



**New York Chapter  
American Fisheries  
Society – Newsletter**

**Winter 2013**

New York Chapter Officers  
2013-2014  
President: Tony VanDeValk  
President-Elect: Mike Clancy  
Past President: Frank Flack  
Secretary-Treasurer: Scott Schlueter  
Secretary-Treasurer Past: Scott Jones

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# AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

## Editors' Note

Welcome to the Winter 2013 newsletter! Many thanks to all who submitted newsletter items in a timely manner! If you would care to submit something for the Spring newsletter, please email it to me at [eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:eczollwe@gw.dec.state.ny.us) by March 15, 2014. I'm especially looking for fish stories and student happenings... Also please make sure that Erik ([ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us)) has your correct email address in order to ensure uninterrupted delivery of the newsletter!

Emily Zollweg-Horan, Newsletter Editor

## President's Corner

It's that time of year again when we put away the sampling gear (most of us anyway) and start thinking more about time off, holidays, and the data we collected all summer and what to do with it. It's also time to start thinking about our annual meeting, as that will be upon us in no time. We've finished up the planning and arrangements for our next Chapter meeting which will be held in Geneva from Feb. 5-7, 2014 (see details in this newsletter). The theme will be "*Quantifying angler behavior: current practiced and emerging methods.*" The plenary speakers are leading experts on this topic and include our own Nancy Connelly and Dr. Randy Jackson. The list of invited speakers is impressive as well. There will also be a Larval Fish Identification Workshop in conjunction with the meeting on February 5. Dr. Ed Roseman and staff will be our instructors.

Fees for the meeting registration and workshop are similar to last year, but higher than the few previous years. As our Past-president Frank Flack noted in last year's winter newsletter, the Chapter EXCOMM has been passing on the financial benefits of hosting the Parent Society Annual meeting in Lake Placid to our membership by keeping meeting fees low or even free for the workshop. With the benefits now depleted, it was decided last year that the time has come to break even on the annual meeting and workshop in order to maintain our financial health. We firmly believe that this year's costs are still an extreme bargain for what attendees receive.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to consider becoming more active in our chapter. The Executive Committee is made up entirely of volunteers, and we are currently taking a closer look at the committees in order to improve EXCOMM functionality and also identify current and future committee member needs. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or any other EXCOMM member if you are interested in participating.

I would like to thank the membership and especially the EXCOMM for all of their help this past year. It has been a rewarding experience for myself, and am comforted knowing I leave the presidency in the capable hands of our President-elect Mike Clancy. I look forward to seeing you all in Geneva at what is sure to be a great meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!

Tony VanDeValk  
Cornell Biological Field Station  
315-633-9243  
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# AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

## Chapter News

### Annual Meeting

*“Quantifying angler behavior: current practices and emerging methods”*

New York Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

February 5-7, 2014, Ramada Geneva Lakefront, Geneva NY

### Call For Presentations and Posters

Submit Poster and Oral Presentations, **On Any Topic**, by January 17, 2014  
Submissions should include: Title, Authors (with email), Abstract (<200 words)  
Submit to Program Chair Brian Weidel ([bweidel@usgs.gov](mailto:bweidel@usgs.gov))

Oral presentations are 20 minutes (15 plus 5 for questions). AV equipment will be available, Powerpoint formats are preferred, but contact Brian Weidel if you have other needs ([bweidel@usgs.gov](mailto:bweidel@usgs.gov)). Presenters will receive email confirmation of their abstract submission and will be notified of acceptance and the designated time and place of their presentation by January 27, 2014.

This year's meeting theme will address how science and resource management study the ultimate users...anglers. We have a diverse and experienced group of plenary speakers as well as a special invited session that will showcase angler based research throughout New York State.

### **PLENARY SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Len Hunt**, Ontario Ministry of Nat. Resources, Angler effort, behavior and efficiency affect landscape patterns of overfishing

**Nancy Connelly**, Cornell, The New York State Angler Survey

**Dr. Dustin Martin**, University of Nebraska, Using the internet to understand angler behavior

**Dr. Randy Jackson**, Cornell, Improvements & efficiencies in creel surveys: lessons from Oneida Lake

### **SPECIAL CONTRIBUTED SESSION: ANGLER RESEARCH IN NEW YORK**

Topics: Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, NY Bass Survey, Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS), Adirondacks, Lake Erie, Long Island. Do you have another topic, contact [bweidel@usgs.gov](mailto:bweidel@usgs.gov)?!

