



Regional/International Chapters in the Society for Freshwater Science

(formerly known as the North American Benthological Society)

The Society for Freshwater Science (SFS) is forming chapters to facilitate gatherings of scientists and others interested in fresh water at a smaller, more local scale, and to build a more diverse membership of SFS.

Benefits to Joining the Society:

- Online subscription to *Freshwater Science* is automatic with society membership.
- Members have access to the membership directory for establishing contact with colleagues and other freshwater experts.
- The annual bibliographies on taxonomic groups and methods offer an expedient search for pertinent literature without having to do an internet search oneself. Specialists within the society provide these bibliography updates on an annual basis.
- Laboratory tutorials on various subjects of freshwater science are available to SFS members. This can be a huge benefit to new teachers/professionals.
- A large library of scientific photos and videos are available to members.
- Members receive periodic informative messages on environmental and ecological issues of concern, new references and books, and job announcements.
- SFS is proactive in providing advisories and position statements on current scientific policy globally. Members can participate in this collective voice of scientific peers.
- Annual meetings draw attendance internationally and provide a forum for information exchange.

Benefits to Having Regional/International Chapters:

- Chapters fall under the umbrella of the parent society, which serves as a resource technically, administratively, and logistically.
- Chapters foster collaboration and more energy/activities at a regional/international level.
- Chapters allow for the option of attending smaller, more focused meetings.
- Chapters provide affordable options for students to attend a professional meeting, and hence facilitate networking and professional growth.
- Chapters offer a better forum for communicating our science to the public and governments. A regional chapter would provide a central foundation to address environmental issues on a regional scale.
- SFS has agreed to provide English editorial assistance for those preparing manuscripts to the journal *Freshwater Science* when English is a second language.
- University of Chicago Press has offered to make the journal *Freshwater Science* available to libraries of developing countries free of charge or at a much reduced rate.

- SFS members with various expertise can assist chapters with specific needs and provide mentoring and information exchange.
- Taking advantage of laboratory tutorials that are available to SFS members on various subjects relevant to freshwater ecology, chapter members can share regional modifications for enhanced tutorials pertinent to their needs.
- Adding to the large library of scientific photos and videos that are available to SFS members, chapter members can organize and share relevant photos among their colleagues for specific regional environmental and research issues.
- Regional leadership becomes a stepping stone to society leadership. A pool of candidates with gained experience for future office in the society becomes more readily available.
- Chapters afford a greater potential for membership involvement at different levels of the society and the annual meetings.
- Chapters become a source of technical workshops and sessions at annual SFS conferences that are regional in focus.
- The Society will provide a \$250 start-up treasury for the first 15 SFS members in each chapter

How to join SFS and a Chapter:

- Go to <https://www.freshwater-science.org/About-SFS/About-SFS-Membership.aspx>

How to form a Chapter:

- One or more SFS members interested in initiating communication with colleagues in a region or overseas country (geographical area of each chapter to be defined by the organizers) can organize a chapter.
- Initiate communication with colleagues in your area or region to garner interest and support.
- Initial coordination and contact person is any SFS Officer or Michael Barbour (michaeltbarbour@yahoo.com).

Chapters Currently Underway:

- California Chapter (Jim Harrington, Chair - james.harrington@wildlife.ca.gov)
- South-Central U.S. Chapter (Dave Hambright, Chair - dhambright@ou.edu)
- Mid-Atlantic Chapter (Chris Swan, Chair - cmswan@umbc.edu)
- Latin America Chapter (Alonso Ramirez, Chair - aramirez@ramirezlab.net)
- South Asia Chapter (Subodh Sharma, Chair - subodh.sharma@ku.edu.np)