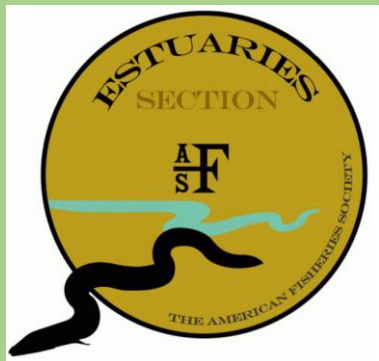




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AFS Estuaries Section News Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter

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President's Message

Hello Estuary Section membership,

The seasons have changed in the Northeast as winter is long gone and the trees are green, shrubs are blooming and my favorite sign of spring diadromous fish are running strong from the ocean up our estuaries and into rivers to complete their life cycle! I am fortunate to have healthy populations of alewives and blueback herring in local streams. These runs have been restored through the hard work of fisheries professionals like you. I really appreciate the opportunity to interact with the community and inform them on the accomplishments of restoration. Seeing kids excited about a river full of fish, so many you can grab them with your hand, really brings home the importance of our work. I hope each of you have the chance to reflect on how important your efforts are to make this world better.

In terms of the Section, members are busy planning for Honolulu and we have highlighted both Marine and Estuary sections supported symposia in the newsletter. If you have the chance to attend the meeting be sure to support our members by attending their talks.

We are pleased to announce the open competition for this years Student Travel awards. Please help distribute the newsletter and information to prospective students. You might notice that we have increased the award this year compared to the past. This was after careful consideration of our financial position and acknowledging the added cost of travel to this year's meeting in particular. Our hope is that these awards will provide opportunity to students that might now otherwise have resources to attend the meeting.

Finally, we are planning a virtual business meeting jointly with Marine Section in August, we will let everyone know once we iron out the details.

Justin Stevens

AFS Estuaries Section President

Justin Stevens



The Penobscot River Estuary in Bucksport, ME (photo credit: Kathlyn Tenga-Gonzalez-Maine Sea Grant).

New Estuaries Section Logo Contest

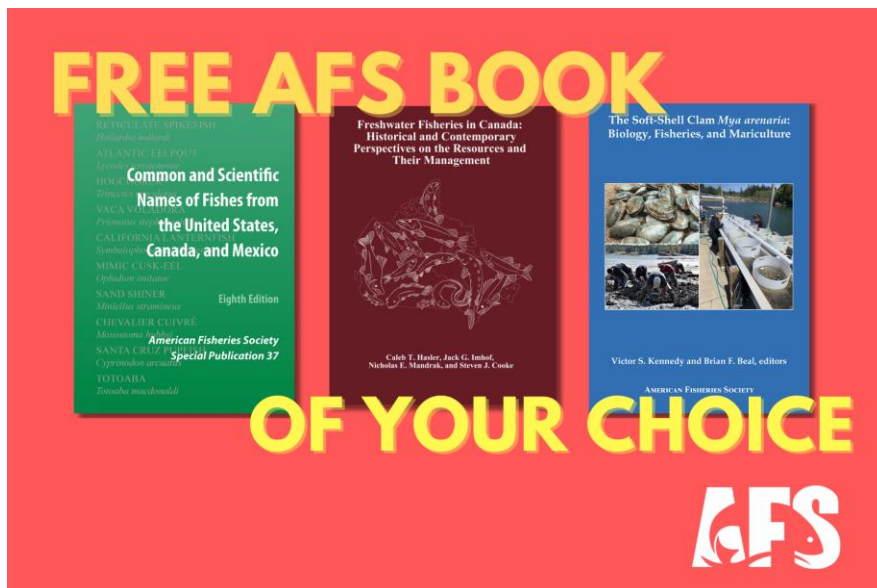
Hello Estuaries Section Members,

The new AFS logo debuted at the 2021 Business Meeting in Baltimore providing a fresh symbol for the society and, subsequently, allowing individual Sections and Chapters the opportunity to update their logos to incorporate the new design.

The Estuaries Section is inviting members to participate in a logo design contest, creating a new logo that incorporates the updated AFS design and encapsulates the mission and goals of our section!! We are specifically encouraging designs that capture the unique biology, ecology, and human dimensions of estuaries.

We have a fantastic and talented body of Estuarinians and want to highlight the artistic and graphic design skills of our members. Logo designs should follow the AFS Unit Branding Guide and use the approved AFS logo files (found here: <https://fisheries.org/new-afs-logo/>). Send submissions to afs.estuaries@gmail.com by July 15th, 2024.

