

**AFS Fisheries Information and Technology Section  
Annual Business Meeting  
August 22, 2023 5:00 pm Eastern Time  
Devon's Place- Grand Gallery Overlook E  
Grand Rapids, MI**

**Virtual Meeting Option:**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 238 673 331 051

Passcode: dECAjx

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 737-222-7112,,291404956#](#) United States, Austin

Phone Conference ID: 291 404 956#

**In attendance (in person):** Patrick Cooney, Tiffany Hopper, Paul Venturelli, Michaela Cowan, Dirk Miller, Dan Cassidy, Julie Simpson, Jeff Fryer, Zach Moran, David Smith, Rebecca Krogman, Amberle Jones, Hanna Bauer

**In attendance (virtual):** Chelsea Myles-McBurney, Jennifer Moran

**AGENDA**

- Call to order
- Welcome and introductions (Tiffany)
- Determination of a quorum (need 10) (Tiffany)
- Approval of agenda (Tiffany)
  - Motion (Julie), Second (Hanna), approved without opposition.
- Approval of last year's minutes (Tiffany)
  - Motion (Jeff), Second (Rebecca), approved without opposition.
- Officer Reports
  - President (Tiffany)
    - Good turn out at the continuing education; database course
    - Symposium
    - Failing Successfully
    - Excited to pass on the reigns to Patrick
  - Treasurer Report (Tiffany)
    - See the accompanying file.
  - President-Elect (Patrick)
    - Get involved- 6 year involvement

- If there are ideas or ways to increase participation/recruitment
    - Try to find people who are innovating with data analysis and technology
      - There are funds for workshops
  - o Past President (Paul)
    - Fish R Effort with Derek Ogles retirement
      - Would like to increase that effort as a regular member with Jason Dahl leading the charge.
    - First time servicing on the section, it was awesome
    - Please spread the word- this section is for all members of AFS. Anyone who collects/interacts with data or works with any gear. This is everyone's section.
- Committee Reports
  - o Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration (Rebecca)
    - Name: Center Fisheries Technology
    - Easy way to help fisheries professionals find solutions with emerging technologies.
      - Covid forced us into a situation where there was no trade show to meet people who have these solutions. Virtual version
        - [Units.fisheries.org/fits/solutions](https://units.fisheries.org/fits/solutions)
          - 91 products
          - Trying to grow these categories so everything is in one place; getting more sondes/temp monitors, adding acoustic telemetry section.
    - Committee has a co-chair: Alex Tyler Kline for 1-2 years
    - If you are looking for leadership opportunities
- Old business
  - o Year in Review (Tiffany)
    - Bylaws Changes
      - Voting on set of proposed bylaw changes
      - Approved by membership.
        - Next step: Goes to parent society.
      - Biggest change is the new Section name.
        - From FITS to DATS (Data and Technology Section)
        - Has been FITS for 20 years- only 3<sup>rd</sup> name in Section's history.

- New name will clearly align with the goals of the Section and limit confusion.
      - Hoping Data will show we are more relevant.
      - Removed “Fisheries” because no other Section has this word in name.
    - Requirement needing two candidates for President
      - Hard to find people interested in the 6 year commitment
      - Changes verbiage from Required to Preferred
    - Splitting Secretary/Treasurer roles
    - Clarifications for how the committee is managed and handles conflict of interests.
    - Removed gendered pronouns
    - Any Discussion/Questions?
      - What is new nickname?
        - New Business
      - What else do we need to do about the Name Change besides taking it to the management committee?
        - Tiffany already spoke to Constitutional consultant.
- Recognize all former presidents- please stand up. Thank you! (Tiffany)
- Travel Awards
  - [Partnership Travel Award](#)- Representing FITS at partner conferences. Awards give twice a year (6-month rotation).
    - No applications
    - This award is underutilized. We need to promote it.
      - Remind people to take advantage
    - Question: What if you are unable to go to Division and National meetings? National meetings is different from chapter/regional meetings- much larger and can be intimidating. Regional meetings tend to be smaller with more personal interactions/can meet with people multiple times. Can we use travel award to go to a regional meeting?
      - Patrick’s Response:
        - Good to demonstrate the value of those regional meetings. We should offer guidance in presentation of travel provided by FITS and what we offer. Need to find a better way to promote and perhaps work on this next year to implement more advertising since we are getting 0 applicants

- For travel to alternate society conference- Remind in the application that you came to the business meeting
    - Talk to AFS on how better to promote- A calendar?
    - Changing the time of the business meeting to allow for more students (currently at student mixer)
    - Remember to remind everyone through emails and other ways to advertise. Open it to more groups
  - Membership motion to change the way we do Travel Awards
    - Patrick To Do
      - Open amount for wider meetings, advertisement including preferring candidates attending a conference outside of AFS, but considering all applications
    - Discuss at the business meeting to Inspire others
      - 2 travel awards can split to the parent meeting
        - Where can we find this information? Perhaps a calendar with open windows of award times and when they close.
        - Any awards- not just travel
        - What capacity does AFS have with this calendar? Will they invest in this idea?
- o Other Grand Rapids 2023 Meeting Events
- Database Workshop (Tiffany)
    - Sunday Aug 20
    - Well attended (10 attendees)
    - Class size small, but after 8 hours of interacting and talking about database design everyone left excited.
    - Not only best attended, but there was hope there was a second day of it- perhaps add to future workshop
      - Only complaint- wish there was more!
      - Good feedback
  - MacGyver Symposium (Paul)
    - Thank you Patrick for the idea
    - Full day of presentations; had to cut some and have posters. Good mix of talks with ingenuity and creativity.
    - Avatar sunglasses and giving out things related to MacGyver

