

Under the Dock

November/December 2024



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Mark Your Calendar

- **November 8**
 - Gift of AFS Membership Award deadline
- **November 30**
 - GAAFS President-Elect **nominations** due
- **December 9 - 13**
 - SEAFWA (Rescheduled)
- **December 17**
 - Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship deadline
 - Robert E. Reinert Travel Award deadline
- **December 30, 2024**
 - GAAFS FPY and FCY Nominations due
- **January 3, 2025**
 - 2025 Georgia AFS Abstracts Due
- **January 14, 2025**
 - Deadline to make hotel reservation
- **January 28 - 30, 2025**
 - Georgia AFS Annual Meeting
 - Doubletree Hotel, Augusta, GA
- **February 17 - 21, 2025**
 - SDAFS Annual Meeting - Asheville, NC

OUR MISSION

The mission of the American Fisheries Society and the Georgia Chapter is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

You can help support our mission by becoming a member of Georgia AFS, joining the American Fisheries Society, becoming a Georgia AFS Sponsor, donating to our annual fundraiser, or participating in our annual meeting. Visit our website for more info.

<https://gaafs.org/>

The newsletter is interactive - if the font is blue or underlined you can click on it for more information. Click on images with a play button for a video



We are looking for high-quality photos to use for the newsletter cover page. We are in need of pictures showing fisheries professionals and students working (lab, fieldwork, etc.).



Bubba Bass

Do you have an idea for an article?

We welcome a broad range of submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Articles range from 250 to 1200 words.

Contact us at GeorigaAFS@gmail.com if you have questions. We also welcome suggestions for an aquatic species to highlight, safety tips, and ideas for the sections *Did You Know* and *The Bookshelf*.

DOCKSIDE

Communicating Science Effectively: Bridging the Gap Between Experts and the Public

In an age where scientific advancements shape our daily lives—from health care to climate change—effective communication of scientific concepts has never been more crucial. Bridging the gap between scientific experts and the general public requires clarity, accessibility, and engagement. To foster a well-informed society, scientists and communicators must employ strategies that make science relatable and understandable.

Understanding the Audience

Effective science communication begins with a deep understanding of the audience. Scientists must recognize that their audience varies widely regarding their background knowledge, interests, and values. Tailoring the message to suit different demographic groups—such as children, policymakers, or the general public—enhances engagement and comprehension.



For instance, a scientist might use simple language, relatable analogies, and interactive demonstrations when addressing a group of schoolchildren. Conversely, when speaking to policymakers, the focus should be on the implications of research findings for public policy, using data and concise arguments to support recommendations. Recognizing these differences helps ensure that scientific messages resonate with the intended audience.

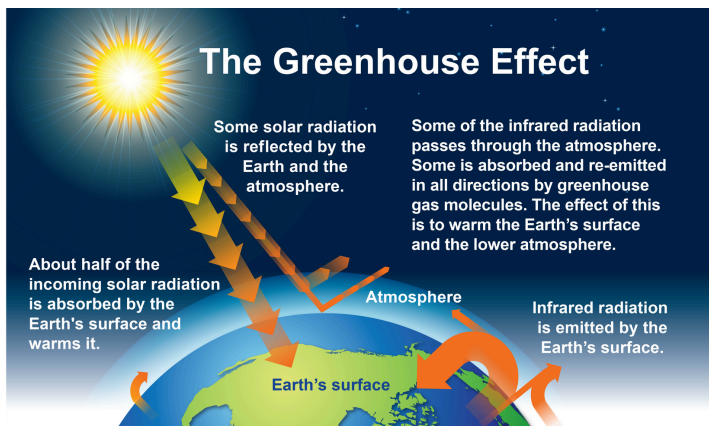
Engaging Storytelling

Storytelling is a powerful tool in science communication. People are naturally drawn to stories, and weaving scientific information into a narrative can make it more engaging and memorable. Effective science communicators often highlight personal experiences, real-world applications, and the human elements of scientific inquiry.

For instance, telling the story of a researcher's journey to explain the connection between hydrilla and vascular myelinopathy in bald eagles can illustrate the rigorous process of scientific discovery while emphasizing its importance to public health. By framing scientific information within a narrative, communicators can capture attention and evoke emotional responses, making the information more impactful.

Simplifying Complex Concepts

Science often involves intricate theories and technical jargon that can alienate non-experts. Effective science communication requires breaking down complex concepts into digestible pieces. This can be achieved through using analogies, metaphors, and visual aids, which can make abstract ideas more tangible.



For example, explaining the concept of the greenhouse effect could involve comparing the Earth's atmosphere to a blanket that keeps us warm. Such analogies make the science relatable and easier to grasp. Visual aids—such as infographics, charts, and videos—can also enhance understanding by visually representing data and processes.

Utilizing Multiple Platforms

In today's digital age, scientists can access various platforms to disseminate their work. Social media, blogs, podcasts, and video platforms can reach diverse audiences and facilitate dialogue. Effective science communication involves selecting the right medium for the message and utilizing multiple platforms to maximize reach.

For example, a scientist might use Instagram or LinkedIn for quick updates and to engage with the public in real-time discussions. A blog can offer more in-depth analyses, while a podcast can allow for conversational explorations of complex topics. By diversifying communication channels, scientists can reach broader audiences and adapt their messages to suit each platform's strengths.

Encouraging Dialogue and Feedback

Science communication should not be a one-way street. Engaging the audience in dialogue encourages questions and feedback, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Scientists should create opportunities for interaction through public lectures, Q&A sessions, or online forums.

Encouraging questions not only clarifies misconceptions but also shows that scientists value public input. This participatory approach demystifies science and helps build trust between scientists and the communities they serve.



Addressing Misinformation

In a time of swift information sharing, countering misinformation is essential for successful science communication. Scientists must actively confront inaccuracies and offer clear, evidence-based responses. This entails correcting false information and comprehending why specific audiences connect with it.

Communicators should strive to provide context, explain the scientific consensus, and emphasize critical thinking skills. By fostering media literacy and encouraging skepticism toward unverified claims, scientists can empower the public to seek accurate information.

Conclusion

Effective communication of science is essential for fostering a well-informed society capable of engaging with critical issues. Scientists can bridge the gap between specialized knowledge and public understanding by comprehending their audience, employing storytelling, simplifying intricate concepts, utilizing diverse platforms, stimulating dialogue, and countering misinformation. In doing so, they enhance scientific literacy and cultivate a collective understanding of science's role in shaping our world. As we navigate the challenges of the 21st century, effective science communication will be key to building a more informed, engaged, and resilient society.

Communicating Science Videos

The Art of Persuasive Storytelling

Storytelling

CLICK HERE ✨

Eleven Principles for Communicating Science to Get Results

CLICK HERE ✨

Sharing Science Through Story

CLICK HERE ✨

NEWS & UPDATES

2025 Annual Meeting

Fishing for Insights: Unleashing the Power of Research to Sustain Our Aquatic Resources

The Georgia AFS EXCOM and Planning Team are collaborating with other chapter committees to create an engaging and impactful experience for those planning to attend the 2025 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting. Our technology team plans an additional year of testing our skills to provide a virtual meeting experience for those unable to attend the meeting in Augusta. This will be free for Georgia AFS members because we are still working out the logistics of how this will work with the equipment we have on hand. Our volunteers are passionate about making this meeting a success.



