Each year, the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society recognizes the chapters and student subunit that best exemplify a commitment to the mission of the Society by actively working to achieve the goals set forth in the AFS Strategic Plan. We encourage you to nominate your chapter or student subunit for this award.

The information required to complete the nomination form will be used to evaluate nominees for the **WDAFS Outstanding Large Chapter**, **WDAFS Outstanding Small Chapter**, and the **WDAFS Outstanding Student Subunit.** Western Division Outstanding unit awardees will be forwarded to AFS for consideration for the Society-level awards as well. HOWEVER, note that AFS defines large chapters as those with 100 members or more, whereas Western Division is divided based on relative size. The five largest (based on AFS membership) chapters compete for the Outstanding Large Chapter award and the five smallest compete for Outstanding Small Chapter.

The five WDAFS Chapters eligible for the **WDAFS Outstanding Large Chapter Award** are: **Alaska, Cal-Neva, Oregon, and Washington-British Columbia**.

The five WDAFS Chapters eligible for the **WDAFS Outstanding Small Chapter Award** are: **Arizona-New Mexico, Colorado-Wyoming, Montana, Pacific Islands** and **Utah**.

If both awarded WDAFS Chapters meet the AFS criteria for a “large chapter”, the WDAFS Awards committee will decide which of the two recipients – either large or small chapter – to forward as WDAFS’s nominee for the AFS Outstanding Large Chapter Award. The Outstanding Student Subunit award recipient will automatically be nominated by the Division for the Society award.

As you respond to the award criteria, please be sure to address the unit’s efforts to address challenges identified by AFS, including:

* Climate change
* Weakening of the Clean Water Act
* Insufficient funding
* Pressures from increased globalization and urbanization
* Lack of science-educated public that understand growing complex environmental issues
* Embracing landscape-scale management of fisheries and research projects that extend across geographic or programmatic borders
* An aging workforce that does not reflect the diversity of society and fisheries stakeholders

To meet member needs and thrive, AFS operations and business models must adapt to changes in technology and communications, such as:

* Networking
* Publications
* Information exchange
* Governance
* Relevancy
* Annual meetings and financial stability
* Membership recruitment and retention

Note that the WDAFS evaluation period for the Outstanding Unit Awards is the preceding calendar year. **Applicants for the WDAFS Outstanding Unit Awards should report on activities and accomplishments that occurred between January 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year.** This differs from the AFS Outstanding awards, which uses the 12-month period prior to the award nomination deadline. Before WDAFS award nomination forms are forwarded to the Society for consideration, units will have an opportunity to update the forms appropriately.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Use the Nomination/Application Form to nominate your Chapter or Subunit for an award. Please fill in all appropriate sections with descriptions of the activities of your chapter during the award evaluation period. Please be thorough but succinct in your responses. The length of the completed nomination form may not exceed 15 pages (not including these instructions). You are welcome to include links or direction to supporting documentation that the Awards Committee can find online but **addenda and attachments are not accepted** and will not be included in evaluations. **Please do not reformat or alter this form or submit nominations in any other format**.

**Please submit completed forms to:**

**Dan Brauch, WDAFS Past President**

danbrauchafs@gmail.com

**The deadline for submitting an application is: February 24, 2023.**

**NOMINATION / APPLICATION FORM**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Nominations/applications are limited to 15 pages. Please reference supporting documents by link or description, *do not attach addenda or additional documents*.

Please indicate appropriate award category.

[ ]  **Outstanding Large Chapter**. *Eligible chapters include Alaska, Cal-Neva, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington-British Columbia*.

[ ]  **Outstanding Small Chapter**. *Eligible chapters include Montana, Utah, Arizona-New Mexico, and Colorado-Wyoming*.

[ ]  **Outstanding Student Subunit**. *Any WDAFS Student Subunit in good standing is eligible*.

Unit Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Unit President: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mailing Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please list current officer positions of the unit:

 Click or tap here to enter text.

Please list current committees of the unit:

 Standing:

 Click or tap here to enter text.

 Ad hoc:

 Click or tap here to enter text.

For WDAFS Outstanding unit awards, this section is informational only. The WD Outstanding unit applications will be forwarded to AFS for consideration of the Society-level awards and this section may be scored at that time*.* Membership information can be requested from AFS staff (Kelly) at kkotche@fisheries.org.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MEMBERSHIP TYPE** | **As of end of this evaluation period** | **% Change from previous year** |
| Total Members | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| New Members | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Lost Members | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Student Members | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| AFS Members | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**In one paragraph (no more than one page), please explain why the nominated unit is deserving of this award.** (This response may be awarded up to 5 points)

Click or tap here to enter text.

**ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

For each item below, please describe unit activities as they relate to the AFS mission, goals, and objectives of the [AFS Vision 2020](https://fisheries.org/about/governance/afs-vision-2020/) as described below. Refer to the [AFS Strategic Plan](https://fisheries.org/about/governance/2020-2024-strategic-plan/) for more details on the types of activities that address each objective and related strategies recommended by AFS. Please provide examples and cite outcomes if possible. Each response in this section will be scored on the following scale: 0 – Does not meet specified criteria; 1 – meets some but not all described elements of this criteria; 2 – meets criteria; 3 – Exceeds criteria.

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to advance sound science, promote professional development, and disseminate science-based fisheries information for the global protection, conservation, and sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems.

**AFS 2020 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Goal 1 – Global Fisheries Leadership

Please review AFS objectives related to this goal and describe the unit’s efforts, including examples and outcomes. *(0 – 3 points)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Goal 2 – Education/Continuing Education

Please review AFS objectives related to this goal and describe the unit’s efforts, including examples and outcomes. *(0 – 3 points)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Goal 3 – Value of Membership

Please review AFS objectives related to this goal and describe the unit’s efforts, including examples and outcomes. *(0 – 3 points)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Challenges

How has the unit addressed challenges as identified by the AFS Strategic Plan? Please include accomplishments and examples. *(0 – 3 points)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Communications

How does the unit use technology to communicate with members and the public? Please include accomplishments and examples. *(0 – 3 points)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Other Activities**

Please describe any other activities or accomplishments of this unit that furthered the AFS mission and/or fulfilled the objectives of AFS Strategic Plan that have not already been described above. Be sure to state specifically which goal(s) each activity addressed and how that activity helped accomplish the goal. (*This response may be awarded up to 5 points.)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe any activities or accomplishments of this unit outside the AFS stated goals that have had a positive effect on the unit, Division, or AFS as a whole. (*This response may be awarded up to 5 points*.)

Click or tap here to enter text.