- No sense of urgency to let Paul know
      - Got wigs, trip the back of the wigs for future presenters. Perhaps get a bomber jacket and paperclips? Lifesize cut outs.
    - Was very well received.
      - A person came from UK to present because of this particular symposium.
    - Thank you to Julie and Rebecca
    - Thank you Patrick for the concept
    - Thank you to the speakers/presenters
  - Failing Successfully Symposium
    - Drew- scheduled Thursday afternoon
    - Hopefully just as successful- it evolved from MacGyver
    - Sometimes we do not share what did not work. Others will then spend a bunch of money and when in conversations find out others have already attempted and failed.
  - If you have ideas for other workshops bring them up!
    - AFS hosts the site to get like minded people together. Just will need a title and abstract. They can help suggest people to come. We will send out/promote/sponsor.
    - No money to host a symposium. It is free.
- Officer Transition
  - o Presented a Thank You for Paul's 6 years of service
    - Daunting to commit to such a long service and many things can change
    - Crazy ideas and endless support. Accomplishments could not be possible without you.
  - o Kayla was not on the virtual call and unsure of how long she has been treasurer.
    - Such a great resource! All unseen tasks like tax form. Thank you Kayla!
  - o Chelsea will be President-Elect
- New Business (Patrick)
  - o Thank you to Tiffany
    - Incredibly organized and empowers people while getting business done.
    - Tiffany has done an amazing job keeping us on track and getting an agenda.
    - Congratulations on getting the bylaws changed- it was a huge undertaking

- o Introducing Chelsea Myles-McBurney as the future president. We are in great hands
  - o Coming Year in PRE-View
    - Ideas for Honolulu 2024 Meeting
      - Symposium to include MacGyvering.
      - Question: Hard to get to Honolulu. How do you reach out to people in our section to get people to come. What is the Recipe for successfully getting to an AFS conference and how can we help
        - Patrick: Virtual/Hybrid Meeting- Much more robust software. Offer hybrid option that will be great and can get more engagement. Changes sponsorship changes in cost
          - \*FITS to make sure there is a hybrid option
        - Some cons of hybrid/virtual
          - App: Hard to navigate, searching a talk was difficult. Being able to search by name or topic would be easier. Searching not consistent.
            - Organization of app
              - Break down by time
              - Benefits of real time changes
                - Do not have to commit to printing weeks ahead and that frustration
            - Idea for monitor at registration that can provide real time changes
            - Some liked to blast changes out on social media
- Section can improve, provide, etc?
  - Any additional symposium topics/suggestions?
- Volunteer Opportunities
  - Rebecca does great volunteering
  - Opportunity Term as Representation of Resource Policy- 1-2 terms (Need decision by September. Put in Newsletter)
    - What we do:
      - Resource policy committee helps society as issues come up (large public topics). As professionals, we provide a science based support so they can make decisions for members.

- Documents for staffers on the hill.
    - AFS Backed information.
  - Obligations:
    - Deals with issues as they arise which are not super consistent.
  - Communications Committee (Julie)
    - Chair is not a package deal
    - Represent committee one time a month for an hour
  - Any Volunteers that would like more information on opportunities?
    - Hanna would interested in more information
- o Chat GPT meeting this morning (Paul)
  - Trying to figure out how it fits in to professionals and policy.
    - Can it be used for data generation which could be back?
    - Could be used for making code/figures which falls into FITS.
    - Is there section/sections that can provide guidance in this area? Some aspects overlap.
- o Angler Survey; update publications (Paul)
  - Chairing subcommittee.
  - Theres some code from FITS developed
  - FITS can play a role in housing that information
- Interactive Activity
  - o Logo/Branding
    - New Name: Data and Technology Section
    - People forget its about the technology that we use (pit tag readers, etc)
    - Ideas for workshops?
    - Logo current
      - Blue circle, in green “FITS”; fish with 0’s and 1’s
        - Some elements we can borrow.
        - Not addressing new name opportunities as this has just been voted on
  - Julie
    - Part of the brand revitalization for AFS
      - AFS has brand guidelines on website that were emailed out for rebranding effort

- Must adopt AFS logo when adopting a new logo
  - Have until end of the year to put the AFS Brand into logo
  - Check the rules for how to use and start there
- Hanna
  - Playful usage of acronym/possible idioms
  - “DATS what I’m talking about”
- Julie
  - There should be meaning behind every color
  - Give an elevated speech based on the logo
  - 99 Designs used in experience rebranding
    - Good options for \$100
    - Put in the information for the brand and they ask who are you and what do you do?
- Brainstorming- Who are we and what do we do? (Patrick)
  - Data
  - Technology
  - Connection
  - Creativity
  - MacGyver
  - Innovation
  - Solution
  - Tools
  - Collaboration
  - Tinkering
  - Code
  - Engineers
  - Encompassing
  - Foundational
  - Software
  - Hardware
  - Firmware
  - Private/Public Relationships
  - Science



- o Nickname options
  - DTS or DATS
  - Patrick- use full name: Data and Technology Section
    - Can hinder Section
    - Better for international professionals
    - Future focus on fleshing out the data and technology section in rebranding efforts
- o Logo
  - Know any artists?
    - Tiffany mentions Chris Hopper as graphic designer
    - Patrick will send something out if anyone has ideas
    - Michaela has used AI logo generation as a brainstorming tool for rough rendering
      - Could be used for any of these resources above
      - Fish = Angling; Data/Technology may be more data and science than fishing.
      - Important use of contrast/accessible color/negative space
  - Paul
    - Using AFS logo and building out of it. Using Fish in the AFS within/around it and then have the words “Data, Technology”
    - Get a couple options and put it out for a vote
- Hanna has introduced Motion to adjourn.
- Paul has seconded to end the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned.