

2021 Conference & Annual General Meeting

Fishermen and Scientists Research Society

Held virtually

March 25th, 2021

Post-Conference Report

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I. Introduction

We would like to thank everyone who attended our 28th annual conference on March 25th, 2021. We appreciate the ongoing support of longstanding attendees, and we welcome all the newcomers. Our Emcee Jade Petritchko launched the conference with an opening speech, during which she welcomed all the guests, introduced the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) and gave an overview of the agenda. Shannon Scott-Tibbetts, our FSRS Director of Operations, relayed a welcome message to all conference attendees from FSRS President, Ken Snow, before the presentations began.

We are very thankful to our presenters; Dr. Russell Wyeth (St. Francis Xavier University - *A system to study lobster foraging behaviours in response to different prey and bait types*), Ms. Katie Schleit (Oceans North - Marine Species at Risk), Delphine Morin (Dalhousie University – *NARW occupancy in Atlantic Canadian waters*), Shannon Landoskis (Dalhousie University) and Gabrielle Deveau (Acadia University) (*Apoqmatulti'k: Integrative knowledge, collaborative stewardship*), as well as Dr. Alida Bundy and Mr. Kristian Curran (DFO - *An ecosystem approach to fisheries management at DFO*).

We would also like to extend a warm thank you to our student poster presenters for participating in this year's virtual conference; Kayla Hamelin (Dalhousie University - *Novel approaches to improving assessments for information-poor fisheries in Atlantic Canada*), Emily Blacklock (Dalhousie University - *The risk of haemic neoplasia in North Atlantic crustacea*), Lisa Chen (*The Marine Way App*), and Samantha Stevens (Dalhousie University - *Timing behavioural modification in green crabs infected with acanthocephalan profilicollis botulus*). It was wonderful to see all the research being done by the upcoming generation of marine ecology, fisheries and aquaculture scientists.

Key points from the panel and community group discussions can be found within the report. An account of the conference attendance, sponsorship totals and survey responses can also be found within the report.

Once again, thank you to all of those who came out to support the FSRS this year. We look forward to working with all of you in the future.

- The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Team

I. General Numbers

Parameter	FSRS Conference 2021	FSRS Conference 2019
Registered Guests	88	110
Final Attendance	65	113*
Total Registration Amount	\$1012.93	\$2394.48 (Eventbrite pre-registration), \$535 (registration at door)
Number of Post-Conference Surveys Completed	36	43, 38% response rate
Total Sponsorship Amount	\$11975 cash, \$3566 in-kind	\$6150 cash, \$3095 in-kind
Cash Raised by Dutch Auction	\$1300.50	\$1315

*estimate; excludes those who did not sign in

II. Conference Agenda

March 25th, 2021: 28th Annual Conference Agenda

9:00-9:15	Welcome/Introductions from FSRS President Ken Snow
9:15	Dr. Russell Wyeth (St. Francis Xavier University) <i>A system to study lobster foraging behaviours in response to different prey and bait types</i>
9:30	Katie Schleit (Oceans North) <i>Marine species at risk</i>
9:45	Student poster session
10:35	Stretch break/door prize draws
10:40	Delphine Morin (Dalhousie University) <i>North Atlantic Right Whale occupancy in Atlantic Canadian waters</i>

10:55	Gabrielle Deveau (Acadia University) and Shannon Landovskis (Dalhousie University) <i>Apoqmatulti'k: Integrative knowledge, collaborative stewardship</i>
11:10	Dr. Alida Bundy and Mr. Kristian Curran (DFO) <i>An ecosystem approach to fisheries management at DFO</i>
11:25	Stretch break/door prize draws
11:35	FSRS Annual General Meeting
12:30	Jessica Macdonald (FSRS) <i>FSRS Science Updates</i>
13:00-13:15	Closing Remarks & Auction Promotion

III. Summary of Posters and Presentations for Public Release

The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) held its 28th Annual Conference on March 25th, 2021 virtually to ensure the health and safety of all conference attendees and staff due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The conference included a range of presentations concerning an array of different marine conservation and fishery related issues. The conference also included scientific student posters that complemented the topics covered by oral presenters and an online auction was also held with items from generous sponsors.

