

Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – December 2024

Fish Health Section website: <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Fish Health Section Facebook Site: <https://facebook.com/FishHealthSectionAFS>

Fish Health Section on LinkedIn: Please join our newest social media network at LinkedIn Login, Sign in or search for us and ask to join.

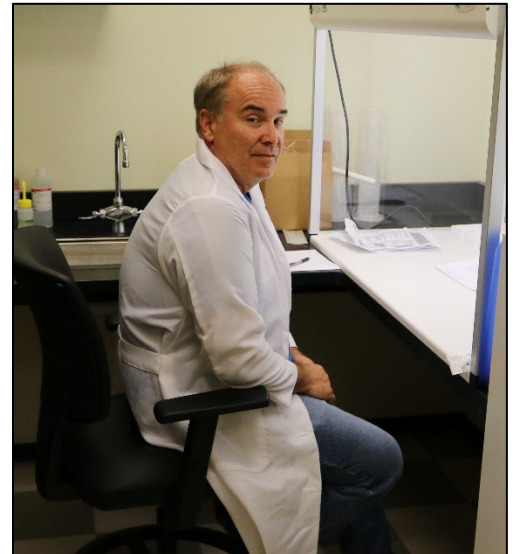
Fish Health Section Twitter feed: @AFSFishHealth

Welcome to our newest members: Brooke DeRoo, Riley Dils, Maya Groner, and Reginal Harrell. Don't forget to renew your memberships in AFS and the FHS as the new year arrives at <https://fisheries.org/membership/>.

Tribute to Joe Marcino

Joe Marcino passed away unexpectedly on November 25, 2024. His passing came as quite a shock to the fish health community as many of us had been in recent contact with him to request assistance, advice, or input on some matter or another. In his recent role as the fish pathologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) he was always willing to share his expertise and knowledge with his colleagues from around the country. Joe was always working to create, perfect, invent and hone laboratory protocols, procedures and skills. How he found the time to complete laboratory and in the field was amazing. How he managed to share his knowledge, information, resources and especially his time with his colleagues in such a genuine, open and accepting manner was even more amazing.

Joe started his academic training at the University of Idaho where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Microbiology. He also completed the Fish Health Management Training course offered at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries Academy at Leetown, West Virginia, a premier accomplishment for any fish health professional. He began his notable 38-year career at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Pathology Laboratory acting for 20 years as laboratory supervisor. He transitioned from that position into working for the Boston Scientific Corporation, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as an Aquatic Pathologist and ultimately Arizona Game and Fish.



During his career he also demonstrated a long-term commitment to the American Fisheries Society – Fish Health Section (AFS-FHS) by acting as a member of the Professional Standards Committee, Laboratory QA/QC Committee and becoming certified as an Aquatic Animal Health Inspector and Fish Pathologist. The services and time he committed to the FHS proved invaluable and Joe will be sorely missed.

The following statements from several of Joe's colleagues help to describe the appreciation we have for Joe and his time within our profession.

Tributes:

I have known Joe Marcino for at least 20 years but have had the remarkable opportunity to work directly with him over the past 11 years. I've always described Joe as a "jack of all trades" who was always willing to provide assistance for improving diagnostic assays, sharing new equipment ideas, testing new laboratory procedures, and sharing his thoughts on interesting clinical disease signs and problems from wild and hatchery fish.

During Joe's final years he basically worked as a "one man show" while serving as the AGFD fish pathologist. Most individuals would find it difficult to perform sample collections for annual inspections, diagnostics and troubleshooting unique cases but Joe somehow completed these responsibilities and found time to perform extra duties such as DNA sequencing, histology, eDNA testing and fish vaccinations. I'm not convinced there are many fish health professionals that could handle such a workload and still be such a nice and open person.

