



2022 FITS Annual Business Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order
2. Welcome and introductions (Tiffany)
3. Determination of a quorum (need 10) (Tiffany)
4. Approval of agenda (Tiffany)
 - a. Motion (Jen), Second (Rebecca), approved without opposition.
5. Approval of last year's minutes (Tiffany)
 - a. Motion (Jen), Second (Rebecca), approved without opposition.
6. Treasurer Report (Kayla)
 - a. See the accompanying file.
7. Old business
 - a. Year in Review
 - i. Member benefits (membership, registration, travel) (Tiffany)
 1. Membership Lottery (20 free memberships)
 - a. Successfully given out
 2. [Partnership Travel Award](#)- Representing FITS at partner conferences. Awards give twice a year (6-month rotation).
 - a. This award is underutilized. We need to promote it.
 - ii. [Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration](#) (Rebecca)
 1. Rebecca provided an overview of the Center and listed the current team and volunteer.
 2. The Center has grown to 75 products, 24 partners, and 14 categories. Electrofishing is the largest.
 3. The focus is on building partners and products.
 4. The Center generated \$100 in revenue last year. Revenue will increase as vendors are converted to paid subscriptions.
 5. Google Analytics shows good volume. ~25% of users are from outside of the US (including Europe and Australia).
 6. The Center needs volunteers (watch for announcements).
 7. The tech newsletter has 620 subscribers. FITS should consider automatically adding member to the mailing list (they could then chose to opt out).
 8. Rebecca requested up to \$1K from FITS for web development. Tom motioned. Second by Keith. Carried without opposition.
 9. The Center will partner with FITS social media to increase visibility.
 - b. Annual meeting
 - i. Symposium: "MacGyvering": Innovative Problem Solving in Fisheries Science (Patrick)
 1. Huge success. 11 presenters. It attracted creative people. Presenters received thematic prizes. Presentations were entertaining.
 2. The general consensus was that the symposium should continue.
 3. Consider inviting vendors to the audience.
 - ii. Data Management workshop (Tiffany)



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1. Increasing to a full day allowed for better pacing and a little more content.
2. 14 participants, many of which were students and early career. Also supervisors.
3. The workshop should continue.
- iii. Solicitation of ideas for Grand Rapids 2023 (Tiffany)
 1. Failures symposium (suggested earlier by Drew Holloway). How can we inform others of what we have learned so that they can learn and improve? Failures are expensive and should not be repeated. Option to get audience input (give a 10 minute talk and then get audience feedback on what could have been done differently. Everyone fails. Treat it as a learning opportunity. Bring it into the light. Fail successfully.
 2. “Misinformation” Technology symposium in partnership with Sci Comm? Proposed by Tom.
 3. “Terminator 2” symposium. Did we got too far? Ethics around what technology means for anglers, manager, and data collection.
 4. Half-day workshop that helps supervisors to work with employees who strictly work with data tech. “Technical language and process for the non-tech supervisor”. Translational exercise. The idea being that tech positions are increasingly common, but supervisors don’t have that background. Can lead to sub-optimal relationships.
8. New business
 - a. The coming year in PREview (Tiffany)
 - i. FishR-FITS partnership (Paul)
 1. Derek Ogle is retiring (retired?) so FITS is taking over the FISH-R website and the FSA package. Also developing the FAMS package. The idea is to both maintain and grow the software.
 2. A core group of developers has formed and packages leads have been identified.
 3. A mission statement will be shared soon.
 4. Protocols/procedures are being developed.
 - ii. Volunteer opportunities
 1. Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration (Rebecca)
 2. Awards committee (Tiffany)
 - a. We are soliciting volunteers to help manage the Membership and Meeting Registration Lotteries and the Partnership Travel award
 - b. FITS visioning exercise
 - i. We conducted a member survey that was mostly completed by mid- and late-career members
 - ii. Participants were cool to the idea of a name change, although students and early-career members seemed more open to it.
 - iii. Many participants did a poor job of describing/explaining FITS, and some said that we do “information technology”.
 - iv. FITS is relevant to any AFS member (or fisheries professional) who collects, manages, and/or analyzes data.
 - v. We are the only section with “Fisheries” or “Section” in its name. If we drop those, we are left with the essence of our section, which is “Information and



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Technology”. The confusion lies in that this name is only subtly different from “Information Technology”.

