

2022 Conference & Annual General Meeting

Fishermen and Scientists Research Society

Held virtually

March 24th, 2022

Post-Conference Report

Prepared by: Drew Jardine

Edited by: Angelica Whiteway, Jade Petritchenko

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Introduction

We would like to thank everyone who attended our 29th annual conference on March 24th, 2022. We appreciate the ongoing support of longstanding attendees, and we welcome all the newcomers. Our host with the most, Drew Jardine, kicked us off with a brief intro to the new platform for this year (more on this later) and gave us a quick rundown of the day. Senior Research Assistant and Fishermen & Scientists Research Society veteran, Jade Petritchenco, welcomed us all and started off the day's speeches with a message from FSRS President Ken Snow.

Our conference wouldn't be nearly as enticing without our wonderful presenters. This year's roster of speakers included: Tracy MacKeracher of Dalhousie University covering Exploring the human dimensions of lobster fisheries in Nova Scotia, Dr Tyler Eddy of Memorial University covering Fisheries in a changing world, Shannon Landovskis of Apoqmatulti'k covering Shared Knowledge to Identify American Lobster/jakej Movements and Habitat Selections in the Bras d'Ors Lake/Pitu'paq, Katie Schleit of Oceans North covering our Climate Change and Fisheries Report, Svenja Kopper from the University of Prince Edward Island covering The Shell Microbiome of American Lobster in Atlantic Canada and its Role for Epizootic Shell Disease, and Shaun Allain from FORCE covers the Lobster survey in the Minas Basin. Jade Petritchenco returned to the spotlight to cover the FSRS science update, and our beloved Director of Operations Shannon Scott-Tibbetts (also hailing from the FSRS) brought it all home with the main event of the FSRS AGM.

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 from Dalhousie covered Atlantic Mackerel, Calisa Staniforth from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography presented on the Spatial and Temporal Variability in Bethic Megafaunal Communities in the Bay of Fundy, Marianna Rampaul from Dalhousie University informed us on the Immune response of shrimp and crayfish under the challenge of viral pathogens, Nicolas Argenta from Dalhousie University enlightened us on the Hepatopancreas transcriptome analysis of American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) with impoundment shell disease, and Isabelle Renault from Dalhousie University guided us through the Effect of *Profilicollis botulus* infection on the behaviour of *Carcinus maenas*.

We thank our project collaborators and fisher volunteers for their support, without which we wouldn't be leaders in fisheries science.

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 and we hope to see you at our 30th Annual Conference and AGM next year!

- The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Team

General Numbers

Parameter	FSRS Conference 2022	FSRS Conference 2021	FSRS Conference 2019
Registered Guests	50	88	110
Final Attendance	43	65	113*
Total Registration Amount	\$450.00	\$1012.93	\$2394.48 (Eventbrite pre-registration), \$535 (registration at door)
Number of Post-Conference Surveys Completed	7	36	43, 38% response rate
Total Sponsorship Amount	\$8375.00 cash, \$2070 in-kind	\$11975 cash, \$3566 in-kind	\$6150 cash, \$3095 in-kind
Cash Raised by Dutch Auction	\$1087.00	\$1300.50	\$1315

*Estimate; excludes those who did not sign in

Conference Agenda

March 25th, 2021: 28th Annual Conference Agenda

9:00	Welcome/Introductions from Drew Jardine and Jade Petritchenko
9:15	Tracy MacKeracher (Dalhousie University) Exploring the Human Dimensions of Lobster Fisheries in the Modern World
9:30	Dr Tyler Eddy (Memorial University) Fisheries in a Changing World
9:45	<i>Stretch Break</i>
10:00	Shannon Landovskies (Apoqmatulti'k) Shared Knowledge to Identify American Lobster/jakej Movements and Habitat Selections in the Bras d'Ors Lake/Pitu'paq
10:15	<i>Trade Show</i>
10:45	<i>Comments on Trade Show</i>
11:00	Katie Schleit (Oceans North) Climate Change and Fisheries Report

