

# The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

2022 Post-meeting Newsletter  
Volume 48, Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TIM BIRDSONG

In June 2022, advocates for conservation of fish and wildlife resources celebrated bipartisan passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773) by the U.S. House of Representatives. Now is time for each of us to individually consider taking action to help the Recovering America's Wildlife Act cross the finish line by calling or messaging our Senators and asking them to advance the bill in the Senate (see links to a [phone call script](#), [fillable form letter](#), and [fact sheet](#)). You can also spotlight on social media any pertinent ongoing research and conservation projects that you are leading and tag #recoverwildlife and your Senator's social media account.

If eventually passed by both chambers of U.S. Congress, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would result in an unprecedented level of financial investment nationally in the conservation of species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), a status generally afforded to at-risk species in need of conservation intervention. Congress currently requires each U.S. state and territory to assemble and routinely update State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), which emphasize actions necessary to conserve SGCN and prevent the need for their listing as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Current federal funding for implementation of SWAPs is primarily provided through the State Wildlife Grants Program, which nationally allocates approximately \$50 million annually. In Texas alone, estimated annual funding needed to effectively implement the Texas SWAP is \$132 million,



Guadalupe Bass, the official state fish of Texas and one of 106 species of freshwater fish and mussels that would directly benefit from passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Photo credit: Chris Johnson, Living Waters Fly Fishing

including \$6.2 million annually to conserve the 106 species of freshwater fish and mussels recognized as SGCN. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act seeks to address this funding shortfall by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to implement SWAPs, including \$57.4 million annually in Texas. In support of fish conservation efforts in Texas, this funding would help fill critical research needs, expand monitoring programs, restore or enhance degraded habitats, restore connectivity in fragmented rivers and other natural landscapes, preserve intact habitats through conservation easements, propagate and repatriate fish populations, and deliver a multitude of other actions necessary to restore and preserve fish SGCN.

Again, please consider taking time to support passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the conservation of America's most at-risk species. Thank you for all you do for Texas fish and fisheries. Together, we're making a real difference!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President message .....	1
President-Elect message.....	2
Annual meeting .....	4
2022 presentation awardees .....	6
2022 scholarship recipients .....	8
Business meeting minutes.....	12
Behind the Scenes.....	16
TCAFS Mission .....	17

### ITEM OF NOTE

- TCAFS memberships can be completed online now! Click [here](#) to start or renew a membership today!

## TCAFS 2022

### PRESIDENT MESSAGES

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY CHRISTOPHER MACE

### *Diversity makes us stronger*

Greetings colleagues! A quick introduction and on to business. My name is Christopher Mace, and I was selected as President Elect at the most recent Texas Chapter – AFS meeting at the Mo-Ranch. Some of you I have known for years, while others I have been pleased to recently meet. My fisheries career started in the Truckee Meadows area of Northwestern Nevada, working with threatened and endangered freshwater fishes. From the iconic Cutthroat Trout in high mountain lakes of the Sierra Nevada's, to the venerable Pup Fish in the Ash Meadows oasis in the Armargosa Valley, I was blessed to be exposed to the incredible and diverse aquatic life of western freshwater species. Graduate school helped solidify my desire to continue fisheries work with fisheries restoration projects such as restoring native species for sportfish in Puerto Rican reservoirs. Being a small island on the border of the Caribbean and Atlantic oceans, the fisheries diversity paralleled what I had seen in western America. From Dajao (Mountain Mullet) to Dorado (Dolphin Fish), I tried to study them all. Mountain reservoirs, rainforest streams, brackish lagoons to the vast open ocean, the diversity was remarkable. In 2009, (got here as fast as I could) I joined the professionals at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a Natural Resource Specialist in the coastal town of Rockport. My work continued documenting the native diversity of fish populations. *Anchoa mitchilli*, *Brevoortia patronus*, and *Xiphias gladius*; the salty waters of the Texas coast teemed with biodiversity! In those 25+ years, the one trait I noticed that ran true no matter which ecosystem I was working was, the more diverse, the more adaptable to change.

