



Fall 2023

Shellcracker Newsletter



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FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

<https://units.fisheries.org/fl/>

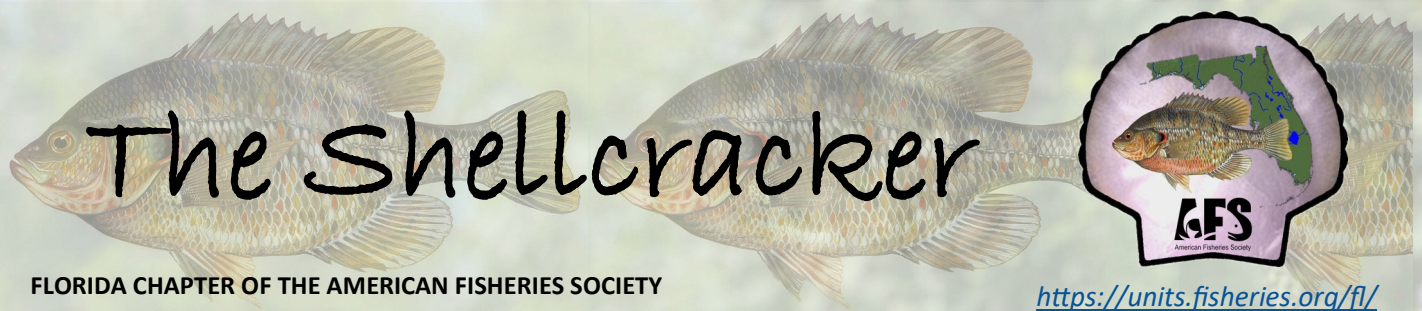
Fall 2023 President's Letter

Dear Florida AFS members and friends,

Apparently 2023 is now roughly 83% over, an alleged fact that I am as disturbed by as I am sorry to bring to your attention. Of course, if by now I had accomplished the things I'd been sure would be done by July, I might now be basking in a curious, spacious bliss, exploring new ideas professionally and personally (or would I just be indulging in more doom scrolling re: wars and rumors of war, who can say?). Time has passed somehow at exactly the same rate it always has, while simultaneously passing much faster than I imagined it could. I feel overwhelmed by a list of things I "have to do" that grows as each day ticks by, and I don't appear to be changing this despite technically having the power to do so. Fascinating!

To those wondering whether I am performing an experiment to assess readership of the Florida AFS president's blurb, (1) that is a fair question but (2) no, I'm at least trying to make a point. Here is my hypothesis: arguably the greatest change in (many of) our professional and personal lives was the COVID-19 pandemic but I'm not sure I (we?) learned much from it about work and life. Did we make space to process insights, collectively or personally? Did we make changes based on what we saw, experienced, learned? Or did we mostly go back to the same things before, plus more zoom/teams? For someone who talks a lot about needing to "learn from doing" and integrate new knowledge into management decision making, it seems like I haven't purposefully tried to do that regarding this massive perturbation that affected some of us accurately and all of us at least a little. I was in many online meetings during the pandemic where we recognized its challenges, but now I don't feel any closure and can't remember any purposeful integration to organize thoughts and select what we wanted to "carry forward" from that experience. I am telling myself (in part by writing this) that it's not too late! I can choose to purposefully think about how the pandemic affected me, and what I think I learned.

I don't know the best way to do this. As I wrote the above, I started to imagine another online meeting, where the most talkative people (guilty here) shared what they thought they'd learned while others chipped away at emails and whatever else was more urgently needed than another meeting. Next, I remembered the idea of "reflective practice", which a colleague had brought up in a different context. Reflective practice is (accordingly to like 10 minutes of google scholar searching) not



Fall 2023 President's Letter, continued

a new idea, but one that was taken up by medical fields (doctoring [?], nursing) through the '80s and '90s and now shows up in some facilitation stuff. Mamede and Schmidt (2004) described the modern concept of reflective practice as coming from John Dewey's 1933 book *How we think*, with a reflective thought practice being "provoked by an event in one's life that arouses a state of doubt, perplexity or uncertainty, and leads the individual to search for possible explanations or solutions". That sounds both (1) exactly what I was looking for, and (2) eerily similar to my own incessant-to-the-point-of-crippling self-analysis. Maybe instead of an actual meeting, we could schedule a recurring 1-2 hour "anti-meeting" to block out time and reflect on our own, and then at some point later choose to share or not. Again, I don't know the best way to do this.

