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**NOTES – CASS call April 17, 2017**

*Participants: CERF – Susan Park; ASLO – Adrienne Sponberg, Shelly Arnott, and Lushani Nanayakkara; PSA – Tim Nelson; SWS – Gillian Davies and Kim Ponzio; AFS - Tom Bigford. April Croxton participated in agenda item #8 as a guest from NOAA Fisheries and AFS member. Randy Fuller, Jesse Trushenski, and Doug Austen could not participate.*

1. Agenda
	1. Item 4(c) to review past work on intern work priorities was shifted to our next call.
2. Approve notes from March call
	1. Version circulated with the agenda was approved without changes.

3.     FMCS joining the CASS group

a.        No edits have been received so Tom will proceed. Will focus on process to consider/invite new members to CASS and how CASS members will collaborate to share an exhibit booth at conferences of mutual interest.

 **Task**: Tom (AFS) to compile edits on MOU and share

b. FMCS leaders decided to join CASS so we need to send letter to formalize the offer.

**Task**: Tom (AFS) to send letter to FMCS

4.       CASS Fellow

a.       Kim updated on discussions about a partnership with Steve Snell.

**Task**: Kim reschedule with Steve Snell

* 1. We agreed to establish a “focus group” to help us design the Fellow program. Eventually the group will shift its effort toward identifying priority needs so each CASS member will know what they will get from each Fellow. Focus group members are Susan, Adrienne, Tom, Kim, and Tim.

 5. FY18 appropriations letters

a. Susan shared letters sent to House and Senate leaders regarding EPA and NASA program. Those letters mirror the earlier version sent to Congress regarding NOAA’s Sea Grant Program. Those letters might help CASS members as prepare their own letters. There’s also an opportunity to submit testimony on line; could be these letters or a separate document.

**Task**: Review/discuss letters and provide comments to Susan by April 24.

6.       Joint CASS events and activities

a.        Share plans for future events and add to Google Calendar on CASS website

**Task**: Each CASS member should add their meetings and others of general interest to CASS such as MANRRS, SACNAS, etc.

b. Affirm plans to share one booth at upcoming meetings

**Task**: SACNAS in October is only meeting on near horizon.

* 1. All agreed that each member should purchase their own CASS banner for use at joint or individual events.

**Task**: Whoever had the printing information for the CASS banner was going to share with others so they could get the same vinyl product for the same great price.

7. Website with Google Calendar

 a. The CASS website is up for review at [aquaticsocieties.org](http://aquaticsocieties.org)

**Task**: Tom to check on the need for password protection to access the site and perhaps a second password to access archived letters, etc.

8.       Diversity Joint Venture (April Croxton)

a.        April is NOAA Fisheries employee and AFS member who has joined Doug at DJV meetings. She describes the DJV effort and plans to increase partnerships with groups like CASS and individual societies. CASS members were split on preferred approach but either is ok with DJV since they are still seeking members of all types. May meeting may provide more clarity.

 9. Congressional Meetings

a. AFS and The Wildlife Society visited Rep. Rogers (R-PA 3rd) and Sen. Booker (D-NJ) to discuss congressional effort to “modernize” the law. Both meetings were very productive. Others are likely.

10.       AIBS Biological and Ecological Science Congressional Visitors Daya. Quentin Stubbs will attend this event on April 25-26 on Capitol Hill. 12. DC Presence (All)

a. SWS rep is Quentin Stubbs; are there DC-area members with other CASS societies who might wish to join others in congressional visits, etc.?

Our next meeting is tentatively set for May 18 at 2:30.

Notes compiled by Tom Bigford (AFS) on April 18, 2017