Workshop: Larval Fish Identification, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 9-5, Dr Edward Roseman, USGS-Great Lakes Sci. Center

REGISTER ONLINE FOR MEETING AND WORKSHOP AT : <http://newyorkafs.org>  
STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILBLE, SEE WEBSITE

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront, 41 Lakefront Drive, Routes 5 & 20, Geneva, New York 14456 <http://www.genevaramada.com/>. A block of rooms has been reserved for the 'state rate' of \$83. To reserve rooms call 1-800-990-0907, or (315) 789 0400 and mention "NYAFS" to receive the special rate.

Meeting Registration includes banquet dinner Thursday night, and Socials on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

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Meeting & Workshop Rates			
	NYCAFS member	Non-member	student
Whole Meeting	\$135	\$160	75
1-day	\$95	\$120	40

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Workshop	
If registered for meeting	Free
Not registered for meeting	\$100

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### Chapter Awards

Hello Fellow NYCAFS Chapter Members,

We are closing in on the annual conference in February in Geneva and I am pushing a solicitation for award nominees. Please send a brief synopsis of why your candidate deserves the award you are nominating them for to [rabbett@usgs.gov](mailto:rabbett@usgs.gov). The final date for accepting nominations is January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**PLEASE take the time to nominate one of your peers. I know that there are many deserving candidates in NYS's professional fisheries community!!**

### **New York Chapter Awards**

The New York Chapter has three award classifications for recognizing our fisheries professionals:

#### *Honorary Member Award*

The Honorary Member Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual to the Chapter or official position (i.e. Guest Speakers). Nominations should include a brief biography and discussion of the significant involvement and contributions towards conservation of fisheries/aquatic resource within the Chapter. The only criterion for the award is that the nominee must be a member in good standing.

#### *Professional Achievement Award*

The Professional of the Year Award is awarded to an individual employed in a field related to fisheries and aquatic resources. Nominations for individuals should include a brief biography along with information pertaining to service, impact on the resource and other professional, and significant accomplishments. Eligible accomplishments by the nominee can be in one of the following categories: Leadership and Development, Education, Aquaculture, Management, Research and Technical Support.

- Only members in good standing can make nominations
- The recipient must be a member in good standing
- The award is based on fisheries related work in New York

**Bottom Line – Member and fisheries professional with an exceptional accomplishment this past year and/or career.**

#### *Conservationist of the Year Award*

The Conservationist of the Year Award is for significant involvement and accomplishments by an individual or group not employed in the fisheries or aquatic resources field (i.e. Conservation or Angler

## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

Groups). Nominations should include a brief biography and discussion of the significant involvement and contributions towards conservation of fisheries/aquatic resources. The only criterion for the award is that the award is based on fisheries/aquatic resource related work accomplished in New York. It is never too late to nominate our peers for their outstanding work related to fisheries and aquatic resources. Please take some time and think about your peers who deserve recognition. **Bottom Line – Non – member, individual or organization (group) that has contributed to our restorative or scientific pursuits this past year and/or years past.**

Nominations can be emailed to me at [rabbett@usgs.gov](mailto:rabbett@usgs.gov)

### *Dave Bryson Memorial Award*

The New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society established the Dave Bryson Memorial Fisheries Fund in memory of Dave Bryson, ex-chapter President and long-time member. Eligible recipients include any college-bound high school students, college student or young fisheries professional in a fisheries-related program of study or a recent college graduate that has received a degree from a fisheries-related program of study within the past two years. The award is intended to assist the recipient in furthering their education or fisheries-related career aspirations and may be used for travel expenses, equipment purchase, or educational costs (i.e. books). Please take some time and think about a student or young professional who deserve recognition.

**Bottom Line - High school, college student, or young professional with exceptional qualities, skills, and accomplishments.**

Nominations can be emailed to me at [rabbett@usgs.gov](mailto:rabbett@usgs.gov)

### Website

<http://newyorkafs.org//index.html> The eCommerce site has been updated and if anyone has issues, concerns, or comments please feel free to have them contact me at [ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ejlatrem@gw.dec.state.ny.us) with your questions or suggestions.

Erik Latremore, NYSAFS Webmaster

The New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society would like to formally invite you to join our Facebook group to stay informed and communicate with other members. You will be able to view job announcements, current events, or even catch up with good 'ol friends. If you do not have a Facebook account, type [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) into your web browser and fill out the information under "Sign Up." We have a link from our new website as well under Social Network. Join us soon to stay in the loop and help us help our fisheries resources ;-). If you have suggestions and ideas on how to manage or what to post on our Facebook site, we would like to hear them.

