



The Northeast Fish Rapper

Newsletter of the Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society



President's Message

Kathryn Collet

Hello / Bonjour and greetings from New Brunswick (Canada, not New Jersey)! While the diadromous folks gear up for the spring, I trust that you all had a great winter season.

This past year has been another one of both change and challenge for many of you, as well as the American Fisheries Society (AFS). I personally have found it to be an extremely difficult time to be in an AFS leadership position - to fully represent our Division in the manner which is expected by you, the Society and me. As a Canadian AFS member for almost 30 years, I never felt there was a difference, until there was. I have unfortunately not had the opportunity to personally attend meetings and support the Society, Division and Chapters in ways that were meaningful or impactful (not to mention fun)! These are lost opportunities to learn and to build personal and professional relationships that strengthen the work of the Division and the Society. I would like to express my extreme gratitude to NED Past-President Andrew Bade for stepping in repeatedly in my absence and ensuring that the NED was present and met its commitments when needed.

Despite these realities, I do remain optimistic about the future of



our profession which is, of course, the foundational layer of the American Fisheries Society.

In September, I was happy to attend the Atlantic International Chapter (AIC) meeting in Lac Delage, Quebec. In a presentation, I tried to draw lines between my experiences at the Chapter and Division level. I recently found my 2004 AIC President's message: "... I had the privilege of attending a retreat for the Northeastern Division (NED) Ex-com. It was a very welcome opportunity as truly, the NED was pretty much a non-entity to me before - something I occasionally received a newsletter from. We had a very productive meeting... In essence, the NED will strive to make itself more relevant to the Chapters." And now, here we are, 22 years later with that same goal!

The NED was privileged to work

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with NYC President Gelyanne Rivera and team to co-host the 60th Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter in Saratoga Springs, NY in February. The theme was "The Waters that Unite Us: Managing Fisheries Across the Northeastern Ecosystems." The meeting was well attended and the professionalism and enthusiasm of the NYC team made everything seem easy. But we all know how much work goes into these events! Congratulations! Great logo too! Many thanks to Margaret Murphy and Andrew Bade for leading workshops at the NYC-NED meeting.

The Division is extremely fortunate to have Margaret Murphy, AFS President-Elect as an NED member (and NED past-President). As an AFS Officer, Margaret has prioritized attending meetings within our Division. I encourage all of you to read Margaret's Leader Line communiques- they are extremely helpful!

We are currently looking for nominations for NED Vice President and NED representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Please consider these important positions. Please e-mail any nominations to ned.fisheries@gmail.com by June 15th.

The 2026 NED annual business meeting will be held virtually with the date and time to be announced shortly. NED is the host Division for the AFS annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA in September 2027. This will be a busy time and there will be lots of opportunities for NED members to contribute. The meeting theme is: "Bridging the Gap: Fish Health, Fisheries Management, and Fish Culture." Planning is also underway for the 3rd Diadromous Symposium to be held at this meeting.

I am currently sitting looking out at the Restigouche River. The Restigouche is a boundary river that separates the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. It is an iconic, beautiful, rugged Atlantic salmon river. It has supported First Nations since time immemorial. I have just spent two days being inspired by the passion, collaboration, science, actions and focused determination of the people in the room: fisheries biologists; restoration technicians; Knowledge keepers; First Nations Guardians, Band Councillors; provincial governments; Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations; federal government; NGOs; academics; students; and salmon lodge owners. There were at least three languages being spoken. And now I realize that this is a microcosm of AFS! So thank you all for "being in the room" and doing what you do best

for our profession. Thank you for stepping up to lead; for caring, educating, collaborating, listening, volunteering and supporting the people and the resources in your respective areas and areas of interest.

I wish you all a safe, productive and enjoyable spring season! Thank you for your continued involvement in and commitment to the NED and AFS. Please read on for great stories about what's happening in our Division!

Meet the rest of the NED officers!

President-Elect



Russell Easy
Acadia University

Vice President



Michael Acquafredda
Rutgers University

Secretary Treasurer



Margaret Conroy
DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife

Past President



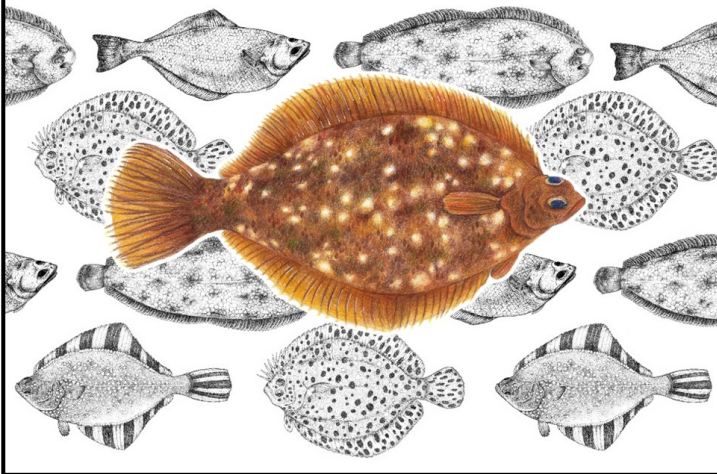
Andrew Bade
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

UPCOMING MEETINGS

156th AFS Annual Meeting

August 30-September 3, 2026
Columbus, Ohio

Nineteenth Flatfish Biology Conference



November 16th & 17th, 2026

Water's Edge Resort & Spa, West-
brook, CT

Visit our website for more infor-
mation and EMAIL flatfishbiology-
conference@gmail.com

Your Poster and Oral Presentation
Titles through July 1

Active AFS Members (2026 dues-
paying) are invited to pledge support
for the Flatfish Biology Conference
to become a new Section within the
Society

American Fisheries Society Petition
for FLATFISH BIOLOGY SECTION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over the past few months, Jenna O'del, fisheries ecologist for CSA Ocean Sciences, Inc., in their Rhode Island office, has restarted a fish blog series. While she is a full-time scientist, she's also a science writer (even quoting past-president Andrew Bade in an article for *Northern Woodlands*). She has revitalized a blog series CSA's retired ichthyologist, David Snyder, had prepared. This new iteration is focusing on the state marine fishes around the United States. Each month brings a profile of a new species, covering each species' natural history and management. Designed for readers that may not have a background in fishes, so far she has covered all the fishes on the Pacific coast, including Alaska and Hawai'i. Next up are fishes of Gulf states, then mid-Atlantic states. Fishes of the northeast will round out the series. The blogs can be read here: <https://www.csaocean.com/news/blog/>.

CHAPTER UPDATES

Atlantic International Chapter

evening revelry customary of any AIC meeting. Our chapter hopes you will join us from September 27-29 at our 2026 annual meeting at White Point Resort in Nova Scotia!

Levi Brown

The Atlantic International Chapter held its annual meeting in Lac Delage, Quebec from September 21-23 at the beautiful Manoir du Lac Delage. Opening presentations were delivered by AFS President-Elect Margaret Murphy and NED President Kathryn Collet, attesting to the benefits of AFS involvement at the Chapter, Division, and Society levels. Our keynote speaker, Danielle Frechette, used a storytelling framework embraced by the AFS Climate Ambassador and Climate Fellows programs to explore how we connect with audiences, with emphasis on clear and effective communication.



Twenty-five oral and poster presentations were given throughout the meeting, followed by excellent community meals, a raffle highlighted by many hand-made items crafted by our chapter members, and



Keynote speaker Danielle Frechette (left) standing beside Eva Enders (right), who chaired the local arrangements committee for the meeting in Lac Delage.



Meeting attendees of the 49th annual meeting of the Atlantic International Chapter.



AIC President Rosanne MacFarlane, joined by NED President Kathryn Collet and AFS President-Elect Margaret Murphy.

Mid Atlantic Chapter

Michael Auriemma

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MAC-AFS) held its annual meeting in Dewey Beach, Delaware from November 19 through 21, 2025. The meeting's theme, "From Research to Reels: Enhancing Collaboration in Fisheries Management," highlighted the critical roles that cooperation and trust play to bridge gaps and unite diverse voices in fisheries management. Through this theme, we aimed to promote a collaborative environment in support of one clear overall message: that fisheries sustainability depends on more than science and regulation – it requires strong relationships.

