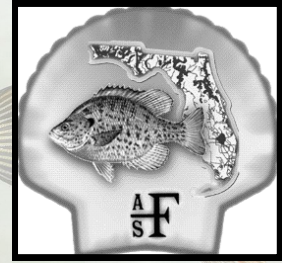


The Shellcracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



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

Summer 2024

President's Message:

Hello and thank you to everyone who attended and/or assisted with the 2024 annual meeting! We had another record year that exceeded expectations, not only in attendance and participation, but also in the professionalism, diversity and quality of presentations. Florida Chapter members continue to impress at all levels, you all rock!

Congratulations to the award winners, and especially to our students. Student attendance is key to the success of the organization – I think the student papers are often some of the most polished, representing some of the most innovative new research and the constant evolution of fisheries science. Students are the future of the profession, and it is always so encouraging to see such excellent participation from such a variety of organizations. (Also, big kudos to all of the faculty advisors that support

Although the 2024 meeting's packed schedule did not allow for broader group discussion about our Symposium topic, I wanted to dedicate some time to reflect on the response of the Chapter to the Symposium theme, "Restoration and the role of fisheries science in the evolution and evaluation of restoration initiatives." The call for papers encouraged presenters to think about some of the tools being used to achieve "restored" systems, as well as how we can evaluate restoration efforts and define success. There were 23 fantastic talks submitted for the symposium that spanned a full spectrum of topics, including fish removal for nutrient management, restoration aquaculture, habitat enhancement, management strategies, and monitoring and modeling tools for prediction and evaluation of system responses to restoration efforts. It was a great session, and I encourage everyone (if you haven't already) to dive in to the 2024 Program and revisit some of these abstracts (<https://units.fisheries.org/fl/chaptermeeting/meetingarchives/2024-abstracts/>)

Finally, I would like to admit that I am sort of obsessed with fish nerd jokes and I love a captive audience, so here it goes:

How did the bivalve hide from the molluscivore? Clamoflauge!

What would you call a fish at a fancy dinner party? – Sofishticated.

What meal advice did the dating guru have to offer? – "If you're going for roemance, you'll want to consider the caviar."

I hope these jokes challenge you to send me some better ones.

The Executive Committee is already in the midst of planning for next year and I look forward to seeing you all in St. Augustine in May 2025! Follow our Chapter webpage for updates: <https://units.fisheries.org/fl/>

Sincerely,

Angela Collins

President, Florida Chapter AFS





Getting in Touch

American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Officers

President

Angela Collins
UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory
1408 24th Street SE
Ruskin, FL 33570
Email: abcollins@ufl.edu

President-Elect

Steve Beck
FWC/DFFM
7386 NW 71st St
Gainesville, FL 32653
Email: steven.beck@myfwc.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Sara Menendez
FWC
Freshwater Fisheries Management
Lakeland, FL 7386 NW 71st St
Email: sara.menendez@myfwc.com

Newsletter Editor

Bridgette Froeschke
The University of Tampa/ Department of
Environmental Studies
401 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL, 33606
Email: bfroeschke@ut.edu

Past President

Ed Camp
University of Florida/Fisheries and Aquatic
Sciences Program
Gainesville, FL
Email: edvcamp@ufl.edu

American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Student Sub-Unit Officers

President

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

Vice President

Andy Distrubell
Florida International University
Email: adist002@fiu.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Brandy Huber
Florida Southern College

University Liaison

Jordan Zulli
Nova Southeastern University
Email: jz476@mynsu.nova.edu



Upcoming Events

September 15 –19, 2024 : AFS National Meeting:
Honolulu, HI

February 18-21, 2025: AFS Southern Division
annual meeting Asheville, NC

Interested in contributing something to the Shellcracker? Email: Bridgette Froeschke at bfroeschke@ut.edu with any articles or information that you would like to be included in the next issue. Prize will be awarded for the best, and worst fish jokes submitted.

Getting Involved!

