

Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – May 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: Paige Ackerman, Julie Alexander, Joel Bader, Vicki Blazer, Marcus Bole, Erika Brigante, Jim Burris, Gary Byrne, Devin Chappell, Ryan Craig, Nilanjana Das, Giovana Di Santis, Christopher Dungan, Noha Elbana, Barbara Evans, Joy Evered, Benjamin Fairbanks, Sarah Flores, Sally Gee, Eleanor Glahn, Matt Griffin, MD Inja Mamun Haque, Nora Hickey, Thomas Jones, Amanda Jones, Thomas Loch, Malina Loehner, Jessie Ma, Maria Muller Formico, Mark Polinski, Aimee Reed, Mia Reed, Sean Roon, Eric Schott, Alexandra Schwaab, Karl Seitz, Amanda Sheehy, Pedro Viadanna, Jamie Villa, E. Scott Weber, Chelsea Weeks, Sarah Williamson, and Ethan Woodyard. To continue receiving the monthly newsletter, please renew your memberships in AFS and the FHS at <https://fisheries.org/membership/>.

2025 AFS FHS Elections starting Tuesday, May 27th!

The time has come to vote in the 2025 AFS FHS Elections! Elections will open Tuesday, May 27th, and remain open until **Friday, June 13th**.

A few things to know:

- Ballots will be distributed via Survey Monkey from tih33@msstate.edu. **If you do not receive a ballot by May 28th, please check your junk/spam folder! Ballots are very likely to be filtered as spam.**
- To open the full survey, click on one of the candidates in the email body. Note you can still modify your vote after clicking to open the survey.
- Only one nominee may be selected per position
- You can preview biosketches for all nominees [here](#)
- Help make the AFS FHS the best it can be by making your voice heard - member participation is what makes the FHS great!
- Friends don't let friends miss the AFS FHS elections. Remind your AFS FHS friends and colleagues to vote between May 28th and June 13th!
- If you/your colleagues have not received ballots, please ensure your membership is up-to-date!

Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2025 AFS FHS Elections. As always, if you have any general questions regarding the 2025 elections, please reach out to the Nominating and Balloting Committee Chair (amber.johnston1@maine.edu).

We look forward to sharing the election results at the AFS FHS Business Meeting held during the joint Western Fish Disease Workshop/AADAP Workshop/AFS-FHS Annual Meeting!


Cheers-

The 2025 Nominating and Balloting Committee

Amber Johnston (Chair)
Alison Johnson (2nd Year)
Nisha Shrestha (1st Year)
Wade Cavender (Past-President)

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 1961 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 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

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

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



**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.

Federal colleagues - The organizing committee for the upcoming joint fish health meetings in Bozeman recognize that this is a particularly challenging time to plan travel for workshops/conferences etc. As such, you will not be charged a late fee for registering after the Early Bird registration closes. Please quote the Early Bird registration fee in your approval requests, and if you register after May 2nd, please use the code **FEDERAL2025** to retain that rate. We hope this small gesture helps you plan.



[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

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

6th Short Course in Toxicologic Pathology in Fish

July 22 – 24, 2025

Lectures by Dr. Jeff Wolf (EPL, US), Prof. Heike Schmidt-Posthaus (Univ. Bern, CH), Prof. em. Helmut Segner (Univ. Bern, CH), Dr. Lisa Baumann (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, NL), Prof. Thomas Braunbeck (Univ. Heidelberg, D) and Dr. Dave Groman (Univ. Prince Edward Island, CA)

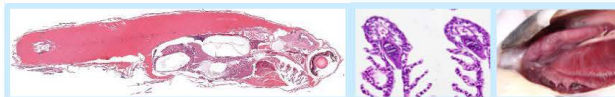


Training in Toxicopathological methods and in the Diagnosis of Toxicopathologic lesions in fish

Significant emphasis is on "hands-on" practical training and on the diagnosis of histopathological features in fish tissues

Designed for PhD students, researchers and technicians using histopathology in toxicological studies

Max. 20 on-site participants; hybrid format:
Lectures can also be followed online *via* Zoom



The course covers various uses and applications of histopathology in fish toxicological studies in the field and in the laboratory:

- methodological considerations,
- commonalities and differences between toxicopathic and infectious lesions,
- regulatory applications

Topics will be

- design and evaluation of histopathological studies,
- importance of quality control,
- (zebra)fish embryo histology,
- transgenic models,
- histopathology in bio-monitoring,
- histopathology in endocrine disruptor testing,
- stereology and AI-based methods in toxicopathology,
- neoplastic changes in marine and freshwater species,
- transgenerational studies,
- practical exercises (incl. case studies of participants)

Contact & Registration

Contact local organizer: Prof. Thomas Braunbeck, Centre for Organismal Studies, Im Neuenheimer Feld 504, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany (braunbeck@uni-hd.de).

On-site participation (includes parts of meals):
regular € 350, students € 300

Virtual participation (excludes hands-on training):
regular € 250, students € 200

We are pleased to invite you to the
**22nd International Conference of Diseases of
Fish and Shellfish**

**Organised by the European Association of Fish
Pathologists**

**Conference dates: 1st to 4th of September 2025, Heraklion, Crete,
Greece**

Registration is now open!

Abstract submission deadline: 8th May

Early bird registration until 27th June

Check out our programme, keynotes, workshops, and social events
here: <https://eafp2025.org/>
and in the attached flyer

See you in Heraklion!



JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

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.