

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[President's Message](#)

[2017 NCAFS Annual Meeting](#)

[Nominations Committee and Ballot](#)

[News from DWR's Wadeable Stream Fish Community Monitoring](#)

[Call for NCAFS Award Nominations](#)

[David Yow Retires from NCWRC](#)

[Proposal to Increase NCAFS Annual Dues](#)

[NCWRC Wildlife Diversity Quarterly Reports](#)

[NCAFS and VCAFS Vegetation Workshop](#)

[Survey and Proposal Regarding Affiliate Membership of NCAFS and the North Carolina Wildlife Federation](#)

[Call to Action!](#)

[Valuable Links](#)

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a peaceful and relaxing holiday season. I hope that you have some down time to spend with our latest newsletter as we have, in addition to the usual interesting fisheries news items, a few important topics for your consideration that are relevant to the governance of this chapter.

First, the EXCOM was approached by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation with a proposal to establish an affiliate membership between the two groups. The EXCOM solicited feedback with a poll earlier this fall and we received a fair bit of feedback. Although the membership was generally in favor of this arrangement, the range of comments indicated that further discussion was needed prior to voting on this issue. In this newsletter you will find a short article by the EXCOM that provides some more information about the proposal as well as an overview of member feedback. We would like to take some time to discuss the proposal further and put this question to a formal vote of the membership at the 2017 business meeting.

Second, the EXCOM would like to increase the Chapter's annual dues from \$7 to \$15 and this will also require a vote of the membership. In this newsletter you will also find a short article about this proposal that includes information about our finances. Although this is,

percentage-wise, a considerable increase in the society dues, keep in mind that the current \$7 dues have been in place for more than two decades. Additional dues will be used to ensure the long-term viability of both the Ichthus and general funds and this will allow us to be more creative in how we support our membership.

Third, I am sure that you are all aware that registration is now open for the [2017 Annual Meeting](#) at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, February 14-17th. Please register early and often. We will have lodging rates and a group code for our block at the Bridge Pointe Hotel posted on the meeting website soon. Also, the North Carolina Freshwater Mollusk Working Group will be meeting in New Bern on the 14th and that should be a nice warm-up for the Freshwater Mussel ID workshop on the 15th.

It is with some surprise that I reflect on the speed with which my year of service has passed by. It has been a most enjoyable experience and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the membership for trusting me to lead this society. I would like to thank my amazing colleagues on the EXCOM and our web-guru and past-president Brena Jones for doing most of the heavy lifting associated with running this society. Past-president Kim Sparks, secretary-treasurer Bryn Tracy, and president-elect Corey Oakley have been amazing to work with and I am looking forward to my new role as past-president and to welcoming a new member to the NCAFS EXCOM.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Gangloff, *NCAFS President*

Don't forget the 2017 NCAFS Annual Meeting!

[2017 Meeting of the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society](#), February 14–16, 2017 at the [New Bern Riverfront Convention Center](#). Accommodations available at [Bridge Pointe Hotel](#).



Events include:

Feb. 14: Oyster Roast/Social

Feb. 15: Mussel Identification Workshop/Presentations

Feb. 16: Presentations/Business Meeting

NCAFS Nominations Committee and Ballot

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present the 2017 NCAFS ballot for President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Chapter members running for President-Elect are Tyler Black and Ryan Heise. Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer are Kelsey Lincoln and Katy Potoka. Please take a moment to evaluate the candidate sketches and cast your vote on the electronic ballot (link located below).

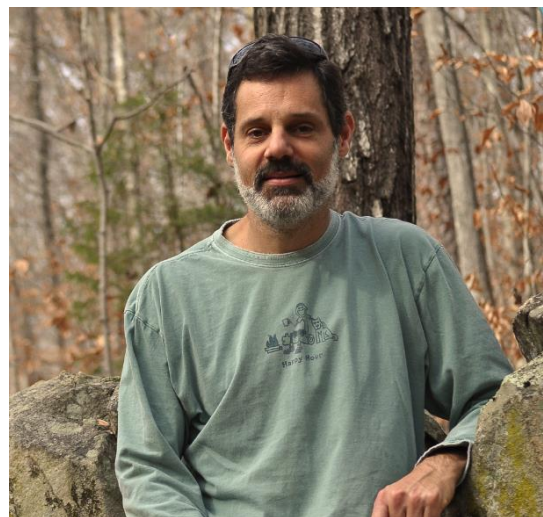
President-Elect



Tyler Black is the Eastern Region Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Research Coordinator with NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and has been with NCWRC since 2010. His current work focuses on imperiled crayfish, fish, freshwater mussels, and aquatic snails across five river basins in northeastern North Carolina. Recently, he has been working to bolster rare mussel populations, restore mussel habitat, and assess the status of several aquatic species in eastern North Carolina.

