



# Gill Raker Gazette

Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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Editor: Tom Bassista

## President's Message Hope!

What a fantastic annual meeting we had this spring! I am humbled by how much work goes into these meetings, year after year, and especially the folks who want to step up and help. I probably sound like a broken record, but I really can't thank the planning team enough for all their hard work to pull off a joint meeting out of state. If you've never been involved in meeting planning before and are thinking about it, it's an excellent way to work closely with fellow chapter members and get a behind-the-scenes look at the conference (plus I'm sure Joe, our President Elect, would be more than grateful for help leading up to next year!).

I'm especially proud of our chapter for setting the standard for how an annual meeting is run. It was rewarding to work with the Washington-British Columbia Chapter and show them some of our annual meeting traditions, many of which they will be trying to implement in their future meetings. From the student mixer to the fundraising banquet to the brilliant oral and poster presentations, our chapter had a strong showing throughout the meeting. Many WA-BC members personally told me how impressed they were and that it was the best meeting they've attended.

One part of the meeting that has stuck with me was from Monica Tonasket's opening plenary message: **Hope!** Her words and corresponding film presentation moved me and provided a lens through which to view the rest of the meeting. I'm encouraged by all the rigorous work I saw on display at the meeting and can see evidence of a thread of **hope** through every presentation, poster, and side conversation happening in a hallway. Continue to carry that with you throughout the year! (continued on next page)



ICAFS President Lauren Andrews with her son, Hank, standing on the bank of Crooked Fork of the Lochsa River



## President's Message (continued)

I'd like to close with very kind words sent by fellow chapter member and past-president, Bart Gamett, after the Spokane meeting. He provided a list "in no particular order" of the benefits of our annual chapter meetings and I couldn't have summed it up any better:

- Inspires me to be a better fish professional.
- Helps me keep up to date on fish science.
- Recharges my professional "batteries".
- Helps me to develop my communication skills.
- Provides an opportunity to collaborate with others.
- Helps me to recruit people into my program.
- Allows me to share the work I am doing.
- Helps me to develop and renew friendships.
- Gives me an opportunity to serve others.



Thanks Bart, and thank you Idaho Chapter! Enjoy the rest of your summer and I hope to see you at our next ICAFS Chapter meeting in Boise, April 1-4, 2025.

**Lauren Andrews**

**ICAFS President**

[president@idahoafs.org](mailto:president@idahoafs.org)



Reconnecting with colleagues is a common activity at ICAFS meetings evidenced by (left to right) Marika Dobos, Audrey Harris, and Rebekah Horn.



## AFS WA-BC-Idaho Chapters 2024 Joint Annual Meeting Summary

### Returning Home – Anadromous Fisheries in the Pacific Northwest Communicated by Joe Kozfkay

The Idaho Chapter AFS (ICAFS) held its 61st annual meeting jointly with the WA-BC Chapter. The meeting was held at the Centennial Hotel in Spokane, WA from April 29 to May 2, 2024 and was a tremendous success with a whopping 420 registrants including nearly 70 students from 13 universities, and 10 retirees. This was a rare and unique opportunity to work across state, international, and chapter lines and certainly made the meeting more interesting, inspirational, and educational. The meeting kicked off with a full day of educational opportunities. Workshop topics included Genetics, Lamprey Conservation, Nutrition in Aquaculture, Predicting Salmon Runs, PIT Tagging, Communicating Science, and Aquatic Connectivity. Attendance at the seven workshops exceeded 180 people. A tremendous thanks to our dedicated instructors who invested boat loads of time and energy in preparing these highly educational workshops.



ICAFS President-Elect Lauren Andrews and WA-BC President-Elect Sean Simmons organized a diverse group of plenary speakers to address the meeting theme of Returning Home – Anadromous Fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. Presentations from plenary speakers Monica Tonasket, Jay Hesse and Russ Thurow, Jonathan Armstrong, Christopher Caudill, and Scott Hinch discussed the importance and cultural significance of salmon to Spokane Tribal members, the urgency of rebuilding runs in the Snake River Basin, as well as observations and concerns related to the adaptive abilities of salmonids to respond to climate change. As was intended, the plenary session set the stage for the remainder of the meeting by inspiring the audience to take on these daunting challenges using creative fisheries science as well as public and policy maker education and engagement. The remainder of the meeting included 19 symposia comprising 199 contributed talks, 32 posters, business meetings, and a spawning run. (continued on next page)



Five-sixths of the plenary session's speakers enjoyed a post-presentation Gatorade toast. Speakers include (from left to right): Jay Hesse, Chris Caudill, Russ Thurow, Jonathan Armstrong, and Scott Hinch. Unfortunately, the first plenary speaker Monica Tonasket was unavailable for the photo due to prior commitments.



