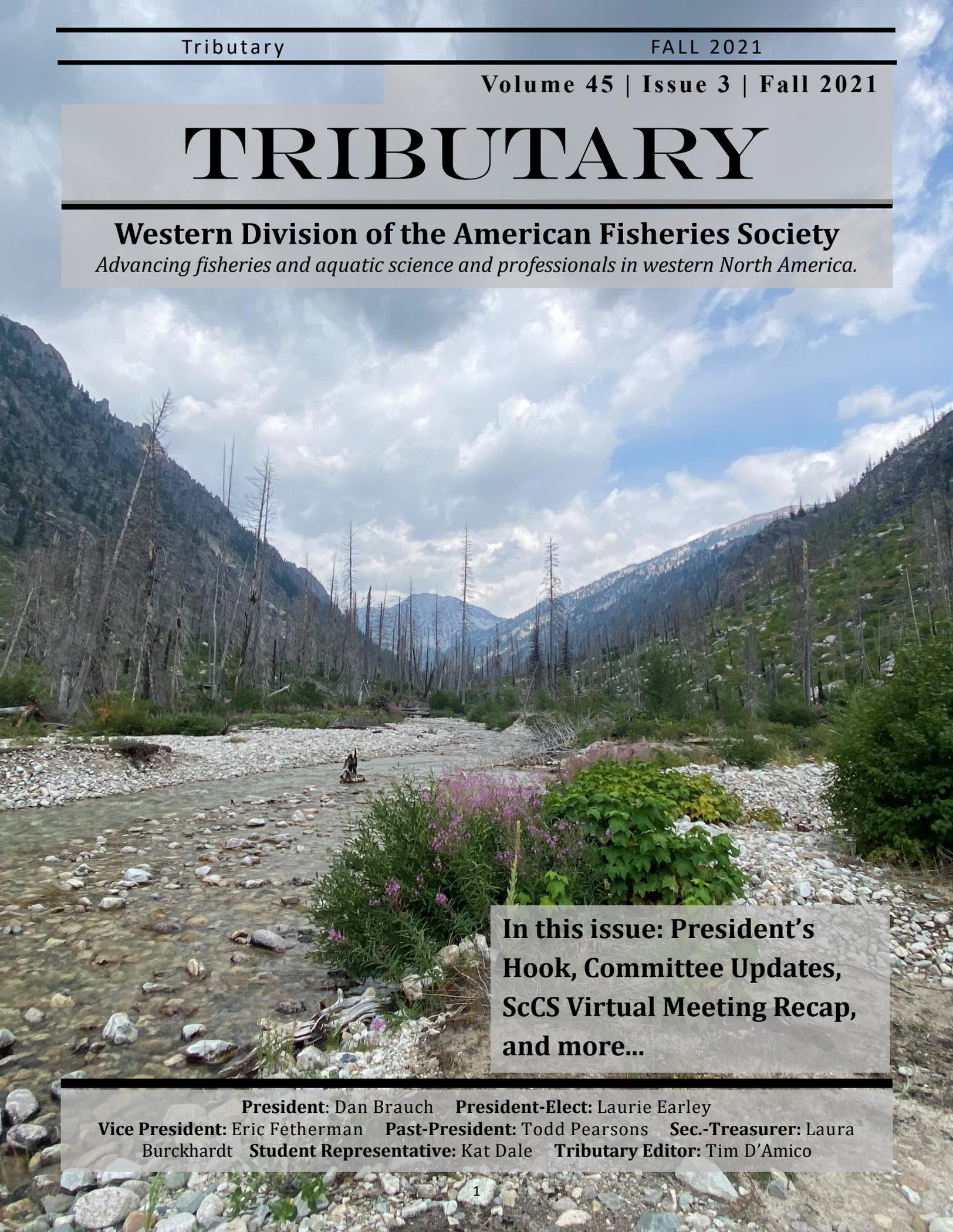


TRIBUTARY

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Advancing fisheries and aquatic science and professionals in western North America.



**In this issue: President's
Hook, Committee Updates,
ScCS Virtual Meeting Recap,
and more...**

President: Dan Brauch **President-Elect:** Laurie Earley
Vice President: Eric Fetherman **Past-President:** Todd Pearsons **Sec.-Treasurer:** Laura Burckhardt **Student Representative:** Kat Dale **Tributary Editor:** Tim D'Amico

PRESIDENT'S HOOK

Todd Pearsons

Some have chalked up the past year as a lost year because of the disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am pleased to report that the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society performed admirably, productively, and creatively during an exceptionally challenging year. In fact, this was the first presidential year that operated entirely within a global pandemic. Our collective performance was the result of numerous individuals who sacrificed their time and energy to advance the mission statement that we created at the end of last year. I have been amazed and inspired at the amount of good work that was done through volunteers, as we built bridges among the Society, chapters, people, and science.