For our members not interested in Facebook, we also have a LinkedIn group which can be found by searching "NY Chapter of the American Fisheries Society." This forum is available for discussion of chapter and professional related items. Our chapter website is still the "go to" place for job announcements, meeting announcements, newsletters etc.

## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

### Workshop News

**Annual Meeting Workshop:** Geneva Ramada, February 5, 2014 9:00 am-5:00 pm

#### **Larval Fish Identification Workshop**

This 8-hour workshop includes lectures, classroom demonstrations, and laboratory activities that will cover sampling gear, sample collection, egg and larval sample processing, and identification. Emphasis will be on sample processing and procedures useful in collection, processing, and identifying fish early life history stages as part of scientific investigations. Instructors will provide representative specimens for examination to include common fishes of the Great Lakes and Ohio River drainages.

Your instructors are Dr. Ed Roseman, Patricia Thompson, and Dr. Jeremy Pritt  
USGS Great Lakes Science Center

**Registration:** cost \$100 if not registering for Chapter Conference \$0 if you are, only 40 spaces available. Registrants can pay online but also need to reserve their spot through contact with: Chris VanMaaren [cvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:cvanmaa@gw.dec.state.ny.us) (607) 652-2620

### Student News

## **New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2014 Student Travel Award**

Student travel awards are available for the New York Chapter of AFS annual meeting February 5-7, 2014 at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront in Geneva, NY. Awards will be in the amount of \$150 per recipient and meeting registration will be waived for award winners. Undergraduate and graduate students presenting either an oral presentations or posters are eligible. Award winners should attend the business meeting (February 6<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm) to accept their award.

Our goal is to support high-quality presentations and encourage student involvement in the NY fisheries and aquatic community. We encourage all students to apply even if their research is in its initial stages. 'Idea talks' are sometimes the most well received presentations at a meeting. A selection committee will base award decisions on *abstract clarity* and *application answers*. Travel award applications are due by **Tuesday, January 7th, 2014**. Send to Dr. Brian Weidel, NYCAFS Student Subunit Committee Chair at: [bweidel@usgs.gov](mailto:bweidel@usgs.gov) Register and find meeting info at : <http://newyorkafs.org>

This year's meeting "*Quantifying angler behavior: current practices and emerging methods*" features a special contributed session on angler-oriented research from across New York. In addition, four distinguished plenary speakers will present diverse and cutting edge research and approaches for studying anglers.

Dr. Len Hunt- Angler effort, behavior and efficiency effect landscape patterns of overfishing

Nancy Connelly- The New York State Angler Survey

Dr. Dustin Martin- Using the internet to understand angler behavior

Dr. Randy Jackson- Improvements & efficiencies in creel surveys: lessons from Oneida Lake

# AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

## Student Travel Award Application

- Please include **ALL** of the information requested below in one file.
- Include your last name in the file name (example: “Weidel\_TravelAward.docx”).
- Email to [bweidel@gmail.com](mailto:bweidel@gmail.com) by January 10, 2014.

### Background Information

Name:

Email:

Mailing Address:

College/University:

Advisor/mentor name & email:

### Application Questions

- Describe your interest or involvement with any of the following topics: fisheries & aquatic research, AFS groups, or student fisheries organizations (200 word limit).
- Besides presenting your research, describe how attending this annual meeting will help you to attain your career goals (200 word limit).

### Submitted abstract

## Northeast Division

### Announcements

The latest edition of the NE Division Fish Rapper can be found at <http://www.fisheriessociety.org/ned/>.

# DESIGNING FOR SUCCESS: Ecological Restoration in Times of Change

**APRIL 25 & 26, 2014**

**TO BE HELD AT HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE, AMHERST, MASS.**

**MORE INFO? SEE: [CHAPTER.SER.ORG/NEWENGLAND](http://CHAPTER.SER.ORG/NEWENGLAND)**

**OR EMAIL: [SER-CONWAY-CONFERENCE@CSLD.EDU](mailto:SER-CONWAY-CONFERENCE@CSLD.EDU)**

Please submit abstracts for papers and posters by **January 31, 2014**



# Hold the Date!

*Climate change, urban sprawl, land use, introduced insects, disease, and pathogens have far reaching effects throughout the Hudson River watershed. These impacts, whether new or newly discovered, are changing our understanding of the influences the watershed has on the Hudson River estuary. Understanding these issues is critical for directing future research and developing the right solutions to minimize impacts.*

