

# CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER OF AFS REPORT CARD

Calendar Year 2018

## SUMMARY

**Prepared By: Laurie Earley, Current Past-President (President: Aug '17-'18)**

\*Note that the Cal-Neva AFS Chapter holds elections annually and officers' transition into their position at the same time as the Society officers (August/September). Therefore, officer's terms do not align with calendar years. Future reports will be shared with membership at the end of a President's term.

**Any motions to report to the Society: No**

### 1. Budget Information

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Task 9*

The 2017-2018 Budget Summary was provided to the Parent Society during our annual reporting. In 2017 we had a net profit of \$48,234.95 and in 2018 we had a net loss of \$24,813. Decrease in 2018 revenue was primarily driven by market losses to our asset account, however we also made worthwhile investments for the future of the chapter by increasing student travel and purchasing needed equipment.

### 2. AFS STRATEGY 1: Organize and sponsor forums to present new findings and exchange ideas

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6*

Annual Meeting: The chapter hosted its annual meeting in San Luis Obispo and had 286 attendees, 3 plenary speakers, 80 presentations and 41 posters. We provided 2 travel awards, 13 discounted registrants, and supported the travel of 23 students from 3 student subunits. Our meeting proceeds were \$5,945.00.

Financial Sponsorship: We provided financial sponsorship the Western Division AFS meeting and the Western Division Student Colloquium.

### 3. AFS STRATEGY 2: Provide continuing education opportunities with an emphasis on training and courses that are not commonly offered by academic institutions and/or that will be essential tools in the future.

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Task 3*

We offered 4 continuing education courses during the 2018 Annual Meeting on topics ranging from data analysis to communications. These courses were: Surviving Peer Review; Fish Passage and

Screening; R Introduction; and, eDNA Techniques for Biological Assessment. We had 76 participants attend these courses.

#### **4. AFS STRATEGY 3: Develop communication products and publicly accessible information to promote the value of fisheries, aquatic habitat, and fisheries science.**

*\*This item does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

The Executive Committee continues to investigate products that can be developed. At the end of 2018, the chapter developed an Outreach and Diversity Committee that may be able to assist with the development of products and information.

#### **5. AFS STRATEGY 4: Develop relationships, partnerships, and collaborations with other professional societies, conservation organizations, decision makers, and stakeholders to establish and promote mutual goals of fisheries science, education, and stewardship.**

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Task 6*

The chapter has continued to build its relationship with the local TWS chapters by hosting joint socials and activities. In September 2018, a joint Tidewater Goby Workshop was led by AFS, but co-hosted by both societies.

#### **6. AFS STRATEGY 5: Publish high quality science journals, books, and proceedings that present recent advances, reviews and syntheses of fisheries and aquatic science and management**

*\*This item does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

The student sub-units within our chapter published two articles in 2018. The Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay Area student subunit published an article in Fisheries. This article explored and summarized the successes of the recently developed sub-unit and highlighted the need for collaboration. The Presidents of three of our sub-units (Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay Area, Sacramento-Davis, and Humboldt State University) provided a newsletter article for the Society's Leader Line, explaining the importance of fostering relationships between student sub-units and the other governing levels of AFS. The article provided advice to chapters on how they can better connect with their local subunits. Citations for these articles are provided below:

Fryxell, D.C, K.M. Kobayashi, K.N. McElroy, and H. Nuetzel. 2018. Creating Outreach and Restoration Programs to Promote the Development of Fisheries Professionals: The Primacy of Cross-Institutional Collaboration. Fisheries 43(1):11-14.

Luis S., K. Dale, and A. Arevalo. 2018. Cultivating the Future of AFS: Enhancing Connectivity Between Chapters and Student Subunits. Leader Line Newsletter, American Fisheries Society. May

## **7. AFS STRATEGY 6: Develop and disseminate scientifically-based communication materials that represent and reflect the mission of the society to political leaders, decision makers, stakeholders, and the public.**

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Task 7*

The chapter sent out letters to California legislators explaining the need to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, following the Societies lead and position on this issue. The chapter also targeted specific House and Senate representations (Committee on Appropriations) regarding opposition to the rider included in the House FY19 Interior Appropriations Bill. Lastly, a letter was sent to Department of Interior's Secretary Zinke asking that he reconsiders the Reintroduction efforts of winter-run Chinook Salmon above Shasta Dam. In addition to providing specific letters, the CA-NV chapter signed onto 1 letter that was issued by the Western Division AFS about Columbia River issues.

