

Under the Dock

January/February 2025



Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

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Mark Your Calendar

- **January 9 (we extended the deadline)**
 - 2025 Georgia AFS Abstracts Due
- **January 10 (deadline was extended)**
 - Georgia AFS Photo Contest deadline
- **January 14**
 - Deadline to make hotel reservation
- **January 17**
 - Georgia AFS Awards & Recognitions due
- **January 28 - 30**
 - Georgia AFS Annual Meeting
 - Doubletree Hotel, Augusta, GA
- **February 17 - 21**
 - SDAFS Annual Meeting - Asheville, NC
- **August 10 - 14**
 - AFS 155th Annual Meeting
 - San Antonio, TX

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

Being a Good Leader

Leadership is a multifaceted quality that involves guiding, motivating, and inspiring others to achieve common goals. A good leader not only drives results but also fosters an environment where individuals feel valued and empowered. Leadership qualities can vary depending on the context, but there are several universal characteristics that distinguish good leaders from the rest.

Vision and Purpose

A good leader has a clear vision of what they want to achieve and the ability to communicate that vision effectively to their team. This clarity helps align everyone's efforts and provides a sense of purpose. Visionary leaders not only set long-term goals but also chart a practical course to achieve them. They inspire others to see the bigger picture, encouraging them to work towards something greater than themselves.



Integrity and Accountability

Integrity is one of the most important traits of a good leader. It involves being honest, ethical, and consistent in actions and decisions. Leaders with integrity build trust among their followers, as people are more likely to respect and follow someone who stands by their principles. Additionally, accountability is crucial—a good leader takes responsibility for their actions and decisions, whether they lead to success or failure. They acknowledge their mistakes and work to rectify them, setting an example for their team.



Empathy and Emotional Intelligence

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. A good leader listens actively, considers different perspectives, and shows genuine concern for the well-being of their team members. Emotional intelligence—the ability to manage one's own emotions and understand those of others—enables leaders to build strong relationships, resolve conflicts effectively, and create a positive work environment. This quality fosters loyalty and trust within the team.

Effective Communication

Clear and transparent communication is vital for effective leadership. A good leader conveys ideas, expectations, and feedback in a way that is easy to understand and motivates others. They are also skilled at listening, ensuring that team members feel heard and valued. By maintaining open lines of communication, leaders can address concerns promptly and keep everyone informed, reducing misunderstandings and fostering collaboration.

Adaptability and Resilience

In a rapidly changing world, adaptability is essential for effective leadership. Good leaders embrace change and remain flexible in the face of challenges, adjusting their strategies as needed. Resilience—the ability to bounce back from setbacks—is equally important. Leaders who demonstrate resilience inspire confidence in their team, showing that obstacles can be overcome with determination and creativity.



Decisiveness and Problem-Solving Skills

A good leader is decisive, making informed decisions promptly and confidently. Indecision can lead to stagnation and confusion within a team. Effective leaders gather relevant information, weigh the pros and cons, and take action when needed. They are also adept problem-solvers, analyzing situations critically and finding innovative solutions to complex challenges. This ability ensures the team's progress even in difficult circumstances.



Inspiration and Motivation

Good leaders inspire and motivate their team by leading by example. They demonstrate passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to their work, which can be contagious. By recognizing and appreciating the contributions of team members, leaders boost morale and encourage others to perform at their best.

Collaboration and Team-Building

A successful leader understands the value of teamwork and fosters a collaborative culture. They encourage cooperation among team members, leveraging diverse skills and perspectives to achieve common goals. Good leaders also focus on team-building, creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute.



Empowerment and Development

An effective leader understands the importance of empowering their team members. This involves delegating responsibilities and providing opportunities for professional growth. By recognizing the strengths and potential of each individual, a leader can foster an environment where team members feel motivated to contribute their best efforts.

Moreover, a good leader invests in the development of their team. This could include offering mentorship, providing resources for skill enhancement, or encouraging continued education. When team members feel supported in their growth, they are more likely to remain engaged and committed, ultimately contributing to the organization's success.

Conclusion

Whether you are the owner of a company or managing a team of volunteers, a good leader not only achieves results, but also uplifts and develops those they lead, leaving a lasting positive impact on individuals and organizations alike.