11:15	<i>Student Posters</i>
11:45	Svenja Kopper (UPEI) The Shell Microbiome of American Lobster in Atlantic Canada and its Role for Epizootic Shell Disease
12:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
12:30	<i>Welcome Back</i>
12:45	Shaun Allain (FORCE) Lobster Survey in the Minas Basin
13:00	<i>Revisit Student Posters and Trade Show</i>
13:30	Drew Jardine (FSRS) Auction Spotlight
13:45	Jade Petritchenco (FSRS) FSRS Science Updates
14:15	Shannon Scott-Tibbetts (FSRS) FSRS AGM
15:30	<i>Closing Remarks</i>

Summary of Posters and Presentations for Public Release

The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) held its 29th Annual Conference on March 24th, 2022. We had hoped to do an in-person event, but reverted to a virtual venue to, once again, 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:

Tracy MacKeracher (Dalhousie University) Exploring the Human Dimensions of Lobster Fisheries in the Modern World

Dr Tyler Eddy (Memorial University) Fisheries in a Changing World

Shannon Landovskies (Apoqmatulti'k) Shared Knowledge to Identify American Lobster/jakej Movements and Habitat Selections in the Bras d'Ors Lake/Pitu'paq

Katie Schleit (Oceans North) Climate Change and Fisheries Report

Svenja Kopper (UPEI) The Shell Microbiome of American Lobster in Atlantic Canada and its Role for Epizootic Shell Disease

Shaun Allain (FORCE) Lobster Survey in the Minas Basin

Posters

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

Kayla Hamelin (Dalhousie University) Atlantic Mackerel

Calisa Staniforth (Bedford Institute of Oceanography) Spatial and Temporal Variability in Bethic Megafaunal Communities in the Bay of Fundy

