

Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – February 2025

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 and returning members: Sujita Balami, James Bowker, Katherine Bradfish, Timothy Bruce, Natalie Butler, Morag Clinton, Rebecca Cook, Matea Djokic, Vitor Fernandes Silva, Jan Lovy, Robert Martinez, Jessica Matoy, Larry Pryor, Keith Tyler, Allison Wigen, Kelly Winningham, and Jason Woodland. To continue receiving the monthly newsletter, don't forget to renew your memberships by March 1st in AFS and the FHS at <https://fisheries.org/membership/>.

2025 AFS-FHS Elections

The 2025 AFS-FHS Elections will be coming up before we know it! We are hoping to get an early start on the nominating process by encouraging members to begin thinking of potential candidates for important FHS positions. The Nominating and Balloting Committee is seeking nominees for Vice President and positions on three elected committees (e.g. Nominating and Balloting, Policy/Position Development, and Professional Standards).

The nomination period will be open until early April with a formal call for nominations coming in late February/early March, but if you already have someone in mind for any of these positions, please email nominations to Amber Johnston (amber.johnston1@maine.edu). Self-nominations are also accepted! Don't miss out on the opportunity to give back to your favorite AFS Section - every nomination is helpful. We couldn't do the things we do without our volunteers!

Note: All nominees must be Fish Health Section members in good standing. Nominees for the Professional Standards Committee must be a Certified Fish Health Inspector, a Certified Fish Pathologist, or a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. More information on these positions can be found on the FHS website. <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/about/by-laws/>

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.

Searching for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Editions of the AFS FHS Blue Book

The Archive Committee is looking for early editions (prior to 1994) of the Blue Book to preserve and clarify how our current web based Blue Book came to be. If you have one of these editions and are willing to share it, we will digitize it and return it to you. Or you can donate it to us so that we may archive it at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives.

Please contact any member of the Archive Committee if you can help!

Matt Stinson mstinson@nwifc.org
Susan Marcquenski smarcquenski@yahoo.com
Beth Peterman aep9@msstate.edu

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

Danielle Van Vliet, Member

Eileen Henderson, Member

hwalsh@usgs.gov

dvan@utah.gov

eehenderson@ucdavis.edu

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES



EASTERN FISH HEALTH WORKSHOP
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
March 17-21, 2025

MONDAY

Evening Detective Session
Heavy Apps, Aquatic Detective Session

TUESDAY

Full Day: Special Sessions
includes: Breakfast, Breaks, Lunch

WEDNESDAY

Full Day: Special Sessions
includes: Breakfast, Breaks, Lunch

THURSDAY

Full Day: General Session
includes: Breakfast, Breaks, Lunch
Banquet Dinner

FRIDAY

Optional RACE CE Session
includes: Breakfast, Breaks, Lunch
(additional registration)

More Info: EFHW.org

Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium

June 12th, 2025 at SUNY Oswego

with optional pre-symposium workshops on June 11th, at SUNY Oswego Rice Creek Field Station

Save
the
Date



**INVASIVE SPECIES
MANAGEMENT**

SAINT LAWRENCE
EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO
SLELO PRISM

[View as Webpage](#)

Call For Abstracts & Exhibits

SLELO PRISM is inviting abstracts for presentations and requests for exhibits to be held at our Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium on June 12th, 2025, at SUNY Oswego's Sheldon Ballroom in Oswego, NY.

The Symposium provides an opportunity to share your expertise, connect with field professionals, and expand your knowledge of invasive species management. This is a free event that is well attended attracting invasive species management and conservation professionals from state and non-state agencies as well as the public.

This year's theme is Adaptive Approaches for Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species Management, with a focus on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Climate Change, and Restoring Biodiversity.

Submission categories include a 20-minute presentation, a lightning round presentation, an exhibit, or poster.

The deadline for submission is 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 23rd, 2025. Early submissions are highly encouraged, as reviews will be conducted on a rolling basis.