2025 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting Events

- Research and technical presentation sessions
 - Mini-symposium: *Revitalizing and Overseeing Aquatic Habitats: Maintaining Ecological Equilibrium and Supporting Biodiversity*
 - Research Posters
- Networking events
 - Icebreaker
 - Tuesday Night Social
 - Trivia
 - Student-Mentor Luncheon
- Mini-workshop: TBD
- Fellowship of Christian Conservationists
- Business Meeting
- Awards Banquet
- Annual Fundraiser

Visit our [WEBSITE](#) for information about submitting your abstract, registering for the meeting, making your hotel reservations, and nominating someone for an award



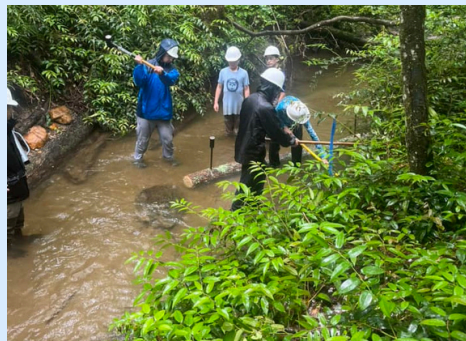
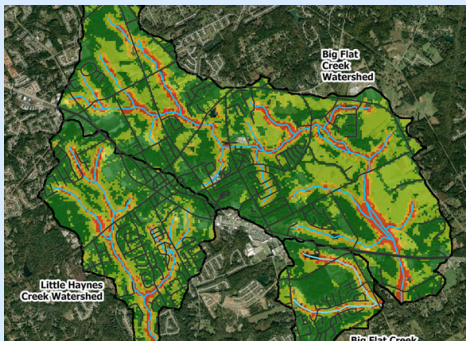
2025 Annual Meeting Mini-Symposium

Revitalizing and Overseeing Aquatic Habitats: Maintaining Ecological Equilibrium and Supporting Biodiversity

Aquatic habitats, encompassing freshwater and marine ecosystems, play a critical role in sustaining biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, and maintaining ecological balance. This symposium aims to highlight the research, innovative conservation strategies, and community-driven initiatives that promote the resilience and sustainability of our aquatic habitats. We are interested in presentations that explore topics that address ecological connectivity, in-stream habitat work, natural flow regimes, fish passage, wetland and riparian restoration, living shorelines/artificial reefs, sea level rise, the use of remote sensing to map aquatic habitats to inform decision-making processes, proactive programs to protect aquatic habitats, the economics of restoration, marine protected areas, etc.).

Are you interested in presenting in the 2025 mini-symposium?

Email Rebecca Brown (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)



2025 Georgia AFS Student-Mentor Luncheon

The Membership and Student Affairs Committee invites students and professionals to participate in the 2025 Student-Mentor Luncheon.

All students and professionals wanting to participate in the luncheon need to select “yes” to the question on the meeting [registration form](#).



2025 Annual Meeting

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

One way to be more involved with Georgia AFS is to volunteer to help during the annual meeting. Our volunteers are essential to the success of our annual meeting. We need volunteers for the following:

- Session moderators (open to professionals and students)
- Student presentation judges (only open to professionals)
- Registration table (open to professionals and students)
- Presentation computer monitor (open to professionals and students)
- Photographers (open to professionals and students)
- Mentors for the Student-Mentor Luncheon (open to professionals only)



Georgia AFS Committee Updates

Nominations Committee: The deadline to nominate yourself or a colleague for GAAFS President-Elect is November 30, 2024. [Georgia AFS Officer Nomination Form](#)

Program Committee: Review the guidelines for submitting your [abstract](#) for the 2025 Georgia AFS annual meeting. The deadline to submit your abstract is January 3, 2025.

Fundraising Committee: Fundraising has been going well. Let us know if you have anything you would like to donate for the [annual raffle and silent auction fundraiser](#). (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)

Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee: We are waiting to hear back from the AFS Governing Board as to whether or not they approve the revisions of our Bylaws.

Membership & Student Affairs Committee: Stay tuned to hear more about the Student-Mentor Luncheon. The luncheon is free for mentors and students. Don't forget to pay your [Georgia AFS membership](#) dues and renew or join the [American Fisheries Society](#).

Awards Committee: Review the guidelines for 2025 [award nominations](#). Some award nominations are due at the end of December.

Scholarship Committee: The deadline to submit your application for the Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship is December 18. Visit the [Georgia AFS Student Scholarships/Travel Awards](#) webpage for more details about student awards.

Communications Committee: You may have noticed some changes to the Georgia AFS website. The overhaul of the chapter's website should be complete in January 2025.

Georgia AFS 2025 Lightning Talks



At the 2024 annual meeting, our lightning talks were a huge success among both our presenters and audience members. We are thrilled to announce that this opportunity will be available again in 2025. However, we have only 10 slots available, so interested individuals should register early to avoid disappointment.

Lightning talks open to professionals ONLY

Presentation Parameters: Time limit is 5 minutes

Deadline to register your lightning talk: January 3, 2025

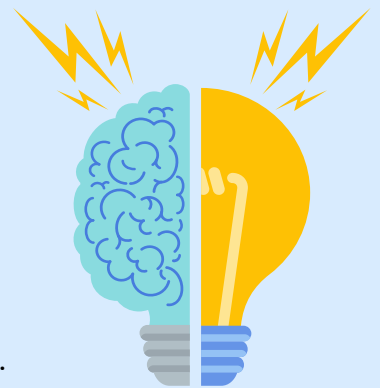


What is a lightning talk?

Lightning talks are short presentations that focus on just a couple of key points. Done well, they are a great way to get your point across in a small amount of time. The time restriction forces speakers to edit their message to focus on the most important elements. Lightning talks can be used to introduce new topics, present a challenge or call to action, share knowledge and experience, or provide status updates.

Topic Ideas

- Tips for managing a particular aquatic nuisance species
- Effectiveness of artificial fish structures
- How to tell a story to connect with your audience
- How to read a room during a public meeting
- Grant writing tips
- Tips for R Programming
- Safety tips - field research, student fieldtrips, pesticide application, etc.
- New sampling method
- Update on policy change
- Introduce a new project



Georgia AFS 2024 Photo Contest

You request it...we try to make it happen.

We are excited to announce the first Georgia AFS Photo Contest. Our photo contest is a fun way to interact with our fisheries community and showcase the talent and creativity of our chapter members.

Judging will take place at the 2025 Georgia AFS annual meeting. Prizes will be awarded for each of the categories.



Your photograph should represent the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. We have three categories and participants may enter one photograph per category. All entries must abide by the contest rules.



Tools of the Trade



Beginnings



That's Funny

Contest Rules

- Only Georgia AFS Members can participate
- Photographs must be original work of Georgia AFS member
- Photographs must have been taken in 2024
- No digitally altered photos or watermarked photos
- No obscene or offensive photographs
- Photos should be submitted electronically by January 3, 2025 (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)
- A maximum of one photo per person per category
- By submitting a photo you are granting Georgia AFS the right to publish and use them

Visit Georgia AFS Photo Contest webpage for complete list of rules



Georgia AFS
Photo Contest



Knauss Fellowship Applications Due February

The **John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program** offers a unique educational experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, and in national policies that affect those resources.

Applications are due mid-February. Check the [UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant website](#) for updates.



The Go Fish Education Center is Home to the Georgia Fish Art Contest



Got a young artist residing in your home? Be sure to encourage them to enter Wildlife Forever's annual Fish Art contest. This contest is open to kids in Grades K–12, but the **deadline for entries is February 28**—and you have to enter to win!

Students across the United States and internationally have the opportunity to win prizes and recognition while learning about fish species, behaviors, aquatic habitats, and conservation. Using art, this contest ignites children's imagination while teaching them about fish and fishing.

The Fish Art Contest offers many different award categories to recognize our contestants' unique talents and to focus on important conservation topics and issues. To enter, young artists create an original illustration of their chosen fish species from the Official Fish List. An essay, story, or poem based on species behavior, habitat and/or conservation needs is also awarded.

Contest Rules 🌟

Georgia Form

Georgia AFS Recognized at AFS Meeting in Honolulu



Cecil Jennings and Adam Fox

Georgia AFS received the 2024 American Fisheries Society Outstanding Small Chapter Award at the annual meeting in Honolulu. Georgia AFS was selected because of our extensive activities and programs in many areas relating to the AFS Strategic Plan. Georgia AFS is a professional organization managed by volunteers who contribute to the chapter's accomplishments. These volunteers organize and manage the annual meeting, seek ways for members to build their professional network support, plan and facilitate professional development training workshops, collaborate on projects that support the chapter's mission, and much more.

Tixie Fowler Wins!

2024 Cox Conserves Heroes Groundbreaker Award

Thank you to all who voted for Tixie to win the Cox Conserves Heroes Award. Some of you may recall that Tixie was named the 2023 Georgia AFS Fisheries Conservationist of the Year.

