

Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – July 2024

Fish Health Section website: <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Fish Health Section Facebook Site: <https://facebook.com/FishHealthSectionAFS>

Fish Health Section on LinkedIn: Please join our newest social media network at LinkedIn Login, Sign in or search for us and ask to join.

Fish Health Section Twitter feed: @AFSFishHealth

Elections are OPEN!

The AFS-FHS 2024 Elections are now Open! Active Members should have received an email notification, but can also use the following link to vote:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYPLNNW>

Please only vote once and a reminder that voting is reserved for active FHS members only, please!

Attached is a copy of the candidate biosketches and they are also available within the survey link

The voting period will close on July 29th, 2024!



MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section Meeting and 63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop



July 30th – August 1st, 2024

The 2024 American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section meeting and 63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho from Tuesday July 30 – August 1, 2024. A full day continuing education session on Disease Prevention – Finfish Brood and Production Strategies will be held on Tuesday July 30th and will be followed by a welcoming social, with light appetizers, cash bar and a casual session of interesting case studies. The general session will start the morning of Wednesday July 31st and will continue through the afternoon of Thursday August 1. A poster session on Wednesday afternoon will be followed by the meeting banquet.



**American Board of
Veterinary Practitioners**

FISH PRACTICE SPECIALTY

GET RECONGNIZED

For excellence and
distinction in the art and
science of fish medicine
and surgery.

DEADLINE JAN 15

VETERINARIANS WITH THE FOLLOWING CAN APPLY

- **Work with pet fish, zebrafish, aquaculture, aquarium fish and more**
- **4.5-5 years experience**
- **15% or more total case load**

LEARN MORE



JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Aquatic Health Veterinarian – Epidemiologist 3, 2 positions

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

One position located in Spokane Valley, WA

One position located in Wenatchee, WA

Closes 8/25/24

Link: [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4589165/aquatic-health-veterinarian-epidemiologist-3-non-medical-permanent-2-posi?department\[0\]=Dept.%20of%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending&pageType=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4589165/aquatic-health-veterinarian-epidemiologist-3-non-medical-permanent-2-posi?department[0]=Dept.%20of%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending&pageType=jobOpportunitiesJobs)

This position, reporting to the Supervisor of the Fish Health Unit in the Fish Program, is responsible for maintaining fish and public health as a licensed veterinarian. The role involves compiling, maintaining, planning, conducting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting on issues related to fish health, including zoonotic and non-zoonotic pathogens, antibiotic resistance, and conducting epidemiological investigations at fish hatcheries and natural fish populations. It addresses risks associated with fish diseases, pathogen prevalence, immunological changes, environmental variables, and zoonotic impacts on human health.

Wildlife Specialist Senior “Microbiologist”

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Phoenix, AZ

Closes 8/15/24

See attached .pdf for details.

The Microbiologist will assist with diagnostics and research on all aspects of fish disease, fish health, the use of drugs for treating fish diseases, laboratory maintenance and media preparation. This position is 85% laboratory and 15% field work.

Major duties include:

- Preparation of media for bacterial culture
- Inoculation of plates for bacterial culture
- Bacterial identification
- Performs necropsies and laboratory testing as requested
- Maintains records required by the FDA for VFD medicated feeds.
- Collects biological samples during fish management events and participates in the development of protocols for the detection, control, and eradication of fish diseases
- Produce reports and updates for Department staff as appropriate
- Maintains the Department Fish Health databases and attends and delivers presentations that address fish health management.
- Identifies pathogens by PCR and QPCR
- Performs procedures for parasite identification
- Cell culture of fish cell lines.
- Conducts DNA sequencing of biological samples to determine genus and species as needed.
- Develop proficiency in preparing samples for histological examination, immunohistochemistry and in-situ hybridization techniques.
- Performs Quality Control and Quality Assurance procedures
- Performs other duties as assigned

Zebrafish Related Job Announcements

<https://wiki.zfin.org/display/jobs/Zebrafish-Related+Job+Announcements>

RESOURCES/NEWS

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Updates are available by request:

The AADAP Updates feature news on aquaculture drugs currently in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process, AADAP programmatic updates, and aquaculture drug use guidance information. If you would like to sign up to receive the AADAP Update, please email to be paige_maskill@fws.gov added to our email listserv.



