
Agenda item: Committee Reports – Technical Standards Committee **Presenter:** Mohamed Faisal

Discussion:

Several chapters in the Diagnostic Section of the Blue Book have been updated (and uploaded to the website) and several more are currently going through revisions. However, this is not enough, as many other chapters have not been updated in over 20 years. There is still a lot of work to bring the Blue Book up-to-date with the methods that are currently available.

Agenda item: Committee Reports – Professional Standards Committee **Presenter:** Mark Lawrence

Discussion:

The Committee has started using Google Docs to streamline their application review process and has been working on updating the Aquatic Animal Health Inspector (AAHI) and Certified Fish Pathologist (CFP) exam content. The AAHI exam review has been completed and updated and the CFP exam review is still ongoing but is expected to be completed in the next year. The committee reviewed 15 AAHI applications this past year (4 of which were re-certifications and 11 were new applications) and 4 re-certifications for CFPs. The list of current AAHIs and CFPs on the website has been brought up-to-date (currently 34 AAHIs and 17 CFPs) and will be updated every 6 months.

Agenda item: Committee Reports – Policy/Position Development Committee **Presenter:** Tom Loch

Discussion:

The purpose of this Committee is to assist members with raising awareness on important issues, potentially leading to official positions on behalf of the Section and prompting action on official policies. If there is an issue that any member thinks is worthy or important, please reach out to any PPDC member. Most recently, the PPDC reached out to the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in regard to a factsheet on animal welfare that they had produced that contained some erroneous facts and anti-aquaculture statements. The WVA has responded that they are taking the PPDC's suggestions into consideration and requested that the Section provide them with new photos to include.

Agenda item: Committee Reports – Handbook Revision and Oversight Committee **Presenter:** Mohamed Faisal/Gavin Glenney

Discussion:

The Committee worked towards including new molecular assays for *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV), and *Myxobolus cerebralis* into the Blue Book. As *M. cerebralis* still needs to go through extensive ring testing, it was unable to be included in the Blue Book revisions this year. However, real time PCR assays were added to the Blue Book for *R. salmoninarum* and VHSV.

Agenda item: Committee Reports – International Meeting Oversight Committee **Presenter:** Dave Groman

Discussion:

The location for the 2022 ISAAC is not finalized yet; there has been one proposal to host the meeting at a university in Santiago, Chile. The proposal is being reviewed but as the Committee is waiting for a budget to be submitted, no official decision has been made yet.

Agenda item: Committee Reports – Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee **Presenter:** Amy Long

Discussion:

The Committee recently sent out a survey to members and non-members to gauge why people are members, what they hope to get out of membership, and what can be done to encourage others to join the Section. The Committee has also

been adding profiles of students and early career members on the website (<http://afs-fhs-students.blogspot.com/>) and are always recruiting others to be profiled. Due to the widespread cancelation of workshops and conferences this year, one of the committee members (Nick Phelps) came up with the idea for a showcase for students and post-docs to share their research via the AFS FHS Summer Seminar Series (<https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/fishhealthseminar>). Average attendance to these virtual presentations has been 40-50 people and has been a success.

Agenda item: Committee Reports – Fish Health Laboratory QA/QC Committee **Presenter:** Chris Wilson

Discussion:

The Committee has been very active with 12 Tier 1 laboratories and are in the process of reviewing the first application for Tier 2 status. There may be a slow down on labs attempting to achieve Tier 2 status, as required USDA in-person training may be canceled due to the pandemic. The Committee will continue to work with the USDA and NAHLN on Tier 3 status.

Agenda item: New Business – Blue Book Revision Project Manager **Presenter:** Ben LaFrentz

Discussion:

As mentioned previously, a request for the Inspection Section of the Blue Book to be evaluated was thoroughly reviewed and a report of the findings was produced, serving as a guiding document for revising the Blue Book. In order to achieve this, the Section and Parent Society sought funds to facilitate making the necessary updates and changes to the Blue Book. These funds were secured and support hiring a Project Manager (PM) to oversee the process, using the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. The PM will provide administrative support and assistance with telecommunications; a steering committee and work groups will be created to make the actual revisions. This project was set to get started in 2020, but due to the pandemic, it has been delayed until 2021.

