

No. 26	International Fisheries Section	Carl Burger
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Annual Activity Report to the Governing Board AFS International Fisheries Section

To: John Boreman, AFS President

From: Carl Burger, President, AFS International Fisheries Section

Date: August 02, 2013 (for Presentation in Little Rock on September 07, 2013)

Activity Report

Summary of Strategic Plan Outcomes and Accomplishments

AFS 2020 Goal 1, Objective 1.1: Enhance Global Fisheries Leadership:

The AFS International Fisheries Section is addressing the Society's goals in global fisheries conservation and leadership on several fronts. Our main and current focus area includes assisting the Society's Western Division with their upcoming Annual Meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico (April, 2014). IFS Past President Dr. Felipe Amezcua will play a central role in helping to organize and oversee this event. It will be the first meeting of an AFS Division held outside of the U.S. and Canada. Major IFS goals are to help ensure the meeting's visibility and success in terms of its programmatic relevance, attendee participation, monetary support, and trade show participation.

IFS President Carl Burger will attend the Australian Society for Fish Biology Annual Meeting (to be held jointly with the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society and New Zealand Marine Sciences Society) in Hamilton, New Zealand (19-23 August 2013). Although traveling to present a paper at employer expense, he will represent both AFS and IFS at this joint international venue.

AFS 2020 Goal 1, Objective 3.3, Strategy 6 (Develop Scholarships for Under-Represented Groups and Students): The International Fisheries

Section held its annual competition to select an awardee for exchange travel to the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles (8-11 July 2013 in Glasgow).

Known as the “Fisheries Society of the British Isles Student Travel Award” and Chaired by Katherine Smith this year, the awardee was PhD candidate Patrick Cooney (then studying under Dr. Tom Kwak at NC State). The IFS is excitedly awaiting Patrick’s report about his trip to Glasgow and his interactions with our colleagues “across the pond.” In exchange, the FSBI has selected and will be sending PhD candidate Rachel Ball (Aberdeen University) to our 143rd Annual Meeting in Little Rock. The International Fisheries Section looks forward to welcoming, introducing and hosting Rachel upon her arrival. Each awardee receives remuneration for travel, meeting registration and lodging (with per diem) from the host Society.

Section officers unanimously passed a motion to work with ICES/PICES in developing “The Bern Megrey Student/Early Career Scientist Travel Fund” as an additional vehicle to foster more science-venue travel opportunities for young professionals in international fisheries. This is a totally new endeavor designed to help facilitate donations in support of science-related travel by young professionals. (We often support student travel to AFS Annual Meetings through ongoing annual competitions and we will continue to explore ways to assist student travel to the 2014 WDAFS Annual Meeting in Mazatlan.)

AFS 2020 Goal 3, Objective 3.1: Determine and Respond to Member Needs: Earlier this year, IFS President Burger proposed a Plan of Work to address three focus areas in 2013. Activities are ongoing:

- (1) A fundraising initiative to try to attract contributors and donors to broaden our financial reserves for providing sponsorships and grants for various student travel and conference attendance by scientists from developing nations;
- (2) Strategies to help develop new international units in Latin America and Europe; and
- (3) The promotion of international science venues (hosting relevant, high-interest topical themes and issues) as ways to attract more participation and membership in AFS from abroad.

AFS 2020 Goal 1, Objective 1.1: Global Fisheries Leadership, Strategy 1

(Sponsor Excellent Conferences), Strategy 8 (Strive to Unite Scientists Worldwide) and Strategy 13 (Pursue New International Units); Objective 3.4, Strategy 5 (Encourage Regional, Topic-Oriented Meetings): The IFS continues to focus on goals to help form new units in Latin America. We are also working on and exploring “regional representative” initiatives that may foster the formation of a European Fisheries Society (in partnership with the Fisheries Society of the British Isles).

In response to a request from President-Elect Hughes, IFS officers worked on a welcome letter (with Little Rock Meeting organizers) designed to help promote international hospitality and address the informational needs of delegates attending AFS Annual Meetings from other nations. The letter will be sent to all international delegates registering for the Little Rock Annual Meeting as a way to try to make them feel most welcome and to identify IFS officers willing to help them with queries and requests for assistance.

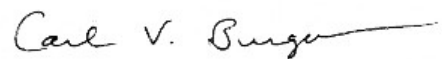
IFS President Burger responded to a message (forwarded by AFS President Boreman) from Dr. Cathal Gallagher in Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Gallagher is Chairman of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (a body of the FAO). EIFAAC’s interest is to explore partnerships and support for uniting recreational fishing stakeholders in forums that would culminate in a major Norwegian symposium in 2014 or 2015. These are exactly the types of initiatives that can enhance the relevance and visibility of both AFS and IFS in global fisheries conservation. They may also provide opportunities for exploring the formations of new global fisheries societies.

Our Section continues to explore ways to host and sponsor international science venues (e.g. Mazatlan) that appeal to global fishery professionals.

We are currently accepting nominations for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer of our Section. These are both 2-year positions. Electees will commence their terms at our IFS Annual Business Meeting in Little Rock.

An International Reception and Social will immediately follow the IFS Annual Business Meeting in Little Rock. All international delegates are cordially invited to attend as are AFS officers, members and guests (Tuesday, September 10 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in Marriott Chicot Room).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl V. Burger". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Carl Burger, President
AFS International Fisheries Section