

No. 32	Water Quality Section	Doug Bradley
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To: John Boreman, AFS President

From: Doug Bradley, President, Water Quality Section AFS

30, January 2013

I. Motion Report

The Section has no motions to submit.

II. Activity Report

(A) Accomplishments as Relevant to AFS Mission

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

Objective 1.2 Increase science-based fisheries conservation by increasing interactions with AFS members and government policy makers.

Strategy 3 Increase policy activity by producing additional science-based position statements, conferences, books, and symposia on important fisheries topics while maintaining and updating current position statements.

The Water Quality Section (WQS) continues a tradition of developing symposia that focus on important fisheries topics and bring together government researchers and policy makers, representatives from industry or the private sector and fisheries professionals to discuss and promote best-science based fisheries conservation and aquatic habitat protection. For the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Section conducted a full day symposium titled: *Innovations in Thermal Research and Ecological Effects from Thermal Discharges*. The symposium included 24 speakers and was well attended throughout the day. Follow-up communications with attendees provided a bit more insight into the WQ Section and how it supports its members.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

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

Strategy 1 Regularly survey members to identify need and opinions on a broad range of AFS issues.

The WQS continues to provide Section members updates on nationally proposed regulatory policy that may be of interest to members. The purpose is to communicate proposed policies that could affect AFS members. Additionally, the section solicits member contributions on pertinent policy documents.

Strategy 2 Provide a web-based forum for members to communicate with each other and the AFS leadership.

We have kept an updated website where we are now able to poll the WQS membership, solicit comments about hot issues or draft letters to send to appropriate agencies. We also have added some regional content and plan to include more.

We are using the listserv to communicate with section members. This has worked well and has been the main communication mechanism for the recent policy development activities. The site has also been the holder of job announcements forwarded by members to extend the potential candidate pool of applicants.

In 2012 we added a Facebook link to expand communications to younger scientists and students.

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

Strategy 1 Provide a wide array of opportunities for college and university students and professionals at all levels to participate in AFS and experience the benefits of membership.

We provided a re-introduction to the WQS through the newsletter of the North Central Division as a means to re-connect with other society levels. This yielded a few new WQS members. We will attempt to expand this to other Divisions as an added opportunity to participate at the Section level.

The Section also offers student memberships at no cost and a reduced rate for Young Professionals (3 years post graduation).

The Section will continue to explore methods of better communication among the Chapter and Division levels.

We will reinstate our Best Student Poster Award at the 2013 annual meeting. This award is based on the goals of the section and seeks to reward well planned and carried out student research that embraces those values.

The WQS is exploring options for selecting, and offering an award to, a top student researcher focusing on a water quality related issue.

Objective 3.5 Practice good governance and organizational management.

Strategy 4 Ensure that AFS remains financially secure.

We continue to recruit new Section members and retain those converting from Student to Young Professional.

The WQS reviews how we spend our funds with current officers and past presidents. We have our funds in conservative vehicles. Presently the funds are in CD's given the very unstable nature of the financial markets.

(B) Recommendations and Suggestions for Future Consideration

- 1) The WQS would like to collaborate with other sections in a webinar this fall offering members a background in the process of hydrofracking and the issues/concerns related to aquatic environment impacts. Specifically, we propose bringing together geologists and other applied scientists to describe the operational methods of the hydraulic fracturing process to provide a foundation for fisheries scientists to consider potential impacts to aquatic environments.
- 2) The WQS would like lead a symposium at the 2014 meeting and connect with other sections (e.g., Bioengineering Section and Habitat Section) to collaboratively develop a speaker list addressing a range of targeted restoration projects related to dam removals or other urban in-stream enhancement and restoration projects. Refining discussions welcomed.