While some leadership qualities may come naturally, others can be developed through self-reflection, experience, and a commitment to growth. Ultimately, good leadership is about serving others and creating a positive impact that extends beyond individual accomplishments.

NEWS & UPDATES

Georgia AFS 39th Annual Meeting

The 2025 Georgia AFS annual meeting will be the 39th time that researchers, students, professionals, and other stakeholders meet to share the latest insights, research, and innovations in fisheries and aquatic resource management. This will be the fourth time we held our annual meeting in Augusta.

Our chapter has seen many changes over the past years, but one thing that has not changed is our passion for our aquatic resources. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just beginning your journey in aquatic sciences, this meeting is the perfect opportunity to grow your knowledge and expand your network.



**Click
Here**

Meeting Registration, Abstract Submissions,
Hotel Reservations

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)



**Click Here
2025 Volunteer Form**



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. We have 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 9, 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

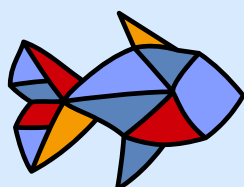
- Tips for managing a particular aquatic nuisance species
- Effectiveness of artificial fish structures
- How to tell a story to connect with your audience
- How to read a room during a public meeting
- Grant writing tips
- Tips for R Programming
- Safety tips - field research, student fieldtrips, pesticide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



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](#).



Georgia AFS Awards

Award Nominations



There is still time to nominate a friend/colleague for a Career Contribution Award, Distinguished Service Award, Certificate of Appreciation, and Hidden Hero Award. The deadline for these nominations is January 17th.

Searching for Lunch-n-Learn Instructors

The Georgia AFS Continuing Education Committee needs volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and skills as a virtual Lunch-n-Learn session.

Topic Ideas:

- Safety (Fieldwork, lab, boating, etc.)
- Biosecurity
- Climate Change
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Public Speaking Tips
- Tips for Designing Posters



Email Rebecca Brown if you are interested: GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com

Participate in a Georgia AFS Contest

Our art and photo contests are a fun way to interact with our fisheries community and showcase the talent and creativity of our chapter members.



[Visit website for rules and guidelines](#)



This is an opportunity to upcycle trash collected during a cleanup initiative and create a two-dimensional or three-dimensional art piece representing fish and aquatic ecosystems.

Changes in rules for 2025

- 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).
- Participants may use general art supplies including, but not limited to glue, tape, wire, twine, rope, paint, markers, pencils, crayons, etc.
- Maximum size of art - should fit in a 50cm x 50cm x 50cm space. Artwork must be able to stand alone.



**Submit photos
by Jan. 9**

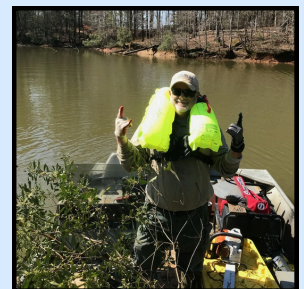
Your photograph should represent the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. Participants may enter one photograph per category.



Tools of the Trade



Beginnings



That's Funny

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

Membership Dues

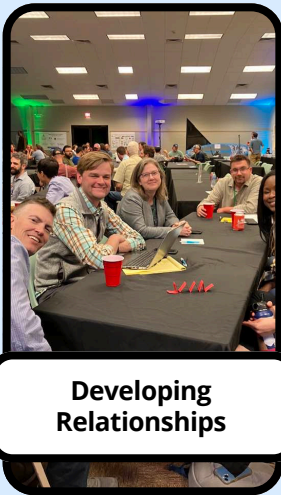
The Georgia AFS mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Your paid membership helps us achieve that mission.

Georgia AFS
Annual Membership Dues

\$ 10



What are some benefits of becoming a member of Georgia AFS?



**Developing
Relationships**



**Leadership
Opportunities**



**Supporting Aquatic
Conservation**



**Enhancing Your
Resume**



To vote on Chapter business/elections you must be a member of AFS.

AFS Membership Information

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.

Consider joining the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the world's largest professional organization for fisheries scientists.



Have you checked out the website lately?

Please be patient as we continue to update the Georgia AFS website to better serve our members. The 2024 revision of the Georgia AFS Bylaws was approved and we will be updating the website and the Georgia AFS Operations Manual to reflect the revisions.

The revised web pages are created using Canva which is why the pages look different from the pages created using WordPress.

