

**Douglas J. Austen, Ph.D**  
Executive Director, American Fisheries Society

**Goal:** To engage, support, influence, or lead conservation programs that create and employ innovative, effective and collaborative approaches to conservation challenges, particularly those that address aquatic resources.

**Key Attributes:**

- Highly effective at building collaborative efforts to address complicated conservation challenges
- Known and experienced leadership in professional societies, state and federal agencies, and with large, complicated projects
- Politically effective at the state and federal level and able to engage others to constructively support efforts.
- Fisheries and aquatic science experience in a variety of systems including field biology, informatics, sampling and habitat restoration
- Fundraising and grantsmanship experience ranging from individual project development to full program design and management including a variety of project selection panels and program oversight
- Diverse experience in a wide variety of fields associated with fisheries such as landscape conservation, geographic information systems, habitat restoration and farm bill related programs.
- Extensive knowledge of conference and board organization, printed and electronic publications, and non-profit management.

**Education:**

**Doctorate:**

Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Dissertation title, "Analysis of Fish Communities in Illinois lakes," 1992. Minor in statistics.

**Master of Science:**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. February, 1984.  
Fisheries and Wildlife Science. Emphasis: Fisheries Science

**Bachelor of Science:**

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD. May, 1981. Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

**Present Position:**

Executive Director, American Fisheries Society (August 2014 – Present)

Responsible for overall operational aspects of the American Fisheries Society including staff, budget, investments, policy, publications (including 6 journals and 8-12 books per year), and an annual international conference. Engage in regular high-level dialogues with fisheries leadership throughout the federal and state agencies, private conservation organizations, industry and others to identify science and policy-related needs, develop solutions to fisheries conservation challenges, and work with membership to engage them in development of solutions. Acts as Secretary General of the World Council of Fisheries Societies and works with various nations to host a World Fisheries Congress every four years. Works with congressional members and their staff to provide policy-related science to assist in decision-making.

**Previous Positions**

National Coordinator, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of the Science Advisor. (July 2010 – July 2014)

Responsible for overall national coordination of the 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). This includes working with the principal agencies within the Department of Interior (FWS, BLM, BOR, USGS, BIA) and key other

partners from federal, state, NGO and tribal conservation partners to develop fundamental conservation plans and strategies, organizational protocols and structure, and organic documents for the LCC's. Develop reporting materials for OMB and Congressional engagement, work with budget staff and others to develop and submit funding materials, and engage partner involvement in LCC's.

#### Executive Director,

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg, PA, (January 2004 to January 2010)

Responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all activities of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission including land and water acquisition, information and education, fisheries propagation, management and research, environmental services, engineering and development, law enforcement, boating safety and all administrative services. Work involves interpreting policies and practices of the agency, evaluating the effectiveness of programs, determining agency goals and objectives, and serving as principal advisor to the Board of Commissioners. The position involves substantial work with the Pennsylvania legislature and Governor's office, many state and federal agencies, sportsmen, fishing, and boating groups and other organization with conservation, natural resource or environmental interests and involvement. Key accomplishment include working as part of a Governor led coalition to obtain successful passage of the \$625 million Growing Greener 2 conservation bond initiative that resulted in \$27.5 million to the Fish and Boat Commission for infrastructure improvement, leadership of the core workgroup developing the National Fish Habitat Initiative which resulted in national acceptance of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and internal restructuring of the Division of Fisheries including the development and staffing of a new Division of Habitat Management and Co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on the Outdoors involving a statewide conference and full report to the Governor and legislature with significant proposals for reconnecting Pennsylvanians with our outdoor resources.

#### Head, Technical Support Section, Watershed Management Section, and Fisheries Analysis Sections, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) (1994 – 2003).

Three positions reflected reorganizations that included continuously expanded areas of responsibilities that included the integration of a watershed and ecosystem approach to natural resources management within the Office of Resource Conservation (Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage) and member of the senior management team for the Office. Example major program areas: (1) Coordination of the Pilot Watershed Program, an interagency effort to enhance all aspects of watershed management on four Illinois, (2) Assessment of the Illinois River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), (3) Coordination, development, and oversight of research activities in support of streams, resource information systems, and large ecosystem restoration activities with particular emphasis on response to farm bill programs, fish sampling, and stream classification systems, (4) Incorporation of an ecosystem approach for resource management (5) Coordination of all resource information systems within the Office of Resource Conservation including GIS, the Biological and Conservation Database System (TNC-based), the Illinois Streams Information System, the Fisheries Analysis System and the Multistate Aquatic Resource Information System (MARIS), and (6) Plans, analyses, and evaluates all impoundments and stream fishery survey, creel data and recommends related research programs.

#### Illinois Natural History Survey

February 1984- May 1994

Various positions from Assistant Research Scientists to Associate Research Scientist and including time working on Doctoral Dissertation research at Iowa State University. Primarily responsible for developing the Fisheries Analysis System (FAS) and gear calibration experiments for lentic fish population sampling. Also, developed bathymetric mapping program resulting in mapping 144 lakes, initiated and supported the Illinois creel survey program, and numerous related research programs. Selected additional projects include: Development of the ***Illinois Watershed Academy*** and the Illinois Watershed Management Clearinghouse, member of the National Research Council, ***Committee on Riparian Zone Functioning and Strategies for Management*** and member of the Illinois River ***Science Advisory Team*** a 15-member group of scientists selected by the Lt. Governor to give guidance to the restoration efforts being implemented in the Illinois River basin.