

Report from CIPS/FIPS Congresses in Niagara Falls, USA
May 9 - 13th, 2018

The meetings were quite well attended although the total number of participants was smaller than usual. There were representatives from over 130 Federations from all three disciplines. However as this was not a main congress where rules can be changed, many smaller countries chose either not to come or to be represented by proxy.

The FIPS-Mouche meeting was quite well attended with new delegates from countries such as Egypt. There was additionally an observer from Belarus.

First the FIPS Meeting.

Unfortunately, Paul Vekemans has now been forbidden to make long flights by his doctors due to ongoing heart problems so he was unable to attend. At the last minute, the President, Mario Podmanik also had to pull out due to work pressures.

So the meeting was very ably conducted by our secretary, Mr Stefan Allacker with the assistance of Edoardo Ferrero who heads the FIPS-Mouche Technical Commission.

The meeting opened with a quorum count which was met easily as some 20 countries were represented.

The Minutes of the Prague Congress were approved unanimously.

Accounts:

The audited accounts again showed a positive balance and a small annual surplus due largely to the year's competitions being entirely in Europe. The accounts should be available on the web site but we currently have over E82k in the deposit account with other funds in the sponsorship account (Cortland sponsorship of the Youth Champs). A significant extra cost not included before is that of the International Supervisors who attend each competition to oversee the local controllers to ensure fair play. Last year this amounted to some E4500 which covers their travel and attendance costs. Again, due to Cortland's sponsorship, each youth team member was subsidised E200.

Another new cost is that of the gauges used for measuring fly hooks. These are ordered and paid for by FIPS-Mouche and charged at cost to competition organisers. The use of these in international competitions is mandatory and so both Australia and NZ should consider acquiring sets of these for use in competitions such as the Oceania, I feel. It would be a small one-time cost (providing the controllers don't lose them) and would give our anglers insight into what they can expect at World, Masters etc. comps.

Venues of next Championships

Some of the following were already known - others were decided at this meeting.

	WFFC	EFFC	Youth	Masters
2018	Italy, Comano 17 - 22 Sept.	Czech Republic Sth Bohemia June ***	Poland, Lesko/Polanczyk August	Spain Asturias April 23 - 29
2019	Australia November	Montenegro July	Czech Republic Late August Sth Bohemia	South Africa Mondiaux Dullstoom, Feb. With Fishing Games

2020	Finland Kusamo Mid August	Norway Roros July or Aug	Bosnia & Herz. July or Aug Now approved	Czech Republic Moravia Or Italy, Dolomites to be confirmed by Board
2021	No comp	????	Italy, Dolomites	No comp
2022	Spain, Asturia (proposal)	No comp	Portugal applied	Canada, Kamloops, BC*
2023	No comp	No offers	No offers	No comp
2024	France Pyrenees**	No comp	No Offers	No Offers

* Kamloops will be 3 Loch Style lakes and 2 Rivers. Cost will be approx \$C1400 per person and \$C1300 per guest

** The meeting approved this proposal as France is hosting the Olympic Games that year. They will apply to have the WFFC held just before or after the Olympic Games as a "demonstration" sport. This is in line with the wishes and support of CIPS. It is for this reason we have agreed to their proposal as it will take a long time to try to achieve these goals.

*** A new style of fishing from anchored boats will be trialed here.

Other business:

Memberships:

Embarrassingly, it was noted that NZ had not paid their dues for 2018 but had slipped through the regulations and competed in April at the Masters. The matter of payment had however already been addressed and this was noted. Other members who had not paid were Malta (2years non-payment) and Wales.

It was proposed by the chair that Malta be expelled. However Misako (Japan) noted that they had registered for this years WFFC . It was therefore agreed that the treasurer will write to them requiring them to pay the outstanding fee before they attend. If this is not forthcoming, they will be excluded from the champs and deregistered as a FIPS-Mouche member.

Two new members were approved.

Austria rejoined after an absence of many years, and Ukraine's application was also approved.

Applications have also been received from the following countries but all paperwork required, including sign-off by their government attesting to their legitimacy, had not been received. For this reason approval was deferred until the next Congress for:

Argentina
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Belarus

All members were asked to ensure that the information in the members data base was kept up-to-date by notifying the President (post or e-mail) whenever the people running the local organisation change.