WILDLIFE SPECIALIST SENIOR

“Microbiologist”

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION / AQUATIC BRANCH / PHOENIX, AZ BASED

FLSA-Exempt / SALARY GRADE 22 / HIRING SALARY RANGE \$50,000- \$70,000

REQUISITION # 527453 / CLOSING DATE: 08/15/2024

Join the only state agency in Arizona responsible for conserving and protecting more than 800 wildlife species. Be part of a passionate group of people who want to make a positive impact on outdoor recreation in Arizona by managing resources for safe, compatible opportunities for current and future generations. From fishing, boating and off-highway vehicle use to shooting sports, hunting and wildlife watching, Arizona Game and Fish supports it all. Our biologists use the best available science in their management actions, and our wildlife managers are on the ground in your communities making a difference every day. Opportunities abound beyond the field at AZGFD, so check us out and see what we're all about! Consider joining our workforce today. AZGFD celebrates the diversity of Arizona's people, landscapes and of course, wildlife. However you choose to enjoy Arizona's wildlife and wild places, the outdoors is open for all.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department manages fish and wildlife in Arizona and under the authority of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, creates and implements scientific methods and regulations to effectively manage fish and wildlife habitat via conservation, enforcement, hunting, fishing, watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation, and shooting sports. The Arizona Game and Fish Department dedicates itself to excellence, values its employees and supports a culture of stewardship, teamwork and partnerships.

Description of Duties: The Microbiologist will assist with diagnostics and research on all aspects of fish disease, fish health, the use of drugs for treating fish diseases, laboratory maintenance and media preparation. This position is 85% laboratory and 15% field work.

Major duties include:

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- Collects biological samples during fish management events and participates in the development of protocols for the detection, control, and eradication of fish diseases
- Produce reports and updates for Department staff as appropriate
- Maintains the Department Fish Health databases and attends and delivers presentations that address fish health management.

An equal opportunity, reasonable accommodations employer, the Arizona Game and Fish Department complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you need accommodation in the employment process or this document in an alternative format, please contact our office at (623) 236-7323 or TTY 1-800-367-8939, prior to the closing date of the job in which you are interested. The Arizona Game & Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor. We stand in support of equality for and advancement of all people based on their qualifications and actions alone without regard to color, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability.



- Identifies pathogens by PCR and QPCR
- Performs procedures for parasite identification
- Cell culture of fish cell lines.
- Conducts DNA sequencing of biological samples to determine genus and species as needed.
- Develop proficiency in preparing samples for histological examination, immunohistochemistry and in-situ hybridization techniques.
- Performs Quality Control and Quality Assurance procedures
- PerformS other duties as assigned

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: The candidate must have work experience and a working knowledge of Microbiology or Medical microbiology and all of its associated disciplines, quality control and quality assurance in the laboratory, laboratory safety measures and procedures, computer programs, scientific method and thought, the ability to perform diagnostic tests, knowledge of standard laboratory procedures, epidemiology and public health principles, rules on the use of antibiotics and other chemotherapeutants, animal drugs and pharmacology, animal physiology and pathology. Candidates will be skilled in data processing and analysis, technical writing and English composition, public speaking, handling, and first aid techniques. The candidate will be able to identify bacteria from culture, identify viruses from cell culture, complete immunofluorescence assays, conduct polymerase chain reaction procedures independently, extract DNA or RNA, and conduct eDNA analysis. Must have experience and be proficient in aseptic technique and laboratory safety protocols, be able to follow direction and laboratory standard operating procedures, be able to work alone or in a team setting, form collaborative relationships with other individuals and organizations, work in diverse environments and conditions and synthesize information from many sources and apply it to novel situations.

The candidate must have a bachelor's degree in a Biology, Microbiology or closely related field such as Fisheries Science with specialized training in microbiology, virology, bacteriology, and molecular biology. Experience working within a microbiology laboratory is required.

The preferred candidate will have three or more years of diagnostic laboratory experience.

Employment may be contingent upon completion of a post-offer medical/physical examination and the agency's ability to reasonably accommodate any restrictions.

If this position requires driving or the use of a vehicle as an essential function of the job, then the following requirements apply. Any employee operating a motor vehicle on State business must possess and retain a current, valid class-appropriate driver's license, complete all required training, and successfully pass all necessary driver's license record checks. The license must be current, unexpired, and neither revoked or suspended. Employees who drive on state business are subject to driver's license record checks, must maintain acceptable driving

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records, and must complete all required driver training. An employee who operates a personally owned vehicle on state business shall maintain the statutorily required liability insurance (see Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R2-10-207.11).

