



From the Desk of the NCD President

Musings by Melissa

May 2016

By now, many of you have spent nearly countless hours in the field, kicking off another season of setting nets, fighting generators and boat motors, training new interns, and getting slimed – all in the name of fisheries science!

This is the time of year when AFS activity lulls a bit for many of us (unless you're the Missouri Chapter or a member of AFS staff preparing for the upcoming meeting in Kansas City). Most recently, the society held the mid-year AFS Governing Board meeting back in early April. While I wasn't able to attend in person, I did join the meeting both days via conference call (when I wasn't teaching class, of course). There are a few highlights I wanted to share from that meeting that I'm personally excited about!

Highlight #1: Development of greater continuing education opportunities is finally coming! The society is developing a series of hour-long webinars and beginning to move forward on creating asynchronous distance education courses for AFS members. The latter of these initiatives are what I'm particularly thrilled to see as I chaired a special subcommittee on distance education for the AFS Continuing Education committee back in 2011. It's good to see that our white paper isn't just taking up space on someone's hard drive somewhere! Additionally, I know that this topic is something that our own NCD Continuing Education subcommittee has been working on. I'm anticipating that both of these new initiatives will provide tremendous benefits to our Society and Division members, and I'm looking forward to hearing more from Jessica Mosley, one of the newest additions to AFS Headquarters staff and the Associate Director of Student and Professional Education for the Society.

Highlight #2: The 150th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society will be held in Columbus, Ohio in 2020! The Society is already making plans to celebrate this momentous occasion (look for socials to include a fireworks show!). If you have any thoughts on how the NCD should specifically celebrate this anniversary in our Division, please send me your thoughts and suggestions. It's an incredible opportunity for our Division to join in on the celebration. A huge thanks to the Ohio Chapter for your contributions to this event in advance!

Before I sign off for another month, I wanted to say a quick "thanks" to all of you who've been reading this blog, sending me your emails, and participated in last month's poll on naming the NCD awards. I've enjoyed writing for you monthly and am happy that these pieces are being read! As of April 25, approximately 55% of respondents said that our two individual Division awards (i.e., Meritorious Service and Fisheries Excellence) should be named, 30% said "no" (and shared some very valid reasons), and 15% weren't sure. Of those of you who said "yes," names such as Beamish, Becker, Casselman, Crossman, Jordan, Lyons, Welch, and Willis were suggested – and that's not nearly all of them! The NCD Executive Committee will consider these ideas in our upcoming monthly conference calls. If you didn't get a chance to voice your opinion on this poll, there's still time. Polls are still open at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CR7N8C>.

Hope May finds that your nets are chock full of fish and your equipment is cooperating!

Until next month....

Cheers,

Melissa