Here is what I propose. If anyone who reads this thinks of ideas for processing and learning from this big event we shared, let me know. If there is no feedback, I'll drop this subject and the next presidential update can be something about how great fisheries and aquaculture and Florida is (which isn't wrong!) and we can go on. But if I recall correctly, I did run for president on the platform of finding the time to be curious and learn, so here I attempt to fulfil my campaign promises. You are welcome to email me edvcamp@ufl.edu if you'd like! And regardless, I wish you the best, final 6th of 2023 that you can have.

Ed Camp

References

- Dewey J. *How We Think*. Boston: Heath 1933.
- Mamede, S., & Schmidt, H. G. 2004. The structure of reflective practice in medicine. *Medical education*, 38(12), 1302-1308.



Getting in Touch

American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Officers

President

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Gainesville, FL 32653
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Email: kc2625@mysu.nova.edu

Vice President

Cody Eggenberger
Florida International University
Email: cegge004@fiu.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Kelly Chase
University of Florida
Email: Kelly.chase@myfwc.com

University Liaison

Shakira Trabelsi
Florida International University
Email: strab002@fiu.edu

Upcoming Events

January 31– February 4, 2024: AFS Southern Division annual meeting: Chattanooga, TN

May 14-16, 2024: AFS Florida Chapter annual meeting Saint Augustine Beach

Deadline for symposia and papers: March 3, 2024

September 15-19, 2024: 154th AFS National Meeting: Honolulu, Hawaii

Interested in sharing content with the AFS Community?

For Florida Chapter AFS Website updates, articles, or content Email Jason O'Connor at Jason.OConnor@myfwc.com

Or Contact [Kyle Miller](#) with any articles or information that you would like included in the next AFS Shellcracker.

Getting involved!

Committees Seeking members:

Continuing Education Committee

Planning future continuing education workshops
Allison Durland Donahou
adurland@flsouthern.edu
Jason O'Connor
Jason.Oconnor@myfwc.com

Marketing and Membership Committee

New membership ideas in recruitment, retainment,
and reactivation of members
Kerry Flaherty-Walia
KFWalia@tbep.org

Policy Committee

Keep members informed on local to national policy
issues on aquatic resources
Ed Camp
Edvcamp@ufl.edu

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Providing members with information on DEI
Chelsey Crandall
Chelsey.Crandall@myfwc.com

Feature your research:

Shellcracker Newsletter

Feature articles or other AFS content
Kyle Miller
Kylea.Miller@myfwc.com

Website

Updates, articles, content
Jason O'Connor
Jason.Oconnor@myfwc.com

Student Scholarships and Travel Grants

Assistance with student scholarships and future
scholarship opportunities:
Rottman Scholarship, Punches Memorial Scholarship
David Kerstetter
kerstett@nova.edu

Student Sub-unit

Swag sales, blog updates, student chapter involve-
ment
Karli Corey
Kc2625@mynsu.nova.edu

Raffle/Silent Auction

Assistance with raffle collections, auction items
Amanda Croteau
ACroteau@uwf.edu

Events

Florida AFS sponsored aquatic clean ups

Joining current aquatic clean ups or begin your own
Nick Trippel
Nick.Trippel@myfwc.com



OR!

Submit your awful fish-related pun to the
newsletter editor to win a prize. I promise the
corniest of the fish jokes will find their way into a
future newsletter.

Examples:

What did one ocean say to the other ocean?

Nothing, he just waved

I saw a micro-biologist in the lab today. They were
much bigger than I expected.

The other day I saw a bee hive without an exit.
Unbeelievable.

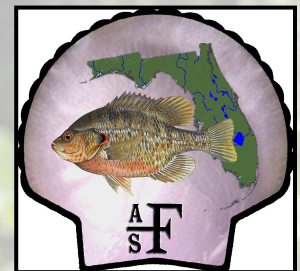
44th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society



May 14-16, 2024

Guy Harvey Outpost Resort

St. Augustine, FL



We invite you to submit abstracts for the 44th annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will take place May 14-16 at the Guy Harvey Resort in St. Augustine Beach. We hope you can join us! **Registration Opens: Jan 1, 2024.** The meeting format will be similar to previous years, notable changes include: single occupancy lodging available, tiki-bar socials (sorry no bonfire, but there are multiple gas firepits), and a beach!

