



**Newsletter Editor**

Geoff Smith  
[geoffreyhsmith@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreyhsmith@gmail.com)

**Webmaster**

Mike Curtis  
[michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu](mailto:michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu)

**Section Officers**

**President**

Mike Curtis  
[michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu](mailto:michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu)

**President-Elect (Interim)**

Geoff Smith  
[geoffreyhsmith@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreyhsmith@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Konstantine Rountos  
[krountos@gmail.com](mailto:krountos@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

Amanda Croteau  
[acroteau@uwf.edu](mailto:acroteau@uwf.edu)

**Past President**

Justin Stevens  
[justin.stevens@maine.edu](mailto:justin.stevens@maine.edu)



# AFS Estuaries Section News Fall 2025 Newsletter

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## President's Message

Dear Estuarians,

This is a bittersweet moment for me as I am simultaneously excited to be reaching out to our membership for the first time as president of the Estuaries Section and saddened that many of our colleagues are caught in the middle of the current government shutdown. The contributions of these folks are critical to the work that many of us do, and their impacts are felt across every level. Hopefully, the issues impacting an agreement on the federal budget will be resolved soon and people can return to doing their valuable and crucial work. In the meantime, if you know someone impacted by the current shutdown reach out to them, see how they're doing, and maybe go cast a line with them.

The American Fisheries Society held its 155th meeting in San Antonio, TX this past August, it was good to see so many familiar faces and make new acquaintances at the in-person meeting. The Estuaries Section funded three travel awards (two student awards and an early career award; details of each will be presented in upcoming newsletters) and sponsored three sessions (detailed below).

One topic that came up quite a lot was ways to strengthen membership not only attracting new members but also increasing participation of current and past members. I have tasked myself with figuring out ways to increase involvement of our membership with the section and the ExCom has discussed some long- and short-term opportunities for member participation (more details to come). We are also looking to start an online shop so folks can buy gear with the Estuaries Section's logo on it, more info on this in the not-too-distant future. The funds will help us continue to offer student and early career travel awards for those attending the AFS annual meeting.

Finally, we are still organizing elections for section officers and are seeking nominations for all positions: president-elect, treasurer, and secretary. This is a great opportunity to be part of AFS leadership and become a pivotal part of the Estuaries Section. Nominations will close on OCTOBER 27th, and we will have elections immediately after.

Thank you so much for your membership and best wishes as we wrap up 2025!

Mike Curtis

AFS Estuary Section President

# Student Travel Award Winner Article

Andrea Casey, M.S. Student  
University of Maine  
Advised by Dr. Joseph D. Zydlewski

Andrea presented two oral presentations at the 2025 AFS Meeting which focused on her research conducted for both her B.S. and M.S. theses. A brief overview of each project presentation is presented below.

One of my presentations was about my B.S. thesis that tracked the seasonal movements of non-native white catfish (*Ameiurus catus*) in the Penobscot River estuary in Maine. For this study, we acoustically tagged 10 adult white catfish off the Bangor waterfront and tracked their movements both actively and passively from July 2022 through April 2023. We concluded that, though limited by our small sample size, these fish are highly likely to make long distance movements (>25km) during high flow events and in warmer water.



My other presentation focused on my M.S. thesis which is aimed at understanding mercury (Hg) contamination in striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) in the Penobscot River in Maine. To accomplish this, we are acoustically tagging 40 adult striped bass in the river and will be comparing their movements against the known contamination gradient in our river. We are also lethally sampling, and accepting public donations of racks, ~30 fish to analyze Hg concentrations in otoliths, optical lenses, and fillet tissue.



# Sponsored Symposia Summaries

## Connectivity and Management of Estuarine-dependent Species

This session explored how mobile species with an estuarine-dependent life history stage connect populations, communities, and ecosystems across spatial scales extending along the freshwater-to-marine continuum. Presenters highlighted evolving paradigms, emerging methodologies, and predictions of current and future dynamics of ecologically valuable species in the face of global change. Many presentations examined ecological dynamics of species in the context of management strategies that must contend with environmentally variable systems. Altogether, the session included 32 oral and 4 poster presentations across two full and fantastic days! This session was jointly organized by Danny Coffey, Zach Olsen, and Ben Walther.

## Hypoxia and Fisheries: Understanding the Past and Predicting the Future

This session explored the multifaceted impacts of oxygen loss on fish behavior, physiology, food webs, ecosystems, and fisheries across a range of organizational scales. The session concluded with an open discussion on ways to integrate physiology-to-ecosystem perspectives in future collaborative research to better inform policy makers about predicted impacts of oxygen loss in aquatic systems. There was even a sing-along of the “Survivor’s Shanty” by Elizabeth LoGiudice, written to educate and engage diverse audiences about the plight of species dealing with low oxygen (check it out at [bit.ly/HypoxiaSongs](https://bit.ly/HypoxiaSongs)). This session included 11 oral and 3 poster presentations, and it was jointly organized by Ben Walther, Karin Limburg, Anna Sturrock, Alexia Dubuc, and Yvette Heimbrand.

## Advances in Chemical Tagging Techniques and Structures

This session focused on the progression of tagging techniques and structures used in ecological analyses. The aim was to highlight more recent and novel applications that provide a better understanding of fish life history to better inform policy makers and stakeholders. This session included 5 oral presentations and was jointly organized by Michael Curtis, Ben Walther, Alfonsina Romo-Curiel, Zacchaeus Compson, and John Mohan.



# Announcements

## Elections

- 2025 is an election year for the Estuaries Section
- The positions of President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer will have elections held prior to the 2025 AFS annual meeting. Please note these are all 2-year positions, but the President Elect position is a 6-year commitment (2 years as President Elect, 2 years as President, and 2 years as Past President).
- If you are interested in running for one of these positions or would like more information about these positions please contact Estuaries Section President, Mike Curtis ([michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu](mailto:michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu)).
- We request that nominations for these positions be received ASAP and no later than October 27th.

## Upcoming Meetings

- North American Lake Management Society  
Myrtle Beach, SC, Nov 4-7, 2025



- Bonefish and Tarpon Trust 8<sup>th</sup> International Science Symposium  
Fort Lauderdale, FL,  
Nov 7-8, 2025



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

# Estuaries Section Treasurer's Report

respectfully submitted on 10/20/2025 by  
Dr. Konstantine J. Rountos (Treasurer)

| Date     | Balance  | Credit | Debit | Note                                   |
|----------|----------|--------|-------|--|
| 07/11/25 | 1,427.52 |        |       | Summer Newsletter - Treasurer's Report |
| 08/01/25 | 1,427.52 |        |       | Business Meeting                       |
| 10/20/25 | 1,427.52 |        |       | 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>