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New Draw Program

The new draw program which FIPS-Mouche have developed was used at the Masters in April. A large number of required modifications were noted, most of which have now been done. Stefan has been testing the program and says that the majority of it is already fixed with work continuing on a few outstanding matters.

The scoring system used is the existing one. The program can also print each individual score card although FIPS-Mouche are asking for these to be in duplicate so the angler keeps one and the organisers get the top copy. The layout is still missing a few columns but this is being rectified. I raised the matter of needing the top copy at least to be waterproof but it was clear they had not considered this. I am not sure if there is a way of having duplicates that are waterproof but will take this up with the Board later.

There was much discussion about the various replies to the survey on how different countries score their own champs. The Board has not yet come to an agreement on suggesting changes to the current system. There seems to have been no progress within the Board to send Jureck's proposal as an official change. Rather they are doing more work to see what sort of system might be supported. Unofficially, I understand it drew some strong objections.

The majority of countries answered the survey to indicate that they used either the FIPS-Mouche system or something close to it.

Spain proposed a system based on an estimated weight of fish. According to them they have been able to accurately estimate fish weight using the following formula.

100 points/fish + (length in cm) power of 3/ divided by 100
In future they suggest increasing the fish points to 250

I strongly objected to this being considered as this takes no account of the condition of the fish or the type of fish. Most people I spoke to agreed and the proposal is unlikely to fly.

Australia's proposal for a graduated fish points system was fairly well received though the steps were less well agreed..

The Belgium Federation had a proposal which met with more or less universal approval. The matter of scores for blanks has always been contentious. At one extreme you have the situation where all but one person catches fish so they do not actually get penalised since they are already in last place. At the other, you have the case (as happened on a lake in Norway) where only 1 or 2 anglers catch 1 or 2 fish each. All other anglers blank. In this case it is almost impossible for another angler to come back and win the medals if these two anglers do not have any other blank.

The Belgium proposal is this.

Score all the anglers catching fish. To the next place point, add a penalty equal to 1/3 of the total number of anglers fishing (rounded up or down according to normal rounding rules, I assume). So in the latter case (above), with 21 anglers, the penalty would be 7 points. So all the anglers who blanked would be awarded a 3rd place plus 7 penalty points for a total of 10 points. If 10 anglers caught fish, the blanks would be (11 + 7 penalty points) = 18 points.

This system seeks to relate the penalty to the quality of the fishing on each sector thereby levelling the playing field between productive and non-productive sectors.

I later had discussions with one of the coarse fishing representatives who also represents their country in FIPS-Mouche. In some of their competitions they use a similar system but the penalty is the first blank place point plus 50% of the number of blanks. So 10 anglers out of 21 catch fish, the blanks for each angler are worth $(11 + 5 \frac{1}{2})$ points for 16.5. A not dissimilar result to the Belgium proposal. I believe there would have been near unanimous support to adopt the Belgium proposal if this had been a rules changing Congress. As an aside, I propose to discuss implementing this idea at the Commonwealth AGM in Ireland if we can change our scoring program easily.

As to the Aussie proposal, there was some support for the idea of graduated points per cm. Due to some differing ideas, it was also suggested by Stefan that we could consider having more than one version for the scoring. These would be pre-defined to take account of the various kinds of fishing water. Thus maybe we would have one version for waters which are mainly stock fish with few larger fish and another for wild fish waters. For FFC only one version would be used and would be agreed in advance to be the FIPS-Mouche standard for that competition. The choice would be notified via the web site so anglers could design their tackle to suit their preferred way of fishing under that points system.

There was however some support for the actual idea Australia proposed if it was modified slightly. There was a feeling that the first increase should be at 25cm. So, for example:

Minimum fish size to 25cm: 20 points/cm

26 - 35 cm: 25 pts/cm

36 - 45 cm: 30 pts/cm

46 - 55 cm: 35 pts/cm

56+: 40 pts/cm

There will be further talking within the board but the above will give you some idea of what the members would support. Edoardo Ferrero will discuss these ideas within the Technical Commission and report back to the Board.

Note to Aus/NZ Presidents: Paul Dewar is a member of the technical commission and will be doing the inspection for 2019 with Edoardo later this year so forming an opinion before then would be useful..

Anti-Doping

This is now being taken very seriously. It was mostly discussed at length in the CIPS Congress but I have included details here as they also apply to FIPS-Mouche and its championships. The CIPS Anti-Doping Commission conducted four tests at the last WFFC with one positive result for THC (on the WADA list of banned substances) from a Bulgarian angler.