More than 130 people from academia, non-profits, federal and state agencies, and private industries attended the meeting. We were thrilled to have Dr. Dana Christensen of Stockton University



(NJ) as our plenary speaker. She presented results from her novel research on recreational fishing surveys and the various potential implications of her findings on local education programming, collaboration, community science, and development of technologies that support both anglers and the scientific community. In addition to the inspiring plenary, the meeting featured 30 oral presentations, 26 poster presentations, a mentor-mentee lunch, and multiple social events. This year, our Chapter was proudly able to provide need-based reduced registration rates for fishing industry stakeholders, as well as free lodging for 22 student attendees. Fundraising efforts included our annual silent auction, raffle, 50/50 drawing, and other donations, which raised over \$1,900 for future student activities and engagement!

Ultimately, our meeting provided many stakeholders and students with the ability to discuss unique research, knowledge, perspectives, and interests with one another. Fostering these shared values is essential for effective collaboration, mutual understanding, and ultimately, the long-term health of our fisheries. We hope that lessons learned have been carried beyond the few days of our meeting and helped to further that mission. Thanks to the hard work of our Executive Committee and the generous support of our sponsors, donors, and numerous volunteers, our 2026 meeting was a huge success!



Plenary speaker Dr. Dana Christensen presents her work investigating how sociological factors—trust, collaboration, individual perspectives—influence saltwater angler surveys and may impact fishery management.



(From left to right) Evans Armantrading III, Angel Colon-Zapata, Peyton McCain, Samantha Alaimo, and Danielle Dyson accepting their Best Student Presentation Awards. Not pictured awardees: Maya Lopez and Fiona Farrell.

Pennsylvania Chapter

Logan Stenger

On March 12-13, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society hosted its 2026 Annual Meeting at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. The event welcomed more than 90 attendees representing roughly 30 organizations, including federal, state, and county agencies, universities, nonprofits, and consulting firms.

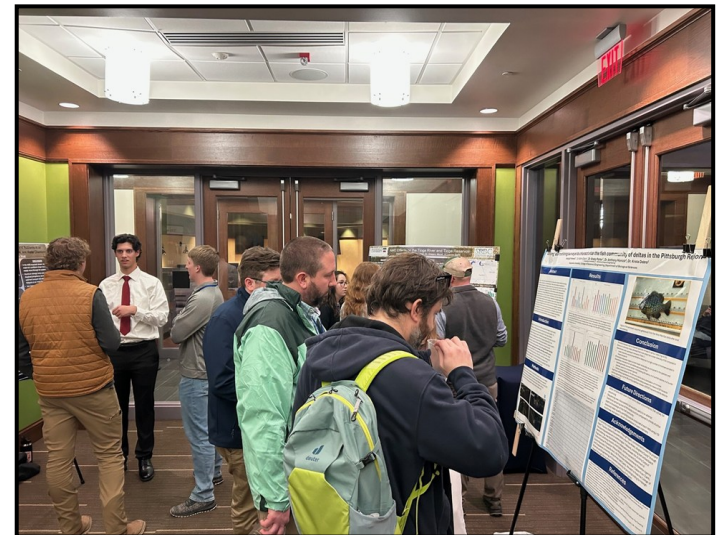


We were honored to have AFS President-Elect Margaret Murphy join us to deliver opening remarks highlighting the broader mission and impact of AFS, as well as previewing upcoming national meetings in Columbus (2026) and Pittsburgh (2027).

Day one featured a full slate of podium and poster presentations spanning fisheries management, aquatic restoration strategies, and emerging research across Pennsylvania waters. Congratulations to Natalie Brown (Commonwealth University - Lock Haven) for Best Student Podium Presentation and



Day 2 Workshop: Applying hydrographic data in conservation, led by Chesapeake Conservancy.



Day 1 Evening Poster Session.



Pennsylvania Chapter AFS merch at the 2026 meeting.



Day 1 Plenary Session and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ben Hayes.

Emily Bierer (Duquesne University) for Best Student Poster Presentation. We also recognized Poushalee Banerjee (University of Pittsburgh) as this year's recipient of the PA AFS Cooper Award, presented annually to an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student.

Day two wrapped up with three engaging, hands-on workshops: "Unraveling the Use of DNA Barcoding for Dietary Analysis in Applied Fisheries Research", "Applying Hydrographic Data in Conservation," and "Beta-Testing the New Pennsylvania Fish Taxonomic Exam."

We also introduced new PA AFS hats featuring an American eel and Eastern elliptio logo, an especially fitting design for this year's theme, "The Power of Partnerships."

Overall, the meeting was a great success, fostering meaningful discussions and continued collaboration across Pennsylvania's fisheries and aquatic science community.

Southern New England Chapter

Michael Burgess

The Southern New England Chapter hosted its annual winter meeting at the University of Rhode Island Main Campus in the Center for Biological and Life Sciences building on January 14th, 2026. The meeting consisted of a full program of 16 oral presentations, and an afternoon poster session with 19 poster presentations. There were a total of 137 registrants representing well over 30 institutions. The meeting was attended by AFS President Elect Margaret Murphy, who gave an "Introduction to AFS" presentation to kick off the oral session. The meeting had strong student participation: Five of the oral presentations and 16 of the poster presentations were given by students, and a total of 42 students attended the meeting. Two students were awarded the Saul B. Saila award for best student oral presentations: Ryan Adams from the University of New Hampshire and Melanie Carolan from the University of New Hampshire. The 2026 summer meeting will be held on June 17th,

2026, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Building in Hadley, MA.

The board of directors is currently working on updating the procedural manual and reorganizing our professionalism committee. These updates are aimed at better serving our chapter's members and improving equal representation of each of our three affiliated states. The board will be meeting sometime in April to discuss these updates and to finalize planning for the 2026 summer meeting.



SNEC Board of Directors gathered with AFS President Elect Margaret Murphy outside of the Center for Biological and Life Sciences building at the University of Rhode Island main Campus.



Meeting attendees gathered to grab lunch and enjoy the afternoon poster session.

SUNY-ESF Chapter

Raymond Bailey

The SUNY ESF Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has been up a lot since last Spring - between inaugural conferences and overnight Adirondack trips we've been keeping our business especially fishy (in a good way!). This year we've revamped our chapter website (esfafs.weebly.com) to serve as a more accessible resource for students and external chapter members alike to view meeting information, job search resources, and past events we've hosted. To kick off the Fall semester, students spent a weekend at ESF's Newcomb satellite campus sampling the fish community of local lakes such as Arbutus Pond and Wolf Lake using trapnets. The data collected from these surveys contributes to a multi-year dataset free for students to use for their own research interests. We've had the privilege of hosting various industry professionals at our weekly meetings since the beginning of the Fall semester to give us more insight into their career paths, research goals, and sampling methods and better help students form research ideas or forge connections in areas of the field they may be interested in.

The end of the Fall semester culminated in our inaugural fisheries conference; organized by our wonderful Vice President, Raymond Bailey. This year's theme, *No Fish Too Big No Macroinvertebrate Too Small*, was comprised of over a hundred attendees from both ESF students, external students, staff, and working professionals. A number of oral talks took place from staff and students alike covering topics from community based research, skill development, and acoustic telemetry. Students were also able to present their own research endeavors during a poster session and mixer - which served as a way for them to practice detailing their findings in front of faculty and peers before attending a larger state conference. We hope to make our fall conference a longstanding tradition, and look forward to hosting the next one in December 2026!

This spring semester we've continued to uphold our goal of getting students as much experience as possible within an academic year - hosting more educational weekly speakers and workshops focused on skill-development such as boat trailering, otolith aging, and the art of gyo-taku later this semester. We

look forward to getting involved with some stream electroshocking as part of our longstanding collaboration with Onondaga Environmental Institute and our downstate trips to participate in conservation efforts supporting the American Eel.

New York Chapter

Francis McParland

The 60th Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was one for the books! In partnership with the Northeastern Division, this joint meeting was held February 4th -6th, 2026 at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs NY. Fish folks from around the Northeast, were met with all quaint hospitality that upstate NY has to offer. This year's theme "The Waters That Unite Us: Managing Fisheries Across the Northeast Ecosystems" set the stage for exciting and intense discussions spanning a myriad of fisheries topics! The NY Chapter never ceases to amaze when it comes to attendance, with 319 registrants, a truly packed house.

