

AFS Fish Habitat Section

2025 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Tue, August 12, 2025

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Central Daylight Time

Room Rivercenter Room 11

Virtual Option: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81250145323?pwd=MGz4aaxCdZV5N8cPZ7dbUcdrGLGfil.1>

Meeting ID: 812 5014 5323

Passcode: 3byRkd

- 1) Determination of Quorum (minimum of 10 members present) – Rebecca Krogman
 - a) Paul Kusnierz online
 - b) We do have quorum
- 2) Call to order at 5:32pm – Michael Homer for Gary Whelan, FHS President
- 3) Recognition of AFS officers, FHS officers (past and present), other guests – Gary Whelan
 - a) David Thorne, 2021-2023
 - b) Kim Dibble, 2019-2021
 - c) Tom Lang, 2017-2019
 - d) Tom Bigford, 2015-2017
 - e) John Sweka, 2012-2015
 - f) Kyle Hartman, 2011-2013
 - g) Joe Margraf, 2009-2011
 - h) Doug Austen, former Executive Director 2013-2024
- 4) Approval of Agenda – Homer for Gary Whelan
 - a) Stan Allen moved to approve; seconded by Amberle Jones
 - b) Motion to approve passed unanimously.
- 5) Approval of Minutes from 2024 Business Meeting – Homer for Gary Whelan
 - a) Move by Amberle Jones, seconded by Stan Allen.
 - b) The minutes from 2024 were sent out beforehand via listserv. No comments, changes, or additions.
 - c) Motion to approve passed unanimously.
- 6) Review of Financial Report – Rebecca Krogman
- 7) FHS-NFHP-NOAA Awards
 - a) Rising Star Award for Outstanding Early-Career Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation - Shawn Snyder
 - b) Stanley A. Moberly Award for Outstanding Contributions in Fish Habitat Conservation – James Turek
- 8) AFS Society Remarks - Gary Whelan and Jeff Kopaska

- a) Gary Whelan started his presidency over the Society with a focus on conservation policy. Gary hopes to engage more groups into these discussions, including AFWA, NGOs like Ducks Unlimited, TRCP, wherein we can extend our reach in fish habitat. Gary wants to advance our science, and will focus on fish habitat at the 2026 AFS Annual Meeting over which Gary will preside. More webinars, Gary has called at Sections and Divisions to provide a webinar each to convey throughout the year to membership. 2026 AFS will feature H2Ohio, Lake Erie eutrophication and related challenges, and celebrating 20 years of NFHAP. In addition, Gary has asked every unit to submit habitat-related symposia, making this the Year of Habitat in the society. Gary also wants to bring retirees back into the fold, engaging the valuable expertise of those folks. The officers continue to try to meet every unit at least once every three years through local meeting attendance.

9) AFS Policy Update – Jeff Kopaska

- a) We develop the data, the science, but we may not have all the connections to get it into policy discussions. That means we need to develop partnerships with other groups who do have those connections.

10) Committee Reports

- a) Awards Committee Report – Rebecca Krogman for Dylan Kwak – Thanks for your service, Dylan!!
 - i) Call for committee chair
 - ii) This committee solicits student papers and/or posters focused on fish habitat at the AFS Annual Meeting, giving one award and runner-up per year. The process is similar to the Education Section’s Society-wide award process, in which a simple application form is requested shortly following the closure of the general call for papers, giving students time to submit a video for judging.
 - iii) We are always looking for judges and helpers in this process.
- b) Membership Report – Rebecca Krogman
 - i) Included below – We stand at
- c) Electronic Newsletter/Website – Rebecca Krogman
 - i) More intentional incorporation of the NFHP newsletter regularly – connect with Ryan Roberts to ensure he also gets our news
 - ii) New website rollout, including easier subscription/unsubscription to the newsletter, easy submission of news
- d) Social Media Report – Thanks for your service, Kanyan Klein!!
 - i) Call for committee chair