Fast forward to this year's May meeting of the Texas Chapter at the amazing Mo-Ranch. In the headwaters of the Guadalupe River, I found species that took me back to childhood fishing trips with my Papa. Sunfish took small flies readi-



Photo credit: Christopher Mace

ly and provided several anglers with their first catch on a flyrod. What a spectacular venue for the meeting and I wish to take one moment to thank Tim Birdsong, Dakus Geeslin, and all the chairs and volunteers that worked to put this meeting together.

As I transitioned from a shady bench near the river into the conference room to prepare for the talks, I was struck with a different type of diversity. I do not recall attending a fisheries meeting with greater student participation. As I type this, I'm not reviewing attendance numbers, nor looking back at records. However, it struck me that this particular meeting felt different. Perhaps it was the timing of the meeting, as it was postponed from the traditional February date to early May to account for yet another wave of the Coronavirus. Perhaps it was the location, with its summer-camp ambiance. Either way, seeing young professionals engaged in conversations with tenured folks energized me. Discussing student research projects in the packed poster rooms was the highlight of the afternoon. The energy amassed from two years of virtual classes, zoom meetings, isolation and

# PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

quarantine was being released and I could see people beaming with anticipation of some normality for the future.

Whatever the new normal will be, I recognize the young professionals will be ready to take the baton. Texas is the land of the extremes, always has been. The new generation of fisheries professionals is learning to adapt to drought and floods, wildfires and hurricanes, freezes and heatwaves, pandemics and politics. And to think, all I had to learn was Latin names and statistics!

As I noted in my work with fisheries, diverse populations are stronger and more adept to handle change. Equally, a diverse chapter membership will help us tackle the problems of the future, whatever they may be. It's important to stimulate our young professionals to keep fisheries relevant and proactive. Membership kindles old and new relationships alike and facilitates networking that can lead to career-long partnerships.

I sincerely hope we can not only maintain but increase participation and diversity of our younger membership. It is one of my overarching goals as president-elect. In the next short months, I'll be reaching out to folks with a call for volunteers. There is work to do now to ensure a successful Texas Chapter, and I for one intend to maintain this post-COVID energy and leverage the hard work of the chapter members into 2023 and beyond. If you would like to join me in planning the next meeting, feel encouraged to reach out via email at [Christopher.Mace@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Christopher.Mace@tpwd.texas.gov). Moreover, if you have ideas you'd like to share that could stimulate and support a diverse student membership, please consider volunteering on one of the many important behind-the-scenes teams. More information about the officers may be found at <https://units.fisheries.org/tx/officers-and-chairs/>.



Inspiration Point. Courtesy Mo-Ranch.

## TCAFS 2022

### PRESIDENT MESSAGES





TCAFS 2022  
ANNUAL  
MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING AT MO-RANCH



Meeting attendees participating in the poster session. Photo credit: Haley Kokel



TCAFS President Dakus Geeslin, President-Elect Tim Birdsong, and Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Robertson posing with recipient of TCAFS Student Travel Awards. Photo credit: Haley Kokel

# ANNUAL MEETING AT MO-RANCH (CONTINUED)

## TCAFS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



Outdoor activities during Annual Meeting at Mo-Ranch. Photo credit: Haley Kokel



Meeting attendees engaging with panelists during panel discussion.. Photo credit: Haley Kokel



**TCAFS 2022  
AWARDS**

**OUTSTANDING PRESENTATION AND  
POSTER AWARDEES**

- **2022 Professional Oral Presentation**  
Benjamin Walther, Texas A&M–Corpus Christi  
*Tracking hypoxia exposure and consequences in the northern Gulf of Mexico with chemical proxies*
- **2022 Student Oral Presentation**  
Erin Nguyen, Texas A&M–College Station  
*Drier and dire: Ecological forecasting and conservation contingency planning for imperiled Great Plains fishes in Texas*
- **2022 Professional Poster**  
David Peterson, Stephen F. Austin University  
*A 70-year regional perspective of an east Texas urban fishery*
- **2022 Student Poster**  
Rebecca Mangold , Texas A&M–College Station  
*Does spatial location matter when estimating stream fish richness? A test of spatially constrained rarefaction in the Colorado River Basin, Texas*

---

**Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project Award**  
American Fisheries Society, Fisheries Administration Section  
*Repatriation of Guadalupe Bass to the Blanco River*



From left to right: Tim Birdsong, Tim Bonner, Greg Cummings, Kevin Mayes, Ken Kurzawski, John Botros, Archis Grubh, and Megan Bean.



## OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKERS

- **2022 Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Education**  
Joshuah Perkin, Texas A & M University, College Station
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Student**  
Lindsey Elkins, Texas A & M University, College Station
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Student**  
Garrett Stamport, Texas A & M University, College Station
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Fisheries Management**  
Dusty McDonald, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Corpus Christi
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Special Recognition**  
Annette Sudyka, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Heart of the Hills Science Center
- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Award: Research**  
Clint Robertson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, River Studies



Annette Sudyka (left) and Clint Robertson (right). Photo credit: Haley Kokel

TCAFS 2022  
AWARDS



**TCAFS 2022  
AWARDS**

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES**

**Harry Tennison Scholarship  
Hayden Roberts – Texas A&M University—College Station**

Hayden began his interest in a career in freshwater fisheries during his undergraduate schooling at Coastal Carolina University, where he later had the opportunity to work for several state and federal agencies across the United States in areas including Alaska, Virginia, Illinois, and now Texas. As a current Master’s student at Texas A&M University, Hayden’s work investigates the predictors of Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) movement, specifically the importance of tributary use for reproduction and persistence of the species in regulated rivers. His work provides crucial information on Alligator Gar that can be used to aid in the management of the species and other migratory fishes facing similar ecological pressures. After his anticipated thesis defense in the Spring of 2022, Hayden will continue his schooling at Texas A&M as a PhD student investigating the species distribution, genetics, and morphology of River Carpsucker (*Carpoides carpio*) in the Colorado River Basin.



**Harry Tennison Scholarship  
Johnathan Ellard – Texas A&M University—College Station**

Johnathan Ellard is from Caldwell, Texas and is a junior attending Texas A&M University where he is pursuing a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences with an emphasis in aquatic sciences and aquaculture. He is currently leading a project that's assessing fine-scale movements of alligator gar in the lower Brazos River basin to contribute to the understanding of fish movement at the individual level using active telemetry, as well as shed light on possible habitat associations during a diel period. He is involved and assists many other projects including those in the Riverscape Ecology Lab under Dr. Joshua Perkin. After his undergraduate career, he plans to continue his education by pursuing a M.S. in a fisheries-related field.





## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES (CONTINUED)

### **Harry Tennison Scholarship** **Noah Santee – Texas A&M University—College Station**

Noah Santee is from New Braunfels, Texas but grew up in Abilene, Texas. He is a recent graduate from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife & Fisheries, focusing on fisheries and aquatic sciences. Noah will be getting his master's degree in Ecology and Conservation Biology under Dr. Joshua Perkin at Texas A&M University. The first year of his work will focus on completing year 2 of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project that aims to assess community composition and habitat metrics across the different spatial and temporal gradients of the state in the hopes of better understanding the future effects of global warming. After graduation, Noah hopes to take a break from academia and pursue a career at the state or federal level for a few years before returning for a doctoral degree.



### **Harry Tennison Scholarship** **Nick Weber – Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi**

Born in Northern Kentucky, Nick Weber received a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame; a master's degree from the College of Charleston; and is currently a PhD candidate working under the guidance of Dr. David Portnoy at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Nick's doctoral research aims to apply genomic techniques to questions pertinent to the management of exploited fish species. In particular, he is currently working on developing an epigenetic aging technique, which could provide a more efficient and non-invasive alternative to the aging techniques commonly employed in fisheries research today.



TCAFS 2022  
AWARDS

**TCAFS 2022  
AWARDS**

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES  
(CONTINUED)**

**TCAFS Student Scholarship Award  
Neina Chapa – Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi**

Neina Chapa grew up in Tampa, Florida where her love for fisheries science led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology at the University of South Florida- St. Petersburg. She spent time working for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Fisheries and Limnology Technician before joining Dr. Jennifer Pollack's lab at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Neina's thesis work is focused on oyster reef restoration in St. Charles Bay, Texas. She is evaluating habitat provisioning for oysters and reef-associated fauna in restored intertidal and subtidal oyster reefs by using eDNA metabarcoding and traditional field sampling techniques. After graduation, Neina plans to continue her career in fisheries at the state or federal level.



## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES (CONTINUED)

### **TCAFS/Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship Award Melissa Wolter – Texas State University**

Melissa Wolter is a first year master's student at Texas State University (TXST). Melissa is from Austin but grew up along the Texas coast as well. Currently, she is working on multiple projects including: fish and mussel assemblages in multiple drainages across Texas, spring associated fishes within the Edward's Plateau region, and the mechanisms affecting changes in aquatic communities around dams. In the future, Melissa plans to continue her career in fisheries by working with agencies and consultants to study and protect Texas' aquatic resources.



### **TCAFS Student Scholarship Award Owen George – Texas Tech University**

Owen George is from Seward, Nebraska, and is a second-year master's student at Texas Tech University. Owen's thesis work is focused on food web dynamics in New Mexico mountain streams. He is examining the effects Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) have on the secondary production of native fishes that are listed as species of conservation concern in the Jemez River Basin. Owen is interested in stream food web dynamics and the conservation of native fishes. He plans to pursue a career as an aquatic ecologist focusing on the conservation of native fish species.

TCAFS 2022  
AWARDS



## TCAFS 2022

MAY 19, 2020

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## 2022 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 11:12 AM by Dakus Geeslin.

**Determination of a quorum:** Yes, by Sarah Robertson.

**Motion to Accept February 4, 2021 meeting minutes:** Dan Daugherty made motion, Kevin Mayes seconded the motion, motion approved.

**Motion to Accept Agenda:** Kirk Winemiller made a motion to accept, Tim Birdsong seconded, motion approved.

**President's Report** (Dakus Geeslin):

- Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) history poster was presented at 2021 Baltimore American Fisheries Society meeting (made by Michele Nations).
- Upcoming American Fisheries Society meetings – 2022 in Spokane, WA; 2023 in Grand Rapids, MI; 2024 in Honolulu, HI. Consideration for a future parent society meeting in Texas or Louisiana.
- Letters of Support –
  - RAWA letters of support were sent.
  - TCAFS approached by Texas Foundation for Conservation to write a comment letter against permit for coastal project. TCAFS did not comment, but asked SDAFS if they would like to.
  - Craig Bonds: Third year to support two Hutton Scholars.

**Southern Division** (Cindy Williams, SDAFS past president):

- *Current president* – Jason Olive, Arkansas Game and Fish.
- *Awards* – Service Award renamed to honor Tom Kwak  
Seeking award nominations, available on website.
- *Meetings* – Working on culture changes protective of student members (*i.e.* every student will have a bed at meetings.  
  
Upcoming meetings: 2023 in Norfolk, VA; 2024 in TN; 2025 in NC; 2026 in LA; 2027 in AL; 2028 in MI.
- *Officer changes* – Send SDAFS Excomm TCAFS officer changes for tracking purposes.
- *Gray literature database* – AFS members will have access. Agencies are encouraged to upload documents.

**President-Elect** (Timothy Birdsong):

- 2022 meeting was a success with 201 total registrants (180 in person and 21 virtual) and included technical presentations, 1<sup>st</sup> annual spawning run, kayaking, field trips.
- *Field Trips/Continuing Education* – 25 students participated in the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center field trip; 18 people attended the Kerr WMA field trip; and 45 people attended the side scan sonar continuing education class
- *Student Travel Awards* – TCAFS should consider continuing the student travel award program in future years.

# 2022 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

## **Secretary-Treasurer** (Sarah Robertson):

- Beginning balance as of 1/1/2021 \$18,011.64
- Total Income for 2021: \$18,663.44
- Total Expenses for 2021: \$12,589.95
- Total Transferred to Endowment Fund: \$0, to be done in 2022
- Ending balance as of 12/31/2021: \$24,085.13

## **Awards** (Brittany Chesser):

- Thank you to all the judges that helped during the meeting.
- Please nominate people for awards next year

## **History** (Haley Kokel):

- This TCAFS history poster created by Michele Nations is available on the TCAFS website under the 'History' tab.
- 2026 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Michele is looking for old meeting photos to commemorate this.