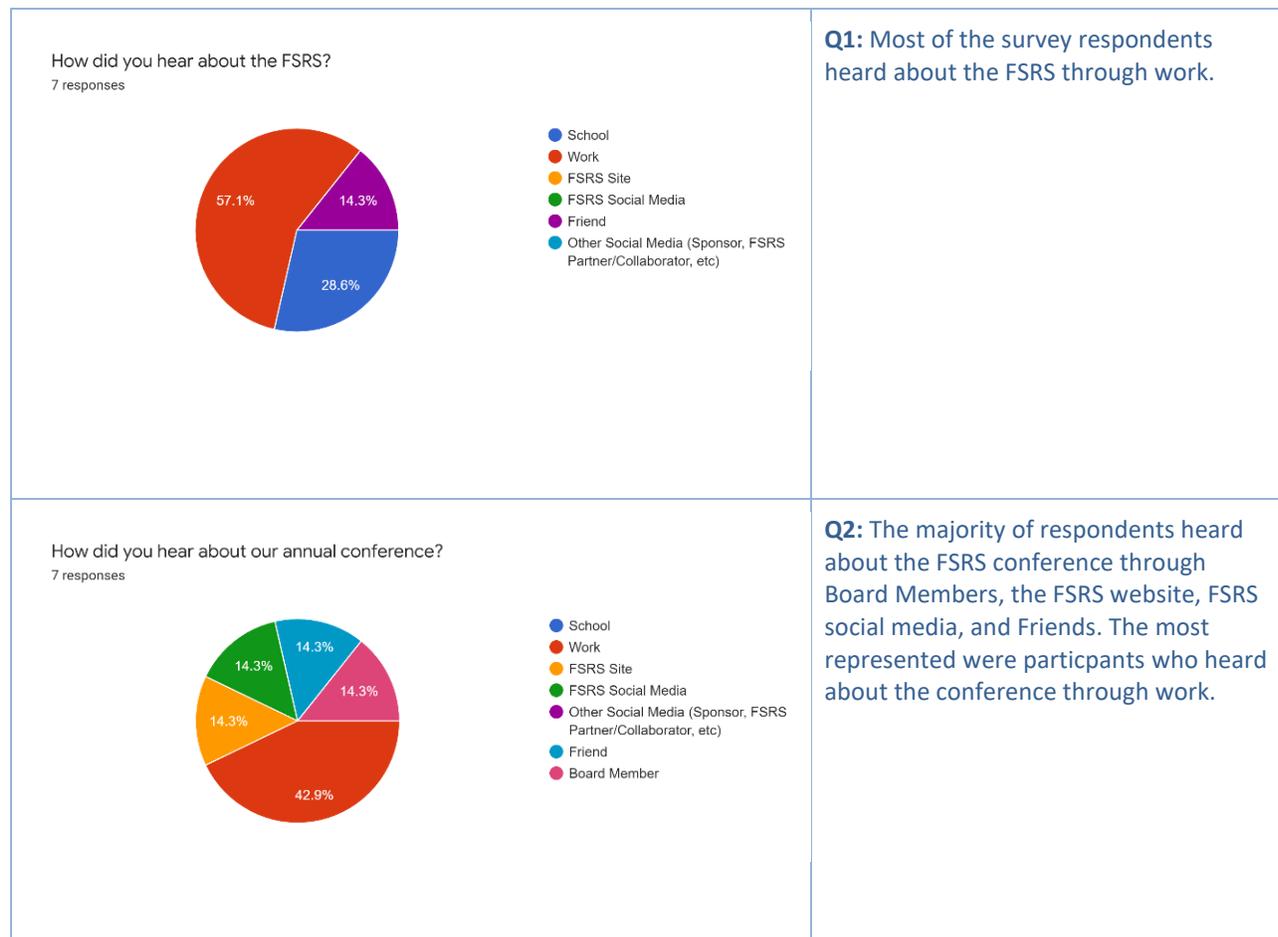
Marianna Rampaul (Dalhousie University) Immune response of shrimp and crayfish under the challenge of viral pathogens

Nicolas Argenta (Dalhousie University) Hepatopancreas transcriptome analysis of American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) with impoundment shell disease

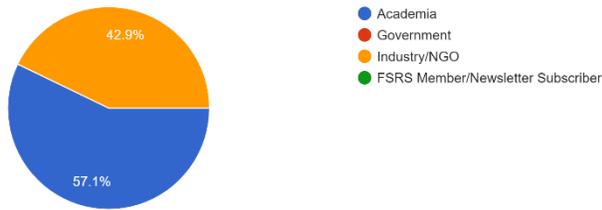
Isabelle Renault (Dalhousie University) Effect of *Profilicollis botulus* infection on the behaviour of *Carcinus maenas*.

