



Newsletter Editor

Geoff Smith
geoffreyhsmith@gmail.com

Webmaster

Mike Curtis
michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu

Section Officers

President
Mike Curtis
michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu

President-Elect
Geoff Smith
geoffreyhsmith@gmail.com

Treasurer
Konstantine Rountos
krountos@gmail.com

Secretary
Amanda Croteau
acroteau@uwf.edu

Past President
Justin Stevens
justin.stevens@maine.gov



AFS Estuaries Section News Spring 2026 Newsletter

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| In this issue: | |
| President's Message..... | 2 |
| Online Store Opening..... | 3 |
| Call for 2026 Student Travel Award..... | 4 |
| AFS 2026 Sponsored Symposium..... | 6 |
| Announcements..... | 7 |
| Treasurer's Report..... | 8 |

President's Message

Hello Estuaries Section Membership,

First off, I want to introduce our new president-elect – Dr. Geoffrey Smith!!! Thanks so much, Geoff, for your dedication and I'm excited for the future of the Estuaries Section!

Spring has sprung, and that means longer, warmer days bringing forth a burst of life that has been dormant over winter. It's a time of renewal and growth as vegetation begins to bloom and animal activity increases. Concurrently, people will be shrugging off the last remnants of winter by getting outside and enjoying nature. This is the time that many folks begin preparing for spring/summer field work, anticipating the end of a grueling semester, and/or preparing to attend conferences and symposia.

As we near AFS 156 in Columbus, OH, the Estuaries Section wants to remind our student members that we will be offering travel awards to the annual meeting (see below). To paraphrase our past-president, Justin Stevens, students and early career professionals are the future of our field, whether it be in agency, academia, or the private sector. A primary goal of the Estuaries Section is to provide opportunities for future generations to attend meetings and benefit from being a part of AFS.

Another goal of our section is to provide opportunities for our members to engage with each other. We aim to organize panel discussions that will allow experienced members to discuss their expertise over a variety of topics and create a meeting space to share knowledge and experiences. Please click on this [link](#) and fill out the questionnaire if this is something you want to participate in, either as a panelist or attendee.

Lastly, I am happy to say that the Estuaries Section now has an online shop. Check out the link below to peruse our gear and show your support for the Estuaries Section!!

Thanks so much for your continued membership!

Mike Curtis

AFS Estuary Section President

Estuaries Section Online Store

- We have officially launched an online merchandise store to promote our section and raise funds for future travel awards.
- We're currently offering several shirt designs, hoodies, hats, and stickers with our new logo (see some examples below).
- The shop can be accessed at: <https://estuaries-section-afs.myspreadshop.com/>
- Section member will receive a 25% discount off of their purchases until April 6th



2026 Student Travel Award Competition

The Estuaries Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is pleased to offer a financial award to a student in support of their attendance at the AFS 2025 Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH.

The award amount will be set at \$418. This is intended to help cover registration cost for student members and pay for 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: Mike Curtis (michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu) Questions may be directed to Mike Curtis (michaelcurtis3@my.unt.edu) or Geoff Smith (smithg33@nwfsc.edu).

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday May 29, 2026.

Continued on page 5

2026 Student Travel Award Competition

Continued from page 4

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 e-mail no later than June 12, 2026. Once notified, if you are giving a talk please submit the abstract and time information to Geoff Smith (smithg33@nwfsc.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 may also be asked to serve on a future travel award selection committees.



Some of our past student travel award winners.

Sponsored Symposium at AFS 2026

The Magnuson-Stevens Act at 50: Perspectives on U.S. Marine Fisheries Management

Description: It is the 50th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the foundational law governing U.S. science-based fisheries management. This session explores how fisheries science and management have co-evolved since the MSA's enactment, highlighting scientific progress, successes, lessons learned, and future directions.

Supported by: Marine Fisheries Section, Estuaries Section, Ocean Conservancy

Organizers: Susan Piacenza, Oregon State University; Timothy Grabowski, U.S. Geological Survey – HI Cooperative Fishery Research Unit; Elizabeth Cerny-Chipman, Ocean Conservancy; Michael Curtis, University of North Texas; contact email: susiepiacenza@gmail.com



156TH ANNUAL MEETING

COLUMBUS

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Announcements

Symposium Article from AFS 2024

A perspective article was recently published in Fisheries that summarizes much of the information presented in the Coastal Systems in Flux: Fish and Fisheries in a Multi-stressor World symposium at the 2024 AFS meeting. This session was co-sponsored by the Estuaries and Marine Fisheries section. The article is open access and can be found at this [link](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- International Fish Passage Conference
UC Davis, CA, May 4-8, 2026



- Sharks International
Colombo, Sri Lanka, May 3-6, 2026



- ASLO-SIL Joint Meeting
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
May 12-16, 2026



ASLO-SIL Joint Meeting
AQUATIC
CONFLUENCE
Science, People, Knowledge

- Society for Freshwater Science
Spokane, WA, May 17-21



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

Estuaries Section Treasurer's Report

respectfully submitted on 03/19/2026 by
Dr. Konstantine J. Rountos (Treasurer)

| Date | Balance | Credit | Debit | Note |
|----------|----------|--------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 10/20/26 | 1,427.52 | | | Fall Newsletter - Treasurer's Report |
| 03/19/26 | 1,427.52 | | | Current balance |

*Note: Form 990-N(e-Postcard) was submitted and accepted by the IRS for tax year 2025 on 03/10/2026.

Check us out online!

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

Spreadshop: <https://estuaries-section-afs.myspreadshop.com/>

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

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

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

