



# Minnesota Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Conference



**February 11-13, 2025**  
**Best Western Kelly Inn**  
**St. Cloud, Minnesota**

## Program at a Glance (Updated Monday Feb 10, 2025)

Date	Time	Event	Location
11-Feb	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Check in, Registration, Merch sales (Lunch on your own)	Main Hotel Lobby
	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Poster setup	Poolside
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>Fish ID workshop - Continuing Education</b> (includes light refreshments)	Grand Ballroom (partial)
	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Ex Com meeting	University A
	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>AFS Professional Certification Forum</b> (Dinner on your own)	University B
	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>Welcome Social</b> (includes appetizers)	Poolside
	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Continued socializing	Husky Room
12-Feb	7:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Check in, Registration, Merch sales (Breakfast on your own)	South Hotel Lobby
	7:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Poster setup	Poolside
	7:30 AM - 8:20 AM	Coffee & tea available	Poolside
	8:00 AM	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	
	8:10 AM	<b>Why AFS - Jeff Kopaska, AFS Executive Director</b>	
	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Plenary Part 1:</b> Technological Advances in... Adaptive Fishing Technology (Roland Kehr); Native American Fishing Technologies (Terry Kemper); Recreational Fishing (Jeremy Smith)	Grand Ballroom
	10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Break with coffee, tea, muffins, donuts	Poolside
	10:20 AM - 11:50 PM	<b>Chapter Business Meeting</b> - All encouraged to attend.	Grand Ballroom
	11:50 AM - 1:20 PM	(Lunch on your own)	
	1:20 PM - 2:40 PM	<b>Concurrent Sessions - 1</b>	(State/Sunwood), (Congress/Senate), and Univ. B
	2:40 PM - 3:20 PM	Break with coffee, tea, cookies	Poolside
	3:20 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>Plenary Part 2:</b> Technological Advances in... Telemetry (Thomas Garin); Hydroacoustics (Tom Hrabik); Genetics (Loren Miller); Stable isotopes (Kyle Zimmer)	Grand Ballroom
	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Poster session and social</b>	Poolside
	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>Banquet, Awards, Trivia, Raffle</b>	Grand Ballroom
	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Continued socializing	Husky Room
13-Feb	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Coffee & tea available	Poolside
	8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Check in, Registration, Merch sales (Breakfast on your own)	South Hotel Lobby
	8:30 AM - 10:10 AM	<b>Concurrent sessions - 2</b>	(State/Sunwood), (Congress/Senate), and Univ. B
	10:10 AM - 10:30 AM	Break with coffee and pastries	Poolside
	10:30 AM	<b>Concurrent sessions - 3</b>	(State/Sunwood), (Congress/Senate)
	11:30 AM	Conference concludes	

# Concurrent Sessions - 1

Wednesday, Feb 12th Concurrent Sessions 1:20-2:40pm

Student speakers indicated with (\*)

<p><i>Tech Talk Session</i>  <b>Room: State/Sunwood</b>  <b>Moderator: Matthew Skoog</b></p>	<p><b>Room: Congress/Senate</b>  <b>Moderator: Jon Hansen</b></p>	<p><b>Room: University B</b>  <b>Moderator:</b>  <b>Alexander Letvin</b></p>
<p><b>1:20pm Julie Badger*</b>                      Year-round spawning and transgenesis of common carp for genetic biocontrol research and development</p>	<p><b>1:20pm Marissa Pribyl*</b>                      Trophic Structure and Mercury Bioaccumulation in Walleye and Yellow Perch in the Upper and Lower Red Lake Basins</p>	<p><b>1:20pm Joel Hoffman</b>                      Diverging fish biodiversity trends in cold and warm rivers and streams across the United States</p>
<p><b>1:40pm Leland Pornschloegl*</b>                      Swimming Towards Speciation: Engineered Genetic Incompatibility In Fish</p>	<p><b>1:40pm Levi Suchla*</b>                      Mille Lacs Lake Walleye: Changes in Body Condition Over Time</p>	<p><b>1:40pm David Gallagher*</b>                      Characterizing shifts in fish community diversity across Isle Royale's inland lakes</p>
<p><b>2:00pm Jeremiah Shrovnal*</b>                      An evaluation of the age-at-recruitment to population monitoring gears for Cisco in the Lake Superior</p>	<p><b>2:00pm Benjamin Erb*</b>                      Improving Walleye and Lake Whitefish Performance Indicators for Lake Water Level Management on Rainy – Namakan System</p>	<p><b>2:00pm Griffin Blegen*</b>                      Emerald Bowfin Ecology in Three Minnesota Lakes: Abundance, Age and Growth Analysis, and Diet Composition</p>
<p><b>2:20pm Courtney Larson</b>                      Optimizing eDNA methods for fish community assessment in Minnesota lake</p>	<p><b>2:20pm Tom Jones</b>                      Environmental changes lead to reduced Walleye production in Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota</p>	<p><b>2:20pm Molly Tilsen*</b>                      A predictive boater network for prioritizing Minnesota's aquatic invasive species prevention</p>



