Bylaws of SOCIOECONOMICS SECTION
of the
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Section I Name and Objectives

1. The name of this organization shall be Socioeconomics Section of the American Fisheries Society, hereafter referred to as the Section and Society, respectively, as provided for in the Constitution and Rules of the American Fisheries Society.

2. The general objectives of the Socioeconomics section shall be those of the American Fisheries Society as set forth in Article I of the Constitution of the Society. In addition, the objectives of the Section shall be:
   a. To further the attainment of knowledge about fisheries from the perspectives of economics, anthropology, sociology and related social science disciplines.
   b. To provide a forum for identifying and bringing attention to bear on issues and problems relating to social, cultural, and economic aspects in the management, conservation and development of fish and fisheries.
   c. To provide a forum for addressing biological, economic, social, environmental, and other fisheries management needs.
   d. To work for the furtherance of economics education in fishery science.
   e. To provide advice to the Society’s Executive Director relative to fisheries social, cultural, and economic matters.
   f. To encourage communication among all fisheries scientists, administrators, and other interested in fisheries economics, anthropology, sociology and related social science disciplines.
   g. To encourage publication in Society journals of papers that address issues, policies, and science dealing with fisheries from the perspectives of economics, anthropology, sociology and related social science disciplines, including case histories, policy analyses, and evaluations of management programs.

3. All activities of the Section shall conform to the Society’s Constitution, Rules, and procedures.

Section II Membership

1. Membership in the Socioeconomics section shall open to all active members of the Society after payment of annual Section dues.

2. Only active members of the Society may vote, hold office, or chair a committee.

Section III Meetings

1. The Section shall hold at least one meeting annually at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee, typically at the Society’s annual meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Section president with the consent of a majority of the Executive Committee of the Section.

2. The Section shall periodically conduct marine fisheries conferences, workshops, and technical sessions. The Section may meet jointly with other organizations but will request official organizational recognition.
3. Unless otherwise specified in the Section bylaws or Constitution and Rules of the Society, Section meetings are conducted according to the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Section IV Officers**

1. The officers of the Socioeconomics section shall include a president, president-elect, immediate past president, and secretary-treasurer. Officers shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successor is elected. The president-elect and secretary-treasurer shall be elected every two years. Terms of newly elected officers shall change at the Society’s annual meeting. The president-elect shall accede to the presidency upon completion of his or her term of office as president-elect. The president shall accede to the office of past-president upon completion of his or her term of office as president.

2. Officers shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office within two years of the expiration of their term in office except that the secretary-treasurer may be reelected and could serve two consecutive terms (4 years).

3. Election of officers shall be by mail, email, online balloting, or other electronic methods, as determined by the Section Executive Committee. The ballot will consist of at least one nominee in good standing for each office. Votes for write-in candidates can be cast on the official ballot. Ballots will be distributed to the membership by May 15. Members shall have at least 30 days to vote. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the ballots counted. Results of the election shall be announced by email.

4. In the event of a vacated officer position, the Section Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, appoint a replacement to complete the remainder of the term.

5. No elected officer or appointed committee members shall receive any salary or other compensation for services rendered to the Section. Travel expenses may be defrayed when authorized by the Executive Committee. Clerical and other necessary expenses may be paid from Section monies when so authorized by the Executive Committee.

**Section V Duties of Officers**

1. President – The president shall serve as Chairperson of the Section Executive Committee, preside at all meetings of the Section, appoint all committees, and chairpersons thereof, except as they may be designated in these bylaws and serve as ex officio member of all committees. The president shall submit an annual report to the Executive Committee of the Society, represent the Section to the Society as a member of the Society Governing Board, submit a report of Section activities at the Society Governing Board meetings, and make appointments and perform such duties related to the Section as the Society may deem necessary.

2. President-Elect – The president-elect shall assume the duties of the president if the president is absent, chair the Nominating Committee, and shall insures that all functions of the Section are in compliance with the Section’s bylaws.

3. Secretary-Treasurer – The secretary-treasurer shall maintain a current list of the membership, collect and be custodian to all Section funds, keep a record of all receipts and disbursements, present a semi-annual report to the Executive Committee, conduct the election of officers, and present an annual report to the Section membership. He or she shall submit a report to the Executive Director of the Society within 30 days after the annual meeting of the Section is held and at other times as requested by the Management Committee of the Society.
Section VI Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Section and the immediate past president.
2. The Executive Committee shall have authority to determine policies, conduct business and approve expenditures consistent with the objectives of the Section between meetings of the Section.
3. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held whenever the president or a majority of the Committee deems it necessary. Business and voting of the Executive Committee may be conducted by mail or electronic media.
4. A majority of members of the Executive Committee constitute a quorum. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, and the president may vote in case of a tie. Members of the Executive Committee can appoint proxies.

Section VII Voting and Quorum

1. Decisions at Section meetings of the Section shall be in accord with the Constitution and Rules of the Society.
2. A quorum at an annual meeting is required for the transaction of official business and shall consist of 10 members of the Section.
3. Business and voting may be conducted by mail or electronic media, if approved by the Section Executive Committee.
4. Decisions at Section meetings are by simple majority of Section members in attendance, except 2/3 majorities are required in special cases such as amending the Bylaws and suspending a Rule. Other less frequently used voting requirements are described in Robert’s Rules of Order.

Section VIII Section Committees

1. Committees and Chairs of committees, except as listed in Articles IV and V of these Bylaws, shall be appointed and charged by the President. Except for Standing Committees, these Subunit committees shall cease to function upon the discharge of the duties for which they were appointed or with the end of the term of the appointing officer.
2. Standing Committees help the President and the Executive Committee conduct the Subunit’s affairs, and the chairs should report their committees’ activities, findings, and recommendations at Subunit meetings and interim meetings of the Executive Committee.
3. The Subunit has established the following Standing Committees:
   a. Nominating Committee: Chaired by the president-elect and responsible for nominating at least one Section member in good standing for each office.

Section IX Fees and Assessments

The Section Executive Committee may assess fees as provided by the Constitution and Rules of the Society. Payment shall be made to the secretary-treasurer and deposited in the Section bank account for disbursement as determined by the Executive Committee of the Section.
Section X Amendments to Bylaws

1. The Bylaws are the defining document for the Section and take precedence over all other rules and procedures of the Section. The Bylaws cannot be suspended and cannot be changed without prior notice to members.

   a. The Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of Section members choosing to vote, provided that the proposed amendment(s) are circulated in writing to the membership at least 30 days prior to voting.

   b. In accordance with the Society Constitution, a proposed amendment shall be reviewed by the Society’s Constitutional Consultant for conformity with the Constitution, Rules, and Procedures of the Society prior to Subunit vote. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society’s Management Committee for approval.

   c. Amendments take effect when the Section receives written notice of their approval by the Society’s Management Committee from the Society’s Executive Director.