General Conference Feedback

Results: Post-Conference Survey

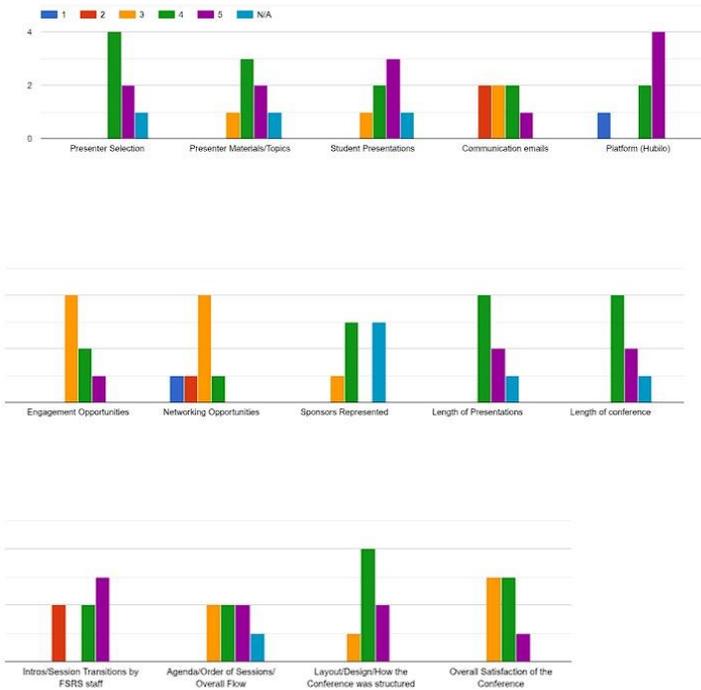


What sector are you representing/What area best fits where you're from?
7 responses



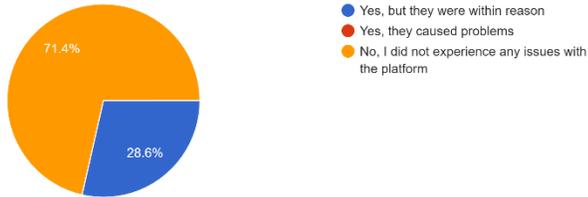
Q3: The majority of survey respondents were members of the academic community. The rest were Industry/NGO.

How satisfied were you with the conference?



Q4: Most respondents were satisfied with the conference and platform. A small group did not enjoy the event, but this was due to inexperience with technology.

Did you experience any technical issues?
7 responses



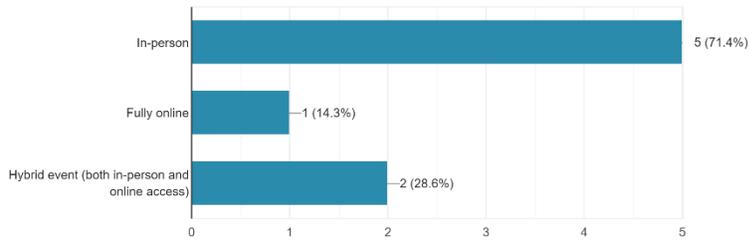
Q5: Most respondents did not experience technical issues and those who did said they were within reason for an online event.

If you experienced any issues, please describe them (leave blank if there weren't any)
1 response

Not sure why but Hubilo would not allow me to share my PowerPoint.

Q5A: One participant had issues sharing their PowerPoint, but we were able to use a workaround.

How would you like to experience next year's conference? (select all that apply)
7 responses



Q6: Most respondents said they would prefer an in-person event. We had a few say they would opt for a hybrid event (meaning you attend in-person or virtually) and even less go for strictly online.

<p>What aspects of this event did you most enjoy?</p> <p>7 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the platform used was a great upgrade from last year! Tyler Eddy's Presentation Presenters The variety of the presentations, there were so many interesting topics! The chat function allowed easy interaction which was nice! MC was great and kept things engaging. The presentations Cool platform, friendly MC 	<p>Q7: Most respondents enjoyed the platform, the presentations and the MC.</p>
<p>What would you like to see changed for next year's event?</p> <p>7 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think the booths and presentations therein should be a bit more structured, or perhaps direction should be given ahead of time so the different presenters have similar structures Variety in student presentations In person Perhaps a bit more time for poster presentations Would be great to be back in person! The use of a better online platform. More in-person networking, more representation from industry 	<p>Q8: At next year's conference, respondents want to see more time for presentations, more variety from students, more industry representation, and to be back in-person.</p>
<p>Additional feedback on the event</p> <p>2 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prizes came for those who were able to participate but not everyone was able to/had the know how to Hubilo was a great virtual conference platform. I think there needed to be a bit more explanation in terms of needing to go between different presentation links, as sometimes it got confusing and I didn't know where I should be on the platform. Overall a well-run virtual conference, they are tough! 	<p>Q9: Respondents would like to see more explanation on using the platform.</p>

Analysis

After extensive research, we decided to go with Hubilo for our platform as it appeared to be quite user-friendly and was within our budget. We investigated some other options, but they offered the same results for a higher price tag. Overall, most participants were able to use the platform with ease, but we did have a select few who struggled to utilize it. We believe this was on the user's end and we would commit to more guidance time with everyone leading up to the conference to become more familiar with a new platform. We believe this would create a more positive experience for all participants and we would consider Hubilo as a front-runner for solutions to future virtual events.

