

Approved President's Plan of Work

Dan Brauch
August 2021 – August 2022

Preamble

The WDAFS president's plan of work should be consistent with the AFS and WDAFS mission and vision (provided below).

AFS MISSION: The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

AFS VISION: To address our mission, AFS needs to advance fisheries knowledge and strive to be the home society for all fisheries disciplines. In that pursuit, AFS seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of AFS professional certification.

WDAFS MISSION:

The mission of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society is to: 1) improve the conservation and sustainability of unique fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in western North America by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals, and 2) serving as an effective bridge between the Society and Chapters within the Western Division, promoting communication among and support of the Chapters and membership, and being the American Fisheries Society's representative to the public in western North America.

WDAFS VISION:

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society seeks to be recognized as the pre-eminent organization providing fisheries information to decision makers in all arenas of western North America. While fulfilling our vision, we will recruit and develop new fisheries professionals by offering learning and training opportunities crucial to maintaining a well-trained profession, support programs and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of American Fisheries Society professional certification.

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1. Execute a successful AFS Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington, August 2022
 - a. Help facilitate meeting planning by effectively participating with the meeting planning team (AFS, WD, and WA-BC Chapter staff).
 - b. Assist in developing an exciting program that engages membership in the meeting by utilizing diverse opportunities for participation, including in-person and virtual components.
 - c. Explore ways to engage non-AFS fisheries organizations (e.g., fishing clubs, conservation fisheries groups, and commercial anglers) and the public in the meeting (e.g., evening session).
2. Financial Sustainability
 - a. Work with Financial Sustainability Committee to use WDAFS Financial Sustainability Plan and investment policy to insure long term funding for WDAFS.
 - b. Develop annual budget that is adequately funded to support the WDAFS mission while insuring long term viability of the Division.
 - c. Work to fund priority projects (D&I Initiatives, Professional Growth Opportunities) by prioritizing in budget.
3. Support professional growth of WDAFS members
 - a. Take advantage of virtual tools that membership has grown more accustomed to during 2020 and 2021 and develop future programs that can provide improved opportunities for professional growth (workshops associated or not-associated with Annual Meeting, hybrid Annual Meeting components, etc), especially for members of chapters who may find travel more difficult.
 - b. Continue to support travel for in-person attendance of AFS/WDAFS Annual Meeting for both members and officers while using travel grants to encourage travel by diverse membership.
 - c. Look for opportunities to improve participation by members of underrepresented groups through continued work with ECP and D&I Committees and Student Representative.
4. Serve as an effective bridge between the Society and Western Division Chapters
 - a. Represent chapter and WDAFS issues to AFS Governing Board and Management Committee.
 - b. Communicate AFS issues and opportunities to WDAFS Executive Committee.

- c. Complete WDAFS annual report as part of AFS reporting.
- 5. Maintain and enhance communication among WDAFS officers, WDAFS committees, and chapters through monthly calls and other appropriate means and to members through the Tributary, website, listserv, social media, and presentations:
 - a. Schedule and host productive monthly conference calls.
 - b. Provide opportunity for discussion of future challenges and multi-way communication and problem solving.
 - c. Increase use, exposure, and relevancy of the Tributary and WDAFS website.
 - d. Provide content for social media distribution.
 - e. Explore ways to improve effectiveness of officer participation at chapter meetings. Tailor presentations of WDAFS officers to Chapters by determining what communication and style is most beneficial to each unique chapter.
- 6. Support and engage WDAFS committees
 - a. Work with committees to help them develop work plans that are helping to advance Division mission.
 - b. Facilitate communication by continuing tradition of ExCom participation in committees and encourage participation by committee chairs in Tributary, monthly calls, and website.
 - c. Encourage committee input in development of presidential plan of work for upcoming year
 - d. Revisit what we are expecting from WD membership committee.
- 7. Support new opportunities for all members to be represented by Western Division through support of new Hawaii and Pacific Islands Chapter or by inclusion within existing Chapters (Yukon Territories, Mexico).
- 8. Look for opportunities to engage with non-AFS fisheries related organizations (e.g., fishing clubs, conservation fisheries groups, and commercial anglers) and to incorporate components at Annual Meeting or with chapters who are interested in increasing involvement with fisheries organizations normally less affiliated with AFS.
- 9. Continue to work with D&I Committee to implement recommendations to elevate the visibility and participation of historically marginalized groups through the following actions:
 - a. Continue to integrate DEI into WD Governance.
 - b. Encourage modeling of inclusive behaviors.
 - c. Support and advocate for initiatives that educate and engage membership, such as D&I symposia at meetings, workshops, and training.
 - d. Increase access and inclusion at annual meeting through working to invite diverse plenary speakers and soliciting feedback pre- and post- meeting.

- e. Where appropriate, consider incorporation of DEI criteria (e.g. “fosters a diverse and inclusive culture in the fisheries community) in selection of WD individual award recipients.
- f. Encourage chapters to also incorporate relevant recommendations for promoting inclusion and achieving goals for increased racial and gender representation in membership, meeting attendance, and leadership