

# TIDEWATER PRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TIDEWATER  
CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

VOLUME 35 | ISSUE 1

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## President's Update | Jim Morley



The 35th annual meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TAFS) was held on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in late March 2022. A total of 106 people attended the meeting, including 52 students. The meeting kicked off with the evening poster social at the Coastal Studies Institute on Roanoke Island, where 23 research posters were presented. The rest of the meeting took place at Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, where an ocean panorama provided a backdrop for contributed oral presentations.

The first day of talks began with our plenary speaker, Dr. Jeff Buckel from NC State University, who spoke about fish tagging studies and provided some career words of wisdom. Following the plenary, 25 graduate students presented, covering a diversity of topics, from fish movement and reproductive ecology, to climate change impacts.

On the final day, we heard presentations from 13 faculty and fisheries professionals. Additionally, our guest speaker, Val Kells, the author and marine science illustrator, spoke about

her process for illustrating coastal and marine fishes.

Special thanks to all of our presenters and the folks who helped make this meeting a great success! A special shoutout goes to Jan McDowell, our past-president. Jan and her team had to rapidly switch to an online format for the last scheduled in-person TAFS annual meeting in 2020. She also organized the virtual meeting during 2021, when we still were not allowed to hold in-person gatherings.

Looking to the future, President-Elect Marty Gary is hard at work making plans for our 2023 annual meeting; more information will come via the listserv and meeting website: [www.tidewater-afs.org](http://www.tidewater-afs.org). If you have suggestions or wish to make a contribution in some way — volunteer, sponsor, donate raffle items—contact Marty at [martingary.prfc@gmail.com](mailto:martingary.prfc@gmail.com).

I wish you all a happy holiday season and hope to see everyone at our next annual meeting, if not sooner!

## Meet President-Elect Marty Gary | Sara Mirabilio

Marty Gary has graciously agreed to serve as the Tidewater Chapter's president-elect, and with that, to take on the responsibilities of planning our next annual meeting, to be held in Solomons, Maryland, late March 2023.

Since 2013, Marty has been the executive secretary for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, working "to conserve and enhance the fishery resources of the Tidal Potomac River." For 27 years before that, he worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR). Throughout his decades-long tenure, Marty wore various hats.



Courtesy Martin L. Gary [ [t](#)@MartinLGary]

He landed the job in 1986, first working as a field biologist assessing striped bass stocks, then onto fish passages and artificial reef development. More recently he was managing outreach and communication for MDDNR.

Marty holds a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Ecology from Texas A&M University. He is married and has two grown children.

If you have suggestions or wish to make a contribution in some way to the 2023 chapter meeting, contact Marty at [martingary.prfc@gmail.com](mailto:martingary.prfc@gmail.com) or (804) 456-6935. Welcome aboard!



## Treasurer's Report | Stephanie McInerny

The checking account balance reflects final numbers from the annual meeting, as well as monies spent for annual website fees and the Tidewater History booth at the 2021 AFS Parent Society meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The Chapter received \$6,834 from the Parent Society for co-hosting the Baltimore meeting. These monies, plus an additional \$7,000, were added to the Tidewater Chapter's mutual fund.

Annual dues for 2022 are \$10.00. Please note that all memberships are valid on a calendar-year basis. The renewal period begins January 1st annually. Dues received before September 1st will be applied to current calendar year; after September 1st, dues will be applied to the next calendar year. If you are reading this and currently are not a member of the

AFS Tidewater Chapter, or if you are a member still needing to renew for 2022, email me at:

[Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McInerny@ncdenr.gov).

You also can pay Tidewater Chapter dues as part of your Parent Society annual membership. Find more information here: <https://fisheries.org/membership/join/>

A Tidewater Chapter lifetime membership is available for a one-time fee of \$150.00.

All checks should be sent to:

**Stephanie McInerny**  
**AFS Tidewater Treasurer**  
**209 Brigantine Ct.**  
**Cape Carteret, NC 28584**

Please make checks payable to "Tidewater Chapter AFS."

### Current Financial Report

Checking:	\$13,960.97
Mutual Fund:	\$ 9,320.75
Total:	\$23,281.72



## Student Presentations Carry Successful Annual Meeting | Paul Rudershausen



Student presentations once again carried a successful American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter (TAFS) annual meeting. A total of 38 presentations—18 posters and 20 oral papers—were evaluated and scored by six volunteer judges. Cash awards were presented during the awards banquet held the evening of March 25, 2022 at the Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, N.C.

In the poster category, the judges selected these winners:

-First Place: Leslie Youtsey, a master's student co-advised by Jan McDowell and Kim Reece at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) / College of William & Mary's School of Marine Science, for research comparing low salinity transcriptomic profiles among hard clam lines.

-Second Place (tie): Alex Rocco, a doctoral student advised by Jie Cao at NC State University (NCSU), for evaluating the impacts of environmental stress and bioactive estrogen on the North Carolina blue crab population using an individual-based model. Tied with Alex was doctoral student Naomi Jainarine for phenological analysis of winter predator-prey dynamics between ichthyoplankton and zooplankton abundance in Beaufort Inlet, N.C., under the advisement of Rebecca Asch at East Carolina University (ECU).

Oral presenters were equally as talented, and in the student oral paper category, the judges selected these winners:

-First Place: Amanpreet Kohli, a

doctoral student co-advised by Andrew Wargo and Wolfgang Vogelbein at VIMS, for examining red sore disease of American eels.

-Second Place (tie): Kaitlyn O'Brien, a doctoral student under Rob Latour, also faculty at VIMS, for research on ecological niche modeling and predicted shifts in available habitat for coastal sharks of the Southeast Atlantic. Tied for second-place oral presentation was Matt Damiano, also a doctoral student and also advised by Jie Cao at NCSU, for study of spatiotemporal population dynamics of common dolphinfish in the Western Central Atlantic.

Thanks, again, to all of the volunteer judges. Making decisions this year was no easy task!

## Johnson Awarded Setzler-Hamilton Scholarship | Paul *cont.*

The Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate student currently enrolled in a fisheries science or closely related curriculum who has displayed a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, professional undertakings, public education, and community service. This award was created in 2003 to remember Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, a long-time member of the American Fisheries Society and fourth president (1989) of the TAFS. This award really is about a "coastal scientist enthusiast" who

passionately engages with other students and the public out of the beauty they feel privileged to witness each day in the field. That, was Eileen.

Recipients receive a certificate and \$800 scholarship. The 2022 "Eileen Award" was presented to Maddie Johnson during the business meeting held late afternoon on Day 2 of the 35th annual meeting of the TAFS. Maddie is a master's student at ECU advised by Jim Morley and studying habitat use and hatch dates

of juvenile sheepshead in North Carolina estuaries.

**The application deadline for the 2023 Eileen Award is Feb. 3, 2023.** We have made some changes to streamline the application process. Application materials and instructions for applying will be posted on the chapter website and circulated through the listserv after the New Year. The award presentation will be made during the business meeting at the upcoming TAFS annual meeting in March.



## 2021 Chapter Awards; Call For 2022 Nominations | Paul cont.

Each year, the American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter (TAFS) chooses to honor professionals or conservation organizations making a significant impact to the chapter or to the field of marine fisheries science by-and-large. The award is given for previous years' service. Three special recognition awards are available for presenting at the chapter annual meeting: Excellence in Fisheries Education, Meritorious Service, and Conservation. The Awards and Scholarship Committee made presentations to three deserving individuals at the 2022 annual meeting— Brad Stevens, Bob Murphy, and Sara Mirabilio - during the chapter business meeting held late afternoon on Day 2 of the meeting.

Former President Brad Stevens, current Maryland At-Large Executive Committee representative Bob Murphy, and past Awards and Scholarship Committee Chairman (now current—as well as previous—newsletter editor) Sara Mirabilio, were the three recipients of a **Meritorious Service Award**. This award is given on a case-by-case basis to a TAFS member for unswerving loyalty, dedication, and service to the chapter, and for their exceptional commitment to the programs, objectives, and long-term goals of it.

Brad was given the award to honor his multiple years of service as chapter president (we froze officer rotation during the two years of COVID pandemic restrictions, as in-person annual meetings could not happen) and for organizing the Parent Society 2021 meeting in



*Outgoing president, Jan McDowell, formally inducts incoming president, Jim Morley with the ceremonial “passing of the toadfish” at the American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter business meeting held on March 25, 2022 at Jennette’s Pier in Nags Head, N.C.*

Baltimore, Md.

With this award, we honored Bob for his longstanding and continuing service as Maryland At-Large representative to the chapter and for assisting Brad in organizing the Baltimore national meeting. From Steph’s financial update, you see we netted \$6,834 from the Parent Society for co-hosting the meeting!

