

No. 22	Fisheries Information and Technology Section	Jodi Whittier
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TO: John Boreman, President
FROM: Jodi Whittier, Fisheries Information and Technology Section
DATE: Aug 14, 2013

I. Motion Report

- (A) Recommended Motion: None
- (B) Minority View: Not applicable
- (C) Background for Motion: Not applicable

II. Activity Report

- (A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

Objective 1.1. Promote fisheries conservation throughout North America and the world, at all levels of government and society, and among all levels of AFS by supporting sound science and networking opportunities.

1. Assist USGS with the continued development and support for the Multistate Aquatic Resources Information System (MARIS) project. **Ongoing**
 - a. FITS has continued to serve as coordinator for MARIS since 2005.
 - b. Hosted 1-1/3 day MARIS coordination meeting to assess technical issues and discuss future development of MARIS (including participation by incoming AFS Executive Director Doug Austen).
 - c. Continued to work with USGS on refinement and development of www.marisdata.org data portal and website.
 - d. Continued administration of USGS cooperative agreement for MARIS and Aquatic Gap. Collaborators: Andy Loftus, Thom Litts, Jeff Kopaska, Jodi Whittier.
2. FITS and the Electronic Services Advisory Board are co-sponsoring a symposium at the upcoming AFS meeting in the Little Rock titled "Using Social Media To Improve Communication In The Fisheries Profession and Engage The Public" – **In progress**
 - a. Collaborators: Julie Delfilippi, Jodi Whittier, Thom Litts, Andy Loftus, Jeff Kopaska
 - b. Description: In less than a decade social media has revolutionized communications with the incarnation and proliferation of weblogs, social networking, community media sites, Wiki's, microblogs and supporting mobile applications. The net result of this communication shift is that information is exchanged more quickly, more often, and consumed by more people, in more ways than ever before. The majority of fisheries professionals just touch the edges of this vast new resource and along with other scientists and the global community are still

learning daily about the potential uses. The objective of this symposium is to share ideas and provide examples of how social media is being used by fisheries professionals to effectively communicate within their professional community and with the public. The benefit to participants at the AFS meeting will be to stimulate ideas for how they can utilize social media and why they should consider using social media outlets. We intend to have speakers discuss how they or their agencies/organizations are using social media to communicate to the wider public audience.

3. Task: develop a survey to submit to AFS members to learn how social media is being used by fisheries professionals and present the information in the above symposium – **Accomplished**
 - a. Analyze and summarize results of survey - **Ongoing**
 - b. Present results of survey at the Little Rock meeting - **Ongoing**
4. Continue to build stronger collaboration with the Organization of Fisheries and Wildlife Information Managers – **Ongoing**

Objective 1.3. Promote fisheries conservation through development and dissemination of public outreach materials.

1. Task: Assist AFS sections/chapters/divisions with technology needs – **Ongoing**
2. Task: Undertake a review of the AFS website and electronic services in collaboration with the Electronic Services Advisory Board
 - a. Continue to provide suggestions for prioritizing and improving membership services provided through AFS website – **Ongoing**
3. Task: revise FITS website to better meet needs of members and users. – **Accomplished and ongoing (see section 2.3.3b for details)**
 - a. Provided avenues for interactive communication through social media – **Ongoing**

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

Objective 2.3. Provide a wide array of continuing education opportunities using innovative methods to reach the widest possible audience of fisheries professionals

1. Collaborators: Thom Litts, Adam Kaeser, Jodi Whittier, Nick Sievert, Landon Pierce
2. Task: Support workshops “Basic/Intermediate GIS for Fisheries Biologists” and “Advanced GIS for Fisheries Biologists” and expand breadth to include marine examples – **Accomplished and ongoing**
3. Task: Support workshop "Mapping Aquatic Habitat of Inland Freshwater Systems using Side-Scan Sonar" by Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts – **Accomplished and ongoing**

Goal 3: Value of Membership

Objective 2.3. Enhance participation of students and professionals at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future.

1. Task: Better engage student members by soliciting their help with FITS business.
 - a. We recruited Nick Sievert (Univ. of Missouri) to co-publish our biannual newsletter – **Accomplished**
 - b. Nick Sievert and Landon Pierce (Univ of Missouri) will be team teaching the GIS courses in Little Rock
2. Task: Promote student poster award through AFS Google, AFS list-serve, AFS meeting website, Student Subsection, Regional list-serves
 - a. Task: Solicit potential award recipients prior to meeting – **3 entries for Little Rock**
 - b. Task: Promote award after presentation – **Scheduled**
3. Develop innovative and cost effective methods to make fisheries science and management information readily available to AFS members and all levels of government entities worldwide
 - a. Collaborators: Kevin Kayle, Rebecca Krogman, Andy Loftus, Jeff Kopaska, Gary Ash, Al Stevens, Rick Lorenzen, Thom Litts, Julie Defilippi, Nick Sievert
 - b. Task: Revise FITS website – Included “re-branding” the Section with a new logo design and the development of a new website. The new website was designed and built for use with the Drupal content management system, and includes a new web theme, improved organization / navigation, and enhanced capabilities that include; news, blogs, forums, polling, web forms (surveys), image galleries, mailing lists, commenting, RSS feeds and more. The site is now up at <http://www.fishdata.org>. – **Accomplished**
 - c. Task: Maintain and update FITS website – **Ongoing**
 - d. Task: Continue biannual electronic newsletter – **Accomplished and ongoing**
 - e. Task: Recruited a member to serve as our new media/outreach person - **Accomplished**
 - f. Task: Provide information regarding IT resources useful to fisheries professionals
 - i. Core source code for common applications – **Ongoing**
 - ii. Information on available software and technology for fisheries work – **Ongoing**
 - iii. Continued sales of fisheries software and updating packages – **Ongoing**
 - iv. Looking for someone to update the FAMS program - **Ongoing**
 - f. Task: Initiate web-based distribution of selected portions of AFS meetings via a video-conference, webinar, or other means – **Accomplished and ongoing**
 - g. Task: Support Electronic Services Advisory Board – **Ongoing**