Cox Conserves Heroes is part of Cox Enterprises' national sustainability initiative, designed to recognize youth and adult volunteers, as well as nonprofits, making a positive impact on our environment.

The 2024 winners earned \$30,000 each from the James M. Cox Foundation for the environmental nonprofit of their choice to continue improving their communities.



The \$30,000 will go to Tixie's non-profit which is currently being rebranded as Youth in Nature Network. You can watch [Tixie's inspiring video](#) on the Cox Enterprises website (scroll until you find her video).

Local Fishy Stuff

Click on title to access the article

**Arthur M. Blank Family
Foundation contributes \$2.5
million for Chattahoochee
RiverLands Project**



**Announcing our 2024 Cox
Conserves Heroes Winners**



**Charting new waters:
How a new public access
database seeks to
enhance fisheries
management**

**Victory! Court Holds Unlawful
Federal Government Decision
That Greenlit Industrial Fish
Farming in Ocean Waters**



**Study reveals how eel ear
bones provide insights into
trace metal sources on the
continental shelf**



**Okefenokee Proposed
Expansion**



CAMPUS CORNER



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Georgia AFS Annual Meeting Student Presentations

Each year at the annual meeting students who present a poster or oral presentation are evaluated by a team of fisheries professionals. The top students are awarded a certificate and a monetary prize.

Awards are presented to the top 3 student oral presenters and the top 3 poster presenters.

Oral presentations at Georgia AFS annual meetings are 15 minutes (10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A). Poster presentations are 15 - 20 minutes and presenters should prepare a 3 - 5 minute presentation of their poster and expect 10 - 15 minutes of questions from judges.



First Place: \$150
Second Place: \$100
Third Place: \$50

RESOURCES FOR CREATING AND GIVING GREAT PRESENTATIONS

[CLICK HERE](#)

Georgia AFS Awards for Students

Give yourself plenty of time to apply for scholarships, fellowships, travel awards, etc.

[Georgia AFS Ronnie J Gilbert Scholarship](#) (deadline Dec. 8)

[Georgia AFS Robert E. Reinert Travel Award](#) (deadline Dec. 8)

[Georgia AFS Gift of Membership Award](#) (deadline Nov. 8)

[Georgia AFS Travel Grant](#) (January 7, 2025)





PIT Tag Technology

By: VODAIQ

Advancements in PIT Tag Technology for Fisheries Research

Tracking fish populations has long been a challenge for fisheries biologists, but the development of Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags has revolutionized the field. Originally introduced in the Columbia River Basin, located in the Pacific Northwest, PIT tags are now widely used in fisheries research around the world in diverse and complex aquatic environments. This simple yet highly-effective technology allows researchers to collect vital data on the movement, behavior, and survival of aquatic species.

How PIT Tags Work

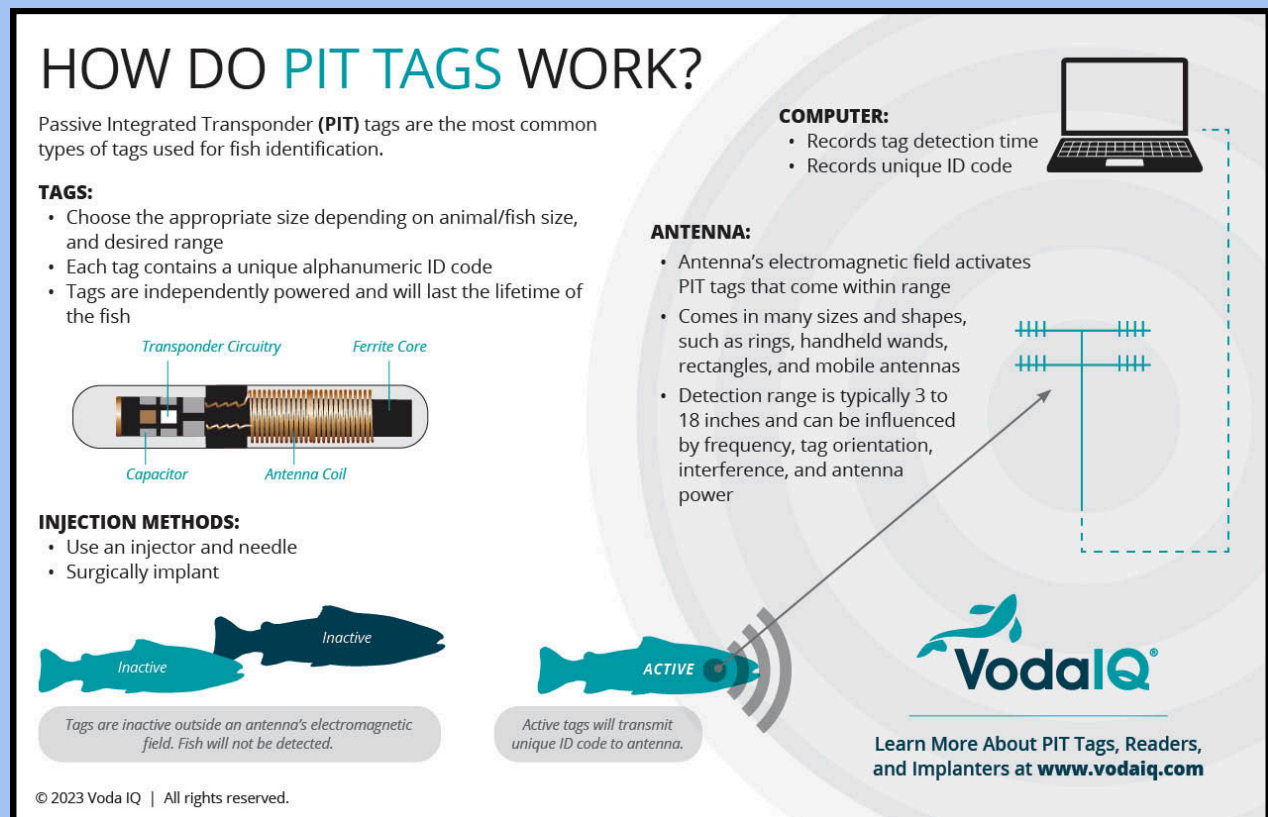
PIT tags are small, implantable devices that use radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to track individual animals. They are favored for several reasons: (a) ease of application, with tags injected quickly using a syringe-like tool; (b) minimal burden on the fish, as the tags are small and lightweight; (c) low cost (< \$2 each) compared to other tagging technologies; (d) no need for batteries, so the tags last for the animal's entire life; and (e) the ability to assign up to 35 billion unique tag codes. When a tagged fish passes near a detection antenna, the tag transmits a unique signal, helping biologists monitor migration patterns, survival rates, and overall population health.



At Voda IQ, we've been working to advance PIT tag technology by improving the design and performance of these tags. Our new suite of PIT tags has undergone rigorous independent testing to ensure they meet or exceed industry standards, particularly in complex systems where accurate tracking of endangered or imperiled aquatic species is critical.

Why Testing Matters

PIT tags play a crucial role in fisheries management, especially for commercially- or recreationally-important fishes, or those protected by the Endangered Species Act. Inaccurate data can lead to misguided conservation efforts, potentially delaying recovery efforts. To ensure reliability, Voda IQ provided a suite of PIT tags for independent laboratory testing conducted by NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Voda IQ was not involved in the testing process itself, ensuring impartiality. These protocols evaluated key performance metrics, including detection range, durability, and the ability to perform under challenging environmental conditions like high water pressure and electromagnetic interference.



Key Results of Testing

The independent tests demonstrated that Voda IQ's 10mm and 9mm tags met or exceeded all performance criteria, including reliable detection under challenging conditions such as environments with high electromagnetic noise. The 12mm tag performed exceptionally well across all categories, including detection range and durability, though it exceeded the weight criteria used in previous testing standards by just 0.002g. This minor weight difference is unlikely to impact fish behavior or survival, particularly in study fish greater than 50 mm in length. The 8mm tag, while offering a more limited detection range due to its smaller size, is ideal for applications requiring minimal tag burden on smaller or more delicate species that are often handled upon recapture. These results highlight the robustness and versatility of Voda IQ's PIT tags in real-world scenarios.

