



President's Message, *Jim Lamer*

Dear fellow ILAFS members,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and productive summer and you are staying safe as the field season starts to slow down. I attended the National AFS meeting in Tampa in late August. If it wasn't for the palm trees, manatees, and alligators, I would of thought I was in Illinois with the great turnout we had at the meeting. Illinois really represented well with students and professionals presenting from Southern, Eastern, Western, U of I, ILDNR, Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Natural History Survey, Army Corps of Engineers, and Shedd Aquarium. I counted 30 presentations at the National meeting from Illinois presenters! I tried to make it to as many Illinois student and professional talks as possible and as always, I was extremely impressed by the caliber of talks, professionalism and strong fishery science from our members. We're glad Irma decided to miss us by about three weeks, but our thoughts go out to the residents of Florida and outlying islands that were affected by the storm. Now that Illinois has a budget, hopefully that is alleviating

some of the stress and restrictions on our universities and state agencies and more time and effort can be devoted to fishery science and management and less on program cuts, layoffs, and budget constraints. Finally, as we look towards the winter and long days of office time/ data crunching ahead, be thinking about our state chapter meeting coming up and how you can contribute. Also, abstracts for Midwest are due September 25, so let's see if we can beat our Tampa turnout! Happy fishing and please feel free to contact me or the excom with any concerns or ideas!

Jim



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Chapter Objectives:

- Promotes training of fisheries professionals.
- Provides education outreach to the citizens of Illinois.
- Fosters research in fisheries and aquatic sciences.
- Provides sound fisheries policy information.
- Enhances communication and synergistic relationships amongst fisheries professionals.

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons

President: Jim Lamer

President-Elect: Greg Whitledge

Secretary: Phil Willink

Treasurer: Rich Lewis

Past President: Steve Pescitelli

Excom Members at Large: Karen Rivera/Kevin Irons

Committee Chairpersons:

Archival: Nathan Grider

Arrangements: Steve Pescitelli

Awards: Steve Pescitelli

Continuing Education: Ben Lubinski

Environmental Concerns: Rob Colombo/
Randy Sauer

IL Environmental Council: Vic Santucci/Diane
Shasteen

IL Wildlife Action Team: Trent Thomas

Membership: Brian Metzke/Josh Sherwood

Newsletter: Brian Metzke/Jason DeBoer

Raffle: Blake Ruebush

Resolutions: Rob Hilsabeck

Student Concerns: Nerissa McClelland/Dan Grigas

Student Subunits:

Eastern Illinois: Hanna Kruckman

Southern Illinois: Alex Loubere

University of Illinois: David Boggs

Western Illinois: Eli Lampo

Website: Jessica Thornton

NCD Committee Reports Representatives:

Centrarchid: Josh Sherwood

Esocid: Rob Colombo

Ictalurid: Jeremy Tiemann

Rivers and Streams: Trent Thomas/Steve Pescitelli

Walleye: Jason DeBoer/Mike Garthaus

2017-2018 Sponsors:



PACRAM

If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our organization, please contact the membership committee chairman, Brian Metzke (brian.metzke@illinois.gov), for more information.

Larimore Student Research Award Program



Dr. R. Weldon Larimore of the INHS Center for Aquatic Ecology uses newly developed electric seine and fish shocker in Jordan Creek in 1950.

PURPOSE: The mission of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Thus, the purpose of the Larimore Student Research Awards Competition is to provide financial incentives for outstanding student research projects to promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the Illinois fisheries.

WHO CAN APPLY: Students attending any accredited Illinois college or university, who maintain a cumulative GPA equal to or greater than 3.0 may apply.

AWARD: A maximum of four awards per year will be granted. Each grant is eligible for up to **\$500** depending on the quality of the proposal.

APPLICATION: Applications require submission of a proposal packet, which includes a proposal cover sheet, abstract, project description, budget, resume and transcripts of candidate, and two letters of recommendation. See attached packet for further instructions.

