

No. 78	American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists Liaison	Sean Lucey
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To: **John Boreman**, President
From: **Sean Lucey**, AIFRB Liaison
Date: August 8, 2013

The American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (AIFRB) is a professional organization established to promote conservation and proper utilization of fishery resources through the use of fishery and related sciences. The role of the Institute is the professional development and performance of its members, and the recognition of their achievements. There has been a liaison between the two organizations for a number of years but has just recently been formalized.

I. Motion Report

No motions to report

II. Activity Report

a. Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments by Focus Area

a.i. Global Fisheries Leadership

AIFRB recently held an international symposium entitled “The Relative Importance of Fishing and the Environment in the Regulation of Fish Population Abundance”. The symposium was held in New Bedford, MA from June 26-28, 2012. Look for the proceedings to be published in the near future.

AIFRB partnered with Ocean Trust and held a Science and Sustainability Forum at the Boston Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center from March 7-9, 2013. The goal of the forum was to provide a global review on the status of stocks and address misconceptions on seafood sustainability for seafood and public audiences.

AIFRB was a co-sponsor of the ICES World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods (WCSAM – 2013). WCSAM was held in Boston, MA from July 15-19. There were over 220 participants from 27 countries. The conference was opened with a key note address by Sidney Holt. Look for a WCSAM theme volume of ICES Journal of Marine Science in the near future.

a.ii. Education

AIFRB strives to promote student involvement and professional development. AIFRB provides travel support to students via the Clark Hubbs Research Assistance Award to present original research at a scientific conference. In 2012, AIFRB gave out four awards, three of which were used to attend the AFS annual meeting in St. Paul. This year, AIFRB gave out one award which will be used to attend the AFS annual meeting in Little Rock.

In addition, our regional divisions offer professional development workshops such as a workshop on spatial statistics using the statistical language R provided by our Northeast Division.

a.iii. Values of Membership

AIFRB provides value to the members of AFS by organizing symposium for the annual meeting. This year AIFRB is organizing a symposium entitled “Piloting Big Rivers for the Challenges Ahead” which will investigate “Big River” systems from habitat to climate change. AIFRB also holds its annual board meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting in Little Rock.

There exists a significant overlap between the memberships of AFS and AIFRB. We encourage our divisions to engage local AFS chapters in activities. In our Northeast division, AIFRB hosted a joint dinner with the Southern New England Chapter of AFS on November 28th. This afforded a great networking opportunity and exposure for both organizations. During the dinner, Micah Dean of MA DMF gave a presentation on Atlantic Cod tagging.

The AIFRB Southwest Division is planning to organize a symposium for the AFS Western Division 2014 meeting being held in Mazatlan, Mexico. Details of the symposium are not available yet.

b. Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Considerations

We encourage student members of AFS to take advantage of our travel assistance. Application deadline for the Clark Hubbs Research Assistance Award are mid-June, for more information visit our website, <http://www.aifrb.org>. We also encourage local chapters of AFS to seek potential collaborations with AIFRB divisions like the one highlighted above.