

Fisheries Management Section/Fisheries Administration Section  
2018 Joint Meeting Session, Sunday, August 19, 2018, 2:30-3:30pm  
Room 421

Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ

**2018 Joint Meeting Session Minutes**

The joint meeting was called to order at 2:47pm.

FMS President Schultz recognized special guests in attendance including past and present AFS staff.

AFS President McMullin briefly discussed his progress over the past year with his Plan of Work. He tasked a special committee to work increasing diversity and inclusion in the Society. Both the Fisheries Administration Section and Fisheries Management Section were represented on this committee. Incoming AFS President Jesse Trushenski will be reappointing that committee to implement some action items and strategies the committee has identified. AFS is continuing to work on improving communication and Jim Bowker has been working on revising the Strategic Plan. Incoming AFS President Jesse Trushenski's Plan of Work has approved at the Governing Board yesterday. Her plan continues to work on improving communication as well as focuses on professional development. In particular, she is going to work on communication and leadership "soft skills" by developing a Leadership and Communication Academy within AFS. Next year AFS will meet jointly with the Wildlife Society. AFS is encouraging all of the AFS sections to work with your counterparts on the Wildlife Society and make it truly a joint meeting next year in Reno.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen announced that staff from the Wildlife Society will be attending this meeting and encouraged the membership to bounce ideas for symposia and continuing education off them and find out who your counterparts on the Wildlife Society might be and if those ideas may benefit both Societies. The AFS Books program will undergo a review and re-visioning similar to the AFS Journals program. The AFS Journals program was reviewed this year. New editors were identified and the focus of some of the journals was realigned such as the NAJFM which will have a more fish management focus. The AFS Books program will undergo the same process and figure out if the program is going in the right direction and what are the next book ideas to pursue. AFS has put out approximately 180 books in the past 70 years. Incoming AFS President Trushenski will be establishing a special committee to work on the revising the AFS Books program. AFS is working on creating a grey literature clearinghouse which if funded at AFWA will start development on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It should be a great resource for everyone and if successful it could be expanded to include the Wildlife Society. AFS is also hoping to get final approval for the second edition of the standard sampling book project led by Scott Bonar. It will be an important book as well as a database and provide tools for fishery managers on the website. AFS is working on reviewing membership categories such organizational memberships with state agencies, universities, corporate partners, and non-profits. AFS put out a survey to all 50 state fish chiefs and so far received 12 responses. The survey is designed to figure out what packages of AFS activities and services the states find compelling to help maintain and energize their memberships. Currently there are about 30 states that are members of AFS and would like to expand it if possible. Doug asked all fish chiefs to get this survey completed or come talk to him as they want to know how AFS can be of value to them. Lauren Maza has been working on AFS webinars. She has put out a webinars on a variety of topics and trying to figure out where to go next with the webinars so please send ideas to Lauren ([lmaza@fisheries.org](mailto:lmaza@fisheries.org)). FMS President Randy Schultz pointed out that Doug Austen's contract with AFS has been extended 5 years, so congrats Doug!

Drue Winters (AFS Policy Director) discussed three main policy priorities for the upcoming year:

1. Recovering Americas Wildlife Act
  - a. \$1.3 billion/yr directed to state wildlife action plans to keep species off ESA
  - b. House bill introduced in December, 81 co-sponsors so far
  - c. Senate bill introduced this summer. This bill provides \$1.3 billion authorization, but does not provide dedicated funding.
  - d. Hopefully we can come to compromise and express need for dedicated funding.
2. Waters of the U.S. Rule
  - a. Current administration trying to repeal and replace 2015 Waters of U.S. rule that defines which waters are subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction
  - b. AFS actively engaged with conservation partners to promote science based rationale for including headwater streams, wetland in protections under Clean Water Act.
  - c. Administration conducting two-step process to repeal and replace rule with a much narrower rule. The replacement rule is expected in next couple of months.
  - d. AFS will be commenting a new rule with information developing from Headwaters Working Group. Please let Drue know if interested in working with this group.
3. Magnuson-Stevenson Act
  - a. Special committee of marine science experts taking critical look at this act and providing policy recommendations for amendments to the law and reauthorization.
  - b. AFS governing board approved new policy, but has not been rolled out yet. AFS will do outreach with NOAA, Fishery Management Council, and other congressional partners to discuss new policy.
  - c. The committee focused on best scientific information, catch limits and rebuilding, habitat and eco-systems, and changing ocean conditions.
  - d. Future article on this topic coming out in *Fisheries* magazine in near future.

Steven Kambouris (new AFS meetings staff person) introduced himself. Steven's main job duties are to work with Shawn Johnston on meetings planning and setting up individual meetings. Steven would like to get your input regarding meetings including site selection. Steven is also revamping the trade show. The new name for trade show is the AFS Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration. The purpose is to effectively connect attendees to trade show vendors. AFS is looking at using mobile units to exhibit vendor's technology and products with fish from the local meeting site. This could result in more interaction and opportunity for collaboration. The other idea AFS is looking into is a message board or website to connect fisheries technology providers to users. Hopefully this will build an environment for collaboration between vendors and fisheries professionals. This would provide area to present new technologies, review current technologies, and fisheries professionals could express needs for future development. The goal is to increase relationship with vendors and provide centralized location for collaborative research together. AFS Executive Director Doug Austen stated that we are losing vendors at the meetings. The vendors are not sure how to interact with attendees so AFS is trying to figure out how to build that connection and create a value for both parties.

FMS President Schultz stated that this year we do not have a representative from the Institute of Fisheries Management to discuss what they are working on especially in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, there was a breakdown in communication in getting a representative from IFM to our conference, but we will work on improving that communication. We have established an exchange program with our early career professionals with IFM and FMS will be sending a representative to the IFM meeting in England in October.

*Respectfully submitted by Andy Jansen, FMS Secretary-Treasurer.*