



# Fisheries Information & Technology Section

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## 2018 FITS Annual Business Meeting Minutes Atlantic City

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests  
Attendees: Kayla Key, Rebecca Krogman, Paul Venturelli, Julie Defilippi-Simpson, Jordan Holtswarth, Dan Stich, Joe Lerscheid, Zach Penny, Jesse Trushenski, Sean Simmons, Beth Beard, Jeff Kopaska, Ben Neely, John Taylor, Karen Cannell, Jodi Whittier, Sarah Rabideam
2. Approval of Agenda  
Approved as stands with additions
3. Approval of 2017 Minutes  
Stands as written
4. Officer Reports
  1. Guests
    1. Jesse Trushenski  
Diversity and inclusion committee efforts  
Identifying Action Items and reappointing committee  
Strategic Planning update  
Will be asking for member and section feedback in next term  
Continuing education  
Efforts to expand courses and focus on “soft skills”  
Reno Meeting  
Sections to think of ways to work with TWS
    2. President (Rebecca Krogman)  
Website transferred to <https://units.fisheries.org/fits>  
Kayla has been updating information to the new website
    3. Secretary-Treasurer (Kayla Key)  
Balance stands at \$55,758. Currently have a net balance increase of \$6,933.  
Membership is at 461. A decrease of 21 from 2017 solely from drop in student and young professionals.
    4. President-elect (Paul Venturelli)  
Spent year learning from current President
    5. Past President (Julie D. Simpson)  
In process of forming Nomination Committee chaired by President-elect.  
If you are interested in running for office or nominating someone please contact Paul Venturelli.  
Kayla will be running as Secretary-Treasurer.  
Need 2 candidates to run for President.
    6. Communications Coordinator (Sarah Grasty, sub Julie)  
Newsletter now goes out through website.  
Efforts being made to increase social media presence.  
313 Facebook followers.
5. Committee Reports
  1. Communications Committee (Julie)  
Now a standing committee.  
Updating Social Media guidelines.  
Creating guide for sections on “how to build a communications plan”  
Brand revitalization effort :Where/who are we and where/who do we want to be in the future.



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2. Electronic Services Advisory Board (Rebecca)
  - Deployed membership survey on “user interface issues”.
  - Issues brought up: Lifetime members having issues renewing section memberships.
  - Grey Literature effort on-going.
3. Resource Policy Committee (Jodi Whittier)
  - Marine Aquaculture Bill
    - Reached out to sections for comments/advise on AFS position.
    - No current position
  - Recovering America’s Wildlife Act
    - Statement expressing concern for adequate funding
    - Special committee appointed to gather information to inform AFS position and recommend changes to update.
  - Proposed ESA changes
    - Looking to imperiled aquatic species and Endangered species section for comments.
  - RPC relies on AFS membership knowledge to inform AFS position
6. Old Business
  1. Fishackathon 2018
    - (held February 10-11, 2018) included a challenge scenario submitted by AFS FITS, entitled “Freshwater Monitoring and Communication.” A total of 16 teams from around the world worked on the challenge, including 6 teams who were named City-level winners and moved on the global finals. Future participation in Fishackathon will likely entail creation of additional challenges and possible recruiting of teams through Student Subunits.
  2. PyHum Consideration
    - ExComm considered proposal.
    - Limited usership for the proposed funding.
    - Asked for more information on user influence, but haven’t received.
  3. Website Makeover <https://units.fisheries.org/fits/>
  4. 2018 Symposium scheduled for Monday, "Data Management for Dissemination and Data Visualization"
    - 13 presentations. 3 asked to be a part of symposium
    - 17-38 people present at one time with an average of 26 people.
    - Requested that next year’s symposium not conflict with Science communication symposium.
7. New Business
  1. Partnership Travel Award
    - OFWIM has an overlap in interest with our section. We wish to facilitate working relationship and membership crossover. Travel award to send representation of FITS to OFWIM meeting in November in Oregon.
    - Award winner will present a booth at the “hacker’s ball” and do a “write-up” for the FITS membership upon return.
    - This is a great opportunity for preparing for RENO with TWS as OFWIM is fish and wildlife information managers.
  2. Income stream possibilities (primarily for funding awards and meetings)
    - Increase Membership dues
    - Continuing Ed courses
  3. "Applications of.." Technology series - Need topic leaders
    - Leaders needed for “underwater video” issue for Fisheries.
    - Contact Rebecca if interested.



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4. How to address the lag in Student and Early Career memberships / What do we see as our future?
    - More relevant topics to students
    - Workshop on “data management” for grad students
    - Survey Students/young professions section for topic interests
    - Student travel award
    - Webinar series
    - Symposium on open source software/data availability
  5. Fishackathon 2019 and beyond - Engaging more members in challenge development and recruiting more participants through Student Subunits
  6. Symposium and workshop ideas for next year (2019)
    - Data management for grad students
    - Open source software and freely available data
  7. Discussion on compiling a list of Tools and Resources
    - FITS wants to be a reference for the membership.
    - FITS to reach out to OFWIM on their current “tools” list
  8. Who is FITS? Membership write-ups for Web and Social Media
    - FITS asks for members to submit write-ups on your job/research to show other “who “ FITS is.
    - Contact Sarah if interested
8. Additions to agenda
1. AFS Staff on Tradeshow participants and AFS member interactions
    - How to revitalize the tradeshow?
    - Connect biologists to exhibitors to facilitate a cooperative relationship.
    - FITS could be a “one stop shop” for tech through product reviews or listings
    - Need to manage process without offending anyone.
    - Issues may arise with state and federal biologists limitations.
    - Could be incentive for FITS section membership.
  2. Revival of FDX project
  3. Catfish 2020 sponsorship
    - Feb. 16-18<sup>th</sup> 2019. In Little Rock, Arkansas.
    - Asking for \$1500. With 1 free registration (FITS to open to membership through application process).
    - Jeff K. Motion to pass.
    - Julie S. Second the motion.
    - No opposed.

Meeting Adjourn