Committees Seeking members:

Award Committee

Rich Caiteux/Outstanding Achievement Awards
Eric Nagid
Eric.Nagid@myfwc.com

Continuing Education Committee

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

Membership Committee

New membership ideas in recruitment, retainment, and reactivation of members
Sara Menendez
FWC
Freshwater Fisheries Management
Lakeland, FL 7386 NW 71st St
Email: sara.menendez@myfwc.com

Policy Committee

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

Community and Engagement Committee

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

Feature your research:

Shellcracker Newsletter

Feature articles or other AFS content
Bridgette Froeschke
bfroeschke@ut.edu

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 and
Dennis Panches Memorial Scholarship
Chuck Cichra
cecichra@ufl.edu

Student Sub-unit

Swag sales, blog updates, student chapter involvement
Cody Eggenberger
coeggenb@fu.edu

Raffle/Silent Auction

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

Positions

Code of Conduct Officer

Searching for officers to represent FL AFS code of conduct
Daniel Nelson
Daniel.Nelson@myfwc.com

Apprentice webmaster

Training opportunity for web management.
Angela Collins
abcollins@ufl.edu



OR!

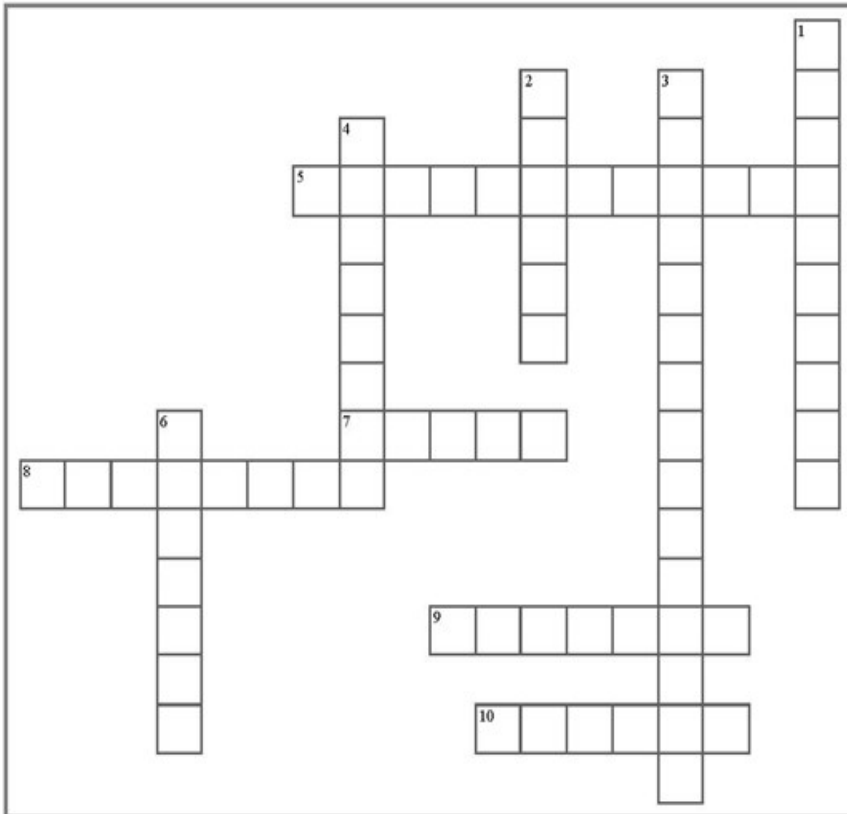
We are excited to invite you to share your favorite fishing stories and/or pictures for the next edition of the Shellcracker. Whether it's a tale of your biggest catch, an unforgettable fishing trip, or a moment that made you laugh, we want to hear about it! Please submit your stories and photos by September 30, 2024 to bfroeschke@ut.edu. Your contributions will help make this edition truly special.



Crossword Puzzle

We're excited to introduce a fun new feature in this edition: a crossword puzzle! Dive into this engaging challenge and test your knowledge about our favorite topics. Enjoy solving and discovering new facts along the way!

July 2024



Across

5. Hard-fighting fish often seen in schools near the surface, known for its powerful runs.
7. Game fish known for its distinct black lateral line and prized for sport fishing
8. Known for their speed and strength, these fish are a favorite among fly fishermen in the flats.
9. Popular reef fish with a strong bite, comes in several varieties including red and mangrove.
10. Common baitfish and known for jumping out of the water

Down

1. Fish with human-like teeth, often found near piers, jetties, and other structures.
2. Large, silver fish famous for its acrobatic leaps and found in both salt and brackish waters.
3. Smaller relative of the king mackerel, known for its speed and agility, often found in coastal waters.
4. Known as the "poor man's tarpon," this fish is known for its spirited fight and frequent jumps.
6. Characteristic black spot near its tail