## **8. AFS STRATEGY 7: Provide online resources of value and interest to members and non-members to be the leading source of online fisheries science.**

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Task 4*

Through the chapter's newly improved website we are now able to update both members and non-members on issues and information within our region. We also provide a quarterly newsletter that is distributed through our listserv (> 1,000 recipients).

## **9. AFS STRATEGY 8: Promotion of the AFS certification program that recognizes scientific fisheries excellence and expertise.**

*\*This item does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

Cal-Neva Executive Committee continues to discuss and pursue ways to promote the AFS certification program. Past-President Joe Merz had several conversations with AFS headquarters staff, and Society and Division officers.

## **10. AFS STRATEGY 9: Develop/use innovative techniques such as surveys, focus groups, social media, and other means to determine and respond to the needs, interests, and opinions of society members.**

*\*This item does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

No efforts were made to survey membership on their current needs, however, the chapter continues to use social media as a form of communication.

## **11. AFS STRATEGY 10: Utilize new technologies to enhance and expand the society's education, communications, networking, and advocacy activities.**

*\*This item aligns does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

For the first time, the chapter implemented the use of online voting for officers. It was successful as we increased the participation in our elections.

## **12. AFS STRATEGY 11: Enhance participation of students and professional at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, leadership development.**

*\*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Tasks 3, 5, 7, and 8*

The chapter continues to annually provide support to student sub-units and provides funding for travel through 2 travel awards for students and young professionals. In addition to this, we created an additional committee, and now have a Native Fishes committee.

## **13. AFS STRATEGY 12: Promote ethnic, socio-economic, generational, and disciplinary diversity within the society and fisheries profession.**

*\*This item does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

Although the chapter does not have a specific task associated with this strategy, an effort was made to increase diversity by having diversity in the plenary session during our Annual Meeting.

## **14. AFS STRATEGY 13: Recognize and acknowledge the achievements and contributions of members and partners through awards, special conference sessions, and other activities.**

*\*This item does not align with a task within the CA-NV Strategic Plan*

Although the chapter does not have a specific task associated with this strategy, the chapter annually recognizes both members and non-members. In 2018, we provided 2 travel awards totaling \$1,000 for students/young professionals to attend our meeting, and 2 travel awards totaling \$1,500 for students/young professionals to attend the Society meeting. We also provided a best student paper and poster awards during our annual meeting. Our annual recognition awards consisted of 2 Distinguished Service awards that were shared during our annual meeting.

## **15. AFS STRATEGY 14: Hold elections and convene regular meetings of elected officers to plan activities that advance the mission of the society and provide sound financial management of assets, revenue, and expenses.**

*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Tasks 8 and 9*

The chapter executive committee holds monthly meetings, with an annual retreat, which allows the opportunity to have more in-depth discussions on a variety of topics. The chapter holds its annual business meeting during the annual meeting, which occurred on March 1, 2018. We also held an election with 3 candidates for President-Elect and 2 candidates for Secretary. A new committee, Native Fishes committee, was formed and has already held events. Lastly, the financial committee has met and is working on ways to better manage our assets, while also establishing ways for the

chapter to give back to our membership. One of these ways is through the small grants program, which was developed in 2018 and will be initiated in 2019.

**16.AFS STRATEGY 15: Periodically review constitution, bylaws, and procedures manual and revise using appropriate procedures as necessary.**

*This Task aligns with CA-NV Strategic Plan Task 9*

The chapter has a chairperson for the Bylaws and Nomination committee and it is also the responsibility for the Past-President to review and provide updates to the Procedures Manual. In 2018, the University of Reno sub-unit revised and updated their bylaws for inclusion in the chapter bylaws, and the chapter reviewed the Native Fishes committees charter for inclusion in the Procedures Manual.

## CA-NV AFS SPECIFIC TASKS PER 2018-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

1. **Conduct Annual Meetings**
  - a. Work with AFS Headquarters, WDAFS, and the appropriate counterparts with the The Wildlife Society, to plan the 2019 National meeting in Reno. **In Progress**
  - b. Select and negotiate locations for the next four years **In Progress**
    - i. 2020 – Sacramento Area?
    - ii. 2021 – East
  - c. Annually support President-Elect in convening Planning Committee in preparation of Annual Meetings **In Progress**
  
2. **Advance and promote fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic sciences**
  - a. Support revision of Miller and Lea Guide to California Marine Fishes **On-going**
  - b. Provide forum for advancing and communicating science at annual meeting with multiple technical sessions and current issues **Completed**
  - c. Develop a small grant (project) award to offer annually to chapter members. **In Progress**
  