Why It Matters for Georgia's Fisheries

While much of the PIT tag research originated in the Pacific Northwest, this technology is just as valuable for fisheries management here in Georgia. PIT tags have been used effectively in the Southeast to study species such as the robust redhorse and other native fish. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and local academic institutions have employed PIT technology to track fish movements in river systems, lakes, and hatcheries. Whether managing native species or combating invasive ones, PIT tags offer a reliable, low-impact method for gathering crucial data that supports informed decision-making in fisheries management.



At Voda IQ, our goal is to continue pushing the boundaries of PIT technology. We have submitted a detailed report of our independent testing procedures for peer-reviewed publication, aiming to share our rigorous methods with the broader scientific community. By ensuring our products meet the highest standards, we aim to support conservation efforts and contribute to the success of fisheries research, both here in Georgia and throughout the country.

Learn More About VodaIQ - A Georgia AFS 2025 Gold Sponsor





2025 Annual Meeting

Doubletree Hotel Augusta

January 28-30

Fishing for Insights: Unleashing the Power of Research to Sustain Our Aquatic Resources

Integrating research, technology, and management strategies is crucial for ensuring the sustainability and resilience of our fisheries resources. By leveraging these advancements, we can better understand and manage fish populations, habitats, and ecosystems, ultimately safeguarding the future of fisheries for generations to come.



Award Nominations

Georgia AFS values its members and all those who work to improve the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. One way our Chapter shows its gratitude is by recognizing outstanding individuals or organizations for their achievements and excellence in support of the Chapter's mission and objectives. One way you can express your appreciation to those who have gone above and beyond normal expectations is to nominate them for one of the [Georgia AFS awards](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who is eligible for a Georgia AFS award?**
 - It depends on the award. Some awards do not require Chapter membership to be considered for the award. Detailed descriptions are available on the website.
- **Who can nominate someone for a Georgia AFS award?**
 - Anyone can submit a nomination.
- **Is a nomination letter required for all Georgia AFS awards?**
 - A nomination letter is not required for an *FPY or FCY award. A short summary explaining why the nominee should be considered is required on the nomination form. All other awards require a nomination letter. Visit the website for more details.
- **Do nominees need to score exemplary for all of the standards for an FPY or FCY award?**
 - Nominees are not expected to score exemplary in all standards.
- **When is the deadline to submit nominations?**
 - **Nominations for Georgia AFS FPY and FCY awards are due Dec. 30, 2024**
 - Nominations for the other awards are due January 17, 2025

**FPY includes Fisheries Professional of the Year in Science and Research, Professional of the Year in Fisheries Management, and Fisheries Professional Team of the Year. FCY is Fisheries Conservationist of the Year.*

FISHERIES PROFESSIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR IN FISHERIES SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

FISHERIES CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

DUE December 30, 2024

CAREER CONTRIBUTION AWARD

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

HIDDEN HERO AWARD

DUE January 17, 2025

GEORGIA AFS
AWARDS

[CLICK HERE](#)





2025 Annual Meeting

Call for Abstracts

Abstract Submission

Deadline: January 3, 2025

We invite submissions on a wide range of topics related to marine and coastal fisheries, including fisheries management, aquatic invasive species, fish health, aquaculture, endangered species, genetics, economics, and fisheries ecology in the urban interface. This is an excellent chance to share your expertise and research with professionals and students in the field.

Interested individuals are encouraged to email their abstracts to Carolyn Belcher (Carolyn.Belcher@dnr.ga.gov) by January 3, 2025. Abstracts (300 words max) should be submitted as an attachment in a Word document and include the following information:

- Presentation Title
- Presenting Author (with contact information; work address and email)
- Co-authors (with contact information)
- Abstract (300 words max)
- Presentation type: Oral or Poster (Minimum poster size of 24" x 36" and maximum poster size of 48" x 36" - check with your advisor as to what they require)
- Please also indicate if you are a student presenter

Oral presentations are 15 minutes (10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A)

TIPS FOR DESIGNING ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Resources to assist professionals and students with designing their PowerPoint or poster presentations can be found on the Georgia AFS website. [Creating and Giving Presentations](#)

Check out the [Georgia AFS YouTube channel](#) for videos on PPT tips and public speaking.





GEORGIA CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 40TH ANNUAL MEETING 2025 SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



Platinum Sponsorship \$2000

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom
- Opportunity to leave materials and handouts at the registration table
- 10 minutes of conference presentation time to address all attendees
- 2 exhibitor tables
- 3 complimentary registrations

Gold Sponsorship \$1000

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom
- Opportunity to leave materials and handouts at the registration table
- 10 minutes of conference presentation time to address all attendees
- 1 exhibitor table
- 2 complimentary registrations

Silver Sponsorship \$500

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom
- 1 exhibitor table
- 1 complimentary registration

Bronze Sponsorship \$250

- Link to your organization's website and logo on the Chapter website and in the newsletter
- Recognition in the 2025 meeting program and Chapter social media sites
- Signage at the registration table and in the ballroom



2025 Annual Meeting

Hotel Information

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Augusta



Room Rates

Room Rates: \$119 per night (2 Queen beds)

Group Code: AFS

**Make your reservations by
January 14**

Reservation Methods

By phone: 1-800-222-8733 or 706-855-8100 and asking for Reservations. Request the negotiated rate by providing the clerk with our group code (AFS).

Online: (www.augusta.doubletree.com) Enter the arrival and departure dates; select More Options; click Add Special Rate Codes; enter the 3-letter Group Code (AFS) and click Check Rooms & Rates; Select your Room Type Preference; and continue with your personal information.

After cut-off date (January 14) any additional reservations will be accepted at prevailing rates and based on availability only.

Directions

2651 Perimeter Parkway
Augusta, GA 30909

[Map](#)

Some Area Restaurants

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| • Logan's Roadhouse | • Waffle House |
| • Carolina Ale House | • Panera |
| • Twin Peaks | • Chick fil A |
| • Jim 'N Nicks Bar-B-Q | • Giuseppe's |



Georgia AFS

2025 Annual Fundraiser

Each year at our annual meeting our Chapter hosts a fundraiser to raise money to support the Chapter's mission. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser support aquatic education outreach projects, aquatic habitat restoration projects, fisheries continuing education workshops, and student travel awards.



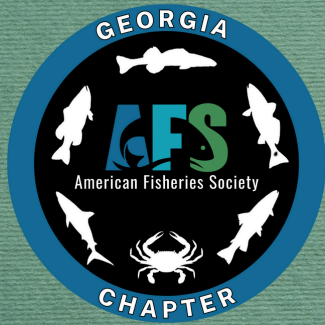
We Need Your Help

You can help our fundraising efforts by contributing an item or soliciting from a local business, organization, or person. Items may include fishing gear, camping gear, gift certificates, event passes, guided fishing trips, kayak/whitewater rafting trips, artwork, framed photographs, or other fish and wildlife-related items.

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

You can contact our fundraising co-chair, Jackson Sibley, for more information: oceansibley@gmail.com





2025 Annual Meeting


Meeting Registration

MEETING REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration includes all break sessions, social events, and the awards banquet. One-day registration does NOT include the poster social or the awards banquet. There is an option to purchase extra tickets for these events or you need tickets for your guest. Email Rebecca Brown if you plan to bring a guest (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com).

The meeting begins Tuesday, January 28th at 12:30 PM.

	Cost/Person Until Jan. 14, 2025		Cost/Person After Jan. 14, 2025	
	*AFS Member	Non-AFS Member	*AFS Member	Non-AFS Member
Professional	\$125	\$135	\$135	\$150
Retired	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$60
Student	\$50	\$60	\$60	\$75
One-day Professional	\$60	\$70	\$70	\$80
One-day Student	\$25	\$35	\$25	\$35
Extra Banquet Ticket			\$40/person	
Extra Social Ticket			\$20/person	
Georgia AFS membership dues			\$10 annually	
Quick Link to Pay GAAFS 2024 Membership Dues				



[Meeting
Registration
Form](#)

One
form per
person

*Membership to the Georgia Chapter is separate from being a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Visit gaafs.org/membership for information about Georgia AFS membership benefits. Visit fisheries.org/membership to join AFS.