Even though Joe and I worked in different laboratories, we shared numerous bacteria, virus, parasite, tissue culture cells, and even golden algae samples for culture or for use as positive controls. Joe was always a step ahead of me. When I provided him with monoclonal/polyclonal antibodies for *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, he quickly optimized the testing assay and provided guidance. When I started working with golden algae, Joe had already established a written PCR protocol that he shared along with control samples to provide assistance. When I sent him tissue samples for histology he would prepare samples, read slides and quickly provide quality results. His knowledge and work were invaluable in my continued training and development for my work.

In recent years, Joe participated in our Friday evening fish pathology conference calls to share interesting fish health issues, observations, and new findings. Joe was one of those individuals that remembered why many of the original fish health management strategies were in place and was always willing to share this information. These discussions were not only an opportunity to learn from Joe's experiences but provided a chance to have a good laugh and build long-term friendships with other colleagues. I learned much from these talks and cherish having the opportunity to learn from Joe and become his friend. He will be missed.

I met Joe in 1985 during one of the last Midwest Fish Health Workshops in Peoria, Illinois. This was the start of my career, and I remember he was involved in the Great Lake Fisheries Committee's fish health program contributing to policy development on new and emerging fish health issues. Specifically, *R. sal.* outbreaks in landlocked fall chinook salmon, epitheliotropic disease virus (EEDV) in hatchery lake trout program, thiamine deficiency with fall chinook eggs and fry survival in the Great Lakes. Years later, we were involved in efforts to promote and develop testing for the bait fish industry since Arkansas, Minnesota and South Dakota were the leading states in the movement of these fish across state lines. The importance of this effort was further reinforced with the emergence of VHSV in the Great Lakes and the Midwest. Joe was a welcome addition to the Rocky Plains fish health group when he transferred to AGFD. He was always willing and interested in contributing to discussions for new screening methods and providing his expertise on revising the AFS-FHS Blue Book. These are just a few examples of Joe's unwavering commitment to the field of aquatic animal health, fisheries management and the FHS. His wealth of knowledge and friendship will be missed.

Joe was an avid fisherman, but I believe he was a much better bass fisherman when he was in Minnesota. I recall a fly-fishing trip in Bozeman, Montana where our outings were not always very

successful. Late afternoon thunderstorms, wind, biting horse flies and no apparent hatches seemed to be the common theme, but it never seemed to dampen Joe's enthusiasm. He always felt a good slice of pizza and a glass of wine would make these difficult fishing trips a success.

Although Joe never seemed very excited about being in the spotlight, he was always willing to voice his opinion, share his experience and was always willing to go the extra mile to provide assistance to his agency, colleagues and other fish health professionals. Joe was truly a jack of all trades, at times a one man show, a true professional in our field and ultimately a good friend who will be deeply missed.

Professional Standards Committee Update

Joe Marcino's position as Secretary for the Professional Standards Committee included organizing our Fish Pathologist (FP) and Aquatic Animal Health Inspector (AAHI) applications. The FHS is currently working to assist in collecting and reviewing all application material Joe may have received prior to his unfortunate passing. If you have recently applied for the FP or AAHI certifications and have not received final approval, please contact Wade Cavender (wadecavender@utah.gov) to review and discuss application status.

S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award Nomination Announcement



The Awards Committee would like to solicit nominations for the S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award (SDSA). The SDSA is the highest award presented by the Fish Health Section. This award is presented for the purpose of honoring individuals for outstanding accomplishments in the field of aquatic animal health. This is a career award and while it may be given to more than one individual in a year, it is not necessarily awarded every year.

Because this is a career award, candidates should have a significant number of active years in science within the finfish or shellfish health field as well as significant accomplishments which are not limited to but may include a significant number of publications, a significant number of secured grants for grad student thesis projects, administration of a successful lab, a major discovery in the field of finfish or shellfish health, and/or previous recognition by other professional societies or committees. More information about the award and previous recipients can be found [here](#).