One of the most important things that our division leadership did during the past year was to serve as a hub for discussing and resourcing our chapters to host great virtual meetings. Hosting virtual meetings was new to all of us and we had to figure out how to do it. We had to figure out what digital platforms we would use, how to predict attendance, what a fair price was, and how to implement our meetings, and all of the other planning uncertainties. The Western Division helped to provide information and a forum to select digital platforms and also helped to advertise the many virtual chapter meetings. We learned from one another and helped one another to succeed. All of the chapters hosted successful chapter meetings and many of them were wildly successful. The success of the Western Division meeting hosted by the Utah Chapter was reported in the last issue of the Tributary (it was a fabulous meeting). The extra work that we put in to deliver great virtual meetings in 2021 will pay dividends in the future as we now have more tools to deliver great and diverse meetings. I thank the many people that helped plan and implement the Western Division meeting, particularly Sarah Seegert, Dan Brauch, Laurie Earley, Dan Dauwalter, Paul Burnett, Buck Ehler, Dan Keller, Jim DeRito, Kate Holcomb, Cheryl Barnes, and Emily Chen.

Our inability to communicate face-to-face stretched our ability to stay connected to one another. Nothing could replace face-to-face interactions, but with the talented folks within the Western Division we were able to do the next best thing. Tracy Wendt sent out timely and well-crafted information in our new email

platform and she also managed our Facebook, Dan Dauwalter managed Twitter, and Emily Chen managed Instagram. Travis Neebling kept our website up to date and orderly so that we could provide a readily available information source and place where people could apply for member benefits such as travel grants. Tim D'Amico edited four handsome and informative issues of the Western Division newsletter. I am so thankful to all of these folks that help us to communicate and keep the mission of the Western Division active throughout a time of social distancing.

The Western Division continued to provide benefits to its members in support of its mission. We awarded many meeting registration grants and travel grants under the leadership of Laurie Earley. Under the leadership of Dan Dauwalter, we also continued to present numerous awards and scholarships, and provide grants for small projects.

We could not continue to offer the services and member benefits without sound financial management and, in contrast to our early year concerns, we generated significant profit during the past year. We started with the first budget that was developed around the newly approved Financial Sustainability Plan. We saved money through reduced expenditures and generated relatively healthy incomes. We have also seen great growth in our investment funds thanks to the leadership of Troy Brandt (Financial Sustainability Committee Chair) and we have also recently re-balanced our portfolio to be consistent with the Financial Sustainability Plan. In summary, the Western Division financial position is strong and we are poised to offer more member benefits because of our financial planning and discipline. I thank Travis Rehm, Secretary/Treasurer who helped us stay on track with our budget and manage our financial accounts throughout the year.

Our committees also advanced our mission as they continued to make progress on important initiatives. I am appreciative of the Executive Committee, which was made up of the Division officers, a student representative, and the Chapter Presidents. Our monthly meetings were jam packed and juicy. Laura Slater led our efforts in the Diversity and Inclusion Committee which has continued to be a resource and leader for AFS, the Division, and chapters. Alexander Tasoff led the efforts of the Early Career Professionals Committee and provided forums for resources and communi-

PRESIDENT'S HOOK, cont.

cation. The Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee, led by Bob Hughes, tackled some difficult environmental and social issues and were able to highlight concerns to international audiences. Luke Schultz and Timothy D'Amico continued their long-term leadership of the Western Native Fishes Committee and worked towards finalizing a largescale database about native fishes. I appreciate all of the committee chairs who selflessly accepted the responsibility to lead and serve during difficult times.

The best part of my tenure as President of the Western Division has been working with the great fisheries and aquatic professionals. We have accomplished a lot this year, but the things that I will remember and cherish most are the relationships that were started and strengthened throughout a difficult time. In particular, I have really enjoyed working with the exemplary officers and student representative of the Division: Dan Dauwalter, Dan Brauch, Laurie Earley, Travis Rehm, and Emily Chen. Thanks to all of you who have made my job so meaningful. I apologize to anyone that I failed to thank in this Hook that contributed to our collective success: omissions were simply my oversights and not my sentiments.

