



Arizona/New Mexico American Fisheries Society Chapter

Professional of the Year Awards

Two awards, Conservation Professional of the Year and Kelly Meyer Sport Fish Professional of the Year and are given out annually by the Arizona/New Mexico American Fisheries Society Chapter. Criteria is similar for each award with the major distinction being that one award recognizes a conservation professional and the other a Sport Fish professional. Nominations should indicate which award is being sought and should include a brief biography along with information pertaining to service, impact on the resource and other professionals, and significant accomplishments.

Conservation Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes an individual employed in a capacity related to fisheries and/or aquatic resources conservation that makes significant impacts on the resource. Nominees can come from Administration, Culture, Education, Management, Research or Technical Support.

Kelly Meyer Sport Fish Professional Award

This award is in memory of Kelly Meyer and recognizes an individual employed in a capacity related to sportfish management of fisheries and/or aquatic resources that makes a significant impact on the resource. Nominees can come from Administration, Culture, Education, Management, Research or Technical Support. Kelly Meyer was a fish biologist in the White Mountains of Arizona from 1990 to 2014, (almost 25 years) where he became legendary among anglers and conservationists alike. In 2015 Kelly passed away unexpectedly. Kelly worked as a biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department for 12 years, leading Apache Trout projects

on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest and many, many sport fish projects. Previous to that, he work as a biologist for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, where he was a member of the recovery team, leading Apache Trout projects on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Kelly strived to improve cold water fishing opportunities in the White Mountains to maximize return to creel and angler satisfaction. One of the most notable sportfish opportunities Kelly accomplished was the development of the Region's first true trophy catch and release trout fisheries, Becker Lake. Kelly trained and mentored countless biologists, interns, and volunteers, many of whom became passionate about fisheries because of Kelly's tireless dedication and endless optimism. There has never been or will be an individual that has led so many projects for the benefit of sportfish and Apache Trout in the White Mountains as Kelly Meyer. We honor Kelly Meyer each year that we give out this award, and remember his dedication and love for fisheries and his optimistic outlook on life.

Professional of the Year Criteria:

- 1) Only members in good standing can make nominations
- 2) The recipient must be a member in good standing
- 3) The award is based on fisheries-related work accomplished in AZ or NM and can span more than one year.
- 4) The nominee may not be on the Nominations/Award Committee
- 5) Eligible accomplishments by the nominee can be from any of the following categories

Administration

- a) Development of innovation management programs, research activities, or facilities that significantly affect fisheries management and conservation on a regional or statewide level
- b) Leadership in implementation of regulations or management programs that address regional or statewide fisheries issues
- c) Development of new sources of funding for fisheries programs
- d) Leadership in the development of public outreach or recognition/award programs
- e) Significant and effective promotion of fisheries management activities on a regional or statewide level

Culture

- a) Development of techniques that produce fish more safely, or efficiently, or more economically
- b) Development of methods that produce species not formerly cultured
- c) Development of techniques that produce more fish
- d) Participation in the development of equipment that benefited fish culture

- e) Promotion of fish culture
- f) Participation in the production of a record number of fish (may be station or species specific)

Education

- a) Development of an innovative approach to fisheries education as illustrated through development of a new or revised course or curriculum
- b) Publication of a journal article, extension publication, book , or book chapter that contributed significantly to fisheries education
- c) Contribution of notable service in public education programs
- d) Development of education media (software, video, social media, etc.,) that contributed significantly to fisheries education
- e) Outstanding contribution to the profession through service as an officer or other leader of an education organizations (e.g. Education Section of the AFS)

Management

- a) Development of management plans or strategies or implementation of management practices (reservoir or pond management plans, pre-impoundment work, habitat work, development of urban fisheries). This would include private water work.
- b) Education of the public in areas of fishing or fisheries management (conducting fish clinics, education programs, contact with various media, develop of brochures, newsletters, bulletin boards, fliers, popular articles, social media, etc.)
- c) Coordination with different agencies (cities, counties, or federal government) or reservoir controlling authorities to develop or implement manage strategies
- d) Participation in professional scientific organizations in the fisheries field to include offices held, committees served on, or other activities accomplished for the organization

Research

- a) Research contribution should add to the understanding of a biological problem or to solving a resources problem.
- b) Research contribution can be basic, applied, or a combination
- c) Research contribution should have been disseminated, in order of importance in a peer-reviewed journal, non-peer-reviewed publication, or an oral presentation
- d) Research in professional and public organization in the fisheries field, which comment, advise, or review research activities
- e) In order of importance the nominee's role in a research project should be directing the project or program, establishing the project or program, analyzing data, or conceiving the project or programs

Technical Support

- a) Development of new or improved design and/or construction of equipment used in field sampling, culture operations, lab analysis, etc.
- b) Participation in outstanding or unique management, research, or culture activities, which contributed significantly to the fisheries profession
- c) Participation in programs to educate other fisheries workers or the public (fishing clinics, seminars, articles, brochures, etc.)
- d) Accomplishments resulting in new or improved techniques or greater efficiency (data compilation and analysis, improved lab techniques, more productive fish culture techniques, improves fish sampling techniques, etc.).

Procedures for Determining award recipient

- 1) All nominations sent in by an announced deadline will be distribute to the Nominations/Awards Committee members.
- 2) The Chairperson and members will then vote to determine the recipients
- 3) If more than one nominee is considered outstanding by the committee members, than multiples awards can be awards.
- 4) If the members do not feel that there is a suitable nominee, than an award will not be given.