[Submit an Abstract or Exhibit Request](#)

[View Past Symposium Speakers & Agendas.](#)

Contact for Questions

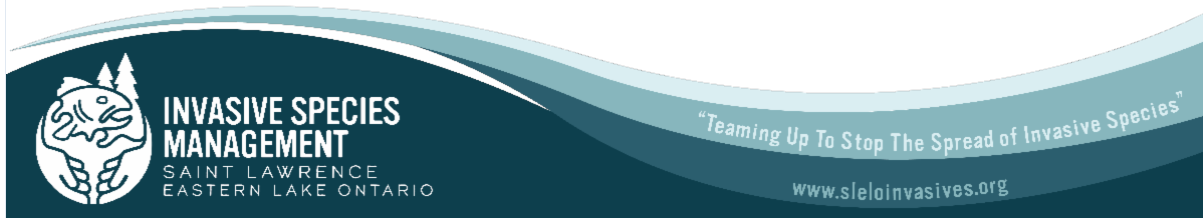
Megan Pistolet-Shaw
SLELO PRISM

Education, Outreach, and Communications Coordinator

megan.pistolet@tnc.org

315-522-1258

sleloinvasives.org



JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Fish Health Specialist

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Corvallis, OR

Closes March 4th, 2025

Link: https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SOR_External_Career_Site/job/Corvallis--ODFW--Fish-Health/Natural-Resource-Specialist-3--Fish-Health-Specialist- REQ-175233

As a Natural Resource Specialist 3 (Fish Health Specialist) in Corvallis, Oregon, you will work to promote the health of Oregon's fish resources and prevent and control fish diseases and fish losses. As a professional medical diagnostician-practitioner, you will:

- Determine the cause of fish losses in public hatcheries and in naturally reared fish populations
- Recommend appropriate therapy or changes in fish culture practices to prevent and control diseases.

- Conduct fish health examinations, diagnostic necropsies, and facility inspections for biosecurity.
- Prepare fish health activity summaries for the necessary reports to internal departments and external cooperating agencies.
- Collect, analyze, and interpret microbiological analysis of fish tissues for pathogens.
- Prepare risk assessments considering fish health when there is proposed transfer or importation of fish or eggs or when passing fish above barriers.

Internships

Riverance

Buhl, ID

Link: <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Details/2986679/Riverance-Holdings-LLC/Multitrack-Aquaculture-Internship>

Are you a student looking for summer experience and learning opportunities in aquaculture? Riverance offers paid internships (housing also available!) in tracks focusing on general aquaculture, R&D, food science, and administration. All interns will have an opportunity to work directly with Riverance's fish health team and gain experience in practical fish health management in intensive aquaculture. Submit your application (link below) today!

Wildlife Specialist Supervisor – Fish Health Program Manager

Arizona Game and Fish

Phoenix, AZ

Come join the Aquatics Team at AZGFD! Our Aquatic Wildlife Branch has five primary programs and multiple sub-programs dedicated to the management and restoration of sport fish and native fish populations, a robust sport fish stocking program, operation and fish production at six hatcheries, assessment and enhancement of aquatic habitats, management and containment of Aquatic Invasive Species, fish health monitoring and analyses, and water quality monitoring and rapid response to water quality issues.

We are currently recruiting for the Fish Health Program Manager position, which will manage and supervise the state's fish health program. Responsibilities include conducting fish health inspections and analyses, and verifying certifications at Department hatcheries and prior to importing, stocking, and/or transferring wild fish. Makes recommendations on treatment of diseases at hatcheries, coordinates medication requests with the Department veterinarian, and oversees treatments. Conducts eDNA analyses for aquatic invasive species identification or species of management interest. The position is the main point of contact for Arizona on all fish health concerns, questions, and informational needs, and works regularly with many other state, federal, NGO's, and private customers on jurisdictional and regulative fish health matters. Maintains AFS FHS Tier 1 laboratory certification. Establishes and maintains protocols and procedures following quality assurance and quality control guidelines. Reviews scientific publications pertinent to fish health to remain current on pathogens and testing methodologies. Supervises one employee.

See attached .pdf for details.