*During this symposium, several invited experts will discuss the most recent scientific understandings of the changes in the watershed, recommend where science can lead to better understanding, and present novel approaches to minimizing impacts. A contributed poster session and reception will follow the presentations.*

**For updates go to**

[www.hres.org](http://www.hres.org)

## 2014 Hudson River Symposium: Watershed Influences in a Changed World

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**SUNY @ New Paltz  
New Paltz, New York**

**Invited Speakers 9:00-3:45  
Poster Session and Reception  
3:45-5:30**



### Collaborators and Sponsors:



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**Hudson River Estuary**



**HUDSON RIVER FOUNDATION**  
for Science & Environmental Research



**HUDSON RIVER  
ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY**





## Save the Date!

70th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference  
Sunday, April 13 - Tuesday, April 15, 2014  
Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland, Maine

### Call for Presentation & Poster Abstracts

You are invited to share your projects and presentations with the audience at the 70th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference taking place on Sunday, April 13 - Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland, Maine.

**Presentations will be made in the following subject areas:**

- Wildlife
- Inland Fisheries
- Marine Fisheries
- Information & Education
- Law Enforcement

**You may submit one of the following formats:**

- 20 minute presentation to be combined with other like topics
- Poster display

**The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2014.**

### About the Conference

This annual event will attract over 500 **natural resources professionals** in the fields of **wildlife biology, fisheries and fisheries management, information and education and law enforcement**. The event provides opportunities for education, discussion, and exchanging of ideas. Highlights include: workshop sessions, keynote speakers, poster displays, and social and networking events.

Conference registration will open in January, 2014. Please visit [www.NEAFWA.org](http://www.NEAFWA.org) for updates.

### Location & Lodging

The host hotel for the 70th Annual NEAFWA Conference is the **Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland, Maine**. Overnight accommodations are available for a **discounted group rate of \$125.00 / night** plus tax.

Reservations must be made **by March 20, 2014** to receive the discounted rate. Please call the hotel directly at [207-775-2311](tel:207-775-2311) and be sure to mention that you are with the Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference.

AFS News

**AFS End-of-Year Book Sale - almost 100 publications at greatly reduced prices**

From now until January 13, 2014, take advantage of our End-of-Year Book Sale and save on selected titles. Complete your science library at greatly reduced prices - all sale publications are **priced from \$5.00 to \$20.00**. No refunds or returns on this special offer. These sale books available through our online bookstore only, at: <http://fisheries.org/shop>

Check out the latest AFS books at [www.afsbooks.org](http://www.afsbooks.org)

Join AFS or renew for 2014 at [www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/membership.html)

AFS Information on the Web <http://fisheries.org>

Upcoming Events

**Eleventh annual forum on research in the Adirondacks - February 26-27, 2014**

Please set aside February 26-27, 2014 (Wednesday afternoon and Thursday) for our eleventh annual **forum** on research in the Adirondacks which is being coordinated by Cornell University and the US Geological Survey. Main goals of this **forum** are to update attendees on current research activities, present important findings, identify new monitoring and research efforts, and to stimulate cooperative efforts that address past, present, and future environmental issues within the region.

Several pre-event meetings may take place on Wednesday afternoon (and evening) at the Adirondack League Club's (ALC) Winter Lodge (more information will follow) in Old Forge, NY. The main meeting (research presentations and posters) will be held Thursday at the Winter Lodge. This meeting is informal, thus, part of Thursday afternoon may be kept open for general discussions and/or breakout meetings between cooperators.

We request that you submit titles (abstracts are not needed) for a 15-to-20 minute talk (or posters) to [bbaldigo@usgs.gov](mailto:bbaldigo@usgs.gov) before February 3, 2014.

Please notify Dan ([dcj3@cornell.edu](mailto:dcj3@cornell.edu)) and myself before February 14, 2014 if you plan to attend.

## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

More details about rooms and meals will follow in January. A draft agenda, directions to the lodge, and ALC-access information will be sent to all in early February.

Thanks, we hope to see you there.

Barry (for Dan Josephson, Greg Lawrence, and Cliff Kraft)

Barry P. Baldigo  
U.S. Geological Survey, New York Water Science Center  
425 Jordan Road, Troy, NY 12180  
email: [bbaldigo@usgs.gov](mailto:bbaldigo@usgs.gov), phone: 518.285.5605, work cell: 518.703.2725

Registration is open for the **2014 Atlantic Salmon and Their Ecosystems Forum** (<http://atlanticsalmonforum.org>). The deadline for online registration is **December 20**.

