



# AFS Estuaries Section News



## President's Message

### Post Tampa Wrap-up

The AFS 2017 Meeting in Tampa was a great success for the Estuaries Section. The Monster's of Fish Habitat workshop was well attended and had the best costumes and rock star attitudes yet! Additionally, the section sponsored two symposium, one related to landscape conservation cooperative programs and another related to spawning aggregations. We also held our joint business meeting with the Marine Fisheries Section, plus a mixer on Monday night.

While in Tampa, I attended the AFS Business section meeting and governing board meeting. One of the biggest changes coming our way is the change from Taylor and Francis as the publisher of the society journals to Wiley. The bad



news is the change coincides with a slight increase in dues (about \$15 for regular members, and slightly less for other categories of membership). Now for the good news, in addition to improvements AFS parents society forseees from using Wiley rather than Taylor-Francis as the publishers, members will gain access to the entire back catalogue of AFS Journals, all the way back to 1872 (when *Transactions* was first published!). AFS also has plans to use this increased revenue to grow the society and to increase their efforts

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**Fall 2017**

**Newsletter Editor**

Geoff Smith  
[geoffreyhsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:geoffreyhsmith@ufl.edu)

**Webmaster**

Abigail Archer  
[aarcher@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:aarcher@barnstablecounty.org)

**Section Officers**

**President**

Lynn Waterhouse  
[lwaterho@ucsd.edu](mailto:lwaterho@ucsd.edu)

**President-Elect**

Catherine Johnston  
[ckjohnston80@gmail.com](mailto:ckjohnston80@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

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

**Secretary**

Jim Vasslides  
[jvasslides@ocean.edu](mailto:jvasslides@ocean.edu)

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in diversity, equity, and inclusion. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for AFS with these positive steps.

Shortly after the meeting wrapped, Tampa was hit by Hurricane Irma, thankfully much of Tampa was spared from the storm's wrath. Prior to landfall in the US, Irma plowed through the Caribbean, leaving destruction in its path. Irma was followed by Jose, followed by Maria; giving the Caribbean a beating that is has not seen in years. The US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, and Montserrat were all hit extremely hard during this hurricane season. I hope that all of our members (and their families and friends) affected by these natural disasters are safe and receiving the aid they need. My heart goes out to the entire Caribbean as they rebuild.

Just a few weeks after the 2017 hurricane season appeared to calm down another storm raged, but this time a cultural one. The news has been filled with stories of the sexual harassment and assault scandals rocking Hollywood. Perhaps less publicized, but just as important, are the stories of sexual harassment in science. *Science* published the story of Dr. Jane Willenbring, a now-tenured professor at my home institution, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who came forward

with her experience of sexual harassment in Antarctica (*Science*, 2017, Disturbing allegations of sexual harassment in Antarctica leveled at noted scientist [1]). For those who were unaware or doubted the enormity of the problem, just look to the #metoo social media uprising or the data published by PlosOne in 2014, "Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE): Trainees Report Harassment and Assault" [2]. Thankfully, I have not observed nor heard of issues related to sexual harassment within the Estuaries Section, I realize lack of an outcry is not proof of an absence of occurrences. I can only hope this has never been an issue for our section and that it will continue to be the case. In the coming months, I personally will be working to raise awareness at my own institution-through workshops focused on identifying and stopping incidences of sexual harassment along with discussions of how to handle it if you are a victim. I would encourage members to reflect on their own workplace and see if anything can be done to improve the situation, so that everyone has a work environment free of harassment.

I realize I touched on a few heavy subjects for my first President's note, but these issues have been weighing heavy on my mind. I am very proud of the strong female leadership within the Estuaries Section (prior to me, we had 2

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female President's and next up is Catherine) and I am equally proud of the support I have received from the other members of current and past executive boards of the section, and for that I thank all of you.

At the section business meeting in Tampa it was decided that we would move forward with a Monsters workshop in Atlantic City and it will focus on climate change and impacts from climate change. This nicely ties in with a science based action the section can take related to this year's hurricane season. Stay tuned for more

announcements on the workshop, and feel free to reach out to me if you have any speakers ("Monsters") in mind.

[1]

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/10/disturbing-allegations-sexual-harassment-antarctica-leveled-noted-scientist>

[2]

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0102172>

*Lynn Waterhouse*  
*Estuaries Section President*

## Awards

### Student Travel Award

Sarah Borsetti, MS student at Rutgers University, was awarded the 2017 travel award, and gave a talk at the annual AFS meeting in Tampa, FL titled: Spatial Variance in Life History Characteristics of the Waved Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) in the Mid-Atlantic. A summary of her research will be featured in the Winter newsletter.



Sarah Borsetti being presented the Estuaries Section Student Travel Award by Past-President Karin Limburg.