Payment Options

- Check should be **made payable to Georgia Chapter AFS** and mailed to Rebecca Brown. One registration form per person.
- Credit card payments use our [online store](#).

Rebecca Brown
241 Apple Ridge 2
Dawsonville, GA 30534





Georgia AFS

Trash2Art

Contest



The Georgia AFS EXCOM wants to invite you to participate in our 2nd annual Georgia AFS Trash2Art Contest. This is an unique opportunity for you to showcase your creativity and talent and create an art piece made from trash that represents Georgia's Aquatic Ecosystems.

Participation

- Open only to 2025 Georgia AFS members
- Art displayed at the 2025 Georgia AFS annual meeting
- A colleague can enter your art if you are unable to attend the meeting
- Judging will take place at the annual meeting

***Change in Rules**

Rules

- Only one entry per participant
- *Art must contain a minimum of 50% recycled or other trash materials found by cleanup initiatives along waterways, roadsides, parks, schools, or other public places (not from your household or office waste). No compost or hazardous materials, such as batteries or e-waste.
- *Participants may use general art supplies including, but not limited to glue, tape, wire, twine, rope, paint, markers, pencils, crayons, etc.
- For the base, the artist may use wood, canvas, cardboard, or any other solid structure to hold the trash in place. It can be purchased or something you want to repurpose.
- Trash should be cleaned and sterilized before using. A 10% bleach and water solution is suggested.
- Artwork may be any art medium: sculptures, collages, murals, etc. Creativity is key.
- *Maximum size of art - should fit in a 50cm x 50cm x 50cm space. Artwork must be able to stand alone.
- All projects must be safe to handle (no hazards, etc.) and socially and culturally appropriate (See DQ list on website)
- All entries agree to have photos of their artwork posted to Georgia AFS Facebook and Instagram and in the Chapter newsletter
- All entries must be removed from the conference center by the end of the annual meeting

Prizes

Prizes to be awarded.

Visit our [Website](#) for
Additional Information





Chapter Spotlight

Colt Martin

Colt Martin is the Hatchery Manager for the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery. He has been managing fish hatcheries for nearly 6 years. His two previous hatcheries were the Buford Trout Hatchery and the Go Fish Education Center Hatchery. Colt has been working with Georgia DNR WRD's hatchery system since 2012 starting at the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery as a part-time technician.

At the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery, Colt supervises a team of five in the production of 350,000 trout annually. Their responsibilities include raising trout from egg or fingerling to a catchable size of 10 inches, with some trout reaching up to 15 inches. This process can take up to two years.

Colt's other duties include the monitoring of trout health. When necessary, he administers medications and treatments to ensure the well-being of the fish. Additionally, the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery staff undertakes the crucial task of fingerling transfers between hatcheries, contributing to the successful stocking of over 50 different water bodies. Beyond trout production, Colt also directs the maintenance and upkeep of the Hatchery complex and its equipment, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

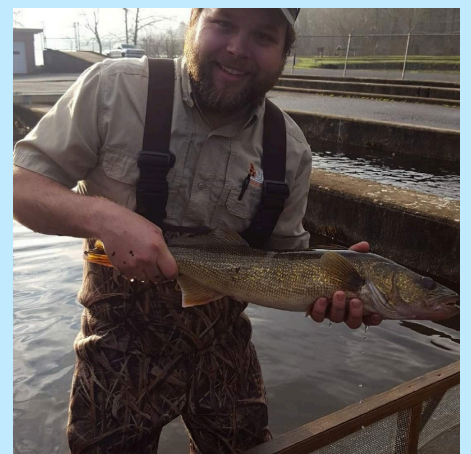


What inspired you to pursue a career in fisheries?

My career in fisheries was unexpected. During college, I obtained a seasonal job at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Given my background and skills and growing up in the area, it seemed like a natural fit. Before joining Georgia DNR full-time, I worked as a wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service. Interestingly, I applied for my first full-time position with Georgia DNR while on a wildfire assignment in Idaho.

What do you enjoy about being a member of Georgia AFS?

My work location can sometimes feel isolating, but Georgia AFS alleviates that with its newsletter, annual meetings, and workshops. The networking opportunities provided by Georgia AFS are invaluable to me. I enjoy meeting other fisheries professionals and learning from their experiences. These interactions have allowed me to expand my knowledge, gain new perspectives, and establish valuable collaborations.



Chapter Spotlight Continued

Describe two things you love most about your job.

The people I work with. Everyone assigned to the Burton office is awesome. They all bring something different to the table. We all work very well together and have tons of fun. I do not think there is anything we cannot accomplish when we work together on it.

The diversity of the work. From stocking trout, hatching eggs, grading fingerlings, Sampling wild trout, helicopter stocking, and collecting and hauling Walleye brood stock. There is always something different going on and it keeps the job interesting.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Managing around nature and its variables. Lake Burton Fish Hatchery's water system uses gravity to move all its water. We don't use pumps. So, during drought years like 2023, it can be challenging to raise fish with flows reduced by 60 to 70%. Low flows bring higher temperatures and with that comes additional stress from heat, disease, and parasites that can thrive in the warmer water. The Hatchery can have up to 750,000 fish on station in the early summer. The natural variables can make it challenging to shuffle hatchery fish movements, stocking, fishing events, disease and pathogen treatments, flow adjustments, and even feeding. I have a great staff that I work with and together we make it easy.

What is your favorite quote?

Well done is better than well said.

~ Benjamin Franklin



What have been some of the most important lessons you have learned throughout your career?

Ownership of mistakes. Don't let it get you down. Everyone makes mistakes, learn from it and move on.

Chapter Spotlight Continued

What accomplishment are you most proud of in your career?

I am most proud of a bird exclusion project I was able to help design and complete at the Buford Trout Hatchery. While I was the manager there, we were allowed to build large 60' x 500' bird exclusion/ shade structures over the production area. These buildings ended the predation from Great Blue Herons and all other birds. Before construction over 50 Great Blue Herons could be found feeding on trout every night at the Buford Fish Hatchery. Consuming over 50,000 fish a year, this was an important project and I'm very proud I was able to play a small part in its completion.

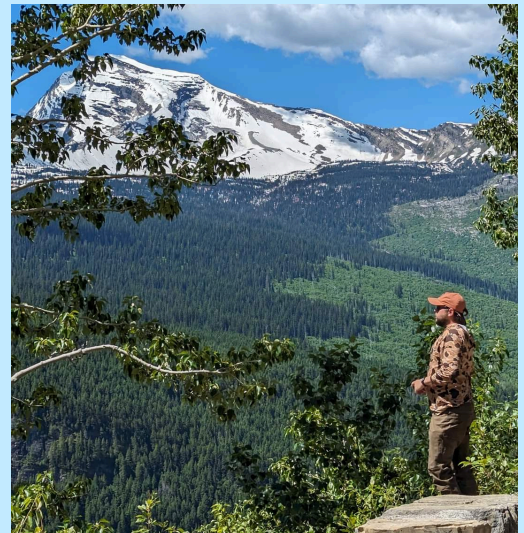


What is something you've always wanted to try or learn?

I am continuously trying to learn new skills. Currently, I'm learning how to use CAD software like Autodesk and SolidWorks. These tools, coupled with my CO2 laser cutting machine and 3D printer, have allowed me to fabricate parts for some of our older equipment.

What kind of hobbies or interests do you have outside of work?

In addition to the typical outdoor activities like fishing, hunting, and hiking, I have a passion for construction and craftsmanship. I particularly enjoy working with metal and have engaged in projects such as building smokers, personalized road signs, and custom truck beds. Metal fabrication is my preferred medium, followed closely by woodworking.



If you were a fish, what fish would you be?

Bartram's bass, I think it would be cool to live in the Chattooga River.

Share two truths and a lie

I've owned buffalo. I've owned emu. I've owned a bear.





SFC 2024 Annual Meeting

Doubletree by Hilton
424 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72201

Early Registration Deadline
October 11, 2024

Abstract Deadline
October 4, 2024

Room reservations must be
made by 25 October to get
the special rate.