Discussion by several members stressed the importance of this project, that it is no small undertaking, and that it will likely not be completed in one year. It was acknowledged that the ad hoc committee did recognize that the Blue Book is currently very salmonid-centric and one of the goals of these revisions is to bring pathogens of other species into the Blue Book. It is important that representation on the steering committee and work groups include representatives from all relevant organizations and agencies (Federal, state, tribal, private, research, etc.). Discussion also centered on the issue of the Inspection Section being used as a regulatory document and the potential legal ramifications; the Parent Society is soliciting legal advice to ensure that the Section is protected against any possible future litigation. Additionally, the role of the Inspection Section in guiding regulations is something that needs to be reviewed and re-considered in this project.

Agenda item: New Business – 2020 AFS Annual Meeting **Presenter:** Ben LaFrentz

Discussion:

The in-person portion of the 2020 AFS Annual Meeting in Ohio has been canceled and will be entirely virtual. There will also be a workshop on Fish Welfare co-sponsored with the Fish Culture Section at the virtual meeting. There may be a specific Fish Health session at the virtual conference if enough relevant presentations are submitted.

Agenda item: New Business – 2021 Joint NEFHC/FHS Annual Meeting **Presenter:** Ben LaFrentz

Discussion:

The 2021 Section Annual Meeting will be held jointly with the Northeast Fish Health Committee (NEFHC) Meeting July 12-15, 2021 in Burlington, Vermont. It will be held at the same venue that was planned for 2020, with a tentative agenda described below and more details to follow in future months.

July 12: NEFHC Meeting

July 13: Continuing Education course (Molecular tools) and opening reception

July 14-15: FHS Meeting

Agenda item: New Business – 2021 WFDW **Presenter:** Sascha Hallett

Discussion:

The 2021 WFDW will be held in Hood River, Oregon from June 14-17. It is being organized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Aimee Reed and Sarah Bjork) and Oregon State University (Jerri Bartholomew and Sascha Hallett). The Continuing Education course will be related to applied nutrition for disease management.

Agenda item: New Business – Election Results **Presenter:** Derek Gibbs

Discussion:

The 2020 election results are as follows:

Position	Elected member
Vice President	Anita Kelly
Technical Standards Committee	Stephen Reichley
Professional Standards Committee	Joe Marcino
Policy/Position Development Committee	Jesse Trushenski
Nominating and Balloting Committee	Nicholas Phelps

Agenda item: Awards – Achievement Awards for Committee Chairs **Presenter:** Ben LaFrentz

Discussion:

At the beginning of the year, each committee chair was asked to come up with 3-5 goals to accomplish throughout the year and the following chairs were recognized for their achievements: **Mohamed Faisal** (Technical Standards Committee Chair and Handbook Revision and Oversight Committee Co-Chair), **Derek Gibbs** (Nominating and Balloting Committee Chair), **Tom Loch** (Policy/Position Development Committee Chair), **Gavin Glenney** (Handbook Revision and Oversight Committee Co-Chair), **Stacy Strickland** (Section Communications Committee Chair), and **Chris Wilson** (Fish Health Laboratory QA/QC Committee Chair).

Agenda item: Awards – SDS Award **Presenter:** Luke Iwanowicz

Discussion:

The S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious award in the Section and recognizes outstanding accomplishments in the field of aquatic animal health. This year, the award was presented to two deserving awardees: Bruce Stewart and Dr. Gael Kurath.

Agenda item: Passing of the Presidency **Presenter:** Tom Loch

Discussion:

The Past-President Award was presented to Ben LaFrentz, who went above and beyond and did a tremendous job as president, shepherding the Section through unprecedented times (the first virtual meeting!).