

2. 2018 AFS meeting

- The most timely topic is planning for the 2019 joint AFS-Wildlife Society meeting, <https://afstws2019.org/>, in Reno on Sept 29-Oct 3, 2019. By meeting jointly with The Wildlife Society (TWS) the meeting will be huge so we will need to try harder to maintain a marine cohesiveness at this meeting. I hope to work with the planning committee so that marine-oriented sessions are close spatially and dispersed temporally. This will be difficult to achieve, but seems worth attempting to improve your ability to attend as many sessions as possible.
- We also want to try to create linkages to parallel groups in TWS. I perused their 2018 meeting (<https://twskonference.org/>) and found no obvious marine sessions. This may be because marine mammals are covered by the globally oriented Marine Mammal Society which meets biennially. I found that the TWS Biometrics group sponsored some quantitative sessions at the 2018 TWS meeting and it seems worthwhile seeking a joint session on quantitative population surveys and demographic analysis. If you are interested, please let me know.
- It is time for us to ramp up efforts to create good marine ecosystem and fisheries sessions for 2018. So far I have heard from one group interested in a session on marine recreational fisheries. If you have other ideas, please let us know.

3. Marine Fisheries Section Membership Profile

When I took the reins as president of MFS, I was curious as to the make-up of our section. I get a small amount of address and affiliation information about members when I get the updated membership list and I have used it to create a summary of our section. Here are some statistics that may be of interest:

- We had 491 members as of August 2018. The numbers fluctuate monthly as people renew, or not, their membership.
- By nationality, we have 464 from US, 19 from Canada, and 8 distributed across 7 other countries.
- Of the Canadian members, they are about equally distributed among government and non-government; and among east coast and west coast.
- Of the USA members we have:

NOAA-west	18
NOAA-east and Gulf	27
State-east and Gulf	19
State-west	8
Academic-east w/ Florida	85
Academic –west	50
Academic –Gulf	29
Other	228

- The “other” category is dominated by gmail.com, but examination of the limited info on “Company” shows that some of these people are government or academic but choose to use a different email.
- Regionally, the top 10 States are:

CA	FL	MA	TX	WA	AK	MD	NC	NY	OR
42	39	39	32	31	27	26	26	22	21

- I hope this gives you a bit of info on who we are. Of course, it would be even better to know what our interests are. Perhaps a membership survey is in our future.....

4. AFS Leadership Projects

- Infographic – We have an opportunity to work with one of our members, Dan Weaver, from the AFS Emerging Leader program on a project to increase the visibility of AFS sections through the creation of an "infographic." These are meant to give a unique visibility to each of the sections. He seeks “some brief bullet points and/or images/symbols that highlight the activities of your section and anything pithy you think might help promote your section's visibility”. Please let me know if you would be interested in working with me and Dan on this.
- AFS Book Program – AFS is appointing a special committee to review the AFS books program. They seek representatives from the MFS. Please let me know if you would be interested in working with me and Aaron Lerner on this.