Introduced fish section notes

Date: August 17, 2015

Time: 5:00-6:00pm

Attendees:

Pam Fuller

Bill Stewart

Scott Bonar

Przemek Bajer

Joseph Lechelt

Quenton Tuckett

Jeff Hill

Marybeth Brey

Jim Lamer

Eli Lampo

James Dominiquez

Carlos Comacho

Michael Weber

Chris Schwinghome

Michael Wolf

Steven Butler

Liz Tristano

Jeff Kline

Rebekah Hauer

Cory Anderson

Don Baltz

Phil Moy

* Governing board update
  + Donna Parish mentioned that the society will start working on the communication plan
  + Education requirements
    - There was a survey sent out to see how well student performed and are prepared for the future employment
    - Results will be in the 13th issue of Fisheries
  + There has been a change in the governance model
    - Day to day responsibilities are given to the management committee which is a selected group from the governing board
    - Larger issues are address by the governing board as a whole
  + The time and place committee has been dissolved
  + Student membership rate has been extended from 3 years post-graduation to 5 years post-graduation.
* Introduced Fish Section Business
  + Election Process has not been consistent throughout the years
    - The group agreed that the ex-comm should to try to get more than one candidate on the ballot to be voted on. But the process can be flexible.
    - There will be a call out for nominations.
    - The call will go out for multiple candidates
* Information Packets -we need to develop information packets for new candidates to help them understand the duties, activities, and contacts needed for running the section and participating in the Governing Board.
* Website/Facebook
  + Our new website: <http://introducedfish.fisheries.org/>
  + The new word press website was established with help from Sara Fox on the AFS server
  + The website highlights new papers, general announcements, awards, symposium information, and other AFS resources
  + We have a new introduced fish section Facebook page - Introduced Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society (currently has 47 members). Marybeth Brey volunteered to be the Facebook administrator.
* Treasurer Report
  + Current balance is $14,280.14
  + $1,025 to be added to final balance for a dues check sent to the wrong section
* Report to Governing Board
  + The section does not have much activity to report (other than yearly symposium)
  + We need to Develop a work plan
  + The section held a symposium “Working with Partners Across large Landscapes: AIS Technology, Outreach and Management” at this year’s meeting.
  + A possible action within the work plan would be to publish proceedings from a symposium (below)
* Future Symposia Ideas
  + It was decided that next year’s symposium in Kansas City (August 20-25, 2016) topic would be “Hydrological Effects on Introduced species.”
  + Lionfish symposium might be suitable for the 2017 Tampa, FL meeting (August 19-24, 2017). A proceedings could be published from this symposium
  + There was discussion on the possibility of updating the 1984 Courtenay and Stauffer book, Distribution, Biology, and Management of Exotic Fishes. Nick Mandrak may be willing to lead that effort in a couple of years while he is on sabbatical. Possibly as a second 2017 symposium or for one in 2018.
* Listserv-there was discussion about a listserv through AFS or possibly setting up an introduced fish section gmail account. Ex-comm will discuss and decide next steps.
* Awards
  + Special $500 award sponsored by the Minnesota Invasive Species Research Center. The award is given to a student whose work advances our understanding of the basic biology or ecology of invasive fish within the Upper Mississippi River Basin in order to control them. This year’s award winner is Joseph Lechelt - University of Minnesota
  + The Introduced Fish Section $500 dollar travel award was split between two applicants
  + The award winners were
    - Carlos Comacho – Iowa State university, Master’s Candidate
    - Elizabeth Tristano – Southern Illinois University, PhD Candidate
  + There was discussion about getting how to encourage people to apply for the award.
    - Perhaps a larger award or more awards
    - Drawback of this is that the section only takes in ~$1,000 per year
    - The section needs to do a better job of advertising send out on listserv/website/facebook/student subunits with multiple reminders.
  + Nick Mandrak and Steve Butler volunteered to be on the student travel award committee. Jeff Hill has a template for them to use for awards criteria and selection process.
* Other discussion
  + There was some discussion about disseminating information on new publications on the website. The section used to do this in its quarterly newsletter. This would require someone scanning the literature for relevant papers - a potentially very large undertaking. Przemek Bajer said he may do this but only for high profile journals to make the task manageable. Perhaps this could be further discussed among ex-comm.