

# Fish Health Section



## FHS NEWS – March 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:** Alvin Camus, Amy Long, Anita Kelly, Ashley Powell, Bradley Richardson, Brady Yokom, Chris French, Dillon VanDemortel, Dusan Palic, Ellen Lark, Isabelle Danforth, James Thompson, James Tuttle, James Winton, John Howe, Ken Cain, Kris Dey, Laila Brubaker, Laurel Sacco, Logan Collom, Matthew Bodnar, Megan Schall, Paul Niehaus, Rebecca Miller, Samantha Rae, Stephanie Warnement, Stephen Pyecroft, Tammie Pearce, Trista Becker, and Tyson Fehringer. To continue receiving the monthly newsletter, please renew your memberships 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](mailto: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/>

## 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](mailto:hwalsh@usgs.gov)) by April 18, 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  
Danielle Van Vliet, Member  
Eileen Henderson, Member

[hwalsh@usgs.gov](mailto:hwalsh@usgs.gov)  
[dvan@utah.gov](mailto:dvan@utah.gov)  
[eehenderson@ucdavis.edu](mailto: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](mailto:hwalsh@usgs.gov)) by April 18, 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](mailto:hwalsh@usgs.gov)

Danielle Van Vliet, Member

[dvan@utah.gov](mailto:dvan@utah.gov)

Eileen Henderson, Member

[eehenderson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eehenderson@ucdavis.edu)

### **Snieszko Student Travel Award Announcement**

The FHS Awards Committee is soliciting applications for Snieszko Student Travel Awards, which will award money to student members of the AFS-FHS to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting of the FHS and Western Fish Disease Workshop June 23rd – 27th in Bozeman, Montana. The amount of money to be awarded and the number of travel awards will be announced later. Previous recipients of the Snieszko Student Travel Awards can be found [here](#).



Students must be members of the AFS-FHS to be eligible and must submit the following information in their application packet:

1. Letter of application and statement of any special financial circumstances (i.e. not supported by a stipend, etc.)
2. Curriculum vitae
3. **Two** letters of recommendation
4. Itemized budget on how money is to be spent, i.e. travel, meals, lodging and registration
5. Copy of abstract of paper to be presented

### **Applications will be judged on:**

1. Quality of abstract
2. Significance of the research
3. Academic achievement
4. Professional achievement
5. Financial need

Completed applications need to be emailed to the Awards Committee Chair (Heather Walsh, [hwalsh@usgs.gov](mailto:hwalsh@usgs.gov)) by **May 23, 2025**.

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](mailto:hwalsh@usgs.gov)

[dvan@utah.gov](mailto:dvan@utah.gov)

[eehenderson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eehenderson@ucdavis.edu)

The Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society represents fish biologists, diagnosticians, researchers, aquaculturists, veterinarians, administrators, and others involved in fish health. We represent many fields of expertise, but we all have an interest in fish and their welfare. Aquaculture is an essential tool for food production, fisheries conservation and management. Animal welfare can be a contentious, charged topic, but fish health and well-being are nonetheless vital to successful aquaculture. To stem the tide of misinformation and provide practitioners with actionable information, the FHS has created an infographic highlighting the principles of functional welfare and how they are applied in aquaculture.

## Aquaculture and Animal Welfare



Fish Health Section of the  
American Fisheries Society

<https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

### Aquaculture supports food security and conservation

The human population is expected to increase to 10 billion by 2050

Traditional land-based agriculture occupies more than half of all developed land and uses more than 70% of the world's fresh water resources

Consumption of aquatic foods (excluding algae) has been increasing by 3% annually since 1981 and is expected to grow by an additional 15% by 2030

Most fish stocks are fully exploited, overfished, or in recovery from overfishing and cannot withstand additional harvest pressure

Rising ocean temperatures are affecting the distribution and abundance of fish stocks, and the most productive waters are experiencing acidification

Aquaculture is critically needed to close the seafood gap and support fisheries conservation and recovery efforts

### Animal welfare benefits

- Reduced stress and risk of disease
- Faster and more efficient growth
- Enhanced post-release survival and conservation outcomes
- Greater product quality and profitability
- Greater consumer satisfaction

### Animal welfare is best addressed by mindful husbandry



Physical environment should be suited to the animal and support health



Handling should be limited to minimize stress and reduce the potential for physical damage



Health management should emphasize preventative measures and judicious treatment to support recovery from disease



Feed should provide suitable nutrition for each life stage, supporting health and performance



Breeding should always consider health and welfare as performance traits



Harvest or otherwise dispatching aquatic animals must be rapid and effective

### Aquaculture offers many environmental benefits

Aquatic animals are more efficient at converting feed into protein for human consumption than terrestrial livestock

Nearly 2/3 of global aquaculture production is composed of low trophic level, freshwater species such as carp and catfish that require relatively little in terms of feed inputs

Aquaculture operations typically have smaller carbon footprints than terrestrial livestock farms and require less land and fresh water per unit protein produced

Oysters (and other bivalves) are filter feeders that clarify the water as they feed. Restoring and farming shellfish beds improves water quality, provides habitat for smaller organisms, and can help prevent shoreline erosion

New technologies for aquaculture that integrate and model topography, currents, and nutrient flow are helping to inform decisions that expand sustainable aquaculture while minimizing potential environmental impacts of marine farms

Land-based aquaculture based on water reuse technologies is one of the fastest growing segments of food production

### For more information



Aquaculture Supports a Sustainable Earth



The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action



The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022. Towards Blue Transformation



Future of the Nation's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The Challenges We Face in 2017 and Beyond.

