



## **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Submitted by Kayla Key

August 10, 2023

### 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, 2022-December 31, 2022 as compared to the previous year. Additionally, an updated cash flow statement covering the current year (January 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023) is attached.

In summary, in 2022 we had a decrease from our account balances of \$2,741. Much of this not receiving the software sales and membership dues from AFS in the 2022 calendar year. We did receive payment in 2023 for the membership dues for 2021 & 2022 and for the software sales for 2021. We have also had a delayed response from the AFS bookstore on providing a summary of FITS software sales for 2022; therefore, we have not been able to invoice them for those sales.. So far in 2023 we have a net balance increase of \$4,209.

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 2023, AFS records indicate that FITS membership stands at 414 individuals, the same as last year at this time.

## 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:

**Bylaw changes-** This past year, ExCom has been working hard to update bylaws of the section. Changes were brought to the membership for a vote in summer 2023.

### **1. Proposed changes include section name change to Data & Technology Section.**

This change is intended to more clearly align our name with Section objectives, and avoid confusion among current and potential new members who think that the “IT” stands for “Information Technology” rather than “Information and Technology”. The confusion leads many society members to believe that our section is only for IT professionals. We propose replacing “Information” with “Data” to signal that our section is relevant to the thousands of society members who work with data and/or technology. We then propose dropping “Fisheries” so that our name is shorter and consistent with other sections, none of which include “Fisheries”.

### **2. Proposed Changes to Election Procedures and Officer Duties: President-elect**

These changes are intended to simplify the election process in situations where two president-elect candidates cannot be identified.

### **3. Proposed Changes to Election Procedures and Officer Duties: Secretary-Treasurer**

These changes are intended to reduce the burden on the current Secretary-Treasurer by splitting the duties into 2 positions rather than 1 and adjust all references to the Secretary-Treasurer position to now refer to separate secretary and treasurer positions.

### **4. Proposed Changes to the Center for Fisheries Technology Description of and Management.**

This proposal removes references to the no longer active Software Review Committee which has been replaced by the more expansive Center for Fisheries Technology. This amendment further clarifies how decisions regarding the Center will be made and includes language for preventing conflicts of interest.

### **5. Proposed removal of all gendered references to positions or officers throughout the bylaws.**

This proposal removes all gendered pronouns throughout the bylaws document.

**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. After much deliberation, the ExcCom selected a proposed section name of “Data and Technology Section” or DAT for short. This name change was sent to the membership for approval with other bylaw updates and changes.

**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 2023:**

### **Symposia-**

#### **FITS organized 1 symposium:**

“MacGyvering”: Innovative Problem Solving in Fisheries Science

Description: The MacGyvers are back by popular demand! Fisheries scientists are often successful in “MacGyvering” innovative solutions to a question or problem. They do this by inventing, building, or repurposing technology or analytical tools, especially when resources or existing tools are limited or absent. Over time, these innovative solutions created important breakthroughs and broadened research capabilities in our field. This symposium is a platform for the tinkerers, the inventors, and the repurposers- the “MacGyvers” of fisheries science- to showcase the successes and failures of their applications and processes, their ideas for further exploration, and the results of their research after their innovative solution was utilized. We hope that presenters will spark further development, facilitate the adoption of useful tools, and inspire others to explore innovative problem solving in fisheries science. “Brace yourself- this could be fun”- Angus MacGyver.

## **FITS sponsored 1 symposium:**

Failing successfully: How unexpected results improve fisheries science

Description: Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised.” If this quote doesn’t sum up fisheries science, I don’t know what does. Traditionally, the scientific methods tells us to test hypothesis and communicate the results regardless of the outcome. This can be easier said than done and often overlooked when a project doesn’t go as planned. Success in science often expressed as publicable results although most projects don’t get that far. This symposium will provide examples from fish scientists demonstrating how unintended outsomes, that were originally perceived as failures, ultimately turned out to be pathways to progress, learning, and understanding. This interactive symposium will encourage audience participation in the form of questions, feedback, and suggestions for future work. Shiting the idea of what makes science “successful” or “presentable” will help grow our field and encourage fisheries students and scientists to fail successfully.