Meanwhile...check out these web pages and let us know your thoughts. We welcome your constructive feedback. You can email us or use our [GA AFS Website Feedback](#) form..

- [About Us](#)
- [Membership Info](#)
- [Online Store](#) (this was added by request of several members)
- [Creating and Giving Presentations](#) (help us improve this web page)
- [Award Nominations](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [Professional Resources](#)
- [Education Materials](#) (these are resources for outreach programs and environmental educators)
- [Careers in Fisheries](#)
- [Jobs and Internships](#)
- [Interviewing Tips](#) (for interviewers and interviewees)

We are currently working on:

- Chapter Officers
- Committees
- Useful Links
- Past Award Recipients
- Student Scholarship and Travel Awards

CAMPUS CORNER



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA



Georgia Gwinnett
COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY of
West Georgia



BERRY
COLLEGE



UNG

UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA

Middle Georgia
State University



COLLEGE of
COASTAL
GEORGIA



Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College



FORT VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY



AUGUSTA
UNIVERSITY



GEORGIA
COLLEGE
& STATE UNIVERSITY

Albany State University



GSW
GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



NORTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Georgia Institute
of Technology



Truett McConnell
UNIVERSITY

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](#)

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

Georgia AFS Awards for Students

Georgia AFS Travel Grant (January 7, 2025)

Other Awards for Students

The Steven Berkeley Marine Conservation Fellowship (Feb.1)

John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award (mid April)

Georgia Sea Grant State Fellowship (early March)



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

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

**DEADLINE
EXTENDED**

Abstract Submission

Deadline: January 9, 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 9, 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 39TH 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

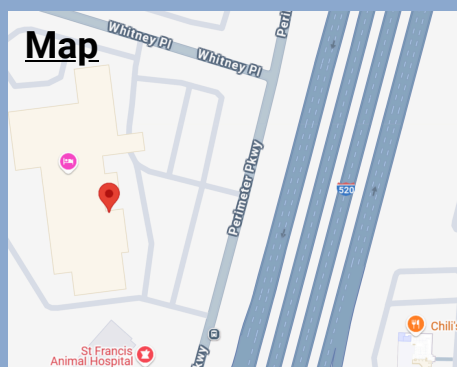
By phone: 1-800-222-8733 or 706-855-8100 and asking for Reservations. Request the negotiated rate by providing the clerk with our group code (AFS).

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



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.

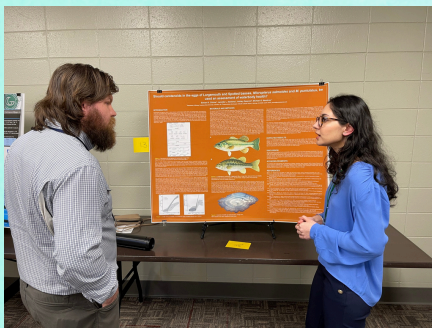
Benefits of being a member of Georgia AFS

- 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



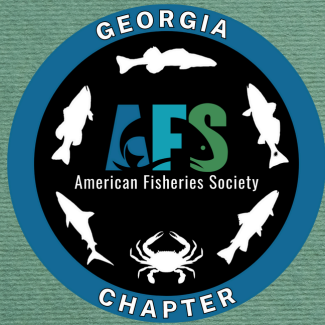
Membership Dues:
\$10 annually

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.





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 1:00 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 | | | | |