# Awards

## AFS Distinguished Service Award

Lee Benaka, of the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, received the Distinguished Service Award at the 2017 annual AFS meeting in Tampa, FL. This award recognizes outstanding contributions of time and energy for special project or activities by AFS members. Lee was selected for his continued efforts in enhancing member experiences with AFS. Some of Lee's contributions to AFS and our section are highlighted below:

- President of Potomac Chapter from 2000-2002
- President of Estuaries Section: 2000, 2011-2013
- Secretary-Treasurer of the Marine Fisheries Section: 2004-2008
- Treasurer of the Potomac Chapter
- Organized numerous AFS symposia since 1998
- Edited AFS book: *Fish Habitat: Essential Fish Habitat and Rehabilitation*
- Judge for AFS Best Paper Award for Marine and Coastal Fisheries



Lee Benaka being presented the Distinguished Service Award by AFS President Joe Margraf.

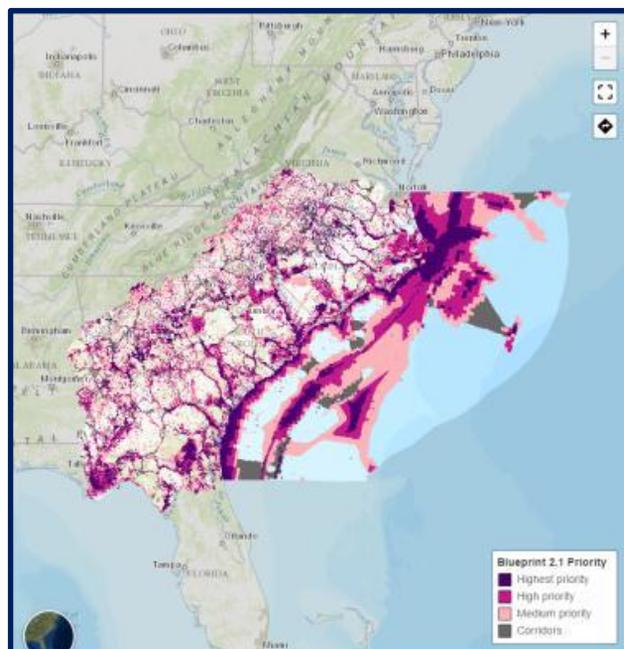
# Estuaries Section Sponsored Symposium Summary

## Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Fish Habitat Partnerships Facilitate Networks and Tools for Ecologically Connected Landscapes and Seascapes

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives are 22 stakeholder-driven networks that convene partners, develop tools and provide integrated science-based research to inform long-term sustainability of natural and cultural resources. Nineteen Fish Habitat Partnerships collectively involve diverse partners for conservation delivery in aquatic habitats across the nation. Working together, LCCs and FHPs facilitate the exchange of applied science and tools to guide coordinated implementation and evaluation of large-scale strategies that meet shared objectives. Speakers presented examples of large-scale collaborations such as: assessing how habitat conservation, habitat restoration, and agricultural landscapes can interact to maintain and enhance water resources in the desert Southwest; spatial design of key agricultural conservation practices for wildlife, bioenergy and water quality in the Mississippi Basin/Gulf Hypoxia Initiative; tools for planning aquatic connectivity in the North and Southeast regions and coastal wetlands in Eastern Michigan and Western Lake Erie; increasing connectivity for wildlife dispersal and aquatic integrity in productive agricultural working lands across large geographies in the Northwest

states and southwest Canada; habitat based conservation planning for the Lower Mississippi region; collaborative conservation action with Fish Habitat Partnerships; and a multi-state Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy. Audience exchanges identified needs for applied science, stakeholder engagement, coordinated management, and additional tool development.

*Gwen White*  
*Tallgrass Prairie LCC*



South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint map.

# Estuaries Section Sponsored Symposium Summary

## Biology and Management of Aggregating Species in Freshwater and Marine Systems

This symposium provided a current synthesis of the scientific breadth of projects used to inform management of aggregation-spawning species. Species which form spawning aggregations are easy targets for fisheries, and as a result many have seen drastic declines -this has resulted in some species being listed as threatened or endangered by the IUCN and/or under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. This symposium covered both freshwater and marine species that form spawning aggregations, with the bulk of the talks being on marine species.

Highlighted throughout the day were the common methods used to study aggregations, including acoustic tagging, passive acoustics, active acoustics, diver surveys, hormone analysis to evaluate maturity and sex change, and mark recapture studies (both conventional and genetic tags). Work is being conducted at multiple spatial scales, all the way from the ocean basin scale where simulation models are being used to predict future distributions based on potential climate change down to spatial use by multiple species and various mating systems occurring on a particular coral bommie in Guam. The symposium brought together investigators who study spawning



Nassau grouper spawning aggregation off Little Cayman Island, Cayman Islands in 2014.. Photo credit: Joshua Stewart, REEF Grouper Moon Project

aggregations in a variety of locations and on various species, yet the findings all point to the importance of such studies in creating sustainable management plans, especially in light of future impacts from climate change.