## AFS WA-BC-Idaho Chapters 2024 Joint Annual Meeting Summary (Continued)

A number of ICAFS members and peers were recognized for their service and contributions to Idaho natural resources, the Chapter, and the fisheries profession. **The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed to Tom Curet for his dedication to the Idaho Chapter and the fisheries profession.** The Outstanding Fishery Professional Award was granted to **Liz Mamer** for a career's worth of research contributions to Idaho's fisheries resources. This year, the R.L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year was awarded to **Jeff Diluccia** for his outstanding effort to repair degraded habitats in the upper Salmon River basin. **Lauri Monnot** was awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award for her substantial contributions through the Education Committee and other avenues. The Outstanding Early Career Professional Award was granted to **Darcy McCarrick** for exceptional work on anadromous fisheries. The Excellence in Aquatic Habitat Improvement Award was given to **Erika Phillips, Greg Loomis, Jeanne McFall, and Matt Belnap** for developing the Silver Creek Partnership. The Excellence in Aquaculture Award was awarded to **Neil Graham** for his work on kelt reconditioning at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery. In addition, student scholarships, Awards of Merit, and Distinguished Service awards were presented at the business meeting. And the Best Student Paper and Poster awards went to **Nick Voss** and **Logan Thompson**, respectively, while the Best Professional Paper and Poster awards went to **Jose Vazquez** and **Eric Billman**, respectively.



**ICAFS Past President Rob Van Kirk presents the Idaho 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Curet. As a bonus, Tom also received a wood carving from ICAFS member Dr. Mike Quist.**

The **2025 ICAFS meeting will be held in Boise on April 1-4.** Mark your calendars and we hope to see you next year!

### **2024 ICAFS Scholarship Winners-CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The development of fisheries professionals is an important part of the mission of the Idaho Chapter. As part of this effort, the Chapter sponsors several scholarships. Here are our selected 2024 scholars!

- ICAFS High School Scholarship: **Hunter Pauly**, North Fremont High School
- ICAFS Undergraduate Scholarship: **Cade Crookshanks**, University of Idaho
- ICAFS Graduate Scholarship: **Tyler Breech**, Idaho State University
- Susan B. Martin Scholarship: **Sage Unsworth**, University of Idaho



## ICAFS Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2023-2024

### Communicated by Eric Stark

Each fiscal year, generally May 1-Apr 30, ICAFS operates from an annual budget sourced primarily via fundraising income from the previous year's annual meeting. The chapter also maintains a meeting budget that is covered primarily through annual meeting registrations. Post-meeting (July 2024), there remains a surplus of \$16,323 in the operating budget and a net profit of \$23,623 (see Page 6) from the annual meeting to go towards the FY25 budget. Although our net profit from the 2024 meeting was less than a third of the 2023 ICAFS hosted Western Division Meeting (\$75,591), the chapter's finances remain sound.

#### ICAFS 2023-2024 Operating Budget

Committee	Activity/Expenditure	Anticipated Expenses (\$)	Actual Paid by ICAFS (\$)	Actual Paid by Others (\$)
Education	Trout in the Classroom	5,000	5,000	
	High School student scholarship	750	750	
	Undergraduate student scholarship	1,500	1,500	
	Graduate student scholarship	2,000	2,000	
	SB Martin Scholarship	2,500	0	2,500
	Best Student Presentation	500	500	
	Best Student Poster	500	500	
	TOP Grant	1,000	1,000	
	Bookmarks from Idaho students	320	0	
Native Fish	TOP Grant	500	0	500
	Additional Native Fishes of Idaho Posters	1,500	1,500	
Mentoring	Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program	5,000	0	5,000
Aquaculture	Coldwater Aquaculture Course	500	500	
Fundraising	Fundraising Outlay	4,500	4,594	
2024 Mtg	Venue Deposit - The Centennial (Spokane)	12,000	6,000	6,000
2025 Mtg	Venue Deposit - Boise Centre	8,000	5,903	
EXCOM	In-Person Mtgs	2,000	2,000	
	Western Division Travel	1,000	1,000	
	Chapter awards: plaques, certificates, etc.	2,400	2,400	
	Pres-Elect costs for 2025 Boise Mtg	2,000	2,000	
	Hutton 2025 Fundraising Challenge	500	500	
	Website overhaul & migration	1,500	1,500	
	Website hosting cost	1,100	1,100	
	Donation to National AFS	2,500	2,500	
	EOS sponsorship for 2024 National AFS Meeting	500	500	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>59,570</b>	<b>43,247</b>	<b>14,000</b>
		<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>16,323</b>	