All newly hired employees will be subject to the E-Verify Employment Eligibility Verification program.

Our work environment offers training opportunities and encourages career development.

The State of Arizona offers an outstanding comprehensive benefits package including:

- * 13 days of vacation
- * 12 sick days with accumulation benefits
- * 10 paid holidays
- * Participation in the nationally recognized Arizona State Retirement System
- * Superior health care options
- * Vision care, dental care, pharmacy benefits, and flexible spending account (options available)
- * Life, long-term disability, and short-term disability insurance options are available
- * Many more benefit programs are available

An Equal Employment Opportunity Agency

TO APPLY CLICK ON TO AZSTATEJOBS.GOV
CLICK SEARCH FOR JOBS. SELECT GAME AND FISH DEPT FROM AGENCY DROPDOWN

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**Vice President
Nominee: Nick Phelps**



Hello! I am a Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology and the Director of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Prior to my current position, I led the aquatic diagnostic program for the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. My research and outreach programs address emerging threats to the health and sustainability of farmed and wild fish populations, with lie at the intersection of animals, humans and the environment.

I have been an active member of the Fish Health Section since 2005, serving on numerous committees and working groups, including:

- Student Involvement Committee (appointed; 2006-2011, chair 2007-2011)
- Recruitment and Retention Committee (appointed; 2011-2017)
- Technical Standards Committee (elected; 2014-2017, chair 2016-2017)
- Handbook Oversight and Revision Committee (elected; 2016-2017, Co-chair)
- Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee (appointed; 2017-Present, chair) – You may recognize me as one of the co-organizers of the AFS-FHS Online Summer Seminar Series, where we have hosted 125+ student and young professional presentations and raised nearly \$16,000 for FHS student travel awards from seminar sponsors since 2020.
- Nominating and Balloting Committee (elected; 2020-2023, chair 2022-2023)
- Extramural Funding Committee (appointed; 2021-Present)
- Blue Book Revision Committee (appointed; Risk Evaluation Subcommittee 2021-Present).

However, I have received far more from the FHS than I have given, and am therefore excited to continue my contribution to the section as Vice President.

I have earned degrees from Bemidji State University (BS, Aquatic Biology), University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff (MS, Aquaculture/Fisheries), and the University of Minnesota (PhD, Veterinary Medicine). I have managed ~\$37M in competitive grants and published ~80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters. My interdisciplinary lab group currently includes seven graduate students and several post doc and research staff, working on a variety of projects related to fish health, invasive species, predictive epidemiological modeling, citizen science, ecotoxicology, aquaculture, and molecular biology.

**Vice President
Nominee: Timothy Bruce**



Dr. Timothy Bruce is an Assistant Professor of Aquatic Animal Health in the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences at Auburn University (Auburn, AL). Dr. Bruce holds a Ph.D. in Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University, a M.S. in Biology from Purdue University-Fort Wayne, and a BMSc. in Medical Sciences from the University of Western Ontario. Before arriving at AU in January 2021, Dr. Bruce was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Idaho (2017-2020) and worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation from 2016-2017 as the Aquatic Animal Health Specialist. Dr. Bruce's current research program at Auburn University focuses on pathogen dynamics and transfer alongside vaccine and therapeutant development. He also has a keen interest in studying nutritional approaches to fish health

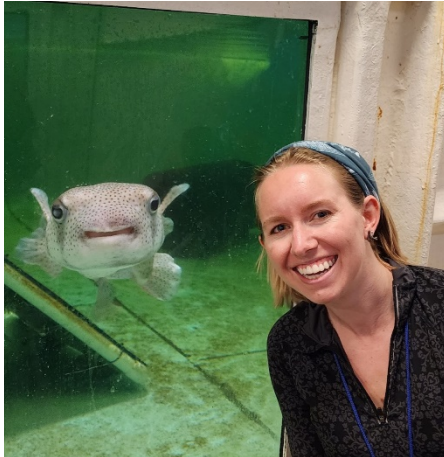
management, including the evaluation of novel immunostimulatory compounds and probiotics for controlling diseases in ponds or RAS aquaculture. His lab currently works with a variety of cultured species, including channel catfish, largemouth bass, Nile tilapia, and Pacific whiteleg shrimp. With respect to AFS-FHS service, Dr. Bruce is currently chair of the Nominating and Balloting Committee and a member of the Extramural Funding Committee.