CLICK
HERE

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



Sponsor Highlight

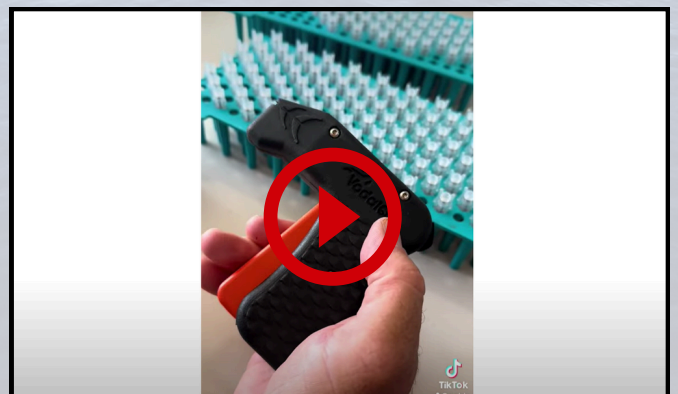
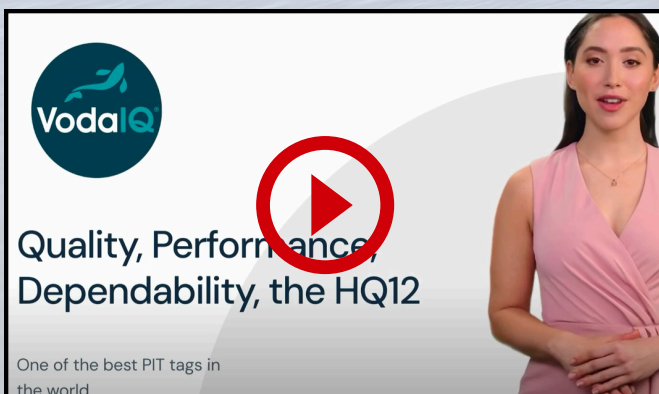
Our fundraising donors are critical to the success of our annual fundraiser and our efforts to promote the conservation and sustainability of our fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems in Georgia.



At VODA IQ, they believe in the power of technology to drive positive change in the world of fisheries conservation. Their journey began with a vision to revolutionize PIT Tag technology, providing high-quality solutions that empower researchers and scientists to better understand and protect aquatic ecosystems.

The goal at Voda IQ is to provide scientists PIT tags, RFID readers and accessories at an affordable price without giving up on quality and performance. Their unique shopping experience allows for a user-friendly e-commerce platform. They want to ensure that you get the service you deserve without the hassle

VISIT THEIR WEBSITE



Plugged In

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



Introduction to Development at AFS

Have you ever asked what the term development means to non-profit organizations? Is it grant writing/management, relationship management, or fundraising? (or all of the above and more?) AFS Development Manager, Jenna Hanks, is today's guest; she joins the podcast to help explain development at the American Fisheries Society.



Following the Spark to Fisheries Research with Hannah Stapleton

Kadie chats with Hannah Stapleton, a masters student in the Montana Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit at Montana State University. Listen in to hear about Hannah's wide reaching career path from work in Alaska to Thailand to Washington State, including her most recent stint working on an age-structured population model for brown trout and rainbow trout in a popular catch and release fishery in Montana.



You Ain't From Around Here

Ben and Corey are joined by Assistant Fish Chief Rachael Hoch to discuss both the harmful effects and the fishing opportunities presented by aquatic nuisance species. Learn how these aquatic nuisance species threaten our native aquatic life and why it's crucial to educate one another about not introducing animals into environments where they don't belong.



All About Gars

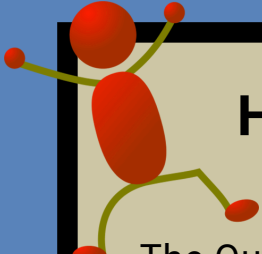
Solomon David (the "Gar Guy") is back and this time Katrina and Guy are talking with him about gars in the genus *Lepisosteus*. By the end of this episode, we GARANTEE you'll be a lot more familiar with the Longnose, Shortnose, Spotted and Florida Gars...and hope your curiosity about (and love for) these fish will be piqued even more.



Evaluating the cost of bycatch and entanglement with Naya O'Reilly

Elise chats with Naya O'Reilly, a current PhD student at UC Boulder studying fisheries bycatch and marine mammal entanglement in Hawaii. They talk through Naya's wide array of research experiences in LA, Madagascar, and more, as well as Naya's unique graduate school journey which has led to them completing their Master's and PhD at the same time. Elise and Naya also discuss their shared experience of being chronically ill/disabled in academia, and how community support can make all the difference!



