



20 June 2019

Dear Fish and Wildlife Director:

We invite you and your staff to engage in the **first-ever joint annual conference of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society, taking place September 29-October 3 in Reno, NV**. This historic event promises to be one of the largest-ever gatherings of fish and wildlife professionals, educators, students, and influencers in North America.

The American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society are dedicated to advancing science-based management and conservation of public trust fish and wildlife resources. We support the front lines of conservation by engaging fish and wildlife professionals at all stages of their career, providing professional development workshops and trainings; publishing scientific and management-focused research; communicating the latest in wildlife and fisheries science, regulation, and policy; and facilitating networking platforms that allow professionals to further develop and refine expertise within their discipline.

Our respective organizations host an annual conference in support of these professional development, training, and networking goals. **For the first time, we will host a joint event to foster a collaborative environment and explore the latest science that will inform fish and wildlife management and the common challenges that face these public trust resources.**

The conference will be at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, a fantastic facility that will host our fish and wildlife science sessions, working group meetings, plenaries, and related events. You and your staff can expect:

- Up to 5,000 fish and wildlife professionals, students and others from across North America in attendance. Participants will come from all 50 states, Canadian provinces, federal natural resource agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, and industry partners.
- Over 3,000 research presentations, including 150 symposia on key fish and wildlife management and research topics that will cover virtually every aspect of resource management. Your staff will have the opportunity engage in discussions of direct interest to your agency with the world's leading professionals.
- Over 45 technical workshops and other training opportunities, many of which include the expertise of state wildlife professionals. Workshops will hone skills on GIS software, statistical analysis programming, eDNA, communications skills, conflict management and many other relevant topics.

- Opportunities to meet other professionals, create new partnerships, and build collaborative approaches. This includes dozens of networking sessions geared towards specific disciplines and career paths.

Ensuring your staff is using the best science available to manage the public's resources is critical to your agency's success. Creating effective partnerships, building collaboration and being aware of new approaches to resource challenges are equally important. This event will provide unprecedented opportunities for sharing science and best practices, interacting with the world's thought leaders on fish and wildlife science and management, and building collaborative partnerships. You and your staff will not want to miss this event.

Please contact us if you would like additional information or to discuss how to get your agency involved in the groundbreaking and historic conference. For details on how to register for the conference, check out afstws2019.org/register.

Sincerely,



Darren Miller, PhD, CWB®
President
The Wildlife Society



Jesse Trushenski, PhD
President
American Fisheries Society



Ed Thompson
Chief Executive Officer
The Wildlife Society
ed.thompson@wildlife.org



Douglas J. Austen, PhD
Executive Director
American Fisheries Society
dausten@fisheries.org

American Fisheries Society–The Wildlife Society 2019 JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sept. 29 –Oct. 3
Reno, Nevada



Join AFS and TWS for the largest gathering of fish and wildlife professionals ever with unprecedented opportunities for sharing science, interacting with the world's thought leaders on fish and wildlife science and management, and building collaborative partnerships. For the first time, we will come together in a collaborative environment to explore the latest science that will inform fish and wildlife management and the common challenges that face our public trust resources.

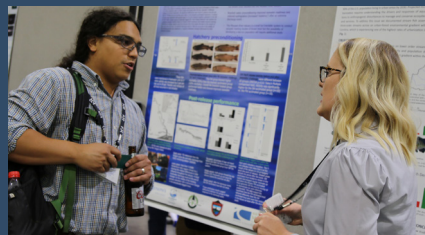
CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

- **5,000** Fish and Wildlife Professionals
- **3,000** Research Presentations
- **150** Symposia
- **45** Technical Workshops

Register at afstws2019.org/register



Professional Development



Collaboration



Training



Doug Austen | AFS Executive Director
dausten@fisheries.org

Ed Thompson | CEO The Wildlife Society
ed.thompson@wildlife.org





RESOLUTION #2018-05-07

TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY AFWA MEMBERS IN THE 2019 JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY AND THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes and appreciates the importance of ensuring that state, provincial, and federal fisheries and wildlife management agency staff and their partners have access to the best available scientific information to manage and conserve our public trust resources. Accordingly, AFWA encourages its member agencies and organizations to participate in the 2019 joint conference of The American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society, to be held in Reno, Nevada, September 29-October 3, 2019.

WHEREAS, state, provincial, and federal fish and wildlife agencies are charged with safeguarding public trust fish and wildlife resources, and do so by employing professional biologists and managers to guide the stewardship of these resources; and

WHEREAS, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation recognizes that science is the proper tool for the discharge of fish and wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, dissemination and discussion of new and innovative advances in fish and wildlife science can empower the fish and wildlife professionals at state, provincial, and federal fish and wildlife agencies to enhance management and conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society was founded in 1870 and is the world's oldest and largest fisheries science society, and works to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals; and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and works to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society both provide scientific peer-reviewed journals, professional development opportunities, and other services that benefit the fish and wildlife professionals employed by state, provincial, and federal fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society will host the first-ever joint conference of these two professional societies on September 29 – October 3, 2019, in Reno, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the joint conference will be the largest-ever gathering of fish and wildlife professionals and will provide professional development opportunities and scientific information which is pertinent to the conservation and management of public trust species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes and appreciates the importance of this first-ever joint conference of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages the staff of its member agencies and partner organizations to participate in this joint conference, in order to continue the dissemination of fisheries and wildlife science and thereby ensure the success of science-based management and conservation across North America.

Submitted by the Science and Research Committee

Adopted September 12, 2018, Tampa, FL