The conference will be held on **January 8-9, 2014** at the University of Maine in Orono, ME. The meeting will cover topics related to the science and management of diadromous species in New England and the Northwest Atlantic Ocean.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Daniel Schindler from the University of Washington (<http://fish.washington.edu/people/schindler/research.html>)

For more information on the conference, lodging arrangements, and to view the draft program go to: <http://atlanticsalmonforum.org>.

We look forward to seeing you!

Tara Trinko Lake and Mark Renkawitz  
**Tara Trinko Lake**  
Fisheries Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Service  
Maine Field Station, 17 Godfrey Dr., Suite 1, Orono, ME 04473  
[207.866.4238](tel:207.866.4238) [tara.trinko@noaa.gov](mailto:tara.trinko@noaa.gov)

### Winter Training Opportunities for Acoustic Tag & Hydroacoustic Assessments

#### ***Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish***

6-7 February 2014

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

At University of Washington School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA

[http://www.HTIsonar.com/at\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.HTIsonar.com/at_short_course.htm)

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on-operation and a variety of applications are covered. Lunch is provided. To reserve a seat or ask a question, email HTI at [support@HTIsonar.com](mailto:support@HTIsonar.com).

Tuition Rate Offer (50% discount) for university students, university staff, non-profit and tribal organizations. [http://www.htisonar.com/Training\\_Special\\_Offer.htm](http://www.htisonar.com/Training_Special_Offer.htm)

## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

### ***Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment***

13-14 February 2014

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

At University of Washington School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA

[http://www.HTIsonar.com/ha\\_short\\_course.htm](http://www.HTIsonar.com/ha_short_course.htm)

The hydroacoustic short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. Split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed in detail. Lunch is provided. To reserve a seat or ask a question, email HTI at [support@HTIsonar.com](mailto:support@HTIsonar.com).

Tuition Rate Offer (50% discount) for university students, university staff, non-profit and tribal organizations. [http://www.htisonar.com/Training\\_Special\\_Offer.htm](http://www.htisonar.com/Training_Special_Offer.htm)

### **Jobs**

AFS Job Center Online: <http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml> <http://fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>

<http://newyorkafs.org/NYCareers.html>

#### **Aquatic Habitat Restoration Specialist Job Opening**

***Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration***

Location: Boston, MA

Application deadline: January 8, 2014

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) seeks qualified applicants for the full-time position of Aquatic Habitat Restoration Specialist. The Environmental Analyst IV / Aquatic Habitat Restoration Specialist serves a dual role as a senior restoration project manager and technical aquatic habitat scientist, managing project development and implementation activities for 10-15 active projects at any given time and assisting with coordination of DER's entire suite of physical aquatic habitat restoration projects.

The work covers a broad and highly interdisciplinary range of activities, such as providing in-house technical services and guidance; preparing technical services contracts and managing private contractors; forming project teams and workplans; preparing grant applications and acquiring project funding and resources; managing project participants and the sequencing of activities; reviewing project designs and permit applications; and general strategic planning and problem-solving throughout a project's duration; building strategic partnerships and conducting outreach in support of aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Environmental Analyst IV's project management portfolio may include salt marsh restoration, freshwater wetland restoration, stream continuity, or other project types to be determined based on future needs.

For more information, including application instructions, see the official job posting at:

[https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/31100001/job/job\\_view.do?postingId=J38817&code=search.public&federalStimulus=no&companyId=59](https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/31100001/job/job_view.do?postingId=J38817&code=search.public&federalStimulus=no&companyId=59)

### **Interesting Stuff**

Dear AFS,

I am requesting that you help us spread the word about legal use of fish drugs, particularly field use of fish sedatives, by providing the following link to an article that was recently published in Fisheries to your membership.



## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B43dbIZIJqD3eWZrTHdMbEIDR3c/edit?usp=sharing>.

Over the years, we have found that many fisheries professionals continue to use clove oil (85-95% eugenol) and MS-222 as immediate-release sedatives, thinking that products that are Generally Recognized as Safe or are approved fish drugs must be okay to use in the field. Clove oil is not approved for any use in fish, and catchable fish treated with MS-222 cannot be immediately returned to the wild.