- vi. We could change our name to “Data and Technology”.
 - vii. The risks associated with proposing a name change is that members may not like it. If approved, then the name change will be a lot of work. Not so much in terms of bylaws, but certainly for banking and taxes.
 - viii. We want as many members as possible to participate in the vote, so we should consider incentivizing (cover all or part of travel to Hawaii?).
9. Other business
- a. Keith expressed thanks for inviting him, and encouraged members to attend the The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) meeting 2-5 October at Unicoi State Park in Georgia (located on a trout stream).
10. Meeting adjourned.



Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Kayla Key

July 14, 2022

Finances

Attached is a statement summarizing the financial activities of the Fisheries Information and Technology Section (FITS) of the American Fisheries Society for the period January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 as compared to the previous year. Additionally, an updated cash flow statement covering the current year (January 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022) is attached.

In summary, in 2021 we had a increase from our account balances of \$2,310.42. Much of this increase is due to software sales and membership dues. FITS is in contact with AFS staff about not receiving membership dues for 2021, and staff has assured us they are working on fixing these issues. We have also had a delayed response from the AFS bookstore on providing a summary of FITS software sales for 2021; therefore, we have not been able to invoice them for those sales. See software report (attached) for past trends in software sales. So far in 2022 we have a net balance decrease of \$589.43.

Because our section does not have average annual gross receipts of more than \$50,000 over the last 3 years we are no longer required to file IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax). Instead we were able to file the much simpler IRS Form 990-N which is an electronic postcard. This tax form only requires us to acknowledge that our gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less. This form was filed in April 2022.

Software Distribution

FITS continues with the following agreements in place for software distribution:

- Ball State University – FishBC.
- Jeff Slipke – Slipke's Fishery Analysis Tools (aka, S-FAT, a suite of add-on tools for FAST).
- Jeff Slipke - Fishery Analysis and Modeling Simulator (FAMS) for 32 bit and 64 bit systems.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife – Age and Growth DVD.

Currently, FAMS (both 32 bit and 64 bit), S-FAT, and FishBC, are available exclusively through the AFS Bookstore. Only the Age & Growth DVD continues to be sold through the Secretary/Treasurer although no copies of this have been sold in the past five years.

On October 30, 2014, the Section began offering a FAMS version that runs on 64-bit operating systems and Windows 7, 2010, and 2013. Completion of this was made possible by a \$25,000 loan from the PEF loan. The Section has now repaid the loan in full (\$25,000 principle and \$214.12 interest). All sales occurring in the future will generate revenue for FITS. As a reminder, FITS members have affirmed at several points in the past that software sales should be close to "revenue neutral," providing a service to the profession rather than a profit center for FITS. We expect that to be the case for FAMS.

Membership

As of July 2022, AFS records indicate that FITS membership stands at 414 individuals. This is an increase of 75 from the 2021 membership, driven mostly by decrease in student and young professional members and a slight decrease (~11) in regular/retired members.

Executive Committee Meetings

The Section Executive Committee has met via teleconference approximately every month. Summary notes of these calls are available to Section members on the website. A summary of the some of the major topics of discussion is below:

FITS Rebranding Initiative- After discussion the observation that many AFS members are unsure of what the section's focus is or whether they might "belong" as part of the section, the ExCom began considering whether the current section name "Fisheries Information and Technology Section (FITS)" should be rebranded. As part of this effort, the ExCom reached out to the parent society to better understand the steps involved in rebranding, which included changes to section bylaws, a section member vote, and approval by the AFS Management Committee. A member survey was also conducted to provide insights into whether members felt the current section name needed changes, what they felt was most important to convey in a section name, and suggestions for ideas a potential new section name should convey. This process is ongoing.

Membership Drive- This Spring, FITS held a section membership renewal giveaway for 20 lucky members. Winners were drawn at random and given a free FITS membership for the 2022 year. The ExCom plans to continue this annual giveaway. Look for the announcement in December!

Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration (CFTC): FITS has been working with AFS to develop the CFTC online platform over the past year. This "Amazon-like" platform will allow vendors to connect with AFS members. AFS members benefit from being able to easily search for tech that they need. The platform also allows members to leave reviews of tech for other members to benefit.

Partnership Travel Award Program: The Partnership Travel Award is offered up to twice annually (once/six-month period) to deserving FITS members who wish to represent the section at another society's meetings. The award is meant to encourage networking with groups associated with fisheries science and with AFS, to share knowledge and exchange ideas. The award covers up to \$1,000 in travel expenses and may be used to cover airfare/driving expenses, meals, registration, and lodging.

Two Open Application Periods:

1. Accepting application from March 1,2022-August 31, 2022
Award Decision by September 30,2022
For meetings held between November -April 2023.
2. Accepting application from September 1,2022- February 28, 2023
Award Decision by March 31, 2023
For meetings held between May -October 2023.

To apply for this award program, fill out the application at the link below!

[Link to Partnership Travel Award Program](#)

If you are interested in serving on the Awards Committee- Please contact Kayla at kayla.key@tn.gov

AFS 2022:

Symposia-

FITS organized 1 symposium:

“MacGyvering”: Innovative Problem Solving in Fisheries Science

Description: We want to hear from all you tinkerers, inventors, and repurposers...the “MacGyvers” of fish science. Fish scientists are often successful in “MacGyvering” innovative solutions to a question or problem. You do this by inventing, building, or repurposing technology or analytical tools, especially when resources or existing tools are limited or nonexistent. We want you to share successes and failures of your applications and processes, ideas for further exploration, and results of research where your innovative solution was utilized. We hope that by sharing, you spark further development, facilitate adoption of useful tools, and inspire others to explore innovative problem solving in fisheries science.

FITS sponsored 1 symposium:

Bringing it all together: data integration for fisheries research and management success

Description: The symposium will showcase successful data integration approaches used by a diversity of experts who integrate fisheries and aquatic data across different types of boundaries and geographic scales. The processes undertaken to achieve integration, lessons learned, unexpected benefits of the integration process, how to maintain integrated datasets, and use cases for these data products will be discussed. The session will end with a round table discussion to explore opportunities for coordinating data integration efforts and streamlining future integration efforts.

CE workshops- Due to popular demand, FITS was to sponsor a Data Management continuing education workshop at the 2022 meeting. Thank you to Keith Hurley who has agreed to be the instructor again this year!

Future & On-going efforts:

Volunteer Opportunities- The ExCom is continuously looking for and creating opportunities for our membership to get involved through numerous opportunities such as volunteering with CFTC. Keep a look out on our website and newsletter for more opportunities to get involved.

Current opportunities ([link](#)):

- FITS Awards committee members- Please contact Kayla at kayla.key@tn.gov
- Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration (CFTC)- Contact Rebecca Krogman (Rebecca.Krogman@dnr.iowa.gov)

Fish R Code- We are excited to begin developing a partnership with Derek Ogle, Jason Doll, and a core team of R enthusiasts

Bank Account Changes- This year, the treasurer researched more nationwide banking options to provide for smoother transitions of power in the future.

FITS procedural manuals for AFS repository- AFS is building a repository of section procedural manuals. The secretary is working on compiling the required information.

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AFS Fisheries Information and Technology Section
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2022-July 1, 2022

1/1/22-7/1/22

Balance Forward 1/1/21 \$ 75,475.13

INFLOWS

Interest Income \$ 5.57

Software Sales Not yet received

Membership Dues Not yet received

TOTAL INFLOWS \$ 5.57

OUTFLOWS

Travel for R. Krogman to AFS 2021
 *Late reimbursement \$ 595

NET TOTAL \$ -589.43

Ending Balance 12/31/22 \$ 74,885.70

Current Bank Balance (7/14/2022)

Checking \$ 18,656.23

Savings \$ 56,229.47

TOTAL \$ 74,885.70

AFS Fisheries Information & Technology Section
Statement of Income and Expenses
As of January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021

