

# The Shellcracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



## Spring 2025

President's Message:

Happy 2025 Florida AFS!

I wanted to take a moment to simply recognize the work and dedication of our members – whether you are in the early stages of your career, reading this note from the perspective of retirement, or somewhere in between, your membership in this organization indicates your passion for Florida's fisheries. Thank you for your support of the chapter, the science that guides fisheries management, and the students who represent the future of our field. I'm so glad people like you exist!

Considering the current events that are impacting many of us, I figured it couldn't hurt to share some of my favorite (and often repeated) Florida fisheries stats. It's nice to have numbers that back up the "so what?" when discussing stewardship and science related to resources that are in the public trust.

Florida's recreational fisheries have an economic impact of \$13.8 billion, supporting 120,000 jobs and 4 million licensed anglers. Commercial fishing generates \$3.2 billion and supports over 76,000 jobs. A huge portion of Florida's visitors are here to fish, to eat fish sandwiches, and to spend money on fishing gear (non-resident anglers spend over \$1 billion in retail sales.) Healthy fisheries are a vital component to a healthy Florida economy.

[Source: <https://myfwc.com/conservation/value/saltwater-fishing/>]

Investments in research, monitoring and education play a critical role in maintaining sustainable systems for both environmental and economic benefit, not only in Florida but across the U.S. National AFS released [this statement](#) in collaboration with other natural resource professional societies last month regarding the importance of funding focused on natural resources. It's worth a read.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this Shellcracker and I am looking forward to seeing many of you in St. Augustine May 13 – 15!

Angela Collins





# Getting in Touch

## American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Officers

### *President*

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### *Past President*

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## American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Student Sub-Unit Officers

### *President*

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### *Vice President*

Andy Distrubell  
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Email: [adist002@fiu.edu](mailto:adist002@fiu.edu)

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

Brandy Huber  
Florida Southern College

### *University Liaison*

Jordan Zulli  
Nova Southeastern University  
Email: [jz476@mynsu.nova.edu](mailto:jz476@mynsu.nova.edu)



## Upcoming Events

**May 13 –15, 2025:** AFS Florida Chapter annual meeting St. Augustine, FL

**August 10—14, 2025:** 155th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, San Antonio, TX

**Interested in contributing something to the Shellcracker?** Email: Bridgette Froeschke at [bfroeschke@ut.edu](mailto: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 Cailteux/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**

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 Punches Memorial Scholarship  
Chuck Cichra  
cecichra@ufl.edu

## Student Sub-unit

Swag sales, blog updates, student chapter involvement  
Cody Eggenberger  
coeggenb@fju.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. Contact  
Jason O'Connor  
Jason.Oconnor@myfwc.com



## 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 May 30, 2025 to [bfroeschke@ut.edu](mailto:bfroeschke@ut.edu). Your contributions will help make the next edition truly special.



# 45th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society



We look forward to seeing you at the 45th annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will take place May 13-15 at the Guy Harvey Resort in St. Augustine Beach. We hope you can join us! **If you haven't registered yet, there's still time and you can always register for the meeting onsite when you arrive.** 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:

## ***“Workflow in Fisheries Projects: Best Practices for Project Development, Management, Evaluation and Making Improvements for the Next Round.”***

Many of you have likely been involved in some or all aspects of planning and implementing fisheries projects and encountered hurdles along the way. How do you define project goals and success criteria? How do you manage: field/lab equipment, logistics, data processing, and team responsibilities? How do you monitor a project to make immediate adjustments? How do you evaluate a project to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the next project? The goal of the 2025 FAFS symposium is to invite presentations on diverse fisheries topics in a format that could benefit all Chapter members in their work. In addition to sharing your excellent work in your particular field, please focus on general workflow practices and what is most effective in getting your fisheries projects completed.

**Click here to see the full 2025 Program:** <https://units.fisheries.org/fl/chaptermeeting/2025-chapter-meeting/>



# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

*FLORIDA CHAPTER*

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

*MAY 13-15, 2025*

## Meeting Information

### Meeting Details

The 2025 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 13th at 1:00 pm with the “**Workflow in Fisheries Projects**” symposium. The poster session will take place following dinner on Tuesday evening. The symposium will continue 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 includes all meals. Registrations will still be accepted at the meeting (late fees applied). We can accept VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX, DISCOVER, cash, or check at the meeting.

Late registration Options:

**Full Meeting:** \$345

**Day 1 Only:** \$145

**Day 2 Only:** \$205

**Day 3 Only:** \$115

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 13-15, 2025*

## Meeting Information

### Presentation Details

#### Oral Session:

*Speakers will be given 15 minutes for talks (12 minutes for presentations and 3 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 13th** 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.

#### 2025 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](mailto:acroteau@uwf.edu)) or Chelsey Crandall ([Chelsey.Crandall@myfwc.com](mailto: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 at the Guy Harvey Resort for our 2025 annual meeting!

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# Student Subunit Update

By: Cody Eggenberger

## Student Subunit Report:

We hope you're all doing well during these uncertain times. The FL AFS Student Subunit is still working to expand our social media content by highlighting student achievements. If you're a student who has recently published a paper, received a fellowship or scholarship, won a conference presentation award, or accomplished something worth celebrating, we'd love to feature you!

We understand that sharing personal achievements can sometimes feel awkward, so if you're a PI with a student whose work deserves recognition, please send us the details at **flafsstudent@gmail.com**. Additionally, we're happy to share job postings and graduate opportunities on our social media channels, just let us know!

## Check Out Our Latest Student Blog Post

We hope you've been enjoying the student blog posts! It's been great learning about the incredible research our fellow students are conducting! In this edition of *The Shellcracker*, we're featuring a post by Katie Everett, a Master's student at UF (Major Advisors: Quenton Tuckett and Jeff Hill). Katie's blog is a fun and insightful read on the pros and cons of working in urban ecosystems.

New posts are published every other Friday on the *Reefs to Rivers* student blog. Check them out here: <https://flafsstudentsubunit.wordpress.com/>

## Hope to See You Soon!

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting. It's coming up fast! Hope to see you there!