The whole report of the Anti-Doping Commission and the Medical Commission will be on the CIPS web site. For this coming year, two tests will be carried out in FIPS-Mouche Competitions and 2 during practice sessions. Penalties will be determined by the CIPS Anti-Doping Court. They may range from a warning to suspension from the competition up to exclusion for a period of time from FIPS/CIPS competitions.

The list of substances is found on the web under "Prohibited substances list of WADA 2018"

The greatest problems found from a total of 40 tests within FIPS (3 positive results), other than that mentioned above, were the use of drugs classified as Diuretics. It was emphasised by the head of the Court that athletes who need to take any substance on the WADA banned list MUST apply at least 30 days prior to the competition for medical approval to use these substances and not start using them until they have received permission to do so. All Federations should study the WADA web site for details of how, where and with what supporting material, anglers should apply. It is proposed that this information will also in future be included on the CIPS and FIPS web sites. However the matter is already being taken seriously as CIPS seeks a closer relationship with the IOC and penalties have been handed out already.

For therapeutic exemption during competition the angler and their physician need to fill in forms and produce the necessary papers following the instructions published on:

https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/prohibited_list_2018_en.pdf

and

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/therapeutic-use-exemption-tue/international-standard-for-therapeutic-use-exemptions-istue>

For national-level athletes, applications shall be sent to national or regional agencies. International anglers shall send them to CIPS-FIPS Tuec at

f.tripi@cips-fips.it

There being no further business, Mr Allacker thanked the attendees and translators and closed the proceedings. The Next meeting will be Almaty, Khazakhstan on May 2 - 5th, 2019. The following year it will be back in Mexico but this time in Acapulco from 23 - 25th April, 2020.

CIPS Congress

This was again a well run meeting with the majority of business transacted in record time.

So it was agreed to:

Approve the Minutes of the Prague meeting

Accept as New Members:

FIPS-Ed:

Austria	"Austrian Match Angling Assn"
Australia	"Australian Fedn of Coarse Angling Assn (AFCCA) Note that they are rejoining after agreeing to pay the three years back fees they have missed paying.
Turkey	"Amateur Angling Fedn"
Russia	"Russian Sport Fishing Fedn"

Additionally, Paraguay withdrew from membership.

FIPS-Mer

Malta	"Federation of Sea Anglers"
Morocco	"Academie des Activities de Peche Maroc"
Turkey	"Amateur Angling Fedn" Agreed replacement of another Turkish member who resigned.
Uruguay	"Sport Fishing Federation of Uruguay"

It was agreed to expel Haiti since they had not paid their dues or attended championships. The proposal to expel Kuwait and other members of the UAE was deferred at the request from the Egyptian delegate who will discuss this locally.

South Korea's application is still on the table.

FIPS-Mouche

Austria	"Austrian Match Angling Assn"
Ukraine	"Fishing Sport Federation of Ukraine"

Malta's expulsion was temporarily deferred to give them a chance to pay their back dues. Other applications from Argentina, Bulgaria, India (Indian Sports Casting Federation), Indonesia and Belarus remain in progress.

Reports

Reports from the following were read, discussed and accepted:

Praesidium reports from the CIPS President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Auditor & Treasurer.
Athletes, Medical and Equality Commissions and the Anti-doping Tribunal.

The complete documents should be on the CIPS web site so I will not repeat them here, except to mention a few side issues arising.

The treasurer put forward a budget for 2018 with no increase in CIPS fees as the 2017 accounts ended with a small surplus. Note that CIPS is planning to change bank to enable foreign income to be processed more flexibly so treasurers, please

watch out for any announcement. CIPS have over E 237,000 in the bank so holding the fee at current levels seems the right thing to do.

Intense discussion relating to anti-doping was made as per earlier report. This Tribunal is headed by Jose Luis Bruna of Spain who is an lawyer so his report can be relied on to represent the current situation clearly. The Tribunal also incorporates the CIPS Antidoping Court which has the power to hand down penalties for positive tests. It seems crucial that we all understand that they are really serious about complying with IOC/WADA anti-doping requirements. I believe that they were responsible for the testing that has already taken place and will liaise with the body who will decide penalties on receipt of a positive test result. It was still not clear to me who has paid for the tests already carried out but I believe we will come under increasing pressure to take these tests down to Regional and National level in future. So it would seem expedient to open a dialogue with the relevant anti-doping organisations in our own country. So I think it is important that the Medical Commission report is also added to each of our web sites so it is clear to all members what is required.