	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	1/1/2021-12/31/2021	Difference
Balance Forward	\$68,881	\$73,164.71	\$4,283.71
<u>Income</u>			
Dues Payment	\$0	\$1,035*	\$1,035
Interest Income	\$40	\$14.11	\$(25.89)
Software Sales*	\$4,493.5	\$2,717	\$(1,776.5)
Total Income	\$4,533.5	\$3,862.91	\$(670.59)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Conference or Meeting expense	\$0	\$29.26	\$29.26
Travel Assistance	\$250	\$443.23	\$193.23
Travel Awards	\$0	\$1,080	\$1,080
Total Expense	\$250	\$1,552.49	\$1,302.49
<u>Net Total</u>	\$4,283.5	\$2,310.42	\$(1,973.08)
Ending Balance	\$73,164.71	\$75,475.13	\$2,310.42

M&T Bank Account Balance

12/31/21

Checking	\$19,251.23
Savings	<u>\$56,223.9</u>
Total	\$75,475.13

**AFS Fisheries Information and Technology Section
Software Sales (Copies Sold) Through December 31, 2020**

<u>FAMS 64 bit</u>	
1/1/20-12/31/20	16
1/1/19-12/31/19	26
1/1/18-12/31/18	30
1/1/17-12/31/17	39
1/1/16-12/31/16	31
10/30/14 (initiation) – 12/31/15	83
Total Sold October 30, 2014 – December 31, 2020	<u>225</u>
 <u>FAMS 32 bit</u>	
1/1/18 – 12/31/18	0
1/1/17 – 12/31/17	0
1/1/16 - 12/31/16	0
1/1/15 - 12/31/15	2
1/1/14 - 12/31/14	1
1/1/13 – 12/31/13	19
1/1/12 – 12/31/12	20
1/1/11 – 12/31/11	34
8/1/2010 (initiation)-12/31/2010	19 (partial year)
Total Sold August 1, 2010– December 31, 2019	<u>95</u>
 <u>S-FAT</u>	
1/1/18 - 12/1/18	0
1/1/17 - 12/1/17	0
1/1/16 - 12/31/16	1
1/1/15 - 12/31/15	0
1/1/14 - 12/31/14	3
1/1/13 – 12/31/13	7
1/1/12 – 12/31/12	10
1/1/11 – 12/31/11	9
1/1/10-7/31/10	3
1/1/09-12/31/09	13
1/1/08-12/31/08	20
7/1/07 (initiation) – 12/31/07	2
Total Sold July 1, 2007 – December 31, 2019	<u>68</u>
 <u>FishBC</u>	
1/1/18 - 12/31/18	0
1/1/17 - 12/31/17	0
1/1/16 - 12/31/16	3
1/1/15 - 12/31/15	0
1/1/14 - 12/31/14	1
1/1/13 -12/31/13	4
1/1/12 – 12/31/12	4
1/1/11 – 12/31/11	6
1/1/10-12/31/10	5
1/1/09 – 12/31/09	3

1/1/08-12/31/08	1
1/1/07-12/31/07	1
1/1/06-12/31/06	4
1/1/05-12/31/05	15
1/1/04 – 12/31/04	16
10/27/03 (inception) – 12/31/03	6
Total Sold October 27, 2003 – December 31, 2019	<u>69</u>
<u>Age and Growth DVD</u>	
Total Sold March 1, 2005 – December 31, 2019	<u>42</u>

AFS FITS Membership 2011-2022

	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015			2016		
Membership	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T
U.S.	364	165	529	449	155	604	402	147	549	342	139	481	339	187	526	259	141	400
International	33	26	59	39	27	66	33	28	61	46	24	70	39	22	61	21	13	34
TOTAL	397	191	588	488	182	670	435	175	610	388	163	551	378	209	587	280	154	434
	2017			2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T
U.S.	301	140	441	288	136	424	311	155	466	264	128	392	311	118	429	258	108	366
International	27	14	41	20	18	38	34	18	52	35	17	52	41	19	60	30	18	48
TOTAL	328	154	482	308	153	461	345	173	518	299	145	444	352	137	489	288	126	414

S=Student/young professional membership/Developing Country (free membership since 2010)

R=Regular/Lifetime/Retired membership

Black boxes indicate yearly totals

