

STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD GUIDELINES
WA-BC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Updated January 2018

The WA-BC Chapter will provide a competition at each Annual General Chapter meeting (AGM) for student paper (oral and poster) presentations. We will award a “best” presentation and runner-up in both categories.

I ELIGIBILITY

- A. The student must be a student member of the AFS at the time of judging and is encouraged to be a local University Subunit member. Membership information can be found at AFS and WA-BC AFS websites.
- B. An abstract must be submitted to the meeting organizer prior to established deadline.
- C. The presentation must represent a body of independent or joint research in which the student’s contribution has been substantial. **If co-authored, the student must be first author.**
- D. Entry is limited to one poster or one oral presentation.
- E. Previous first-prize winners of the Student Paper award are not eligible. However, runners-up are eligible, and past poster winners may compete in the oral competition and vice-versa.
- F. Eligibility to win the poster category requires that the student be present when their poster is judged.

II PRE-AGM MEETING COMMITTEE REGISTRAR

- A. The Past President or President Elect will oversee the student competition in cooperation with the Student Subunit Coordinator.
- B. The Treasurer, Student Subunit Coordinator, or other Executive Committee (ExCom) member must provide the Past President or President Elect with a list of student registrants taking part in the student competition.
- C. The website host must indicate, via the online meeting registration site and program, which presentations are part of the student competition.
- D. At the request of the Past President, the WA-BC membership secretary will verify that students involved in the student competition are members of the American Fisheries Society.

III JUDGES

- A. Prior to the meeting, the Past President, with help of the Student Subunit Coordinator, will appoint a panel of judges representing a variety of disciplines and email to them abstracts, judging guidelines, and forms. If possible, at least three judges should judge each speaker or poster. If it is not possible to recruit judges ahead of time for a presentation, officers from the ExCom may serve as emergency judges.
- B. To avoid bias or conflict of interest, judges should not have competing students or, if unavoidable, should abstain from voting on their own students.

- C. Past President or Student Subunit Coordinator must provide one score sheet per student competitor for all judges. **Judges must use the scoring sheets provided.**
- D. Judges should meet beforehand to review guidelines and scoring sheets
- E. Judges for the day should sum their scoring sheets and meet after the last talk to turn in scoring sheets and discuss any questions regarding the talks.
- F. There should be at least one hour between the last eligible presentation and the award announcement.

IV EVALUATION

- A. Judges should rate presentations as 5-Outstanding, 3-Adequate, 1-Poor based on criteria listed on the evaluations sheets. In co-authored papers, the judges will carefully evaluate the student's contribution to the presented research. In case of a tie or very close ranking, the judges may decide on a joint award.
- B. Judging should be a learning experience for the student, and judges should return score sheets to the Past President or the Student Subunit Coordinator so that the score sheets can be provided to students for feedback.
- C. When possible, the competition coordinator(s) will return score sheets to the students before they leave the AGM. If that is not possible, score sheets will be scanned and emailed to students and/or Faculty Representatives.

NEVER INCLUDE DEROGATORY OR DISRESPECTFUL COMMENTS ON ANY JUDGING SHEET!

V AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

- A. Ideally, the award will be announced at the Chapter's banquet. Students are strongly encouraged to attend this event. However, if not all students have presented by the time of the banquet, winners will be notified by email and announced on the WA-BC Chapter website, social media, and in the next newsletter.
- B. The names of winners and all participants will be forwarded to their appropriate university offices for recognition.

VI AWARDS

- A. The top-ranking individuals in each category (oral and poster) will receive a monetary award and certificate.
- B. Runner-ups in each category (oral and poster) will receive a recognition certificate.
- C. The amount of the monetary award is determined by the ExCom or the AGM Committee in coordination with the Treasurer.