

FISHERIES INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION

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Formerly the Computer User's Section



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New FITS Logo Contest!!!
See page 7 for more information.

FITS web address: <http://www.fishdata.org>
Software library address: <http://www.fishdata.org/library.htm>



President's Byte Bill Fisher

Welcome all to the new Fisheries Information and Technology Section or FITS for short. The name change became official at the AFS Annual Business Meeting in Ottawa, Canada on August 18, 2008. With the name change comes a new direction for the section. We will continue to evaluate, discuss and distribute fisheries software, as we have since the inception of the Section in the 1980s; however, as you know, much has changed in the computer and technology world, in particular, the advent of the Internet and explosion of information technology. FITS is poised to lead in this direction and serve AFS and Section members by hosting relevant symposia and training workshops at the annual meeting and advise AFS staff and the Governing Board on information technology matters. This is an exciting opportunity for the FITS as we move through the 21st century.

At the CUS/FITS annual meeting, I resigned as President of the Section. I was recently elected 2nd Vice President of AFS, and I knew I could not handle both responsibilities. Jeff Kopaska, President-Elect of FITS agreed to begin his term as Section President a year early. Thank you, Jeff. Jeff has some good

insights, based on his work experiences with Iowa Department of Natural Resources and previous involvement with the Section. I know Jeff will do a great job as Section President and help move us forward.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you who helped keep the Section rolling along this past year. I have documented the accomplishments (or lack thereof) of my Work Plan and those people who helped in another section of this FITS newsletter. A special thanks goes to Andy Loftus, Secretary-Treasurer, for his steady and untiring service to the Section. Andy keeps our books and records straight, and keeps an eye on the workings of the Section. Andy would like to shed his responsibility as Software Librarian, and we need a volunteer for this position. Andy has been doing this job for many years and wants to recruit someone with new ideas and an interest in helping AFS members find information about fisheries software and related technology beyond what we currently offer through the FITS website. Please consider volunteering for this position.

Thanks to all,
Bill Fisher



Business Items

HELP WANTED

The FITS is seeking interested and qualified members to fill two volunteer positions. The work is rewarding and necessary, the benefits are both tangible and intangible, and the experience is invaluable. The time investment for these positions is periodic and minimal.

Position Title: Software Librarian

Responsibilities: Maintain a current list of the software library, keep copies of all software, and distribute software to members as per software distribution rules, coordinate software reviews with the chairman of the Software Review Committee.

Note: If you like fisheries software, are interested in running a small business, and would like to explore ways to redefine the responsibilities of this position, then this job is for you.

Position Title: Newsletter Editor

Responsibilities: In charge of producing the Section newsletter, soliciting and collecting newsletter items, and coordinating timely publication of the newsletter. At least one newsletter is published per year.

Note: If you have always dreamed about being an editor, creatively preparing a newsletter, and communicating with a readership of over 200 people, then this job is for you.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Jeff Kopaska, FITS President at Jeff.Kopaska@dnr.iowa.gov.

Position Title: Webpage Contributor

Responsibilities: If any member has news items, links, or comments about the AFS FITS webpages, please contact the webmaster Kevin Kayle kevin.kayle@dnr.state.oh.us.

Note: This is for all CUS/FITS members.



Business Items

AFS-CUS WORK PLAN 2007-2008

Bill Fisher, CUS President

Focus Area I: Aquatic Stewardship

AFS and its members will be leaders in promoting the sustainability and sound stewardship of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems.

1. Continue support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
 - a. Collaborators: Doug Beard, Stu Shipman
 - b. Tasks:
 - i. Maintain communication with the NFHAP Science and Data Committee
 1. **Accomplished.**
 - ii. Form 4 data sharing work groups identified in post-survey of National Fisheries Data Summit: Data Standards, Biology, Information Technology, Policy
 1. **Not accomplished.**
 - iii. Link NFHAP Science and Data Committee with Data Sharing Work Groups
 1. **Not accomplished.**
2. Support GIS Applications Workshop at 2008 World Fisheries Congress
 - a. Collaborators: Mick Porter, Joanna Whittier
 - b. Task: Communicate with Mick about workshop needs
 1. **Accomplished.**
3. Initiate new continuing education workshop
 - a. Collaborator: Elize Zipkin
 - b. Task: Help organize and support "Programming in R for Fisheries Professionals"
 1. **Accomplished.**
 2. **Supported workshop "Mapping Aquatic Habitat of Inland Freshwater Systems using Side-Scan Sonar" by Adam Kaeser and Thom Litts.**
4. Continue collaborative relationship with USGS-NBII, OFWIM and other organizations
 - a. Collaborators: Jeff Waldon, Doug Beard
 - b. Task: Support OFWIM annual meeting through website announcement
 - c. Administer ongoing projects and initiating new partnerships where the opportunity and need arises
 1. **Accomplished.**
 2. **New project initiated "Fisheries Information Systems Convergence and Fish Data Compilation for NFHAP Assessment" with USGS-NBII.**



Business Items

Focus Area II: Information Transfer and Outreach

AFS and its members will be recognized by decision makers and natural resource professionals as an important source of science-based information about fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and their conservation, management, and sustainable development.