Attendee engagement was slow at the beginning, but once people were comfortable with the platform, we saw a healthy number of attendees interacting with presenters and each other. The leader board system was a hit and seemed to help encourage everyone to participate. Next time we would add more explanation on this as this appeared to be the crux of the slow start.

We saw a large decrease in attendees and registered guests this year. Our collective belief was that most people are tired of virtual conferences and felt that they were not getting the same quality of experience compared to an in-person event. Our take on this would be to further enrich the experience and find more ways to bring it closer to the calibre seen with events done in-person. From our event feedback, there were responders interested in doing a hybrid event. What this means is that attendees could attend in-person or online which would maximize our potential reach.

All things considered, we maintained an appreciable amount in donations and funds raised from the auction. As there was a decline in attendance, we were pleasantly surprised to see that the drop wasn't totally proportional to number of attendees and saw an increase in the amount raised per person from the auction. While these metrics aren't a full scope of the success of a conference, we can at least get an idea of who we see year-to-year and their dedication to the FSRS (see Appendix E).

Overall, attendees and guests enjoyed our 29th conference. Some things to change for future events would be more training for attendees and guests on the navigation of Hubilo (or a viable alternative). We spent a lot of time on it ourselves and would give a larger window for everyone to experience it prior to the event day to increase their comfort and familiarity with it. From our survey, we would also add more time for presentations, more diverse/more variety in student poster topics, and more structure to the booths to give them more of a presence like the presentations/sessions.

Donations, Donors and Use

Cash and In-Kind Sponsors

Organization	Amt. pledged	Amt. Pledged (in kind)
All for Knot		\$40
Art Maree Haute		\$200
Ashored Innovations	\$250	
Atlantic Catch Data	200	
Atlantic Electronics Limited		\$250
Big Spruce Brewing	\$500	\$100
Caldwell Roach Insurance	\$300	
Canadian Whale Institute	\$500	
Candace Creative Co		\$50
CME	\$575	
CWF	\$500	
Farm Credit Canada	\$500	
FORCE	\$500	
Gentle Touch Spa		\$100
Halifax West Commercial Fisher's Association	\$300	
Hook, Line, and Tinker		\$160
Kathy Brown		\$200

Lobster Council of Canada	\$150	
Marine Affairs Program	\$250	
MetOceans Telematics	\$500	
Natalie Rippey		\$50
NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	500	
Ocean Frontier	\$500	
Ocean Tracking Network	\$500	
Oceans North	\$500	
Owen Nichols	\$100	
Perennia	\$250	
Rachel Reeves		\$620
Sterling Belliveau		\$100
Wades Wire Traps		\$200
WWF	\$500	
TOTAL (\$)	\$8,375.00	\$2,070.00

In-Kind Donation Use

Dutch Auction Items

Gyotaku Art (Lobster)	\$500	Lobster Trap	\$200
Gyotaku Print (Pickerel) x 2	\$40	Recycled Rope Boat Fender	\$100
Gyotaku Print (Pickerel) x 2	\$80	Mermaid Hair Don't Care Embroidery Kit	\$40

Reclaimed Rope (Fish)	\$100	Deep Dive Embroidery Kit	\$40
Reclaimed Rope (Jellyfish)	\$100	Lunenburg Embroidery Kit	\$40
Watercolour Lobster Print	\$50	Release the Kraken! Embroidery Kit	\$40
Knot Bowl	\$40	Tag! You're It 4-pack Beer x 5	\$100
Sambro Lighthouse Print	\$200	Gentle Touch Spa Gift Card (\$100)	\$100
ICOM marine radio	\$250	Macrame plant hanger	\$50

TOTAL (\$)			\$2,070
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

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 to Accept: Jade Petritchenko
 Seconded: Emily Blacklock
 Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were reviewed. No issues were identified.