Sara was given the award for her many years of service to TAFS, beginning as newsletter editor from 2008-2012, then as chair of the Awards and Scholarship Committee from 2017-2021. In 2022, she returned to newsletter editor duties.

We received no other nominations for awards. Let’s change that this year!

The **Excellence in Fisheries**

**Education Award** is given to an individual who has achieved excellence in teaching and student advising in the field of fisheries science, or closely related curriculum, and who also encourages student participation in AFS, TAFS, and other fisheries-related meetings.

The **Conservation Award** is given to an individual, resource management agency, business or nonprofit organization that the TAFS deems has accomplished notable fisheries or habitat conservation activities.

Please help the Awards and Scholarship Committee by nominating deserving individuals for these awards. **Send nominations, complete with brief description of why you think they deserve the award, by Feb. 24, 2023, to me, the current chair, at:** [pjruders@ncsu.edu](mailto:pjruders@ncsu.edu).

In other awards business, outgoing TAFS president, Jan McDowell, research associate professor and manager of the Fisheries Genetics and Pelagic Fishes Laboratory at VIMS, inducted Jim Morley, assistant professor of Biology based at East Carolina University’s Outer Banks Campus, as the 2022 president of the chapter. The ceremony included the traditional “passing of the toadfish.”

TIDEWATER  
CHAPTER



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## East Carolina University Subunit | Chase Spicer



Greetings from the East Carolina University Student Subunit! Our meetings and events this semester have been well-attended. We unveiled a fresh new look to our logo, and Dr. Rebecca Asch, assistant professor of Biology, has come on as our faculty adviser. This fall, we would like to share some of the important research our members currently are working on relating to a “hot topic” in the region—the southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) stock.

This fishery is very important to the State of North Carolina. Traditionally, it was our foremost finfish harvest. Fisheries managers recently determined the stock in our State waters was overfished, and overfishing is occurring. There is a critical need for understanding better the population dynamics of this species, with many uncertain aspects of the life history. Our members’ research efforts will help to inform fishery management and to ensure that southern flounder are here for years to come. Here’s just a brief showcase of research efforts.

Caitlin McGarigal, an associate researcher in the Asch Lab, is part of a multidisciplinary team examining offshore migration behavior and spawning locations in North Carolina using acoustic tagging of adults. By working with commercial pound net fishers in the Fall of 2020 and 2021, we successfully captured and tagged 210 adult female flounder in Albemarle, Pamlico, and Core sounds. To date, more than a third of deployed tags have been detected and data collection is ongoing.

Brian Bartlett, a doctoral candidate, also in the Asch Lab, is utilizing oceanographic models to create projections of possible spawning sites. A particle dispersal model, called the Connectivity Modeling System, allows for simulated runs where the particles, which are treated like larvae, move through ocean currents. By running ocean currents backward in time, the model allows for projecting where the larvae captured in Beaufort Inlet, N.C., originally came from. It is unknown where southern flounder

spawn, so this work sheds insight into possible spawning locations.

Finally, Justin Mitchell, a master’s student co-advised by Asch and Joe Luczkovich, a professor of Biology, has collected samples from Albemarle, Pamlico, and Core Sounds, as well as Cape Fear, for analysis of Southern Flounder age, growth, reproduction, and residency. A total of 432 individuals have been sampled with their length, weight, and gonadosomatic index (GSI) measured, as well as their sagittal otoliths removed.

We are proud of the work that our Pirates are doing and look forward to fully showcasing it at the Tidewater Chapter annual meeting!



## “DukeFish” Subunit | Hugh Cipparone

The Duke University Marine Lab student subunit, or “DukeFish,” has centered their activities this year around two multi-sectoral speaker series discussing fisheries challenges in North Carolina and abroad. Discussions are in-person at both Durham and Beaufort campus



locations and open to all who are interested. We maintain a website with information on our goings-on: <https://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/dukefish>. Many thanks to our guest speakers—and AFS—for support!

First in the speaker series was Jess Hawkins, who began with the N.C. Div. of Marine Fisheries in 1978 and enjoyed a long career as a fisheries biologist and Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison.

## University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Subunit | Samara Nehemiah



Hello! I am the president for the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Student Subunit. Our other officers are Nina Santos (vice president), Sam Schiano (secretary) and Matt Stefanak (treasurer). Our faculty advisor is Dr. Mike Wilberg. Officers are elected / re-elected in December and hold their positions for a calendar year (beginning on January 1st).