## **Continuing Education** (Lynn Wright):

- Approximately 90 CE participants this year participate in continuing education workshop and field trips.
- If there are ideas for continuing education, please reach out.

## **Editorial (Alice Best):**

- Record number of abstracts submitted at 106.
- Ended up with 31 presentations and 46 posters.
- Need to discuss format changes to accommodate more presentations.
- Looking for volunteers to score and rank abstracts next year.

## **Endowment** (Brian Van Zee) /**Scholarships** (Brian for Jennifer Butler):

- PowerPoint presentation on Endowment performance.
- Endowment balance at the end of 2021 was \$499,799.09. As of May 2022, our portfolio value was \$430,638.95
- The Clark Hubbs research award has transitioned to the Clark Hubbs Scholarship to be funded on par with existing scholarships at \$1,500.
- Endowment fund took a downturn with the economy, but financial advisor recommended continuing with current investment strategy.
- Financial advisor recommended four \$5,000 scholarships per year is sustainable.
- Dave Terre recognized for setting up endowment and it is proposed to establish a Dave Terre award.
- No deposit to endowment following the 2021 virtual meeting. Will assess in 2022 following meeting.
- Look in to CCA, GRTU, or other organizations to fund scholarships.

TCAFS 2022

BUSINESS  
MEETING  
MINUTES



## TCAFS 2022

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## 2022 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

- Jennifer is looking for help to score scholarship applications.

#### **Internet** (Timothy Birdsong for Sarah Haas):

- Michele can make edits to TCAFS website.
- Need more AV/IT support for meetings.

#### **Membership** (Haley Kokel):

- 187 current chapter members (106 regular members; 81 students)
- Social media material is needed and can be sent to Haley.
- Send job vacancies to Haley for the TCAFS jobs Facebook page.

#### **Newsletter** (Matt Troia):

- Seeking input and articles for the newsletter.

#### **Nominating** (Greg Southard):

- Thanks to the two candidates this year for president-elect: Christopher Mace and Todd Sink.
- Christopher Mace was elected as president elect.

#### **Pond Management** (Greg Binion):

- Pond management manual revisions are underway. Draft will be finished by Dec 2022. Will go out to members for review.

#### **Publicity/Exhibits** (Steven Bardin):

- *Sponsorship* – This year sponsors could receive a booth. Total sponsorship was \$5,500.
- *Raffle/Auction* – 50 items were donated. Card raffle guns were the only purchased items.
- Looking for volunteers to obtain raffle items for next year.

#### **Issues** (Kevin Mayes):

- Did not receive any issues-related requests this year.
- Kevin will be stepping down and Mukhtar Farooqi has agreed to become chair. Dakus approves nomination.

#### **Student Outreach** (Josh Perkin):

- 55 student mentors attended the meeting.
- Students presented 14 oral presentations and 23 posters.
- Job board was made for the meeting.
- Student requested having a student representative on the ExCom.

#### **Student Subunit Updates:**

- **TX A&M University– College Station** (Johnathan Ellard) 20 members.
- Hope to expand membership through educational events and partnering with other TAMU organizations on dinner/raffles to raise funds.





## 2022 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

- **TX A&M University - Corpus Christi** (Jacob Oster)  
36 members.
- Have held outreach events (beach cleanup, fishing tournaments)
- Planned service project to make and install monofilament recycling containers

### **Tarleton State University** (Hannah Williams)

- Membership is down due to graduations. Will focus on recruiting new members.

### **Texas Tech University** (Jane Rogosch)

- Conducted some community outreach events and helped host speakers for seminars at TTU.

### **University of North Texas** (Michael Curtis)

- New subunit, first meeting held April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Old business:** No old business

### **Installation of Officers:**

- Sarah Robertson will continue as Secretary-Treasurer.
- Dakus Geeslin presented Timothy Birdsong with the skeg and “Roberts Rules for Dummies.”
- Timothy Birdsong presented Dan Daugherty with his Past President plaque and print of Guadalupe River to commemorate his contributions to the chapter.
- Dakus Geeslin is now the Past President, Timothy Birdsong is now President, and Christopher Mace is President-Elect.

