



North American Benthological Society

Results of survey of ranking of terms - November 2010

A re-evaluation process for the Society name and Journal title was initiated at the Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, June 2010. Members were asked to suggest key words and phrases describing our society mission and activities. Key terms were then ranked by 426 NABS Members during October 2010.

NABS Name Committee is working to narrow options for possible alternative society names that are a) recognizable by those outside our society, and b) best represent what the majority of our members do. Options for a journal title should also accurately reflect journal content and scientific and geographic scope.

Below is the outcome of the ranking of terms. The weighted scores (where first choice=3 points, second choice=2 points and third choice=1 point) are listed first and then a table that shows the individual tally of members' rankings.

The following terms are used to describe general habitats that NABS members study.

Weighted scores were Aquatic = 860; Freshwater=826; Benthic=490; Streams=181; Lotic=118; Rivers 81.

Rankings:

	Aquatic	Benthic	Freshwater	Lotic	Rivers	Streams	Total Responses
First Choice	161	76	146	11	8	24	426
Second Choice	115	83	134	33	22	39	426
Third Choice	55	110	96	63	41	61	426

The following terms describe broad disciplines.

Weighted scores were Ecology=1281; Benthological= 390; Science=311; Environment=227; Biology= 210; No Preference=137

Rankings:

	Benthological	Biology	Ecology	Environment	No Preference	Science	Total Responses
First Choice	68	28	248	28	9	45	426
Second Choice	44	90	92	95	28	77	426
Third Choice	50	70	41	87	92	86	426

The following terms also describe what and how we conduct our work.

Weighted scores were Research=1142; No Preference=439; Integrative=424; Interdisciplinary=360; Applications=191

Rankings:

	Applications	Integrative	Interdisciplinary	No Preference	Research	Total Responses
First Choice	27	71	60	47	221	426
Second Choice	73	78	85	121	69	426
Third Choice	56	69	60	204	37	426

The following terms describe the geographic scope of our work.

Weighted scores were No Preference=1116; International=587; North American=562; Global 195; American=96

Rankings:

	American	Global	International	North American	No Preference	Total Responses
First Choice	13	27	105	104	177	426
Second Choice	53	76	103	57	137	426
Third Choice	31	60	62	42	231	426

Background:

In response to the 2009 Strategic Plan, the NABS leadership initiated a process to evaluate the name of our society and the title of our journal. The NABS leadership recognizes that opinions regarding the name of the society and the title of its journal are diverse but is convinced that periodic self-examination and assessment are useful activities to ensure that the society's public face is current and is consistent with the scientific goals and interests of its members.

Therefore, the NABS leadership appointed a Name Evaluation Committee to help the Society find options for the **society name** that 1) **are recognizable by those outside our society**, and 2) **best represent what the majority of our members do** and for the **journal title** that **accurately reflect journal content and scientific and geographic scope**.

The Committee is working to involve NABS members in defining what 'we' do and to identify alternative names and titles. The objectives for this Committee are to identify the best-possible alternatives to the current society name and journal title and to provide members with the opportunity to decide via votes on 2 constitutional amendments (one for the name and one for the title) whether the current name and/or journal title remain appropriate and should be retained or whether the society name and/or journal title should be changed to one of the proposed alternatives.

Timeline: A multi-step process is being implemented for this purpose.

- 1) At the 2010 Santa Fe meeting, a list of key terms was identified that represent the scope of our members' work.
- 2) These terms have been consolidated to eliminate redundancy and members were asked to rank their preferences in a survey. "Benthological" and "North American" are options for those who prefer current name.
- 3) Preferred terms have been used to draft possible society names and journal titles. During the Presidential Election, members were asked to rank their preferences.
- 4) At the 2011 Annual Business Meeting, the highest ranking alternative society name and journal title will be put to a vote against the existing society name and journal title.