Presentations

The FSRS would like to thank the following presenters for their informative presentations:

Dr. Russell Wyeth (St. Francis Xavier University) – *A system to study lobster foraging behaviours in response to different prey and bait types*

Katie Schleit (Oceans North) – *Oceans North Marine Species at Risk*

Delphine Morin (Dalhousie University)– *North Atlantic Right Whale occupancy in Atlantic Canadian waters*

Gabrielle Deveau (Acadia University) and **Shannon Landovskis** (Dalhousie University) - *Apoqmatulti'k: Integrative knowledge, collaborative stewardship*

Dr. Alida Bundy and Mr. Kristian Curran (DFO) - *An ecosystem approach to fisheries management at DFO*

Jessica MacDonald (FSRS) – *FSRS Science Updates*

Posters

We would like to thank the following student poster presenters for their contributions:

Kayla Hamelin (Dalhousie University) - *Novel approaches to improving assessments for information-poor fisheries in Atlantic Canada*

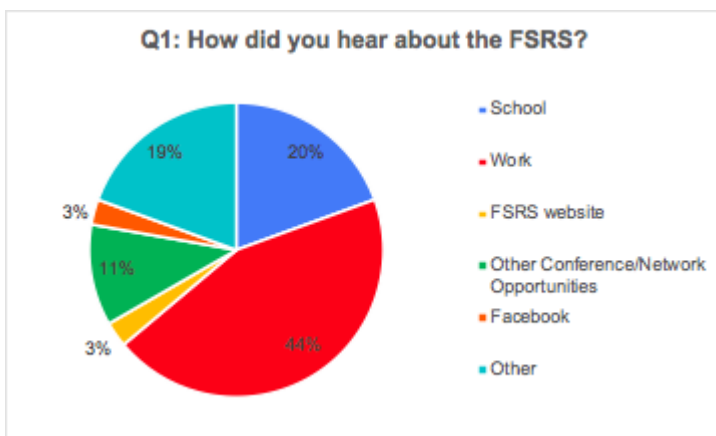
Emily Blacklock (Dalhousie University) - *The risk of haemic neoplasia in North Atlantic crustacea*

Lisa Chen - *Marine Way App*

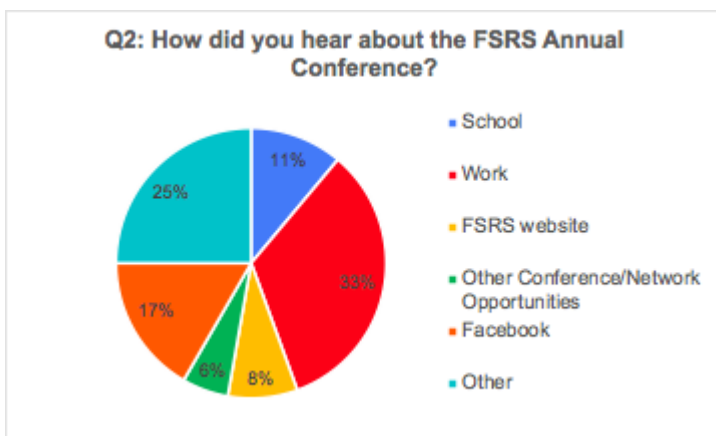
Samantha Stevens (Dalhousie University) - *Timing behavioural modification in green crabs infected with *acanthocephalan profilicollis botulus**