Open Rank Professor of Microbiology / Director of Aquatic Animal Health Lab

Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR

Link: <https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/postings/164010>

The faculty member in this position will direct the John Fryer Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory (<https://aahl.microbiology.oregonstate.edu/>), establish and sustain an independent research program by conducting original research in an area of microbiology related to climate change and aquatic animal health through external funding, publishing original research in peer-reviewed journals, teaching and mentoring graduate, professional, and undergraduate students; and providing institutional and professional service including service related to interdisciplinary scholarship, student success, and diversity. We are especially interested in candidates with research programs focused on bacterial or viral impacts on aquatic animal health.

This position is joint between the College of Agricultural Sciences and the College of Science. At OSU, we have an institution-wide commitment to diversity and multiculturalism, and we are intentional about providing a welcoming atmosphere and inclusive professional opportunities.

Please see attached .pdf for more information.

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.



WILDLIFE SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR STATEWIDE

“Fish Health Program Manager”

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION / AQUATIC BRANCH / PHOENIX, AZ BASED

FLSA-EXEMPT / SALARY GRADE 24 / Hiring Salary Range \$56,098-\$95,000

REQUISITION #530859 / CLOSE DATE: 03/12/2025

Join the only state agency in Arizona responsible for conserving and protecting more than 800 wildlife species. Be part of a passionate group of people who want to make a positive impact on outdoor recreation in Arizona by managing resources for safe, compatible opportunities for current and future generations. From fishing, boating and off-highway vehicle use to shooting sports, hunting and wildlife watching, Arizona Game and Fish supports it all. Our biologists use the best available science in their management actions, and our wildlife managers are on the ground in your communities making a difference every day. Opportunities abound beyond the field at AZGFD, so check us out and see what we're all about! Consider joining our workforce today. AZGFD celebrates the diversity of Arizona's people, landscapes and of course, wildlife. However you choose to enjoy Arizona's wildlife and wild places, the outdoors is open for all.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department manages fish and wildlife in Arizona and under the authority of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, creates and implements scientific methods and regulations to effectively manage fish and wildlife habitat via conservation, enforcement, hunting, fishing, watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation, and shooting sports. The Arizona Game and Fish Department dedicates itself to excellence, values its employees and supports a culture of stewardship, teamwork and partnerships.

Description of Duties: Come join the Aquatics Team at AZGFD! Our Aquatic Wildlife Branch has five primary programs and multiple sub-programs dedicated to the management and restoration of sport fish and native fish populations, a robust sport fish stocking program, operation and fish production at six hatcheries, assessment and enhancement of aquatic habitats, management and containment of Aquatic Invasive Species, fish health monitoring and analyses, and water quality monitoring and rapid response to water quality issues.

We are currently recruiting for the Fish Health Program Manager position, which will manage and supervise the state's fish health program. Responsibilities include conducting fish health inspections and analyses, and verifying certifications at Department hatcheries and prior to importing, stocking, and/or transferring wild fish. Makes recommendations on treatment of

An equal opportunity, reasonable accommodations employer, the Arizona Game and Fish Department complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you need accommodation in the employment process or this document in an alternative format, please contact our office at (623) 236-7326 or TTY 1-800-367-8939, prior to the closing date of the job in which you are interested. The Arizona Game & Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor. We stand in support of equality for and advancement of all people based on their qualifications and actions alone without regard to color, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability.



diseases at hatcheries, coordinates medication requests with the Department veterinarian, and oversees treatments. Conducts eDNA analyses for aquatic invasive species identification or species of management interest. The position is the main point of contact for Arizona on all fish health concerns, questions, and informational needs, and works regularly with many other state, federal, NGO's, and private customers on jurisdictional and regulative fish health matters. Maintains AFS FHS Tier 1 laboratory certification. Establishes and maintains protocols and procedures following quality assurance and quality control guidelines. Reviews scientific publications pertinent to fish health to remain current on pathogens and testing methodologies. Supervises one employee.