Announcements

Aquatic Cleanup Events:

Back in 2019, Florida Chapter AFS decided to try to put some events together outside of the annual meeting to bring chapter members together and do something beneficial for our aquatic resources. It was decided that doing aquatic cleanup events would be the best way to do this. These events are typically held on International Coastal Cleanup day which this year falls on Saturday, September 21st. However, these events can be done at any time during the year. We would like to get as many members as possible to host a local event or go participate in an event someone else has already planned. It could even just be taking your family out for a few hours to pick up trash somewhere. Since 2019, chapter members and their events have removed nearly 13,000 lbs of trash from waterways around the state. Last year we only had two events and would like more participation this year. If you would like to host an event, the chapter will reimburse you for up to \$200 for trash bags, gloves, water, whatever else you may need to put an event on. Just keep your receipts. Thus far for this year we have one event planned for the Harris Chain of Lakes on September 21st. If you would like to host an event, have any questions, or want more info on the Harris Chain of Lakes event, please contact Nick Trippel at 352-800-5015 or Nicholas.Trippel@myfwc.com.



Southern Division in Florida:

Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society,

We are on the hook to host the Southern Division meeting in 2029. At this point we are gathering interest from individuals that may be interested in helping plan the meeting. The roles will range from being heavily involved to just as important, but less time intensive roles. Tasks will range from monetary budgeting to raffle items to symposium development. If you are interested in playing a role please contact Daniel Nelson (Daniel.Nelson@MyFWC.com).



The Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society

Career Panel at Annual Meeting a Success

To wrap up this year's Florida Chapter AFS meeting the continuing education committee hosted a career panel discussion. The idea was for students, young professionals, etc.. to have an opportunity to speak to professionals with different areas of expertise about how to transition into the professional side of fisheries. Just over 40 people attended the panel discussion. Participants were given the opportunity to either raise their hand to ask questions or anonymously submit questions



through mentimeter. Joy Hazell from the NRLI program at UF did a great job at facilitating this discussion. Panelists included: Bridgette Froeschke from University of Tampa, Lisa Hollensead from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Ed Camp from University of Florida, John Galvez from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Matt McKinney from Duke Energy. This panel had experience with just about any kind of career anyone might want to pursue in fisheries. Questions covered topics about best types of experience to have on your resume, how to best get your foot in the door with various sectors, does your masters or PhD research topic limit the types of jobs you can apply for, etc. Attendees filled up the entire time period with questions and both attendees and panelists wished they had had conversations like this earlier in their careers. Feedback was all positive and several attendees asked why we had not had discussions like this sooner and more regularly.



2024 Annual Meeting Awards!!

Congratulations to all the award winners for their outstanding presentations! Your hard work, dedication, and exceptional skills have truly shone through, and it's clear that your contributions have made a significant impact. We are incredibly proud of your

achievements and grateful for the excellence you bring to our community. Keep up the fantastic work!



Award	Winner	Honorable Mention
Jack Dequine Student Paper	Andy Distrubell	Shakira Trabelsi
Professional Paper	Tie: Sarah Burnsed and Sara Rios	Emily Dean
Student Poster	Cody Eggenberger	Jailynn Konkler
Professional Poster	Rachel Bratton	Destiny Beltran
Power Tie	Katie Everett	
Lamp Shade	None	
Rottman	Sarah Webb (PhD)	Ashley Wechsler (MS)
Rich Cailteux	Debra Murie	
Outstanding Achievement	Ted Lange	

Student Subunit Update

By: Cody Eggenberger

We had another incredible time at this year's meeting, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones while presenting our research! We are excited to announce our new student subunit officers and express our gratitude to the outgoing officers: President Karli Corey (NSU), Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Chase (UF), and University Liaison Shakira Trabelsi (FIU). Thank you for your dedicated service! Our new student subunit officers are President: Cody Eggenberger (FIU), Vice President: Andy Distrubell (FIU), Secretary/Treasurer: Brady Huber (FSC), and University Liaison: Jordan Zulli (NSU).

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the West Palm Beach Fishing Club and the Punches Family for supporting 22 students to attend the 2024 FL AFS meeting! Be sure to check out the Reefs to Rivers blog (<https://flafsstudentsubunit.wordpress.com/>) every other Friday for incredible posts from our Dennis Punches Memorial Student Travel Award winners!