The symposium topic will be:

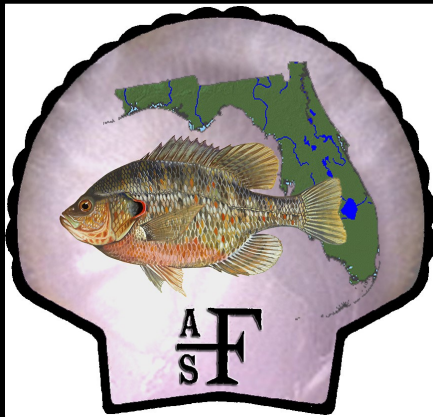
“Restoration: The Role of Fisheries Science in the Evolution and Evaluation of Restoration Initiatives.”

The word “restoration” can be interpreted in a variety of ways. In aquatic environments, restoration initiatives are generally focused on “improving” something, generating questions that are of interest to fisheries science at almost every level. What are some of the tools being used to achieve a “restored” state? How are our tools evolving? Importantly, how are we evaluating restoration efforts – and what does success look like? The 2024 FAFS symposium invites a broad spectrum of talks related to any interpretation of this topic, but some example topics include restoration through management strategies, production (or removal) efforts, and evaluations of system responses to restoration efforts (through monitoring or other methods).

We encourage submissions relating to the symposium topic but also welcome and accept submissions relating to any other aspect of Florida fisheries.

Deadline for abstract submission and early registration:

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

FLORIDA CHAPTER

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

MAY 14-16, 2024

Meeting Information

Meeting Details

The 2024 meeting will be held at the Guy Harvey Resort St. Augustine Beach. The address for the Resort is 860 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. Maps and directions will be available in the next issue of the Shellcracker or can be found on the Guy Harvey Resort Website at <https://guyharveyresortstaugustinebeach.com/>

The meeting's schedule of events will be similar to past meetings. We will begin in the afternoon on Tuesday, May 14th at 13:00 with the presentation of contributed papers. The poster session will take place following dinner on Tuesday evening. The **'Restoration: The Role of Fisheries Science in the Evolution and Evaluation of Restoration Initiatives'** symposium will start on Wednesday morning. The business meeting and raffle will follow dinner on Wednesday night. We will hear more contributed papers on Thursday morning, followed by lunch and the presentation of awards immediately following lunch.

Registration

Registration period opens Jan 1, 2024. The link for online registration will be provided via email and will also be in the January Shellcracker. Registration includes all meals. State employees can use P-Cards to pay for registration, but cannot request per diem during travel reimbursement. Registrations will still be accepted at the meeting (late fees applied). We can accept VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX, DISCOVER, cash, or check at the meeting.

Registration Options:

Full Meeting Registration (May 14-16): \$235

Single Day Options (Select all that apply):

May 14: \$85

May 15: \$125

May 16: \$60

This link to the registration website will also be made available on our chapter's website at <https://units.fisheries.org/fl/>. There will be no mail-in registration forms this year, however, you can still mail a check for your meeting costs.

Lodging

A block of rooms has been reserved for this event and **you must make your own lodging arrangements with the Resort**. There are single or double bed options available for \$140 per night, and you must mention you are attending the American Fisheries Society meeting to get this rate.



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

FLORIDA CHAPTER

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

MAY 14-16, 2024

Meeting Information

Presentation Details

Abstract Submission Process

Abstracts will be submitted online via the [Abstract Submission Form](#) on the Florida Chapter website. [Florida Chapter Meeting Abstract Submission | Florida Chapter \(fisheries.org\)](#)

Abstract Submission Form Opens: January 1, 2024

Abstract Submission **Deadline** (Oral and Poster Sessions) : March 3, 2024

Oral Session:

Speakers will be given 20 minutes for talks (15 minutes for presentations and 5 minutes for questions and/or discussion). We will have PowerPoint on a laptop capable of accepting your presentation on a flash drive or other device.

Important note: Please use **widescreen PowerPoint slide format** for all presentations.

Poster Session:

All posters will be presented on Tuesday evening, May 14th and can be left up for the entire meeting. Posters should be no larger than 150 X 100 cm (60" X 40"), but they can be set up either as portrait or landscape format on an easel.

