



# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

# 153rd Annual Meeting

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## *Becoming Relevant to a Changing User-base: Strategies to Manage Future Fisheries*

### ***Supported by:***

Equal Opportunities Section

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### ***Abstract:***

Across recreational, subsistence, and commercial fisheries, engaging with people has always been critical in fostering sustainable fisheries. Our natural resources are more stressed than ever in a rapidly changing environment, presenting new challenges in working with the public. Simultaneously, the demographics of the United States is changing dramatically toward a more urban and diverse public, introducing new values and relationships with fisheries and nature. In addition, declining participation in fishing and hunting has been observed, potentially impacting funding for natural resource agencies. Through transformational change and utilizing a relevancy framework, natural resource agencies can connect with people through the diverse ways they experience fish and nature. In order to conserve fishes into the future, managers must account for shifts in types of resource usage and changing demographics of resource users. In this symposium, we will share foundational knowledge of relevancy necessary to engage in these future challenges, research that broadens our understanding of the values of a changing user-base, and case studies highlighting the successes and failures of relevancy in practice. The symposium will conclude with an open, facilitated discussion between presenters and the audience with a focus on the future of conservation and relevancy and how to overcome related challenges.