Visit their [website](#) for
registration and hotel
information



2024 Southeastern Fishes Council 50th Annual Meeting

**21-22 November 2024
Little Rock, AR**

The Southeastern Fishes Council is a nonprofit scientific organization dedicated to the study and conservation of freshwater and coastal fishes of the southeastern United States.

The meeting space will hold up to 250 people and we will have oral and lightning presentations on Thursday and Friday. The Thursday night poster session and social will take place at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center.

Registration Rates

- Member Early Registration – \$200 (Must be a dues paid member prior to registration, [renew online](#))
- Member Late Registration – \$250
- Non Member Early Registration – \$250 (If you would like to join and get the Regular Member Rate: <http://www.sefishescouncil.org>)
- Non Member Late Registration – \$300
- Student Member Early Registration – \$75 (Must be a dues paid member prior to registration, [renew online](#))
- Student Member Late Registration – \$100
- Student Non Member Early Registration – \$125 (If you would like to join and get the Regular Member Rate: <http://www.sefishescouncil.org>)
- Student Non Member Late Registration – \$175



Sponsor Highlight

Our fundraising donors are critical to the success of our annual fundraiser and our efforts to promote the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in Georgia.



Pond Dam Piping, Ltd.

Pond Dam Piping, Ltd. has over 30 years of experience in assisting land owners and contractors with pond installation. They offer conventional PVC pond pipe systems, spillway siphon systems, and the low watershed "A" system for effective, low-cost water management control to fit any aquacultural development.

Contact [Keith Johnson](#) for your pond installation materials.



Plugged In

Take a break and listen to your favorite podcast or try one of the podcasts listed below.



[Meet the 2024-2025 AFS President- Miguel Garcia](#)

Miguel shares his background and involvement in AFS, as well as what he's looking forward to during his presidency.



[Two careers in black bass conservation with Gene Gilliland](#)

Gene is a retired biologist from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and has been the National Conservation Director for the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society for 13 years. They discuss some of Gene's black bass research projects in Oklahoma and his passion as an avid recreational and competitive bass angler.



[Carping 101](#)

Ben and Corey are joined by District Fisheries Biologist Deon Kerr to learn about carping. While Ben and Corey are new to the sport, Deon's enthusiasm reveals just how much fun carping can be—tune in to learn essential skills you will need to wrestle these water donkeys!



[American Eel: Puerto Rico Perspective](#)

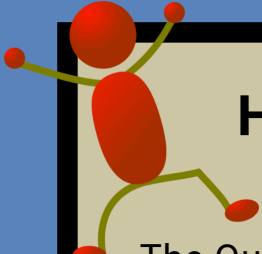
The American Eel: very demure, very mindful. So demure, in fact, that nobody has ever seen them spawn! These wonderfully mysterious fish start and end life in the Sargasso Sea with an incredible freshwater migration in between. We continue to unravel some of the mystery around this migratory fish with guest Ámbar Torres Molinari. This episode is dedicated to her late advisor Dr. Thomas J. Kwak and all the amazing field technicians who helped make her American Eel research possible in Puerto Rico.



[Diving Into Simulation Models with Dr. Mairin Deith](#)

Kadie chats with Dr. Mairin Deith primarily about the ins and outs of simulation models and their applications to ecological questions, but we also cover her career path, current work, and more!



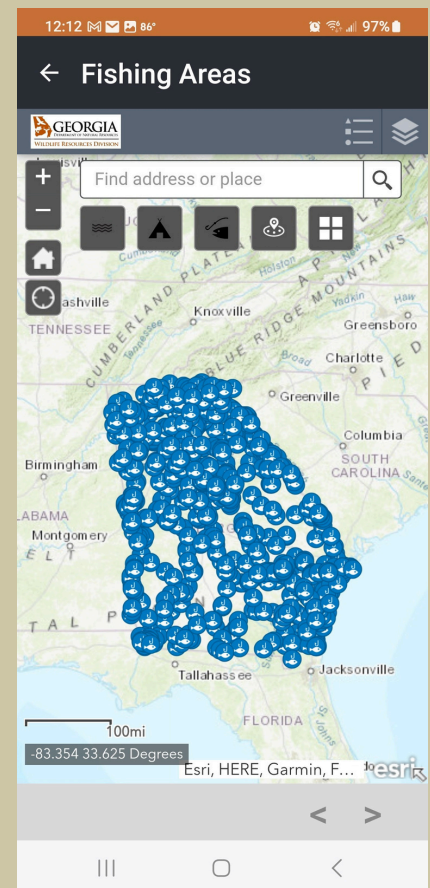
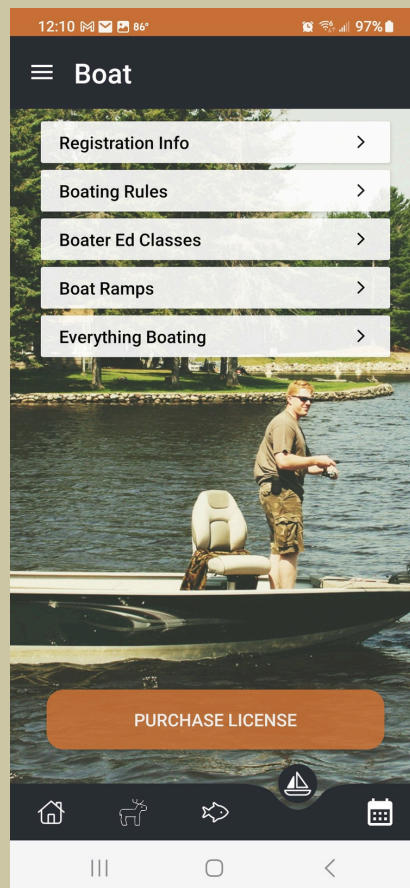
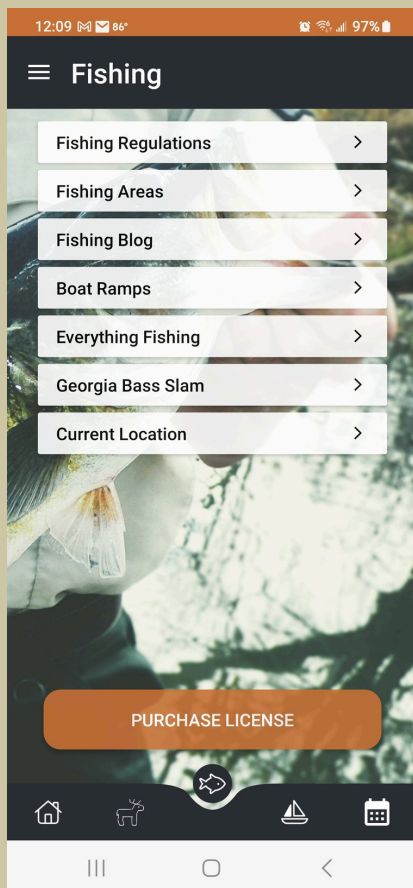
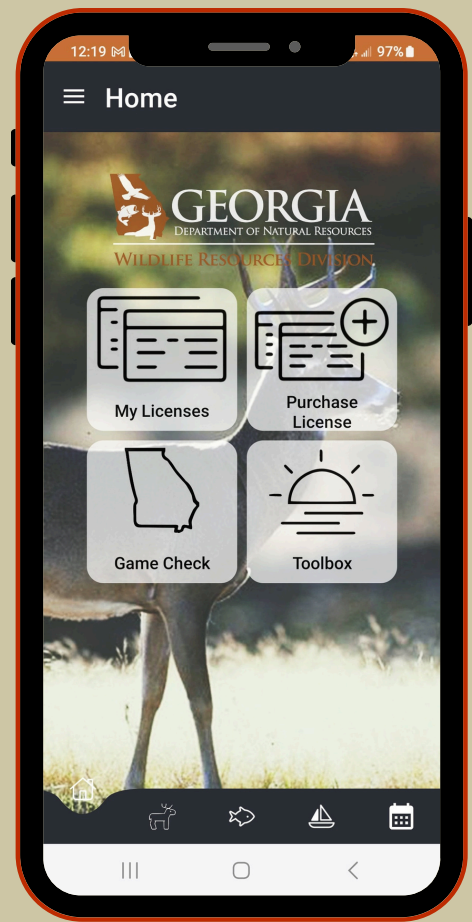


Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

The Outdoors GA app, free in [Google Play](#) or [Apple store](#), has multiple uses.