He received his B.S. degree in Biology and a minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Pennsylvania State University in 2004, a M.S. degree in Biology from Tennessee Technological University (TTU) in 2007, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from TTU in 2011. He has been an AFS member since 2005 and joined NCAFS in 2011. In his free time, Tyler enjoys chasing ditch crickets, backpacking, fly fishing, and hunting with family and friends.

Ryan Heise is a Senior Environmental Scientist with Duke Energy in Huntersville, NC where he has worked since August 2016. For the previous 13 years he worked for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as a Research Coordinator in the Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Program. He is also an adjunct assistant professor at North Carolina State University in the Department of Applied Ecology and serves on student committees.



Ryan received his B.S. in Marine Biology from Texas A & M University, M.S. in Biology from

the University of West Florida, and at Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has focused much of his work in North Carolina on the inventory, life history, and population status of freshwater fish and mussels, especially rare and endangered species, so that informed conservation and management actions can be made. Ryan has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1999, has participated in several Southern Division committees, and has served as a presentation judge and moderator at multiple chapter meetings. He spends his free time with his family, enjoying the outdoors, and working on home improvement projects.

Secretary/Treasurer

Kelsey Lincoln joined the NCWRC as the Assistant Fisheries Biologist for District 5 in October 2014. Kelsey works closely with District Biologist Jessica Baumann and together the two of them manage over 30 lakes throughout the northcentral Piedmont region.

Kelsey grew up in the Midwest in Michigan where her interest in natural resources began at an early age as she explored the ponds in her backyard, camped for weeks each summer on the Little Muskegon River, spent her Easters snorkeling in Florida, and her summer weekends “up north” exploring the Grand Traverse Bay. In college she assisted a graduate student studying the effects of Zebra Mussels in the Great Lakes ecosystem before graduating in 2010 with a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife. Shortly after graduating she joined the USGS as a student contractor and was launched into a project restoring spawning habitat for Lake Sturgeon and Lake Whitefish in the Detroit River.



Wanting to gain more experience in a different and warmer ecosystem, Kelsey moved to North Carolina to complete a project studying White Bass population dynamics and mechanisms influencing White Bass population declines. She graduated with a M.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology in 2014 and began her career with the NCWRC shortly after! Kelsey currently lives in Durham, NC and enjoys hiking the Eno River with her dog Max, finding local swimming holes, traveling, and camping on the beach or in the mountains.

Katy Potoka is the District 1 Fisheries Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, working in the northeastern portion of the state. Her current work focuses on management and research of resident sport fish populations in coastal rivers and lakes around the Albemarle Sound area and anadromous fish in the Roanoke and Chowan Rivers. Some of her current work involves parentage based tagging methods for assessing stocking success of American Shad in the Roanoke River, river herring in the Chowan River, and Largemouth Bass at Lake Mattamuskeet.



Katy comes to North Carolina from Ohio where she earned her B.S. degree in Environment and Natural Resources with a specialization in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Ohio State University in 2010. During that time she worked for the Ohio Division of Wildlife at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, which is the only freshwater estuary in the national program. Upon graduating from OSU, Katy earned her M.S. degree in Fisheries Science from Tennessee Technological University, where her research involved developing occupancy models to describe distribution and status of the endangered Boulder Darter in the Elk River. In her free time, Katy enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, and kayaking with her husband.

[Click here to access the 2017 NCAFS Ballot](#)

For those chapter members who vote, your name will be entered in a drawing for a 2017 AFS Parent Society membership (a value of \$80).

