffer (University of Victoria) was awarded a Snieszko Student travel award (\$852) to attend the FHS annual meeting.

Awards Committee: Scott Weber, John Hawke, Luke Iwanowicz

*Objective 3.2. Enhance participation of students and professional at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future*

*Strategy 3: Mentoring and guidance on mentoring to provide consistent experience:*

- The Student blog on the FHS web page links to a mentoring profile by former FHS President Andrew Goodwin and three student profiles.

- The "AFS-FHS Students" facebook page has maintained membership at about 30. The student involvement committee will be assisting with the program development at the 2014 ISAAC

Student involvement committee: Sarah McConnachie (Chair), Amy Long

*Objective 3.5. Practice goodgovernnance and organizational management*

*Strategy 6: Develop a universal process for all units to preserve the long term institutional memory of AFS by archiving important documents and other communications and making archives available to AFS membership*

The FHS Archives Committee is transitioning FHS archives and other fish-health-related material of historical importance to permanent preservation and storage, including:

A) The FHS will store all its historical material at the DC Booth Historic National Historic Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish, SD.

B) The FHS will donate the material rather than loan it to DC Booth.

In the event someone in the Section needed to see some of it -- perhaps someone doing historical research -- DC Booth would provide copies instead of the original material. A starting budget was established to help defray the costs of scanning records and archiving them. Additionally the FHS voted to pursue a DC Booth display of Snieszko Award Recipients similar to the FCS Fish culture Hall of Fame.

Archives Committee: Diane Elliot, Gary Wedemeyer, Andrew Mitchell

Other:

*Interaction with Societies with related interests and concerns:*

The AFS-FHS has strong ties with the American Veterinary Medical Association. Many AFS-FHS members are veterinarians and work on AVMA committees. Our CE credits are recognized by State Veterinary Boards

(B) Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration.

- The FHS Listserv has had problems receiving updated information regarding current FHS members. We would like request monthly updates of FHS members from the parent Society.

- We would like to resolve a protocol for affiliate membership, especially those from overseas that would like to have access to JAAH at a reduced rate (but higher than AFS Members)