# Concurrent Sessions - 2

Thursday, Feb 13th Concurrent Sessions 8:30-10:10am

<p><b>Tech Talk Session</b>  <b>Room: State/Sunwood</b>  <b>Moderator: Storm Kettelhut</b></p>	<p><b>Room: Congress/Senate</b>  <b>Moderator: Chris Uphoff</b></p>	<p><b>Room: University B</b>  <b>Moderator: Andy Hafs</b></p>
<p><b>8:30am Nick Rydell</b>                      The Effects of Forward-Facing Sonar on Angler Catch and Harvest</p>	<p><b>8:30am Neil Haugerud</b>                      Reconnecting Rivers: Otter Tail River Lake Outlet Dam Modifications</p>	<p><b>8:30am Matthew Julius</b>                      Draw Down in Little Rock Lake, was it Novel and Effective</p>
<p><b>8:50am Paul Radomski</b>                      Mercury Harvest by Anglers</p>	<p><b>8:50am Sean Gibbs</b>                      Evaluating the ecological impacts of a 160-year-old-dam: A cost-effective approach using eDNA and habitat assessment to inform fish passage restoration</p>	<p><b>8:50am Raymond Newman</b>                      Planning for integrated lake management</p>
<p><b>9:10am Calub Shavlik</b>                      Going with the Muskellunge Sampling Technology flow in Mantrap Lake</p>	<p><b>9:10am Peter Sorensen</b>                      The vast majority of fish that enter Lock and Dam 5's lock, a relatively typical Upper Mississippi River lock and dam, are repelled by it and return downstream</p>	<p><b>9:10am Nathan Mielke</b>                      Minnesota's Rivers and Streams Probabilistic Survey</p>
<p><b>9:30am Brian Mason</b>                      An Inventory of Stream Barriers within the Crow Wing River Watershed</p>	<p><b>9:30am Kevin N. McDonnell</b>                      If You Build It Will They Come? And Other Kevin Costner Based Inferences On The White Sturgeon Of The Kootenai River</p>	<p><b>9:30am Beth Holbrook</b>                      Midnight musings about Cisco populations</p>
<p><b>9:50am Scott Mackenthun</b>                      Fishing for Feedback: How do you get your fisheries science message out to stakeholders?</p>		<p><b>9:50am Matthew Davis</b>                      Biofluorescence in Fishes and Applications of Fluorescent Imaging</p>



# Concurrent Sessions - 3

Thursday, Feb 13th Concurrent Sessions 10:30-11:30am

<b>Room: State/Sunwood</b> <b>Moderator: Kevin McDonnell</b>	<b>Room: Congress/Senate</b> <b>Moderator: John Hoxmeier</b>
<b>10:30am Tanner Stevens</b> SAM-WAESTOCK Workbook: A Gill Net Selectivity Walleye Stocking Evaluation Tool	<b>10:30am Peter Sorensen</b> A preliminary analysis of Minnesota's rough fisheries demonstrates large shifts in catch across time
<b>10:50pm Kamden Glade</b> Effects of Gastric Lavage on Muskellunge Survival	<b>10:50am Amanda Craft</b> LCCMR Enhancing Minnesota River Fish Ecology
<b>11:10am Matt Skoog</b> Stock Status and Safe Harvest Level Evaluation for Sauger in Minnesota Waters of Lake of the Woods	



# Poster Presentations, Page 1 of 2

**A modern Minnesota lake classification system: emphasizing fish assemblage data.**

Jack Abel, Christopher Rounds, Dr. Gretchen Hansen.