**CE workshops-** Due to popular demand, FITS was to sponsor a Data Management continuing education workshop at the 2023 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 continuous 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 opportunites to get involved.

Current oppourtunities ([link](#)):

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

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**AFS Fisheries Information and Technology Section**  
**Statement of Income and Expenses**  
*January 1, 2023-July 1, 2023*

1/1/23-7/1/23

Balance Forward 1/1/23                   \$       72,734

INFLOWS

Interest Income                           \$           5.57

Software Sales for 2021 invoice       \$       2717.00

Membership Dues 2021                   \$        780.00

Membership Dues 2022                   \$        735.00

TOTAL INFLOWS                         \$       4237.57

OUTFLOWS

Officer Award 2022                       \$           28.00

NET TOTAL                                 \$           28.00

**Balance 6/30/23                         \$       76,943.57**

Current Bank Balance (7/1/2022)

Checking                                   \$       18,646

Savings                                    \$       56,239

TOTAL                                      \$       74,885

**AFS Fisheries Information & Technology Section**  
**Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**As of January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022**

	1/1/2021-12/31/2021	1/1/2022-12/31/2022	Difference
<b>Balance Forward</b>	\$73,164.71	\$75,475.13	\$2,310.42
<u>Income</u>			
Dues Payment	\$1,035	\$0*	(\$1,035)
Interest Income	\$14.11	\$11.24	(\$2.87)
Software Sales*	\$2,717	\$0*	(\$2,717.00)
 Total Income	 \$3,862.91	 \$11.24	 (\$3,851.67)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Meeting expense	\$29.26	\$2,157	\$2,128.07
Travel Assistance	\$443.23	\$595	\$193.23
Travel Awards	\$1,080	\$0	\$1,080
 Total Expense	 \$1,552.49	 \$2,752	 \$1,199.84
 <u>Net Total</u>	 \$2,310.42	 (\$2,741.09)	 (\$5,051.51)
 <b>Ending Balance</b>	 \$75,475.13	 \$72,734.04	 (\$2,741.09)

**M&T Bank Account Balance**

**12/31/21**

Checking	\$ 16,498
Savings	<u>\$ 56,236</u>
Total	\$72,734

**AFS Fisheries Information and Technology Section  
Software Sales (Copies Sold) Through December 31, 2021**

<u>FAMS 64 bit</u>	
1/1/21-12/31/21	16
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
<b>Total Sold</b> October 30, 2014 – December 31, 2020	<b><u>241</u></b>
<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)
<b>Total Sold</b> August 1, 2010– December 31, 2019	<b><u>95</u></b>
<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
<b>Total Sold</b> July 1, 2007 – December 31, 2019	<b><u>68</u></b>
<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
<b>Total Sold</b> October 27, 2003 – December 31, 2019	<b><u>69</u></b>
<u>Age and Growth DVD</u>	
<b>Total Sold</b> March 1, 2005 – December 31, 2019	<b><u>42</u></b>



### AFS FITS Membership 2017-2023

Membership	2017			2018			2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T	S	R	T
<b>U.S.</b>	301	140	441	288	136	424	311	155	466	264	128	392	311	118	429	258	108	366	296	143	323
<b>International</b>	27	14	41	20	18	38	34	18	52	35	17	52	41	19	60	30	18	48	27	16	159
<b>TOTAL</b>	328	154	<b>482</b>	308	153	<b>461</b>	345	173	<b>518</b>	299	145	<b>444</b>	352	137	<b>489</b>	288	126	<b>414</b>	323	159	<b>482</b>

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

R=Regular/Lifetime/Retired membership

Black boxes indicate yearly totals