The meeting started on the right foot (or fin) with two engaging workshops presented by some heavy hitters of the fisheries world. Margaret Murphy presented "Succeed in Fisheries: AFS's Strategic Posi-



NY Chapter President Gelyanne Rivera giving the opening remarks to the chapter.

tioning” a two-hour workshop focusing on future casting and adaptive planning to shape fisheries amid uncertainty. Following Margaret, Andrew Bade introduced folks to writing custom functions in R and incorporating them into reproducible reports using Quarto in his “Automated Reporting with RStu-



Chris Bowers getting the audience involved in his plenary presentation.

dio and Quarto” workshop. As a bonus Scott Schlueter and Doug Carlson held a short meeting highlighting Mooneye Conservation efforts on the Oswegatchie and Raquette Rivers and potential ideas for local and statewide recovery. After an afternoon of travel and workshops, members began to congregate for the Women in Fisheries Mixer which then shifted into our welcome social. An amazing quality of NY meetings are the conversations that blossom out of the smallest things; interesting job titles on a nametag, a fish themed shirt, or even a debate over who has the best fishing spots.

Day two started off strong with two eloquent speakers in Gelyanne “Gelly” Rivera the then NY Chapter president and NED Past President Andrew Bade. While some of these opening remarks touched on logistics and need to know meeting details, the overarching theme focused on a looming anticipation for the talks and conversations to come. Gelly highlighted our meeting’s theme of us being united as a group of forward-thinking fish folk. Andrew highlighted just how amazing the comradery was during the previous night’s social, a true testament to how cohesive a group the NY chapter is! Following the opening remarks were some informative and memorable plenary talks. Starting things off was Dr. Patrick Shirey’s “Bridging Science and Law to Inform Water Policy for Fisheries”. His talk dove into his impressive career dealing with policy, envi-

ronmental law and the processes associated with them. Jim Pinheiro was next up at bat with his presentation on turning “Obstacles into Opportunities: Working with Partners to Achieve Management Goals”. Highlighting the importance of collaborative work! Finally, Chris Bowser and Maija Niemisto wrapped up our plenary talks with “Science Communication of Fisheries Research” an incredible way to end it. Chris and Maija put on a master class of engagement never failing to excite a crowd with their knowledge and stage presence.

After plenaries and lunch, the meeting moved right into its concurrent presentation sessions. The diversity of talks was truly impressive with different symposia rooms sorted into the waters that; flow, nurture, meet, we share, gather, and change. The range of topics was larger than the range of *Microp-terus salmoides*! Covering NYS PFOS Fish Consumption Guidelines and Horseshoe Crab Spawning Surveys to Species specific population genetics in wild and hatchery raised trout. There was a presentation for everyone!

Day two finished with a riveting poster session where a variety of students, young professionals and seasoned fisheries scientists presented 58 posters in total! After the poster session folks sat down to a fantastic dinner as we started our banquet which included an award ceremony and student award raffle. The Klumb-Spindler travel award was awarded to 4 outstanding college students: Ow-



Dr. Susan Cushman with Klumb-Spindler award winners.

en Hazard, Venuri Atulugama, Elizabeth Guzman, and Jack Gall. The Emmeline Moore Travel Awards were awarded to two more outstanding students; Bryce Davis and Amarbat Otgonganba. There were two awardees for the Professional Achievement Award, Heidi O’Riordan and Scott Schlueter. Both Heidi and Scott have been important fixtures in the NY Chapter as well as the fisheries community at large, having garnered a wealth of knowledge and respect throughout their tenure. Doug Carlson won the science blog award for his contributions to the NY Chapter blog. My final mention will be of our Conservationist of the year award. Vic Putman President of the Boquet River Association (BRASS). Vic has been a long-time advocate for the Boquet river and its watershed leading into Lake Champlain. He has been pivotal in the reinvigoration of BRASS, who does valuable habitat and fisheries restoration work in their watershed. BRASS and Vic are perfect examples of dedicated people making impactful improvements. The night was capped off with our annual raffle which raises money for the student travel awards. This year’s raffle had a variety of prizes from fishing charters on the finger lakes and high-end fly rods to fish artwork and management manuals. The varied prizes paid off because over \$5300 were raised during the raffle.

Our final day of the meeting included some final concurrent sessions and closing remarks for the meeting. Gelly handed over the “torch” to now acting president Francis McParland and Francis acknowledged the now incoming president Dr. Florian Redya. The NY Chapter is already looking forward to planning our next meeting!

The Northeastern Division was pleased to announce the following award winners at the joint New York Chapter- NED meeting—The Meritorious Service Award - presented to Heather Stewart in recognition of their leadership and service to the fisheries profession as the President of the Northeastern Division of AFS and the President of the Student and Early Career Professionals Subsection of the Education Section, as well as scholarly contributions in mangrove ecology. Heather’s stewardship of the NED has led to lasting improvements in the Division’s archives, digital presence, and meeting inclusivity.

The Special Achievement Award honors an individual or group for exceptional contributions that advance fisheries conservation or support the fisheries profession within the Northeastern Division.

This year’s winner is Cameron Bodine. Cameron was nominated in recognition of scholarly contributions as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Delaware, including the development and maintenance of PINGMapper. This work has substantially improved the accessibility, efficiency, and affordability of benthic habitat mapping for researchers and practitioners alike.

The Presidents Award honors individuals—regardless of AFS membership—for their exceptional commitment to the missions of the AFS. The award was presented to Thomas Near, in recognition of scholarly contributions in advancing the field of fish phylogenetics, which has had vast implications for fisheries conservation and management throughout the eastern United States.

The Dwight A. Webster Memorial Award was presented to John Waldman. This award is the most prestigious recognition given by the Northeastern Division and is awarded for lifelong contributions to fisheries science and the profession.

Congratulations to all of the 2026 winners! Many thanks to NED past-President Andrew Bade and Vice-President Mike Acquafredda for all of their efforts with this important task.

Finally, a special thank you to all who helped this meeting happen. NY Chapter Ex Comm team, NED folks and all our sponsors. This especially goes for Past President Gelly Rivera. Gelly organized an incredible meeting, handled issues with poise, and kept a smile on the whole meeting.



Our Conservationist of the year award winner Vic Putman posing with Chris Powers and Jim Pinheiro the award presenters.

STUDENT SUBUNIT UPDATES

Cornell

Jaehyoung Park

The Cornell AFS subunit has been actively engaging in educational and hands-on activities. Our first event of the fall semester was a local fish identification workshop where we exhibited a wide selection of the fish species that can be found around Ithaca through preserved specimens and presentations. This was a great opportunity to connect with the student base interested in fish science, and introduce some commonly used methods in fish identification. Later in the semester, we collaborated with other student organizations like the Herpetology Society, Birding Club, and Wildlife Society to host Bionight, a naturalist-centered trivia event that attracted a fantastic turnout.

To kick off the spring semester, we exhibited some new AFS branded accessories at Clubfest,

the school's student organization fair, and used our first funding designation to purchase items for future club operations. Additionally, we hosted another fish identification workshop, this time focused on the local sunfish family Centrarchidae. This was a great social event, and it included a trivia game with prizes. Throughout the year, we continued to take care of the tilapia tank located in the Animal Science Building on campus. Through maintaining a fish tank on campus, we allow members to learn and master fish keeping and husbandry skills and engage in public service by enriching the building with an aquarium tank. Beyond the club activities, our members are active in research as well. For instance, our Secretary, Catarina Galindo, is working with Dr. Clifford Kraft to study a thiamine-degrading enzyme in larval cyprinids, the enzyme linked to cayuga syndrome, which causes thiamine deficiency and mortality in salmonids and other predatory fish, ultimately hurting commercial fisheries. Our President, Jaehyoung, has been fo-



Students participate in the first fall workshop, learning more about fish identification methods.



The subunit exhibited some new AFS branded accessories at Clubfest, the schools organization fair.

cused on aging Lake trout through otolith readings with help from Eileen Randall. Meanwhile, Jaehyoung and the Vice President, Miles Hamilton, have been over at the Cornell Vertebrate Museum (CUMV) working on 3D segmentation and land-marking of CT-scanned North American freshwater fishes; Miles is looking at *Fundulus* species while Jaehyoung is working on Centrarchidae.

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to identify and recover abandoned vessels and fishing gear. The MATES subunit is also working on initiatives to reduce bycatch by promoting bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Students assisted with a brochure to provide facts about BRDs, a new poster and website, BRD-Zone.net. We will be posting more information about these initiatives on our MATESOCVTS.org site as well as BRD-Zone.net!

MATES

John Wnek

The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) subunit of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is getting out on Barnegat Bay to retrieve derelict fishing gear, which can be considered marine debris. The team is working with Stockton University as part of a grant from the Na-



MATES students recover the crab pots on March 30th, 2025.



MATES students retrieve more crab pots on April 6th, 2025.

Penn West

Dr. David G. Argent

Last fall we took a tour of fish hatchery in the Laurel Highlands and members participated in an organized duck hunt. The program was called the University Hunt Program, sponsored by the Delta Waterfowl. This spring we are gearing up for a few events, now the ice is gone. First, we have a fly-tying event scheduled for March 30th. We will be helping the PA Fish and Fish and Boat Commission spawn walleye (date is TBA) and we will be helping with their open house event at Linesville Fish Hatchery.

On March 26th, we will be doing a backpack shocking event for student at a local school. The following week or so, members will be attending



Garret Fryar and Raegan McCelvey participate in the organized duck hunt.

the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference at the Greenbrier in West Virginia.

PS - We are beginning, slowly to ramp up for the national meeting in Pittsburgh in 2027. We, err...I am in charge of fund raising, so I will be recruiting help from the members to see what sorts of things we can procure.

Québec

Paige Smallman

The AFS-Québec (AFS-QC) Student Subunit has had a wonderful year focused on expanding membership across institutions. In July, we conducted a Bioblitz, sampling aquatic invertebrates along the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers and contributing 155 observations to iNaturalist. The fall semester kicked off with a BBQ welcome social at McGill, followed by an aquatic-themed trivia night at Université de Montréal in October led by executive member Liana Fortin-Hamel.

In November, we hosted a webinar, Navigating the Government Job Market, featuring Erin Ritchie, Joelle Guitard, and Dr. Jaclyn Hill, all of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, offering members valuable insight into careers in the public sector. We also partnered with GRIL (Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire en limnologie) to deliver a workshop on macrophyte and plankton sampling methods, led by executive members Catalina Claus and Ivana



AFS-QC Summer Bioblitz in the Ottawa River.

Komendic. At the AIC Annual Meeting in Québec City, external representative Raphaël Bouchard (PhD Candidate, Université Laval) presented his research on multi-species mixed-stock analysis and its implications for supporting local Indigenous fisheries.

On March 25, 2026, we hosted our 4th Annual Symposium at Concordia University, Ripple Effects:



Attendees of AFS-QC 4th Annual Symposium at Concordia University, Ripple Effects: Managing the Impacts of Multiple Stressors in Aquatic Ecosystems.

Managing the Impacts of Multiple Stressors in Aquatic Ecosystems, welcoming 60 attendees and 20 presenters from institutions across Québec. Liz Weller received the award for best presentation. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Nicola Smith (Assistant Professor of Biology, Concordia University), shared her research on the effects of climate change on marine invasions. A discussion panel on communicating science for policy featured Dr. Dylan Fraser (Associate Professor, Concordia University), Dr. Sebastian Theis (Postdoctoral Researcher, McGill University), Leah Creaser (Doctoral Student, Dalhousie University and 3M National Student Fellow from Wasoqopa'q First Nation), and Richelle Smith (MSc Candidate, Concordia University and Central and Arctic Fleet Operations and Planning Officer, Canadian Coast Guard). The event also showcased an art competition, with Marion Morissette taking home the award for best artwork. Overall, AFS-QC continues to grow in both membership and community engagement, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.



Executive member Emma Schubert presents Marion Morissette with the award for best artwork at the 4th Annual AFS-QC Symposium.

Rutgers

Jake A. Kuenzli

The Rutgers Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society has been hosting educational and hands-on events designed to provide undergraduates with real-life experience working in the fishery world. Our most attended event is our Marine Science Field Day at the Rutgers University Field Station. Here, undergraduate and graduate students alike hear about fisheries research from the experts themselves, tour the incredible field station, and get hands on experience with research methods by deploying seine-net equipment and sorting through and categorizing catch. Upcoming this year, we will be hosting a new event of Gyotaku, a traditional art of Japanese fish painting, and expanding our marine science field day to include boat tours around the bay. Additionally, RUAFS is redesigning our semester events to better serve the undergraduate community in the future, and to ensure that we provide the experiences they are looking for.

Stockton

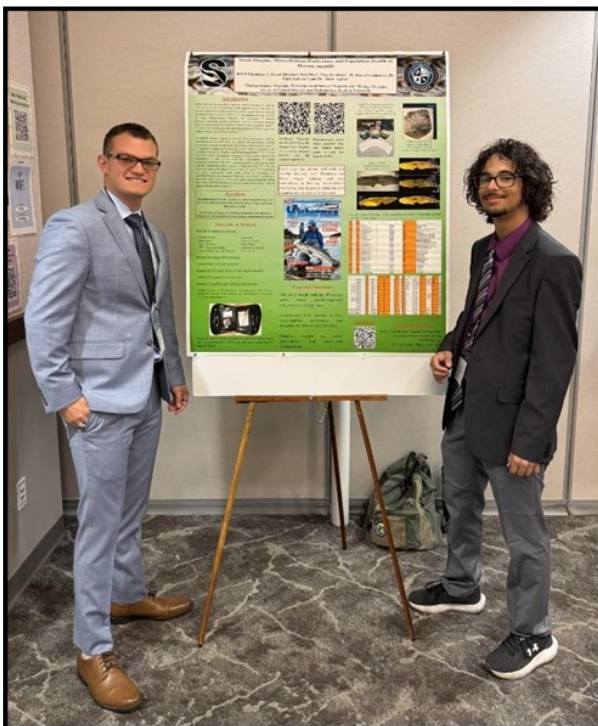
Mark Sullivan

Stockton University Marine Science Program students attended the Mid-Atlantic Chapter / Northeastern Division AFS “Examining Infrastructure and Fisheries Interactions” joint meeting in New Brunswick, NJ (Oct. 27 – Oct. 29, 2024). Undergraduate students Mackenzie Briggs, Juan Diego Chaparro, Bryan Gaskill, Ryan Luty, and Alexander Wendel participated in the Mentor / Mentee Luncheon, which paired students with AFS fisheries professionals, while Landon Geddes and Seth Sims presented at the evening poster session on oyster aquaculture and striped bass stock origins, respectively. The “Introduction to Gyotaku (Art of Fish Printing)” Professional Development Activity inspired Marine Biology / Environment Science double-major Seth Sims to offer his own Gyotaku

workshop at Stockton University on Feb. 28, 2025 in coordination with the Stockton Fishing and Conservation Club. Students were supported at the MAC-NED AFS meeting by Stockton faculty Adam Aguiar, Dana Christensen, Christine Thompson, and Mark Sullivan. Stockton students are looking forward to additional opportunities to connect with AFS during the upcoming year!



An example of Gyotaku fish printing from the MAC-NED AFS meeting professional development workshop.



Stockton alum Jared Handelman and Seth Sims present research on Striped bass stock origins and micro-habitat preference.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Becca Cusick

During the fall semester of 2025, the UMass Amherst AFS Student Subunit had two member meetings. The first meeting was to gauge interest in the subunit; we had about 20 undergraduate and graduate students in attendance. Over pizza, we spoke with potential members about what AFS is all about, what membership to the subunit could provide, and we polled attendees for interests and ideas for future meetings. Ideas included exposure to practical skills, such as net mending and fly tying, as well as service projects, such as river clean ups. Additional interests included networking and resume building skills, and group trips to see herring runs, local hatcheries, and potentially visit locations such as the Gloucester Marine Station.

The second meeting of the spring semester consisted of a collaborated outreach event with the UMass Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, where we worked with students to deploy and check minnow traps in Campus Pond. The event was very well attended, with over 30 people of all ages, including students and families. We identified species of sunfish and were able to get folks some hands-on experience working with gear and identifying fish species. As we move into the spring semester of 2026, our first meeting will take place in early March, where attendees will get some hands-on experience mending gill nets and purse seines (with pizza, of course!).

During the first meeting of the Spring 2026 semester, the eight members in attendance had the opportunity to get some hands on experience with net repair. Students worked together to repair holes in a large pelagic purse seine. We spread the net out on the floor of one of the rooms of Holdsworth Hall, and using needles and braided fishing line we repaired numerous small holes and tears in the large net. We also repaired some smaller dip nets, all for use this upcoming field season.

We are always looking for new ideas for meetings and opportunities for collaboration! If anyone is interested in collaborating for an upcoming meeting, please reach out to [Reese Dorroh](#) and [Becca Cusick](#).