The primary goal of this outreach effort is to let fisheries professionals know that there is a legal option for sedating fish in the field where no withholding period is required: AQUI-S20. Although this drug is not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the sponsor hopes to have an initial approval in 2015), AQUI-S20E can be used through authorization granted by the FDA to the USFWS's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAP) . To learn more about using this fish sedative under the USFWS's Investigational New Animal Drug exemption, please visit the the AADAP website (<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/AQUIS-E.HTM>).

Your help in disseminating this information, via your listserv or in your Chapter or Division newsletter, is greatly appreciated. The Society will be spreading this message more broadly in the form of a Science Release currently in development. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Jesse Trushenski ([saluski@siu.edu](mailto:saluski@siu.edu)) or Jim Bowker ([jim\\_bowker@fws.gov](mailto:jim_bowker@fws.gov)).

Sincerely,

Jim B

Jim Bowker

Fishery Biologist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program  
4050 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, Montana 59715

Office: 406-994-9910, cell: 406-599-9924, email: [jim\\_bowker@fws.gov](mailto:jim_bowker@fws.gov)

### Officer Candidate Biographies

#### Chris VanMaaren

After developing my passion for fish on the Barge Canal in Fairport, N.Y., I traveled to Oregon State University to get my B.S. in Fisheries. From there I decided to study aquaculture at North Carolina State University and received a M.S. in Fisheries with a thesis researching Southern Flounder larvaculture. I came to realize that fish farming was a financially risky gig, plus I was kind of homesick so I returned to NY and took the Aquatic Biologist Civil Service exam. I spent three years in the DEC Region 2 office in NYC before taking a year leave to work at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Following that, I was able to get back into the DEC in Region 6 where I ran the regional Adirondack brook trout program for eight years. In 2012, I accepted a position as the Region 4 Fisheries Manager. I have always found great value in being part of AFS. AFS is the glue that allows us to stay connected to the greater realm of fisheries science while we sit pigeon holed into our specific tasks. It provides opportunities to re-energize our enthusiasm for fisheries science and helps us maintain professional friendships. Over the last decade I have been active with AFS. In 2006 I served as the

## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

Accommodations and Master Scheduler Chair for the 136<sup>th</sup> Parent Society Meeting in Lake Placid. In 2007 I took over as the Workshop Chair for the NY Chapter and have coordinated nine workshops. I also currently serve on the Parent Society's Fish Management and Chemicals Subcommittee. If elected to the NYCAFS Presidency I am hoping to host the Northeast Division's meeting as part of our annual meeting in an effort to develop a regular rotation of the individual chapters hosting the annual Division meeting. I am honored to be considered for the office of President of the New York Chapter AFS.

Dimitry Gorsky, PhD  
Fish Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

My desire to be a fish biologist must have started in the summer days as a teenager snorkeling in the frigid ocean waters of Maine observing the diversity and breadth of communities under the water. These experiences guided me to pursue higher education in Marine Biology at Roger Williams University. From there my passion for fishing opened the whole world of anadromous fish, especially Atlantic Salmon. I worked and studied Atlantic Salmon in Maine for four years, but the passion for that species has never left. I still think about how I can get to work with them again. Following successful completion of my master's work, I continued my education at the University of Maine working on my dissertation investigating the causes of Lake Whitefish declines in Maine lakes. This took me out of the rivers and into the beautiful lakes in the remote North Maine Woods Wilderness.

Once my dissertation was finished, I was fortunate to find the great opportunity to advance my career as a FWS fish biologist working on the Great Lakes. As a fish biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Office, I am tasked with leading the native species program. My work has consisted of working on lake sturgeon and lake trout populations in the lower Niagara River. We have been working most intensively on assessing the lake sturgeon population and movement patterns. My interests include population dynamics, movement and habitat use, and spawning/recruitment assessment.

All the time that I have been involved in fish work and education, I maintained membership status with the National American Fisheries Society and my local chapter. As a graduate student in Maine, I was part of the team that organized and started the first student subunit in the Atlantic International Chapter. I was also elected the first treasurer and followed that up with being vice-president. Aside from membership, I also tried to attend and present at any meeting I was funded and able to attend. I can still remember my disastrous first talk in Quebec City 2002. I can also remember the talk I gave in Nashville 2009, which I dedicated to my recently passed father. That presentation could possibly have been one of my strongest talks ever. As you can see, AFS has always been a strong part of my professional career and I would like it to stay that way. I see my involvement with the New York State Chapter of AFS to be the next step to insure that happens.



## AFS – New York Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2013

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