Motion to Accept: Emily Blacklock
 Seconded: Angelica Whiteway
 Motion Carried

4. Annual Board of Directors' Report

We did not hear from the Board of Directors.

5. Director of Operations' Report

Shannon Scott-Tibbetts presented the Director of Operations Report.

Due to renovations at the BIO, we worked remotely until we were approached about office space at the TriNav building (115 Joseph Zatzman Drive).

Jade Petritchenco was promoted to Senior Research Assistant while Angelica Whiteway became a full-time Research Assistant.

We are very happy to announce that we were part of a publication authored by Svenja Koepper. As part of workplan, we would very much like to do more work like this.

With the easing of restrictions, we are committed to doing more fieldwork this year.

Our current staff is as follows:

Full-time – Shannon Scott-Tibbetts (Director of Operations), Jade Petritchenco (Senior Research Assistant), Angelica Whiteway (Research Assistant)

Contract – Julian Greer (Fisheries Technician/Field work), Sarah Thompson (Biologist), Drew Jardine (Communications Assistant/MC Extraordinaire)

The 2021 Work Plan was reviewed (see Appendix B).

6. Finance Report

Shannon Scott-Tibbetts presented the Finance Report.

Independent Practitioners review engagement report stated that there were no indicators of problems, and our statements are presented fairly. We continue to be in good standing and are in accordance with ASNPO.

Our 2021 Revenue was \$239 445, Expenses were \$323 657, and our Revenue-Expenses was (\$84 212). Some insight on the changes from 2020 (Revenue \$228,684; Expenses \$255,937, Revenue-Expenses (\$27,253)) were brought on by our new office space (we now have rent to pay), travel/vehicles/related expenses increased due to more fieldwork being able to be done (easing of restrictions from 2020), and the addition of new staff. We saw an increase in donations from 2020 to 2021 of \$6 818 to \$13 722.

The total projected revenue for 2021 was \$160,760 and projected expenses were \$236,000. Projected revenue-expenses for 2021 was (\$75,240) which was within a reasonable margin due to the volatility of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Projected Revenue for 2022 is \$270 605, Expenses are projected to be \$301 958, and a projected Revenue-Expenses figure of (\$31 353).

Cash on-hand was as follows:

\$351 951 (December 31, 2020)

\$232 461 (December 31, 2021)

\$236 717 (March 23, 2022)

As usual, there is expected money to flow in as the season progresses and is reflected in the 2022 budget.

Motion to Approve Budget: Emily Blacklock

Seconded: Shaun Allain

Motion Carried

The Work Plan for 2022 was presented (see Appendix C).

7. Election and Appointment of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2022/2023

Due to the nature of being online/not in person, we proposed to keep the 2021 board until such a time that we can do nominations in person.

2022 Board of Directors (same as 2021)

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

Motion to keep the board: Emily Blacklock
Seconded: Tracy Mackeracher
Motion Carried

8. Appointment of 2022/23 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 again.

Motion to Keep Lyle Tilley Davison as Auditors: Angelica Whiteway
Seconded: Shaun Allain
Motion Carried

9. New Business

No new business.