The Medical Commission (under Ferdinando Tripi) is a separate body tasked with ensuring that the regulations as they pertain to medicines, food, supplements etc. is clearly understood. As noted several positive test were for medicines prescribed by your GP but not allowed in competitions without a waiver.

The Equality Commission reported the results of a survey regarding support for women and women's competitions amongst the different members. However the answers do not separate competitive anglers from women who fish recreationally for many of the countries reporting, so follow-up will be necessary. This work will be split between myself and the FIPS-Ed Irish representative, Helen Rainsford who together with myself & Barbara Durante (FIPS-Mer representative, who is the Chairperson of this commission) form this commission.

During a side meeting of the commission, both Helen and I raised the subject of other people who might be covered by this Equality Commission such as physically disabled people. However it seems the IOC only require the Equality Commission to work on ensuring the participation of women in sports fishing!!!!

The Athletes Commission is headed by Greig Brown (as the FIPS-Mer representative of Jersey and the Channel Islands). He is also the representative to FIPS-Mouche and hence the Commonwealth. He was determined to ensure that this commission really did what it said it should do and not just be a box ticking/keep the IOC happy committee. So his presentation asked CIPS Praesidium to endorse a fairly tough approach to the work program which is designed to ensure that anglers interests are taken account of in the way we run the organisation. Unfortunately only he and one other appointed member (Misako, one of two representative of FIPS-Mouche) were present so not much headway could be made with the program he envisages.

The President, Mr Ferenc Szalay's report notes the multitude of organisations CIPS is now represented in and the meetings of these which were attended. Also the convergence of many of the (mostly European) sport fishing organisations under one umbrella. For anyone interested, these organisations all met at the EFTTEX exhibition in Budapest last year. This year they will meet in June in Amsterdam at the EFTTEX, World Fishing Expo, together with the largest recreational fishing organisation in Europe, the European Angling Alliance.

Next Congresses

The meeting voted to accept the offer of the Kazakhstan fishing federation to organise the next meeting in Almaty from the 2 - 5th May next year.

The following year there were two offers from Mexico and Cyprus. After the disaster we had previously in Cancun, I voted for Cyprus but was overwhelmingly outvoted. We are however promised a much better meeting which will be in Acapulco on the 23 - 25th April, 2021 (staying at the Hotel Excelsior). Obviously the idea of a holiday destination was just too appealing for those who have their flights etc paid for by their federation!!!!

Media and Communication regarding Sport Fishing

The Board presented a draft strategy for promoting sport fishing.

Its main idea was a perfectly appalling film which they were planning to put on the web on ??? web site.

It covered all three fishing disciplines but included totally revolting footage of coarse angling competitors waving their live fish around on the podium. It also included fly fishing footage which showed fish being taken out of the water and handled in a way which is strictly against our rules. The first came from the US Bass fishing people who were pitching their huge rewards in the US bass fishing competitions and seem to have no respect for the way in which fish are handled. I protested very strongly to both the lady from the Bass fishing (who attended the meeting and made a presentation) and Mr Szalay and asked that this footage be removed. Once it is out on the web it will just provide ammunition to the opponents of sport fishing in any form and there will be no way to take it back. We certainly do not need to be associated with this barbaric method of handling fish in the US. The lady seemed surprised that we would object to the footage and tried to explain that this was the way they always had done it so what was the problem!!!!

Mr John Knight presented a somewhat more useful outline of his plans to improve CIP/FIPS visibility through social media outlets. The idea is to get more young people involved in sport fishing but to link together all the various competitions, exhibitions etc. Unfortunately the plan in its current form relies too heavily on models which are acceptable in the US but would fall foul of the new European privacy laws and those we will probably end up with in our own countries. It was explained that the idea to acquire CIPS/FIPS mailing lists and e-mail details etc was probably in conflict with the new EU privacy laws - which had clearly not been realised in the US. Hopefully this will all get sorted and the idea to relate to more young people via a co-ordinated CIPS/FIPS social media program is a good one and should help more of us. More details will likely be available on the CIPS web site.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.