The future of the Western Division is bright and the

essential pieces and persons are in place to achieve great success. I hope that you will show the same welcoming and supportive spirit to the new president, Dan Brauch. I think that you will enjoy his engaging, service-oriented leadership style and his can-do attitude. Dan is a guy that gets things done in a very collaborate manner and I look forward to learning from him as I continue to serve the Western Division as Past-President.

Sincerely aquatic,

Todd Pearsons, Past-President

*WDAFS MISSION/VISION STATEMENTS*

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 pro-

grams and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, and enhance the value of American Fisheries Society professional certification.

WDAFS SLOGAN (for use on letterhead): Advancing fisheries and aquatic science and professionals in western North America.

WDAFS CHALLENGE: Ignorance of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems is our arch enemy. We will fight against ignorance by communicating science to other scientists, decision makers, influencers, and the Public, and we will advocate for conducting and using science to achieve sound management and policy decisions. We will expose suppression and misuse of science and enhance scientific credibility by attempting to maintain purity of the scientific enterprise. It is our hope that elevating science will help influencers and decision makers to achieve what is best for current and future generations.

*WDAFS COMMITTEE UPDATES***Diversity & Inclusion Committee**

Laura Slater & Emily Chen (WDAFS Diversity & Inclusion Committee)

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
in Fisheries**

We want to extend a warm welcome to Emily Chen as our Committee's new Co-chair. Emily served as the WD Student Representative for the past two years. We thank Emily for her commitment to AFS and dedication to supporting diversity and inclusion efforts.

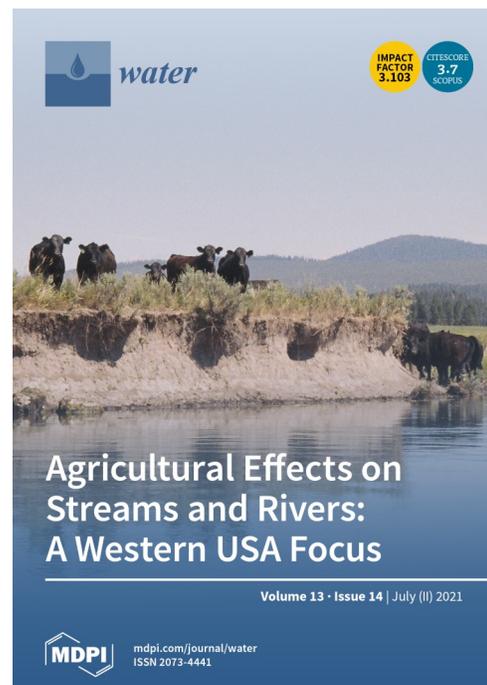
The D&I Committee has

been coordinating quarterly conversations across WD chapters to share ideas and approaches for supporting diversity and inclusion. We have received great participation from leaders and chairs of committees at the chapter level. Our conversations have covered a range of topics, from the logistics of receiving input on diversity and inclusion topics, how to fund initiatives, and mentorship opportunities. If you are interested in joining these conversations, please let us know (wdafsdiversityinclusion@gmail.com).

Resource Policy & Environmental Concerns Committee

Bob Hughes (WDAFS Resource Policy & Environmental Concerns Committee)

The Resource Policy & Environmental Concerns Committee (RPECC) drafted a manuscript based partly on its WDAFS agriculture special session. That paper was published (Hughes & Vadas. 2021. Agricultural effects on streams and rivers: a western USA focus. *Water* 13. doi.org/10.3390/w13141901) as the cover story (see attached). In addition, an expert committee was formed to evaluate the fisheries science behind lower Snake River dam breaching. A draft is being reviewed by the RPECC with comments & edits due in early September. The RPECC would like to organize a special session on dam breaching for the 2022 Society annual meeting in Spokane. If interested in presenting, please contact Bob Hughes (hughes.bob@amnisopes.com).



*WDAFS COMMITTEE UPDATES, cont.***Western Native Fishes Committee**

Timothy D'Amico & Luke Schultz (WDAFS Western Native Fishes Committee)

As with many fisheries professionals, members of the Western Native Fishes committee have been conducting their respective fieldwork. During this time, committee members have conducted informal conversations to maintain momentum on projects, including the WNFC Native Fishes database. Additionally, WNFC successfully partnered with the *Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society to help facilitate their

2021 virtual meeting. Members from both ScCS and WNFC attended and contributed to discussions surrounding Bull Trout status, recovery and management. We look forward to continuing to work closely with ScCS in their future endeavors. If you would like more information or to become more involved with either WNFC or ScCS, don't hesitate to reach out to either party.

***Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society**

Kevin Netcher & Andy Starostka (*Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society)

Although it wasn't how it was originally envisioned, the *Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society (ScCS) annual workshop was successfully hosted on August 17 – 18, 2021 by the Jarbidge team. The Jarbidge workshop was originally planned for the summer of 2020 as an in-person event with a planned field day. Unfortunately, it had to be canceled in 2020 (we all know why) and held virtually in 2021. The workshop consisted of two half day events and was well attended with an average of 55 participants each day. Presentations were given by a wide array of Bull Trout enthusiasts from all over the Bull Trout's range. At the end of the second day, options for the 2022 workshop were discussed. Interest to host was expressed by the St. Maries team in Northern Montana/Southern Alberta, fingers crossed for an in-person event!

The Jarbidge Team would like to thank the WDAFS Western Native Fishes Committee for facil-

itating the virtual event and Trout Unlimited for the use of their TEAMS account.

Due to it's virtual format, many aspects of the meeting are available to the AFS membership. Head over to [LINK](#) to check out the meeting agenda, recorded presentations, and discussions. Interested parties can also view the [ScCS Bull Trout Library](#), and more information on how to get yourself more involved in this sub-group of the Western Native Fishes Committee.

COTERMINOUS POPULATION OF BULL TROUT
(*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Bull Trout Recovery Update

ScCS

August 18, 2021

Presenter:
Dan Nolfi
(USFWS, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office)



1:00:44 PH PL AS EH SG TD KM:20:50

*WDAFS COMMITTEE UPDATES, cont.***Early Career Professional Committee**

Alexander Tasoff (WDAFS Early Career Professional Committee)

How can you stay noticed in fishery science? For some, the answer is to write as many publications as possible, specifically about collaborative studies. Publications are the intangible currency we use for scientific career advancement. We use publications to celebrate and stay informed on the latest scientific progress. If you recently graduated college, though, you may not have been able to publish. Still, you can perform self-promotion by contributing to other projects.

For example, consider my collaborative project at UC Davis. I studied marine biology and had an artistic talent. So, I enrolled in the course Art Science and the World of Insects. The course gave me the opportunity to help paint a mural in the Plant Sciences building. I decided to paint life-sized, spawning Chinook salmon on the mural. However, I never thought about posting my artwork on social media.

Fourteen years later, I saw the mural again and finally decided to post my portion of it on social media. I was amazed at how many people viewed my post, liked the artwork, and even contacted me about it. Wow, I was late on that social media post!

These sorts of experiences you can proudly share with other scientists. Solo or team projects can demonstrate your passion, purpose, and cooperation to reach goals. Additionally, the projects can demon-

strate your special talents and other interests, which may not appear in publications.

As you rightly guessed, these are important values when it comes to finding work. Most employers appreciate it when the interviewee demonstrates high knowledge in the subject. However, it is equally important that an interviewee represents themselves as a diverse human being, not just an encyclopedia. You can show your humanity and professionalism by showcasing your various team projects, like those which helped people and nature.

The more you stay involved with other projects closely related to fishery science, or at least biology, the more you will get noticed by scientists. That will help you pursue new opportunities after graduating college, even without a peer-reviewed publication. Take pride in your various projects and use them for self-promotion. Besides, our work in fishery science influences us, but everyone has unique experiences which makes our profession truly diverse and noticeable.



© Alexander Tasoff, 2019

2021 AFS MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTS FOR WDAFS ECP MEMBERS

The Early Career Professional Committee (ECP) is pleased to announce that grants are available to participate in the AFS Meeting, November 6th through 10th. Registration grants will cover, at minimum, the early registration fee for virtual or in-person attendance. Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the Western Division Executive and ECP committees.

To qualify, an applicant must have graduated academia since 2016. Please email your application (in PDF or .doc format), to Alexander Tasoff by August 25th with the subject line: WDAFS 2021 ECP Travel Grant.

Early career professionals who are applying for registration grants will be ranked by the following:

- [1] Membership status – current AFS and WDAFS memberships required.
- [2] Year of graduation – those who have graduated academia since 2016.
- [3] Participation – a desire to actively participate at the conference via oral presentation, moderating a session, etc.
- [4] Involvement – current activity, or an interest in becoming active, with an AFS division, chapter, or sub-unit.
- [5] Interest - indicate a strong interest in fisheries, oceans, and environmental science/management.