**Secretary-Treasurer
Nominee: Danielle Van Vliet**



Danielle Van Vliet is a Fish Health Microbiologist at the Aquatic Animal Health and Research Center (formerly the Fisheries Experiment Station) with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Danielle earned both her B.S. (2011) and Ph.D. (2016) from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at Michigan State University. Danielle's graduate work focused on the epidemiology of *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* infections in the Great Lakes and beyond. Her passion took her to Utah to continue aquatic animal health work, where she conducts fish health inspections, assists in diagnostics services, and uses traditional laboratory methods (microscopy, bacteriology, gross pathology, cell culture, etc.) and molecular techniques (DNA extractions, PCR, etc.) to test for prohibited pathogens here in the state. She also serves as the lab's Quality Manager. Danielle has been a member of the American Fisheries Society–Fish Health Section since 2011, and has a major interest in fish health management as a whole, and particularly *F. psychrophilum* control strategies. She also enjoys teaching, sharing her passions, and inspiring the next generation of scientists, as well as fishing, kayaking, camping, and spending time with her dog, five cats, eight chickens, 50,000 honeybees, and pet snake.

**Secretary-Treasurer
Nominee: Taylor Heckman**



Taylor Heckman
Assistant Research Professor
Mississippi State University
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture
Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture
Center
Stoneville, Mississippi

I am an Assistant Research Professor at Mississippi State University (MSU), based in the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center. My work aims to develop translational tools for sustainable aquaculture, pulling from a background in microbial genetics, physiology and aquatic animal health.

I received my B.A. in 2017 from Willamette University, where I concurrently studied aquatic bacteria (*Caulobacter crescentus*) and Hawaiian monk seals (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*). In graduate school, I combined the micro and macro sides of my work in Dr. Esteban Soto's Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory at the University of California, Davis. After completing my Ph.D. in 2021, I transitioned to a postdoctoral role before joining MSU's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2024. My research is broad, to encapsulate the diversity of piscine diseases, but warmwater bacterial pathogens are my specialty.

It's an honor to be nominated for the position of Secretary-Treasurer, to contribute to an organization that continues to be an essential resource for myself and many others. I joined the AFS-FHS as a young graduate student to participate in the 2018 ISAAH conference. This meeting was the first of many opportunities to connect with fish-minded folks, to share ideas, new research, and comradery. As a student, I benefited greatly from the professional and financial support of the AFS-FHS. It is exciting to now be in a position to give back. In addition to my involvement in the FHS, I am also active in the AFS Student and Early Career Professional (SECP) subsection, where I served as President in 2023.

If elected as Secretary-Treasurer for the AFS-FHS, I will support the critical functions of our society by maintaining a proactive organizational system and working closely with the other officers to advance the vision and impact of the section.

**Professional Standards Committee
Nominee: Eva Marie Quijano Cardé**



Eva Marie Quijano Cardé is originally from Puerto Rico, where she fell in love with aquatic animals through snorkeling and research. After obtaining her DVM from Cornell University in 2018, Dr. Quijano Cardé completed an aquatic animal health fellowship at the University of California – Davis in 2020 (her rotations were completed at UC Davis, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Steinhart Aquarium, and Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute). During that time, she investigated the potential use of antiviral drugs against Cyprinid herpesvirus 3 in koi. She then pursued a PhD in microbiology with an emphasis in host-microbe interactions in this same institution, focused on the effects of latent Acipenserid herpesvirus

infections in white sturgeon during heterologous infections. After completing her PhD in 2023, Dr. Quijano Cardé accepted a clinical appointment at the Aquatic Animal Service in the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Throughout her career, Dr. Quijano Cardé has participated in a variety of aquatic externships including clinical externships at Ocean Park, SeaLife Melbourne, SeaWorld California, Eagle Fish Health Laboratory, Belize Zoo, and Miami Seaquarium. She has also been involved with AVMA, WAVMA, IAAAM, AAFV, and AFV|FHS, having had leadership roles in WAVMA and current being a director at large in the AAFV board. When not working, you can find Dr. Quijano Cardé dancing (socially or as a salsa instructor), scuba diving in the kelp forest (or at her home in the Caribbean), or paddleboarding on the lakes around Sacramento. She is excited to be nominated for this leadership role with the AFS-FHS Professional Standards Committee and looks forward to the opportunity to engage with everyone.