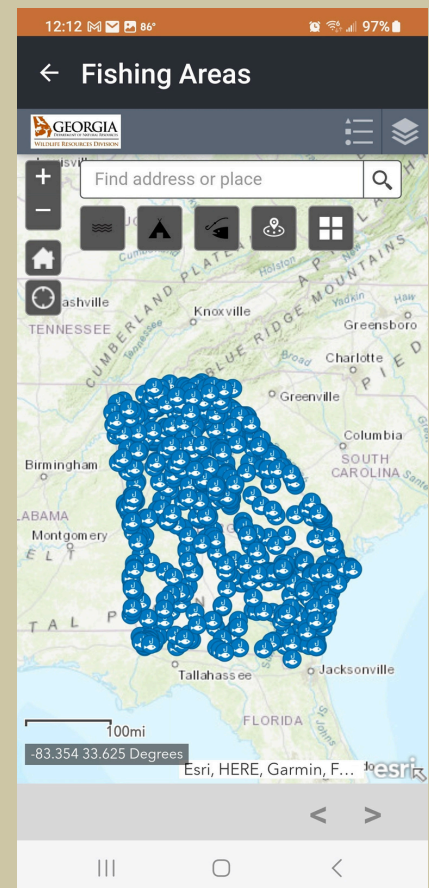
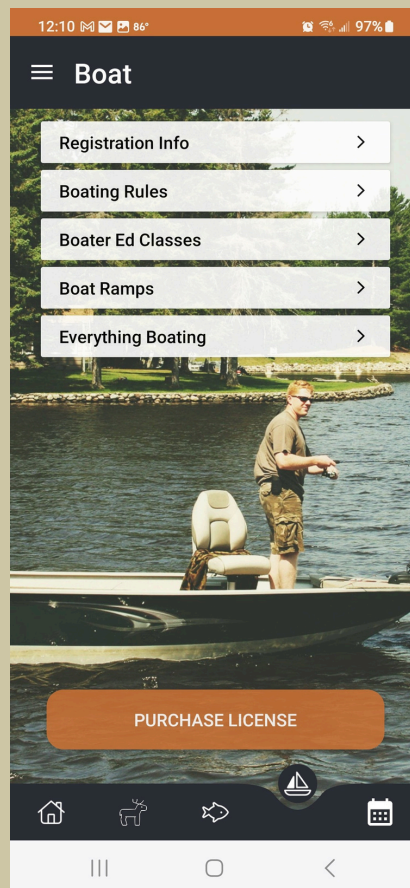
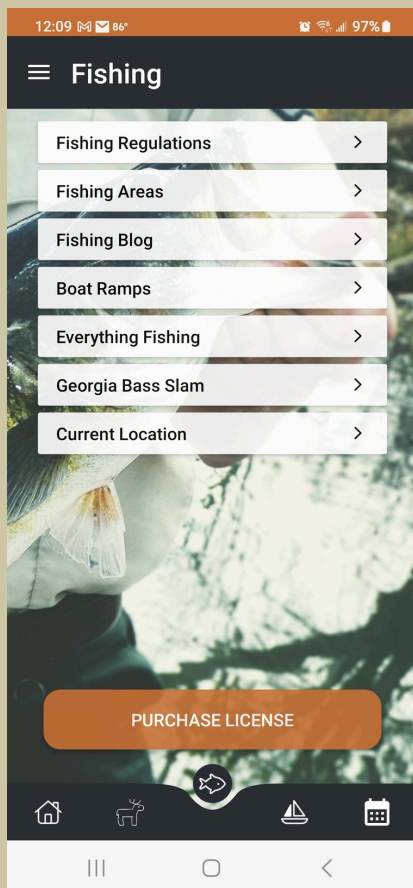
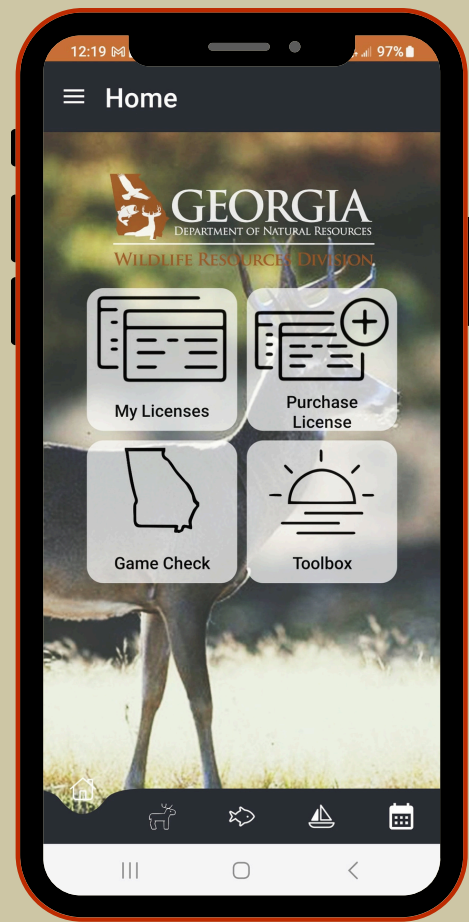


Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

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

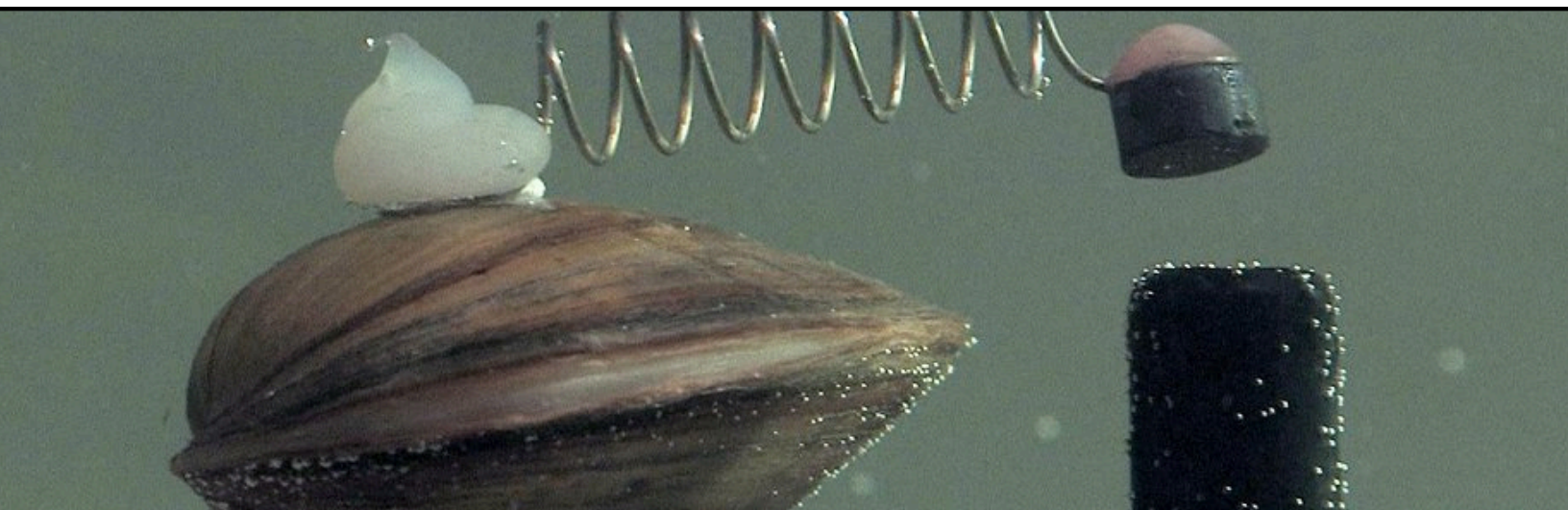
**DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY AND PLAN
YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**



DID YOU KNOW?

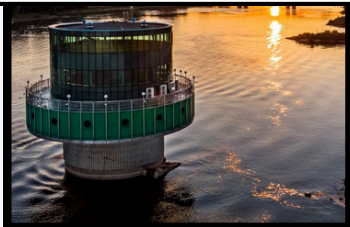
Major cities in Poland and one city in the United States use clams as an early warning system for their drinking water supply.

Using clams as an early warning detection system for drinking water involves leveraging their natural sensitivity to environmental changes and water quality. Clams are bioindicators, organisms that respond to changes in their environment, making them effective for monitoring water contamination. Their behavior, such as shell movement, can reveal the presence of pollutants like heavy metals, pesticides, or harmful organic compounds.



In this system, live clams are placed in a controlled environment where water from a drinking source flows through. Sensors are attached to their shells to monitor their opening and closing patterns. Clams typically keep their shells open for feeding and respiration, but they close them in response to pollutants or stressors. Rapid or prolonged shell closure can serve as an alarm, indicating potential contamination in the water supply. While not a standalone solution, it can complement traditional water testing methods to enhance drinking water safety.

