Estuaries Section Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)
June 8, 2022 11:00-12:00pm (EST)
Attending: John Mohan, Justin Stevens, Konstantine Rountos, Abigail Archer, Catherine Johnston, Lee Benaka, Geoffrey Smith, Amanda Croteau

- Travel awards
  - We had 7 applicants; 4 in-person (2 PhD, 2 MS) and 3 virtual (undergrads)
  - Awards decided based on committee scoring using travel award rubric
    - In-person
      - PhD – Katrina Zarrella Smith
      - PHD Mike Curtis
      - MS – Ben LaFreniere
    - Virtual (Nigerian undergraduates)
      - Pelumi Ojo Oke
      - Ester Ibukunoluwa Falonia
      - Stella Fatomilola
      - Contacted parent society to see if we can directly pay for their registration and membership – preferred method instead of sending money

- Annual business meeting
  - John contacted MFS to discuss. If we do a virtual business meeting, MFS ExComm would prefer it to be the last week in July (24-29) or remotely at Spokane (Aug 21-25)
    - Discussion:
      - If we do it virtually/hybrid at Spokane can we run it off the meeting WIFI, or would need to pay for a dedicated connection?
      - If Spokane attendees join virtually from their hotel rooms, will we have lower attendance or prevent them from attending other in-person events?
      - Virtual attendance was great last year (>100 attending). In the past in-person was 20-30
    - Decision - fully remote option with July date preferred
    - Will host informal social with MFS at Spokane at a local establishment

- Elections for ExCom will be next year (spring)

- Website update
  - Should we merge with the AFS multi-site or keep our current website?
    - Benefits to merging: security, regular updates, AFS branding
    - $350 one-time fee, $240 annual hosting fee (can request a waiver for annual fee if we don’t have budget for it)
- Decision - Yes, we’ll merge and apply for waiver. ETA when AFS has time to do the site migration
- Abigail is looking to find a webmaster replacement. Plans to stay on for the transfer to the new site and train new webmaster

- Student subunit visit updates
  - Abigail plans to try to contact UMass Amherst for Fall
  - Konstantine reached out to UConn and SUNY-ESF but no replies; Next step reaching out directly to professors at the institutions
  - Justin, similar lack of response at UMaine; will try again in the fall
  - John will resend subunit contact template email
- Mentoring
  - Should we consider a program for more targeted mentoring as an estuaries section at the national meeting and even perhaps virtually between meetings
    - Maybe use the NY women in fisheries mentoring as a template

- Newsletter update
  - Pre-meeting/business meeting newsletter
    - Announce travel award winners, include abstracts
    - Announce business meeting plans
    - Advertise in-person social at Spokane

- Treasurer report (Konstantine Rountos)
  - Current Balance: $4667.52
  - Still working on getting back payments from AFS; Received 2020 dues payment, still need 2021 membership dues payment