**Comparison of Hoop Nets to Trap Nets in Sampling Panfish.** Jayden Alsleben, Dr. Andrew

Hafs, and Tanner Stevens.

**The Next Frontier: Development of a Lake Fish Biogeographical Model in the Canadian Shield, Minnesota.** Jessica Massure, Derek Bahr, Jacquelyn Bacigalupi.

**Growth of Spatially Separated Yellow Perch Populations in a Large Lake System.** Ian

Berglund, Dr. Andrew Hafs.

**Size of Age-0 *Sander vitreus* Pre and Post *Dreissena polymorpha* Infestation on**

**Brainerd Area Lakes.** Quady Bernu, Dr. Andrew W. Hafs.

**Impact of Ambient Light Levels on Silver and Bighead Carp Schooling Behavior.** Amelia

Berry, Brooke Vetter, Michael Frett, Allen Mensinger.

**Characterization of the Pomme de Terre River Macroinvertebrate community prior to restoration of natural flow by construction of stone arch rapids.** Logan B. Blanke, Payton

Prieve, Tracey M. Anderson.

**A Sample of Fish Communities in Beaver Ponds of Northern Minnesota.** Reed

Cumberland, Dr. Andrew Hafs.

**Holy crappie! Hybrids and the curious case of disappearing white crappie in Southern**

**Minnesota lakes.** Hayley Darke, Loren Miller, David Staples.

**Using a non-invasive, molecular approach to determine sex ratios of Lake Sturgeon**

**(*Acipenser fulvescens*) in the St. Louis River estuary.** Noah Grode, Chelsea Hatzenbuehler, Nick Bogyo, Loren Miller, Dan Wilfond, and Courtney Larson.

**An Investigation into Southern Minnesota Stream Health and Water Quality.** Dan Hart,

Oluwafemi Oladejo, Juliet Kurtz, and Dr. Susan Colvin.

**Uncovering the Past to Protect Minnesota's Walleye Fisheries.** Grace L. Hemmelgarn,

Adam J. Heathcote, Mark B. Edlund, Heidi M. Rantala, Jeffrey R. Reed, Kylie Cattoor, Michael Verhoeven, Denver Link, Gretchen J. A. Hansen.

**Growing Degree Days Compared to Growth of Walleye and Sauger From Different**

**Systems.** Benjamin Hoover, Dr. Andrew W. Hafs.

**Aquatic invertebrate populations in roadside wetlands in relation to water**

**characteristics.** Ellie Isakson, Dr. Andrew W. Hafs.



# Poster Presentations, Page 2 of 2

**Effect of anthropogenic masking noise on signal detection in otophysan fishes.**

Alexandra Johnson, Brooke Vetter.

**Whirlwind tour of MNAFS.** Jessie Koehle.

**Patterns in stream fish species richness across ecoregions and habitat types.** Juliet

Kurtz, Oluwafemi Oladejo, Dan Hart, and Dr. Susan Colvin.

**Assessing Aquatic Biodiversity Near Power Plants in Minnesota.** Allison Peck, Meghan

Larson, Elizabeth Favor, and Matthew Davis.

**Evaluating water quality upstream and downstream from a proposed restoration**

**project on the Pomme de Terre River in Morris, MN.** Payton Prieve, Logan Blanke, Tracey M. Anderson.

**Minnesota's Priority Native Rough Fish: Gars and Bowfins.** Alyssa Rausch and Solomon R.

David.

**Can small scale removal of invasive hybrid cattails benefit nearshore lake ecosystems?** Claire Rude, Amy Schrank.

**Stream Burbot? Yes, really.** Murphy Steininger, Jonathon Newkirk, John Sandberg.

**Bugs Below Zero: engaging communities in winter stream ecology.** Amy Schrank,

Rebecca Swenson, Alyssa Anderson, Corrie Nyquist, Bruce Vondracek.

**The Effect of Zebra Mussels on Minnesota Fish Communities.** Benjamin Strei, Andrew Hafs.

**Evaluating the Condition of Age-0 Burbot in relation to Diet.** Cian Verbridge, Andrew W

Hafs.