DEADLINE: Completed proposals must be received by the Chair of the Student Concerns Committee of Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society by December 2, 2017. Send applications to:

Dan Grigas

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
3S580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

SELECTION: All award proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Student Concerns Committee of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of January each year. At or near the end of their research, recipients of the ILAFS grant award must present their research findings at an IL AFS meeting.

CONTACT: Dan Grigas at the above address or phone: (630)933-7668 or e-mail: dgrigas@dupageforest.org

**Note: a full packet with grant application details will be provided to each subunit.*

Snapshot of Graduate Student Research at WIU, Allison Lenaerts

Currently, I am pursuing my Master's degree in biology at Western Illinois University with Dr. Jim Lamer. My thesis research involves using contracted commercial fishermen to harvest bigheaded carp in pools 16-19 of the Upper Mississippi River (UMR). With this research, we hope to evaluate the efficiency of harvest at managing Asian carp populations at the invasion front. I am also utilizing some of the carp collected by the commercial fishermen to investigate differences reproductive potential by studying fecundity and gonadal somatic index (GSI).

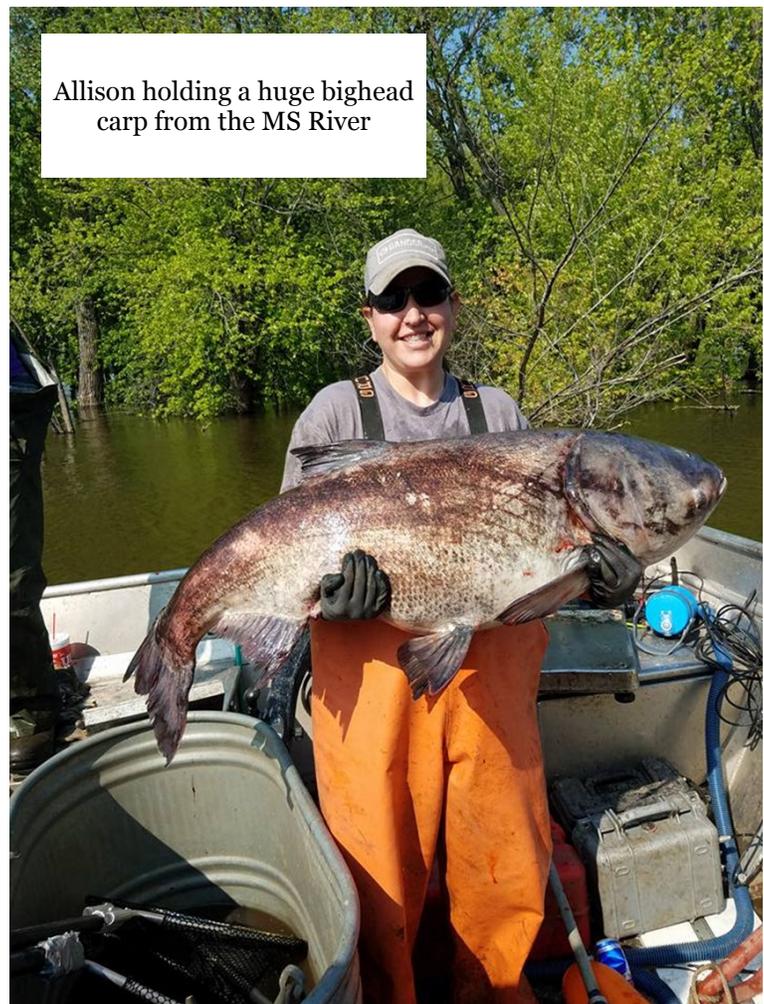
Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk, Iowa presents a unique management opportunity for silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molotrix*) and bighead carp (*H. nobilis*) within the Upper Mississippi River. This hydroelectric dam has a maximum head difference of 38 feet and lacks a navigable spillway. Upstream movements are restricted to the adjacent lock chamber which makes it a significant barrier to fish passage. For these reasons, abundance of both species is lower above the dam than it is below.

