

# 2026 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

January 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Galveston, Texas



## MEETING PROGRAM

## WELCOME TO GALVESTON!

Howdy! Welcome to the semicentury meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. As we celebrate 50 years, I'm reminded that gold is the color that traditionally symbolizes the wisdom, strength, and prosperity built over half a century. It is my hope that ideas exchanged at this meeting will illustrate the wisdom our membership has built; new and long-standing connects will illustrate the strength we're capable of when we lean on each other in times of change and uncertainty; and the financial resources provided to the large number of highly engaged students in attendance will illustrate the prosperity of our chapter. It is appropriate that we convene this meeting at Moody Gardens in Galveston, a city known for prosperity and strength.



This meeting would not have been possible without tremendous efforts by Chapter leadership, committee chairs, our sponsors, and you the attendee. I commend Alice Best for leading the charge on planning the meeting, Brad Littrell for his fiduciary fervor, Matt Troia the Secretary of Skill for all his coordination, and Steven "It's-in-the-Bylaws" Bardin for providing Past President guidance. To the committee chairs – thank you for transforming ideas into actions! I hope everyone will take a moment to review the sponsors listed for the meeting and perhaps even seek them out and thank them at the meeting (many have booths or personnel present). Finally, thank you for attending the meeting and I hope you enjoy your time at Moody Gardens!

Sincerely,  
Joshuah S Perkin, PhD  
President, Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society





Last year TCAFS celebrated our 50th meeting in College Station, miles from the mighty Brazos River and the location of the first TCAFS meeting. Texas's fisheries may start in our rivers, but they extend further, filling reservoirs and flowing towards the Gulf. It is only fitting that we follow the river to the coast for our 51st meeting, celebrating 50 years of supporting and promoting fisheries in Texas as the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Welcome to Galveston!

Since we last met in College Station we have faced ongoing drought, devastating floods, and uncertainty in many aspects of our work. Few of us would call 2025 easy. However, working with aquatic resources in a state with diverse needs, ecosystems, and challenges has never been easy. TCAFS members are up to the challenges we face and we support each other through shared research, projects, ideas, and community.

Our TCAFS Annual Meetings provide a forum and structure to develop a network that supports all of us. At these meetings, we network and exchange ideas, testing fisheries concepts, and research questions. We learn new statistical programs, about challenges facing commercial fisheries in the Gulf, community interactions of stream fish, details of species, lives, and techniques for managing populations. Whether a student, tenured professional, or gracious sponsor, attendees over the last 50 years have built a community that supports all of the varieties of work that go into the simple word 'fisheries'.

While in Galveston, I encourage you to fully engage with our annual meeting. Make new connections as you network at breaks, socials, and the banquet. Find a new idea to bring to your own work while listening to our excellent lineup of oral and poster presentations. Students, use this time to meet each other and professionals, explore the many types of work our professional members undertake, and think about the amazing paths in front of you as you build your career. Reflect on what TCAFS has accomplished since the charter was signed back in 1976 on Saturday morning during "50 Years of TCAFS". Enjoy the artistic skills, diverse talents and generous donations on display in our auction and raffle, and consider spending a little bit more than you planned when placing your bids to support our student scholarships. And lastly, leave our 51st Annual Meeting renewed and excited to continue driving fisheries forward in Texas.

I am honored for the chance to organize this year's annual meeting, but in reality my part came down to developing and signing a contract. The real work came from the drivers of the chapter; our secretary and treasurer, committee chairs, committee members, and chapter members who have taken time from their busy lives and too-short deadlines to serve our chapter throughout the year, develop presentations, and attend this meeting. Please join me in thanking them.

Welcome to Galveston and the 51st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I am glad you are here!

