

To: Donna L. Parrish, President

From: Abigail Archer, President, Estuaries Section

Date: July 15, 2015

I. Motion Report

- A) **Recommended Motion:**
- B) **Minority View:**
- C) **Background for Motion:**

The Estuaries Section has no motions to bring forward to the Governing Board at this time.

II. Activity Report

A) Charge or Annual Program of Work

Estuaries form a nexus between many issues of importance to the American Fisheries Society such as anthropogenic impacts to upland, riparian, estuarine, and nearshore environments. The AFS Estuaries Section was established in 1994 as the primary bridge between the AFS and external organizations and individuals involved with estuarine research and management. It is dedicated to protecting, maintaining, and enhancing the viability of the fisheries and other aquatic living resources dependent upon healthy estuaries through the following goals:

1. Advance the conservation, development, and wise use of fishery resources for the optimum use and enjoyment by all
2. Gather and disseminate information on fisheries science and management through forums and symposia
3. Promote and evaluate the educational, scientific, and technical aspects of the fisheries profession
4. Serve as a primary resource for developing public policy affecting estuarine fish and fisheries
5. Evaluate ongoing and proposed research and monitoring programs that address estuarine fishes in North America
6. Develop estuarine fisheries professionals

B) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments (*fill in tables below as applicable to your unit; based on 2015-2019 Strategic Plan*)

Strategy 1. Organize and sponsor forums to present new findings and exchange ideas

Activity	Description	Number of Attendees
Meetings	The Estuaries Section provided financial sponsorship to the 5 th International Otolith Symposium in Mallorca, Spain on October 20-24 th .	320
Workshops	The Section is holding a workshop titled, " Monsters of Stock Assessment " on August 16, 2015 at the Portland Hilton. The Marine	Unknown at this time

	<p>Fisheries Section and American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists are co-sponsoring. This workshop will bring together nine professors from around the country to provide short lectures on critical aspects of stock assessment science. The goals of the workshop are to “de-mystify” stock assessment science, and to raise funds for the Estuaries and Marine Fisheries Section student travel awards. The workshop name is a play on the 1980s “Monsters of Rock” tour that brought together the best heavy metal bands in the world to play together.</p>	
Symposia	<p>At the 144th Annual Meeting in Quebec City the Estuaries Section sponsored two symposia:</p> <p>Community Ecology and Trophic Interactions of Fishes</p> <p>Telemetry on the Atlantic Coast: Tagging Locally and Observing Globally</p> <p>At the 145th annual meeting in Portland, OR the Section has organized 2 symposia:</p> <p><i>Co-sponsoring with the Marine Fisheries Section: Frontiers in Otolith Chemistry: Insights, Advances and Future Directions (33 presenters)</i></p> <p><i>Co-sponsoring with the Marine Fisheries Section & Fish Habitat Section: Resolving the Multiple Impacts of Anthropogenic Eutrophication on Coastal Fish and Fisheries (18 presenters)</i></p>	<p>60</p> <p>80</p>
Informal Gatherings		
Other		

Strategy 2. Provide continuing education opportunities with an emphasis on training and courses that are not commonly offered by academic institutions and/or that will be essential tools in the future.

Name of Course	Description	Number of Attendees (Students/Professionals)	Length of Course
None			

Strategy 3. Develop communication products and publicly accessible information to promote the value of fisheries, aquatic habitat, and fisheries sciences.

Type and Method of Communication	Description	Target Audience	Number of People Reached
Quarterly Newsletter, posted on the Section website, with links on the Facebook page and LinkedIn site, and distributed to members via email	The Section publishes a quarterly newsletter with updates on Section activities, volunteer opportunities, announcements, and profiles of members and members' lab activities	Estuaries Section Members	November 2014 Edition: 211 members http://estuaries.fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AFS-Estuaries-Section-Newsletter-November-2014.pdf March 2015 Edition: 177 members http://estuaries.fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AFS-Estuaries-Section-Newsletter-March-2015.pdf July 2015 Edition: 211 members

Strategy 4. Develop relationships, partnerships, and collaborations with other professional societies, conservation organizations, decision makers, and stakeholders to establish and promote mutual goals of fisheries science, education, and stewardship.