11) Old Business – Gary Whelan

- a) Progress toward the President’s Vision for the Section
 - i) Quarterly Webinars
 - (1) Start soliciting in September for Oct/November time period

- (2) Fish Habitat Assessment update when it comes out this fall 2025 – Contact Daniel Wieferich
 - (3)
 - ii) Survey membership about their needs and wants from the Section
 - iii) Start preparations for 2026 Meeting
 - (1) Habitat will be the focus
 - (2) NFHP 20th Anniversary Celebration
 - (3) 2026 Annual Meeting Symposia Options
 - (a) Reservoir Habitat
 - (b) Instream Flow with the Instream Flow Council
 - (c) Marine – Artificial reefs – Other sections
 - (d) Stream habitat restoration – Amberle will give two talks! 😊
 - (e) Food as habitat – Erin Thayer will give a talk 😊
 - b) FHS-Sponsored Symposia – None for 2025 but will be for 2026
 - c) Quarterly NFHAP articles for Fisheries
 - i) First one should come out in September 2025!
 - ii) Goal is to have all the FHPs discuss what topics they are concerned about, how they address it, and who they work with/where. Many know little about how the FHPs actually work.
 - iii) AFS's generous in-kind contribution to this NFHAP effort is covering the print charges.
 - d) Best Student Paper Awards – none this year
 - e) Student and Early-Career Travel Awards
 - i) Section provided funds for other travel awards
 - ii) Student Travel Award – Hannah Lenning, University of NE – Kearney - \$400
- 12) National Fish Habitat Partnership Update – Jason Olive
- a) Next year is the 20th anniversary of NFHAP, and we hope to celebrate all year leading up to the 2026 Annual Meeting. All 20 FHPs could use more visibility, along with the National FHP. NFHAP was created to establish landscape-scale change; we are still a long ways away from that goal.
 - b) World Fish Migration Day – (On pause right now, but) a truly great PR effort that engages businesses and local communities in highlighting fish migration. We need a National Fish Habitat Day similar to this, getting the general public more in touch with the need and status of fish habitat.
 - c) We are moving into a new Action Plan in 2026, last revised in 2012. The specific prescriptions in the new Action Plan should help us to stay relevant and active. Likewise, we will have a new Habitat Assessment this coming fall, bringing new science to fish habitat assessment, measurement of change, and current status.

- d) Comment from Tom Lang – Teaming up with ASA such as attending ICAST jointly representing the FHPs. Response: Outdoor media is there, and TRCP provides a lunch to them at ICAST. We could host a NFHP luncheon similarly, a moment on stage during the hosted happy hour.

13) New Officer Installation – Gary Whelan

- a) Secretary-Treasurer: Rebecca Krogman
- b) President-elect: Patrick Shirey, who will serve as President from 2027-2029

14) New Business – Michael Homer

- a) President’s Plan of Work – Michael Homer
 - i) Membership retention - Find better ways to engage our members (e.g., through the survey). What do you want to see from us? How do you want to be involved?
 - ii) Webinars and communication
 - iii) We want more involvement from Section members. If you are looking for a leadership opportunity, big or small, we have a place for you.
 - iv) Awards and recognition – We need to do a better job of working with other units as well as within our Section to improve that process, to facilitate meaningful recognitions of our amazing members
 - v) Revitalizing Fish History Section – How can we promote what we’re doing with fish habitat conservation while helping them find their members?
- b) Upcoming Annual Meetings – Gary Whelan
 - i) Columbus, OH (August 30-September 3, 2026) – habitat focus
 - ii) Pittsburgh, PA (September 26-30, 2027) – fish production, fish health, fish management triad focus – How do these pieces work together?
 - iii) Honolulu, HI (May 14-19, 2028 as part of JASM)
 - iv) Atlantic City, NJ (August or early September 2029)
 - v) Grand Rapids, MI (Late September, 2030) – Joint Meeting with TWS
- c) National Center for Ecologically Sustainable Water Conservation and Management (Center) – Doug Austen
 - i) The need for a national training center to address training and research on ecological water conservation has been increasingly important since the demise of the Cooperative Instream Flow Service Group closed in 2001. In response, the Instream Flow Council and AFS created a 10-person working group that completed a feasibility assessment and business model options that will address this need (<https://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/training-center/>)
 - ii) A national call for proposals to host the Center resulted in 7 applications with four finalists selected. This fall, the four host universities will be visited by a subset of the review team as part of the final selection process.
 - iii) Center will focus on training and research that integrates the eight key interdisciplinary elements of effective ecological water conservation: hydrology,

- geomorphology, biology, connectivity, water quality, legal, public involvement and institutional capacity.
- iv) See Fisheries magazine (Dudley Reiser et al., July 2025, pages 301-311) for a comprehensive overview of the Center.
 - d) NFHP Student Involvement – Jason Olive
 - i) Social media help needed, particularly for Instagram
 - ii) Financial incentive or a prize is a possibility, say for the student with the highest reach
 - iii) SECP Subsection may be interested in fulfilling this need, as they've been asking for meaningful ways to engage with the Sections/professionals
 - iv) Set something up to send content from professionals directly as well – Contact Ryan Roberts
 - e) Moberly Award Discussion – What could it look like in the future? - Michael Homer
 - i) We've been very blessed to have beautiful awards for the Moberly from Kim Dibble's husband. We used our last one this year!
 - ii) We are open to suggestions whether we should continue with similarly artful awards, try something new, or use a standard plaque. We will need to figure this out before the 2026 Annual Business Meeting.
 - f) Other Business - None
- 15) Adjourned at 6:32pm.

FHS Financial Report

Statement of Income and Expenses 2024-2025

8/1/2024 – 7/31/2025

BALANCE FORWARD \$14,234.52

INFLOWS

2/7/25	2024 Membership dues	2,160.00
Net		2,160.00

OUTFLOWS

8/28/24	2024 Nancy Foster NOAA Award	166.25
9/5/24	Check to R. Krogman (2024 Catering)	434.69
9/17/24	2024 BSP Winner Check (Katrina Munstermann)	100.00
9/17/24	2024 Travel Awards (Jordanna Bergmann, Simen Kaalstad)	1,500.00
9/23/24	Award Printing costs	14.14
3/23/25	2025 Moberly Award	20.44
3/23/25	990 Tax Filing	50.00
Net		(2,285.52)

ENDING BALANCE \$14,109.00

NOTES: The Section has closed its Wells Fargo account and is moving to another bank. Please get in contact with the Secretary-Treasurer if you need reimbursement, as checks are changing!

FHS Budget 2025-2026

BALANCE FORWARD \$14,109.00

PENDING INFLOW ESTIMATED

After 8/1/25 2025 Membership dues \$2,000.00

PENDING OUTFLOWS IN NEXT YEAR'S REPORT

After 8/1/25 2025 Rising Star Winner's Choice of Donation 250.00

 2026 Moberly Award 100.00

 2025 Travel Award 750.00

 Award Costs (Frames, Printing) 167.81

 Officer Travel Assistance 500.00

 2025 Nancy Foster NOAA Award 166.25

 Meeting and Award Costs 500.00

 990 Tax Filing 50.00

 Multisite Annual Maintenance beginning 2025 240.00

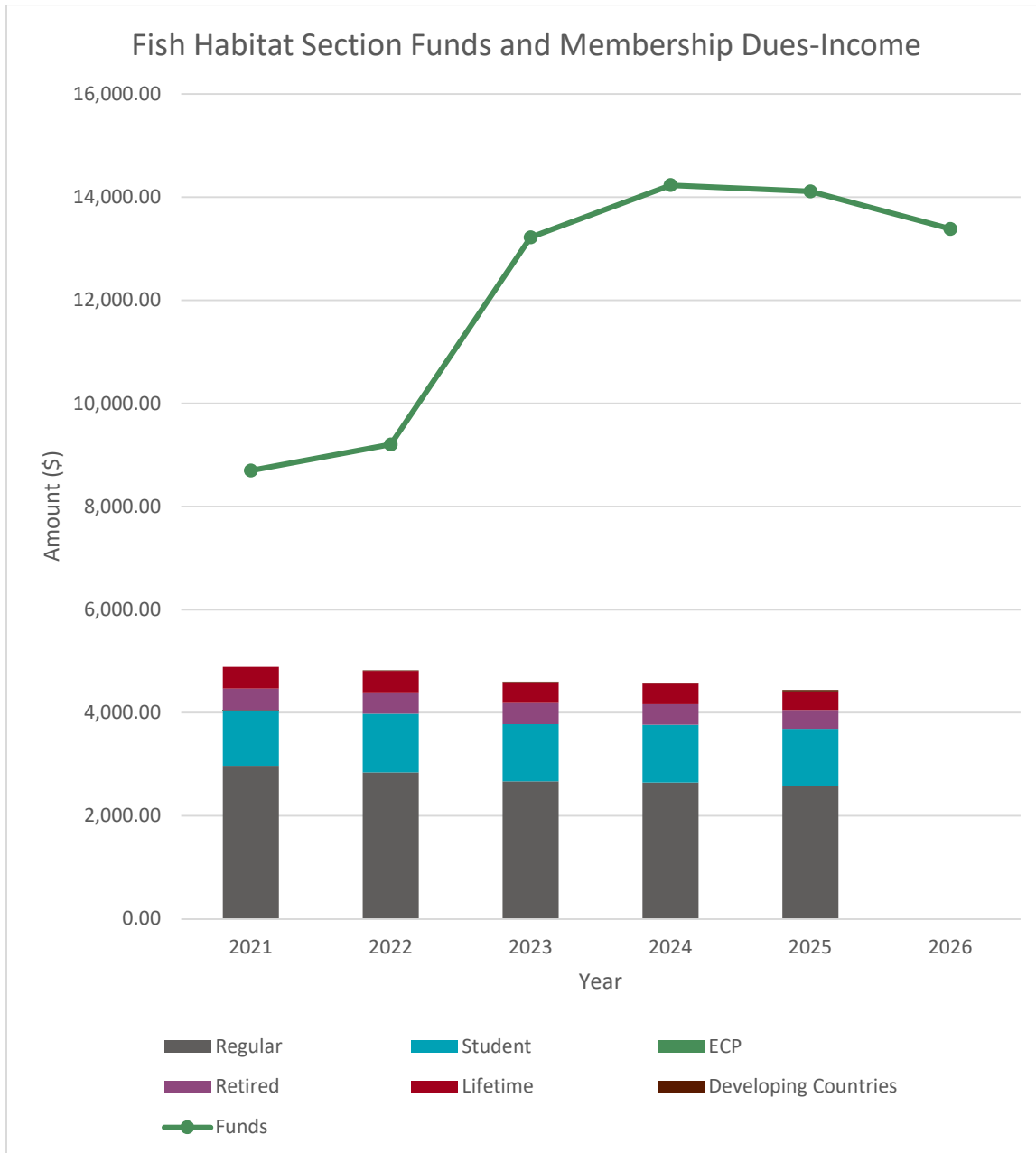
 NET (2,724.06)

ENDING BALANCE \$13,384.94

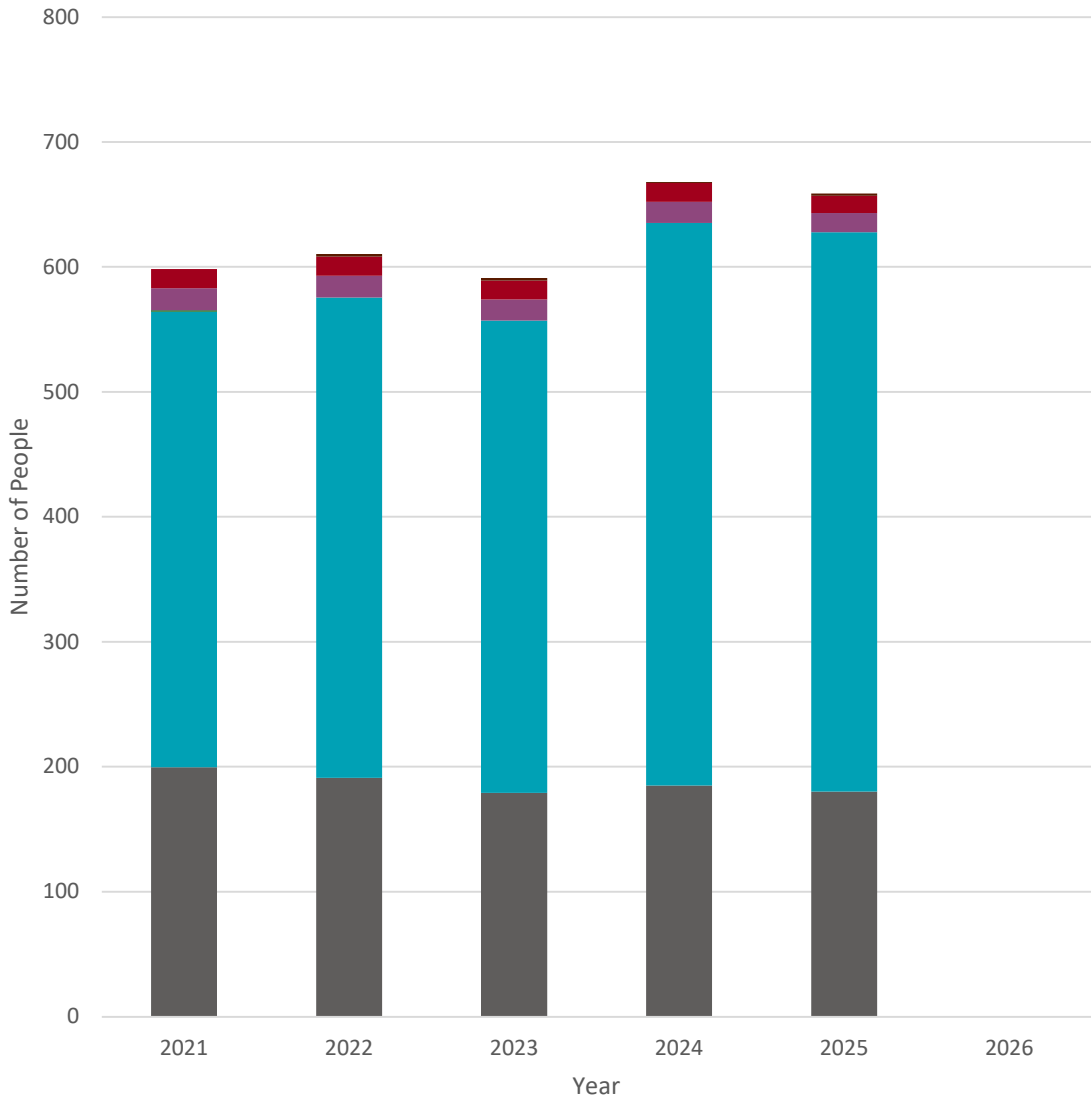
Membership Report

Where is our growth? Can we improve this next year?

- Overall, a 4.1% decline in Section membership dues from last year and a slight decline in membership. Our greatest growth since 2021 has been in Students.
- Echoes a Society-wide decline and a larger issue, but we as a Section could still try to target membership improvements



Fish Habitat Section Membership



■ Regular ■ Student ■ ECP ■ Retired ■ Lifetime ■ Developing Countries