Sincerely,

Alice Best  
President Elect, Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



## 2025-2026 TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Joshuah Perkin, Ph.D.	<b>EDITORIAL</b> Kelly Kowal Preston Bean David Buzan	<b>NEWSLETTER</b> Matthew Troia, Ph.D.
<b>PRESIDENT ELECT</b> Alice Best	<b>ENDOWMENTS</b> Brian Van Zee	<b>NOMINATING</b> Greg Cummings
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> Steven Bardin	<b>HISTORY</b> Ray Mathews	<b>POND MANAGEMENT</b> Todd Sink, Ph.D.
<b>SECRETARY</b> Matthew Troia, Ph.D.	<b>INTERNET</b> Haley Kokel Ryan Seymour	<b>PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS</b> Anthea Fredrickson Spencer Dorsey
<b>TREASURER</b> Brad Littrell	<b>ISSUES</b> Steven Bardin	<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b> Jennifer Butler
<b>AWARDS</b> Beth Silvy, Ph. D.	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Tommy Johnson	<b>STUDENT OUTREACH</b> Carmen Montaña, Ph.D.
<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION</b> Blake Thornton		



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THE  
TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY'S  
ANNUAL MEETING  
AND FOR SUPPORTING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

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## Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, January 15, 2026

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	TCAFS Conference Registration Exhibits Setup Poster Set up & Raffle/Auction Set Up	South Foyer South Foyer/West Foyer Moody Ballrooms I & II
1:00 PM - 4:40 PM	Load Presentations	Office 3
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Continuing Education: <u>Data Visualization with ggplot2</u> <i>Instructor: Dr. Matthew Troia</i>	Moody Ballroom I
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Continuing Education: <u>Field Boat Fundamentals: Interactive Training on Safety, Operation, and Modifications</u> <i>Instructor: TPWD and TAMU Staff</i>	Moody Ballroom II and Parking Portico
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Poster Session and Networking Social	Moody Ballrooms I & II

### Friday, January 16, 2026

8:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Technical Session	Moody Ballrooms I & II
<b>10:20 AM - 10:40 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>South Foyer</b>
10:40 AM - 12:00 PM	Technical Session	Moody Ballrooms I & II
<b>12:00 PM - 1:40 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>On Your Own</b>
<b>12:00 PM - 1:40 PM</b>	<b>Student-Mentor Lunch</b>	<b>Café in the Park</b>
1:40 PM - 3:00 PM	Technical Session	Moody Ballrooms I & II
<b>3:00 PM - 3:20 PM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>South Foyer</b>
3:20 PM - 4:20 PM	Technical Session	Moody Ballrooms I & II
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Awards Banquet	Moody Ballrooms I & II

### Saturday, January 17, 2026

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Past President's Breakfast	TBD
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Technical Session	Moody Ballrooms I & II
<b>10:00 AM - 10:20 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>South Foyer</b>
10:20 AM - 11:20 PM	Business Meeting	Moody Ballroom I
<b>11:20 PM</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	



# Technical Session Schedule

Friday, January 16th

<b>Ballroom 1</b>		<b>Ballroom 2</b>	
<b>8:00-8:20</b>	Aiding Imperiled Fish and Mussel Conservation Using Swimming Performance Metrics to Inform the Design or Modification of Road Stream Crossings <i>Allie Burdette-Lapuz, University of North Texas</i>		Comparing energy demands between high elevation and low elevation species within benthic and pelagic guilds  <i>Karmann Kessler, University of Texas-San Antonio</i>
<b>8:20-8:40</b>	Unionid mussels and stream fishes: fine-scale movement patterns and habitat use  <i>Calvin Young, Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Developing and Validating a Bioenergetic Model for Guadalupe Bass ( <i>Micropterus treculii</i> )  <i>Gabriel Murillo, University of Texas-San Antonio</i>
<b>8:40-9:00</b>	Fish passage occurs under baseflow conditions in a restored but serially fragmented ecosystem <i>Jacob Barrett, Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Comparison of Fish Biomass and Fish Carbon Associated with Reef Sites at the Rio Grande Valley Artificial Reef <i>Allison White, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley</i>
<b>9:00-9:20</b>	Scale invariant patterns of life history strategies of riverine mussels are shaped by hydrologic factors  <i>Zachary Mitchell, Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</i>		Quantifying Fish Assemblages Associated with Artificial Reef Nursery Habitats using Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar  <i>Kaitlyn Doyscher, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley</i>
<b>9:20-9:40</b>	Testing the tributary movement model using Blue Sucker in the Lower Colorado River of Texas  <i>Meghan Booknis, Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Estuarine Habitat Use of Sympatric Elasmobranchs on the South Texas Coast  <i>Katie Gheysen, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
<b>9:40-10:00</b>	Through Thicket and Thin: Spatiotemporal Changes to the Fish Assemblage of the Lower Neches River in the Big Thicket National Preserve  <i>Thomas Dodson, Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Seasonal occurrence and habitat use of tarpon at presumed nursery habitat sites in Texas  <i>Isabel Tiller, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
<b>10:00-10:20</b>	Salinity and Water Flow Predict the Abundances of Imperiled Fish Species in the Upper Red River, Texas  <i>Meredith Barney, Stephen F. Austin State University</i>		Assessment of a Man-made Dredge Placement Compartment as a Supplemental Nursery Habitat on the Texas Shoreline of Sabine Lake.  <i>Kole Kubicek, Lamar University</i>
<b>10:20-10:40</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>10:40-11:00</b>	Exploring Temporal Trajectories of Stream Fish Communities Across North America  <i>Zachary Mitchell, Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</i>		Using natural tags to track Southern Flounder ( <i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i> ) movement through Texas estuaries  <i>Kimber Montanye, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>