1. Replace Software Librarian
 - a. Collaborator: Andy Loftus
 - b. Tasks:
 - i. Identify CUS member willing to serve
 - ii. Rename position?
 - iii. Redefine duties of Librarian
 - iv. Investigate electronic purchase of software via the web
 - v. Promote software availability through various means, including announcements on AFS book website
 1. **Not accomplished.**
 2. **Proposed transfer of software sales from CUS to AFS book sales.**
2. Maintain and update CUS website
 - a. Collaborator: Kevin Kayle
 - b. Task: Redesign front page to make it more user friendly (consult with AFS webmaster about design ideas)
 1. **Accomplished.**
 2. **Mirror Web 2.0 site established.**
3. Continue biannual electronic newsletter
 - a. Collaborator: Angela Grier
 - b. Task:
 - i. Contribute President's message to and solicit other items for CUS Newsletter
 1. **Accomplished.**
 - ii. Replace newsletter editor
 1. **Not accomplished, Angie Grier continuing.**
4. Scope out new IT resources useful for fisheries professionals
 - a. Collaborators: Gary Ash, CUS members
 - b. Tasks: Identify
 - i. Core source code for common applications
 - ii. Information resources for making decisions regarding handheld field data collection devices.
 1. **Not Accomplished.**



Business Items

Focus Area III: Member Services

AFS will provide excellent, cost-efficient services, operations, and support for its members.

1. Change section name
 - a. Collaborators: Executive Committee, Dirk Miller
 - b. Tasks:
 - i. Initiate blog to gather, discuss and vote on name ideas
 - ii. Change bylaws
 1. **Accomplished.**
2. Recruit new members
 - a. Collaborator: AFS Bethesda
 - b. Tasks:
 - i. Confirm free student and Data Summit members (request list from AFS)
 - ii. Communicate with student members
 - iii. Develop “bubbles” ringtone and place on website (Fred has software)
 - iv. Better engage student members by soliciting their help with CUS business
 1. **Partially accomplished.**
 2. **16 students of 208 CUS members (04/2008).**
 3. **Ringtone created by Fred Janssen**
3. Promote student poster award
 - a. Collaborators: AFS Bethesda, 2008 Annual Meeting Program Committee
 - b. Tasks:
 - i. Clearly describe purpose of award and qualities of research/poster
 - ii. Solicit potential award recipients prior to meeting
 - iii. Promote award after presentation
 1. **Not accomplished.**
4. Support Electronic Services Advisory Board
 - a. Collaborator: Joel Carlin
 - b. Task: Serve on Committee and support their work plan, as required
 1. **Accomplished.**
5. Develop budget plan
 - a. Collaborators: Executive Committee
 - b. Tasks: Review current obligations and plan new initiatives
 1. **Accomplished.**

Created: 21 September 2007; Revised: 17 December 2007; Updated: 16 August 2008



FITS LOGO CONTEST

With the creation of our new name, the Fisheries Information and Technology Section needs a new logo. Please submit your logo ideas to Jeff Kopaska, CUS President at Jeff.Kopaska@dnr.iowa.gov. The contest will end on December 15, 2008. Each logo submission will be posted on our website to be voted on. The winner of the logo contest will receive a one-year membership to the Fisheries Information and Technology Section. Good luck!

SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

- AFS has provided a download for a **Fish Name Spell-checker tool for MS Word** (common and scientific names, updated). It is available via a link on our AFSCUS/FIATS home page and resources page. The url address is: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/fishnames.html>
- **HTI Introduces New Advances in Acoustic Tag Data Logging Technology:** *New Model 295-G integrates GPS and more.* The president of HTI (Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc.), Dr. John Ehrenberg, recently announced the launch of HTI's new GPS integrated acoustic tag data logger expected to simplify presence/absence studies in lakes, rivers, estuaries, at hydropower dams, and at sea, worldwide. The new **Model 295-G Acoustic Tag Data Logger** ("G" for GPS) is a welcomed addition to their existing acoustic tag tracking systems. It offers researchers a simplified and effective means for establishing fish distribution and density in any aquatic environment by recording the time-stamped presence of fish tagged with *Model 795 Acoustic Tags* [which have a detection range up to 1 km (3,280 ft)]. With integrated GPS synchronization, acoustic tag data is now not only marked by satellite time, but data from multiple data loggers can be merged into one file and viewed from any user-defined PC via wireless network for continuous remote monitoring of fish activity. Additional developments include simplified file management, an enhanced detection algorithm, new data storage options, remote power monitoring, and optional power generation via flow generator or solar energy. The new **Model 295-G Acoustic Tag Data Logger** will be released commercially in spring 2008.





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AFS HISTORY SECTION MOTION

TO: Mary C. Fabrizio, President
FROM: Christine Moffitt, President, Fisheries History Section
DATE: 21 July 2008

I. Motion Report – (2 pages max) (note: there are budget implications)

(A) Recommended Motion: I move that the American Fisheries Society render the complete historical records of all missing pages and frontpieces of the *Transactions* of the American Fisheries Society, and *Fisheries Magazine* as part of the Infobase project of searchable digital records marketed to libraries, members and institutions.