In August 2015, we began working with commercial fishermen to mark individual Asian carp with jaw tags in pools 17-20 of the UMR. The commercial fishermen primarily utilize 3-5 inch gill and trammel nets to capture fish for our tagging and harvest efforts. In December 2015, we began harvesting Asian carp instead of just tagging them. We have tagged additional fish since then, and we hope to use these tagged fish to estimate population sizes and investigate the impacts of commercial removal. WIU students have collected bighead and silver carp from Pool 20, where densities of Asian carp are much higher, to examine differences between pools.

Understanding reproduction with in the UMR, can provide valuable information regarding the management of both species. The not so elusive invasive species, Asian carp, has plagued Illinois waterways for decades. Their presence has had detrimental impacts on native filter feeding fish such as gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) and paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), and may compete with larval fish as well. So far, management of these species has proven difficult because of their high fecundity, rapid growth, and protracted spawning.

Silver and bighead carp that are removed through harvest are being examined to determine reproductive potential and growth. Gonad weights were taken from both male and females to investigate their GSI. In addition, egg samples were taken from the anterior, posterior, and middle of females with stage IV ovaries to investigate fecundity.

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Snapshot of graduate student research at WIU, Allison Lenaerts

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Egg samples from 76 bighead and 155 silver carp were preserved in 10% neutral buffered formalin. The egg samples were enumerated under transmitted light and average number of eggs per gram will be applied to total gonad weight to calculate fecundity.

I have found some significant differences in GSI for stage IV females across pools but there is no significant difference in the number of eggs per gram across pools. After analyzing more samples, I hope to be able to create species-specific metrics to calculate fecundity throughout my study area, and potentially their entire invaded range.

I look forward to continuing my research with contracted commercial harvest and reproduction to help gain insight to the management of silver and bighead carp.

Joan Duffy Travel Grant to Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

**Strengthening
Natural
Resources
through
Collaboration**

78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Milwaukee, Wisconsin | January 28-31, 2018

The **Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society** (IL AFS) will be awarding a single \$200 travel grant which will be matched by the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society. This will provide **\$400** for a fisheries student to attend the **Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, January 28-31, 2018 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

Criteria for this selection will be based upon financial need and/or reason(s) for attending the meeting (e.g., paper presentation, pertinent paper session, IL AFS committee meeting). Students should state their class standing (e.g. junior, B.S. candidate), interests, and AFS membership status when applying. A letter from each applicant's advisor confirming the need for travel money is required.

The grant recipient is asked to attend the business meeting at the conference to receive their award. **ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO APPLY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE PRESENTING A PAPER!!!**

Submit applications (**electronic copies preferred**) or inquiries:

by: **November 4, 2017**

to: Dan Grigas
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
3S580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

Phone: (630)933-7668
Email: dgrigas@dupageforest.org

Awards Committee Seeks Nominations for IL AFS Excellence and Service Awards



Stephen A. Forbes Fisheries Excellence Award

This award will be given to fisheries professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession in Illinois. This contribution should be a collection of achievements over the individual's career which surpass normal job duties, and contribute to advancement of the profession through either research or management activities. While not necessarily a requirement, evaluation of the nominee should consider dissemination of their work by publication (in refereed or non-refereed formats) and/or presentations at AFS, or other profession meetings. Award recipients should be members of the Illinois Chapter during the period the work was accomplished. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page maximum) biographical sketch of the nominee, a brief (1 page maximum) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application. Nominations should be submitted to the Awards Committee (nerissa.mcclelland@illinois.gov) and must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Illinois Chapter Meritorious Service Award

This award will recognize extraordinary service to the Chapter by an active or past member. Nominations may be based on a variety of service activities benefiting the Illinois Chapter. Consideration may also include contributions to North Central Division or Parent Society. In the nomination, evidence must be presented that this service has gone beyond routine membership and that it has made a genuine and lasting contribution to the betterment of the Chapter. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page maximum) biographical sketch, a brief (1 page maximum) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application. Nominations should be submitted to the Awards Committee (nerissa.mcclelland@illinois.gov) and must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Announcements



***The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
Workshop on Freshwater Mollusk Health and Disease Assessment
La Crosse, Wisconsin March 12-15, 2018***

Health assessment and diseases of freshwater mollusks are important concerns for propagation, relocation, and conservation programs. The 2018 FMCS Workshop will provide background on disease organisms and their transmission. This Workshop also will include information on mussel health assessment tools, sampling procedures for health assessments, a case study of a mussel die-off, and a laboratory session covering necropsy, sample collection and examination, and histology. The Workshop will be accompanied by a poster session and mixers to encourage discussion among participants, and an optional field trip to the mussel propagation facility at Genoa National Fish Hatchery. More details about this Workshop and how to register will be posted on the FMCS website:

(<http://molluskconservation.org/EVENTS/2018Workshop/2018Workshop.html>).

