

No. 51	Publications Awards Committee	William Seaman
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Report

TO: **John Boreman**, President
 FROM: William Seaman, Chairman, Publications Awards Committee
 DATE: August 9, 2013

Activity Report

(A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan.

Note: The item to which this committee most closely relates appears to be Strategy # 6 under Goal 1, Objective 1.1, namely, “*Maintain and improve the excellence and expedience of AFS publications.*”

Activity A.1. The committee reviewed all articles for 2012 in the four principal AFS journals and reported selections for awards as “best paper” (listed below) to the AFS office. In one case we shall need to appoint a new leader for a subcommittee. The four selections are:

- Hitt, N.P., S. Eyler and J.E.B. Wofford. 2012. Dam removal increases American eel abundance in distant headwater streams. **TAFS** 141 (5):1171-1179.
- Haak, A. L. and J. E. Williams. 2012. Spreading the risk: native trout management in a warmer and less-certain future. **NAJFM** 32(2):387-401.
- Jeffrey E. Smiley, Mark S. Okihiro, Mark A. Drawbridge & Ronald S. Kaufmann. 2012. Pathology of Ocular Lesions Associated with Gas Supersaturation in White Seabass. **JAAH** 24 (1):1-10.
- Bosworth, B. G. 2012. Effects of Winter Feeding on Growth, Body Composition and Processing Traits of Co-Cultured Blue Catfish, Channel Catfish, and Channel x Blue Catfish Hybrids. **NAJA** 74(4):553-559.

Activity A.2. The committee conducted a self-study of organization and procedures as a means of promoting efficient operations and continuity in membership.

Findings, Publications Awards Committee Self-Study on Participation, Leadership, & Continuity:

In late 2012 the four leaders of the AFS Publications Awards subcommittees were contacted by Bill Seaman and asked 10 questions, listed below with abridged answers. These contacts were made especially to discuss continuity in the coming years. Conversations were positive and enthusiastic, and also identified the desirability for finite and defined terms of service. A summation of the discussions reveals that each leader has a slightly different approach to the way their subcommittees work, but with all following the same general procedures. We now have their instructions collected on paper, as a basis for developing a guidelines sheet to orient new members of subcommittees. Leaders agree that a finite appointment to lead the subcommittee is desirable, versus having an open-ended appointment. A term of about four to six years for overall committee membership seems appropriate, with perhaps less as leader.

1,2. How long have you been on the subcommittee? as a member? as leader?

Membership ranged from two to six years, with leadership at one to four years.

3. What are one or two key things that you wish you had known (been informed) when you became leader?

It helps to be a member first, then a leader. This helps in managing the flow and expectations for the subcommittee, and makes for a better explanation when recruiting new members.

4. Hypothetically, what is the optimum length of time to serve as a member... as leader?

Perhaps two to four years as a leader. Managing the review is much easier in the second year.

5. For you personally, how many more years might you lead the subcommittee? (As one of our colleagues said, "it's nice to know that it's not a lifetime appointment!")

Consensus was at least one more year for three persons, with another ready to step down.

6. Turnover: Your thoughts on recruiting new members?

7. Insights on current committee (a) continuity, (b) candidate to serve as next leader?

8. Leadership: Your thoughts on succession. How to cultivate the next leader?

It is helpful but not a requirement to "promote" from the current roster. Two such individuals were identified as possible leaders (for NAJFM and NAJA).

It is tough to lead without experience in the committee's work.

Identify continuing or new members early in the cycle.

9. Oh, by the way, a touchy-feely question! What is about the job that you enjoy and find rewarding?

The experience is a great way to keep up with reading and knowledge of research for a given period. There is extra encouragement to keep up with publications. There is a sense that all on the committee enjoy performing this service for the profession.

10. Other?

(B) Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration.

1. Need new leader for one subcommittee.
2. Having a best practices set of guidelines for review of papers would help orient new members of the committee.
3. Confirm well ahead of the reviews which committee members will continue.
4. Have defined terms of service on the committee.
5. The establishment of a fifth award, for the "Coastal" journal, is endorsed.