Professional Standards Committee

Nominee: Sean Roon



Professional Standards Committee

Sean Roon, MS

WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Lower Columbia River Regions
Vancouver, WA

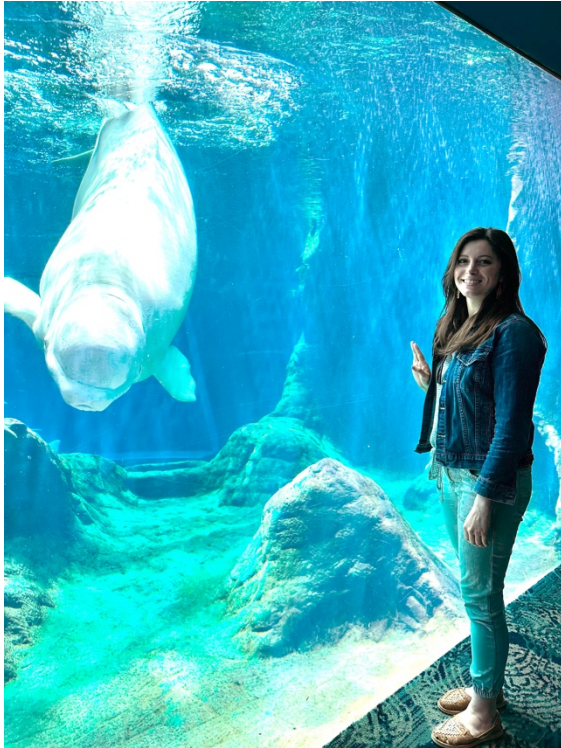
Sean is a Fish Health Specialist (Epidemiologist I) for WA. Dept of Fish and Wildlife providing fish health services for state facilities located along the lower Columbia River and its tributaries in the southwest corner of Washington State. Sean's duties include providing routine and emergency visits to address any fish health concerns for state fish hatcheries and free-ranging fishes in his assigned territory.

Prior to grad school, Sean worked as a student contractor for the USGS Marrowstone Field Station assisting with studies of pathogens affecting Pacific herring and other various fish species. He briefly ventured away from the fish world to assist with Ranavirus susceptibility studies on various amphibian species collected throughout Tennessee and Kentucky along with the virus' effect on pond ecology following an epizootic.

Following these research positions, he completed his Master's degree from Oregon State University by surveying parasite communities in free-ranging fishes collected in major tributaries of the upper Willamette River and studying *Nanophyetus salmincola* and bacterial pathogen co-infection effects on juvenile Chinook salmon. While at OSU, he also assisted in monitoring studies of *Ceratonova shasta* along the Klamath River as well as research focused on potential disease interactions between hatchery and free-ranging salmonids. Following graduation, he worked as a Microbiologist for US Fish and Wildlife Service based out of the Idaho Fish Health laboratory until ultimately ending up with WDFW at his current position in 2016.

Sean joined the AFS Fish Health Section around 2014 and became an AFS Aquatic Animal Health Inspector in 2021. He very recently became part of the AFS Fish Health Section Continuing Education Committee as an administrative assistant and would like to continue his AFS service as part of the Professional Standards Committee.

**Policy/Position Development Committee
Nominee: Courtney Harrison**



Courtney graduated from West Virginia University with a B.S. in Animal and Nutritional Sciences in 2018, with a passion to pursue a career in food animal health. Post-graduation, Courtney interned at The Conservation Fund Freshwater Institute (TCFFI) in Shepherdstown, WV, learning about fish health and welfare in recirculating aquaculture systems. She also spent time at USGS and USDA-ARS in Leetown, WV, working closely with fish health biologists, researchers, and veterinarians while gaining insight into current fish health research. Her experience at TCFFI led her to Michigan State University to study infectious diseases affecting lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) populations within the Great Lakes. Courtney grew a deep appreciation and understanding of the Snieszko disease model, along with a love for disease diagnostics in wild fish populations in the Great Lakes region. It was during her time

at MSU that she attended her first Eastern Fish Health Workshop in 2019 and knew that it was a privilege and honor to become part of the AFS-FHS and have been ever since! Courtney received a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine from MSU in 2021. Courtney is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Auburn University in the Bruce Fish Health Laboratory. Her dissertation research involves the development of a live-attenuated vaccine against columnaris disease in farm-raised channel catfish and tilapia. Courtney is honored to have been nominated for the Policy/Position Development Committee for the FHS and wishes to make a positive impact within the FHS while working and learning alongside the current committee members!