Check our recent Blog post:

at

<https://flafsstudentsubunit.wordpress.com/>

Olivia Markham recently published a post titled "*Academics and AI*" Read this new post about the challenges and benefits using AI in academics.



IMPLICATIONS OF MICROPLASTICS OF FISH

SHAKIRA TRABELSI, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT M.S. STUDENT,
Florida International University
Advised by Dr. Jennifer Rehage & Dr. Rolando Santos

In the age of the Anthropocene, microplastics have infiltrated virtually all ecosystems. Plastic pollution in aquatic environments is unsightly, but exposure has sinister consequences to fish and people alike. As a student that is passionate about aquatic ecotoxicology, I of course found myself down the plastic pollution rabbit hole. It is known that plastic is in the marine environment, even in the deepest reaches of the ocean, the Mariana trench! (Chiba et al., 2018). Ingestion of plastic is prevalent in fish and consumption of hard and soft plastic will most likely lead to mortality (Markic et al., 2020).



in

While direct consumption presents the obvious threat of stomach obstruction by larger pieces, micro and nano plastics insidiously find their way to other organs. Nanoparticles of plastic have the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier and have been shown to cause behavioral changes in fish, which has the potential effect fitness and ecosystem function (Mattsson et al., 2017). Another concerning aspect of plastic is the fact that they are comprised of phthalates, a known endocrine disruptor which can produce adverse developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune effects in both humans and wildlife (Monneret 2017). Exposure to phthalates can cause a variety of sublethal effects such as imbalances in reactive oxygen species

Figure 1. Plastic in the Mariana Trench. Source: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research

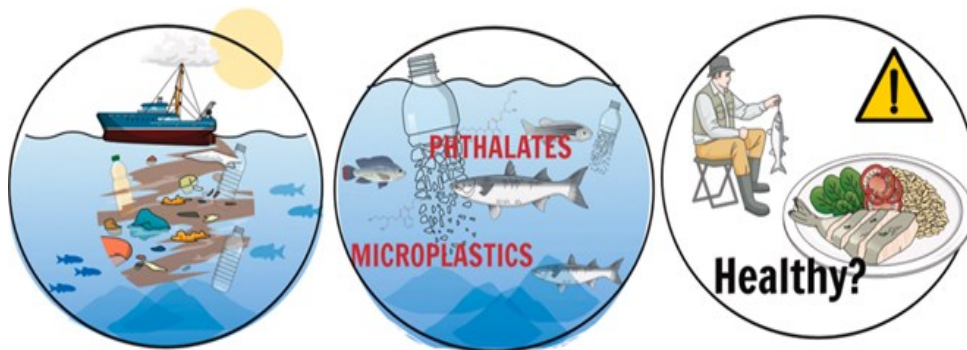


Figure 2. Concern of phthalates. Source: Squillante et al., 2023

IMPLICATIONS OF MICROPLASTICS OF FISH

Continued

SHAKIRA TRABELSI, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT M.S. STUDENT,
Florida International University

(ROS) and antioxidants causing oxidative stress, induce apoptosis (cell death), induce genotoxicity via DNA methylation and DNA strand breaks, reduce sperm quality and much more in aquatic animals (Zhang et al., 2021). The ramifications of plastic pollution are multifaceted with great consequences to fish and potentially future fry.