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE!

56th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center, Grafton, Illinois
February 20-22, 2018

Registration details to be posted on the Chapter website soon.





Consortium of
Aquatic Science Societies

August 3, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Policy Regulatory Reform
Mail Code 1803A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Douglas W. Lamont
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil
Works
Office of the Assistant Secretary
of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
104 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-010

Dear Administrator Pruitt and Deputy Assistant Secretary Lamont:

We are writing on behalf of our 20,000 members to urge the EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers to extend the public comment period for the proposed rule that seeks to rescind the 2015 Clean Water Rule (80 FR 37054). We request at least a six month comment period, the same time period your agencies provided for comment on the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

The planned 30-day comment period is an inadequate amount of time for stakeholders to engage meaningfully in the rulemaking process. Further, it minimizes the input of over one million people who participated in the development of the 2015 rule.

EPA and the Army Corps crafted the 2015 rule to clarify longstanding confusion over which water bodies were protected under the Clean Water Act. The agencies held over 400 meetings with a variety of stakeholders, including small business owners, farmers, energy companies, states, counties, municipalities, other federal agencies, sportsmen and conservation groups, and environmental organizations. A rulemaking of this nature with tremendous consequences for the wellbeing of all citizens deserves a transparent, inclusive and meaningful opportunity for public comment.

Many of our members participated the development of an extensive report on the connectivity of wetlands to downstream waters¹ that provides the scientific evidence in support

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2013. Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence. US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. EPA/600/R-11/098B.

of the 2015 rule. We would appreciate a meaningful opportunity to comment on the re-codification of the rule to ensure that the science is appropriately considered in this process.

Wetlands and headwater streams provide vital services that promote human health and safety. Wetlands keep our streams, lakes, and groundwater cleaner by treating urban and agricultural runoff through natural processes. They also provide water during times of drought and absorb runoff and floodwaters, which reduces disaster recovery costs. Wetlands sustain essential habitat for wildlife, fish, and waterfowl to feed, nest, breed, spawn, and rear their young. Our nation's wetlands cover a small portion of our landscapes (<6% of the land area in the lower 48 states) but they play a very significant role in protecting the water that we all depend on.

Considering the critical functions of our nation's wetlands and headwater streams, the far-reaching implications on aquatic species and their habitat from repealing the rule, and the robust public participation in developing the 2015 rule, we urge EPA and the Army Corps to extend the comment period so stakeholders can understand the concerns that remain and continue to contribute in a useful way.

The Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS) is comprised of nine professional societies representing almost 20,000 individuals with diverse knowledge of the aquatic sciences. Those members work in the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, and various tribal, state, and federal agencies. CASS represents professional scientists and managers who combine deep subject matter expertise, a commitment to independent objectivity, and the critical review of environmental information, along with a passion for the natural places and resources that form the foundation of American greatness. With a shortened comment period, little time is provided for them to voice their opinions about a rulemaking that greatly affects the water, habitat and aquatic species they have dedicated their lives to studying, managing and protecting.

Sincerely,

Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies



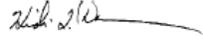
Joseph Margraf
President
American Fisheries Society



Linda Duguay
President
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography



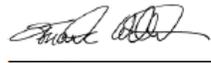
Robert R. Twilley
President
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation



Heidi Dunn
President
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society



Erin Dunlop
President
International Association for Great Lakes Research



Frank Wilhelm
President
North American Lake Management Society



Tim Nelson
President
Physiological Society of America



Colleen Baxter
President
Society for Freshwater Science



Arnold van der Valk
President
Society of Wetland Scientists