Opportunities for student support

As in previous years, student travel awards will be available for the annual meeting. The recipients will be notified by early February to allow for early registration. Master's and doctoral students are also eligible for the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship. More information and the application materials are available on page 12 of the Newsletter.

2024 Student Raffle

We need your help to make this meeting's raffle a great one. If you are interested in helping or donating items, please email Amanda Croteau (acroteau@uwf.edu) or Chelsea Crandall (Chelsey.Crandall@myfwc.com). Remember all proceeds fund our student travel grants for the following year's meeting. Please contact us to get involved!

We look forward to seeing everyone in St. Augustine Beach for our 2024 annual meeting!

Novel Attempts at Removal of *Oreochromis* sp. In the Upper Saint Johns River

By:

Arthur Bernhardt

Featured Research

In April and May 2023, FWRI biologists worked with SJRWMD to coordinate and monitor commercial haul-seine fishing of tilapia *Oreochromis* sp. in two upper St John's River lakes, Lake Florence and Lake Poinsett (Figure 1).

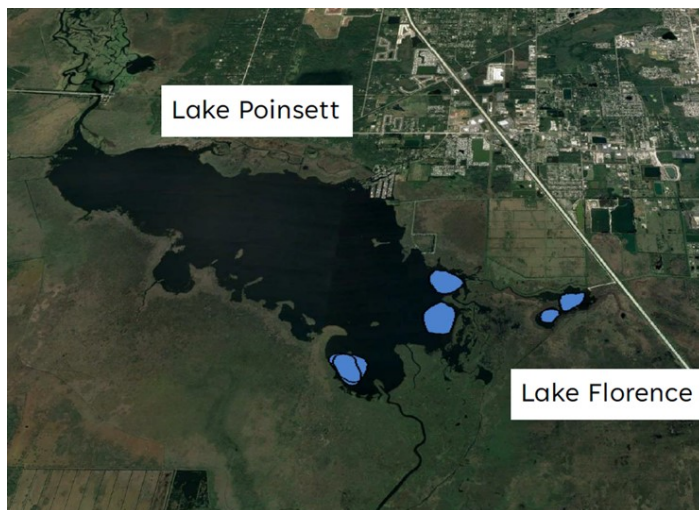


Figure 1 Lakes Poinsett and Florence, the polygons represent the area swept by the haul-seine, recorded by gps

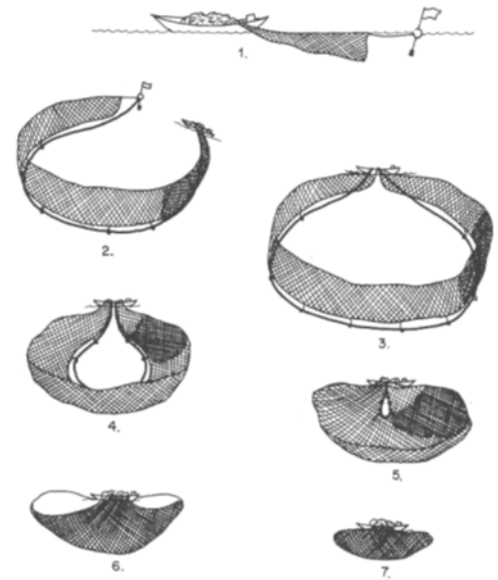


Figure 2. Diagram of haul-seine operation.

Commercial tilapia haul-seine fishers used nets that were 1000 m-long with 3-inch stretched mesh. Nets were deployed by boat in a large arc, sweeping an area between 30 and 60 acres. As the net was pulled closed, the encircled fish were corralled into a pocket to be processed by the fisherman (Figure 2). The fisherman then used a large dip net to collect fish from the pocket, and sorted the catch on their boat. The fisherman were permitted to keep and sell tilapia and brown hoplo, *Hoplosternum littorale*, and were required to collect and dispose of exotic vermiculated sailfin catfish *Pterygoplichthyes disjunctivus*. Non-target species were required to be released alive. FWC biologists sub-sampled the dips to identify catch composition.