IV. General Conference Feedback

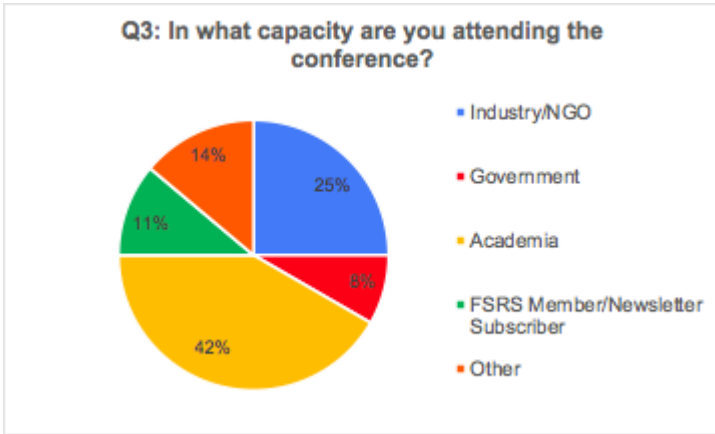
Results: Post-Conference Survey



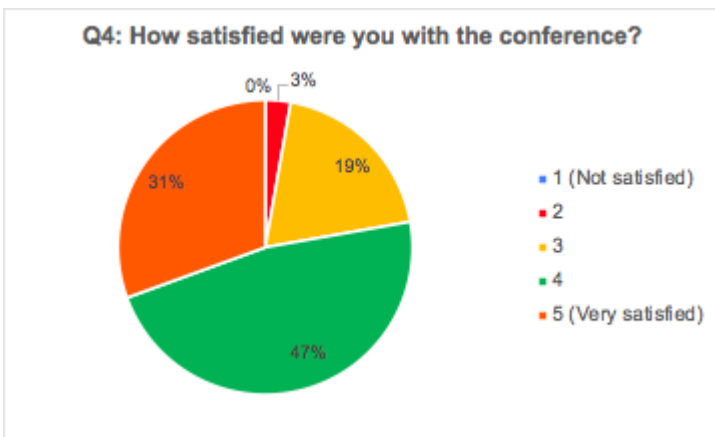
Q1: Most of the survey respondents heard about the FSRS through work.



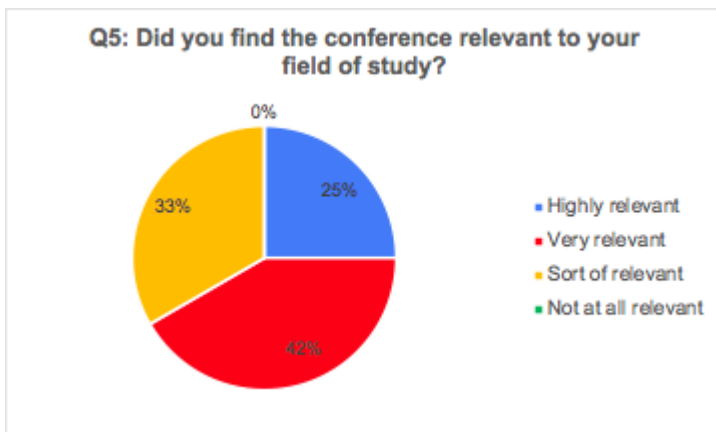
Q2: The majority of respondents heard about the FSRS conference through work, other means, and Facebook. 'Other means' included email, active involvement in planning the conference (sponsors), pre-existing members, or word of mouth (colleagues).



Q3: The majority of survey respondents were members of the academic community comprising more than 40% of respondents, while a quarter of respondents were from industry or non-governmental organizations.



Q4: The majority of survey respondents said that they were satisfied with the conference, the few individuals that were not satisfied with the conference said that it had to do with a lack of communication with FSRs staff leading up to the conference as well as issues with the online platform.