*SPECIES SPOTLIGHT***California Fishes**

Alexander Tasoff (WDAFS Early Career Professional Committee)

Lahontan cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarkii hensahwi*)

The largest subspecies of Cutthroat trout. It occurs in two forms – a lake form with a powerful tail, and a stream form with cryptic camouflage. Lahontans inhabit various aquatic ecosystems, from warm alkaline lakes in Nevada to swift mountain creeks in California. Mining operations in the 19th century severely extirpated the fish throughout its historical range. Today, aquaculture efforts for threatened Lahontans have allowed the fish to persist and support recreational fishing in Nevada. The challenge is mitigating the impact of invasive trout on Lahontans while keeping recreational fishing opportunities diverse in Nevada and California.



Lahontan Cutthroat © Michael Carl, 2006

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)

Sockeye salmon exist either as anadromous or potamodromous fish. The latter is known as the Kokanee. Kokanee juveniles rear in tributaries before migrating downstream into deep lakes. These lakes essentially act as the ocean for Kokanee, who reside, filter feed, and grow there for two to four years. Kokanee then return to their natal tributaries to spawn at three or four years of age. That said, spawning Kokanee are substantially smaller than their anadromous counterparts. Fishery managers often introduce Kokanee into lakes and reservoirs to enhance recreational fishing. Introduced Kokanee populations may become self-sufficient then after. For instance, Kokanee in Lake Tahoe regularly return to and spawn in Taylor Creek each autumn.



Kokanee © Andrew Hughan, CDFW

Delta smelt (*Hypomesus pacificus*)

An infamous fish in California. They are not particularly strong swimmers, and therefore prefer to feed on plankton in slow rivers and water bodies. These traits made the Delta smelt extremely vulnerable to water diversions, like the powerful pumps that siphon and distribute water across California. Likewise, Delta smelt has suffered from the effects of urbanization on wetlands and introduction of invasive exotic predators. Recent surveys for the species have recorded very few to no individuals in the wild. Consequently, a growing amount of people feel that cap-



Delta smelt © Dale Kolke, 2018

tive breeding programs would offer the best chance at saving the Delta smelt from extinction.

Meet Your WDAFS Officers

President: Dan Brauch

Hometown: Meeker, CO

Education: B.S, Colorado State University

Employer: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Gunnison, CO

Interests: Looking forward to travelling more and hopeful that Covid related travel concerns are soon part of our past! I enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, and seeing the awesome scenery throughout much of the West with my family.



President-Elect: Laurie Earley

Hometown: Colchester, VT

Education: B.S., University of Rhode Island; M.S., Auburn University

Employer: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Bluff, CA

Interests: Outdoor recreation, traveling, gardening, cooking, and live music. More recently preparing for our new addition to the family.



Vice President: Eric Fetherman

Hometown: Lakewood, CO

Education: B.S., Colorado State University; M.S., Colorado State University; Ph.D., Colorado State University

Employer: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fort Collins, CO

Interests: I enjoy hiking and backpacking with my wife, especially in Rocky Mountain National Park on any free weekend we can find, as well as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, and photography. Looking forward to attending football games (Denver Broncos and CSU Rams) in person again this fall!



Past-President: Todd Pearsons

Hometown: Woodland Hills, CA (via Boston, MA)

Education: B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara; M. S., and PhD,

Oregon State University

Employer: Grant County Public Utility District (Science), Ephrata, WA

Interests: Underwater photography, Biblical archaeology, Krav Maga, human powered transportation, surfing, gigging on drums and blues harmonica, paleontology



Secretary-Treasurer: Laura Burckhardt

Hometown: Casper, WY

Education: M.S, University of Arizona

Employer: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cody Wyoming

Interests: I enjoy exploring nature. Including hiking, kayaking, rafting, paddleboarding, backpacking, camping, skiing, fishing, hunting, harvesting and preserving my own food. I also enjoy helping kids learn to love and take care of our natural resources.



Student Representative: Kat Dale

Hometown: Hereford, PA

Education: B.S., University of Miami (FL)

Employer: PhD student at the University of California, Santa Cruz

Interests: Outside of marine science and fish things, I am obsessed with all things bikes! I also love geocaching, skiing, and staying up too late reading books.



Western Division
American Fisheries Society