

**2013 AFS Estuaries Section Business Meeting Notes**  
**August 8, 2013 Little Rock, Arkansas**

President Lee Benaka opened the meeting and introduced the Executive Committee Members:

Incoming President: Abigail Franklin Archer

President-Elect: Karin Limburg

Secretary: Lynn Waterhouse

Treasurer: Anthony Overton

President Benaka made a series of announcements.

-The Estuaries Section sponsored symposium will take place on Wednesday, Sept 11 –  
Ecosystem Connections: Watershed Health, Anadromous Species, and Ocean Production”

-There were three winners of the Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award – Dr. Gary Mayer, Mary Yoklavich, and Eric Schwaab. Profiles can be viewed here:  
<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/partners/nancyfosteraward.html>

-An election was held and Karin Limburg from SUNY ESF will be the new Vice President. She will also serve as the AFS liason to CERF.

-Two Estuaries Section newsletters were written and sent to members in 2013.

-This year the student travel awards were funded by the Estuaries Section, the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories, and the Potomac Chapter of AFS.

President Benaka asked for members to volunteer to help with keeping the website and Facebook page current

President Benaka gave a summary of the Governing Board Retreat that he attended just prior to the annual meeting. They discussed the future of AFS and the challenges the organization faces. Some members think that a 35 member Governing Board is too large, and others think it's good to have wide representation. A white paper was prepared that outlined 3 different options; status quo, a 10 member Governing Board, or a 5 member Governing Board. There was a full day of debate and “option 1.5” was chosen. It was decided that some of the ‘mundane’ business could be dealt with by smaller group, possibly the Management Committee, and that the Governing Board should spend more time on strategic planning.

Future Governing Board meetings will happen in conjunction with Section or Chapter meetings so they can get out to meet other AFS members. President Benaka thinks these changes will help the Governing Board to be more functional and work on more meaty topics.

President Benaka gave a summary of the Governing Board meeting that was held on Saturday, September 7. The new executive director Doug Austen has been on the job for only a week. He presented the budget. Revenue projections have been revised down a bit, they are expecting less \$ to be generated by Quebec meeting. He requested funding for more positions at headquarters and they were all approved. The incoming President Bob Hughes presented his plan of work.

President Benaka asked outgoing AFS President John Boreman if he would like to add any thoughts about the Governing Board (GB) meeting. President Boreman discussed the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program. The committee that runs it has been a temporary committee – it has now been made a permanent standing committee. So far over 500 students have come through the program. Incoming AFS President Bob Hughes wants to take the same idea and bring it to the college level. The GB passed 20 motions through unanimous consent because people did their homework ahead of time. A new student subsection has been added to the Mexico Chapter. A Puerto Rico chapter was added last year and there are plans for a Hawaii chapter. The new Executive Director is a past state fisheries program director and he wants to focus more on policy and relations with government. This spring AFS gave a briefing on Capitol Hill about Fisheries and Climate Change that attracted about 40 staffers. It included a member of a Native American tribe who explained how climate change affects culture. It's helpful for Hill staff to hear a 30 minute summary because they are so involved in so many issues. They are looking for a balanced assessment, not someone who is giving propaganda. There are many more issues to plan briefings for – Mariculture is the next on the list.

Treasurer Anthony Overton gave the Treasurers Report ( please see attached)  
-He noted that dues income is up over past years and encouraged students to get involved in sections by serving as an officer – it's a great way to gain experience.

President Lee echoed Treasurer Overton's comments and said that the executive offices of the section require attention to detail, but that anyone interested will receive a lot of support if you decide to get involved.

President Lee handed out 4 travel awards to Shelly Edmundson from University of New Hampshire, Ryan Schloesser from Virginia Institute for Marine Science, Shane Ramee from Mississippi State University and Konstantine Rountos from State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Shelley Edmundson thanked the Estuaries Section for helping her to attend the meeting. She is studying channeled whelk. She gave a talk on Wednesday in the Symposium "Hatcheries and Management of Aquatic Resources". Her talk is titled, "Using Hatcheries to Answer Early Life History Questions: A Case Study of Channeled Whelk"

Ryan Schloesser is working with Mary Fabrizio. He presented on Wednesday in the Symposium "Year Class Strength and Recruitment". His talk is titled, "Does Condition of the young of the year fish vary among years and nursery habitats in Virginia estuaries?"

Shane Ramee presented on Thursday in the Symposium, "Fish Ecology 2". His talk is titled, "Age/Size Related Changes in Gulf Killifish Salinity Tolerance".

Konstantine Rountos spoke in the Symposium on Wednesday titled, "Ecosystem Connections: Watershed Health, Anadromous Species and Ocean Production". His talk is titled, "The Effects of Harmful Algal Blooms on early life stages of estuarine forage fish"

New President Abigail Franklin presented Past-President Lee Benaka with a certificate of appreciation.

President Franklin provided some background about herself and discussed her plans for the Section, including focusing on the 20-year history of the Section, maintaining the Section's social media presence, reaching out to SAML to make our partnership more meaningful, as well as CERF. Perhaps some symposia will result from these stronger partnerships.

President Franklin solicited ideas for symposium ideas for next year's annual meeting. A representative from the Quebec City organizing committee suggested that he would appreciate marine talks. Roger Rulifson suggested a symposium on acoustic arrays in estuarine systems; there are many such arrays and lots of great data resulting from them, including from Canada (maybe ask Jon \_\_\_ from the Governing Board Meeting (the CARS proxy). The Quebec City rep stated that they should talk. Another person (Tom Peterson?) mentioned an Atlantic sturgeon workshop in early 2014, and we should pay attention to that workshop so we can build on what that workshop discusses. Another person suggested that there are several contact people to talk to. She also stressed that this technology changes so quickly that it would be good to focus on emerging technologies.

Karin suggested ecological economics as a theme for a symposium as she has done similar symposia at other gatherings like CERF.

President Franklin described her idea for an estuaries ecology curriculum project and asked whether the Section and CERF might want to work on this effort, which could include a literature search of required reading. President Franklin has reached out to CERF and asked for members to work with her or share information with her.

An attendee (Julie Claussen) highlighted the Western Division meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico, in particular the Mangroves as Fish Habitat symposium.