## ICAFS Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (continued)

### ICAFS 2024 Meeting Budget

Description	2023 Mtg		2024 Meeting	
	Actual ALL (\$)	Anticipated (\$)	Actual ALL (\$)	Actual ICAFS (\$)
Venue Rooms/Audio/Visual	2,789	3,200	5,991	3,595
Registration Expenses	202	775	122	73
Meeting Swag & Fundraising	3,906	6,903	7,429	4,458
Logo and Artwork	300	299	299	179
Spawning Run	150	300	478	287
Film & Photo Festival	342	406	0	0
Welcome Social	12,198	13,000	10,686	6,412
Mtg Spaces & Catering (ALL)	110,562	102,327	87,261	52,357
Continuing Education	2,419	3,024	0	0
Tradeshow	0	1,300	1,297	778
Speaker Travel/Room Costs	10,686	12,380	3,483	2,090
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>143,554</b>	<b>143,914</b>	<b>117,046</b>	<b>70,228</b>
Registration	166,660	119,213	119,213	71,528
Total Fundraising	52,485	33,911	33,911	22,322
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>219,145</b>	<b>153,125</b>	<b>153,125</b>	<b>93,850</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>75,591</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>36,079</b>	<b>23,623</b>



The registration desk was hopping during our 2024 meeting. Thanks to the capable crew of (left to right) Eric Stark, Jesse McCane, Tad Iritani, and Kat Gillies-Rector for welcoming attendees.

## Student Spotlights—Palouse Unit

### James Stone

#### Undergraduate - Fisheries Resources

My name is James Stone and I'm a rising senior in the University of Idaho's Fisheries Science program with a minor in Ecology. This summer I'm working for Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon (ASA), a nonprofit with a goal of promoting the conservation of natural resources in the Amazon rainforest. This internship has given me the opportunity to spend three months at Finca Las Piedras Research Station in southeastern Peru assisting

with basic biological research and monitoring, as well as community engagement and education. I've gained experience working with a variety of plants and animals, with sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, and I've completed numerous professional development workshops. Alongside the structured activities of the internship, I was given the opportunity to design and complete an independent research project. My project is a biological inventory of fish in a local headwaters stream, where I am creating a dataset of fish in southeastern Peru that can continue to be developed by ASA in the future. This experience has been invaluable and helps me continue working towards a PhD and a career in aquatic research.



### Chloe Crookshanks

#### Undergraduate - Fisheries Resources



Native wildlife species have formed the foundation of my interests and hobbies and provide motivation for my current studies. Regular interaction with the outdoors, native fisheries, and wildlife have influenced me to spend my summers working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife and expand my knowledge with an undergraduate degree in Fisheries Resources. The highlight of this past summer has been assisting in Nevada's first ever YY Brook Trout eradication project to restore Lahontan Cutthroat Trout to their native range. This relatively new strategy in fisheries management involves mechanical removal of Brook Trout coupled with the stocking of trojan male fish over the course of many years. Idaho recently proved the success of this technique for the first time. As I continue my pursuit in this field, I am eager to investigate the results of this treatment effort in my home state.



## Student Spotlights—Portneuf Unit

**Tyler Breech**

**PhD Candidate - Biology**

**Dissertation Title:** Intraspecific variation across the native range of Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Tyler's dissertation work deals with the phylogeography of Rainbow Trout, taking him across the species' native range in his many field seasons of research. In his work he uses mtDNA and SNP data to map genetic lineages alongside examination of structural variation between Rainbow Trout populations. As the completion of his degree is just on the horizon, Tyler hopes to continue his career in the world of fish genetics research. Tyler has spent many years as an active member of the Portneuf Student Subunit, serving as Subunit President from 2022-2023. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited to see his career advance as a researcher on the cutting edge of genetics and fish biology. The ICAFS wishes Tyler the best of luck defending his dissertation and with his future career in fisheries!!

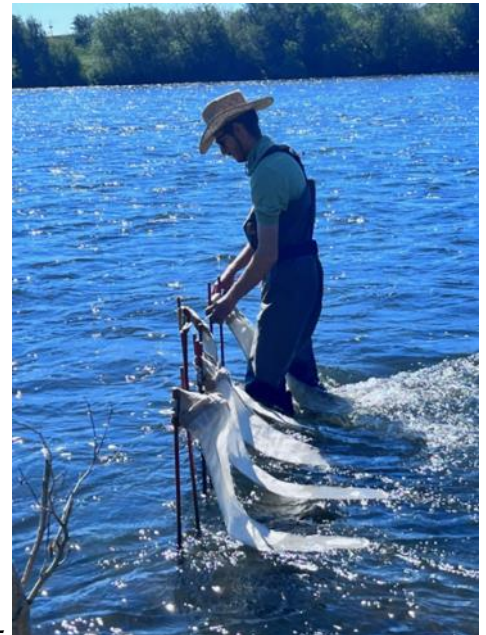


## Student Spotlights—BYU Idaho Unit

### Josh Clark

#### Undergrad- Fisheries, Range, and Wildlife Management

Josh Clark is currently entering his senior at BYU-Idaho. Josh is an avid fly fisherman. He grew up in southeast Idaho and learned at a young age how to fish, tie flies, and float the amazing rivers in the region. His years of recreational fishing have been a huge asset as he has started his professional career in fisheries management. Josh is currently working his second summer season for Idaho Department of Fish and Game in the Upper Snake Region. During his first season, he heard of concerns from members of the public about the effects of raft electrofishing on aquatic macroinvertebrates. Josh decided he wanted to help, and he has started a project to determine how raft electrofishing influences drift rates and survival of macroinvertebrates. By the end of this calendar year, Josh will have collected samples and data to tackle this research question. After completing his undergraduate degree, Josh is planning on pursuing a Master's degree, and possibly a Ph.D., in fisheries. Given his ambition and passion for all things fish, Josh will undoubtedly have a career that greatly impacts our profession.



### Dylan Bair

#### Undergraduate - Fisheries, Range, and Wildlife Management

Dylan Bair, an eager sophomore, is the new president of the BYU-Idaho Student Subunit. Despite still being early in his college career, Dylan has quickly jumped on opportunities to gain experience and to get involved with the Student Subunit. After settling on Fisheries Management as a major, Dylan helped conduct fish surveys on Moody Creek for a project aiming to restore Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. He presented a poster on this project at the 2024 annual meeting in Spokane. He also helped out on other projects whenever he was able. His perseverance and dedication helped him secure a technician position this summer with Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Dylan is looking forward to leading the Student Subunit by creating opportunities for members to assist in fulfilling the mission of the American Fisheries Society.



## Committee/Subunit Updates

### *Native Fish Committee (by Dan Kenney)*

The Native Fish Committee continues distribution of the “Native Fishes of Idaho” poster to Idaho Department of Education “Science Coaches,” who then further distribute the posters to public schools and teachers. We have about 1,000 posters left for further distribution to other educational institutions, Tribes, and other relevant organizations. We printed a second run of posters, on lighter stock, for distribution to ICAFS members, other Idaho biologists, and the general public, and these should be available for free at IDFG Regional offices. About 300 of these posters were distributed at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Spokane.

The Committee’s project to facilitate acquisition of fish voucher specimens for college/university ichthyology and fisheries classes and labs is continuing. Our current activity is soliciting a “wish list” of specimens from the relevant instructors. We will also seek funding for jars, formalin, and other supplies and materials.

### *Public Education Committee (by Lauri Monnot)*

The Public Education Committee annually administers two support grants provided by the Idaho Chapter AFS. Both are currently accepting applications.

### **Aquatic Education/Trout in the Classroom Grant**

Schools can apply for grants to assist with education projects or pay for bus transportation for classroom field trips to learn about aquatic resources and release trout raised in Idaho Trout, Steelhead, or Kokanee in the Classroom programs. So far this year grants were awarded to 5 schools in spring 2024 allowing about 350 students in grades 2-12 to get outside and learn more about fisheries resources. Classrooms got a chance to practice angling skills, learn to clean and cook fish, tour fish hatcheries, visit education centers, and participate in educational activities mentored by fisheries professionals. We will continue to accept applications throughout the year for field trip grants and other classroom support projects. For more information see <https://www.idahoafs.org/aquaticEdTICgrants.php>