Submitted by Kim Sparks, Nominations Committee Chair

News from the Division of Water Resources Wadeable Stream Fish Community Monitoring Program

NEW DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS FOR 2016 (i.e., those not shown in Menhinick (1991) and collected for the first time by DWR staff from a particular county in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River system)

Indigenous Species

- *Notropis petersoni*, Coastal Shiner -- Salem Creek, Union County;
- *Minytrema melanops*, Spotted Sucker -- Mallard Creek, Cabarrus County;

- *Cyprinella nivea*, Whitefin Shiner -- Mallard Creek, Dutch Buffalo Creek, and Rocky River, Cabarrus County;
- *Notemigonus crysoleucas*, Golden Shiner -- Cedar Creek, Davie County;
- *Ameiurus brunneus*, Snail Bullhead -- Little Yadkin River, Stokes County; and
- *Labidesthes vanhyningi*, Southern Brook Silverside -- Cartledge Creek, tributary to the Pee Dee River, Richmond County; farthest upstream record in the system and first record from a tributary.

Non-indigenous Species

- *Cyprinella lutrensis*, Red Shiner -- Island and Hardy creeks, Stanly County; Mallard Creek, Mecklenburg County; and Clarke, Irish Buffalo, Mallard, and Dutch Buffalo creeks, Cabarrus County;
- *Pimephales promelas*, Fathead Minnow -- Rich Fork, Davidson County and Brown Creek, Anson County;
- *Lepomis microlophus*, Redear Sunfish -- Patterson Creek, Iredell County; Toms Creek, Fisher River, and Mitchell River, Surry County; and Beaver Creek, Wilkes County; and
- *Micropterus punctulatus*, Spotted Bass -- Mallard Creek, Cabarrus County and Hamby Creek, Davidson County.

These specimens were vouchered at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, along with other indigenous and nonindigenous species once again collected from the Savannah, Yadkin, and Lumber River basins in 2016. All data collected are shared with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, USGS (Gainesville, FL; <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/fish/default.aspx>), the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (<http://www.ncnhp.org/share-data/contribute>), and the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences (<http://collections.naturalsciences.org/searchFishes.aspx>). Additional information about the Wadeable Stream Fish Community Monitoring Program is available online ([Fish Community](#)).



Coastal Shiner



Spotted Sucker



Southern Brook Silverside



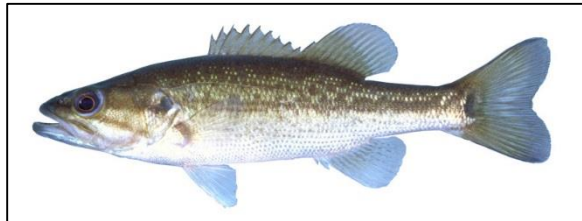
Snail Bullhead



Redear Sunfish



Red Shiner



Spotted Bass



Fathead Minnow

Photographs courtesy of Fritz Rohde, Noel Burkhead, and Howard Jelks of the Southeastern Fishes Council (<http://www.sefishescouncil.org/fishes/>) and Uland Thomas and Scott Smith of the North American Native Fishes Association (<http://gallery.nanfa.org/v/members/Uland/>; <http://gallery.nanfa.org/v/members/zooxanthellae/>)

Submitted by Bryn H. Tracy, NC Division of Water Resources

Call for NCAFS Award Nominations

The Chapter presents two awards on an as-warranted basis to recognize outstanding contributions by both chapter members and others. The [Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award](#) recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the AFS, or the fisheries profession. The [Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award](#) recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or the fisheries and aquatic resources of North Carolina.

The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for both of these awards for 2017. If you are aware of a deserving individual or organization, please

nominate them! Nomination letters should be no more than two pages long and provide specific information on the accomplishments of the candidates and why they qualify the candidate for the award. Qualifications for the Distinguished Service Award should extend beyond simply doing an outstanding job on regular chapter duties (e.g., officer or committee member responsibilities) and be based primarily on extraordinary efforts or new initiatives.

Please submit nominations to John Crutchfield at John.Crutchfield@duke-energy.com, Duke Energy, 526 South Church Street, Mail Code EC12K, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Nominations will be accepted until Monday, January 16, 2017. If you have any questions, please call John at 980-373-2288.

The chosen recipients will receive the awards at the annual meeting to be held in New Bern, NC on February 14-16, 2017.

Submitted by John Crutchfield and Greg Cope, NCAFS Awards Committee Co-Chairs

David Yow Retires from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission

David Yow retired from NCWRC on December 1, 2016. David began his formal career more than 30 years ago as a Fish Culturist at the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery and ended it as the Warmwater Research Coordinator in the mountain region. During his diverse career, David held numerous positions including a Peregrine Falcon site attendant, Butner technical crew leader, a hiatus to attend graduate school at Virginia Tech, and as the agency's western mountain region habitat conservation coordinator.



David with a Bowfin, one of his favorite fish, captured during a recent Largemouth Bass survey on Lake Hickory, NC



David assisting with hook and line surveys for Smallmouth Bass on the North Toe River, NC

David's career will be most remembered for his role as the mountain region Warmwater Research Coordinator where he influenced fisheries management for 20 years and provided many entertaining days in the field. David was instrumental in developing some of the first creel surveys in western North Carolina reservoirs, establishing Muskellunge fisheries across the region, assessing Walleye population dynamics, and early attempts at Striped Bass and Smallmouth Bass population assessments.

David was also actively involved in the American Fisheries Society, attended numerous SDAFS and NCAFS meetings, and held leadership positions in NCAFS. Beyond the career's worth of work, David was a mentor to many young professionals in the agency and beyond. David selflessly gave his time to others and was always willing to listen to project ideas and help guide agency staff that ultimately led to an agency conducting better science.

Submitted by Doug Besler with photos from Kin Hodges and Chris Wood, NCWRC

Proposal to Increase NCAFS Annual Dues

The Chapter manages three sources of money: the Checking Account (including PayPal), the Ichthus Fund, and the General Fund. Currently, these money sources stand at ca. \$5,000, \$30,000, and \$40,000, respectively.

As presented at the Business Meeting at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

The status of the Ichthus Fund is:

- A conservative fund that is performing well.
- With ca. \$1,000 spent annually on Student Best Paper Award and Travel Award(s) the cash reserves will be depleted within five years. Then, we will have to sell some of the other investments in the fund to replenish the cash reserves.
- Doing nothing (i.e., spending ca. \$1,000/year and replenishing the cash reserves periodically) the fund will last ca. 25 years.

The status of the General Fund is:

- Without periodically adding any surplus money to the account from the Checking Account, if we spend ca. \$2,000 per year and with a conservative 5% growth, the fund will last indefinitely.
- Without periodically adding any surplus money to the account from the Checking Account, if we spend ca. \$5,000 per year and with a conservative 5% growth, the fund will last ca. 11 or 12 years.

The Chapter's annual membership dues are \$7.00. Dues have not increased for more than 24 years. Without tapping into the General Fund (which reached its current level

as a result of the hard work by several Chapter members who helped organize the recent Southern Division meetings in Wilmington and Asheville and the national AFS meeting in Charlotte combined with positive growth in the stock market) and utilizing only the funds available in the checking account, the Chapter has run on a “shoe string” budget for many years.

If more funds could be raised, the Chapter could consider lowering fees for the annual meeting or hosting a meeting with no registration fees; providing travel grants to undergraduate students; providing travel grants for professionals to attend the annual Southern Division or AFS meetings; hosting workshops; funding research projects; conducting or supporting additional continuing education opportunities for Chapter Members and public educational outreach efforts; purchasing new webpage software; etc.

The EXCOM proposes to the membership to hold a vote at the 2017 annual meeting to increase the annual dues from \$7.00 to \$15.00 with \$3.00 going to the Ichthus Fund and \$5.00 to the General Fund to build up sufficient cash reserves so more funding opportunities can be pursued. If approved, the increase would not take place until 2018.

Per the Chapter’s Bylaws and Procedures Manual, this proposal is being submitted by the EXCOM to the membership at least 30 days before the annual business meeting (February 15 or 16, 2017).

Submitted by the NCAFS EXCOM

NCWRC Wildlife Diversity Program Quarterly Reports

The link below provides information on NCWRC’s quarterly wildlife diversity reports, which contain updates on a variety of nongame research projects and surveys.

[Wildlife Diversity Quarterly Reports](#)

Articles in the report include:

- Monitoring Tar River Spiny mussel Augmentation in the Tar River Basin
- Surveying Smoky Dace in Little Tennessee and Hiwassee River Basins
- Assessing Long-term Spottfin Chub Population and Monitoring Reintroduction
- Surveying Crayfish in Cape Fear River Basin
- Monitoring Cape Fear Shiner Augmentation Project & Rocky River Update



Spottfin Chub from the Little Tennessee River, NC

North Carolina and Virginia Chapters of the American Fisheries Society Vegetation Workshop, September 2016

Members from the NC and VA chapters of the American Fisheries Society gathered on September 22, 2016 at the US Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Assistance Center at John H. Kerr Reservoir to attend the [Aquatic Vegetation Management for Fish Habitat workshop](#). This workshop addressed how to create natural habitats and productive environments for aquatic ecosystems in reservoirs. Many reservoirs lack native vegetation and are often overrun by non-native invasive aquatic vegetation like *Hydrilla* or Alligator Weed. Establishing a diverse native vegetation community provides numerous benefits including nursery habitat for juvenile fish, nutrition, shelter for prey fish, shoreline stabilization, and water quality benefits.

Members were trained on how to propagate native plants and transfer them to remote sites, how to successfully plant and establish native plant communities, and how to transplant existing plants to different areas within a reservoir. The workshop also examined the factors that affect the success of establishing native vegetation: basic ecology and biology of many aquatic plants, water level fluctuation, slope of the reservoir, location, water depth, and turbidity. One study, presented by Justin Nawrocki, revealed that Water Willow was a fairly versatile and successful plant to establish in reservoirs.

The workshop concluded with a field trip to Lake Gaston to demonstrate that even in the presence of *Hydrilla* and other invasive species, native plants such as White Water Lily, Pickerelweed, Eelgrass, Watershield, American Lotus, Spatterdock, American Pondweed, and others can still thrive. Members saw firsthand the importance of building enclosures around newly established plants to outsmart aquatic herbivores and other wildlife. These enclosures help prevent the consumption or destruction of newly established aquatic vegetation by preventing turtles, fish, and terrestrial wildlife from accessing the plants. Additionally, enclosures allow biologists to experiment with different plants within the enclosure to determine the best plants for each site, as plant success may vary by location within the reservoir. In addition to Lake Gaston, biologists in North Carolina are also experimenting with plant restoration in other lakes, such as Oak Hollow and Townsend city lakes, throughout the state. Ultimately the goal of the enclosures is to create founder colonies that are protected from herbivores in order to allow plants to spread outside the enclosures to other areas of the reservoir by seeds, fragmentation, or standard growth.

Overall, this workshop provided members with the tools and knowledge needed to move forward with vegetation restoration. Lake Gaston, where plants are already thriving outside of previously built enclosures, is a prime example of successful adaptive plant management and community involvement can improve native vegetation and ultimately the overall functionality of reservoirs.



Example of how aquatic plants are transported in tubs.



*Two enclosures at Oak Hollow Lake showing Pickerelweed (**left**) versus White Water Lily and Spatterdock (**right**) as the dominant successful species.*



Native plants thrive amidst Hydrilla within enclosures in Lake Gaston. Herbicide treatment that primarily targets Hydrilla may be needed to reduce habitat competition with native species.

Submitted by Kelsey Lincoln, NCWRC

Survey and Proposal Regarding NCAFS's Affiliate Membership in the North Carolina Wildlife Federation

In October 2016, members of the Chapter were surveyed regarding partnership with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF). The purpose of survey was to provide membership with the opportunity to comment on this prospective partnership. The Chapter has been invited to partner with NCWF as an Affiliate Member to facilitate cooperative work towards shared natural resource conservation and management priorities. The survey consisted of three questions:

1. Should the NCAFS enter into an affiliate membership of the NC Wildlife Federation? – yes, no, or I prefer to abstain
2. What effect, if any, do you feel that affiliate membership will have on the Chapter's ability to execute our mission "*to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems*". - It will strengthen our position; It will weaken our position; It will have no effect; and Other
3. Do you have any additional comments or concerns regarding an affiliate membership with NCWF?

The survey was completed by 36 members (out of a total membership at that time of 140). Twenty-one members replied in the affirmative in that it will strengthen our position; 9 replied in the negative that it will weaken our position; and 6 abstained replying that it will have no effect or no response was provided. Based on these results, one could conclude that the membership was in favor of such a partnership. However, there were concerns (pro, con, and neutral) that EXCOM believed should be shared with the members before this action is put for a vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

The comments and concerns raised by the members were:

Question No. 2 – Other

1. I was hoping to get more info about what an "affiliate membership" would mean for both entities before being asked to support or oppose it.
2. I have concerns about advocacy positions taken by the NCWF. In my opinion, those positions are sometimes based on the views of the members rather than science. I'd rather see the NCAFS maintain its focus on doing good science and leave social issues (allocation of harvest) to other groups.
3. It may reduce our flexibility.
4. The NCWF advocates for specific political positions not always based strictly on science so NCAFS, as a scientific organization, should not officially join NCWF.
5. I remain unclear about exactly what an "Affiliate Membership" would entail, such as the rights & responsibilities of both groups if the affiliation moved forward

Question No. 3 – Comments

In Favor of an Affiliation

1. Seems like this is a win-win for both organizations and it dovetails nicely with partnerships proposed between our parent organizations at the national level.
2. I support this potential opportunity and commend those that initiated the discussion. I would suggest an update to the chapter bylaws in regards to affiliate memberships.
3. Anytime separate entities can come together, and share general knowledge it is a good thing that has potential to positively affect said organizations.
4. NC AFS should be more proactive and politically active rather than being reactive and limiting ourselves to annual meetings.
5. Probably should create additional contacts and channels for promoting the positions of AFS on various matters.
6. The NCWF are good folks doin' good stuff.
7. I am an advocate of affiliate membership, but I am also a member and employee of NCWF. Thus I could be said to have a conflict of interest. Since there would be no obligations on NCAFS, I think the conservation synergies outweigh any conflict or perceived conflict. If the EXCOM disagrees with my analysis, it should disregard my vote with no ill feelings on my part.
8. Collaborating/partnering with NCWF is a good fit for the Chapter.
9. NCWF has an excellent track record of using the best available science to advocate for conservation of natural resources in NC.
10. Collaboration is often better than going it alone. This is the first I've heard of NCAFS considering such a partnership with NCWF, but I think it may prove beneficial in a couple ways. First, it may encourage NCWF to commit a greater focus on aquatic species. Second, it may help broaden our outreach to the public on fisheries issues from the sound science perspective. Our reach is limited because we are an organization of professionals, so teaming up with NCWF makes sense in extending our reach and strengthening our collective voices on issues affecting fishery resources.
11. I think this would strengthen the partnership to protect aquatic species and habitat in the state. Both are science-based in their findings and decisions.

Against an Affiliation

1. Nothing against the NCWF, they're a fine organization. I just think our missions are different. We're a scientific professional society and the NCWF is an environmental NGO.
2. AFS should remain focused on fisheries and be its own entity. NCWF is involved in issues outside of fisheries, and an affiliation has the potential to result in NCWF actions reflecting upon AFS and vice versa. Strength could be gained if both entities remained independent and joined together on issues when appropriate.
3. Perhaps educating the membership as to the costs or benefits of joining NCWF might be in order BEFORE posting a vote.

4. I would think that opposition/support of two independent organizations would be better. Prefer independence.
5. While I am a member of NCWF and support much of what they do, they have advocated for at least one fisheries position that in my opinion was not supported by science. That just reaffirms my belief that we should not establish a formal, permanent relationship with any advocacy organization. We would be painted with the same brush they are for any position they might take. I do support teaming with NCWF on specific issues that match our mission, on an individual basis.

Abstain

1. It's hard to offer advice when the benefits/disadvantages have not been presented anywhere, as best I can see. NCWF is more an advocacy interest, no? Some background on them would be helpful if you want an informed vote. Even a paragraph or two to explain the rationale.
2. Tell us more about what it is, and maybe some objective information about the benefits to each organization - (e.g., have other state AFS chapters and TWF chapters(?) entered into such relationships, and what benefits could be documented from those affiliations? Why TWF and AFS? Anything similar with The Wildlife Society or other professional societies?) - then let the chapter membership vote.
3. Overall, I think an affiliate membership with NCWF would be positive, but there could be the possibility of them taking a stance on an issue that the Chapter, some of our members, or member employers do not agree with. This could cause discord or cost us members.
4. There is little or no background included about who initiated this request and why? I am puzzled as to how a two question survey with no background information will be used to determine whether we affiliate with the NCWF? I think hitting the reset button and providing the details of the request are needed before any action is taken. While my limited knowledge of the NCWF gives me a favorable impression, I'm not sure what an affiliation with NCWF will do for NCAFS which is affiliated with a much larger and broader organization in the AFS parent society? I also question what would happen when NCWF takes a position on an issue counter to NCAFS or our parent society? I can only think that NCWF needs NCAFS more than the other way around and we need to think this through as an organization before moving forward.
5. I object to affiliation with NCWF based on almost 40 years of professional experience in management of fisheries in North Carolina. Keep NCAFS strictly scientific with very rare public policy positions based entirely on science.
6. While I strongly support cooperative and positive communication between groups with common goals and see potential for benefits, I would like to know more about what this "membership" would offer NCAFS and natural resources that would be greater than continuing to foster & improve cooperation on shared issues as they are identified. I would like to hear more details, including making sure things are clear re: NCAFS prohibition on advocacy.

In hindsight, along with the survey EXCOM should have shared with the members an e-mail sent to Mike Gangloff, President, with the EXCOM Cc'ed (Corey Oakley, President-Elect, Bryn Tracy, Secretary/Treasurer, and Kim Sparks, Past President) from Mr. Fred Harris, NCWF Natural Resource Specialist, which would have provided more insight into why NCAFS should enter into a partnership with NCWF:

"I have talked informally with various officers and other chapter members from time to time regarding a relationship with the NC Wildlife Federation. To get some closure on this I am requesting that the NC Chapter, AFS consider affiliate membership with NCWF. Bob Brown is approaching the NC Chapter of TWS with the same request. NCWF strives to take positions on resource conservation issues within our state that are based upon strong science. Affiliation with the two professional/scientific societies associated with fisheries and wildlife would make our efforts more effective by ensuring our credibility as a science-driven organization.

The benefits to NCAFS of becoming a NCWF affiliate include reception of timely information on conservation issues; opportunities to partner on conservation projects; subscription to our official Journal; notification of important public hearings and meetings; website visibility; and awards and recognition opportunities. We have policy personnel to work with elected officials and governmental agencies on major issues affecting the State's natural resources. In addition, as the state affiliate to the National Wildlife Federation, NCWF has access to some of the Nation's top resource professionals on numerous issues.

A key part of our goal with affiliates is mutual awareness and joint action on issues that concern our organizations. Our affiliates join their voice with us only on the issues they choose. By having the affiliation, we have a mutual avenue to reach out when the topic is appropriate. On issues we address that are not of interest, relevance or agreement with an affiliate, there is no need for the affiliate to be involved or visible. So independence is completely maintained. Affiliation brings no obligations and nothing is binding or obligatory. You can find additional information about NCWF including our programs, conservation priorities and a list of our current affiliate members on our website (<http://www.ncwf.org>).

Mike, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you, and any other officers/members you choose, affiliate membership and address any questions or concerns you might have. I think our mutual interests and concerns regarding fisheries conservation in our state provide us with considerable common ground to seek ways we can effectively interact."

The EXCOM believes that Mr. Harris's e-mail in fact does address some of the member's concerns and opposition to such an affiliation. EXCOM also believes that the Chapter should become more involved with state issues than it has recently. In the past, the Chapter has developed position statements and resolutions that are not of political nature, but instead have focused on issues and projects that affect our State's fisheries and aquatic resources [NCAFS Environmental Concerns Committee publication archive](#). Such an affiliation with NCWF is consistent with the objective of the Chapter and those of the American Fisheries Society: "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" (<http://fisheries.org/about/governance/mission-statement/> and <http://nc.fisheries.org/who-we-are/procedural-documents/>).

The EXCOM proposes to the Chapter members to enter into an Affiliate Membership with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation to facilitate cooperative work towards shared natural resource conservation and management priorities. If approved, the affiliation will commence upon conclusion of the 2017 Business Meeting.

Per the Chapter's Bylaws and Procedures Manual, this proposal is being submitted by the EXCOM to the membership at least 30 days before the annual business meeting (February 15 or 16, 2017).

Submitted by NCAFS EXCOM

Call to Action!

If you want to contribute, have a story idea or would like us to include something in next quarter's newsletter, e-mail Kevin Hining kevin.hining@ncwildlife.org or give him a call at 336-877-1087. Also, if you want to become more involved with one of the many great NCAFS committees then please check the link below for information about each one, contacts, etc., <http://nc.fisheries.org/who-we-are/committees/>

Valuable Links

The [American Fisheries Society Home Page](#) offers a wealth of links to assist you in your fishy endeavors. Information on ordering AFS books, annual meetings, chapter links and joining the AFS can be found there.

This and [archived NCAFS newsletters](#), along with links, [chapter information](#), and [upcoming meetings](#), can be found on the [NCAFS website](#).

