# Fisheries Information & Technology Section
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

# 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)

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

        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 bylaws, but certainly for banking and taxes.

    viii. We want as many members are 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.