

**President-Elect Candidate: Julie Meka Carter**



I am honored to be nominated as president-elect for the Fisheries Management Section (FMS) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). After graduating from Northern Arizona University in 1995 with my B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries, I served in the Peace Corps Kazakhstan and then spent eight years working as a research biologist for the USGS Alaska Science Center studying migratory salmonids, also earning my M.S. in Fisheries Science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My passion for native trout brought me to the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 2005 where I worked as the Native Trout Coordinator for many years and promoted to the Assistant Fish Chief - Statewide Native Aquatics Program Manager position in 2016. In my current role at the agency, I manage the Department's native fish program, sport fish stocking mitigation program, and serve as the rotenone planning chief for all rotenone projects. The most challenging as well as rewarding aspects of my position involve navigating the balance between managing for species recovery and sport fish recreational opportunities for the public and we are currently implementing various strategies in Arizona to meet these dual mandates. I'm also proud of my involvement with National Fish Habitat Partnerships. I've served as a Steering Committee member of the Western Native Trout Initiative since 2008 and Chair since 2014 and as a Steering Committee member of the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership.

I've been a member of AFS for more than 20 years and have been actively engaged with the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of AFS in multiple capacities. In 2010-2012 I had the pleasure to serve as President of the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter and served as program chair of many chapter meetings over the years. Most recently, I served as the scholarship chair for five years. At the national AFS level, I'm a member of FMS and the Introduced Fish Section and have hosted numerous symposia at national and western division meetings. Since 2016, I've been an active member of the AFS Fisheries Chemicals Committee and co-teach the AFS Rotenone Training Course held annually.

Involvement in AFS has been invaluable to me both personally and professionally and I'm really excited for the opportunity to serve as president-elect for FMS. With our current reality considering COVID-19,

we have all learned to conduct our jobs differently and our ability to network with other professionals can be troublesome. One of my focal areas as president would be to work on ways to keep networking opportunities active among members during uncertain times, learn from each other's successes and failures, and to make sure we continue to engage young professionals along the way.

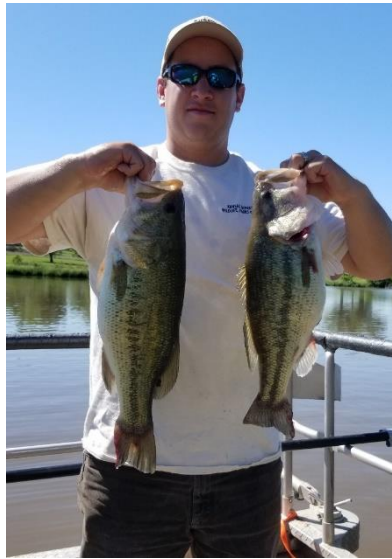
**President-Elect Candidate: Andy Jansen**



It has been a pleasure serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fisheries Management Section the past four years and I'm honored to be nominated for President. My interest in fish and fishing started at an early age fishing Iowa farm ponds for giant bluegills and living next to the Mississippi River in Dubuque. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Ecology with emphasis in fisheries and aquatic sciences from Iowa State University (ISU) in 2006. I worked on a larval yellow perch project under Dr. Dave Willis to earn my Master of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in 2008. I was hired by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in 2008 and worked as urban fisheries management biologist serving the Kansas City metropolitan area for five years. I'm now in my sixth year as a fisheries management biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources serving an eight-county area in southwest Iowa.

I have been a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) since I was student at ISU. I've been fortunate to serve several officer roles since becoming involved in AFS including President of the ISU AFS Student Subunit, President of the SDSU AFS Student Subunit, Chair of the Walleye Technical Committee, Secretary/Treasurer of the North Central Division, and I'm currently the Iowa Chapter representative for the Walleye Technical Committee. I look forward to this potential opportunity to continue to serve the members of the Fisheries Management Section!

## Secretary-Treasurer Candidate: Nick Kramer



I am extremely excited and honored to be given the opportunity to potentially serve the Fisheries Management Section as the Secretary-Treasurer. I grew up in the rolling Loess Hills of southwest Iowa, fishing farm ponds. My curiosity of how to catch the big one eventually led me to Iowa State University where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Ecology with an emphasis in fisheries and aquatic sciences in 2013. I then made my way down to Cape Girardeau to work as a crew leader monitoring Pallid Sturgeon on the Mighty Mississippi; the result of a brief encounter with Dr. Quinton Phelps in Iowa. It took him a year but he eventually convinced me to get my master's degree. I was lucky and got to study Paddlefish in the Mississippi River. I defended my thesis and graduated with a Master of Natural Science from Southeast Missouri State University in 2016. Shortly after I was hired by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism as a district fisheries biologist. I will be beginning my fifth year with KDWP this fall where I manage roughly 15,000 acres of publicly accessible water across 6 counties. In my little spare time I launched and now co-host The Fisheries Podcast, a weekly podcast that shares the stories of the amazing people and projects that make up fisheries science.

I did not truly become aware of the benefits of membership and involvement until my time as a graduate student and I have been a member since that time. In my short stint as a member, I have been a part of forming a new student subunit at Southeast Missouri State University, and becoming its second President. In that role, I led our small subunit to earn the award of Most Active Student Subunit in the North Central Division. After graduating and becoming employed in Kansas, I have shifted my involvement to the state level where I serve as the communications chair and, in some effect, a parliamentarian. I also represent Kansas as the state representative on the Reservoir Technical Committee and have begun serving on the NCD Awards Committee last year. My involvement in AFS to this point has afforded me the opportunity to be included in the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program this past year. I am excited to see where my journey with the American Fisheries Society takes me next!

## Secretary-Treasurer Candidate: Kyle Bales



I am humbled and honored to be nominated for Secretary/Treasurer of the Fisheries Management Section. I currently work for Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the Fisheries Bureau as a Natural Resources Technician II. I received my undergraduate degree from Central College in Pella, Iowa and my Master's degree from Southeast Missouri State University where I quickly realized my passion for fisheries and AFS from my mentor Quinton Phelps. Through my work experiences I have gained a variety of experiences within fisheries management. While attending Southeast Missouri State University, I worked for Missouri Department of Conservation as a Fisheries Research Biologist. In 2015, I moved to Chamberlain, South Dakota where I worked on Lake Francis Case with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. In 2017, I moved to Iowa where I started working with the Mississippi River Monitoring Station and is where I currently work today. The Monitoring Station is charged with completing the Long-Term Resource Monitoring on Pool 13 of the Mississippi River, one of the most renowned and respected monitoring programs in the country.

I have been active in many Divisions, Chapters, Sections, and Subsections. I am the Webmaster for the Iowa Chapter AFS, the Fisheries Management Section, and the Student and Early Career Professional Subsection of the Education Section. I am also the committee chair for the Early Career Professional Committee of the Fisheries Management Section. I serve as secretary/treasurer for the Iowa Chapter of American Fisheries Society. In the past, I have served as: Best Student Paper judge in 2013 and 2016; chosen abstracts for the Best Student Paper award in 2014; served as the North Central Division representative for the Student and Early Career Professional subsection; assisted with writing by-laws for NASPS student subsection. I was the founder and President of the SEMO AFS student subsection. I have also served on the Hutton Selection Committee for the last two years. I enjoy my current roles

within the Fisheries Management Section as webmaster and the Early Career Professional Chair, however, I would like to further serve the Fisheries Management Section as Secretary/Treasurer.