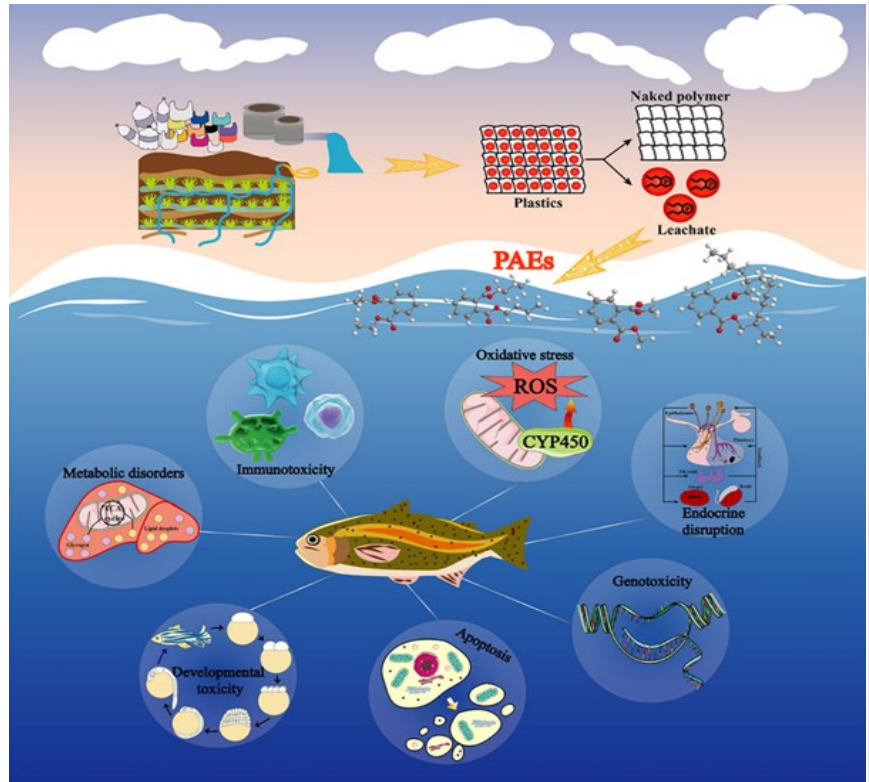


Figure 3. Harmful effects of phthalate exposure. Source: Zhang et al., 2021

Citations

- Chiba, S., Saito, H., Fletcher, R., Yogi, T., Kayo, M., Miyagi, S., Ogido, M. and Fujikura, K., 2018. Human footprint in the abyss: 30 year records of deep-sea plastic debris. *Marine Policy*, 96, pp.204-212.
- Markic, A., Gaertner, J.C., Gaertner-Mazouni, N. and Koelmans, A.A., 2020. Plastic ingestion by marine fish in the wild. *Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology*, 50(7), pp.657-697.
- Mattsson, K., Johnson, E.V., Malmendal, A., Linse, S., Hansson, L.A. and Cedervall, T., 2017. Brain damage and behavioural disorders in fish induced by plastic nanoparticles delivered through the food chain. *Scientific reports*, 7(1), p.11452.
- Monneret, C., 2017. What is an endocrine disruptor?. *Comptes rendus biologiques*, 340(9-10), pp.403-405.
- Squillante, J., Scivicco, M., Ariano, A., Nolasco, A., Esposito, F., Cacciola, N.A., Severino, L. and Cirillo, T., 2023. Occurrence of phthalate esters and preliminary data on microplastics in fish from the Tyrrhenian sea (Italy) and impact on human health. *Environmental Pollution*, 316, p.120664.
- Zhang, Y., Jiao, Y., Li, Z., Tao, Y. and Yang, Y., 2021. Hazards of phthalates (PAEs) exposure: A review of aquatic animal toxicology studies. *Science of the Total Environment*, 771, p.145418.

Minutes of the 44th Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society

May 15, 2024

Guy Harvey Resort, St Augustine Beach, FL

President Ed Camp called the meeting to order at 1630 hours and Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beck

established a quorum with approximately 125 Chapter members in attendance including current officers, past presidents, and committee chairs. Past officers were asked to stand to be recognized.

Ed asked for and received approval of the agenda and 2023 business meeting minutes.

After numerous membership requests to shorten the typical business meeting, as a time saving measure, a Chapter Business Update document was distributed to Chapter membership before the business meeting. That document is included as an appendix to these minutes.

Ed provided a background of the purpose of the business meeting.

AFS and Southern Division AFS Business:

Miguel (Toño) Garcia-Bermudez (AFS President-Elect) discussed the upcoming national meeting in Hawaii, progress made with diversity in AFS membership, and thanked the FL Chapter for the invite.

Ed provided SDAFS updates. The upcoming meeting is in Asheville NC in Feb 17-21, 2025. Steve Beck attending the 2024 SDAFS Executive Committee meeting and voted in support of SDAFS providing

\$1000 funding to support the Black Bass Symposium at the 2025 national AFS meeting in San Antonio, TX and voted in support of SDAFS providing \$1000 funding to the California Center for Aquaculture Technology to develop Morone SNP panels to facilitate Morone genetics research through fin clips.