Featured Research, Continued

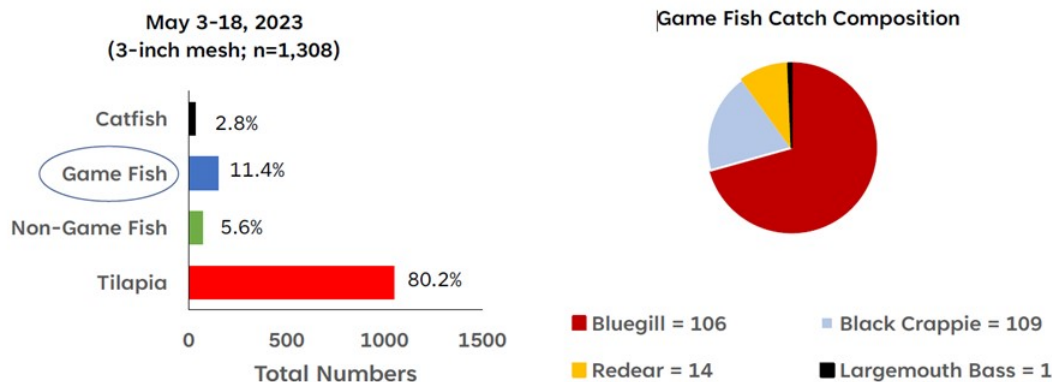
Lake Florence was fished twice in April 2023, the first attempt was successful, the second used an experimental 2-inch stretch net and was unsuccessful. In the first haul, 6,352 lbs of tilapia, 185 lbs of brown hoplo, and 760 lbs of vermiculated sailfin catfish were harvested. Fewer than two-dozen gamefish were observed in the entire net. Lake Poinsett was sampled 4 times, one of which was



unsuccessful due to fouling by a sunken canoe. On another attempt, a dozen alligators were corralled in the net, and their release caused the sailfin catfish to be lost. The catch from all nets were dominated by Tilapia, making up 80 % of the catch in Lake Poinsett, meanwhile, just 11% of fish caught were gamefish (figure 3) . Total biomass of tilapia caught from lake Poinsett weighed 39,185 lbs. We also deployed dart tags (n=81) in tilapia in Lake cone as a trial run for a mark-recapture study. Low water levels following the tagging event prohibited access to the lake and the haul-seine crew were unable to fish the lake as a result.

In 2024 FWC biologists plan to further study the fishery, targeting two upper St. John's River lakes to deploy a large number of tags. In this phase, the commercial fisherman will be required to fish each of the lakes selected a minimum of three times. Goals are to estimate tilapia population size, and determine the amount of effort that would be needed to fish down tilapia populations.

Lake Poinsett Catch Subsamples (Numbers)





Student Travel Grants

We encourage students to attend and participate in our annual meeting, and we offer a number of travel grants each year to offset meeting attendance costs for students. We endeavor to support all students who apply, but in the event of funding limitations, priority will be given to students who have not previously received a Florida Chapter Student Travel Grant.

If you plan to apply for the student travel grant you must:

1. Be member of the FL Chapter in good standing ([how to join](#))
2. Register for the FL Chapter annual meeting
3. Submit a [Student Travel Grant Application](#)

We recommend preparing the required “Rivers to Reefs” Essay prior to starting application because it is not possible to save incomplete applications and return to them at a later time. [More information on the essay requirement here.](#)

Application Deadline: January 5th

Question regarding the student travel grants should be directed to:

Allison Durland Donahou, Ph.D.
Florida Southern College
adurland@flsouthern.edu

and

David Kerstetter, Ph.D.
Nova Southeastern University
kerstett@nova.edu

REEFS TO RIVERS: FLORIDA FISHERIES SCIENCE

Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Student Subunit

Don't forget to stay up to date with the activities of the Florida AFS Student Subunit, by checking out the R2R Blog @ <https://flafsstudentsubunit.wordpress.com/>

This week's post, "The Petrifying Payara (*Hydrolycus Spp.*) and How Little We Know About Them" features a toothy fish lurking in the depths of the Amazon River. Author Elizabeth Walsh has compiled both fun facts and knowledge gaps in the life history of this 'nightmarish' fish!

Chapter Appreciation

10/31/2023

Shawna Fix
shawna@southeastaquatics.net



Dear Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society:

On behalf of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your sponsorship donation of \$1000 in support of the 2024 Southern Division American Fisheries Society Meeting to be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

No goods or services have been provided in return for this contribution. All donations are tax exempt as the Tennessee Chapter AFS is a certified 501(c) 3 charitable organization (EID 54-06B3803).

Please accept our thanks for your generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Shawna Fix
Secretary-Treasurer, Tennessee Chapter AFS
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership