


AFS Sections

What do they have to offer?

By Nick Parker

Sections within the American Fisheries Society (AFS) were formed to provide a structure in which members with interests in special disciplines could interact. Most members join one or two Sections that reflect their major interests. I've chosen to be a member of all Sections for several years. Why? The AFS is my professional organization. I've enjoyed fish, fishing, and fisheries science at various phases of my life. Today, I am much less involved in fishing but am immersed in fisheries science, aquatic ecology, and integrated sustainable systems. I'm deeply concerned about the human population growth and the loss of terrestrial and aquatic habitats necessary to sustain the biodiversity of our world. These interests and concerns stimulate me to seek information from many sources and to do some small part to help educate others.

AFS Sections provide the discipline-based structure for increasing our knowledge of fisheries and expanding aquatic sciences. When I became a life member, I ceased paying dues but thought I should do something to support my professional organization. For a small cost, I joined every Section. I profit by receiving the newsletters and correspondence from each Section. I also profit from the camaraderie and discussions associated with the special symposia, meetings, and other activities developed and sponsored by Sections. This is one small thing I can do for my children and their children.

The following is a list of current AFS Sections: Bioengineering, Canadian Aquatic Resources, Computer User, Early Life History, Education, Equal Opportunities, Estuaries, Fish Culture, Fish Health, Fisheries Administrators, Fisheries History, Fisheries Law, Fisheries Management, Genetics, International Fisheries, Introduced Fish, Marine Fisheries, Native Peoples Fisheries, Physiology, Socioeconomics, and Water Quality. Marilyn Brown (301/897-8616, ext. 201) is the staff contact for any information on these units. She can help you learn more about them or provide guidance on forming a new Section. Take advantage of this AFS benefit today! 

Examples of Section activities

information development and delivery to policy makers
 symposium sponsorship
 book publishing
 special magazine issues
 member newsletters
 online listservs/discussion groups
 continuing education courses
 awards programs
 scholarship programs
 networking events
 mentoring activities
 public outreach