



Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

2025 Letter of Recognition

To the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Awards Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dave Knuth for his outstanding contributions to aquatic resource management in Missouri. His dedication, expertise, and proactive approach have made a significant impact on protecting and preserving the state's waterways.

In April, Dave responded to critical water quality concerns at Perry County Community Lake, where land clearing on adjacent property had led to sedimentation and siltation in an MDC-managed impoundment. Despite the challenges of the season, Dave worked tirelessly to address the issue—coordinating with state fish kill staff at MDC and DNR, installing and maintaining effective silt barriers, and ensuring the protection of water quality, fishery health, and public waters. His swift and decisive actions helped mitigate further environmental degradation.

Additionally, Dave has played a vital role in responding to Missouri's newest aquatic invasive species, the northern snakehead. Since its first reported sighting in 2019, the presence of this species has increased, particularly in the Southeast Region. Dave has been at the forefront of efforts to document reports, develop and implement messaging for anglers, and collaborate with state and federal partners to manage the spread of this invasive species. His leadership in this area has been instrumental in protecting the region's native aquatic life in one of the most biodiverse areas of the state.

Dave is a dedicated and thoughtful steward of Missouri's aquatic resources. His combination of passion and professionalism ensures that these vital public assets are managed responsibly for the benefit of all Missourians. For his continued efforts and commitment, I am honored to recognize Dave Knuth and highly recommend him for further recognition and opportunities in the field of aquatic conservation.