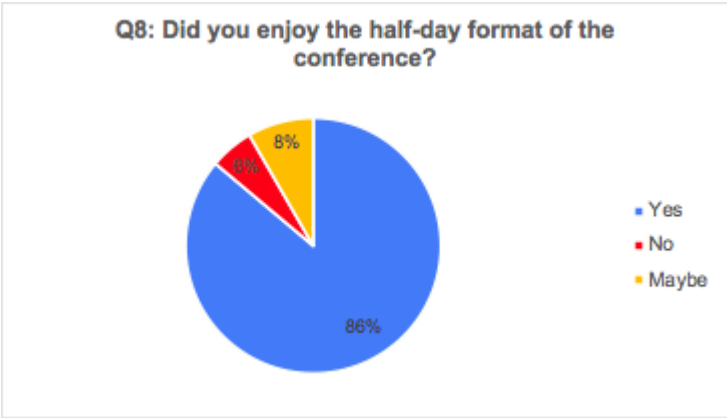
Q5: All survey respondents agreed that the subject matter of the conference was at least somewhat relevant to their field of work/study and no one felt that it was not relevant to their field. More than two thirds of respondents described the conference as “very relevant” or “highly relevant” to their fields.



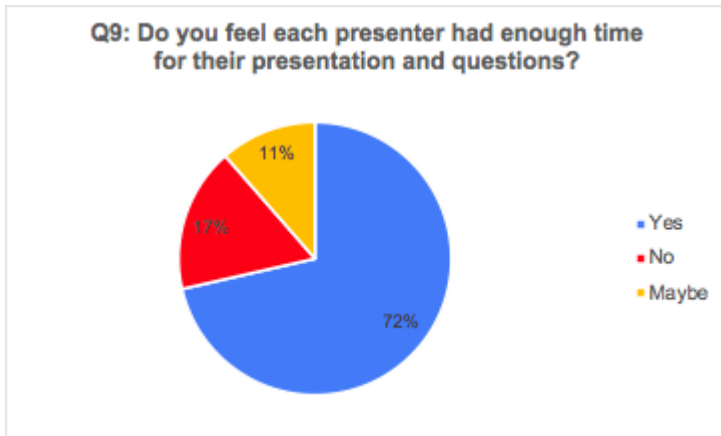
Q6: The vast majority of survey respondents said that they would attend a future FSRS conference. Those that did not select “yes” as their answer to this selected “maybe”, with no respondents saying that they would not attend a conference in the future.



Q7: Most respondents would prefer an in-person conference if possible with COVID-19 restrictions over an online format, however a quarter of respondents said they were unsure and said it would depend.



Q8: The vast majority of survey respondents said that they liked the half day format of the conference. A couple survey respondents did however say that they wished there were more presentations and that the conference be extended over multiple days.



Q9: The majority of survey respondents thought that the time allotted to each presenter including the question period was suitable. One survey respondent expressed concerns over the format of the student poster presentations as they did not think they complemented the oral presentations well.

General comments from attendees (summarized):

- More presentations on more diverse topics (presenters from different backgrounds - fishermen and First Nations groups)
- Conference attendees thought the presentations from this year were great.
- Three attendees felt that communication could be improved amongst FSRS conference staff in communicating with presenters and that the conference materials could have been more polished (avoid typos in names and improve clarity).
- Had mixed reviews about organization of the conference, however some attendees thought the delivery of online format (being mindful of noise with audio) could have been improved.
- Many attendees thought there could have been more interaction between presenters, audience, and FSRS staff during the conference.
- If Zoom is used again, then it would be helpful if at times there were online messages displayed to inform viewers what was coming next

General notes/thoughts for future conferences:

- For future online conferences, more effort towards enhanced engagement and interaction between presenters and the audience (e.g., Kahoot games, breakout sessions, etc).
- More inclusion of perspectives from fishermen and Indigenous groups.
- Updates from student presenters from this year's conference as well as the alternative bait study/research.

- Some attendees would prefer a multi-day in-person conference with more presentations on different topics (e.g., lobster and crab studies, practical applications and case studies) and interactive sessions.
- Presentations with more focus on building relationships rather than just reporting on research.

