



Fish Health Section - American Fisheries Society

Dear Fellow AFS-FHS Members and Friends,

Past President Ben LaFrentz and I have some important updates to share with you all. First and foremost, we wanted to provide an update on the 2021 Western Fish Disease Workshop and 2021 Joint Meeting of the Northeast Fish Health Committee and the AFS-FHS. After careful consideration and close monitoring of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EXCOM has decided to postpone both meetings.

In lieu of these meetings and building from last year's great efforts by Drs. Matt Griffin and Nick Phelps, we are planning to host a summer seminar series for students and post-docs, but with some modifications (please stay tuned!). We are also discussing the possibility of providing a virtual Continuing Education course at some point this year. Additionally, we will be hosting the annual AFS-FHS EXCOM and Business meetings virtually, again with some modifications.

The current path forward is to continue planning efforts to host the International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH) in 2022. Details concerning the ISAAH, future Western Fish Disease Workshops, and future AFS-FHS meetings will be provided as decisions are made.

Next, as I shared in my last update, the AFS, in collaboration with the FHS, received a grant from the Multistate Conservation Grant program to support revising and updating the Blue Book. As you are also aware, this grant provides support to hire a Project Manager to lead these efforts. After multiple excellent applications were reviewed and discussed, I am very pleased to announce that **Dr. Jan Lovy** (NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife) will be serving as the Lead Project Manager, and equally pleased to announce that **Dr. Ken Cain** (University of Idaho) will be serving as Co-Project Manager for this effort. Initial discussions for the path moving forward are now underway and a steering committee to be comprised of various expertise and perspectives (e.g., USFWS, USDA-APHIS, NOAA, USGS, States, Tribal, Industry, AFS-FHS, Academia) will be formed shortly. Please stay tuned as this exciting endeavor continues to gain momentum!

In the meantime, please continue to stay safe, and as always, please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback.

All the best,

Ben LaFrentz and Tom Loch

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Loch'.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin R. LaFrentz'.

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