

**September
2026**



2026 Adventure Classic It's Back!

The fisHER Adventure Classic is the annual fundraising event for Women of Fisheries, Inc. Over the years, members and allies have participated in an outdoor adventure of their choosing and shared their stories to compete for bragging rights for the Most Interesting Location, Best Adventure Story, and Most Impressive Adventure. For the [5th Anniversary of the event in 2024](#), each Women of Fisheries Board member committed to completing an adventure challenge and filming it for posterity. Last year, we took a break, but we were still able to support early career awards through donations during the Fish Sisters Unite Campaign.



We will be sharing fun social media posts throughout the month of October, so make sure to follow us here, or join our private FaceBook group. Whether you donate or not, we'll be looking for outdoor adventure stories and pictures from our membership and beyond – share with us at womenoffisheries@gmail.com or on related social media posts.

Proceeds for this event fund initiatives such as supporting [Women of Fisheries Gives Back! Early Career Awards](#) and help cover our annual operating expenses. The Early Career Awards provide financial assistance to women during the often difficult transition from student to fisheries professional. So far, Women of Fisheries has supported 10 deserving women in [2022](#), [2023](#), and [2024](#), [2025](#), and [2026](#).

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Emily Hamilton in one of the streams sampled.

Finding Strength in the Field: My First Season with PIBO

By Emily Hamilton, 2026 Early Career Award Winner

When I learned I had been selected as the recipient of the Women of Fisheries Early Career Award, I felt incredibly honored. As someone just beginning my career in fisheries and aquatic science, it means so much to be recognized by an organization dedicated to supporting women in this field. This summer has reinforced exactly why communities like Women of Fisheries matter.

I currently work as a Stream Technician—and was promoted to Crew Lead—for the PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Monitoring Program through the U.S. Forest Service and American Conservation Experience. Based out of St. Regis, Montana, I've spent the season

traveling throughout the Columbia and Missouri River basins, sampling streams across central and eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and Montana.

Fieldwork has taken us just about everywhere. We've hiked miles into remote stream sites carrying everything we need on our backs, often with little or no cell service. We've camped on river beaches, cliff edges, and deep in dense forests. We've camped beneath incredible night skies—and even “cowboy-camped” through a severe thunderstorm. Every hitch has brought new challenges, unexpected wildlife encounters, beautiful landscapes, and plenty of stories to tell.

One of the highlights of this season so far has been working alongside an all-women crew for a majority of our hitches. My coworkers, Alexandra “Allie” Eggert and Carolina “Lina” Potas, have become so much more than teammates. Together we've built an efficient, supportive crew that tackles long days and difficult terrain with determination, humor, and trust.

This season has reminded me that the fisheries world is not just about science. It's about the people who dedicate themselves to conserving these ecosystems and the relationships that make this work meaningful. I'm incredibly grateful to have learned from such capable, hardworking women and proud of everything we've accomplished together. To Allie and Lina: thank you for making this one of the most memorable seasons of my career so far. Your work ethic, resilience, and friendship have made every mile, every campsite, and every stream worth it.

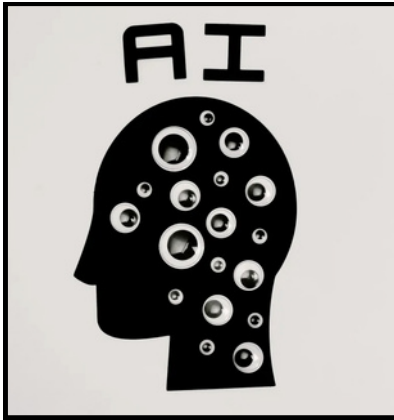
And to Women of Fisheries, thank you for recognizing early-career professionals and creating a community where women can celebrate one another's successes. I look forward to continuing this journey and, hopefully, encouraging more women to find their own place in fisheries science.



Left to right: Emily Hamilton, Allie Eggert, Lina Potas after finishing up a stream sample in northern Idaho.

[Read the full blog](#)

Navigating AI in Fisheries



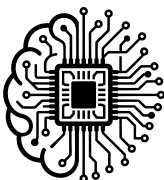
Let's talk about AI. As a fisheries scientist, I want to harness the power of GenAI in a way that maximizes the benefits while minimizing its environmental impact.