VI. Donations, Donors and Use

Cash and In-Kind Sponsors

Organization	Amt. pledged	Amt. Pledged (in kind)
Abeego		\$36.00
Amos Pewter		\$150.00
Argent Fisheries	\$500.00	
Art Maree Haute		\$200.00
Ashored	\$500.00	
Atlantic Catch Data	\$200.00	
Atlantic Electronic Limited		\$400.00
Bakers Point Fisheries	\$250.00	
Big Spruce Brewing	\$150.00	
Caldwell Roach	\$300.00	
Campobello Whale Rescue	\$500.00	
CIOOS Atlantic	\$250.00	
CPAWS	\$250.00	
CME	\$575.00	
Dal Science, Information Technology, Engineering Cooperative Education	\$500.00	
Deep Cove Seafoods	\$550.00	
Don Metke		\$100.00
Ecology Action Centre	\$250.00	
Farm Credit Canada	\$500.00	
FCGAC	\$500.00	
Fisherman's Market	\$500.00	

Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy	\$250.00	
High Liner		\$200.00
Kathy Brown		\$300.00
Ken Snow		\$75.00
Lobster Council of Canada	\$150.00	
Lobster Mafia		\$180.00
Marine Affairs Program	\$100.00	
Me and Mommy Purses		\$60.00
MetOcean	\$500.00	
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	\$500.00	
Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance	\$500.00	
Ocean Frontier Institute	\$500.00	
Ocean Tracking Network	\$500.00	
Oceana	\$200.00	
Oceans North	\$500.00	
O'Regan's		\$65.00
Rachel Reeve		\$700.00
Rousseau Chocolatier		\$30.00
Sambro Fisheries	\$300.00	
Spartan		\$150.00
Sustainable Marine Energy	\$500.00	
TriNav Fisheries Consultants		\$700.00
Vernon D'Eon	\$500.00	
Victoria Cooperative Fisheries	\$500.00	
Wade's Wire Traps		\$200.00
West Fish Canada	\$250.00	
White Point Beach Resort		\$200.00
WWF	\$200.00	
TOTAL (\$)	\$11,975.00	\$3,566.00

In-Kind Donation Use

Prize Items

Lobster Mafia toques (3), face masks (3), and baseball caps (3)	Door prize
DFO Lobster Science baseball caps (2)	Door prize
Big Spruce Brewing beer 4-pack (5)	Door prize
Big Spruce Brewing/OTN bandana	Door prize

Dutch Auction Items

Gyotaku Art (Fish)	\$500	O'Regans Bronze Detailing Gift Card	\$60
Gyotaku Art (Lobster)	\$200	(2) Abeego beeswax wraps	\$36
Kathy Brown Sambro Lighthouse Art	\$300	Amos Pewter Beach Treasures	\$150
(10) Rousseau chocolate lobster lollies	\$30	White Point Beach Resort Gift Card	\$200
Wire Trap	\$200	Lobster Trap	\$200
Me and Mommy water scene infinity scarf	\$60	Lobster rope mat	\$200
Orange oil gear	\$55	Don Metke cardinal print	\$50
Spartan Marine oil gear	\$25	Don Metke osprey print	\$50
Coleman Marine cooler	\$30	Macrame plant hanger	\$60
ICOM marine radio	\$400		

TOTAL (\$) **\$2,806**

VII. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jade Petrichenko and Shannon Scott-Tibbetts welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and thanked FSRS staff for their contributions over the past year.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda (see Appendix A) was reviewed. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were reviewed. No issues were identified. Hubert Boutilier motioned to approve the minutes. Randy Baker seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion carried.

4. Annual Board of Directors' Report

The Board of Directors' Report was submitted by Peter Hurley. The board met four times last year.

5. Director of Operations' Report

Shannon Scott-Tibbetts presented the Director of Operations Report. The (2020) Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Facebook page continues to grow and is gaining engagement. Twitter remains active (@fsrs_info). The FSRS self-promotes using a newsletter quarterly, and encourages attendees to assist with the distribution of the newsletter. Our new website is up and running <https://fsrsns.ca/>. FSRS Membership has increased to 552 participants, with representatives from all industries. The FSRS includes two committees: the scientific program committee has not met often this year, but reviews projects as they are submitted, while the communications committee planned the conference. The FSRS is an active member of the FGCAC, and participated in the NSDFA Ministers Conference, the Fishing Gear Summit, LFA advisory meetings, and the MARLAC meeting.