Major duties may include:

- Coordinate with other Department staff on prioritization and implementation of fish health activities.
- Perform annual fish disease inspections of State Fish Hatcheries and wild fish populations and ARCC and subsequent analyses (virology, bacteriology, parasitology, molecular assays).
- Establish and maintain protocols and procedures following quality assurance and quality control guidelines.
- Diagnose disease epizootics in State Fish Hatcheries and in wild fish that live in Arizona waters.
- Recommend changes to rearing methods, course of treatment (primarily chemical or medicated feed), to reduce/eliminate current diseases and to prevent future outbreaks.
- Triploidy testing.
- Serve as the key technical contact with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife, Tribal governments, state agencies, and various partners to plan, develop and carry out all work and activities associated with the State Fish Health Laboratory.
- Serve as a liaison with the State Veterinarian on fish health matters and egg importation requests.
- Participate in national fish health activities and work groups.
- Develop memorandums of understanding, Intergovernmental agreements, and cooperative agreements.
- Develop and conduct eDNA sampling and testing for aquatic invasive species identification, fish species, amphibian, reptile detection, and confirmation of various fish pathogens (existing and exotic).
- Establish criteria for determining positive or negative results. Establish and maintain protocols and procedures following quality assurance and quality control guidelines.
- Provide recommendations to Department staff for the importation and stocking of fish.

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- Review associated health certificates for completeness and accuracy.
- Maintain a process for internal review of proposed fish or egg importations.
- Attend, participate and present research at professional meetings and training workshops.
- Review scientific publications pertinent to fish health to remain current on pathogens and testing methodologies.
- Works to maintain AFS FHS certification as a Quality Assurance/Quality Control approved laboratory.
- Prepare correspondence, briefing memorandum, reports, presentations, publication, and policy, rule and legislation recommendations at a statewide level.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: The candidate will have knowledge of personnel management/supervision rules/regulations; interpersonal relations techniques; strategic planning processes and application; budget administration; federal, state and local agency role and function relative to wildlife management; aquaculture; southwest ecosystems; fisheries biology and ecology; application of management and conservation principles/concepts; frog and snake biology, ecology and management; fisheries and aquaculture investigation techniques and collection procedures; analysis and interpretation of field collected data; water quality and habitat requirements; scientific grammar and writing techniques; correspondence; vehicle, watercraft and other equipment operation, safety and maintenance; environmental compliance procedures; NEPA, ESA, mitigation development and reporting; Endangered Species Act regulations and policies; in fish diseases, immunology and genetics. The candidate will be skilled in decision-making; oral, verbal, and written communications; organization; time management; data gathering and techniques in field and laboratory setting; multitasking; molecular biology, virology, bacteriology, and parasitology and associated laboratory equipment. The candidate will have the ability to adapt to constantly changing priorities and work assignments; negotiate; organize, plan for and coordinate complex projects; engage internal and external partners; work independently or in a group environment; demonstrate leadership and promote a positive work environment.

The preferred candidate will have: Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine (DVM), American Fisheries Society (AFS) certified Fish Health Pathologist, and/or AFS certified Aquatic Animal Health.

Bachelor's degree in fisheries, microbiology, molecular biology or similar is required.

Employment is also contingent upon completion of a post-offer medical/physical examination and the agency's ability to reasonably accommodate any restrictions.

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If this position requires driving or the use of a vehicle as an essential function of the job, then the following requirements apply. Any employee operating a motor vehicle on State business must possess and retain a current, valid class-appropriate driver's license, complete all required training, and successfully pass all necessary driver's license record checks. The license must be current, unexpired, and neither revoked or suspended. Employees who drive on state business are subject to driver's license record checks, must maintain acceptable driving records, and must complete all required driver training. An employee who operates a personally owned vehicle on state business shall maintain the statutorily required liability insurance (see Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R2-10-207.11).

All newly hired employees will be subject to the E-Verify Employment Eligibility Verification program.

Our work environment offers training opportunities and encourages career development.

The State of Arizona offers an outstanding comprehensive benefits package including:

- * 13 days' of vacation
- * 12 sick days
- * 10 paid holidays
- * Participation in the nationally recognized Arizona State Retirement System
- * Superior health care options
- * Vision care, dental care, pharmacy benefits, and flexible spending account (options available)
- * Life, long-term disability, and short-term disability insurance options are available
- * Many more benefit programs are available

An Equal Employment Opportunity Agency

**TO APPLY CLICK ON TO AZSTATEJOBS.GOV
CLICK SEARCH FOR JOBS, SELECT GAME AND FISH DEPT FROM AGENCY DROPDOWN**

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