University of Maine

Greg Kronisch

We have found fish printing to be among our most successful outreach activities! We recently had a table at the State of Maine Sportsman's Show and organized our second annual public fish printing event at the Maine Science Festival using fish captured in Maine (largemouth bass, white perch, and black



Two happy customers at the Maine Science Festival fish printing event.



UMaine subunit treasurer Andrea Casey running our booth at the sportsman show.

another event about fish identification and taxonomy. We've also worked to emphasize the importance of aquaculture and biosecurity with a tour of the UMaine Cooperative Extension Diagnostic and Research Laboratory.



UMaine subunit secretary Kyle Hubbard teaching students about fly fishing.

crappie) as well as several rubber fish molds. Many of the fish used for these events were captured during our annual club ice fishing trip to Hermon Pond during the free fishing weekend in February.

Like last year, we emphasized undergraduate participation with many hands-on activities, including fly casting and our own fish printing event. In addition, we held two workshops on aquatic entomology (one streamside and one in the lab) where members collected their own kick net samples and identified their own macroinvertebrates, as well as

Finally, we are in preparation for our 11th annual Spawning Run 5K on April 25th. This is our largest event of the year, drawing folks from other departments and even outside the university! In addition to running on the official race day, some runners have opted to participate virtually throughout the week. The event is our primary fundraiser and helps us improve on-campus activities and outreach events for the following year. For additional information and updates, check us out on Instagram (@UMaineAFS).

Fisheries News

Life History, Population Status, and Restoration of American Shad and River Herring in the Delaware River Basin

Sheila Eyler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lance Butler, Philadelphia Water Department, Ron Heun, PSEG Nuclear, Gregory Lech, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Ellie Rothermel, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Last September, 2025, the Delaware Estuary Program's Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) released a new white paper entitled the Life History, Population Status, and Restoration of American Shad and River Herring in the Delaware River Basin. The report encapsulates the most recent information on American shad and river herring in the Delaware River Basin. It is the product of a year's worth of collaboration among technical experts that were convened as part of a STAC subcommittee. The report reviews six indices that reflect American shad and river herring population health, which are tracked by the Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative. The publication offers critical, species-specific insights that will help inform and strengthen future comprehensive assessments of the Estuary and Basin's overall health.

American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), Alewife (*A. pseudoharengus*), and Blueback Herring (*A. aestivalis*) are migratory fish species that were historically abundant throughout the Delaware River Basin. American Shad and river herring contribute vital ecosystem services to the region, facilitating nutrient exchange between marine and freshwater systems, functioning as both predators and prey, serving as a host fish to freshwater mussel species, and historically providing an essential food source for

humans. However, populations of all three species have experienced significant declines.

As described in the report, the Delaware River Basin once supported the largest harvest of American Shad on the Atlantic Coast from 1896 to 1901, where more than 3 million fish were harvested annually. Abundance declined rapidly in the following decades, and by the 1970s, the entire spawning population was estimated to range from 100,000 to 500,000 fish. Since the 1980s, populations have remained low, and recent assessments have determined that the level of mortality currently occurring in the population is too high to sustain current population levels. Annual surveys of adult and juvenile abundance reveal considerable variability. While adult American Shad spawning indices are at all-time lows, juvenile production in the non-tidal river has reached some of the highest levels recorded over the past three decades in certain recent years. Commercial landings of American Shad have dropped steadily since 1990, with less than 1,000 pounds being landed each year since 2020. Less is known about river herring abundance in the Delaware River Basin, though populations are assumed to be at, or near, historic lows. There is no commercial fishing permitted in the Delaware River Basin for river herring.

Reviews show the depletion of the American Shad and river herring populations are likely due to historic overfishing, habitat fragmentation and loss of access caused by damming of tributaries, and low dissolved oxygen levels in the estuary that precluded safe upstream and downstream migration of American Shad and river herring for part of the year over many decades. For the most part, the factors that once severely reduced populations have now been largely mitigated. Currently, the commercial and recreational fisheries for American Shad and river herring are closely managed by state agencies. Significant improvements to water quality have occurred in the estuary since the 1940s, to the point where American Shad are being observed in the estuary in higher abundance than they have in the past century. Dam removals and fish passage facilities in Delaware River tributaries are increasing access to historic spawning and nursery habitats.

The publication highlights several factors that continue to influence American Shad and river herring populations, including predation, particularly by non-native and invasive species. Water quality in the Delaware Estuary, particularly dissolved oxygen levels, continues to improve; however, water quality remains threatened by ongoing land development within the Basin and by emerging contaminants whose impacts on fish populations are not yet fully understood. The Delaware River estuary serves as a vital industrial port, supporting extensive in-water activities such as dredging and underwater construction to maintain navigation and transportation infrastructure. Additionally, substantial volumes of river water are withdrawn for use as cooling water by thermoelectric power plants. Water intake systems pose a significant risk to fish, and may cause them to become entrained or impinged reducing survival rates. Changes in seasonal water temperatures and ocean currents can also have an impact on fish energetics and reproductive success, with potential negative impacts to American Shad and river herring populations in the Delaware River. Moving forward, the report recommends that the impacts of these ongoing stressors on American Shad and river herring populations should be systematically assessed and, where feasible, mitigated to support the restoration of these ecologically and culturally significant species.

The 2025 Life History, Population Status, and Restoration of American Shad and River Herring in the Delaware River Basin Report can be found on the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary website at <https://delawareestuary.org/blog/2025/09/23/stacpaper25/>.

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, host of the Delaware Estuary Program, leads collaborative, science-based efforts to improve the Delaware River and Bay, which covers portions of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

To learn more about The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Delaware Estuary Program's Science Technical Advisory Committee, please visit delawareestuary.org/committees/science-and-technical-advisory-committee.

Additional questions can be directed to LeeAnn Haaf at lhaaf@delawareestuary.org or Ella Rothermel at erothmel@delawareestuary.org.



Photo of an American Shad.

Vermont passes new rules related to commercial fishing

Jud Kratzer, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Vermont has commercial fishing?! Yes, but it is probably not what you are thinking. Vermont has no access to salt water, and our commercial fish harvesters don't use nets. They use hook and line. All but a relatively short list of "gamefish" species are fair game for commercial sale in Vermont, but sales are dominated by panfish species, namely Yellow Perch, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, White Perch, Black Crappie, and White Crappie. There is a very small market for these species in the state, so most of the harvest is shipped to large processing facilities in Ontario. Some other states allow the commercial sale of some panfish species, but only Vermont and Maine allowed for the sale of crappies. While the world's demand for crappie fillets is small, the supply is also very small, making crappies more valuable per pound than the other species. For example, during the winter of 2025, one Vermont fish buyer was buying yellow perch in the round at \$1.00 per pound but crappies at \$3.50 per pound. This high price incentivizes bad behavior, including exceeding the daily bag limit, importing crappies from other states where their sale is illegal (e.g., New Hampshire and New York), and introducing crappies to new waters to establish additional supplies of this valuable fish. In an effort to eliminate these illegal activities, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board voted to prohibit the purchase and sale of Black and White Crappies, starting in 2026.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board also voted in two other 2026 rule changes that relate to commercial fishing. First, all anglers that sell fish in Vermont must add a free Fish Seller's Endorsement to their Vermont fishing license. Anglers that sell fish must also now report the species and weight of fish sold each year. This rule change is intended to help the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department better understand the extent of the state's commercial fishery. Second, a general daily panfish bag limit now applies to inland waters (not Lake Champlain or the Connecticut River). The daily limit is 50 panfish, of which no more than 25 can be Black or White Crappies. The rule defines panfish as Bluegill, Bullhead, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Rock Bass, and Yellow Perch. The main purpose of the daily bag limit is to protect panfish populations on small to medium-sized waters from overharvest, whether by commercial harvest or otherwise. Before this rule change, the only panfish species with daily limits on Vermont's inland waters were Yellow Perch (50) and Crappies (25).



Jud Kratzer, a fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, ice fishing with his son Joshua at Symes Pond in Ryegate this past December.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Exploration of the N-Viro Dredge to Reduce Bycatch and Improve Fuel Efficiency in the Atlantic Sea Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) Fishery

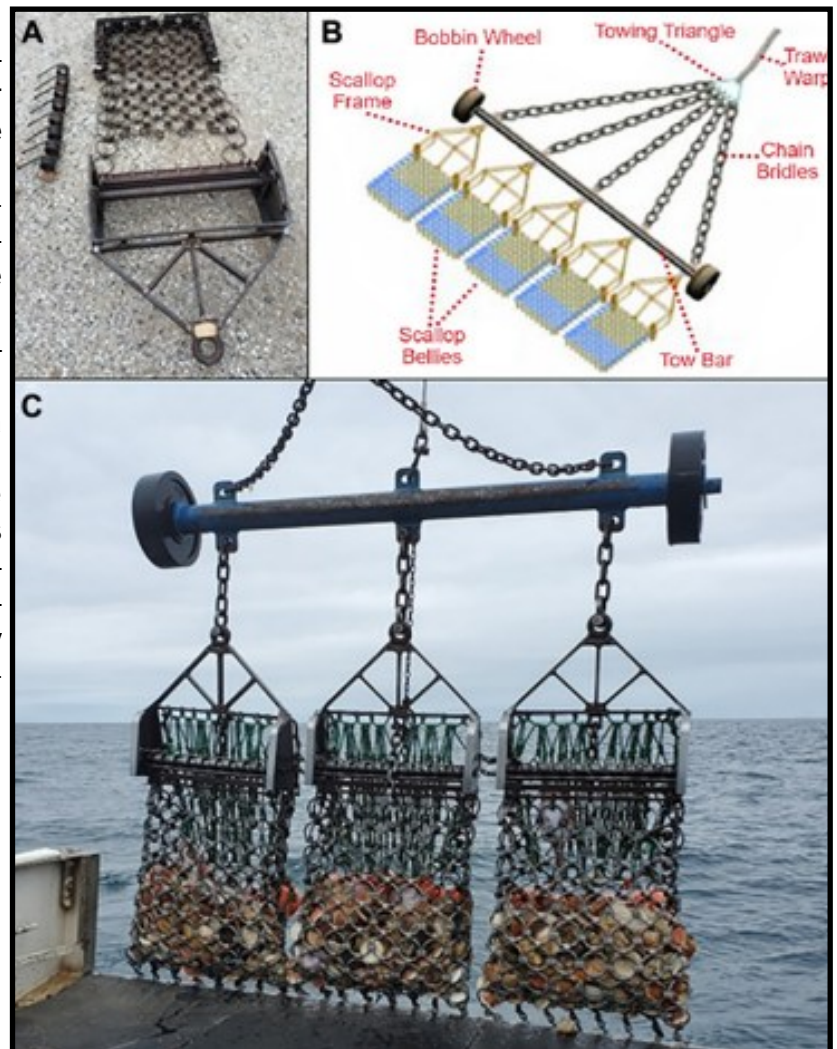
In Journal of Shellfish Research

Michael Long, N. David Bethoney

Abstract: Atlantic sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) fishing vessels typically use New Bedford-style dredges for harvest, which are often criticized for high bycatch rates and impacts on benthic environments. The king (*Pecten maximus*) and queen (*Aequipecten opercularis*) scallop fisheries were criticized for similar impacts in the United Kingdom with New Haven dredges. Vessels in these U.K. fisheries have increasingly used the N-Viro dredge due to its improved fuel efficiency and reduced bycatch rates and habitat impacts. Through a two-phase pilot project, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, Gulf of Maine, Inc., and Southern New England sea scallop fishermen conducted at-sea trials to determine the feasibility of the N-Viro dredge for use in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery. Through side-by-side comparisons of N-Viro and New Bedford-style dredges, the N-Viro dredge showed increased fuel efficiency, reduced habitat impacts, and decreased bycatch rates of at least 50% for nearly all bycatch species. The N-Viro dredge also had decreased catch rates of scallops, implying that bycatch reduction was a product of decreased overall effectiveness; however, the N-Viro dredge was more selective for the more valuable, larger-sized scallops, with catch rates near those of a New Bedford-style dredge. These results suggest that the N-Viro dredge has the potential to serve as a tool that Atlantic sea scallop vessels could use to access areas with mixes of juvenile and adult scallops, high bycatch species abundance, or areas of complex rocky bottom. Further gear improvement work to increase the overall scallop catch efficiency and provide additional support for size selectivity are important next steps for utility and overall industry acceptance.

DOI: [10.2983/035.044.0303](https://doi.org/10.2983/035.044.0303)

Figure 1. Figure 1. N-Viro dredge configuration. (A) Components of an individual N-Viro dredge. (B) Schematic of five N-Viro dredges rigged onto a 2.6 m tow bar (Walk 2025). (C) N-Viro dredge assembly used in Phase I Limited Access General Category research trips.



Keeping pace with change: An evaluation of the Maine-New Hampshire bottom trawl survey in a warming Gulf of Maine

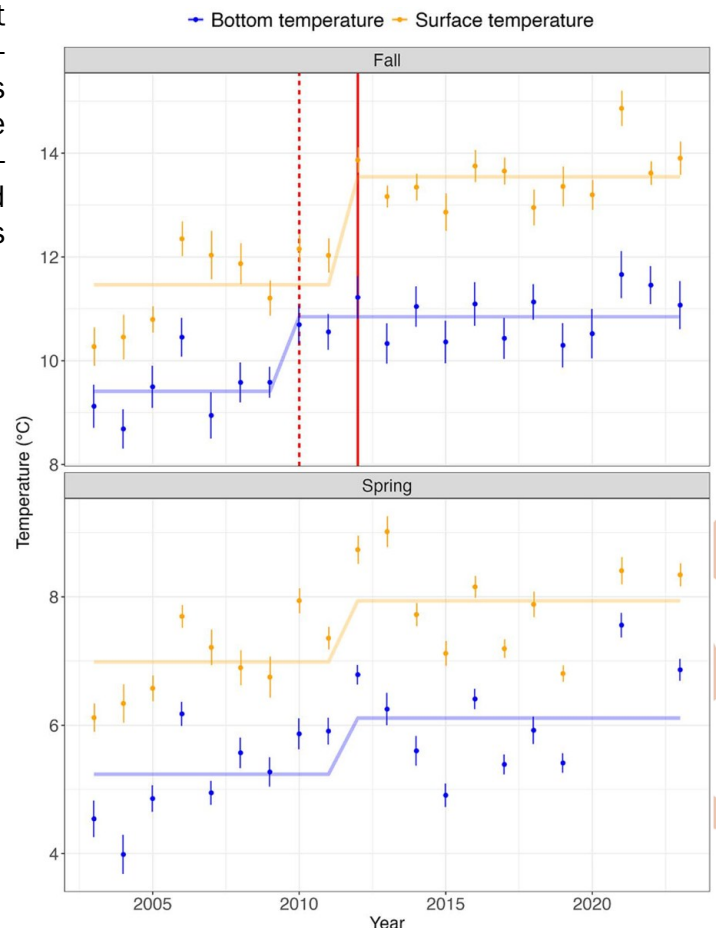
In PLOS Climate

Hsiao-Yun Chang, Robyn Linner, Rebecca Peters, Jesica Waller, and Michelle D. Staudinger

Abstract: The Maine-New Hampshire Bottom Trawl Survey (MENHBTS) plays a crucial role in monitoring the inshore marine ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine (GOM). However, climate-driven shifts in species distribution, phenology, and diversity may change the ability of the survey to consistently track managed populations and gather representative data to inform regional fisheries stock assessments. This study leveraged the standardized protocols and long-term data series of the MENHBTS to assess environmental, structural, and functional shifts in inshore waters of the GOM and determine if species availability to the survey changed during the time period of 2000–2023. Change point analysis identified thermal regime shifts in bottom water and sea surface temperatures occurred during 2010 and 2012, respectively, dividing the time series into two periods. Distribution shifts were assessed using a center of gravity (CG) analysis, with the survey boundaries serving as a fixed reference frame. While over 12 species of finfish and invertebrates (e.g., American lobster, *Homarus americanus*, White hake, *Urophycis tenuis*) exhibited shifts in their CG either northeastward, offshore, or to deeper waters, the catchability of most species remained relatively stable, changing by less than 10% within the survey's original spatiotemporal boundaries. Biological data suggested possible changes in spawning seasons and size structure may be occurring in several species; however, due to the limited seasonal window of the survey, conclusions concerning shifts in phenology should be considered preliminary and require further investigation. Seasonal species diversity in the MENHBTS exhibited opposing trends depending on the index used; however, biomass-based catch diversity, which characterizes dominant species, decreased significantly in both seasons during the warm regime. Outcomes provide new insights into how inshore habitats and communities, which are often underrepresented in broader regional assessments, have changed over the last two decades, and support the development of climate resilient fisheries management strategies in the GOM.

DOI: [10.1371/journal.pclm.0000843](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000843)

Figure 2. Temperature Regimes and Change Points in the Maine-New Hampshire Bottom Trawl Survey (MENHBTS). Annual mean bottom (blue points) and surface (orange points) temperatures for fall (top panel) and spring (bottom panel). Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals, and solid horizontal lines show the mean temperature for each thermal regime. Change points were detected in 2010 (red dotted vertical line) for fall bottom temperature and 2012 (red solid vertical line) for fall surface temperature. Spring temperature data for 2020 and 2022 were unavailable due to COVID-related disruptions, and likely precluded the statistical detection of a change point; however, pre- and post-2012 period means are shown that correspond with fall step-wise changes in temperature and the assumption that the entire system transitioned into a warmer regime around 2012.



Modeling the spatiotemporal effects of ocean acidification and warming on Atlantic sea scallop growth to guide adaptive fisheries management

In Ecological Modelling

Halle M. Berger, Samantha A. Siedlecki, Shannon L. Meseck, Emilien Pousse, Deborah R. Hart, Felipe Soares, Antonie Chute, Catherine M. Matassa

Abstract: Climate-ready fisheries management requires reliable predictions of species responses to changing conditions across large-scale environmental gradients. Bioenergetic frameworks, such as Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) models, relate physiological processes to environmental conditions, enabling predictions of organismal growth under projected climate change conditions. Here, we provide the first large-scale coupling of a DEB model to downscaled regional oceanographic simulations to resolve spatiotemporal changes and reveal how climate stressors emerge at relevant biogeographic, economic, and oceanographic scales. We calibrated our DEB model for the Atlantic sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) with forcing from a realistic oceanographic and biogeochemical model for the Northeast U.S. continental shelf to predict the effects of ocean acidification (OA) and warming on individual growth historically and over the next century. Our model reproduced observed historical patterns in scallop age at harvest size and maximum size. At mid-century (2035–2050), scallop growth was projected to increase in most areas except the southern Mid-Atlantic, and OA effects were limited to the deep Gulf of Maine. By the end of the century (2080–2095) under a high emissions scenario, scallops were predicted to grow faster but attain smaller maximum sizes. Our results highlight that warming stress is more acute than previously accounted for, particularly in the southern Mid-Atlantic. While warming stress emerges in the south first, OA stress emerges before warming in the north. Together, these emerging stressors compress the spatial range for optimal growth. Altogether, our findings demonstrate the utility of the spatially coupled DEB model as a tool to inform adaptive fisheries management.

DOI: [10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2025.111434](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2025.111434)

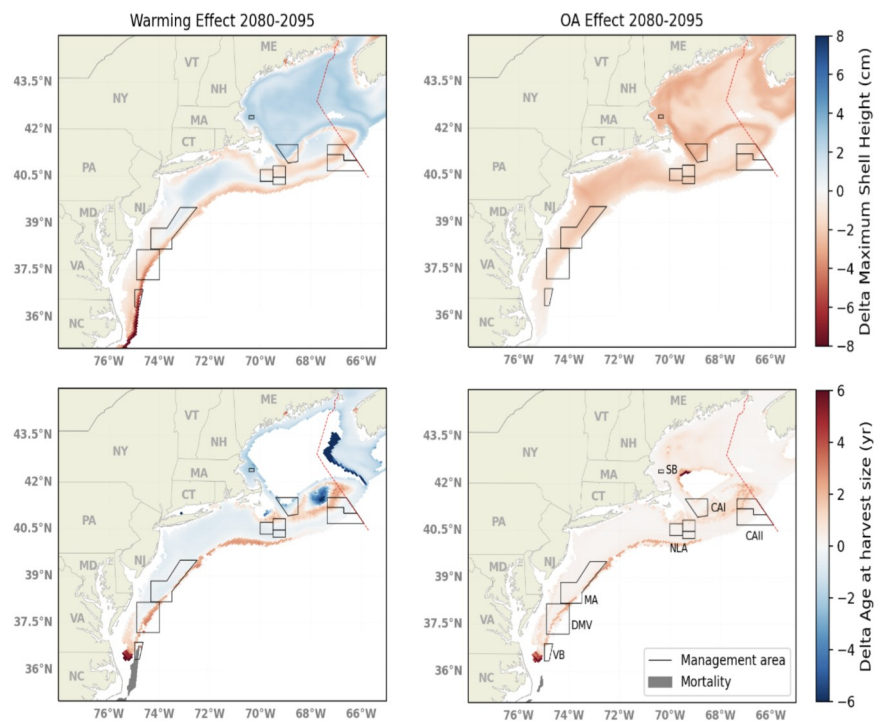


Figure 8. Maximum shell height (top) and age at harvest size (bottom) from the end-of-century (2080–2095) "Warming Effect" (left) and "OA Effect" (right) numerical experiments for attribution with managed rotational areas overlaid (SB= Stellwagen Bank, CAI= Closed Area I, CAII= Closed Area II, NLA= Nantucket Lightship Area, MA= Mid-Atlantic, DMV= Delmarva, and VB= Virginia Beach). The dashed red line indicates the US/Canada EEZ border. Gray areas indicate the occurrence of mortality prior to harvest size.

Seaward movements and mortality of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* L. kelts in the Penobscot River, Maine

In Journal of Fish Biology

Carolyn A. Merriam, Danielle M. Frechette, and Joseph D. Zydlewski

Abstract: The Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* L. is an endangered species in the United States, but post-spawn downstream movements remain poorly understood. We conducted a 2-year acoustic telemetry study to characterize downstream movements and to quantify apparent mortality and downstream passage of post-spawn adults (kelts) in the Penobscot River, Maine, USA (N = 112). The majority of tagged *S. salar* kelts (54%) exhibited a rapid movement seaward post-release instead of overwintering in the river. *Salmo salar* kelts that overwintered exhibited two patterns, distinguished by whether a dam was present or not. We found no relationship between post-release movement pattern, sex, body condition index or release year. Estimated apparent mortality rates were high (83%), with a greater probability of mortality occurring near the dams and release site. Apparent mortality rate did not differ by sex, body condition or year, but it was greater for individuals that moved out directly post-release and less for those that overwintered. While our results may suggest that overwintering in the river is a favourable pattern for survival, these results may be related to the closures of the designated downstream passages at the first two dams encountered by *S. salar* kelts. In fact, 55% of *S. salar* kelts passed a dam when the designated passages were closed. Altogether, these results may demonstrate the complex nature of downstream passage for *S. salar* kelts, particularly when having to navigate multiple dams.

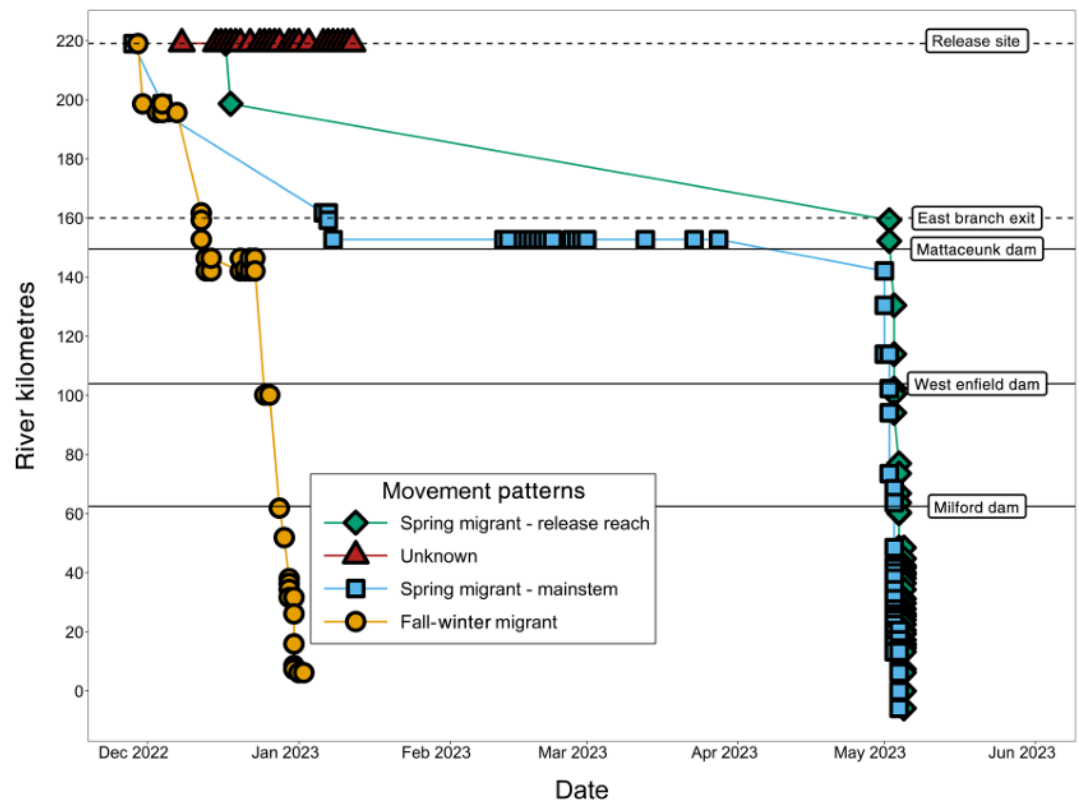


Figure 2. The movement patterns that were observed throughout the study. Acoustic detections were extracted from *Salmo salar* kelts released in 2022 that represented the 'spring migrant-release reach' pattern (green rhombi), 'spring migrant-mainstem' pattern (blue squares) and 'fall-winter migrant' pattern (orange circles). Also included is an example of a track labelled 'unknown' (red triangles), which represents *S. salar* kelt where we could not determine any relevant patterns for. The y axis represents river kilometres (rkm) and the x axis represents time (months). The dashed horizontal lines represent the release site (top) and the exit of the East Branch into the mainstem of the Penobscot River. The solid horizontal lines represent the three dams on the mainstem of the river: Mattaceunk (rkm 149), West Enfield (rkm 103) and Milford (rkm 62).

Postrelease movements of captive-reared adult Atlantic Salmon in two Maine rivers

In North American Journal of Fisheries Management

Carolyn A. Merriam, Danielle M. Frechette, and Joseph D. Zydlewski

Abstract:

Objective: Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* remain at critically low levels in the United States, with the last remaining populations located in the state of Maine. In 2021, a pilot captive-rearing program, similar to a smolt- to- adult supplementation, was implemented to boost naturally spawning adults in support of recovery goals.

Methods: We conducted a 2- year acoustic telemetry study to track a subset of captive-reared salmon (N = 270) that were released into the Penobscot and Machias rivers. We evaluated their postrelease movement patterns, dam passage, and site fidelity between the two rivers, years, and seasons.

Results: Atlantic Salmon that were released into the Penobscot River tended to overwinter, but their movement patterns varied between release years. In contrast, the Atlantic Salmon that were released into the Machias River were more likely to move directly downstream to the river exit. In addition, the fish that were released into the dammed Penobscot River frequently made multiple attempts to pass dams in both directions, often with passage delays and failures. Atlantic Salmon that were released during the summer displayed more exploratory movements than those that were released in the fall. Most Atlantic Salmon either left the river shortly after release (5–30 d) or the following spring (>120 d). Site fidelity was greater for the fall-released Atlantic Salmon (76%) than for the summer-released Atlantic Salmon (23%).

Conclusions: Overall, releasing salmon in the fall as sexually mature adults may increase site fidelity to the release reach, thereby enhancing the chances of successfully spawning in the wild.

DOI: [10.1093/naifmt/vqaf074](https://doi.org/10.1093/naifmt/vqaf074)

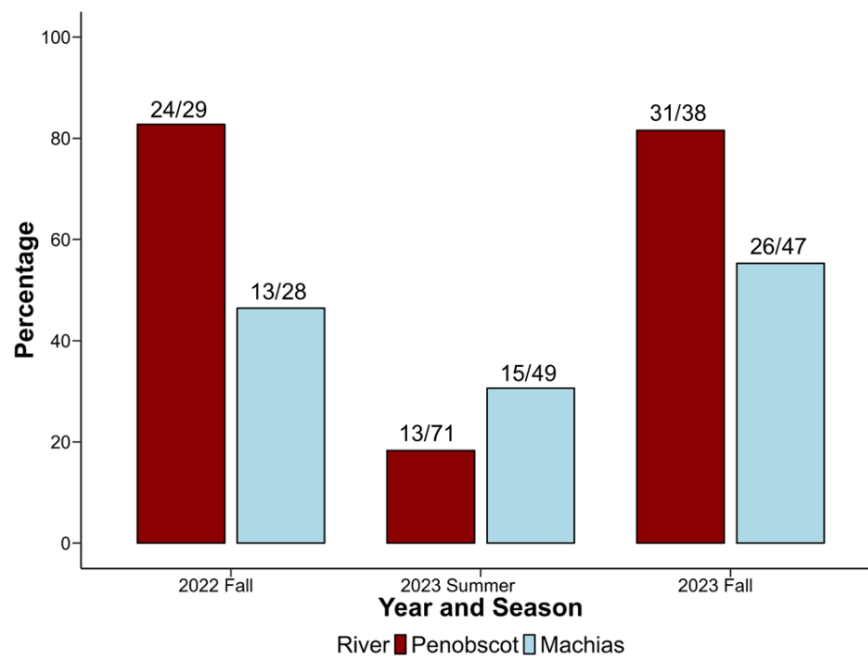


Figure 6. The number of Atlantic Salmon that exhibited site fidelity in the Penobscot (red) and Machias (blue) rivers. A total of $n = 262$ Atlantic Salmon were used to estimate site fidelity (salmon that were not detected during the study were removed from this analysis; $n = 8$). The bar plot displays the percentage on the y-axis and release season and year on the x-axis, and each bar represents a release group. The number above the bar plot is the number of Atlantic Salmon for each release group that exhibited site fidelity.

Offshore aquaculture of Atlantic surfclams *Spisula solidissima*: Growth, survival and feasibility

In North American Journal of Aquaculture

Laura Steeves, Sarah Borsetti, Rachel Davitt, and Daphne Munroe

Abstract:

Objective: The Atlantic surfclam *Spisula solidissima* is a commercially valuable bivalve in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Although surfclam aquaculture is not yet widely practiced, it offers an opportunity to diversify surfclam products and expand production beyond traditional wild harvest methods. Although aquaculture farms are typically in protected coastal areas, farming surfclams in the open ocean offers the advantages of less competition for space, higher water quality, and natural habitat for the species. This study evaluates the feasibility of cultivating surfclams in federal waters offshore of New Jersey, USA.

Methods: Two experimental deployments were conducted in fall 2023 and spring 2024 of over 300,000 hatchery-reared seed-sized (15-mm shell length) surfclams. In cooperation with commercial partners, surfclams were deployed in large steel cages and contained within plastic mesh Hexcyls, often used on oyster longline farms. To determine the effects of stocking density on growth, surfclams were stocked at three densities ranging from 266 to 1,995 surfclams per Hexcyl in the fall and from 118 to 880 surfclams per Hexcyl in the spring.

Results: Growth rates (0.001–0.06 mm/day) that are comparable to those reported for wild populations in combination with high survival ($\approx 50\%$ fall and 100% for fall and spring deployments, respectively) indicate that offshore aquaculture may be a viable method for commercial surfclam production, particularly for growing littleneck-sized surfclams (25–50-mm shell length).

Conclusions: Findings from this collaborative effort offer insight into the potential for offshore surfclam aquaculture using new grow-out areas with environmental conditions that are similar to those of the species' natural habitats.

DOI: [10.1093/naaqua/vraf038](https://doi.org/10.1093/naaqua/vraf038)

Figure 1. Study site and deployment methods- Cage aboard a commercial fishing vessel. Each cage had 56 Hexcyls that were stocked with varying densities. One cage contained sensors (CO₂ and YSI) and therefore fewer Hexcyls. The cages were deployed from a fishing vessel and equipped with a buoy.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you for contributing to the 2026 Northeast Fish Rapper!

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Stockton Student Subunit

UMass Amherst AFS Student Subunit

Southern New England Chapter of AFS

University of Maine AFS Student Subunit

Meet the Editors



Carolyn Merriam is the fisheries biologist for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Maine. She graduated from the University of Maine Orono with her M.S in Wildlife Ecology in 2024.

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This newsletter was produced for the Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society by the Pennsylvania Chapter using Microsoft Publisher. All images not contributed by NED members were retrieved from Google Images



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