10. Close the Meeting

Motion to Adjourn 2022 Annual General Meeting: Emily Blacklock
Motion Carried

Appendices

Appendix A

**Fishermen and Scientists Research Society
Annual General Meeting Agenda
March 24th, 2022**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting
4. Annual Board of Directors' Report
5. Director of Operations' Report
6. Finance Report
7. Election & Appointment of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2022/23
 - a. Executive Officers
 - b. Directors at Large
8. Appointment of Auditors for 2022/23
9. New Business
10. Closing of the Meeting

Appendix B

Executive Director's Review of 2021/22 Work Plan

A few accomplishments from the past year:

- Our Facebook page now has 735 likes and 821 followers. 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

- 560 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 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 October 12-13, 2022 (moved due to pandemic restrictions)
- LFA Advisory Meetings
- Active member of the FGAC

Appendix C

Fishermen and Scientists Research Society 2022/23 Work Plan

Contract and Project work

Continuing

- Lobster Recruitment Index Study
- SWLSS By-Catch
- 4VsW Sentinel Monitoring Program
- At-Sea Lobster Sampling

Proposed

- ESPFA Conservation
- LFA 29 Sampling

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

- 30th Annual FSRS Conference will be held in March of 2023 to continue to promote the great collaborations and important research done by the FSRS and its supporters.
- Will seek sponsors for the 30th Annual FSRS Conference and consider other funding sources to increase monies received from sponsors.
- 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.
- We would like to increase our budget and efforts towards communications and our social media presence

Appendix D

Fishermen and Scientists Research Society 29th Annual General Meeting Attendance List

Board Members Present		
Hubert Boutillier	Jr Risser	Ken Snow
Peter Hurley	Bill Bond	Carl Myers
Emily Blacklock	Evelien Vanderkloet	Megan Bailey

Appendix E

Donations and Funds Raised

	2022	2021	2020
Cash Raised	\$8 375.00	\$11 975.00	\$6 150.00
In-Kind Raised	\$2 070.00	\$3 566.00	\$3 095
Auction Raised	\$1 087.00	\$1 300.50	\$1 315.00
Number of Attendees	50	88	110
Auction Amount per Person	\$21.74/pp	\$14.78/pp	\$11.95/pp

Appendix F

FSRS Post Conference Survey

Thank you for participating in our conference. Whether this was your first time joining us or you're a veteran to the cause, we hope you had as much fun attending as we did organizing it.

We want to hear your feedback so we can keep improving our delivery of information and make each year's conference better than the last. Please fill out this quick survey and let us know your thoughts (your answers will be anonymous).

1. How did you hear about the FSRS?

- a) School
- b) Work
- c) FSRS Site
- d) FSRS Social Media
- e) Friend
- f) Other Social Media (Sponsor, FSRS Partner/Collaborator, etc.)
- g) Other

2. How did you hear about our Annual Conference?

- a) School
- b) Work
- c) FSRS Site
- d) FSRS Social Media
- e) Other Social Media (Sponsor, FSRS Partner/Collaborator, etc.)
- f) Friend
- g) Other

3. What sector are you representing/What area best fits where you're from?

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

4. How satisfied were you with the conference?

(Users could rate each aspect from 1 to 5 with 1 being Very Dissatisfied and 5 being Very Satisfied. N/A could also be chosen if they decided to abstain from that specific aspect.)

- 1. Presenter Selection
- 2. Presenter Materials/Topics
- 3. Student Presentations
- 4. Communication Emails
- 5. Platform (Hubilo)

6. Engagement Opportunities
7. Networking Opportunities
8. Sponsors Represented
9. Length of Presentations
10. Length of Conference
11. Intros/Session Transitions by FSRS Staff
12. Agenda/Order of Sessions/Overall Flow
13. Layout/Design/How the Conference was Structured
14. Overall Satisfaction of the Conference

5. Did you experience any technical issues?

- a) Yes, but they were within reason
- b) Yes, they caused problems
- c) No, I did not experience any issues with the platform

5A. If you experienced any issues, please describe them (leave blank if there weren't any)

(Open ended question)

6. How would you like to experience next year's conference? (Select all that apply)

- a) In-person
- b) Fully online
- c) Hybrid event (both in-person and online access)

7. What aspects of this event did you most enjoy?

(Open ended question)

8. What would you like to see changed for next year's event?

(Open ended question)

9. Additional feedback on the event (optional)

(Open ended question)