3. **Support education and professional development.**
  - a. Continue to work with the subunits to increase participation on the Executive Committee and chapter events. **On-going**
  - b. Sponsor student subunits and support through grants, outreach and participation with subunit members. **Completed**
  - c. Present 4 continuing education classes a year, both at annual meetings and stand-alone courses. **Completed**
  - d. Provide travel grants to support participation of students and young professionals at annual meetings. **Completed**
  
4. **Enhance communication on fisheries science and Chapter activities and AFS benefits.**
  - a. Update Chapter website with format (consistent with new Society template if applicable), news items, governance documents, meeting minutes, links to other content. **Completed**
  - b. Newsletter prepared and distributed 3-4 times per year. Establish a standard schedule and template to streamline preparation. **Completed**
  
5. **Retain and increase membership through outreach and benefits.**
  - a. Work with Society to update member database with current and recently lapsed members. Ensure that Chapter membership/dues can be selected on Society renewal page. **Completed**
  - b. Reach out to lapsed members and non-member meeting attendees. **UNKNOWN**
  - c. Poll members on interests and needs. **In Progress**
  - d. Communicate value and benefits of AFS membership to agencies and individuals **On-going**
  
6. **Provide forums for networking**
  - a. Annual Meeting **Completed**
  - b. Plan social events for Cal-Neva AFS, in conjunction with TWS or other groups. **Completed**
  - c. Develop workshops to co-sponsor with the TWS and other groups. **Completed**
  
7. **Promote the fisheries profession and support evidence-based decision making for the conservation, development, and wise use of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems**
  - a. Fill vacant Conservation committee and establish a co-chair position to be filled by a Nevada member. **On-going**
  - b. Outreach to Western Division chapters and committees, for ideas and support on advocacy. **UNKNOWN**
  - c. Work with the Parent Society's Policy Director **On-going**

8. **Enhance effectiveness of Chapter Executive Committee.**
  - a. Fill vacant committee chairs within a timely fashion. **On-going**
  - b. Recruit additional members for committees. **On-going**
  - c. Seek candidates for elected officer positions in timely manner – President, Secretary, and Treasurer. **Completed**
  - d. Hold monthly meetings with timely distribution of agendas, minutes, and action items. **Completed**
  
9. **Facilitate good governance of Chapter and streamline practices.**
  - a. Update the bylaws, working with the Society's Constitutional Consultant, and get approved membership. **Completed**
  - b. Work with the student subunits to make sure their bylaws are up-to-date and accepted by the Parent Society **Completed**
  - c. Update the procedures manual **In Progress**
  - d. Prepare President's Plan of Work. **Completed**
  - e. Prepare 2-year Budgets, with goal of non-wasting investments and having a zero budget. **Completed**
  - f. Maintain sufficient financial reserves to pay for one annual meeting without any profit assumed. **Completed**

## 2018 ELECTED OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>
<i>Past- President</i>	Joe Merz	<i>President</i>	Laurie Earley
<i>President-Elect</i>	Steve Brumbaugh	<i>Elected - President</i>	Rob Titus
<i>Secretary</i>	Stephanie Theis	<i>Elected - Secretary</i>	Kathleen Berridge
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Hobbs	<i>Time &amp; Place Chair</i>	Kelly Souza
<i>Continuing Education Chair</i>	Brian Mahardja	<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Gary Sprague
<i>Communications Co-Chair</i>	Lisa Thompson	<i>Communications Co-Chair</i>	Brittany Davis
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Heather Benko	<i>Grants Chair</i>	Shawn Acuna
<i>Policy and Resolutions Chair</i>	Sheena Holley	<i>Bylaws and Nominations Chair</i>	Ramona Swenson
<i>Finance Chair</i>	Wayne Lifton	<i>Merchandise Chair</i>	Christina Parker
<i>Native Fishes Chair</i>	Shawn Chase	<i>International Chair</i>	Esther Tracey
<i>Chapter Awards Chair</i>	Pat Coulston	<i>Chapter Historian</i>	Sean Luis/Vacant
<i>SCMBA Sub-unit President</i>	Kat Dale	<i>UCD/Sac Sub-unit President</i>	Sean Luis
<i>Humboldt Sub-unit President</i>	Aubrey Arevalo	<i>Reno Sub-unit President</i>	Inactive

Approved By: California-Nevada AFS Executive Committee

Date: January 22, 2019