**Effect of Anthropogenic Sound on Foraging Behavior in Bluegill (*Lepomis***

***macrochirus*).** Dayna Wiley, Trevor Keyler.

**Morphological comparisons between northern and southern populations of Longnose**

**Gar and Shortnose Gar.** Jonathan Wilson-Thieroff, Solomon R. David.



Thank you  
for attending!

## With gratitude...

### Conference Planning

Tom Jones, Kristen Patterson, Katie Bruesewitz, Kyle Zimmer, Eric Altena, Calub Shavlik, Jessie Koehle, Amanda Craft, Keith Reeves, Kamden Glade, Mark Hove, Jay Hatch, Ryan Carrow, Susan Colvin, Andrew Hafs, Hannah Anema

### Honored Guests

Plenary speakers: Roland Kehr, Terry Kemper, Jeremy Smith, Thomas Garin, Tom Hrabik, Loren Miller, Kyle Zimmer. NCD remarks by Brian Nerbonne; and National AFS Executive Director Jeff Kopaska.

### Donations

New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen club and Ruth Mecklenburg; Arrowhead Fly Fishers, St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce; Bemidji Brewing. Raffle donors including Scheels, Jennifer Clausen, Tom Jones, Nathan Mielke, Marc Bacigalupi, Evie Evarts, Hannah Anema, Steve Hauschildt, Brian Borkholder, Jessie Koehle, Matt Ward, Steve Quinn, Ray Newman, Susan Colvin, Will French and Jon Hansen.

### Officers & Committee chairs

For the 2024 term: Kristen Patterson, Kamden Glade, Ryan Carrow, Andrew Hafs, Amanda Craft, Mark Hove, Susan Colvin, Jay Hatch, Brian Borkholder, Tony Sindt, Eric Altena, Jacquelyn Bacigalupi, Craig Kelling, Joel Hoffman, Calub Shavlik, Brian Nerbonne, Nick Peterson, Matt Ward, Eddie Carlson, Heather Baird, Jessie Koehle, Tom Jones, Kyle Zimmer, Ryan Maki, Nathan Mielke

### Volunteers

Paper and poster judges, scholarship volunteer judges, award panel judges, student groups helping with raffle, trivia games, and fundraising, Fish ID class setup and takedown, fisheries certification session experts, and more!

### Award Winners

Scholarships to Jack Abel and Juliet Kurtz; 1st and 2nd place students' paper and poster winners (To be judged during the meeting); Dale Logsdon, Winner of Dennis Schupp Award of Excellence; 25 year MNAFS members Calub Shavlik and Jim Levitt; and more MNAFS Special Recognition Awards to be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, stay tuned!

## What is Minnesota AFS?

**A community of federal, state, watershed, county, and city agency, private, tribal, non-profit and university students and professionals focused on fisheries science.**

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has state chapters like ours, as well as regional divisions, student subunits, and sections. Learn more: <https://fisheries.org/about/units>

## What is ExCom?

The elected officers of MNAFS (8 positions) are called the Executive Committee, or "Ex Com". Each officer position is explained in our procedures manual, along with lots of other helpful info on what the Chapter does how, and why: <https://units.fisheries.org/mnafs/procedures-manual>



# Save the date: MNAFS Webinar 11:00am CST, April 2, 2025.

## MINNESOTA'S NATIVE FISH BILL: A CASE STUDY IN SHIFTING THE ROUGH FISH PARADIGM



With Tyler Winter,  
Co-founder of Native Fish for Tomorrow

<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/97938719210>

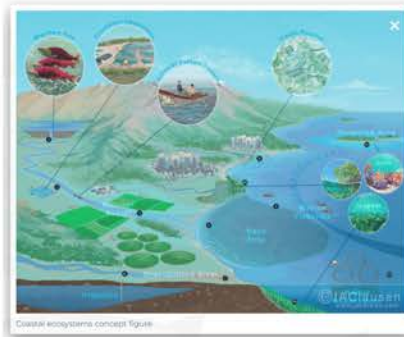
Contact Amanda Craft at [craft.amanda9@gmail.com](mailto:craft.amanda9@gmail.com) with any questions.  
Join free, no need to register.



## Guest artist: Jennifer Clausen Illustrations

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## National AFS Meeting Code of Conduct



- Treat all participants, attendees, AFS staff, and vendors with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions. Critique ideas rather than individuals.
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech directed toward other attendees, participants, AFS staff, and vendors.