*Lynn Waterhouse, Scripps Institute of Oceanography*

*Scott Heppell, Oregon State University*

*Selina Heppell, Oregon State University*

*Sue Lowerre-Barbieri, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute*

*Brice Semmens, Reef Environmental Education Foundation*

# Monsters of Fish Habitat Wrap-up

On Sunday August 20, 2017 the second in the series of “Monsters” workshops was held at the AFS Annual Meeting in Tampa. Why associate a workshop with the word, “Monsters”?!? Well, the original idea was cooked up by Estuaries Section members Lee Benaka and Lynn Waterhouse many years ago. The inspiration for the name was the 1980s Monsters of Rock tour that brought together the best heavy metal bands of the age. So how does that translate to a fisheries conference? We consider a, “Monster” to be someone who is influential in their field, an excellent performer (which for our field means a skilled teacher and/or communicator), and who has love and enthusiasm for their topic of study. It also helps to have a silly streak. The goal was to plan an event that was different from the rest of the annual meeting, where both speakers and attendees could learn from each other while having fun. So in that spirit, here follows the...

Top Ten Reasons Why the Monsters of Fish Habitat Science Workshop at the Tampa Annual Meeting was Awesome

10. The Estuaries Section got to partner up and work on a fundraising project with the Fish Habitat Section and the Marine Fisheries Section.

9. Monster Gary Whelan taught us why connectivity is important for recruitment refugia, and pointed out that the band Kansas sings about connectivity in, “Song for America”.

8. Estuaries Section member Avi Litwack designed the coolest logo ever.

7. Monster Howard Townsend walked us through how ecosystem based models can be used to evaluate trade-offs between different management scenarios, and demonstrated that an appreciation of the band Iron Butterfly is not incompatible with excellent science communication skills.



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6. Monster Jim Locascio walked in to the song, “Under Pressure” and then taught us about the history of using acoustics in fisheries habitat research.
5. Monster Brian Graeb explained to us the grand challenge of managing fish populations in aging reservoirs, and his lab’s efforts to determine how much habitat enhancement is needed to increase growth in largemouth bass.
4. In the span of her 20 minute presentation, Monster Linda Walters introduced us to oyster storytelling yoga, and the detailed measurements done by her students to determine what type of boat wakes impact oyster reefs. Her lab is training the next generation of nature lovers and scientists!
3. Organizing Committee member Tom Lang reminded us all how cool temporary tattoos are.
2. In the, “Guess How Many Fish are in the Habitat” game, a stock assessment scientist submitted the closest guess!
1. Past-President Karin Limburg taught us about using otoliths to determine habitat use history, while she was wearing a wig and rocking American eel tattoos (adult & elvers) on her arms.

*Abigail Archer  
Estuaries Section Webmaster  
Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Marine Program  
Woods Hole Sea Grant*

## Monsters of Stock Assessment by the Numbers

**3** Hours, length of workshop

**6** Monsters of Fish Habitat Science

**33** People in attendance

**\$1118.00** Amount raised by the three Sections

**\$372.00** Amount Estuaries Section will put towards Student Travel Awards

**1520** Number of actual goldfish crackers in the jar (with habitat)

**1496** Closest number guessed

**315** Lowest number guessed

**15,000** Highest number guessed

**10** Number of eel 'tattoos' Past-President Karin Limburg had on her arms



# Estuaries Section Treasurer's Report

respectfully submitted on 11/13/2017

by

Dr. Konstantine J. Rountos (Treasurer)

## Recent transactions:

Date:	Balance	Credit	Debit	Note:
8/20/2017	3,862.23			Treasurer's Report (AFS 2017)
8/29/2017	3,507.79		354.44	Check#114 (MFS 50% of Annual Meeting food/bev)
8/31/2017	3,007.79		500.00	Check#115 (Sara Borsetti - 2017 Travel Award)
9/5/2017	3,079.79	72.00		Cash deposit from Monsters of FHS (2017 Workshop)
9/24/2017	3,055.79		24.00	Check#117 (MFS-split of Monsters 2017 cash)
10/27/2017	3,055.79			Check#116 [FHS-split of Monsters 2017 cash (\$24.00)- VOIDED, Check#118 issued]
11/7/2017	3,031.79		24.00	Check#118 (FHS-split of Monsters 2017 cash)
11/13/2017	3,031.79			Current balance

\*Pending check issued - AFS Plaques and Certificates for 2017 AFS meeting = \$60.00

## Check us out online!

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

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

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/grps/Estuaries-Section-American-Fisheries-Society-7443198/>