<b>Ballroom 1</b>		<b>Ballroom 2</b>	
<b>11:00-11:20</b>	Muddying the waters: a taxonomic investigation into the Mud darter ( <i>Etheostoma asprigene</i> ) and the Gumbo darter ( <i>Etheostoma thompsoni</i> ). <i>Wesley Arend, Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Timing is everything: linking growth, maturity, and spawning dynamics of Southern Flounder in Texas estuaries.  <i>Jessica Randall, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
<b>11:20-11:40</b>	Revision of <i>Notropis stramineus</i> : Three new minnow species in Texas  <i>Amanda Pinion, Museum for Zoology-Dresden, Germany</i>		Evidence of density-dependent growth in juvenile black drum ( <i>Pogonias cromis</i> ) in the Western Gulf of Mexico  <i>Isabelle Cummings, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
<b>11:40-12:00</b>	Streamflow depletion caused by groundwater pumping in the southern Great Plains diminishes stream fish conservation value, but not food or recreational value  <i>Josh Perkin, Texas A&amp;M University</i>		American Eel ( <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> ) recruitment patterns in Texas  <i>Stephen Curtis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
<b>12:00-1:40</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>Student-Mentor Lunch in Café in the Park</b>			
<b>1:40-2:00</b>	Trophic dynamics and productivity consequences of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout displacement by non-native Brown trout  <i>Owen George, Texas Tech University</i>		Hook, Line, and Learning: The Impact of Experiential Learning on Environmental Stewardship in Fisheries Education  <i>Caitlin Castro, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
<b>2:00-2:20</b>	Niche variation among neotropical catfishes revealed by stable isotope analysis.  <i>Joseph Sheffield, Stephen F. Austin State University</i>		Investigating fertilization rates of hybrid eastern oysters in Texas  <i>Kate Gomez-Rangel, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
<b>2:20-2:40</b>	Growth and Trophic Variation in Mainstem and Tributary Populations of Guadalupe Bass ( <i>Micropterus treculii</i> )  <i>Jacob Wolff, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>		The genomic context for management of Eastern Oysters in the Gulf of Mexico includes population structure and deep underlying divergence  <i>Joel Anderson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
<b>2:40-3:00</b>	Utility of Guide-based Mark-Recapture Efforts to Manage Alligator Gar.  <i>William Radigan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>		A comparison of sampling gears for effective capture of Rio Grande Cichlid ( <i>Herichthys cyanoguttatus</i> ) in Texas  <i>Blake Thornton, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
<b>3:00-3:20</b>	<b>Break</b>		



2026 TCAFS ANNUAL MEETING

<b>Ballroom 1</b>		<b>Ballroom 2</b>	
<b>3:20-3:40</b>	Linking morphometrics and habitat to inform management of the invasive crayfish species in Texas <i>Archis Grubh, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>		Evaluating a Magnetic Shark Deterrent in Gulf Recreational Reef Fish Fisheries <i>Kyle King, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
<b>3:40-4:00</b>	Comparing the effects of seasonality on crayfish sampling methods. <i>Matthew Blow, University of Texas at Tyler</i>		Sheepshead: Angler Demographics and Harvest Trends in Texas <i>Aaron Adams, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
<b>4:00-4:20</b>	Coastal Brigade, Growing our Future Coastal Conservation Leaders <i>Emily Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>		Modeling the Drivers of Trip Satisfaction among Texas Coastal Anglers Using Creel Survey Data <i>Caren Utley, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>

*Saturday, January 17th*

<b>Ballroom 1</b>		<b>Ballroom 2</b>	
<b>8:00-8:20</b>	Texas' first digital State Wildlife Action Plan: new tools for conservation research and implementation. <i>Nate Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife</i>		Why Fish Need Plants <i>Casey Williams, BIO-WEST</i>
<b>8:20-8:40</b>	Deterioration of submersed plastic used for habitat and restoration structures in Texas Reservoirs: Considerations for fishery managers <i>Dusty McDonald, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>		Evaluating the functional ecology of ACEP-WRE wetlands in the Red River watershed <i>Lance Williams, University of Texas at Tyler</i>
<b>8:40-9:00</b>	Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) Body Burdens Of The Gulf Of Mexico Top Predator Assemblage <i>Alexandra Prouse, Harte Research Institute</i>		
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	50 Years of TCAFS		
<b>10:00-10:20</b>		<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:20-11:20</b>	Business Meeting		




## Poster Presentations

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 9:00 pm

### Poster Presentation
















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	A Multi-Agency Approach to Reevaluating a Historically Prohibited Recreational Fishing Device for Potential Reauthorization <i>Spencer Dorsey, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	A New Look at Old Ponds: A Statewide Survey of Pond Owner Issues in Texas <i>Davis Stairs, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Aggregation and collation of Texas crayfish museum specimens to determine their current conservation statuses <i>Adrian Alvarez, University of Texas at Tyler</i>
	Assessing Risk of Microplastic Exposure from White Crappie to Recreational Anglers in West Texas <i>Ryan Thornton, Texas Tech University</i>
	Assessing the prevalence and distribution of fish health anomalies in a restored urban riverscape <i>Blake Alexander, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Behavioral Dynamics of Finfish in Aransas Bay Gill-Net Surveys: Quantifying Schooling with the Gini Coefficient <i>Lauren James, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Cold Storage of Pond Produced Zooplankton to Extend Useful Life for Larval Southern Flounder ( <i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i> ) <i>Jessica LeMoine, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Comparing Active Versus Passive Monitoring of Gray Redhorse Movements in Three Tributaries to the Colorado River of Texas <i>Timothy Ringleben, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Controlling invasive armored catfish: Growth, reproduction, and spearfishing efficacy <i>Faith Poe, Texas State University</i>
	Current Status of the Imperiled Kisatchie Painted Crayfish in East Texas: Distribution, Environmental Associations, and Potential Threats <i>Bjorn Schmidt, East Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Designing and Testing Benthic Surveys along Rigs to Reef Platforms in Texas <i>Rachel Parmer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Drought impact assessment on freshwater communities: responses of South Texas crayfish <i>Zoe Mabry, Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</i>
	Ecological Impacts of Returning Treated Produced Water to the Lower Pecos River Watershed <i>Hannah Adams, Texas Tech University</i>
	Effects of River Discharge and Seasonality on American Eel Capture Rates <i>Blake Elzi, BIO-WEST, Inc.</i>

