April Croxton in for Leanne Roulson to give AFS President’s Report.

- 22 students plus AFS staff and Leanne attended Hutton Summit held at Montana State University Campus in Bozeman. They hope to continue in future years.
- A handful of Indigenous and HBCU activities at the Spokane meeting. Symposia on August 22 at 8 am in room 206/207. Many of these participants have a special badge to identify themselves.
- Leanne will be continuing Procedures Manual work. A special committee will be formed to work on that and Leanne will roll in to that as Past-President.

April’s Plan as President

- Work on improving society communication from top to bottom and bottom to top.
- Ensuring that DEI efforts within the society are sustainable.
- Preparing for Doug Austen’s retirement.
- Preparing for future meetings.

Doug Austen’s updates

- Latin American Caribbean Fisheries Conference – May 2023 in Cancun, Mexico
  - Never before organized
  - Hoping to form new AFS entity within that region
- World Fisheries Congress – August 2024 in Seattle, Washington
  - First time being held in North America
  - Advance planning for visa process
  - 70 nations participating in the meeting
- Future AFS meetings
  - Grand Rapids -2023
  - Honolulu – 2024
  - San Antonio – 2025
- Multi-state Conservation Grants
  - Known Age Fish database is the only current one AFS is involved in
  - Would love more involvement/proposals
  - More money out there, need more project proposals
- Publications
  - Meetings to steer direction and ensure journals are meetings needs
  - Nominations for participation in steering committee
    - Want all groups/voices covered
- Convey to Agency heads the importance of AFS
  - AFS wants more participation from state and federal agency staff
  - Doug is willing to talk to agency heads and commissions if needed
- Grey Literature Database
  - A searchable database of unpublished agency reports
  - Check it out: https://graylitreports.fisheries.org/about/
  - Submit your agency’s grey literature
- E-books Program
  - Agencies can buy a subscription for all employees

Drue Winter’s Policy Update

- Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
  - Excited about prospects
  - Passed House, Bill in senate, out of hearing/markup
• Working on pay for
  • Not a done/sure thing, need more engagement (call your senators)
  • Hoping first up after August recess
  • If doesn’t pass before elections, start from scratch due to new congress
• WOTUS
  • Filed grief, worried and tracking, looking for room for engagement
• Comment letter on Pebble Mine
• Policy and Communications program growing
  • Adelman/Bickford fund to bankroll program
    • Currently at $130K, hoping to fundraise up to $250K
  • Climate Fellows and Climate Ambassadors Program
    • Funded by NOAA and MSCG
    • One class of each has come through training
    • Next round of ambassadors starting soon with fellows following next year

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update
• Once in a lifetime type of funding
• Involves 60 programs and $2.5 billion
• Money already hitting – USFWS and NOAA funds
• Discussions on implementation – meeting at AFS August 23 at 1:20 PM

National Fish Habitat Partnership
• Filled all seats on board
• Action plan revised soon (hasn’t been since 2013)
• Moving toward implementation
• Working on reporting requirements and determining what to look for in 2025 national habitat assessment

Fish and Wildlife Service
• Assistant Director recently retired
• Communications staff is celebrating 150th anniversary of National Fish Hatchery system
  • Check out “America’s Bountiful Waters”
• NFH – wild fish health survey and aquatic animal health plan have been revamped
• AIS – EDRR framework creation
• Received money to strengthen Lacey Act
• Aquatic Animal Drug

AFS Creel Committee

Joint Awards
• FAS SFR Project Awards
  • Sport Fishery Development and Management Category
    • New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation – Evaluation of Steelhead Stocking Size and Location on Emigration and Adult Returns in Chautauqua Creek, NY.
  • Fisheries Research and Surveys Category
    • North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission – Exotic Invasive Trout Pathogens in North Carolina
  • R3/Aquatic Education
    • Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation – Operation Retention
• FMS
- Hall of Excellence
  - Rob Neumann
  - Dan Isermann
- Conservation Achievement Award
  - Nez Perce Tribe
- Award of Excellence
  - Scott Bonar