

AFS Estuaries Section Newsletter January 2014

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http://www.fisheriessociety.org/estuaries/
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Issue Highlights

SECTION NEWS
President's Message
Treasurer's Report
2013 Student Travel Award Winners

THE SECTION IS LINKEDIN!

HAPPY 20th ANNIVERSARY!

FEATURE ARTICLE
All about Channeled Whelk

MEETING NEWS

President's Message

Happy New Year Estuaries Section members! I hope the year is beginning well for all of you. It's snowing on Cape Cod today, and the forecasted high temperature for tomorrow is 13°F. It's a perfect time to stay indoors and think about projects for 2014.

I'm excited to serve as your President for the next two years. If you have any thoughts about the direction of the Section, ideas for projects, or concerns about anything AFS-related, please contact me. My goals for the section in 2014 are to facilitate communication among our members in new ways, continue our success in supporting student travel to AFS annual meetings, reach out to partner organizations, and document our 20-year history so it can inform our future. I'm looking forward to working with the members of the Executive Committee - Karin Limburg (President-Elect), Anthony Overton (Treasurer) and Lynn Waterhouse (Secretary) to accomplish these goals.

I'm thankful for the great work Past-President Lee Benaka has done for the past two years and am relieved that he has agreed to serve as our newsletter editor!

Keep an eye out for contact from members Konstantine Rountos and Michelle Walsh this winter – they have both volunteered to coordinate projects for the section. Konstantine is setting up a LinkedIn page for us, and we're optimistic that it will promote dialogue among members. The Estuaries section was first formed 20 years ago, and Michelle will be coordinating an effort to gather lists and anecdotes about our accomplishments since 1993.

On January 29 I'll attend the AFS Mid-Year Governing Board to report on our activity and accomplishments. The meeting will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, and for the first time in AFS history members will be able to participate via webinar. I'm thankful for the ability to try this option out since scheduling a flight from Boston to Missouri in January is just asking for trouble… I'll summarize the meeting for you all in the next newsletter.

Until then I wish you a happy, healthy, and productive winter.

--Abigail Franklin Archer, President, Estuaries Section

Treasurer's Report

Starting Balance 8/1/13	$4,030.31
Expenses	
2013 Student Travel Awards	$1,500.00
Award Certificates/Plaques for 2012 and 2013	$ 350.00
Total expenses	$1,850.00
Total Balance on Hand 1/6/13	$2,180.31

--Anthony Overton, Treasurer, Estuaries Section

The Estuaries Section awarded three $500 travel awards to graduate students at its annual business meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, on September 8. The Estuaries Section funded one award, and the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML) generously funded two awards.

The 2013 award-winners included:

- Shelley Edmundson, University of New Hampshire (Estuaries Section Award)
- Ryan Schloesser, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (Southern Association of Marine Laboratories Award)
- Shane Ramee, Mississippi State University (Southern Association of Marine Laboratories Award)

Shelley Edmundson provides this issue's Feature Article, focusing on her recent research and presentations.

--Lee Benaka, Past-President, Estuaries Section

The Estuaries Section has created a LinkedIn Group! The Group was created with the goal of fostering member activity, collaborations, and discussions, while also serving as a forum for disseminating Section news and job opportunities. This group will only be open to members that have paid their section dues and will be moderated by an Estuaries section member.

For those not familiar with LinkedIn (http://www.linkedin.com/), it is a free social media website where users can create a professional online profile (resume) and network with other professionals around the world. There are an estimated 225 million users on LinkedIn currently. So far, the AFS Bioengineering Section and the New York Chapter of AFS have been communicating with each other via LinkedIn and have reported success.

Setting up your LinkedIn account is easy – check out the following website for instructions: http://jobsearch.about.com/od/networking/a/linkedin2.htm . Once you have set up your account search for the group, "The Estuaries Section of the American Fisheries Society" and request to join. If you have additional questions about our LinkedIn Group, please contact Konstantine Rountos at krountos@gmail.com

--Konstantine Rountos

The Estuaries Section was established in 1993 and has been going strong for 20 years now. Before our past accomplishments fade into hazy memory, we'd like to gather our history so it can inform our future. Michelle Walsh has volunteered to coordinate the project and is looking for members to help. The first steps are to develop a list of Past-Presidents and symposia, workshops, and events we have organized or sponsored. We also would like to gather some interviews and anecdotes from the founding members.