- Fishing regulations - some rules change each year
- Boating rules - know before you go
- Fishing locations
- Boat ramps - plan your next kayaking adventure
- Tide information
- Purchase your fishing license (don't forget your SIP)
- Store your fishing license - avoid awkward moments
- Event calendar - find a KFE near you
- [Georgia DNR Fisheries Blog](#)
- And it has hunting stuff too

**DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY AND PLAN
YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**



DID YOU KNOW?

If done smartly and sustainably, aquaculture is the path forward to increase global food production and trade opportunities in changing times and climate.

According to the [United Nations](#)... the world's population is more than three times larger than it was in the mid-twentieth century. The global human population reached 8.0 billion in mid-November 2022 from an estimated 2.5 billion people in 1950. The world's population is expected to increase by nearly 2 billion persons in the next 30 years, from the current 8 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050, and could peak at nearly 10.4 billion in the mid-2080s.

How will we feed so many people?

Aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food sector, with huge potential for expansion. It plays a critical role in global food production and over half the aquatic foods for human consumption are farmed. ([fao.org](#))

Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, or IMTA, is similar to polyculture, where two or more organisms are farmed together. In IMTA, multiple aquatic species from different trophic levels are farmed in an integrated fashion to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and provide ecosystem services, such as bio-remediation. IMTA has been the focus of worldwide research because it is seen as a way to make aquaculture more sustainable and profitable on land or at sea.

How does aquaponics fit into the picture?

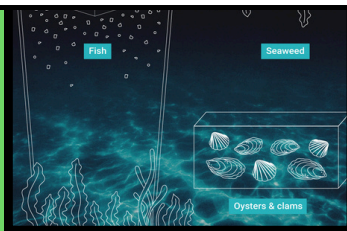
Aquaponics is a blend of aquaculture and hydroponics. Aquaponics systems can provide year-round supplies of fresh fish and vegetables for local communities or serve as commercial ventures, offering a sustainable and efficient way to produce food.

Videos

Can we farm the ocean without destroying it?



Implementation of Integrated MultiTrophic Aquaculture in the northern Gulf of Mexico



Andrew Young Foundation
Forever Young Aquaponics
Clayton County, Georgia



Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title to access article

BETTER OCEAN CONNECTIVITY BOOSTS REEF FISH POPULATIONS

Research led by the University of Oxford has found that oceanographic connectivity (the movement and exchange of water between different parts of the ocean) is a key influence for fish abundance across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

PROTECTIONS ACCOUNT FOR AROUND 10 PERCENT OF FISH STOCKS ON CORAL REEFS

Research by Professor Joshua Cinner (University of Sydney), looking at data from more than 2600 coral reefs across the globe, shows that marine conservation efforts have had a modest effect on fish stocks but more needs to be done to meet international commitments.

FIVE LESSONS TO LEVEL UP CONSERVATION SUCCESSFULLY

Conservation needs to scale successfully to protect nature. A new paper takes lessons from around the world to show how that might be done.

Conservation programs designed to preserve everything from forests to fish need to work 'at scale'.

SHARKS ARE ABANDONING STRESSED CORAL REEFS IN WARMING OCEANS

Scientists, using a combination of satellite remote sensing and a network of acoustic receivers on the seabed, have discovered sharks are deserting coral reefs at times of environmental stress, such as high temperatures that can lead to coral bleaching events.

ALL-NIGHT LIGHTS CHANGE THE BEHAVIOR OF FISH, EVEN INTO THE NEXT GENERATION

Scientists at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior have shown that light pollution – especially light in the blue spectrum – can alter the behavior of fish after only a few nights, and have knock-on effects for their offspring.

CONCERNING LEVELS OF PFAS IN FISH MILES AWAY FROM LARGE CONTAMINATION SOURCE

Fish can accumulate high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), even far from sources of contamination, according to a new study by researchers at The Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS).





BUBBA'S VIDEO PICKS

*The Problem With Science
Communication*



Making a Northern HogSucker Lure



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

*The holidays are approaching...have you
picked out a gift for a loved one...or
maybe a gift for yourself*

Visit one of our fundraising sponsors
Click the logo to visit their website

ORVIS



*Looking for a gift for that
favorite angler in your life?*



*Maybe you are looking for something different than
fishing gear*



Vera Bradley

*A state park pass makes
a great gift*



BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Shop Safety

General Safety Tips

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Tie back long hair, restrict loose clothing and jewelry
- Avoid working alone (if unavoidable have someone check on your status periodically)
- Know the hazards associated with the work
- Ensure you are fully educated on the proper use and operation of the tools you are using
- Ensure adequate ventilation when working with glues, lacquers, paint, dust, and fumes
- Keep all work areas and aisles clean and unobstructed
- Know emergency procedures

Bubba's Friends: Hagfishes (Myxini)

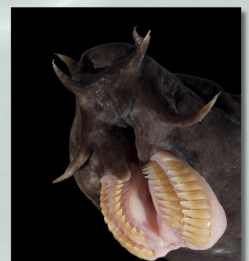
Repulsive, but unique. What do you know about this prehistoric fish?

- They have 4 hearts
- Can go months without food; can absorb nutrients through their skin
- Although jawless, they have 2 rows of tooth-like structures made of keratin
- Glands lining their bodies secrete stringy proteins that react with seawater creating a transparent, sticky substance - makes them slippery
- The only known living animal that have a skull (made of cartilage), but no vertebral column
- The only known fossil hagfish, from 300 MYA, looks very much like the modern hagfish
- They are blind, but do have eyespots

More about the hagfish



Video: [Have You Met a Hagfish?](#)



Fin and Games

In 1859, Charles Darwin coined the term “living fossils” to describe organisms that show little species diversity or physical differences from their ancestors in the fossil record.

Which of the fish below is NOT considered living fossils?

A



E



B



F



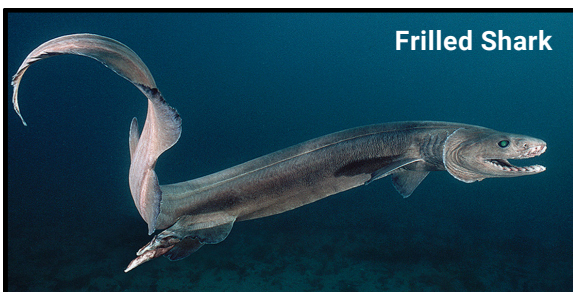
C



G



D



H



PROPS

We dedicate this page to our friends and colleagues at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, whose tireless efforts over several weeks cleared debris from roadways, parks, and residential neighborhoods in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.



Thank You!



Thank you for your Support!

GAAFS 2024 Sponsors

Platinum



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& Natural Resources
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Silver



Kleinschmidt

Bronze



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



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Donation

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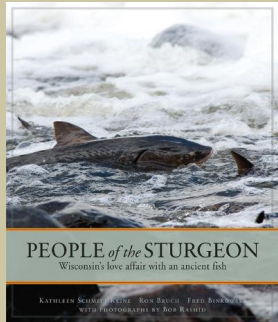


HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



THE BOOKSHELF

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



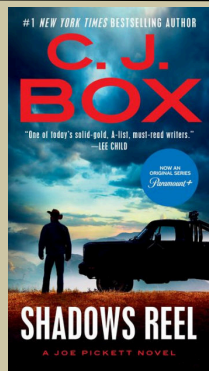
People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish

By Kathleen Schmitt Kline, Ron Burch, & Fred Bnikowski

It is a history of the cultures surrounding Lake Sturgeon in Wisconsin's Lake Winnebago region, told by a fascinating collection of photos, artifacts, and a few good fish tales.

[Learn More Link](#) 

ADULT FICTION SECTION



Shadows Reel

By C.J. Box

Wyoming Game Warden Joe Pickett is called out for a moose-poaching incident that turns out to be something much more... a local fishing guide has been brutally tortured and murdered.