If you wish to nominate an individual for the SDSA please send nomination packages (see requirements below) to the Awards Committee Chair (Heather Walsh, hwalsh@usgs.gov) by March 14, 2025. Awards recipient(s) will be honored at the Annual Fish Health Section Meeting.

Individuals must be nominated by a current FHS member and packages must include:

1. Six letters of recommendation from fish health professionals that support the nominee's dedication to research, teaching and/or service to the field of aquatic animal health.
2. The nominee's curriculum vitae.
3. A general letter of recommendation by the primary nominator who must be a current FHS member.

Additional guidance can be found on page 21 of the [FHS Procedures Manual](#). Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

Awards Committee

Heather Walsh, Chair

hwalsh@usgs.gov

Danielle Van Vliet, Member

dvan@utah.gov

Eileen Henderson, Member

eehenderson@ucdavis.edu

Special Achievement Award Nomination Announcement



The Awards Committee would like to solicit nominations for the Special Achievement Award. The award is presented to a Fish Health Section member or group that has made a significant accomplishment or advancement in the field of fish health. The award is for a one-time accomplishment and may be given for: (1) a unique contribution to the fish health field (such as a new diagnostic tool, a new technique to control disease, etc.), (2) a significant research accomplishment, or (3) outstanding leadership in resolving a major aquatic animal health problem. Please click [here](#) to view past recipients of this award.

If you wish to nominate an individual for the Special Achievement Award, please send nomination packages (see requirements below) to the Awards Committee Chair (Heather Walsh, hwalsh@usgs.gov) by March 14, 2025. Awards recipient(s) will be honored at the Annual Fish Health Section Meeting.

Individuals must be nominated by a current FHS member and packages must include:

1. The accomplishment.
2. The significance of the accomplishment to the field of fish health.
3. Implication of the accomplishment to aquaculture (local, regional, national, or worldwide).

Copies of any articles or supporting documents related to the work should be included in the nomination package. Nominations for the Special Achievement Award should be made within one year of the accomplishment. Additional guidance can be found on page 23 of the [FHS Procedures Manual](#).

Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

Awards Committee

Heather Walsh, Chair

hwalsh@usgs.gov

Danielle Van Vliet, Member

dvan@utah.gov

Eileen Henderson, Member

eehenderson@ucdavis.edu

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Ecology of Infectious Diseases in a Changing Ocean Course

I would like to invite you to apply to our [3-week graduate-level workshop on the ecology of infectious diseases in a changing ocean](#) at the Friday Harbor Labs, in Washington state, USA, from June 11- July 2, 2025. This course will be led by Maya Groner, and focus on learning lab, field and some modeling techniques for studying marine diseases. The approach is very hands-on (numerous field trips, and labs) and will include guest lectures from many leaders in this field (Drew Harvell, Eileen Hofmann, Colleen Burge and more). We will use eelgrass wasting disease as a model system for learning many concepts of marine disease ecology, but the lessons will be applicable to many disease systems.

Graduate students, postdocs, and exceptional undergrads and post-baccs are encouraged to apply. We have substantial scholarship funding available to offset costs. The application deadline (for priority consideration) is Feb 1.

Please reach out to Maya Groner (mgroner@bigelow.org) if you have any questions.

2nd Annual Ethics in Wildlife Medicine Symposium

Please see the attached invitation to join Pacific Region Fish Health Program for the 2nd annual Ethics in Wildlife Medicine Symposium virtually on December 6, 2024 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We are hosting a fantastic panel of international experts in White Nose Syndrome, Hawaiian monk seal disease control, California condor health response, Chronic Wasting Disease, and more!

[Registration](#) is free and open to everyone. Please share the attached flyer widely with interested colleagues, volunteers, trainees, students, and friends. The event will be held on Microsoft Teams, sign in information will be sent the week prior to the event.