Type of Relationship	Description of Development	How Relationship Advances AFS Priorities?
5 th International Otolith Symposium	President-Elect Karin Limburg is an active member of this Otolith group. The Estuaries Section donated 200 euros to the symposium to support the best student paper award.	Promotes the mutual goals of advancing fisheries science and the training of young professionals, and promotes cross-fertilization of professional goals and ideas.
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation	Member Tom Bigford serves as liason to CERF.	
US Society for Ecological Economics	President Elect Karin Limburg serves as the Estuaries Section liason	
The Nature Conservancy		

American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists	The Section reached out to a few organizations to request donations to fund travel for a student to attend the Portland meeting. TNC offered funds.	
AFS Potomac Chapter	The Section has been working with AIFRB to organize the “Monsters of Stock Assessment” workshop that will take place on August 16, 2015.	
AFS Fish Habitat and Marine Fisheries Sections	The Section facilitated the awarding of a \$500 travel award from the AFS Potomac Chapter to Amanda Sills at George Mason University. Ms. Sills had applied for the Section travel award and her application was forwarded to the Chapter’s Executive Committee for review.	
	The Estuaries Section is co-sponsoring 2 symposia with these sections, is working with the Marine Fisheries section to hold the “Monsters of Stock Assessment” workshop, and continues to hold joint business meetings with the Marine Section.	

Strategy 5. Publish high quality scientific journals, books, and proceedings that present recent advances, reviews and syntheses of fisheries and aquatic science and management.

Type of Publication (e.g., manuscript, book, symposia)	Number published	Summary	Impact factor/ Number Citations
Marine and Coastal Fisheries Journal	1	3 Estuaries Section members currently serve as subject editors	2013 Impact Factor 1.81

Strategy 6. Develop and disseminate scientifically-based communication materials that represent and reflect the mission of the Society to political leaders, decision makers, stakeholders, and the public.

Type and Method of Communication (e.g.,	Description	Target Audience	Number of People Reached
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letters, briefings, workshops)			
<i>None</i>			

Strategy 7. Provide online resources of value and interest to members and non-members to be the leading source of online fisheries science.

Type of Online Resource (e.g., website, social media)	Number of Unique Visits	Time Spent per Visitor	Other
Linked-In Site	106 members	Unknown	Member and now Treasurer Konstantine Rountos created the LinkedIn group in January 2014 and currently manages the membership and posts.
Website	Unknown at this time	Unknown at this time	The Section decommissioned its former website in November 2014 and created a new one using WordPress software. AFS Staff Member Sarah Gilbert Fox has been very helpful with this endeavor. The new site was officially announced in February 2015.

Strategy 9. Use innovative techniques such as surveys, focus groups, social media, and other means, to determine and respond to the needs, interests, and opinions of Society members.

Technique Used (e.g., survey, focus group, social media)	Number of Entries	Outcome
The Section celebrated our 20 th Anniversary in 2014. We engaged in an in person reflection and goal setting exercise at the annual business meeting in Quebec. Each member present at the meeting was asked to write the answers to two questions: 1) During the period 1994-2014,	18 people – 2 entries each	The Section shared the answers with the entire membership in the November newsletter. Responses will be discussed at the 2015 Business meeting in Portland, OR.

<p><i>what in your career are you most proud of?</i></p> <p><i>2) What Estuaries Section accomplishments do you want to celebrate in 2024?</i></p> <p>Linked-In site</p> <p>Facebook</p>	<p>106 members</p> <p>35 people have 'liked' the page, "Estuaries Section of the American Fisheries Society"</p>	<p>Using the LinkedIn site members took part in brainstorming discussions about 2015 symposia ideas</p> <p>The Estuaries Section continues to update the Facebook page periodically with links to Section newsletters, announcements, and AFS Annual Meeting information.</p>
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Strategy 10. Embrace and adopt new technologies to enhance and expand the Society's education, communications, networking, and advocacy activities.

