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**Call Notes– CASS call December 20, 2017, 3:30 – 4:30pm ET**

Participating: AFS (Doug Austen, Drue Winters and Tom Bigford); SWS, Gillian Davies; PSA, Alison Sherwood; ASLO, Adrienne Sponberg; CERF Jim Fourqurean and Susan Park; NALMS, Diane Lauristen, FMCS, Shelly Arnott; Braven Beatty; IAGLR, Michael Twiss

Agenda items:

1. Introductions and request changes to the proposed agenda – no changes
2. Approve notes from November call – no changes
3. Policy
   1. WOTUS – Letter submitted on applicability rule. Minor typo despite best editorial review/be more careful next time. Next step with agencies or conservation partners uncertain till 2018. Should consider whether to engage in interim and at what level. Discussion should include legal and technical matters.
   2. Tuition Waiver tax exemption – Grad student tuition waiver tax exemption remains in law; was not changed with new tax law
4. Joint CASS events and activities
   1. JASM 2022
      1. Status of MOU –Ready for signature? – SWS needs to wait until its Jan 5, 2018, BoD meeting to confirm but they have already agreed in principle. PSA needs to confirm. CERF is ready to sign. FMCS also ready to sign. IAGLR will not sign on unless event is in Great Lakes Basin. NALMS can’t commit.

Task: Need to clarify language in MOU that Lead Society should not have all the financial responsibility in the event that the conference loses money unless gross misconduct/negligence

1. Partnership opportunity between CASS and the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC). Diane noted this group sounds like a potential CASS partner. Funded by NSF to do synthesis documents across disciplines, to provide special training, handle big data, and more. Strong video/teleconference skills. Diane to provide write-up so we can decide next steps.
2. Website development—adding content, establishing priorities. Diane suggested we set priorities for adding content to our website. Needed so we can reach students we’re meeting at SACNAS and other events. She volunteered to help. Need to decide our messages to various audiences. This could be one topic in a strategic planning conversation in January (as discussed months ago). Could structure next call for that topic. Any other volunteers to chair a topic (policy, web, diversity, education, etc.).

Task: Provide information to Drue on topics for strategic planning and volunteer chairs for potential work groups. All reps to poll members on interest in serving on various work groups.

1. Updating contact information for CASS reps and new officers; request for signatures for future letters

Task: Drue’s new intern, Lili Schachter, will handle updating contact information for CASS reps and new officers; please submit latest officers and reps to her asap. (lschachter@fisheries.org) New officers need to be added and others deleted.

1. Next call – January 17, 3:30-5:30 ET-Note two hour call to do some strategic planning for 2018.