**Policy/Position Development Committee
Nominee: James Tuttle**

James is from Philadelphia PA, and grew up with a passion for studying aquatic animals. In 2018, he graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Marine Biology and minor in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science. During and shortly after his undergraduate studies, James pursued his passions and built a versatile background of experience. From 2014 to 2020, James has worked as an Intertidal Ecology Intern and Teaching Assistant at SHOALS Marine Lab of Appledore Island ME, a Large Pelagics Biological Surveyor for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Herring Run Monitor for the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC). After spending two years working as a



Limulus Amebocyte Lysate Technician for the Associates of Cape Cod company, James was instrumental in the implementation and expansion of the *Limulus polyphemus* Species Sustainability Project. By the conclusion of 2020, approximately 750,000 eggs had been hatched and released back into the surrounding bays of East Falmouth, MA. Since beginning graduate studies at Auburn University in 2021, James has completed a M.S. in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences and began his dissertation under Dr. Anita Kelly. His Masters' thesis focused on understanding the persistence of virulent *Aeromonas*, *Edwardsiella*, and *Flavobacterium* species in the sediments of commercial catfish ponds. In addition to his graduate studies at Auburn and joining the World Aquaculture Society, US Aquaculture Society, and American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section, James has worked out of the Alabama Fish Farming Center providing direct support for local catfish producers for the past four years. This direct involvement with the commercial catfish industry and local producers is one of the reasons he intends to pursue a career in Extension once his schooling is complete. His current Ph.D. studies are now focused on multi-faceted investigation of disease management strategies of commercially important domestic aquaculture species including *Litopenaeus vannamei* and *Ictalurus* species. James is honored for the nomination to the Policy/Position Development Committee for the FHS, and it would be a privilege to work with the other committee members.

Nominating and Balloting Committee
Nominee: Brent Vuglar



Brent Vuglar is originally from Crystal Lake, IL and attended Michigan Technological University where he received his BSc in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He joined the AFS-Fish Health Section in 2016 upon starting in the profession at Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory as a Laboratory Technician. After completion of his temporary position in CO, he took a full-time position with Utah DWR – Fisheries Experiment Station as Microbiologist/Chemist I. In this role, he worked closely with hatchery specialists and fish biologists to ensure the health of the state’s fish population through regularly performing fish health inspections. He also attended the NAHLN – Quality Systems Management training to take on the role of QA/QC Coordinator for the Fish Health Lab in the Fisheries Experiment Station to fulfill AFS-FHS Blue Book requirements. In 2019, he assisted in

organizing the FHS Annual and 60th Western Fish Disease Workshop in Ogden, UT. An opportunity arose for further education with a focus in fish health in Dr. Ken Cain’s Lab at University of Idaho College of Natural Resources. Here, he focused on research with novel flavobacteria diseases in rainbow trout. He is a co-author on three publications within the Cain Lab. Currently, he is completing his MSc while working as a research associate at Auburn University’s E.W. Shell Fisheries Center under the guidance of Dr. Timothy Bruce. He manages the fish health laboratory space and coordinates feeding trials as well as disease challenges with multiple warmwater species of fish including catfish, tilapia, and largemouth bass. If Brent is not around fish either for studies or on the river, you can find him playing or refereeing hockey at the local ice rink.

Nominating and Balloting Committee
Nominee: Nisha Shrestha



Nisha Shrestha
PhD student
Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

Nisha grew up in Nepal and spent part of her childhood fishing in a river for fun using basic nets. Catching different fish species and trying to differentiate native from non-native fish species was one of her hobbies. This passion for fish encouraged her to pursue a B.S. in fisheries from Agriculture and Forestry University in Nepal. To explore foreign aquaculture and fisheries systems, she joined Masters program in Aquaculture, Environment and Society, through an Erasmus Mundus scholarship at universities in France, Greece, and Scotland, completing it in 2022. In 2023, she joined Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) at Michigan State University as a PhD student to pursue a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, specializing in Fish and Wildlife Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine.

Nisha's research focuses on isolating and identifying variants of *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* from trout facilities in the North Central Region of the United States, with the goal of producing effective, site-specific bacterins that enhance fish health and productivity across the NCR. She has actively participated in various committees and organizations during her bachelor's degree showcasing her ability to work efficiently with teams to achieve positive outcomes. She believes that she can bring the same level of dedication to this committee. Nisha has been a member of the AFS Fish Health Section since 2023 and hopes to get more involved in the organization as she develops her career in the fish health sector.