

Bylaws
for the
Physiology Section
of the
American Fisheries Society



Revised June 2024

Approved by the Membership

Approved by the Society Governing Board

Article I. Name and Objectives

The name of this organization shall be the Physiology Section of the American Fisheries Society (herein after referred to as the Society) as provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

The purpose of the Physiology Section is to promote excellence in the science of fish physiology through improved communications between researchers and other professionals who want current information on physiological processes, tools, and techniques. The general objectives of the Physiology Section are the same as those of the Society, as provided in Article I.2 of the Constitution of the Society. The specific objectives of the Physiology Section are:

1. To provide a forum for members to exchange information, express views, report on activities, and discuss solutions to problems related to the processes, procedures, techniques, and impacts of fish physiology research and practice;
2. To conduct meetings, symposia, and workshops to disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge of basic and applied research on fish physiology to the scientific and professional community, resource users, and the general public;
3. To promote participation and membership in the AFS by scientists and fisheries professionals with interests in the physiological biology of fish.
4. Fully conform with the AFS Code of Conduct and support diversity, equity, and inclusion within the context of our discipline and community.

Article II. Membership

Membership in the Physiology Section shall be open to anyone interested in the field of fish physiology. Only members in good standing of the Society may serve as officers, chair committees, or vote on Physiology Section affairs.

Article III. Officers

The Officers of the Physiology Section shall be the Past President, President, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary/Communications Officer. The Officers make up the official, elected, governing body of the Physiology Section.

- a. For all officer positions, nominations shall be sought through an ad hoc nominations committee. Whenever possible, at least two nominations for a position are strongly preferred, but not required.
- b. The offices of Past President, President, President-Elect shall be for two-year terms; consecutive terms are prohibited, except under emergency conditions as agreed upon by a

majority opinion of the Executive Committee. Each time a new President-Elect is elected, the following ascensions will occur: President-Elect to President and President to Past President.

c. The offices of Treasurer and Secretary/Communications Officer shall be for a two-year term, with provision for additional two-year term(s) upon unanimous approval by the other Officers. A new Treasurer and Communications Secretary shall be elected during the year prior to the expiration of the term(s) of the preceding officer.

d. If the President or President-Elect cannot serve their term, the required accessions will occur to fill these positions, with subsequent election of a new President-Elect. If the Treasurer or Secretary/Communications Officer cannot serve out their term(s), the other Officers shall assume the required responsibilities until an election can be held.

e. The President shall serve as Chair of the Officers and the Executive Committee, preside at the annual Physiology Section business meeting, appoint all committees, and serve as an ex officio member thereof. The President shall represent the Physiology Section on the Society Governing Board by attending Governing Board meetings and reporting on Physiology Section activities, and perform other duties and functions as authorized and necessary.

f. The President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President, assume those duties in the event the office of President is vacated for any reason, perform other duties as requested by the President, and, on completion of their term, accede to the office of President.

g. The Treasurer shall maintain a record of receipts and disbursements and present such financials at the annual Section meeting, establish necessary banking arrangements and prepare and file necessary tax returns and other official documents necessary to keep the Section in good legal and financial standing, and maintain financial records for review by Society officers and staff as needed or requested.

h. The Secretary/Communications Officer shall record and submit minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Physiology Section to the Executive Director of the Society within 30 days after the meeting is held. This officer will also maintain the Section web site, including the digital newsletter, and attend to Section social media needs.

i. The Officers shall serve without salary or other compensations for their services. Expenses may be defrayed from funds available to the Section when authorized by a majority of the Officers.

Article IV. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is made up of the Officers, chairs of all committees, and past officers of the Physiology Section. Only the Officers, as the elected representatives of the membership, have a vote in decisions of policy, spending, and appointments, but the other members of the

Executive Committee may assist in the conduct of Physiology Section business, under the aegis of the Officers. Past officers shall automatically serve for four years as Executive Committee Members.

The Executive Committee is authorized to act for the Section between business meetings and to perform appropriate duties and functions on behalf of the Section.

- a. A quorum is required for Executive Committee Meetings for the transaction of official Section business. A quorum shall be at least three-fourths of the Executive Committee.
- b. Executive Committee members may appoint a proxy who is a current Section member.

Article V. Meetings

The Physiology Section shall hold at least one business meeting annually at a time and place designated by the Officers; this meeting may be held digitally or in-person. Special meetings may be called by the President with the consent of a majority of the Officers.

Decisions at business meetings of the Physiology Section shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Society. A quorum at business meetings shall be 10 voting members of the Physiology Section, each of whom is entitled to one vote on all matters requiring the approval of the membership.

Meetings of the Officers or the Executive Committee may be held at any time at the call of the President. Such meetings and the required voting on decisions may be conducted by any means of voice, electronic or print communication.

Article VI. Finances

The Physiology Section may solicit memberships, sponsorships, donations or other income from any source or in any manner that is deemed appropriate by the Officers and does not compromise the Society or contravene the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

The Officers may assess those attending a meeting of the Physiology Section a registration fee as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. An annual membership fee shall be determined by the Officers.

The Officers may approve any disbursements that are consistent with the objectives of the Physiology Section. All income and disbursements must be listed and reported to the membership annually.

Upon dissolution of the Physiology Section, all of its assets and records shall revert to another Society subunit or to the Society as recommended by the outgoing officers, upon the approval of the Society Governing Board.

Article VII. Amendment of Bylaws

1. The Bylaws are the defining document for the Section and take precedence over all other rules and procedures of the Section.

a. The Bylaws cannot be suspended and cannot be changed without prior notice to the Section Members.

b. The Bylaws of the Section may be amended in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Proposed amendments must be provided to the Section Membership through the newsletter, website, or email, for a review period of 30 days. Passage of an amendment requires a two-thirds majority of those voting at either the annual business meeting or during the 30-day electronic voting period.

c. In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, an adopted amendment shall be reviewed by the Constitutional Consultant for the Society for conformity with the Constitution, Rules, and Procedures of the Society. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society Management Committee for approval.

d. Amendments take effect when the Section receives written notice of their approval by the Management Committee of the Society from the Executive Director.

2. Rules are the next highest level of documentation of Section operations. They are generally established to facilitate the conduct of Section business, and to describe duties and responsibilities of officers and committees. They may be suspended or amended as follows.

a. The Rules may be suspended during an Executive Committee meeting until the next annual or special Section business meeting by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

b. The Rules may be suspended for the duration of a business meeting by a two-thirds majority of Section members voting at an annual or special Section business meeting.

c. The Rules may be amended by a simple majority of Section Members voting at an annual or special Section business meeting.

3. Procedures are the lowest level of documentation of Section operations. They are generally established to provide continuity in the conduct of Section business. The Procedures may be suspended or amended by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Revised: June 2024

Approved by the Physiology Section Membership: June 2024

Approved by the Society Governing Board: June 2026