(B) Minority View: None, the project is a necessary component of preserving our historical information and policy relevant information.

(C) Background for Motion:

Since the now widely available Fisheries InfoBase was completed, many libraries, agencies and individuals have used these digital records. These searchable digital records are an important addition to the legacy of AFS, to the visibility of our science, and our professional association. This project increased the citation index of published information, and made it available throughout the world. In this digital world, citation indices, and information retrievals have become nearly exclusively digital, and searches of digital records are increasingly important ways to distribute scientific information. During the process of writing the history chapter for Inland Fisheries Management textbook, officers and members of the History Section were made aware that not all our legacy of publications and has been converted into digital format. Often, after subscribing to digital versions of journals, the libraries will discard the old *Transactions*, *Fisheries* and other components of the journal subscriptions. If this occurs before these records are fully restored, we will lose a substantial number of contributions to the history of fisheries, and the records of our Society.

Increasingly students, researchers in the global community have become totally dependent on digital information and digital records searching. The search engines for this information are dependent on having records of older publications converted to digital format and properly scanned and tagged to be word searchable. The library search of paper records has become less important, and has always been inefficient. If important and complete information from our legacy of publications is not available in a digital format, access to this total legacy of information will be impaired, and valuable information lost from the scientific and historical record.

Please browse for yourself these digital versions of our journal and find that the volumes of *Transactions* have many missing entries. Many of these missing records were reports from the meetings, resolutions, lists of members, committees, and other items. These are vital records of the history of fisheries, and fisheries policy. Another important component missing from the digital record is the cover, and the list of editors, officers, and other things including the address for the society. A recent interest in researching the location of our AFS business over the years was difficult, as this information was available only on the



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frontispiece of the journals, and this record is not digitally preserved. We need to preserve this information that contains our members and leaders.

There are several other journals that have scanned their old volumes and present these a part of their own digital records. These groups have provided the complete records, including the cover pages for the old journals. These complete records are important to the science, and history. Some early volumes of *Transactions* are only partially digitized. For example the first volume of *Transactions* has the following articles starting on page 21 with Shad Culture, by Wm. Clift, page 21. In Volume 35 (1906), Issue 1, the first paper in the digital version is “On the Identification for Legal Purposes of Mutilated or Dressed Specimens of Whitefish and Herring from the Great Lakes” by Jacob Reighard, on page 47!

Fisheries Magazine's digital records are even more sparse. There is nothing listed from the first issue of the first volume of *Fisheries* as a digital record. For issue 2 only one article is available. None of the commentaries, or news articles on the activities of the society is available. If you run a search on Carl Sullivan in *Fisheries*, it provides no records. The information on the expansion of the Dingle Johnson funding, and all the important role of AFS is missing from the digital records. Not only do the AFS members lose this history, but also the status of our American Fisheries Society is lowered when this information is lost from the records. We have been leaders in many aspects of fisheries science and policy relevant information. Only with full restoration of our Society records and accomplishments can we achieve the recognition that we deserve. This lowered visibility could affect future efforts for funds and membership, and losses of this institutional memory of AFS will increase with retirements of many of our members.

The History Section urges that the AFS work immediately to provide all these materials as part of the InfoBase, so that the important missing sections of these records are made available for the future reference of scientists, policy makers, and historians alike.

II. Activity Report

- (A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan. Information Transfer and Outreach Goal of collaboration, and professional stature will be enhanced with collaborations with the Equal Opportunity Section for this year's meeting. We are joining them for a Luncheon meeting during the Ottawa meeting, with a focus on discussion of the history of underrepresented minorities in fisheries science and AFS. The Member Services of members has been enhanced with the revised newsletter and list serve. We are still without a web presence, and search for assistance from more youthful or technical adept members of our section, and assistance from the parent society on appropriate programs to use. The newsletter is currently posted on the following web but we would like to house it on the AFS web. http://www.cnrhome.uidaho.edu/documents/Spring_2008_corrected.pdf&pid=107168&doc=1
- (B) Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration. We hope to provide a special session at the next annual meeting, depending on interest and time available.



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HYDROACOUSTICS SHORT COURSES

1. Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish - (http://www.htisonar.com/at_short_course.htm) Seattle, WA: 5-6 February, 2009, 9 AM - 5 PM:

This short course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. The course includes hands-on-operation and a variety of applications are covered. Lunch is provided. \$300.00 USD, per person. Seating is limited.

2. Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment - (http://www.htisonar.com/ha_short_course.htm) 12-13 February, 2009, 9 AM - 5 PM in Seattle, WA:

The hydroacoustic short course covers mobile and fixed-location survey techniques, and subjects include basic hydroacoustic theory, deployment logistics, data collection and processing, as well as typical results. Split-beam, single-beam, and multi-beam frequency techniques are discussed in detail. Lunch is provided. Seating is limited.

Both courses have been enhanced and updated. If you have any question, contact Caroline Mercado at 206-633-3383 or at cmercado@HTIsonar.com.