



Gill Raker Gazette

Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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Editor: Tom Bassista

President's Message Taking in the "Big Picture" and Recognizing Our Members

Happy new year, Idaho Chapter! Entering a new year means we're already looking ahead to our next annual meeting. Start thinking about your paper and/or poster abstracts, and plan to meet us in Boise April 1-4, 2025. You can find many more details about this exciting meeting being planned, abstract submission, instructions for award nominations, and free money/scholarship opportunities further ahead in this newsletter, so please read on!

With the new year, I'd also like to take some time to reflect on 2024, specifically highlights from the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI in September. I had the privilege of attending my first Society-level meeting (I know, lucky me on the location!!!) and gained a ton of insight into the "big picture" workings of AFS by attending excellent workshops and having inspiring interactions with fellow members. If you ever have a chance to attend a Society or Division level meeting in addition to our annual Idaho meetings, there is so much to take away from these larger conferences. I got to learn about wide-ranging fisheries research reaching far beyond Idaho, as well as see and hear about the work AFS is doing at the larger, Society-level. As you may have heard, a new executive director, Jeff Kopaska, took over for Doug Austen at this meeting. I was fascinated to learn about the work and structure of AFS and highly recommend attending one of these meetings to anyone interested in leadership roles in any level of AFS.

What was most exciting about the Honolulu meeting was the prominence of Idaho Chapter members throughout the week. Numerous Idahoans gave talks, presented posters, and hosted symposia and continuing education courses. But most notably, many Chapter members were recognized and awarded during the meeting. It made me proud of the strong work our Chapter has done and is continuing to do! Congratulations to the following Idaho Chapter members (and I hope I didn't miss anyone):

- Stan Allen, PSMFC – Stanley A. Moberly Award for Outstanding Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation
- Nicholas Voss, University of Idaho – John E. Skinner Memorial Travel Fund
- Courtnie Ghere, University of Idaho (Palouse Unit); Claire Vaage, University of Washington; Carolyn Merriam, University of Maine – William R. Mote Fisheries Fellowship Award
- Best Paper in the North American Journal of Aquaculture was awarded to Chad Teal, Katharine Coykendall, Matthew Campbell, Thomas Delomas, Daniel Eardley, John Erwin, Daniel Schill, Javan Bauder, Scott Bonar, and Melanie Culver for their paper, The Development of Genetic Sex Identification Markers and Evidence of a Male Heterogametic Sex Determination System in Red Shiner
- Claire Vaage, University of Washington – Eugene Maughan Scholarship
- Rachael Valeria, University of Idaho – Western Division Travel Grant

We all know our colleagues are making valuable contributions to the world of fisheries in Idaho. Now is a great time for you to reflect on someone you know who may be a worthy nominee for an Idaho Chapter award. Find out more information about the awards in this newsletter, and please take the time to send in a nomination so we can recognize their great work at our April meeting.

Cheers, Lauren Andrews



ICAFS President Lauren Andrews in Honolulu with her son Hank, who had a great time despite this picture!

Announcing the 2025 Idaho Chapter Annual Meeting!! Lodging and Abstract Submission

April 1—4, 2025 at the Boise Centre on the Grove in Boise, ID
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON, Please book your room now.

Plenary Theme

EXCOM members have been focused on planning and providing an informative and educational meeting. A plenary theme has been established, “*Piscicide in Idaho: a lost art and re-emerging tool for conserving native species.*” The theme was selected based on the notion that many of our native fish species face ever increasing challenges. Competition, introgression, and predation with and from non-native species are amongst the largest threats as non-native species have spread. One of the most common techniques to turn the tide on non-native species is the application of piscicides; however, this tool is rarely used in Idaho, with but a few exceptions, despite many positive outcomes in other western states. In an attempt to build momentum for turning the tide, the 2025 plenary session will include a review of the history of rotenone use in Idaho as well as provide several case studies from surrounding states. The case studies will include efforts to conserve Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in New Mexico, Apache Trout in Arizona, Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Montana, and Bull Trout in our home state of Idaho. Successes, failures, and guidance will be shared.



Venue and Lodging

The meeting's venue will be the Boise Centre, located in downtown Boise. A block of rooms is being held at the Grove Hotel for meeting participants until March 2nd. As part of the Chapter's long-standing tradition, a couple of free rooms will be provided to each of the student sub-units. These rooms will be comped to the chapter if we meet booking thresholds, so please strongly consider booking your stay with the Grove Hotel. Hotel booking found here: [American Fisheries Society - The Grove Hotel](#)

Child Care and Nursing: There are offsite childcare options that are within 5 miles of the Boise Centre and some accept drop-in care. Please reach out to Lauren Andrews for further details or if you have any questions president@idahoafs.org.

The Boise Centre will have a Mamava Pod in the conference area for nursing caregivers. A secure refrigerator will be provided behind the registration desk, but bottles and breast pumps will not. For more information click [here](#).

First Call for Abstracts!

Abstracts are now being accepted for the 2025 ICAFS Meeting in Boise to be held April 1-4. Workshops will be held on Tuesday, April 1. The plenary session will occur on Wednesday morning, April 2, while the remainder of the presentations will occur April 2-4. The 2025 ICAFS Meeting format will allow presenters the choice of oral or poster formats. **The deadline for submission is February 28, 2025, so act NOW!!** Oral presentations will be allotted 20 minutes, which includes a 15-minute presentation and 5 minutes for questions and answers. Interested presenters may access a google form and self-submit an abstract, not to exceed 300 words, at the following hyperlink: <https://forms.gle/giGaAg1cvc2Bqs5A9>

2025 Annual Meeting-Plenary Session, April 2

Plenary Speakers and Topics At a Glance

Martin Koenig will be providing a brief history of rotenone in Idaho. Martin will discuss the “Dark Ages” of rotenone treatments following the disaster at Yellowbelly Lake and walk us through the evolution of using rotenone aimed at conserving and managing native species in Idaho in the coming decades, and that future work will ultimately rely heavily on the next generation of biologists now early in their careers. He earned a BS in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from the University of California Davis, and an MS in Fisheries Biology from Utah State. He began working in Idaho in 2003 while conducting his thesis research on Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in the Teton River. In 2006, Martin began his 19-year tenure with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and has held a variety of fisheries research and management roles. Currently, Martin serves as the Sportfishing Program Coordinator, a fancy title for someone who writes species management plans, coordinates native trout and sturgeon conservation efforts, and works on fishing regulations.



Bryan Bakevich will present a large-scale conservation effort focused on restoring native Rio Grande fish to 120 miles of streams, 16 lakes, and a reservoir in northern New Mexico. The restoration significantly increased native fish distributions and contributed to their exclusion from federal endangered species listings, exemplifying the impact of ambitious, landscape-level conservation initiatives. He holds a BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and an MS in Fisheries Biology from Iowa State University. He is currently the Rio Grande Basin Native Fish Supervisor for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. In his 12 years with the Department, he led a large-scale, multi-year native fish restoration project and contributed to many others throughout the state.



Julie Carter will share experiences from Arizona and emphasize the importance of ensuring strong stakeholder and public engagement for proposed treatments, as well as understanding the political landscape in treatment areas. She will discuss the challenging but worthwhile journey to retain the ability to use piscicides in fisheries management, highlighting the importance of adapting to evolving processes to ensure effective conservation outcomes. Julie has been working for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) in Phoenix, Arizona since 2005 and has been the Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief since 2021. Prior to her time with AZGFD, she spent eight years as a fisheries biologist with the USGS Alaska Science Center. She received her BS from Northern Arizona University and MS from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Julie is very active in AFS, serving as a member of the Fish Management Chemicals Committee and is the current president of the Western Division and Fisheries Management Section.



Nick Voss will present a set of biological considerations useful to making effective prioritizations for non-native species removals. He will then propose a set of general guidelines to inform future prioritizations and identify useful areas for future research. Nick Voss holds a BS in wildlife biology with a minor in Geoscience from the University of Montana, and a MS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University. Nick is currently a Ph.D. candidate with Dr. Michael Quist at the University of Idaho. His dissertation research focuses on the ecology of non-native Brook Trout and their interactions with native Bull Trout across Idaho under a changing climate.

2025 Annual Meeting-Plenary Session, April 2

Plenary Speakers and Topics At a Glance, continued

Craig Barfoot will present on a comprehensive watershed restoration effort on the Flathead Indian Reservation focusing on selective fish passage work and provide an overview of the first piscicide project undertaken on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Craig has a MS in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University, where he collected data to inform instream flow reservations and studied the ecology of prairie stream fishes in southeastern Montana. After completing graduate studies, Craig worked for about nine years on the Snake and Columbia rivers with the USGS Columbia River Research Lab. For the last 24 years, Craig has been employed as a fisheries biologist with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes where he works on a wide variety of aquatic and riparian management issues.



Anthony Dangora, Luke Ferguson, and Rick Wilkison will be teaming up to present on a collaborative Bull Trout conservation project from a headwater stream in Idaho that was threatened by a rapid expansion of non-native Brook Trout. As a result of this collaboration, the group installed a migration barrier, removed over 4,000 Brook Trout, and salvaged and returned 128 Bull Trout to 4.5 kilometers of chemically restored stream.



Anthony Dangora is a regional fisheries biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, based out of the McCall subregion. He earned his MS in Fish and Wildlife Biology in 2022 from the University of Montana. His work involves the management of lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams, and high mountain lakes.

Luke Ferguson is a fish biologist with the Payette National Forest, based out of McCall, Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a BS in Fisheries Resources. His work focuses on threatened and endangered fish species conservation on Forest Service administered lands.



Rick Wilkison is a Senior Fisheries Biologist with Idaho Power Company in Boise, Idaho



where he manages the company's Bull Trout Program. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming (Go Pokes!) where he obtained a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management in 1992. He earned an MS degree in Biology (Fish Ecology emphasis) in 1995 from Idaho State University. His work has focused primarily on assessing the status of and monitoring Bull Trout populations associated with Idaho Power's Hells Canyon Hydroelectric Complex while developing effective protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures to aid in recovering the species.

2025 Annual Meeting-Workshops, Tuesday April 1

(Sign-up for workshops during registration)

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: How fish get from the hatchery to their final destinations

(Full day) @ Idaho Fish and Game Eagle Complex, 1800 Trout Rd, Eagle, ID

Instructors: Riley Brown – Idaho Power, Tyson Fehinger – Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Melissa Wagner – College of Southern Idaho

This workshop will focus on fish transportation throughout the state of Idaho. Hatchery fish aren't always reared in proximity to their desired stocking locations, and how they get there can vary greatly depending on species and hatchery program. From high mountain lake stocking to anadromous smolt transportation, this workshop will provide insight, instruction, and exposure to the methods and equipment used to get fish from here to there.

Please note: This workshop will take place off-site at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Eagle Complex, 1800 Trout Road, Eagle, ID, 83616. Participants will need to provide their own transportation to and from the workshop location.

Communicating Science: A guide to scientific storytelling

(Half day; AM) @ the Boise Center East

Instructor: Katherine Strickler – Washington State University

Communication is an essential part of being a scientist. Fisheries biology is generally an applied science, and for it to be effectively used, we need to share scientific knowledge with other scientists, managers, the public, journalists, and policymakers. Many of us have been trained to share our work with other scientists but have had little (or no) training in communicating fisheries science with other audiences.

Regardless of the audience, the heart of all effective communication is the ability to tell a good story. In this half-day workshop, participants will learn and practice principles of good storytelling, including crafting narratives of their work, targeting messages for different audiences, and using their excitement about their work to create a story that sticks. The majority of the workshop will feature a format of interactive, hands-on activities. Participants will use their own or others' research to create messages to communicate with their intended audiences. The skills we practice in the workshop will help participants tell better science stories, whether in a journal article, a newsletter, a policy paper, or a conversation with a landowner concerned about fisheries management.



