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**AIBS & NSC ALLIANCE BRING SCIENTISTS TO THE HILL
AIBS Cosponsors CNSF Reception Showcasing Science on Capitol Hill**

WASHINGTON, DC – On 25 June the Coalition for National Science Funding held its 14th annual exhibition and reception on Capitol Hill. The theme was "The Path to Innovation: Scientific Discovery and Learning." The reception drew a large crowd, which included members of Congress and their staffs. A number of top NSF officials, such as Director Arden L. Bement Jr., Deputy Director Kathie L. Olsen, and James Collins, Assistant Director of the Biological Sciences Directorate.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences and Natural Science Collections Alliance co-sponsored exhibit was among dozens of scientific societies and universities to display work funded by the National Science Foundation. The exhibit showcased the All Catfish Species Inventory (ACSI) is one of seven large-scale projects funded by the US National Science Foundation's Planetary Biodiversity Inventories Program (PBI). The PBI program's goal is to empower international teams of scientists and institutions to assemble a comprehensive framework for understanding Earth's biodiversity via worldwide, species-level inventories of major groups of organisms. Representing the collaborative, multi-investigator ACSI project were Drs. John P. Sullivan, in the Department of Ichthyology, and Mark Sabaj Pérez, Collection Manager of Fishes, from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Prior to the exhibit and reception, the presenters were able to meet with staff from the offices of Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Congressman Robert Brady (D-PA) to discuss the importance of research funding from the National Science Foundation as it relates to collections and biodiversity.

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About AIBS:

The American Institute of Biological Sciences is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) scientific association dedicated to advancing biological research and education for the welfare of society. Founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS became an independent, member-governed organization in the 1950s. Today, with headquarters in Washington, DC, and a staff of approximately 50, AIBS is sustained by a robust membership of some 5,000 biologists and 200 professional societies and scientific organizations; the combined individual membership of the latter exceeds 250,000. AIBS advances its mission through coalition activities in research, education, and public policy; publishing the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience* and the education website ActionBioscience.org; providing scientific peer review and advisory services to government agencies and other clients; convening meetings; and managing scientific programs. Website: www.aibs.org.

About NSC Alliance:

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society.