

CHRISTOPHER M. HORTON

EDUCATION

University of Arizona

M.S. Fisheries Science

1997

Thesis: "Possible Limiting Factors for a Sustainable Crappie Fishery in the Salt River Chain of Reservoirs, Arizona"

Henderson State University

B.S. in Biology

1995

HSU Honors Graduate

WORK EXPERIENCE

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Senior Director, Fisheries Policy

January 2022 – Present

Serve as CSF's lead on all fisheries and recreational boating initiatives and engagement; develop comments and respond to federal fisheries administrative policy proposals; represent CSF's interests with fishing industry and NGO organizations; liaise with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus on fisheries, angling access, and aquatic habitat-related legislation; lead on fisheries-related CSF Congressional briefings; work with colleagues in CSF's States Program Team to engage on fisheries policy with state legislatures and administrations; develop CSF newsletters, press release and website content relevant to the Foundation's engagement on fisheries issues.

**Senior Director, Midwestern States/Fisheries Program
2021**

September 2010 – December

Worked with the established state sportsmen's caucuses in the Midwest region by providing information on specific legislation or issues of interest; established two new sportsmen's caucuses in Indiana and North Dakota, assisted in management and infrastructure development within the caucuses to increase efficiency and effectiveness; served as point of contact for inquiries from legislators/conservation organizations interested in establishing a state caucus; served as a liaison for the Midwestern regional members of the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and identified and engaged potential members from states not currently represented in the GSC; assisted the caucuses and governors with identifying and addressing priority issues; provided comments on behalf of CSF to federal policy proposals in the 14-state region; supervised two employees in the region; served as CSF's primary point of contact on fisheries-related issues nationally; developed comments and respond to federal fisheries administrative policy proposals; represent CSF's interests with fishing industry and NGO organizations, congressional staff, federal agencies and through serving on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee; developed CSF newsletter, press release and website content relevant to the Foundation's engagement on fisheries issues.

Bass Angler's Sportsmen Society (B.A.S.S.)

Conservation Director

December 2007 – August 2010

Served as the company's point of contact on aquatic resource conservation issues; represented B.A.S.S. on several national boards and committees; represented B.A.S.S.'s 500,000 members on Capitol Hill, the White House, federal and state agencies and with state legislators; wrote a bi-monthly column for BASS Times magazine; wrote featured articles for Bassmaster.com and assisted with ESPN Outdoors saltwater angling content; oversaw the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation program consisting of 20,000 volunteer members of B.A.S.S.; organized and led a conservation summit in conjunction with the Bassmaster Classic annually; testified in numerous state capitols and before multiple state fish and game commissions/agencies on issues pertaining to aquatic resource conservation and management.

Bass Angler's Sportsmen Society (B.A.S.S.)

Associate Director of Conservation

May 2003 – November 2007

Served as the company's fisheries biologist, assisting with tournament fish care and fish health issues; worked with state and federal agencies on regulatory proposals and aquatic habitat projects; assisted the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation volunteers with advocacy efforts, habitat conservation projects and tournament-caught fish survival; produced a bi-monthly column for BASS Times.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Black Bass Biologist

April 2001 – April 2003

Selected as the first person to lead the first Black Bass Management program in the state; assisted district fisheries biologists with *Micropterus* species research needs; evaluated the genetic feasibility and growth characteristics of Florida-strain largemouth bass around the state; used modeling software to analyze the effectiveness of various harvest restrictions as management tools for district biologists; developed the first biologically-based classification system for managing Arkansas's lakes, rivers, and reservoirs based on a water bodies potential for carrying capacity; served as the agency's point of contact for the largemouth bass virus; tracked the incidence of occurrence and determined/predicted potential population level impacts of the largemouth bass virus; assisted bass tournament organizations with fish care and improving live-release techniques; administered the Arkansas Tournament Information Program; supervised one assistant biologist and one seasonal position.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Reservoir Research Biologist

August 1998 – March 2001

Assisted district fisheries biologists with research needs specific to game fish management around the state; designed and developed a facility to grow submerged aquatic vegetation for fisheries habitat improvements in ageing reservoirs; implemented and oversaw various habitat enhancement projects for impounded waters; served as the agency representative on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower relicensing projects; worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers on rule curve development and alterations to benefit fish production, both in the impoundments and in the tailwaters.

AWARDS

Arkansas Traveler, <i>Governor Mike Huckabee</i>	2006
Conservationist of the Year, <i>Professional Anglers Association</i>	2008
Best Column - Bronze, <i>Florida Magazine Association</i> (Publications with over 100,000 subscribers)	2010

APPOINTMENTS

<i>United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization</i> Part of a five-member United States delegation to develop a recreational fishing code of practice	2007
<i>University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation Advisory Board</i> Appointed by the University	2008 - 2010
<i>Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council</i> Federal Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary of Interior to represent recreational anglers (B.A.S.S. employee)	2009 - 2010
<i>Recreational Fisheries Working Group of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee</i> Subcommittee of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee of the Secretary of Commerce	2013 - 2015
<i>Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee</i> Appointed by NOAA Administrator	2014 - 2016
<i>National Fish Habitat Board</i> Elected by sitting board members	2024 - present
<i>Chair of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council</i> Federal Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to represent recreational anglers (CSF employee)	2024 - 2025

OTHER RELEVANT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

American Sportfishing Association Government Affairs Committee
 Future Angler Foundation Board of Directors
 Asian Carp Task Force
 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - Fisheries and Water Resources Committee
 Black Bass Management Plan Technical Committee - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Center for Sportfishing Policy Government Relations Committee
 Future Fisherman Foundation Board of Directors
 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper IFQ Review Ad Hoc Advisory Panel
 Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership Executive Committee
 Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program Review Team

NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS

NOAA/Smithsonian Summit on Ocean Biodiversity

Invited Panelist (2024)

NOAA Fisheries 2014 Marine Recreational Fishing Summit
Closing Panel Speaker (2014)

U.S. House of Representatives - Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs
Testified on data collection issues of the National Marine Fisheries Service and problems with the Magnuson-Stevens Act (2013)

U.S. House of Representatives – Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Committee
Testified in favor of the Gulf State Red Snapper Management Authority Act (2015)

U.S. Senate – Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard
Testified on the Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges (2017)

U.S. House of Representatives – Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
Testified as an expert witness in support of the Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act (2024)

North American Wildlife Conference – Reservoir Symposium
Closing speaker (2009)

Environmental Protection Agency/North American Lake Management Society/American Fisheries Society Fisheries Administrators Section Joint Conference
Keynote speaker – “Building Partnerships for Quality Lakes” (2008)

University of Florida – Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Guest lecturer – “Bass, Politics and The Other Side of Natural Resource Management” (2005)

American Fisheries Society
“Reducing Tournament Mortality: A Common Goal” (2004)

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
“Are Harvest Restrictions Promoting Catch and Release?” (2003)