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Water Quality Section President Jonathan Leiman and other leaders of the WQS of AFS are putting together [a symposium for the AFS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas August 10-14, 2025](#) on the overlap in workflow among water quality professionals and fisheries professionals.

To increase literacy among fisheries professionals about the Clean Water Act, they are seeking contributors to speak on the interplay of fish health/ecotoxicology and the Clean Water Act in their workflow. The goal is to try to make it easier for water quality and fisheries professionals to communicate. They are trying to get contributors that can speak anecdotally about their workflow, so the connections are more relatable across disciplines, and especially to students and early career professionals.

The abstract of the symposium and perspectives the WQS is trying to bring to the forefront at the meeting are below. **The ABSTRACT DEADLINE is April 15, 2025.**

Fish Health Section members that are interested in participating are encouraged to submit an abstract or to contact President Leiman at [AFSWQSPresident@gmail.com](mailto:AFSWQSPresident@gmail.com) for more information.

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### **Symposium Title:**

Linking fisheries and Clean Water Act programmatic information and numerical data for improved water quality management

### **Symposium Abstract:**

The Clean Water Act supports a variety of designated uses, with fisheries being one of the most pronounced in terms of ecological and socio-economic value. Therefore, administrators of the Clean Water Act have an interest in identifying linkages between water quality management frameworks and techniques used by natural resource agencies to manage fisheries for commercial, recreational, and conservation values. Coupling water quality and fisheries management to achieve better endpoints can be done by identifying: (1) regulatory initiatives like toxins in fish tissue and permits, (2) indicator species like aquatic invertebrates, and (3) data generated by water quality and biological monitoring. This symposium will seek to cultivate these three links between Clean Water Act administrators and fisheries professionals.

### **Outline of perspectives:**

1. Association of Clean Water Administrators
2. State Regulator/Clean Water Act Administrators
3. Water Authorities/Utilities
4. National Rural Water Association
5. Environmental Finance Centers
6. NPDES
7. TMDL
8. Water Reuse
9. Ecotoxicology
10. Threatened and Endangered Species



**2025 Joint 31st Aquatic Drug Approval Coordination Workshop,  
64th Western Fish Disease Workshop  
and Annual AFS Fish Health Section Meeting**

We are excited to host a triple joint meeting this year! Please join your fish health colleagues to share your research and current projects in Bozeman, Montana June 23rd - 27th. Registration is now open!

*Important Dates*

Early bird registration closes: **May 2nd**, 2025

Late registration closes: **May 26th**, 2025

Abstract submission closes: **May 2nd**, 2025

Lodging room block ends: **May 20th**, 2025

Snieszko Student Travel Award applications close: **May 23rd**, 2025

Please visit the [meeting webpage](#) for more information, including Schedule At A Glance, Continuing Education Workshop and Lodging.



[FHS Annual Meeting | AFS Fish Health Section](#)

2025 FHS, Western Fish Disease Workshop and Annual Aquaculture Drug Approval Coordination Workshop. Bozeman, Montana June 23 rd – 27 th Hosted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service And AFS – Fish Health Section Organizing Committee Ken Staigmiller, Marilyn Blair, Lacey Hopper, Shane Ramee, and Sascha Hallett

[units.fisheries.org](http://units.fisheries.org)

Your organizing committee: [Ken Staigmiller](#), [Marilyn "Guppy" Blair](#), [Lacey Hopper](#), [Shane Ramee](#), and [Sascha Hallett](#)

# 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

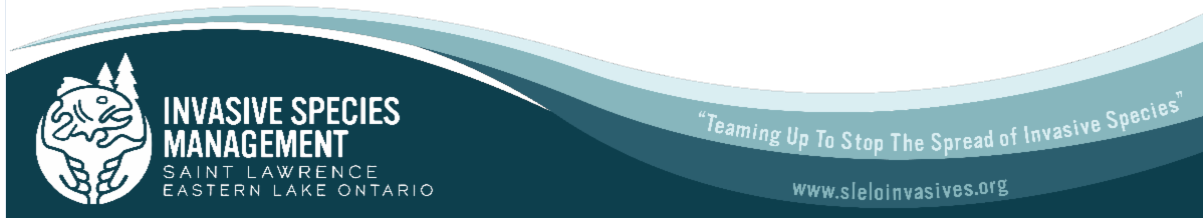
**Megan Pistoiese-Shaw**  
**SLELO PRISM**

**Education, Outreach, and Communications Coordinator**

[megan.pistoiese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistoiese@tnc.org)

**315-522-1258**

[sleloinvasives.org](http://sleloinvasives.org)



## **JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS**

### **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 above) today!

### **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](mailto:paige_maskill@fws.gov) added to our email listserv.

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