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**Workshop Title•**

Keepin' It Clean: Biosecurity & Biosafety for Biologists and Scientists

**Abbreviated Title for Schedule at a Glance**

Biosecurity & Biosafety

**Abstract•**

Human activities, including those by fish and wildlife professionals, can place people at risk of infection with **diseases animals may carry because numerous diseases are zoonotic. These activities can also pose risks for** transferring infectious diseases to new areas. In the fish health sphere, Whirling Disease has spread when fishermen moving between rivers use gear that has not been properly disinfected, and moving fish stocks between watersheds has introduced Bacterial Kidney Disease to new locations. With respect to wildlife, translocation of raccoons from the southeast US for hunting introduced rabies to the northeast US. The potential for the fungus responsible for White Nose Syndrome to be carried on caving gear is a possible mechanism by which the disease was introduced to North America. It is good practice to have biosecurity and biosafety protocols when working with fish and wildlife and when moving equipment, gear, and animals between geographic locations and populations of animals to minimize the risk of disease transmission. This workshop will bring together experts in fish and wildlife health to collaboratively train biologists and scientists in the principles and practices of biosecurity and biosafety that they can use to protect their health, fish and wildlife **health, and reduce the risk of disease transmission during the course of management and research activities.** Featuring a mix of interactive/collaborative components, lectures, and hands-on sessions, this workshop will focus on practical and relevant aspects of biosecurity and biosafety that fish and wildlife professionals can incorporate into their everyday work.

**Supported By**

TWS Wildlife Diseases Working Group; AFS Fish Health Section

**Workshop Duration•**

1/2 day

**Room set up•**

**Classroom is fine, but we need the ability to have "round table" discussion ..so round tables or tables that can be put into blocks.**

**Transportation and AV requirements•**

In addition to a projector and screen, we would like a podium and microphone (if possible). Power for laptops is needed as is wifi, if possible. No transportation is needed (if we are given a room associated with the conference).

**Minimum Attendance•**

12

**Maximum Attendance•**

40

**Would your submission be appropriate in a joint AFS-TWS session?•**

Yes

**Registration Fees:****Student Registration Fee•**

25

**Professional Registration Fee•**

50

**Budget Justification**

Proposed Budget \$50 per professional and \$25 per student/new professionals (includes TWS fee) AV equipment, rental additional to provided (podium, microphone, wifi) - \$150 Workshop materials -Roundtable supplies (printing, paper, writing supplies, etc.) - \$75 -Demo supplies (gloves, masks, etc.) - \$75 Refreshments - \$350 TOTAL - \$650

**Submitter First and Last Name•**

Julie Blanchong

**Submitter Email•**

julieb@iastate.edu

**Symposium Description:****Statement of Purpose**

Fish and wildlife health experts will collaborate to train fish and wildlife biologists and scientists in the basic principles and practices of biosecurity and biosafety that they can use to protect their health and fish and wildlife health and reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission during the course of their management and research activities.

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- **Increase awareness about the potential of management and research activities to move infectious diseases between locations**
- Increase awareness about the potential for fish and wildlife biologists to be exposed to infectious diseases **during management and research activities**
- Teach basic biosecurity and biosafety principles
- **Demonstrate specific practices that can be used to decrease risk of disease transmission during management**

and research activities

### Session Description

This workshop will feature 1) interactive/collaborative components for participants from both the fish and wildlife arenas to share their current biosecurity and biosafety practices, concerns they have, and areas they are looking to learn about, 2) lectures about biosecurity and biosafety principles and example cases of why biosecurity and biosafety are important, and 3) hands-on round table sessions where participants will explore core elements of biosecurity and biosafety as well as develop plans for common field situations.

#### 1) Interactive Opener (30 minutes)

- > Introductions
- > Participants share current level of knowledge about biosecurity and biosafety and current practices
- > Discussion of specific knowledge participants hope to learn in the session

#### 2) Lectures (1.5 hours)

- > Historic examples of biologists' exposure to diseases during management and research activities
- > Historic examples of fish and wildlife disease transmission caused by human activities
- > Basic Principles of Biosecurity and Biosafety

#### 3) Round Table Sessions (2.5 hours)

The round table session will apply information from the lectures to useful practices, real-world scenarios, and relevant problems for fish and wildlife biologists and scientists' everyday work.

Stations (30 minute rotations):

- > Protecting your health - participants learn about different types and uses of personal protective equipment (PPE), how to determine what diseases they might be exposed to as part of their work, and how to communicate with medical professionals about possible disease exposures.
- > Disinfection - participants learn about what types of gear should be disinfected, different types of disinfectants, and how to choose the right disinfectant.
- > Fisheries field work scenario - critical analysis of a project fisheries field staff is working on, with the team at this station working to develop a plan for how the example crew can reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- > Wildlife field work scenario - critical analysis of a project wildlife field staff is working on, with the team at this station working to develop a plan for how the example crew can reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- > Best practices for diseases of concern - interactive session where participants can pose questions about their actual work as well as real-life projects to experts; will also include example best practices for a variety of projects.

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#### Organizer

Julie A Blanchong  
Iowa State University IA  
**Email Address:** julieb@iastate.edu -- Will not be published

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#### Organizer

Krysten Schuler  
Cornell University  
**Email Address:** ks833@cornell.edu -- Will not be published

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#### Organizer

Patrice Klein  
US Forest Service  
**Email Address:** patricenklein@fs.fed.us -- Will not be published

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#### Organizer

Benjamin R. LaFrentz, PhD  
USDA-ARS Aquatic Animal Health Research Unit  
Auburn, AL 36832  
**Email Address:** benjamin.lafrentz@ars.usda.gov

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#### Organizer

Nora Hickey  
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
**Email Address:** nhickey@nwifc.org -- Will not be published

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