The 2018 Work Plan was reviewed (see Appendix B).

6. Finance Report

Shannon Scott-Tibbetts presented the Finance Report.

Total revenues for 2020 were \$228,684; total expenses were \$255,937, and the revenue-expenses totaled to -\$27,253.. Total projected revenue for 2021 is \$160,760 and projected expenses are \$236,000. Projected revenue-expenses for 2021 as of the AGM is -\$75,240.

Emily Blacklock motioned to approve the budget. Fraser Clark seconded the motion. None were opposed. Motion carried.

The Work Plan for 2021 was presented (see Appendix C).

7. Election and Appointment of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2019/20

Nominations were as follows:

Position	Nominee
President	Ken Snow
Vice-President	Hubert Boutilier
Treasurer	TBD
Secretary	Peter Hurley
Directors at Large	Chelsey Karbowski, Megan Bailey, Carl Myers, Josh Fricker, Angelica Silva, Bill Bond, Randy Boutilier, Emily Blacklock, Winfred Jr. Risser, Evelien VanDerKloet, Courtenay E. Parlee

2021 Board of Directors

Position	Elected Member
President	Ken Snow
Vice President	Hubert Boutilier
Secretary	Peter Hurley
Treasurer	TBD
Directors at Large	Chelsey Karbowski, Megan Bailey, Carl Myers, Josh Fricker, Angelica Silva, Bill Bond, Randy Boutilier, Emily Blacklock, Evelien VanDerKlout, Winfred Jr. Risser

8. Appointment of 2020/21 Auditors or Review Engagement

Lyle Tilley Davison were the auditors who completed the financial review last year. Shannon Scott-Tibbetts believed the same auditor should be kept. None were opposed. The motion carried.

9. New Business

No new business.

10. Close the Meeting

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Annual General Meeting Agenda March 25th, 2021

1. Welcome and Introductions – Jade Petrichenko and Shannon Scott-Tibbetts
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Annual Board of Directors’ Report – Peter Hurley
4. Director of Operations’ Report – Shannon Scott-Tibbetts
5. Finance Report – Shannon Scott-Tibbetts
6. Election & Appointment of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2021/22
 - a. Executive Officers
 - b. Directors at Large
7. Appointment of Auditors for 2021/22
8. New Business
9. Closing of the Meeting

Appendix B

Executive Director's Review of 2020 Work Plan

A few accomplishments from the past year:

- Our Facebook page now has 6144 likes. This is a great platform for our members to share ocean related news from their communities. If you haven't already done so, 'like' the page today!
- Our twitter account is @fsrs_info, make sure to 'follow' us!
- Our improved Hook, Line and Thinker format is both web and mobile friendly. Keep an eye on your inbox and catch up on FSRS news from wherever you are!

Membership

- 552 members to date
- A broad range of fishermen, scientists, students, and the general public.
- Members from across Canada and internationally.
- Membership continues to be free, although donations are always welcome.

Committees

- *Scientific Program Committee*
 - Reports on all our projects as part of the annual conference.
 - Reviews proposals for scientific merit, value to fishermen, and acceptability to communities; seeks ideas of interest to members.
 - Staff provide project updates and develop guidelines for reviewing and approving projects.

- *Communications Committee*
 - Works together on promotion of the FSRS via the e-newsletter, website, Facebook page, and outreach events.

e-Newsletter

- Produced quarterly and currently has 868 subscribers. It can be found online at <http://www.fsrs.ns.ca/newsletter.php>

Website

- You can find information on the FSRS and the projects we are involved in on our website: www.fsrs.ns.ca
- You can also become more involved through committees or becoming a member on our website.