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2026 TCAFS ANNUAL MEETING

	Engaging Secondary Students in Urban River Ecology: Fish Community Sampling and Water Quality Assessment in Downtown Fort Worth <i>Andrew Brinker, Tarrant County College</i>
	Environmental tolerances and habitat association of three critically imperiled crayfish species in Texas <i>Andrew Walker, University of Texas at Tyler</i>
	Estimating age and growth of Blue Sucker in the Lower Colorado River using mark-recapture information <i>Meghan Booknis, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Evaluating the use of concentric circular plots and mark-recapture techniques for estimating pipefish population size in a coastal marine seagrass bed <i>Megan Sims, Valdosta State University</i>
	Evaluation of Reef Ball and Georgia Cube Artificial Fish Attractors in Toledo Bend Reservoir <i>Brian Metz, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Exploring Dominance Shifts Along a Stream Size Gradient Between Kisatchie Painted Crayfish and Potential Competitors in East Texas <i>Sielo Garcia, East Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Fine-scale population structure of spotted seatrout in Texas <i>Michaela Labare, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
	Fish Assemblage Shows Delayed Shift Following Hurricane Disturbance in a Coastal Estuary System <i>Chase Nimee, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	From Prairie to Reef: Repurposing Redfish Reef Oyster Shell to Restore Coastal and Shoreline Habitats <i>Savannah Horton, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Functional community responses to extreme climatic events using a long-term dataset <i>Zoe Mabry, Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</i>
	Hog Tide: Evaluating Wild Pig Fecal Pollution in Coastal Recreational and Oyster-Harvesting Waters <i>Lydia Cates, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
	Hydrologic extremes and their impact on fish richness, abundance, and body size in an intermittent aridland stream <i>Anna Backman, University of Texas at San Antonio</i>
	Influence of Hypoxia on Lead Toxicity, Calcium Homeostasis and Associated Transcriptional Responses in Early Life Stage Zebrafish ( <i>Danio rerio</i> ) <i>Edward Mager, University of North Texas</i>
	Integrating Angler-Generated Data to Assess Landing Locations by Shark Size and Distribution Along the Texas Coast <i>Jensen Smith, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
	Integrating Environmental Drivers of Energetic Performance into Bull Shark Nursery Habitat Suitability <i>Cali Falkenstein, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>



2026 TCAFS ANNUAL MEETING

	Interspecific-variation in stream shiners in East Texas is related to seasonality and instream conditions. <i>Katelyn Defrancis, Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
	Linking Trophic Ecology and Contaminant Exposure of Southern Flounder in South Texas Estuaries <i>Jasmine Nyce, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</i>
	Long-Term Trends and Spatial Structure of Pinfish Populations in Texas Estuaries <i>Alyx Bradley, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Multiscale Habitat Analysis Predicts the Abundance of two Imperiled Fish Species in East Texas Streams. <i>Michael Musal, Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
	Multiscale occupancy patterns of Texas Fawnsfoot populations in the Brazos River basin <i>Kyle Sullivan, BIO-WEST, Inc.</i>
	Reflex Assessment of Smallmouth Bass in Nebish Lake <i>Bridger Wilson, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Sex Determination and Stock Enhancement of Southern Flounder <i>Christopher Jingle, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Status and historical change in abundance and distribution of game and non-game fishes in the Lower Brazos River terminus <i>Madison Nguyen, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Streamflow depletion due to groundwater pumping in the Red River Basin as predicted by an analytical model <i>Tomasz Koralewski, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	Structure Matters: Fish Community Dynamics Across Artificial Reef Types along the Texas Coast <i>Catherine Eckert, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	Tackling the Data Gaps in Recreational Fishery Management: There's an App for That! <i>Ariana Rivera, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	The conceptual basis for a multispecies comparison of changes in fish movement patterns across phases of a dam modification <i>Jacob Barrett, Texas A&amp;M University</i>
	The Effects of Extreme Weather Events on Alligator Gar Catch Rates <i>Taylor Bird, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>
	The effects of the Toledo Bend Reservoir and natural drivers of headwater fish communities in the Sabine River Basin <i>Cora Mickey, University of Texas at San Antonio</i>
	Trait-Mediated Fish Responses to Environmental Disturbance Gradients in the Red River <i>Eden Brody, Texas Tech University</i>
	Using Environmental DNA to Track Seasonal Movements of Southern Flounder ( <i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i> ) in the Lower Laguna Madre <i>Allison White, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</i>



2026 TCAFS ANNUAL MEETING



Using UAV Remote Sensing to Quantify Continuous Habitats For Native Fish  
Conservation in East Texas Rivers

*Anastasia Umstott, Stephen F. Austin State University*

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Variation in Life History Strategies of Estuarine Fishes in the Northwestern Gulf of  
Mexico

*Damon Williford, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

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Hotel, Spa & Convention Center