If you have served on the Executive Committee, organized a symposium or workshop, or are a founding member please send Michelle Walsh a quick email (michelle.walsh@noaa.gov) with your info. If you're interested in helping out with the project please send Michelle or Abigail Franklin Archer an email.

--Abigail Franklin Archer, President, Estuaries Section

All about Channeled Whelk

by Shelley A. Edmundson
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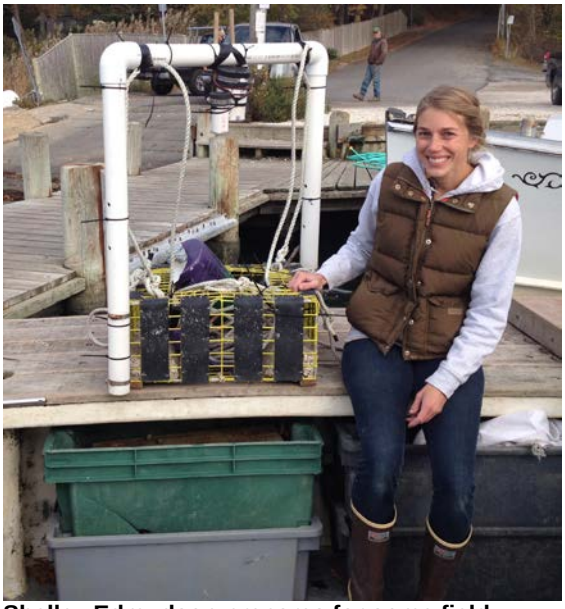
My graduate studies at the University of New Hampshire are focused on understanding various biological aspects of the channeled whelk, *Busycotypus canaliculatus*. Channeled whelks are predatory marine gastropods distributed from Florida to Massachusetts. In Massachusetts this species supports a lucrative and growing fishery, with Asia as the primary market. As the demand overseas increases, more pressure is placed on the fishery. Because little is known about the biological parameters of channeled whelk, regulating the fishery effectively is a challenge. My aim is to document little known whelk biological information including fecundity, early life history, growth rates, movements, and behavior. I am collaborating with whelk fishermen on Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod to help accomplish some of these research goals.

At the American Fisheries Society conference in Little Rock, AR, I presented preliminary data on channeled whelk early life history. It is believed that female whelks enter estuaries during the fall to deposit egg strings. Each egg string consists of many connected capsules containing embryos. Female whelks anchor egg strings to the seabed, and juvenile whelks emerge fully developed after an unknown incubation period. Over the past two years at UNH's Coastal Marine Laboratory, I have cultivated egg strings collected from estuaries on Martha's Vineyard, MA. This technique has allowed me to examine whelk incubation period, hatch percentage, growth, and temperature effects, aspects challenging to study in situ.

Channeled whelk egg strings were collected in the field and incubated in four constant water temperatures (10, 15, 20, and 25°C) as well as naturally fluctuating ambient water temperatures (for both NH and MA). Incubation period (days to 50% hatch) decreased as temperature increased, except at 25C no living juveniles hatched. Egg strings cultured in water temperatures mimicking MA temperatures, began to hatch at a mean of 254 ± 12 days, possibly indicating a natural incubation period; warmer water temperature treatments resulted in higher greater shell growth. In addition, laboratory observations of juveniles floating on water surface film suggest a previously unknown post-hatch pelagic dispersal mechanism could exist for juvenile channeled whelks. Current laboratory work involves measuring growth and survival and testing diets. Future research plans include using an underwater camera apparatus to assess conch behavior, tracking whelk movements with acoustic tags, and estimating whelk fecundity.



Shelley Edmudson prepares for some field research.

American Fisheries Society
144th Annual Meeting
August 14-17, 2014, Quebec City
http://afs2014.org/

This meeting's theme is "From Fisheries Research to Management: Think and Act Locally and Globally." Symposium proposals must be submitted by January 10, 2014. Abstracts for contributed papers and poster papers must be received by February 14, 2014.

Summit 2014: Inspiring Action, Creating Resilience
November 1-5, 2014, Washington, DC
http://www.estuaries.org/summit

This meeting is the 7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and the 24th Biennial Meeting of The Coastal Society. All presentation proposals are due by February 28, 2014.