Please include your name, email, and full color .png file for the logo. The winner will be announced, and the new logo unveiled, during the AFS Estuaries Section annual business meeting (date/time TBD). **The winning Estuarian will receive a certificate for a single free item (no cost limit) from the AFS bookstore!!** If your logo design is chosen, you will need to provide: a list of all fonts and colors used for the design, editable vector files for both CMYK and RGB colors, and the original .png file. You will also need to transfer full legal copyright to the AFS Estuaries Section.



Q&A with Past Student Travel Award Winner

Please introduce yourself and when you were awarded an Estuaries Section Travel Award.

My name is Abigail Archer, and currently I work in Massachusetts as a Marine Extension Agent for two entities with shared goals; the Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Marine Program and Woods Hole Sea Grant. I was awarded the Estuaries Section Travel award in 2007.

What were you working on at that time?

At the time I was working on my Masters degree at University of Massachusetts Amherst with Dr. Alex Haro at the USGS Conte Anadromous Fish Lab. My research focused on tracking movements of river herring through structures called Nature-Like Fishways, using passive integrated transponder telemetry. My first AFS meeting was in 2006 in Lake Placid, NY. I have always been interested in estuaries and so I checked out the Estuaries Section business meeting and people were so friendly to me!

Did you continue to be involved with the Estuaries Section after this meeting?

Oh yes, I did. I was elected Secretary a couple years later, then took on duties as the webmaster, and then served my terms as President-Elect, President in and then Past President. I had a fantastic time helping Lee Benaka and others organize the 'Monsters of..' events as fundraisers for student travel awards. The Estuaries Section folks continue to be a friendly bunch of folks and I always look forward to our section business meeting at the annual meetings.

Are you still involved with AFS? With the Estuaries Section?

Yes, I am. I am still a member of the Estuaries Section. This month (June) I will step into the role of President of the Southern New England Chapter of AFS which includes Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Last year fellow Estuaries Section member Amanda Croteau recruited me to serve as Co-Chair of the AFS Membership Committee and this year I'm lead Co-Chair with Dr. Lian Guo.



Abigail and her Masters advisor Dr. Alex Haro constructing passive integrated transponder telemetry antennas in East River in Guilford, CT. This project was part of her Masters research.



Abigail measures small oysters and quahogs in the lab as part of a long term monitoring program tracking growth and survival of seed shellfish in five different areas on Cape Cod.



Abigail standing in Town Brook in Plymouth, MA in 2023 after successfully building a passive integrated transponder antenna underneath a footbridge. The antenna is tracking river herring that were tagged in 2018 and 2019.

Continued on page 5

Q&A with Past Student Travel Award Winner

Continued from page 4

Where are you now? Are you still working in estuaries, or have you transitioned to another focus area?

I still work in estuaries! I began in my current job in 2013 where I work with shellfish growers, municipal natural resource managers, shellfish constables, and river herring wardens to carry out monitoring and scientific research projects that answer their questions about marine resources. I also serve as a coordinator for a group of river herring wardens in Massachusetts called the River Herring Network. I am passionate about applied research, cooperative research, fish passage, and diadromous fish.

What do you see as the main benefits to your involvement with AFS at various levels, including the Estuaries Section?

Our recent experience with the global Covid-19 pandemic made me realize how important human fellowship and community is. It makes me happy to see my 'fish friends' from across the country when I'm able to get to annual AFS meetings, and my local 'fish friends' twice a year at SNEC meetings. It's fun to geek out with fellow fisheries science enthusiasts and learn new things such as tagging techniques, new details about diadromous fish life histories, how fisheries are changing in response to climate change, and how fish habitat restoration projects are being evaluated.

Careerwise, AFS has been instrumental, by making me aware of opportunities to continue learning and expanding my horizons. For example, the annual meeting that I attended in 2007 with my Estuaries Section Student Travel Award is where I learned about the Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship during a student career event. I applied and in 2009, spent a year in DC with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Through that experience I learned more about the Sea Grant Program and four years later was fortunate to land my current position with WHOI Sea Grant.



Abigail and her fellow Extension Agent colleague Shannon Hulst provide information about safe shellfish harvesting practices at a local conference.



Abigail measures large oysters in the Barnstable, MA Three Bays system as part of an experiment to track growth and survival over varying temperature and pH conditions in the field.

2024 Student Travel Award Competition

The Estuaries Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is pleased to offer financial awards to students in support of their attendance at the AFS 2024 Annual Meeting. The Section will award up to two students attending the Honolulu meeting in person.

The award amount will be set at \$1260. This is intended to help cover registration cost for student members, aid with higher travel costs for this year's meeting, and pay for 2024 student membership dues for the Parent Society (\$30) and Estuaries Section (\$7).

Priority will be given to students who are presenting their own research at the conference, are AFS Estuaries Section members, and have a demonstrated financial need.