Events and Outreach

- Attended various advisory meetings to present project results and information about the FSRS
- NSDFA Ministers Conference February 25-27, 2020
- Fishing Gear Summit
- MARLAC Meeting
- LFA Advisory Meetings
- Active member of the FGAC

Appendix C
Fishermen and Scientists Research Society 2021/22 Work Plan

Contract and Project work

- Lobster Recruitment Index Study
- ESFPA Research Strategy (V-notching only)
- Sentinel Monitoring Program
- LFA 36 season extension monitoring program
- FORCE Lobster Catchability Monitoring Program

Membership

- Looking to expand our membership
- Currently looking for members to help us with membership recruitment. Inquire through FSRS staff and online (www.fsrns.ca)

Social Media

- We would like to keep Instagram, Facebook and Twitter active. Like and Follow for FSRS updates!

Outreach

- Promotion of the FSRS through outreach to promote collaboration, sustainable fishing and our coastal communities.

Communications

- 29th Annual FSRS Conference will be held in March of 2022 to continue to promote the great collaborations and important research done by the FSRS and its supporters.
- Will seek sponsors for the 29th Annual FSRS Conference and consider other funding sources to increase monies received from sponsors.
- Next newsletter will be distributed at the end of April 2021 or at the beginning of May 2021.
- Will continue to attend fishermen's organizations meetings to present project results and promote the FSRS.
- Will continue to submit articles in industry and science magazines.
- Continue to work on the strategic plan; outreach ventures, increasing membership, etc.

Appendix D
FSRS 28th Annual General Meeting Attendance List

Holly Griffiths	Richard Wahle
Megan Bailey	Lisa Chen
Emily Blacklock	Delphine Durette Morin
Bill Bond	Russell Wyeth
Meghan Borland	Katie Schleit
Jessica Bradford	Kristian Curran
Veronica Brzeski	Alida Bundy
Cynthia Callahan	Irene Andrushchenko
Tom Calvanese	Cornelia den Heyer
Fraser Clark	Sarah Stewart
Nicolas Argenta	Kathleen Rapp
Rona Datta	Maquita Davis
Josh Fricker	Marina Daoud
Alexa Goodman	Lillian Mitchell
Hughie Boutillier	Ian McGaw
Kristin Dinning	Dan Hasselman
Magali Gregoire	Alexandra Cole
Peter Hurley	Kathryn Townsend
Chelsey Landry	Kayla Hamelin
Leah Lewis-McCrea	Chris Milley
Tracy Mackeracher	Aurelie Cosandey-Godin
Jessie	Ben Zisseron
Kaycee Morrison	Daniel Duplisea
Leo Muise	Gabrielle Deveau
Marianna Rampaul	Shannon Landovskis
Sonia	
Ken Snow	
Maggie Sutherland	
Zhuliang Tan	
Victoria Tobin	
Sara Vanderkaden	
Evelien VanderKloet	
Blair Venoit	
Alexandra Cole	
Angelica Silva	
Scott Samson	

Appendix E

FSRS Post Conference Survey

Thank you for attending the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society's 28th Annual Conference and AGM! Please take a moment to fill out our Post Conference Survey to help us plan next years' conference. All those who complete the survey will be entered into a draw to win some FSRS swag and two subscriptions to the Navigator Magazine!

1. How did you hear about the FSRS?

- a) FSRS Website
- b) Facebook
- c) Other Conference/Networking Opportunities
- d) School
- e) Work
- f) Other:

2. How did you hear about the FSRS Annual Conference?

- a) FSRS Website
- b) Facebook
- c) Other Conference/Networking Opportunities
- d) School
- e) Work
- f) Other:

3. In what capacity are you attending the conference?

- a) Industry
- b) Government
- c) Academia
- d) FSRS Member Newsletter Subscriber
- e) Other:

4. How satisfied were you with the conference?

- a) 1 (Not satisfied)
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4
- e) 5 (Very satisfied)

5. Did you find the conference relevant to your field of work/study?

- a) Highly relevant

- b) Very relevant
- c) Sort of relevant
- d) Not at all relevant

6. Would you attend a future FSRS Conference?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

7. Would you prefer an in-person conference if restrictions allowed?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe/Depends

8. Did you enjoy the half-day format of the conference?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

9. Do you feel each presenter had enough time for their presentation and questions?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

10. What would you like to see at our next conference?