

Greetings fellow fisheries professionals,

As the cool weather final arrives here in the Midwest that hints at an end to the field season, now is a good time to reflect on the great work being done by people and groups throughout the states in the North Central Division (NCD). A great way to honor that work is by submitting nominations for deserving NCD award candidates. It is important to recognize important individual contributions, so please consider nominating a deserving person for the Fisheries Excellence or Meritorious Service Awards. In recent years we haven't seen as many applications for some of the chapter and subunit awards, meaning you have a fair shot at winning if your chapter submits a good nomination.

Award nominations should be submitted to NCD President-Elect Brian Nerbonne (brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us) by December 3, 2021. All winners will be honored in February at the 2022 NCD business meeting, held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. A listing of NCD awards can be found below, and also on the NCD website (<https://ncd.fisheries.org/awards/>). The website also contains links to the nomination forms. Hope you consider submitting one!

Best Chapter Communications. One award will be given to the chapter that has developed the most efficient, useful, and attractive newsletter and website to disseminate information to its members.

Most Active Student Subunit. One award will be given to the North Central Division student subunit that has carried out the most active program in developing interest among undergraduate and graduate students in fisheries science and fulfilling the mission of the American Fisheries Society.

Most Active Chapter. Two awards (small chapter, large chapter) will be given to the chapters that have carried out the most active programs of enhancing professionalism and fisheries science.

Fisheries Excellence. This award will be given to a North Central Division member who has made an outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession. This contribution may be a single activity or a collection of achievements over the individual's career.

Meritorious Service. This award will recognize extraordinary service to the AFS by an NCD member. Nominations may be based on a single outstanding achievement or a variety of service activities, and may include the Chapter, Division, Section or Parent Society level.

Brian Nerbonne
NCD President-Elect