

AK Chapter AFS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Mission Statement: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC) for the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) aims to foster a professional community where everyone feels welcome, respected, and supported. We advocate for policies and procedures that promote diversity and inclusion in fisheries science and resource management. We also strive to remove systemic barriers to participation and serve as a resource to help recruit and retain individuals from underrepresented groups. We are always looking for suggestions about how to improve one's sense of belonging in our professional society, so please reach out at any time! It will take commitment from all of us to do the important and shared work of enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Alaska Chapter of AFS.

The AK-AFS DEIC is soliciting new members! Individuals dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in fisheries are encouraged to self-nominate. All career stages (undergraduate/graduate students, early career professionals, faculty, agency staff, retired, etc.) are welcome to participate.

Committee Member Terms and Expectations: DEIC members serve a minimum of one year (*i.e.*, from one annual meeting to the next). Term renewals may be sought, based on the member's interest and ability to contribute in meaningful ways. A combination of term lengths will facilitate continuity while also providing opportunities for new members to participate. Although time commitments will vary throughout the year, committee members are expected to commit approximately four hours per month to DEI-related activities (*e.g.*, engaging in DEIC-led programs, completing work plan tasks, leading discussions). The full committee meets for one hour per month. Subcommittees may also meet as needed. DEIC members are expected to attend and come prepared to engage in at least nine committee meetings each term.

Self-Nominations: Please include a brief statement (300 words or less) that demonstrates your commitment to DEI, describes your motivation for serving on this committee, and outlines any specific skills, professional experience, perspectives, and/or qualities that you would bring to the AK Chapter AFS DEIC.

If you are interested in assisting with DEI initiatives, but cannot commit to a full DEIC term, please contact deic@afs-alaska.org. We welcome affiliate members and appreciate all the help we can get for this important and shared work!