2025 Annual Meeting-Workshops, Tuesday April 1, 2025

(Sign-up for workshops during registration)

Idaho Water Right Mechanics and Programs: More knowledge and tools for your fisheries toolbox

(1 PM — 5PM) @ the Boise Center East

Instructors: Multiple instructors from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Henrys Fork Foundation

The purpose of the workshop is to present critical water right topics and describe state programs to fisheries and aquatic science professionals to broaden their knowledge and understanding of Idaho water law and identify strategies to help achieve desirable water resource conditions to maintain and enhance fisheries, aquatic, and riparian habitats. The first half of the workshop will include a broad overview of Idaho Water Right law, discuss groundwater and surface water interaction and state management, briefly explain Idaho's water right adjudication purpose and process, and dive into Managed Aquifer Recharge. The second half of the workshop will explore and highlight Idaho's Water Transactions, Minimum Stream Flow and Lake Level, and Water Supply Bank programs. The workshop will complete the afternoon by describing important water right administrative processes (e.g., water right review and protest) and provide tips and ideas on how to achieve good outcomes for fisheries resources. The course will be taught by multiple instructors presenting informative presentations with brief Q&A sessions. Detailed questions pertaining to the workshop should be directed to Tom Bassista at 208-287-2773 or tom.bassista@idfg.idaho.gov

Understanding psychological biases

(8AM – 12PM) @ the Boise Center East

Instructor: Christopher Saunders – ADA County Sheriff's Office

Christopher Saunders is the Administrative Deputy Director for the Ada County Sheriff's Office in Boise, Idaho. He has more than 7 years of experience teaching bias trainings and has been working in law enforcement for nearly 15 years. This workshop will examine the history of bias training, why the old approach wasn't effective, and how to look at bias through a completely different lens. Through this interactive workshop, participants will learn about the roots of bias and how to identify examples of bias in their everyday lives. Participants will then be given the tools to apply this new information into their personal and professional worlds. We all have implicit biases that we are not always aware of and when we learn to recognize, address, and mitigate these biases, we can welcome more positive and productive interactions. The skills learned in this workshop can be applied to our hiring processes, interactions with the public, collaboration with our work partners, and in our everyday lives.



2025 Annual Meeting-ICAFS Awards-Due Feb. 20, 2025

The following is a list of Chapter awards given out annually at the Chapter business meeting. Deadlines for submittal of ICAFS award nominations is February 20, 2025

Lifetime Achievement Award

This is the most prestigious award granted by the Chapter and is awarded to individuals who are either retired or within five years of retirement that have made significant and sustained contributions to advance the mission of the Chapter. This work may include, but is not limited to, advancing fisheries and aquatic science, implementing important management, or promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to the ICAFS Past-President at kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov

Distinguished Service Award

This award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution in furthering the mission of the Idaho Chapter and is specific to work completed within the Chapter. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by EXCOM or Chapter members to the ICAFS Past-President at kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov

Outstanding Professional Award

This award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution in furthering the mission of the Chapter and is specific to work completed outside the Chapter. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to the ICAFS Past-President at kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov

Richard L. Wallace Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award

This award is sponsored by the Native Fish Committee. It was created in 2004 and is presented annually to an individual, group, or organization for outstanding achievement in native fish conservation in Idaho. Recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members. The physical award is a beautiful hand-carved version of a fish species that is a meaningful representation of the recipient's work. **The e-mail call for nominations for the 2025 Wallace Award went out to the ICAFS membership on December 4, and the nominations deadline was January 16. If you missed this year's deadline, please consider getting a jump on your nomination letter for the 2026 award; a call for nominations will likely be made in December 2025.**



2025 Annual Meeting-ICAFS Awards (continued) Due Feb 20, 2025

The following is a list of Chapter awards given out annually at the Chapter business meeting. Deadlines for submittal of ICAFS award nominations is February 20, 2025.