### **New Business:**

- Timothy Birdsong: Create a post meeting opinion survey for members to include things like preferred meeting timeframe; rotation between inland/coastal meeting locations; etc.
- Stephen Curtis: SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee requests a TCAFS donation to the Jimmie Pigg scholarship of \$250 to cover meeting or graduate school expenses for a student. TCAFS supported this in 2021. Dakus Geeslin made a motion to approve, Alice Best seconded. Motion passes.
- Revisit donation to endowment at next ExCom meeting once meeting expenses have cleared.
- Timothy Birdsong: Focus attention on RAWA planning and outreach to universities and non-profits.

**Adjourn:** Dakus Geeslin made the motion to adjourn. Ken Kurzawski seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:21PM.

TCAFS 2022

BUSINESS  
MEETING  
MINUTES



**TCAFS  
BEHIND THE  
SCENES:**

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRS AND  
MEMBERS**

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT ..... Tim Birdsong  
PRESIDENT-ELECT ..... Christopher Mace  
PAST PRESIDENT ..... Dakus Geeslin  
SECRETARY-TREASURER ..... Sarah Robertson

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS**

AWARDS ..... Brittany Chesser  
CONTINUING EDUCATION ..... Lynn Wright  
EDITORIAL ..... Alice Best & Dave Buzan  
ENDOWMENTS ..... Brian VanZee  
HISTORY ..... Michele Nations  
INTERNET ..... John Taylor  
ISSUES ..... Mukhtar Farooqi  
MEMBERSHIP ..... Michele Nations & Haley  
Kokel  
NEWSLETTER ..... Matt Troia  
NOMINATING ..... Greg Cummings  
POND MANAGEMENT ..... Greg Binion  
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS ..... Steve Bardin  
SCHOLARSHIP ..... Jennifer Butler  
STUDENT OUTREACH ..... Josh Perkin

# TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY PURPOSE AND GOALS

The general purposes and responsibilities of the Texas Chapter are as follows:

1. Support AFS Parent Society objectives. Specifically:
  - A. Promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries;
  - B. Promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice;
  - C. Gather and disseminate to Society members and the general public scientific, technical, and other information about fisheries science and practice through publications, meetings, and other forms of communication; and
  - D. Encourage the teaching of fisheries science and practice in colleges and universities and the continuing education and development of fisheries professionals.
2. As the smallest geographically defined unit recognized as being operationally independent in the Society's Constitution, a Chapter shares the purposes of the Society but is intended to advance the Society's objectives over a more localized area than the Divisions, in this case, within the state of Texas.
3. The Texas Chapter generally provides for interaction among professionals within Texas. The Texas Chapter is a unit of the Southern Division.
4. Facilitate communication among members (by newsletters and other means) regarding fisheries science issues and the conduct of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
5. Hold meetings, publish works, and perform other activities on a technical and semi-technical level that advance the status and performance of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
6. Determine the views of members relative to professional topics affecting their performance, for example, by conducting surveys and considering resolutions.
7. Present the views of Chapter members to the Division membership, the AFS membership, and to the general public and government agencies within the Chapter's boundaries.
8. Hold annual meetings at which all Bylaw responsibilities are carried out.
9. Serve as technical and professional advisors to government agencies within the Chapter's region.
10. Promote the fisheries profession within the Chapter's boundaries through active and positive relations with journalists, government officials, special interest groups, other professional organizations, and the general public.
11. Promote proper use of aquatic resources by initiating and participating in special projects that increase public awareness, expand participation, improve habitat, and protect fragile resources.

## A message from the newsletter team:

**If you have ideas for stories or photographs from the field you would like to share please email Matt Troia (troiamj@gmail.com). We can help develop and write stories, so please reach out, even if the idea is not completed yet.**

## TCAFS

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is committed to the conservation, development, and wise utilization of recreational and commercial fisheries, the promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice, and the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects.

## TCAFS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor—Matt Troia  
troiamj@gmail.com

