

Fisheries Management Section/Fisheries Administration Section
2017 Joint Meeting Session, Sunday, August 20, 2017, 2:30-3:30pm
Florida Salon V
Tampa Marriott Hotel, Tampa, FL

2017 Joint Meeting Session Minutes

The joint meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

Steve McMullin (incoming AFS President) presented his Plan of Work that was approved by the AFS Governing Board:

1. Diversity in the Society and Profession
 - a. Need to be relevant to a broader audience
 - b. Appoint special committee to work in conjunction with AFS Strategic Plan to develop goals for increasing diversity
2. Communication
 - a. Make AFS journals more relevant (all AFS publications)
 - b. Provide a basis of what we do to non-technical audience (major theme of Atlantic City meeting)
 - c. Revision of the AFS Strategic Plan

Incoming-President McMullin also noted the contract with Executive Director Doug Austen is nearing the end and needs to be updated. AFS members may notice an increase in Society dues which is the first time since 2010, but members will have free access to all AFS journals and access to old journals online.

Doug Austen recognized the AFS officers in attendance including Ron Essig, Joe Margraf, and Steve McMullin. There will be a new publishing contract with Wiley starting on January 1st. This is good news for members as they will now have free access to all AFS journals online. It will allow for better communication with easier log-in and a new design. They are also trying to change the focus of AFS journals. They want to get North American Journal of Fisheries Management back to its roots and get the information back to field biologists. There will be a \$15 increase in membership dues starting January 1st. An inflation adjustment will be considered in the future. AFS is looking into creating a gray literature database. It would be single vehicle for agency reports and include USFWS files from NCTC. AFS is working on electronic version of *Names of Fishes* book. AFS is doing policy work to have a voice for science in the halls of Congress. There will be a Lionfish symposium at the conference. It will have a new format with a discussion panel. It will create a forum for getting information out there for all stakeholders and is a good example of involving policy and science.

Scott Bonar indicated he would like to update the *Standard Methods for Sampling North American Fishes* book. The first edition was funded by the Fisheries Management Section and was published in 2009. He said there are some new chapters to add and areas that need to be updated. He will be seeking funding assistance from the Fisheries Administration and Fisheries Management Sections for the effort. Doug will also ask AFWA for funding for the book update.

Drue Winters AFS Policy Co-Director along with Tom Bigford provided an update on policy issues.

1. Repopulated the resource policy committee
 - a. Representatives from every AFS Division to identify policy challenges
 - b. Help to provide information to AFWA
2. Trump administration to repeal Waters of the US rule
 - a. Letters to request comment extension – moved to 90 days
 - b. Media release on concern of repeal
 - c. Formal comment letter on value of wetlands
3. Tracking FY18 federal budget
 - a. Support programs on AFS website
4. Field visits for Congress members
5. Following Magnuson-Stevenson Act reauthorization
6. Developed briefing paper on Aquaculture
 - a. Discussed issues and science of offshore aquaculture legislation
7. Policy updates in *Fisheries* magazine and on the AFS website
8. Policy specific newsletter in the future

Institute of Fish Management (IFM) chairman Eamon Cusack provided an update on IFM activities. Eamon thanked members for having him at the conference. IFM Executive Director John Gregory who was really backbone of IFM died suddenly this past year and is a great loss to the Institute. We have a new director who has experience with fisheries management in the UK.

1. Renewable Energy and Fisheries meeting in Newport
 - a. Speakers from UK, Canada, France, Korea, and Ireland
2. Support for sustainable eel management
 - a. First International Eel Science Symposium in London
 - i. Delegates from 25 countries
 - ii. Global forum for researchers to discuss eel conservation and management
 - iii. Next eel symposium in 2020
3. Fish management diploma and certificate courses continue to be successful and short courses on fish rescue and electrofishing
4. Ongoing training program collaborating with NGOs like Society of Environment, Countryside Link, Salmon and Trout Conservation
5. Requested by Environmental Agency to develop new fisheries course
 - a. Develop a new course for anglers
6. IFM represented at NASCO by Nigel Milner (Bangor University)

- a. Little good news on salmon stocks
 - b. NGOs and government groups working hard to address salmon stock issues including new policy in UK & England
7. Brexit issue for fisheries
 - a. EU directives have been beneficial for fish & wildlife
 - b. IFM published position statement on issues affected by Brexit
 8. 48th IFM conference will be in Belfast

Tom Lang provided an update from the Angler R3 symposium. The Socioeconomics Section, Fisheries Management Section, and Fisheries Administration Section sponsored the three-day angling participation symposium at the Annual Meeting of AFS in Kansas City. They are developing the symposium presentations along with other work being conducted on increasing angler participation into a reference textbook. Wes Neal is the leading editor on the textbook along with others involved in R3 efforts. The chapters of the textbook are already laid out with authors. Please see handout in back of the room for the outline of chapters in the proposed textbook. If you believe you can contribute to one of the chapters, please contact the author listed for that particular chapter.

Joint meeting session was adjourned at 3:38pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andy Jansen, FMS Secretary-Treasurer.