Outstanding Mentor Award

The Outstanding Mentor Award is sponsored by the Mentoring Committee. This award was created by the Palouse Unit in 2006, and they selected and presented the award that year. Since 2007, the award has been administered by the Mentoring Committee. The award is presented annually to an individual who has shown substantial devotion to mentoring fisheries students or professionals in Idaho. The recipients are selected by the Mentoring Committee Chairs from nominations made by Idaho Chapter members and the award is presented by the Mentoring Committee Chair at the annual meeting. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to the Mentoring Committee co-chairs at mentoring@idahoafs.org. Nomination packages should include the name of the nominee and one or more letters highlighting their achievements in mentoring.

ICAFS Early Career Professional Award

The Outstanding Early Career Professional Award is sponsored by the Mentoring Committee and is intended to celebrate exceptional work in early career professionals. To be eligible, professionals must be within five years post-graduation and be working at any level in the fisheries profession including technician, biologist, culturist, etc. Nominees should have made significant contributions in furthering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their work or volunteer activities, and in supporting the mission of the Idaho Chapter during the short time they have been working in the fisheries profession. Nominations should be sent to the Mentoring Committee co-chairs at mentoring@idahoafs.org. Nomination packages should include the name of the nominee, information about most recent degree completed including graduation date, current position of the nominee, and one or more letters of support highlighting achievements. Self-nominations are accepted.

The Aquatic Habitat Award

This award is sponsored by the Aquatic Habitat Committee. It was created in 2016 and is presented annually to an individual, group, or organization that has made significant contributions to the field of fish habitat restoration and enhancement in Idaho. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to the committee co-chairs (Eric Berntsen at eberntsen@kalispeltribe.com or Stephanie Hallock stephanie.hallock@cdatribe-nsn.gov)

Excellence in Aquaculture Award

This award is sponsored by the Aquaculture Committee. It was created in 2008 and is presented annually to an individual or aquaculture facility for outstanding achievement in the field of aquaculture or aquaculture related research. The recipients are selected from nominations submitted by Chapter members to committee co-chairs (Riley Brown at rbrown@idahopower.com, Melissa Wagner at mdwagner@csi.edu, or Tyson Fehringer at tyson.fehringer@idfg.idaho.gov).

2025 Annual Meeting-Mentoring Committee Needs YOU!

Mentoring Committee

Each year, the Mentoring Committee hosts a variety of events at the Annual Meeting including, the Student Professional Mixer, Professional Q&A Panel, and mock interviews. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with any of these events, please contact us at mentoring@idahoafs.org.

We are also updating our email list. If you would like to participate in the Mentoring Committee, please email mentoring@idahoafs.org so you can be added to the updated membership list.



Professional Q&A Panel (top) and Student-Professional Mixer (bottom) at the 2024 combined Annual Meeting of the Idaho Chapter and WA-BC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Scholarships-FREE MONEY!!!!!!! Due Jan. 31, 2025

Scholarships \$\$\$ Free Money \$\$\$

We are now accepting applications for scholarships that will be awarded at the 2025 annual meeting. Information and application materials are available on the Chapter website at the link provided below. Please note that the process and form for providing a scholarship recommendation for students has changed. Also please help us promote a fair and neutral selection by considering the [DEI guidelines](#) in your application or scholarship recommendation.

Hurry! The [application](#) deadline is January 31, 2025.

Available Scholarships:

- Idaho High School Student Scholarship - \$750
- Idaho Undergraduate Student Scholarship - \$1500
- Susan B Martin Graduate Student Scholarship - \$2500 (please read a [tribute](#) to Susan)
- **NEW!!!!** Douglas J. Megargle Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship - \$2500

We are excited to announce a new endowed graduate student scholarship: Douglas J. Megargle Memorial Scholarship (1966-2019)

This scholarship is in memory of Douglas (Doug) J. Megargle who was a successful fisheries professional for 22 years with Idaho Department of Fish and Game in both research and management. Doug was an enthusiastic member of the American Fisheries Society, attending nearly every Idaho Chapter meeting during his professional career. Doug's enthusiasm for the profession was infectious, and one of his greatest passions was mentoring young professionals as they began their fisheries careers, steering them as often as possible toward graduate school and AFS membership and involvement. Doug died in an automobile accident on May 14, 2019, while on duty. This memorial scholarship is intended to honor Doug's legacy of promoting the development of young fishery professionals and will be awarded annually to a graduate student attending or affiliated with a student subunit at any school in Idaho. This scholarship was created by generous donations from the Megargle family and the Idaho Chapter. Please see a [tribute](#) to Doug.



Trout-in-the-Classroom Grants and Mentors Needed

Grants

ICAFS has a long history of promoting aquatic education efforts. In 2013, ICAFS formally established an Aquatic Education/Trout-in-the-Classroom Grant. These \$50-1,250 grants are available to Idaho teachers to assist with aquatic education efforts, including the Trout-in-the-Classroom program or other activities. The number of grants awarded annually is dependent on available funding and need. Please pass the word to educators! For more information contact Lauri Monnot, Public Education Committee Chair, at (208) 373-0203 or Lauri.Monnot@deq.idaho.gov and please visit this [link](#).

HELP wanted: Recruiting Trout-in-the-Classroom Biologist Mentors

IDFG is looking for biologists to support classroom teachers near you. You can be a biologist mentor for a classroom that is learning about fish life cycles, anatomy, ecology, angling, or many other fisheries-related topics. Mentors work with the classroom teacher to determine how you can best support that classroom. The number of visits and the types of activities is flexible based on your schedule. If interested, please contact Riley Calhoun, riley.calhoun@idfg.idaho.gov or Lauri Monnot, Lauri.Monnot@deq.idaho.gov



2025 ICAFS Executive Committee Candidates

Vice President

Rebekah Horn - Rebekah is a Fisheries Geneticist with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) Hagerman Genetics Lab. In this role, she utilizes genetics techniques, such as parentage-based tagging and genetic stock identification, to help manage Chinook and Coho salmon throughout the Columbia River Basin. These projects involve collaborations among not only Tribal Fisheries programs, but also state and federal agencies in the Pacific Northwest. Rebekah obtained a B.A in Biology and Environmental Science from Adrian College, followed by an M.S in Marine Biology from Nova Southeastern University, and a PhD in Molecular Biology from New Mexico State University. Following completion of her PhD, Rebekah did a post-doc at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada until starting with the CRITFC genetics lab in 2018. Since moving to Idaho, Rebekah has been involved with the local Idaho Chapter, serving as the chapter's Secretary-Treasurer from 2021-2023, co-chair of the Anadromous Fish Committee from 2023 to present, and was on the core planning team for the 2024 and upcoming 2025 meeting. She has also served as a reviewer for the John E. Skinner Memorial Award for the past three National AFS meetings. If elected as the ICAFS Vice President, Rebekah will ensure the continued success of the chapter including a focus on fiscal responsibility and student engagement and development.



Paul Kusnierz—Paul is a Senior Fisheries Biologist with Avista. He is responsible for implementing multiple fishery and water quality programs associated with the operation of Cabinet Gorge Dam on the lower Clark Fork River in Idaho. His position involves performing and supporting fisheries sampling, stream habitat improvement, and research in the Clark Fork River-Lake Pend Oreille watershed. This work involves extensive interaction and collaboration with state, federal, and tribal agencies, as well as watershed groups and non-profit organizations. With the goal of becoming a fisheries biologist, Paul earned a B.S. in Biology with a Minor in Fisheries from the University of Maine. He then earned an M.S. in Biology at Northern Michigan University studying the movement and growth of Coaster Brook Trout in tributaries of Lake Superior. Paul has been active in the American Fisheries Society for nearly 20 years, attending Society meetings and serving on committees at the Chapter, Division, and Society levels. He most recently served as the Past-President of the Society's Water Quality Section. Paul has benefited from AFS through interaction and collaboration with other fisheries professionals, reading and contributing to AFS journals, and volunteering at meetings. Paul appreciates the value that the Idaho Chapter provides to its members through social connections and many professional development opportunities. As a member of the Excom, Paul would

support these high-quality interactive and learning opportunities, encourage membership growth and retention through engagement of students and non-fisheries aquatic professionals, and work to ensure that the Chapter's activities are known and recognized throughout the Society.

