

Fisheries Management Section/Fisheries Administration Section

2021 Joint Meeting Session, Sunday, November 7, 2021, 10:00-11:00am

University 3

Marriott Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland

Jeff Koch provided information on a known age structure depository that is being proposed in collaboration with Marty Hamel, Dave Buckmeier, and Mark Pegg. There have been historic calls for this but action finally being taken. A survey was sent out to FMS, FAS, and Education section membership to gauge interest, support, and what structures would be volunteered and over 170 responses were received. The depository project will hopefully be funded through a multi-state conservation grant and be housed at the University of Georgia. The first phase of the project will be to use some readily available structures to develop a proof of concept before compiling additional structures. John Jackson suggested looking into NSF for funding as the project sounded like NSF funded herbarium collections.

A written update was submitted for the meeting topic of AIS Blue Ribbon Panel. To make up lost time, it was decided that this update would be attached to meeting minutes for membership review.

Doug Austen was present to provide updates for numerous projects on behalf of the parent society.

- AFS is very supportive of known age structure depository/database
- Grey literature tool will be open to all and currently has reports from 8 states
- Research web tool is in final test phase
  - Will be used to solicit symposium updates for Spokane
  - Final product will allow researchers to submit a project idea, ask questions, express interest/support. Encourages/fosters collaboration
- Research agenda panel to be held later in meeting
  - Meant to get everyone on the same page regarding research needs and direction
- Think of new projects that would be good candidates for multi-state conservation grants
- Latin American and Caribbean Fisheries Congress will be held May 2023 in Cancun
- Blue Book Update
  - Broad team working on book
  - Half way through grant being lead by state staff

Drue Winters gave an update on several policy related topics

- Co-op Funding
  - \$3 million cut proposed in presidents budget
  - AFS is working to express importance of the Co-op
- RAWA
  - 35 state co-sponsors
  - Lead Rep co-sponsor is under indictment

- No longer tied to oil and gas
  - Environmental fines are now funding source
- Concerns with fiscal responsibilities
- Call congress now to express support
- ESA issue with Senator Carper – want more funding for those species
  - SWAP focus is a concern
  - Need more stories of how SWAP will benefit
  - TX has a good plan
- Clear energy payment gone from BBB
  - Emissions will have to go from regulatory process
  - \$500 billion for climate
- WOTUS
  - AZ vacated Trump Rule
  - Science based rule in progress
  - Pre-2015 regime to define
  - Look for slates of professionals to assist on Dec 3
- Marine Aquaculture
  - Stable regulatory environment
  - Bill on the way
- Climate Fellows
  - 30 members from state agencies
  - Foundation teaching done
  - Training modules to hands-on
  - Effective presentation and knowing audience
  - Expecting outreach options
  - Ambassadors program is a two year program
  - Website and Spokane meeting are next items

Scott Bonar gave an update on the Standard Methods book during the joint meeting. He expressed appreciation and thanks to both sections for support. The first Standard Methods book is 12 years old and is used frequently by roughly 95% of agencies. The second edition will have 20 chapters written by 284 contributors. It is currently in revisions and will be ready for publishing in about a year. Scott expressed that this is not a duplicate of the previous version, but it will be reorganized a bit and also include new chapters (e.g., Great Lakes, Wetlands, Cave Systems, eDNA, Database/Statistics split). There will also be enhanced data comparison tables in the back of the book that will include ecoregion and state averages for a variety of metrics covering 49 species. This information was provided by 54 state and provincial agencies and totals 1.8 million records. Scott informed both groups that the project is currently slated to come in under budget. He voiced interest in using the difference to film a series of videos to accompany the book that would demonstrate many of the standard methods. There was some discussion that some of this was already begun by other groups, and it was agreed that videos were an important educational tool, and these groups should all work together.