**Fat Kathy
Documentary**



**Is Poland's tap water really
protected by clams?**



**Mussels help guard
Minneapolis water quality**



Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title to access article

CLIMATE, DEAD ZONES AND FISH: SOLVING A 'WICKED PROBLEM' IN LAKE ERIE AND BEYOND

A research collaboration has developed a simple model to help inform the complex decision-making that goes into managing water quality and fishery output in Lake Erie and similar ecosystems.

INVASIVE FLATHEAD CATFISH IMPACTING SUSQUEHANNA'S FOOD CHAIN, RESEARCHERS FIND

A Penn State research team is beginning to understand what Susquehanna flatheads are eating and how their presence is affecting native aquatic species in the Susquehanna River.

RAPID EUTROPHICATION OF A CLEARWATER LAKE: TRENDS AND POTENTIAL CAUSES INFERRED FROM PHOSPHORUS MASS BALANCE ANALYSES

Even deep clear water lakes, which are considered particularly valuable ecosystems, can show signs of eutrophication and algae growth—often for no apparent reason.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS OF SPECIATION

An article in the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society* highlights six misconceptions of speciation that are especially widespread. They call for caution, particularly when communicating science, because miscommunication of these ideas provides fertile ground for misconceptions to spread.

STUDY: INVASIVE SILVER CARP REDUCE MOVEMENT IN CHICAGO-AREA WATER

Invasive silver carp have have not advanced beyond a particular stretch of the Illinois River north of Kankakee. Research shows the fish are likely avoiding contaminants from the Chicago Area Waterway, which flows south before petering out around Kankakee.

OCEANOGRAPHERS RECORD THE LARGEST PREDATION EVENT EVER OBSERVED IN THE OCEAN

In the largest predation event ever recorded, researchers observed capelin shoaling off the coast of Norway, where a swarm of cod overtook them, consuming over 10 million fish in a few hours. The team hopes to deploy their technique to monitor the large-scale dynamics among other species of fish and track vulnerable keystone species.





BUBBA'S VIDEO PICKS

How to Claim Your Leadership Power
Michael Timms



*These habits benefit all of us - especially if you
are trying to help others be better*



How to Make the Best Shrimp Stew



BUBBA BASS RECOMMENDS

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BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Icy Roads - Black Ice



Roadways become very slippery when ice forms, leading to hazardous driving conditions and an increased risk of car accidents. Black ice is a dangerous wintertime hazard because black ice is difficult to spot. Melted snow or ice that refreezes may look deceptively like a dry road. And temperatures don't have to be below freezing for black ice to develop.

Ice commonly forms on highly shaded areas, infrequently traveled roads, bridges, and overpasses. Ice is also commonly found on roads that run around bodies of water such as lakes and rivers.



How to correct a slide on an icy road

Here are a few tips:

- As soon as your car begins to slide on ice, ease your foot off the gas pedal. Do not apply your brakes. If you push down on your brakes you make the slide worse.
- If your car does begin to skid on the ice, turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid. For example, if the back of your car skids to the left then turn your steering wheel to the left.
- Leave plenty of space between your car and the other cars on the road.



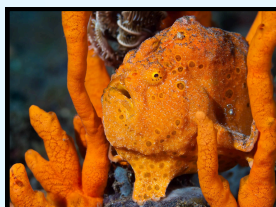
Bubba's Friends: Frogfish (Antennariidae)

Frogfish are any members of the family Antennariidae, a type of anglerfish that includes about 60 species. They're found in shallow tropical and subtropical ocean waters around the world and are fairly small—the biggest species only grows to 12 in (30 cm) long. They have modified pectoral fins that resemble legs, which allow them to “walk” along the ocean floor looking for prey.

- Their stocky, unstreamed body is scaleless
- Use various type of camouflage to hide from predators and sneak up on prey
- Have a dangling lure (illicium) to entice prey
- Its mouth cavity can grow up to 12 times its size
- Can expand their stomach to swallow prey twice their size
- Many can change color to match their surroundings
- Some say they have the fastest bite in the Animal Kingdom (6 milliseconds)



The Frogfish



Fin and Games

Solve the clues to discover the 10-letter mystery word.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Use the following clues to find the missing letters for the mystery word.