### **Student TOP grant**

The purpose of the grant is to help students carry out activities consistent with the mission of the Idaho Chapter. This may include conducting research, implementing education projects, attending a professional conference, workshop, or training, or other activities. Applications are accepted throughout the year until the full \$1,000 allotment is awarded. For more information see <https://www.idahoafs.org/ICAFStopGrant.php>

### *BYU-Idaho Subunit (by Dr. Eric Billman)*

Members of the BYU-Idaho Student Subunit had a wonderful time at the joint annual meeting in Spokane. We had nine students attend the meeting with four of those students presenting posters. Students were excited to hear so many great talks, to network with the amazing members of our chapter, and to participate in professional development and mentoring opportunities. Thanks to everyone involved! The meeting certainly inspired our Subunit members and got them excited to head out on the water to practice what they learned. To that end, these summer months have given Subunit members a chance to get out on the water working for various agencies and organizations and working on mentored research projects. We are looking forward to reconvening during the Fall Semester to share experiences and to continue learning from awesome seminars given by our Chapter members!



## Upcoming Fisheries Meetings Of Interest

### North American Invasive Species Management Association 32nd Annual Conference

September 30 – October 3, 2024 | Missoula, Montana

[NAISMA Annual Conference - NAISMA - Annual Conference](#)

#### Are You Staying Up-to-Date on the Latest Research and Strategies for Invasive Species Management?

The 32nd NAISMA Annual Conference 2024 will be co-hosted with the [Montana Invasive Species Council](#). We expect 350+ attendees from a broad range of backgrounds, invasive species, and natural resource professions to attend from across North America and beyond. This year's theme will highlight the foundations needed to implement management strategies that work, partnerships that impact diverse geographies, and policy and funding successes that can be tailored to fit your landscape.



**SHARING STORIES**  
Celebrating Partnerships  
Missoula, Montana - 2024

### Northwest Fish Culture Concepts 73rd Annual Meeting

[Upcoming NWFCC Workshop – FISH CULTURE SECTION \(fisheries.org\)](#)

The 2024 Northwest Fish Culture Concepts Meeting in Seaside, Oregon will be held December 10-12 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. This meeting is being hosted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and supported by the Fish Culture Section of The American Fisheries Society. The final deadline for paper submission is Friday November 1, 2024. Registration is now open for [participants](#) and [vendors](#). Additional information about the meeting can be found [here](#). If you have questions about the meeting please email Scott Patterson ([scott.d.patterson@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:scott.d.patterson@odfw.oregon.gov)), Daniel Green ([daniel.g.green@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:daniel.g.green@odfw.oregon.gov)) or Shari Beals ([shari.r.beals@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:shari.r.beals@odfw.oregon.gov)).



## Other things!

### AFS Nominating Committee Seeks Nominations for Second Vice President

The AFS Nominating Committee is charged with selecting a slate of candidates for the American Fisheries Society office of Second Vice President. We have recently begun this process for the 2025 election. However, the Nominating Committee recognizes that there are limitations to their ability to identify potential future leaders of the Society from within all of the Sections and Units of AFS. Therefore, the committee is asking for your help to identify these potential future leaders for the committee's consideration. If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming an officer of the Society, please send their name, contact information, and a brief, few sentence background (current position within the fisheries profession, geographic location, AFS leadership experience) to Nominating Committee Chair Eric Fetherman ([Eric.Fetherman@state.co.us](mailto:Eric.Fetherman@state.co.us)). Self-nominations are welcome!



*Are you inspired by our Mission of Advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals? Then you should consider Joining the ICAFS EXCOM or becoming a Committee Chair or Co-Chair in 2025!*

ICAFS relies on volunteers to make the Idaho Chapter a success. ICAFS's Executive Committee is the core of that volunteer team. Volunteering as an Executive Committee officer is a rewarding opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Idaho Chapter and further your fisheries career. We are looking for candidates to run for office in 2025. Interested in what officer opportunities exist? Please contact Katie McBain [Katie.McBaine@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:Katie.McBaine@idfg.idaho.gov)

If being a Committee Chair or Co-Chair is more your speed, then reach out to one of our many committees and tell them you are interested! [Committees | Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society \(idahoafs.org\)](https://www.idahoafs.org)

## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025 MEETING IN BOISE

The 2025 ICAFS meeting will be held in Boise on April 1-4. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you next year!



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**The EXCOM wants your ideas!**  
**Please do not hesitate to contact any EXCOM member about questions or ideas.**

**This is your Chapter!**

*Advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals*