Minutes of the 44th Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society

May 15, 2024

Guy Harvey Resort, St Augustine Beach, FL

Old Chapter Business:

The FL Chapter (Dan Nelson) volunteered to host the SDAFS meeting in 2029. Motion to support: Kerry Flaherty-Wahlia, Angela Collins seconded. Dan Nelson is planning committee chair and those interested in assisting should contact Dan. Planning needs to start soon.

Ed provided brief summaries of the Treasurer's Report and Rottman Memorial Fund.

Ed recognized committee members and briefly reviewed committee highlights

Committee Reports:

Student Subunit President Karli Corey gave an update on subunit activities, promoting the Reefs to Rivers blog, 2024 Sheepshead Shuffle, new Chapter hat designs, and the establishment/refinement of standard operating procedures for the subunit.

Karli then presented the newly elected subunit officers:

Elected Subunit Officers:

President: Cody Eggenberger (FIU)
Vice-President: Andy Distrubell (FIU)
Secretary/Treasurer: Brady Huber
(FSC) University

Liaison: Jordan Zulli (NSU)



Minutes of the 44th Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society

May 15, 2024

Guy Harvey Resort, St Augustine Beach, FL

Awards:

Dennis Punches Memorial Student Travel Awards: Ed reported that awards were given to 22 students this year, covering all meeting costs. The funds provided by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club on behalf of the Punches Family now account for over 50% of student travel funds, hence the award name change.

The continued importance of the raffle was also noted.

Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship: Dan Nelson presented the 26th Rottmann Scholarships. Ashley Wechsler (UF) received the M.S. Rottman Scholarship and Sarah Webb (FAU) received the Ph.D.

Rottman Scholarship. He encouraged more freshwater fisheries students to apply next year, as this year was dominated by marine fisheries students.

Florida Chapter Awards – Eric Nagid presented the history and requirements for the Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes individuals for specific and distinct accomplishments and contributions to fisheries, aquatic sciences, and to the Florida Chapter. Ted Lange was named as the 2024 Outstanding Achievement Award winner for his freshwater fish contaminant research in Florida, as well as his research and promotion of bass best management practices.

Eric next presented the history and requirements of the Rich Cailteux Award, which is meant to recognize individuals for their career contributions to the fisheries profession and the Florida Chapter. Debra Murie was then named the 12th recipient of the Rich Cailteux Award for her long career studying (largely offshore) fish population dynamics, dredging and oil spill impacts in Florida, extensive AFS involvement at several levels, and advising numerous fisheries graduate students.

Further details on the accomplishments of Chapter Award recipients are found in the Appendix.



Minutes of the 44th Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society

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Installation of New Officers:

Due to a single candidate each for the President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer positions, it was decided to hold a verbal vote instead of a paper ballot vote for simplicity. By unanimous verbal vote, Steve Beck was elected as President-Elect and Sara Menendez was elected as Secretary-Treasurer. It was also noted that a newsletter editor was needed (Bridgette Froeschke volunteered), and an apprentice Webmaster was needed (no volunteers).

Ed presented plaques to Chelsey Crandall for completing her three years of service as Chapter President, Steve Beck for his three years of service as Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, and Karli Corey for her year of service as Student Subunit President.

New Executive Committee:

President: Angela Collins (UF)

President-Elect: Steve Beck (FWC)

Past-President: Ed Camp (UF)

Secretary/Treasurer: Sara Menendez
(FWC)



Minutes of the 44th Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society

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New Business:

Several Chapter procedures and some bylaws are out of date. Some committees do not exist or function as defined, and new committees are not defined. Steve Beck reviewed the process to update procedures and bylaws. The proposal to for the executive committee to review Chapter bylaws and procedures and provide potential changes to the Chapter, passed with unanimous consent.

Motion to separate Secretary and Treasurer positions. Given the heavy workload of the Secretary/Treasurer, voluntary nature of the position, and limited time, it was proposed this position be split to allow increased (higher quality) attention be given to each position's tasks and increase participation. There is precedent with other Chapters (TN). Much as with item 1 above, the new positions will require changes to the Chapter bylaws and procedures. The proposal for the executive committee to provide updated position descriptions and potential bylaw/procedure changes to the Chapter passed with unanimous consent.

Next year's meeting venue/date:

The executive committee will notify Chapter membership regarding the 2024 meeting location/date. Angela Collins thanked membership and adjourned the business meeting at 1730 hours.

Link to Meeting Archives: Programs, Complete Business Meeting Materials, and

Treasurer Reports :

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

