

Arkansas State Chapter AFS - BYLAWS

Section 1 - Name and Objectives

The name of this organization shall be the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter. The objectives of the Chapter shall be those of the American Fisheries Society as set forth in Article 1 of the Constitution, and to encourage the exchange of information by members of the Society residing in, working in, or having a professional interest in the State of Arkansas.

Section 2 - Membership

The official membership of the Chapter shall be composed of those American Fisheries Society members in good standing residing in, working in, or having a professional interest in the State of Arkansas. Nonmembers of the American Fisheries Society interested in fishes, fisheries, and all other phases of fishery science and practice are encouraged to attend and participate.

Members of the Arkansas State University (ASU), Arkansas Tech University (ATU), University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (UAF), **University of Central Arkansas (UCA)** and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Student Subunits shall be recognized as Chapter members.

Section 3 - Meetings

The Chapter shall hold at least one meeting annually at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee. The program and presentation of papers shall be the responsibility of the Program Committee

Section 4 - Officers

- A. The officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, President-elect, Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers of the Chapter must be AFS members in good standing.
- B. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting or by mail ballot prior to the annual meeting, whichever is deemed most appropriate. The Secretary and the Treasurer will hold office for a period of two years, but the term of the other officers shall be one year. In case of a vacated position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified replacement to fill an unexpired term.
- C. The term of office for all elected officers shall terminate immediately following the election and installation of new officers at the annual meeting.

Section 5 - Duties of Officers

The President of the Chapter shall preside at all meetings, shall serve as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, shall represent the Chapter to the Southern Division and to the American Fisheries Society, and shall make such appointments and perform other duties and functions as are authorized and necessary.

The President-Elect shall be Chairperson of the Program Committee and shall assume the duties of the President if the latter is unable to act.

The Secretary shall keep the official records of the Chapter; submit a copy of the minutes of the annual business meeting to the Executive Director of the Society and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Division within 30 days of said meeting.

The Treasurer shall collect and be custodian of Chapter funds; disburse funds as authorized by the Executive Committee or the membership; submit a record of receipts and disbursements at the annual Chapter meeting; and discharge other duties that may be requested by the Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society and officers of the Southern Division.

The ASU, ATU, UAF, **UCA** and UAPB Student Subunit Presidents will represent the interests of the Subunits to the Chapter Executive Committee and act as liaisons between the Executive Committee and the Subunits. The Subunit Presidents will work cooperatively with the Chapter's Executive Committee to assist in Chapter functions and Subunits participation.

Section 6 - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected officers, the ASU, ATU, UAF, **UCA** and UAPB Student Subunit Presidents, and the immediate Past-President; participation by committee chairs is invited and encouraged. All members of the EXCOM must be AFS members in good standing. In addition to scheduled meetings of the EXCOM, special meetings should be called by the President as the need arises. The committee is authorized to act for the Chapter between meetings and to perform appropriate duties and functions.

Section 7 - Chapter Committees

Standing and Special Committees and the Chairperson of Committees, except as listed in Section 5 and 6 of these Bylaws, shall be appointed by the President.

The Standing Committees of the Chapter shall be the Program, the Nominations/Awards, the Activities/Raffle, the Environmental Affairs, and the Education Liaison. The terms of office for Standing Committee members shall be two years from the annual meeting. There is no geographic limit to where Committee members may come from but it is suggested that each quadrant of the state be represented on the Environmental Affairs Committee. The terms of office for members of Special Committees shall end upon the discharge of the duties for which they were appointed, or at the next annual meeting of the Chapter, whichever comes first.

Section 8 - Voting and Quorum

Decisions at meetings of the Chapter shall be in accordance with the constitution of the American Fisheries Society. Robert's Rules of Order shall cover in all applicable cases not covered by these bylaws. A quorum at any meeting for the transaction of official business shall be one-third of the Chapter membership.

Section 9 - Registration and Dues

The Executive Committee may assess each registrant attending annual meetings of the Chapter a registration fee necessary to cover the costs of the meeting and Chapter activities. The Executive Committee shall have the power to establish annual dues. Collections shall be made by the Treasurer and disbursements shall be made for financing Chapter operations, as may be directed by the membership or authorization of the Executive Committee.

Section 10 - Amendments to the Bylaws

The Bylaws are the defining document for the Unit and take precedence over all other rules and procedures of the Unit. The Bylaws cannot be suspended and cannot be changed without prior notice to members.

- A. The Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of Active Members choosing to vote, provided that the proposed amendment(s) are circulated in writing to the membership at least 30 days prior to voting.
- B. In accordance with the Society Constitution, an adopted amendment shall be reviewed by the Society's Constitutional Consultant for conformity with the Constitution, Rules and Procedures of the Society. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society Governing Board for approval.
- C. Amendments take effect when the Unit receives written notice of their approval by the Governing Board from the Executive Director.