American Board of
Veterinary Practitioners

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DEADLINE JAN 15



VETERINARIANS WITH THE FOLLOWING CAN APPLY

- Work with pet fish, zebrafish, aquaculture, aquarium fish and more
- 4.5-5 years experience
- 15% or more total case load

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JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research Associate

College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University

Gautier, MS

Link: <https://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/en-us/job/508559/research-associate>

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University seeks a research associate to support marine health research at the MSU Gulf Coast Aquatic Health Lab, under the Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security. This position is based in Gautier, Mississippi, with periodic travel to Starkville, Mississippi.

The successful candidate will contribute to funded research projects focusing on marine animal and ocean health, including genomic epidemiology, virome/microbiome studies, genomics, molecular biology, bioinformatics, and environmental and marine animal sample collection and analysis.

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in animal science, biochemistry, biology, bioinformatics, marine biology, microbiology, molecular biology, veterinary science, virology, or a related field. A Master's degree in epidemiology, virology, molecular biology, genomics, bioinformatics, or a related discipline with demonstrated expertise in aquatic animal health is preferred. Training or experience in marine animal health, molecular diagnostics, cell culture, or genomic techniques such as qPCR, genome assembly, transcriptome analysis, or phylogenomics is highly desirable. Additional expertise in high-performance computing (e.g., shell programming, Python programming, or artificial intelligence) and a strong record of scientific writing are also valued. The ability to collaborate effectively within a multidisciplinary team is essential.

The position is open until filled. More information can be found at MSU Jobs.

Job Number: 508559

Assistant/Associate Professor – Aquaculture and Fish Health Management

University of Idaho

Moscow, ID

Open until filled

Link: <https://uidaho.peopleadmin.com/postings/45913>

This tenure track assistant, tenure track associate or tenured associate professor will conduct research in the fields of Aquaculture and Fish Health Management, publish such research in refereed journals, present findings at professional conferences, write columns in trade journals, and write and submit proposals to extramural agencies to fund this work. Rank and tenure are negotiable based on how the candidate meets the criteria outlined in the college bylaws.

The incumbent is expected to teach approximately 6-8 credits per year at the undergraduate and graduate level according to the needs of the department and as directed by the department head, focused primarily on aquaculture and fish health. The incumbent will advise and mentor undergraduate and graduate students and supervise staff and postdoctoral fellows associated with the Aquaculture and Fish Health programs administered on-campus at the UI and within the Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI). The incumbent will provide oversight and supervision of the CNR Aquatic Animal Laboratory (AAL) and is expected to contribute to build a vibrant undergraduate program in aquaculture and fish health.

They are expected to develop collaborative relationships within the department, ARI, college and university, as well as with external entities in the Aquaculture and Fish Health fields. The incumbent is expected to participate in professional societies and conduct outreach and service activities such as workshops, grant and manuscript reviews, student recruitment, and other efforts that translate research findings to a diverse audience. They are expected to attend faculty meetings and participate in committees at the department, college and/or university level as directed by the department head and college Dean.

See attached .pdf for more details.

Zebrafish Related Job Announcements

<https://wiki.zfin.org/display/jobs/Zebrafish-Related+Job+Announcements>

RESOURCES/NEWS

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Updates are available by request:

The AADAP Updates feature news on aquaculture drugs currently in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process, AADAP programmatic updates, and aquaculture drug use guidance information. If you would like to sign up to receive the AADAP Update, please email to be paige_maskill@fws.gov added to our email listserv.

Aquaculture and Fish Health Management faculty Position at University of Idaho

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho is pleased to announce a tenure-track or tenured faculty position in the area of Aquaculture/Fish Health. The appointment may be tenure-track at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor, depending on qualifications and experience. The position will be a 9-month appointment with primary responsibilities in Research (45%), Teaching (45), Extension (5), and Service & Leadership Scholarship Outreach (5%).

Unit/Department Summary: The University of Idaho College of Natural Resources (CNR) is committed to disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs that integrate ecological, social and natural resource science and management systems. Our research, education and outreach sustain people and the land through innovative science, technology and leadership. We respect and are committed to learning about other ways of knowing and strive to embody the University of Idaho's land grant mission, especially its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. We seek staff and faculty who will contribute to our goal of increasing and maintaining the diversity of its student body, faculty, and staff to achieve U of I's land grant access mission and to support long-term, sustainable success of natural resources fields.

The University of Idaho, home of the Vandals, is Idaho's land-grant, national research university. From its residential campus in Moscow, U of I serves the state of Idaho through educational centers in Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls, nine research and Extension centers, plus Extension offices in 42 counties. Home to nearly 11,000 students statewide, U of I is a leader in student-centered learning and excels at interdisciplinary research, service to businesses and communities, and in advancing diversity, citizenship and global outreach. Learn more at uidaho.edu.

Position Description: This tenure track assistant, tenure track associate or tenured associate professor will conduct research in the fields of Aquaculture and Fish Health Management, publish such research in refereed journals, present findings at professional conferences, write columns in trade journals, and write and submit proposals to extramural agencies to fund this work. Rank and tenure are negotiable based on how the candidate meets the criteria outlined in the college bylaws.

The incumbent is expected to teach approximately 6-8 credits per year at the undergraduate and graduate level according to the needs of the department and as directed by the department head, focused primarily on aquaculture and fish health. The incumbent will advise and mentor undergraduate and graduate students and supervise staff and postdoctoral fellows associated with the Aquaculture and Fish Health programs administered on-campus at the UI and within the Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI). The incumbent will provide oversight and supervision of the CNR Aquatic Animal Laboratory (AAL) and is expected to contribute to build a vibrant undergraduate program in aquaculture and fish health.

They are expected to develop collaborative relationships within the department, ARI, college and university, as well as with external entities in the Aquaculture and Fish Health fields. The incumbent is expected to participate in professional societies and conduct outreach and service activities such as workshops, grant and manuscript reviews, student recruitment, and other efforts that

translate research findings to a diverse audience. They are expected to attend faculty meetings and participate in committees at the department, college and/or university level as directed by the department head and college Dean.

Required Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Aquaculture, Fish Health, Fisheries, Biology, Natural Resources
- Must be a current tenure track associate professor to qualify for the rank and tenure status of tenure track associate professor.
- Must be a current tenured associate professor to qualify for rank and tenure status of tenured associate professor.
- Experience competing for external funding
- Experience publishing research in refereed journals
- Experience teaching undergraduate and graduate courses
- Experience interacting with individuals through course instruction, problem solving, communication, and relationship building

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience teaching undergraduate and graduate courses
- Experience with verbal and written communication
- Experience in statistical analysis and interpretation of data
- Experience advising undergraduate students and mentoring graduate students

**Back by popular demand- Join us for the 2nd Annual
Ethics in Wildlife Medicine Symposium
with 3 FREE CE Credits
December 6, 2024 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM PDT**



**Hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Region Fish Health Program**

Does veterinary intervention interfere with the adaptation of wild animals to a rapidly changing world?



Last year over 300 veterinarians, biologists, managers, and researchers from across the globe participated in a virtual conversation about wildlife health and the challenges of managing disease in free-ranging populations. This year we're back to investigate these complex ethical and biological questions:

- Are we interfering with natural selection and preventing the evolution of traits that would allow species to survive?
- Is it ethical to risk making wild animal populations dependent on human intervention when that intervention cannot be guaranteed over the long term?
- What are the ethical implications of not treating diseases that have a clear impact on animal health and welfare?

We have gathered a panel of speakers that will look at current examples of these ethical and biological challenges and examine the human response and its implications. The international panel of presenters includes experts on White Nose Syndrome, disease threats to California condors and Hawaiian monk seals, Chronic Wasting Disease, wildlife rehabilitation, and more!

**To register for this free symposium [Click Here](#)
For more information contact: WildlifeSymposium@fws.gov**

Veterinary CE credit approval pending