Type of Technology	Description of AFS Activities Enhanced or Expanded	Other
New website created using WordPress software	The website will improve communication with Estuaries Section and general AFS members	

Strategy 12. Promote ethnic, socio-economic, generational, and disciplinary diversity within the Society and the fisheries profession.

Target Group	Level of Participation	Comments
<p>Under represented groups in AFS</p> <p>Students</p>	<p>The Section made a donation to the AFS Equal Opportunities Section to be used for travel awards</p> <p>The Section presented one Travel Award in 2014 for</p>	<p>The Travel Award Program introduces students to the</p>

	<p>\$500.00 to Geoffrey Stevens, University of Florida Ph.D. Candidate. In 2015 the Section received 9 applications and chose two students to present a \$500 and \$400 award to.</p> <p>John Mohan, University of Texas Austin, Ph.D Candidate</p> <p>Catherine Johnston, University of Maine, Orono, Masters Candidate</p>	<p>existence of the Estuaries Section and serves as an excellent way to recruit new members. The current President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Section were recruited through this program. Geoffrey Stevens was recently elected as Secretary and will begin his term at Portland.</p>
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Strategy 13. Recognize and acknowledge the achievements and contributions of members and partners through awards, special conference sessions, and other activities.

Type of Award/Activity	Recipient(s)	Comments
2014 Student Travel Award	Geoffrey Stevens, University of Florida Ph.D. Candidate	Mr. Stevens research was featured in the February edition of the Section Newsletter. He ran for and was elected Secretary in the most recent elections and will begin his 2 year term at the Portland meeting.
2015 Student Travel Awards	<p>John Mohan, University of Texas Austin Ph.D.Candidate</p> <p>Catherine Johnston, University of Maine, Orono, Masters Candidate</p>	The Estuaries Section received a \$300.00 donation from The Nature Conservancy to support travel for Ms. Johnston.
Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Award	2014 Dr. Kenneth Able, Kelly Hepler, & John Cooper	Since 2002 the Estuaries Section has partnered with the NOAA NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation to solicit nominations, review applications, and present this award. This year member and 2013 Student Travel Award

<p>Best Student Presentation Award in the 2015 “<i>Resolving the Multiple Impacts of Anthropogenic Eutrophication on Coastal Fish and Fisheries</i>” symposium</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Recipient Shane Ramee represented the Section on the application review committee. The 2014 award was presented by NOAA Fisheries AA Eileen Sobeck at the Restore America’s Estuaries Summit at National Harbor, MD on November 3, 2014.</p> <p>Several students will be presenting in this symposium. As a way to promote student participation the Section offered an award. The presentations will be judged by the symposia organizers.</p>
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Strategy 14. Hold elections and convene regular meetings of elected officers to plan activities that advance the mission of the Society and provide sound financial management of assets, revenue, and expenses.

Type of Activity (e.g., leadership meeting, financial status, elections)	Description and Status	Comments
Executive Committee meetings	The Executive Committee meets quarterly.	The Committee met on November 13, 2014, March 12, 2015, April 29, 2015, June 17, and July 29.
2014 Annual Business Meeting	August 17, 2014	18 members attended
2015 Annual Business Meeting	Scheduled for August 16, 2015	
Election	An election for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer was held. The new officers will begin their 2 year terms in August 2015.	Approximately 25% of our membership voted.

Strategy 15. Periodically review constitution, bylaws, and procedures manual and revise using appropriate procedures as necessary.

Type of Review	Frequency	Comments
Historical	1	To celebrate the 20 th Anniversary of the Section member Mick Walsh contacted the membership to gather as many Section documents as possible. She created lists of people who served in leadership positions, of students who received travel awards, and of symposia organized at annual meetings. This information is currently being posted on the new website.

Note: Strategies 8 and 11 will be reported by AFS staff for all units.