Application procedures

Interested students must submit:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Letter of application (1 page) describing:
 1. Educational and professional background, including involvement with AFS
 2. Description of research and how it will be presented at the meeting (or if not presenting, how their research will benefit from attending the meeting)
 3. Description of the relevance of the research work to the mission of the Estuaries Section
 4. Interest in pursuing a career related to the goals of the Estuaries Section
<https://estuaries.fisheries.org/2017/05/01/welcome/>
 5. Statement of financial need.
 6. The letter must include all contact information including mailing address, telephone number(s) and e-mail address.
3. Brief email of advocacy from a supervisor, an academic advisor, or other appropriate faculty member at the student's college or university. This letter should state:
 1. Why the student deserves the award
 2. Corroborate the need for the award

Complete application packages (in a single PDF document) should be sent via email with "Estuaries Section Student Travel Award Application" as the title to: Justin Stevens (justin.stevens@maine.edu). Questions may be directed to Justin Stevens (justin.stevens@maine.edu) or Mike Curtis (michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu).

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday June 21, 2024.

Continued on page 7

2024 Student Travel Award Competition

Continued from page 6

Selection Procedures

All applications received by the deadline are reviewed by a committee representing the Executive Committee of the Estuaries Section. The applications will be judged on the relevance of the research work to the mission of the Estuaries Section, the student's involvement with AFS, how the student's career goals align with the goals of the Estuaries Section, and financial need.

Awards and Notification

Those selected for awards will be notified by telephone or e-mail no later than June 30, 2024. Once notified, if you are giving a talk please submit the abstract and time information to Justin Stevens (justin.stevens@maine.edu) so we can promote your work.

To help alleviate some of the upfront costs for awardees, the Estuaries Section may send your check prior to the conference. For this to occur, two things are required: (1) a letter stating that you, the student, need the money prior to the conference and that you, the student, will reimburse the Estuaries section in full if you do not attend the conference for any reason signed by yourself and your major advisor; and (2) the student must submit proof of payment of the registration fee for AFS.

The awardees will be recognized at the Estuaries Section business meeting (exact time and venue TBD). The awardees will also be asked to write an article about their research for publication in the Estuaries Section newsletter. Awardees will also be asked to serve on a future travel award selection committee.



Some of our past student travel award winners.

Announcements

Sponsored Symposium

Support our sponsored symposium and learn about cutting-edge research that examines how multiple stressors affect coastal fish and fisheries. The symposium will start with a keynote presentation followed by oral presentations covering a variety of topics. With over 20 presentations, there is something for everyone!

ID# SP-78



American Fisheries Society
September 15-19, 2024
Honolulu



Coastal systems in flux: Fish and fisheries in a multi-stressor world

❖ Objectives:

1. highlight the most recent and pertinent research in these areas,
2. learn from successful partnerships amongst stakeholders, and
3. chart future directions for knowledge co-production amongst communities, fisheries scientists and ecosystem managers.

❖ Topics covered:

- Hypoxia
- Habitat loss
- Climate change
- Harmful algal blooms
- many others...

Proudly sponsored by:

Marine Fisheries Section
Estuaries Section

Organizers: Konstantine Rountos, Abigail Archer, and Howard Townsend

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

- ASLO 2024: Madison WI,
June 2-7, 2024



Adapting to a Changing World

2-7 June 2024 | Madison Wisconsin USA

- International Congress on
the Biology of Fish: Ann
Arbor, MI, June 23-27, 2024



- Joint Meeting of Ichs and
Herps: Pittsburgh, PA, July
10-14, 2024



- ESA Annual Meeting: Long
Beach, CA, August 4-9, 2024



- AFS 154th Annual Meeting:
Honolulu Hawaii, September
15-19, 2024



- Visit <https://fisheries.org/events-page/calendar/> for other fish related event and meeting info.

Estuaries Section Treasurer's Report

respectfully submitted on 06/10/2024 by
Dr. Konstantine J. Rountos (Treasurer)

Date	Balance	Credit	Debit	Note
2/29/24	4,398.52			Estuaries Section Winter 2024 Newsletter
4/26/24	4,848.52	450.00		Deposit proceeds check (Total = \$900) for "Monsters of Environmental Justice" fund-raising workshop at 153rd Annual Meeting of AFS, Grand Rapids, MI (50% of proceeds for Estuaries Section; 50% for Equal Opportunities Section).
5/08/24	5,807.52	959.00		Deposit (2023 Section dues)
6/10/24	5,807.52			Current balance

Check us out online!

Website: <http://estuaries.fisheries.org>

X (Twitter): [@Estuaries_AFS](https://twitter.com/Estuaries_AFS)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EstuariesSectionAFS>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7443198>