2025 ICAFS Executive Committee Candidates

Secretary/Treasurer

Audrey Harris -Audrey has been a fisheries research geneticist at the Eagle Fish Genetics Lab since 2021, working jointly with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Her main job duties include designing and leading projects that use genetics to address questions related to conservation and management of fish species in Idaho, with a particular focus on parentage-based tagging for Chinook salmon and steelhead. Audrey grew up in Oklahoma with dreams of studying paleontology (dinosaurs!), Egyptology (pyramids!), or marine biology (sharks!)—while none of those panned out, her interest in sharks led her to consider a career in fisheries. Audrey received a B.S. in biology from Oklahoma City University before moving "out west" in 2017. She held multiple seasonal positions at IDFG before earning her M.S. at Colorado State University in 2021, where she used genetics to provide scientific support for a large-scale greenback cutthroat trout reintroduction effort. Audrey has been an active AFS member since 2015 with involvement at the subunit, chapter, division, and national levels. She has served as the co-chair of the Western Division Early Career Professionals Committee since 2022 and invested substantial time and effort in providing resources, feedback, and networking opportunities for students and early career professionals in AFS. Audrey has also taught multiple continuing education workshops at chapter, division, and national AFS meetings and received the Idaho Chapter Outstanding Early Career Professional Award in 2023. Audrey recognizes the role that AFS has played in her career and success, and she is excited for the opportunity and privilege to



Mike Peterson-Mike is a Regional Fisheries Manager with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, based out of the Magic Valley Regional Office. In this role, he has provided oversight and direction for fisheries management operations and the fishing/boating access program for the last five years. Mike has gained a diverse background in Idaho fisheries over the last 29 years. He started his fisheries career path at private and state aquaculture facilities, then transitioned to fisheries research and finally to fisheries management. Mike completed his M.S. in Fishery Resources from the University of Idaho in 2004, after investigating naturally occurring hybridization and introgression between Westslope Cutthroat and native *O. mykiss* in tributaries to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho. Mike has been involved with the AFS since his time at UI as an ungraduated student beginning in 1998 (Palouse Unit). Mike has served on the ICAFS fundraising committee (2006-2008), as the ICAFS nominations chair (2010-2011) and as co-chair of the anadromous committee between 2011-2015. He has gained valuable experience serving in past ICAFS Ex-

ecutive Committee roles and looks forward to possibly serving as the next Secretary/Treasurer, to develop new skills and to give back to the chapter that has provided him with invaluable experiences.

2025 ICAFS Executive Committee Candidates

Nominations Chair

Sage (Hallenbeck) Pike - Sage is the Assistant Fish Hatchery Manager at Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Hagerman National Fish Hatchery (HNFH). Her primary responsibilities include assisting in daily hatchery operations, supervising seasonal staff, and helping with hatchery budgets and purchases. She has been working with the PRAS (Partial Recirculating Aquaculture System) since 2021 at HNFH and is eager to work to improve steelhead outmigration rates using this technology. Sage has worked in IDFG's hatcheries since May of 2016, first starting out as a seasonal employee at the Clearwater Fish Hatchery. From there she was promoted to Fish Culturist, and then Assistant Fish Hatchery Manager at the Clearwater Fish Hatchery. Before moving to Idaho, Sage received her B.S. in Environmental Science and Biology in 2015 from the State University of New York, Brockport. During her undergraduate time, Sage was a laboratory assistant working on her own research projects highlighting thiamine deficiency in steelhead trout, and helped create aquatic food webs based on fatty acid signatures for prey and predator species in the Great Lakes. In addition to the research conducted in the lab, Sage also reared multiple species of cold-water fishes throughout her undergraduate career. Sage was a student member of the NY AFS chapter and presented some of her research at Lake Placid, NY. Outside of work, Sage is an avid outdoorswoman, and enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding her horses in her free time. Sage is excited for the opportunity to serve as the ICAFS Nominations Chair and looks forward to being actively involved in AFS again.