Much of my journey so far has focused on gaining AI literacy, in other words learning what AI can do, how to use it effectively, and how to evaluate what it produces. With that came a whole new vocabulary that felt a lot like I was reading something from a science fiction novel. Terms like “AI model” (what AI tools use to generate output), “AI slop” (low quality output that has not been edited or checked), “AI-gerism” (AI output used without attribution or containing copyrighted material), and “AI hallucinations” (AI output that is false or made up).

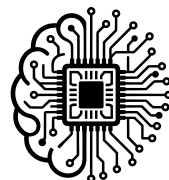
Wait, what do you mean that AI can just make up stuff?! The excitement of AI and its capabilities was quickly tempered by the reality that although a tool, it is an imperfect one. It requires us to take individual and collective responsibility to learn about its pitfalls and take deliberate steps to avoid them. This means taking the time to check our AI output and disclose when we use it and how. In my experience, as an example, I have found AI output to be redundant, lack substance, contain unnatural wording and images, and be downright wrong at times. I do the foundational work first and then use AI to fine tune that work where needed, but even then, there is almost always additional editing and checking that need to be done. It is important for each of us to continue building critical skill sets, so that we can become better writers, thinkers, and scientists – and now also better judges of AI output.

How we each navigate this new world will vary from person to person based on our values, perspectives, professional roles, and relationships with technology in general. These differences can be pretty wide and polarizing, and that's okay. Our journeys do not have to look or feel the same. We can praise the ways AI can help make our jobs easier, while also acknowledging the many concerns associated with it. On the other hand, we can choose to advocate for not using AI until it becomes more sustainable and other issues are addressed. Listed at the bottom of this article are some of the benefits, concerns, recommendations, and resources that I have found useful in my journey with AI. I hope they can also help guide you along on your journey as well.

At the end of the day, AI may be able to assist us, but there is no substitute for human creativity, curiosity, and experience for moving fisheries science into the future. We still need YOU.



[Read the full blog](#)
For a summary of benefits, concerns and resources



Fishing for Opportunities



Student Opportunities

Position: [MS or PhD Fisheries Conservation](#)

Organization: University of Illinois

Deadline: 11/02/26

Position: [PhD Fisheries Conservation Genomics](#)

Organization: University of Montana

Deadline: 10/15/26

Position: [PhD Fisheries Ecosystem Modeling](#)

Organization: University of Florida

Deadline: 10/31/26

Job Opportunities

Position: [Biologist, Fisheries Division](#)

Organization: Kansas Wildlife and Parks

Deadline: 10/20/26

Position: [Shellfish Biologist](#)

Organization: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Deadline: 10/20/26

Position: [Data Management Specialist](#)

Organization: Alaska Marine Mammal

Observer Program

Deadline: 10/18/26

Position: [Conservation Program Biologist II \(Fisheries Division\)](#)

Organization: Arkansas Game and Fish

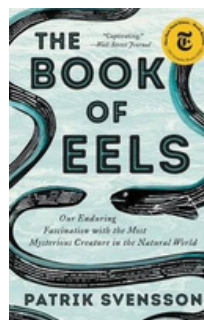
Deadline: 10/19/26

Do you know someone who should be featured in a Fish Sister Profile or Research Highlight?

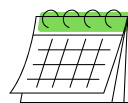
Nominate them now! Self nominations are also encouraged

[Nominate Today!](#) 

Join the [WoF Book Club!](#)



We're reading
"The Book of Eels"
by Patrik Svensson



Save the Date for
the Discussion
[October 25, 8pm EST](#)

Help Support our Mission

Donate to join the 2026 Adventure Classic!

[Adventure Classic](#)
Donate through Oct 15

Or you can make a quick one-time or monthly contribution to the Women of Fisheries, Inc. Funds will be used solely to fund our many initiatives for supporting women in fisheries. We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so your contribution is tax deductible. Thank you!

[Donate](#) 



Get your Adventure Classic gear!

[Event Shop](#)

Or check out our regular webshop for all your Women of Fisheries merchandise!



[WoF Shop](#) 

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support our mission to provide opportunities and services for women in the fisheries profession.