

July 27, 2021

Dear fellow AFS-FHS members,

As the new Section president, I want to welcome you to our 50<sup>th</sup> year as a Section. Established in 1972, the FHS is the first Section recognized by the American Fisheries Society. During my term as president, one of my goals is to highlight the diversity of today's members, some of whom have been members the entire 50 years! Keep an eye out for profiles in future newsletters.

I thank past president **Tom Loch** for his enthusiastic tenure as president, completed entirely under social distancing restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the next year, Tom has committed to help the Section chart out our next 50 years. The accompanying file lists all FHS Committee members, including the two ad hoc committees that Tom has recruited: the Extramural Funding Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Congratulations to newly elected members of our standing committees: **Wade Cavender** (Vice President), **Amy Long** (Technical Standards Committee), **Matt Stinson** (Professional Standards Committee); **Janet Whaley** (Policy/Position Development Committee), and **Tim Bruce** (Nominating and Balloting Committee). I also want to thank everyone that ran for an elected office but was not elected. It is often the case that many good candidates run, even though only one can be chosen for a specific position. I look forward next year to voting for capable people that didn't get elected this year.

I am impressed that this year's roster of committee members includes over 50 people. Given that our membership fluctuates within the 250 – 300 range, this breadth of participation is exemplary. Participation in ad hoc committees does not require an election; anyone interested in contributing may contact either me or a committee member, and we will do our best to get you plugged in.

I look forward to continued development of three of the "gems" of the Section: professional certification, our monthly newsletter, and the Bluebook. Bluebook revisions this year are at the forefront, with **Jan Lovy** and **Ken Cain** leading the effort.

Finally, I invite you to the International Symposium of Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH), Sept. 4-8, 2022, in Santiago, Chile. The language of the meeting is English. For North Americans, lower hotel rates (~\$80/night for a 3-star hotel) and food costs will offset increased airfare costs, bringing the total cost of meeting attendance in Santiago near to that of previous ISAAHs. Lead host **Fernando Mardones** is working with **Esteban Soto** and **Matt Griffin** to create a meeting that I look forward to attending.

Sincerely,



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