Will Lubenau- Will is a Fisheries Research Biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) based out of the Nampa Fisheries Research Office. His primary responsibilities include addressing questions related to the management of hatchery supplemented and supported fisheries, and overseeing IDFG's "Tag! You're it!" program. Will is originally from southern New Mexico. He received his undergraduate degree from New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Wildlife Science with a focus in aquatic ecology and management, and a minor in entomology. Will has held several temporary fisheries positions for state and federal agencies across the west including in Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Will obtained his graduate degree from the University of Idaho. His thesis research evaluated encounter rates and catch-and-release mortality of steelhead in the Clearwater, Snake, and Salmon rivers. Will believes much of his professional development can be attributed to AFS. He served as vice president and president of NMSU's Student Chapter of AFS across three years. While he was at the University of Idaho, he served as treasurer of the Palouse Student sub-unit. Since starting his current position with

IDFG, Will has served on two ICAFS annual meeting core-planning teams. Will would like to increase his ICAFS involvement and believes serving as Nominations Chair would be a great opportunity to continue supporting a highly esteemed AFS chapter.

Portneuf and BYU-Idaho Subunit Updates

Portneuf Subunit (by Katie Warner (formerly Wauhkonen))

The Portneuf Student Unit has been keeping busy participating in outreach and fundraising events around the Pocatello community. In the summer, the unit participated in the annual Portneuf River cleanup hosted by the Portneuf River Vision. During the fall, time was spent in the field teaching students from Pocatello High School and ISU undergraduates the ways of electroshocking and kick net sampling. This experience gave students the opportunities to learn and improve their identification skills when it came to the fish and aquatic insects in the local waterways. Towards the end of January, the unit will have their annual ice fishing derby at Chesterfield Reservoir which always brings in a crowd of devoted anglers. This event is essential for fundraising our future student travel grants and the unit's ability to invite speakers to the Pocatello ISU campus. As for this upcoming spring, the Portneuf Student Unit is excited to host Kevin Meyer to present to ISU's Biology Department about his research with Idaho Fish and Game on Cutthroat Trout. As for the rest of the spring, the unit will be coordinating the student volunteer logistics for the 2025 ICAFS conference and the unit is looking forward to participating in more outreach opportunities in the near future within our community.

BYU-Idaho Subunit (by Dylan Bair)

The BYU-Idaho Student Subunit has been holding weekly meetings to help network and develop those students involved. We have had many professionals from Idaho with different backgrounds, from different departments, and various positions come to meet with our student body. Thank you to all of our volunteers for your mentorship and for helping guide our students in their journey through fisheries! We also have many students working on projects and research and eight of those students are preparing to present at the next annual meeting in the first week of April! We are proud of our students and excited to watch them continue to grow and bring their talents to this field! Below is a photo of BYU-Idaho students helping out with a fish salvage effort.



Palouse Subunit Updates

Palouse Subunit (by Caleb Wilson)

Over the course of the fall semester, the Palouse Unit has been very active in hosting meetings. Our meetings have had great turnout among both undergraduate and graduate students while hosting a diverse group of guest speakers to bring in different perspectives and roles of fisheries management. We have had fisheries professionals give amazing talks from the University of Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Avista. In October, biologists in the Clearwater Region of IDFG took students out on jetboats to sample White Sturgeon in Hells Canyon. On this trip, students were able to learn the sampling methods and strategies IDFG conducts to monitor these important native fish, as well as make connections within the fisheries world. We would like to thank those at IDFG for hosting us on an amazing work trip. This spring, we plan to keep hosting informational meetings and field trips to better prepare our future fisheries professionals.



Student Spotlight: Josey Bouhanna

Undergraduate – Ecology and Conservation Biology with a minor in Fisheries

Growing up on lakes in Michigan led me to take an interest in aquatic ecology. From this interest I decided to pursue a degree through the University of Idaho in Ecology and Conservation Biology, with a minor in Fisheries Resources. I have interned with Idaho Fish and Game on a research crew assisting with various projects such as YY Brook Trout eradication. Over the last year I have also been able to work on an undergraduate project where I am looking at the age and growth of invasive Brook Trout in Bear Creek, Idaho. Taking this experience and education, I plan to pursue a career in fisheries ecology where I can make valuable management decisions.



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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