[Learn More Link](#) 

YOUNG READER SECTION



Caterpillar Summer

By Gillian McDunn

When a summer trip doesn't go according to plan, Cat and Chicken spends three weeks on an island with grandparents they never knew. This book tells the story of a girl, her special needs brother, and the summer they will never forget.

[Learn More Link](#) 

CHAPTER BOOK SECTION



Heartwood Hotel: A True Home

Author Kallie George, Illustrator: Stephanie Graegin

The first of 4 books. This chapter book takes the reader on an adventure with Mona the Mouse in Fernwood Forest. The book tells a tale of friendship, courage, and community.

[Learn More Link](#) 



Georgia AFS Leadership



Georgia AFS 2024-25 EXCOM and Committee Chairs

Executive Committee

Chapter President: [Chad Kaiser](#)

President-Elect: [Jackson Sibley](#)

Recording Secretary-Treasurer: [Dawn Franco](#)

Executive Secretary-Treasurer: [Rebecca Brown](#)

Past-President: [Ani Escobar](#)

UGA Subunit President:

Committee Chairs

Membership and Student Affairs: [Adam Fox](#) and [Laura Wenk](#)

Fundraising: [Zack Brock](#) and [Jackson Sibley](#)

Annual Meeting Arrangements: [Kevin Cavallaro](#) and [Brent Hess](#)

Continuing Education Committee: [Peter Sakaris](#) and [Hunter Roop](#)

Policy, Bylaws, and Resolutions: [Dawn Franco](#)

Student Presentation Awards: [Chalisa Fabillar](#) and [Kimberly Clements](#)

Professional Awards: [Jim Page](#) and [Aaron Gray](#)

Chapter Scholarships & Travel Awards: [Donna McDowell](#) and [Justin Bythwood](#)

Ballot: [Chad Sexton](#) and [Kevin Cavallaro](#)

Nominations: [Don Harrison](#) and [Tim Bonvechio](#)

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program: [Marion Baker](#) and [Caroline Cox](#)

Communications: [Rebecca Brown](#) and [Dawn Franco](#)

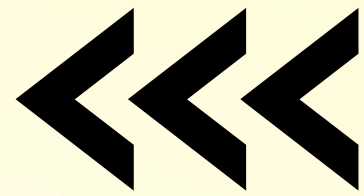
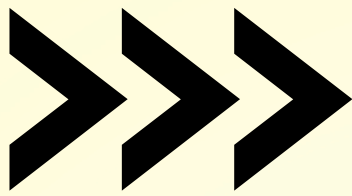
Program: [Carolyn Belcher](#)

Audit: [Clint Peacock](#) and [Kyndale West](#)

Environmental Concerns: [Jordan Steele](#)

SDAFS/AFS Liason: [Cecil Jennings](#)





The benefits of being a member of the American Fisheries Society:

- **Build your professional network support:** you have access to more contacts, more resources, and more information; chances are, someone in AFS has “been there/done that”; you can participate in one of the AFS Sections to connect with others who are likeminded and/or working in the same niche you are
- **Demonstrate your professionalism:** your membership demonstrates a commitment and dedication to your profession; you serve as a role model for those entering the field as well as have an opportunity to share your own insights and expertise with peers and colleagues
- **Build your own skills:** AFS has opportunities for you to take on a leadership role that might not yet be available at work; participate in AFS workshops and webinars; present at conferences; write a newsletter article; become a mentor
- **Have a voice:** one of the important roles AFS is advocacy - that is, helping decision makers understand what members do in the workplace and why it is important; a larger group has a louder voice
- **Give yourself an advantage:** build your professional reputation and boost your credibility; build your resume; connect with more experienced professionals



MORE ABOUT AFS



**AFS PUBLISHES
JOURNALS**



**AFS ADVISES
POLICY**



**AFS HAS A VARIETY
OF SECTIONS YOU
CAN JOIN
DEPENDING ON
YOUR INTERESTS**



**AFS SUPPORTS THE
HUTTON JUNIOR
FISHERIES BIOLOGY
PROGRAM**

Learn More



Georgia AFS Membership



Our Chapter's mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Your paid membership helps us to support that mission.

Membership in the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is open to anyone interested in the progress of fisheries science and education in Georgia and the conservation and management of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

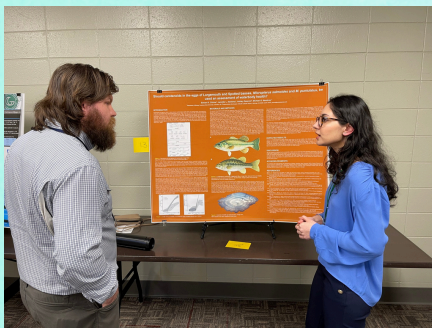
Benefits of being a member of Georgia AFS

- Developing relationships with others who have similar interests
- Leadership opportunities to serve as an officer or chair a committee
- Reduced fees for training workshops
- Student scholarships
- Supporting fisheries and aquatic conservation efforts in Georgia
- Supporting aquatic education outreach programs in Georgia



Membership Dues:
\$10 annually

Georgia AFS Membership dollars help support ...



Membership in an AFS Chapter does not automatically make someone a member of the American Fisheries Society. To serve as an officer of Georgia AFS you need to be a member of AFS.



AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS

Future AFS Annual Meetings



American Fisheries Society

- 2025 San Antonio, TX: August 10–14
- 2026 Columbus, OH: August 30 – September 3

Volunteer to Serve on an AFS Committee

Any active member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is welcome to serve on AFS Committees.

MORE INFO



The Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society

sd.fisheries.org/

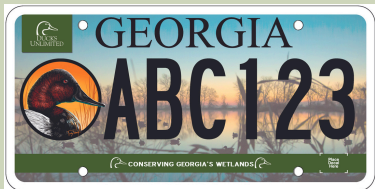
Future SDAFS Meetings

- 2025 Asheville, North Carolina: February 17–21
- 2026 New Orleans, LA (Date TBD)
- 2027 Alabama (Location and date TBD)
- 2028 Mississippi (Location and date TBD)



Information

Support for Fisheries Conservation and Sustainability



Do you have a specialty license plate that supports the conservation of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems?

More information:
<https://gadnr.org/license-plates>

Click on the license plate for more information

80 percent of that \$25 fee goes directly to wildlife programs (\$19 the first year, \$20 with every renewal). Only \$5 goes to the State of Georgia General Fund.



Certified Fisheries Professional

There are many reasons for seeking professional certification. For some it represents achievement of a career goal while for others it represents a credential necessary to perform their job.

[Frequently Asked Questions about certification](#)

[AFS Application Process and due dates](#)

Job Hunting

AFS maintains an excellent Career Center page on its website. AFS provides several resources to help you find that fisheries job you want.

[AFS Career Center](#)

Do you want to improve your chances of getting that dream fisheries job?

[Georgia AFS Fisheries Career Tips](#)

Pesticide Applicator License

If you wish to purchase or use a restricted use pesticide (RUP), you or your supervisor must have a pesticide applicator's license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

[Georgia Dept. Agriculture Pesticide License Information](#)

[UGA Extension Pesticide Safety Education](#)

[Pesticide License Exam Study Videos](#)

Internships

Internships are a great way to gain valuable work experience employers look for in potential new hires.

Georgia AFS maintains a list of internships for fisheries students on its webpage.

[GAAFS Internship listing page](#)



Help us spread the word about interesting and insightful information about the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems.

The Chapter newsletter is designed to spread the word about the exciting work being done by fisheries professionals and students, deliver information about upcoming meetings and events, and provide other useful information for fisheries professionals and students. We welcome a broad range of submissions that address research and ideas relevant to marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish and their respective fisheries and environments. Submissions can range from a paragraph to 3 pages. Let us know if you have an idea for an article but are not sure if it is suitable for the newsletter. Topics for the newsletter can include any of the ideas listed below.

- Fisheries science research updates or innovative ideas
- Articles with advice for students and young professionals
- Accomplishments such as recently publishing a research paper, giving a talk at a community event, being interviewed for a podcast series, and anything in the realm of communications and outreach
- Environmental concerns related to fisheries and aquatic ecosystems
- Safety tips for fisheries professionals and students

Send your submissions to Rebecca Brown at GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com.

Stay Connected

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