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I am truly honored to have been nominated to eventually serve as the President of the North Central Division (NCD) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). I feel that my background, current position working for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, and previous experiences in leadership roles for the Ohio Chapter of AFS and other professional societies have prepared me well for this role in the NCD. Below, I outline my Goals for the NCD, describe my background and current employment position, and indicate other ways I have served the wider aquatic sciences field.

Goals for the North Central Division

Like many members of the North Central Division (NCD), I work for a natural resources management agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (ODNR-DOW). Personally, I feel that agency personnel form the backbone of society membership; state and federal agency personnel provide essential links between the theory and principles of academic scientists and the fish and

fisheries themselves. Without fish managers, the work of a fisheries society would lack direct connections to the fish. And yet, it often feels like the society overlooks those professionals who work daily to conserve, improve, promote, and sustainably use fish and fisheries nationwide. Further, agency biologists, technicians, and administrators know the extent of the challenge the ongoing loss of sport fishing license holders remains; this continued decline in the number of license holders not only represents a change in societal values but also directly affects management agency budgets.

Should I be elected to serve in this leadership position of the NCD, I will work (1) to highlight the importance of agency personnel and their concerns as they relate to our professional society, the American Fisheries Society; (2) to emphasize the need to address the systemic decrease in recreational sport fishing license holders; and, (3) to relate the importance of building relationships among AFS members, at all society levels, to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Background

I graduated from The Ohio State University (OSU) with Bachelor of Science degrees (2001) in Biochemistry and Zoology (Dual Degree) with Honors in the Liberal Arts, *magna cum laude*. During my time in program I spent a summer at F.T. Stone Laboratory, OSU's field station on Lake Erie. Here I was first exposed to the excitement of conducting primary research; I also

realized that one could actually be paid to be inquisitive and to work from a boat—both real life lessons. I continued to graduate school at OSU and completed Master of Science (2005) and Doctor of Philosophy (2007) degrees studying watershed effects on phytoplankton nutrient limitation in the Sandusky system, a coupled river-bay-nearshore ecosystem. While an undergrad (2000–2001), I worked for graduate students exploring ways to leverage inorganic nutrient stimulation of lower trophic levels in state fish hatchery ponds to enhance production during extensive percid culture. While a post-doctoral researcher (2007–2009), I developed a reservoir classification system for Ohio’s reservoirs, attempting to use reservoir watershed, morphometry, and productivity data to derive groups of similar reservoirs. These opportunities led to many interactions with ODNR-DOW biologists, technicians, and administrators which, in turn, led to my opportunity to serve first as a fisheries biologist (2010–2018) and then supervisor (2018–present) of the Inland Fisheries Research Unit. During my employment with ODNR-DOW I have worked as the coordinator of the Inland Management System, our standardized data collection program; have managed the Ohio Fisheries Information System, our web-enabled database which stores the outcomes from the Inland Management System; have led internal research projects; and, served as a liaison between ODNR-DOW and external partners as they conduct sponsored research projects.

Involvement with the American Fisheries Society

I have been a member of AFS for over a decade and have served in roles at the chapter, division, and society levels. I was President of the Ohio Chapter of AFS during a period (2012–2013) of re-engagement and re-enhancement. During this time, we started an effort to have joint meetings with bordering states (2013: West Virginia; 2015: Pennsylvania; and, 2017: Indiana) and these have continued through this year, when we host the 79th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. For the NCD, I served as co-chair of the 2010 Strategic Plan Revision Committee. I also helped re-activate the Reservoir Technical Committee; so far, this NCD Technical Committee has held five special symposia at Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conferences. I am also serving as the Plenary Committee Chair for the 79th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. I will make my first major contribution to the society level of AFS by serving as the Program Committee Chair for the AFS 2020 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Professional Activities

In addition to contributing to AFS unit activities, I have served other professional societies and work-related groups and been active in scientific publishing. I served a three-year term as Government-at-Large Trustee of the Ohio Academy of Science during the period 2012–2014. I have also been a member of the Midwest Working Group of the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership since 2011–present. I have contributed reviews for 13 different journals since 2010. Since 2005, I have authored or co-authored 29 articles in the primary scientific literature.