

My name is Jeff Koch and I am honored to be nominated for Vice President of the North Central Division (NCD) of AFS. I am a fisheries research biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT). I earned a B.S. from University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an M.S. from Iowa State University. I worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on the Missouri River program for the first four years of my professional career and have worked for KDWPT the last seven years as a district management biologist and research biologist. My professional interests have varied throughout my career from large river ecology to sportfish management and research, with a primary focus on developing and refining age estimation and sampling techniques.

I have been an AFS parent society member since 2006 and have been a member of the Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas Chapters as well as the Iowa State University Student Subunit. I have served as Kansas Chapter president, and I am currently serving as the NCD representative for the Fisheries Management Section, and chair of the NCD Walleye Technical Committee. I have also served on the NCD Awards Committee and as a Science Editor for *Fisheries*. The importance of AFS was instilled in me during graduate school, as AFS allowed me many opportunities to network with other scientists, present research, participate in student events, and attend continuing education courses. I believe professional activity is vital to a well-rounded fisheries scientist, and I would like to expand my service to the profession that has given me so much satisfaction.

My goals for the NCD are to encourage activity within state chapters and bring Division support to the chapter and subunit levels. I would also like to use information gathered by the Fisheries Management Section to increase participation by young professionals within AFS. Additionally, I would encourage NCD members to participate in technical committees, which would undoubtedly further the mission of AFS. I look forward to this potential opportunity to continue my service to AFS and the members of the NCD.