1. The ninth letter is the last letter of the term for the water placed in the bottom of ships to keep them stable. It is how zebra mussels arrived in North America.
2. The fifth letter is the first letter of the term used for microscopic larvae of freshwater mussels that attach to gills of fish.
3. The tenth letter is found in Marshweed and Smartweed, but not Muskgrass or Hydrilla.
4. The sixth letter is the elemental symbol for the gas that makes up about 21 percent of the Earth's atmosphere.
5. The first letter is the first letter for this fish that are the only vertebrates that do not have red blood cells or hemoglobin.
6. The second letter is the first letter of the compound that causes brown blood disease in fish.
7. The seventh letter is found in Trout and Darter, but not Paddlefish and Studfish.
8. The eighth letter is the first letter of the name of the largest watershed in Georgia.
9. This one can be tough...the fourth letter is the first letter of the term used for the adult stage of the mayfly - this is when the mayfly will reproduce.
10. If you know the word used to describe the free-floating larval stage of zebra mussels then you have the clue for the third letter of the mystery word.

Let the "mystery word" inspire your energy and drive for the new year.



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Georgia AFS 2025 Fundraising Donors

Thank you for your Support!

(This list is not complete because we are still receiving donations)

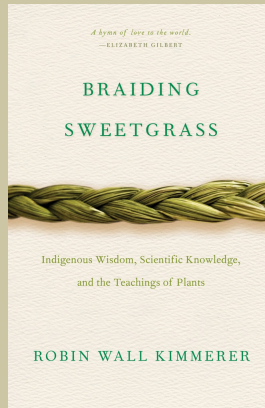


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THE BOOKSHELF

ADULT NON-FICTION SECTION



Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

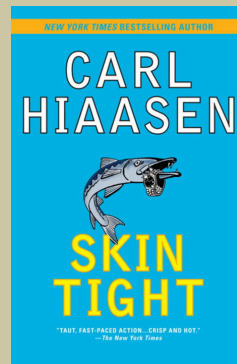
By Robin Wall Kimmerer

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices.

[Learn More Link](#)



ADULT FICTION SECTION



Skin Tight

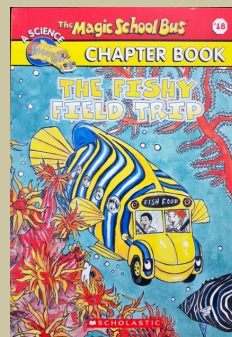
By Carl Hiaasen

After dispatching a pistol-packing intruder from his home with the help of a stuffed Marlin head, Mick Stranahan can't deny that someone is out to get him.

[Learn More Link](#)



CHAPTER BOOK SECTION



The Fishy Field Trip

By Martin Schwabacher, Hope Gangloff, Joanna Cole

Take a dive with Ms. Frizzle! The class climbs on the Magic School Bus to learn all about the Great Barrier Reef and the amazing creatures that claim it as their home. It'll be a splash!

[Learn More Link](#)



EARLY READER SECTION



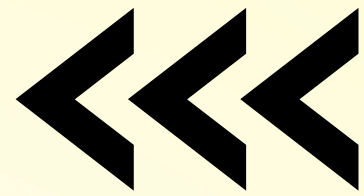
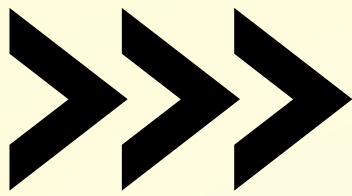
Over and Under the Wetland

Author: Kate Messner, Illustrator: Christopher Silas Neal

Discover the hidden magic of the Everglades in this fascinating and beautiful exploration of the wetland habitat from the New York Times bestselling author and award-winning illustrator of the beloved Over and Under series!

[Learn More Link](#)





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



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SAN • ANTONIO

2025



155th Annual Meeting
August 10-14, 2025

[Meeting Information](#)

AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS

Future AFS Annual Meetings



American Fisheries Society

- 2025 San Antonio, TX: August 10 – 14
- 2026 Columbus, OH: August 30 – September 3
- 2027 Pittsburgh, PA: September 26 – 30

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/

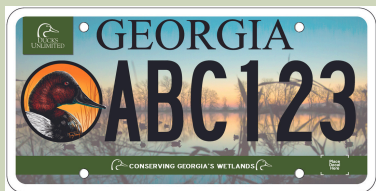
Future SDAFS Meetings

- 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](#)

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.

[UGA Extension Pesticide Safety Education](#)

[Pesticide License Exam Study Videos](#)

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](#)

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.

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