After a brief hiatus, the subunit was restarted in 2020 with membership from our network of laboratories including the

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), Horn Point Laboratory, Appalachian Laboratory, and Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology.

We are a student-led group and hold meetings every other week to discuss relevant topics and careers in fisheries science and organize guest lecturers, professional development workshops, and scientific journal discussions. The subunit has hosted many fisheries scientists including Dr. Mike Allen (University of Florida Nature Coast Biological Station), Dr.

Kiersten Curti (NOAA), Anita Tsang and Luna Kekoa (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), and Jonathan Shenker (Florida Tech). Professional development topics have included "Tips for Conference Networking", "Mock Interviews", and "How to Submit a Manuscript."

We look forward to helping with the upcoming meeting at CBL. Be on the lookout for more information about a student-mentor lunch. Feel free to email me, Samara Nehemiah (she/her), at [snehemiah@umces.edu](mailto:snehemiah@umces.edu).

## University of Maryland Eastern Shore Subunit | Ashley Silver



We have some updates for University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Student Subunit. Foremost, we have new officers and a faculty advisor. Personally, I have transitioned from treasurer to president. Our election cycle syncs with the academic calendar year, so starts anew in August annually. Other officers are:

Vice President: Kaitlynn Wade, [kjwade@umes.edu](mailto:kjwade@umes.edu)

Secretary: Gillen Curren, [gcurren@umes.edu](mailto:gcurren@umes.edu)

Treasurer: Samantha Jalkowski, [sjalkowski@umes.edu](mailto:sjalkowski@umes.edu)

We also have a faculty representative: Alexander Root, [arroot@umes.edu](mailto:arroot@umes.edu).

We created a new position to keep the Social Media page updated. Kayland Huckaby stepped up as social media manager and historian, and can be contacted at: [kfhuckaby@umes.edu](mailto:kfhuckaby@umes.edu). We have a fresh new logo, too.

The highlight of this semester's activities was helping out with the UMES Extension's 4-H STEM

Festival. Held at the Engineering and Aviation Science Complex from 10 AM to 2 PM on Nov. 12, staff from NASA Wallops flight facility, several UMES organizations, and more were onsite providing K-12 students a firsthand look at many different careers.

We look forward to seeing everyone in March in Maryland!





## Maryland At-Large Update | Bob Murphy

### Montgomery County Resident Breaks 18-Year Maryland State Record For Albacore Caught in Atlantic Ocean

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) has recognized Thomas “Tad” Bodmer of Poolesville as the new state recordholder for (Atlantic Division) albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) with his 77-pound catch. Bodmer was aboard the charter *Top Dog* on September 20th, when after a slow fishing day, Capt. Ryan Knapp and First Mate Josh prepared to head to shore. In a matter of minutes, three different lines went out simultaneously. The trio scrambled to pick up rods. Bodmer landed the record albacore trolling a naked ballyhoo bait. The crew knew they had a big albacore but didn’t think it was a record-breaking catch until. The weight officially was certified by Sunset Marina in Ocean City, and a MDDNR biologist confirmed the catch. The previous record was set in 2004. The MDDNR maintains state records for sportfish in four divisions – Atlantic, Chesapeake, Nontidal, and Invasive – and awards plaques to anglers who achieve record catches.

### Microplastics in Found in Fish from the Potomac River

Fisheries scientists with Tetra Tech and UMCES-CBL have been working with the Environmental Protection Agency and Washington, D.C.’s Department of Energy and Environment to assess microplastic pathways and risk to fish in the tidal Potomac River. As a result of a



Thomas “Tad” Bodmer of Poolesville breaks Maryland state record held for 18 years for his catch of a 77-pound albacore on Sept. 20, 2022.

mandate from the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Plastic Pollution Action Team, myself (representing Tetra Tech) and Ryan Woodland (UMCES-CBL) developed an ecological risk assessment model for young-of-the-year (YOY) striped bass in the Potomac, developing prey networks to predict likely vectors for microplastics, an emerging contaminant of concern. The original report, along with the microplastic science strategy for the Chesapeake Bay, can be found [here](#).

Drawing on recent global research on similar prey taxa found in the Potomac River, the team has a better understanding of how mysid shrimp, amphipods, and bay anchovy may serve as microplastic vectors to YOY striped bass. Tetra Tech and

UMCES are working on a companion study to determine microplastic loadings in the stomachs of fish from various trophic levels to better understand transport pathways within the food web. Preliminary findings indicate the over 25% of YOY striped bass in the Potomac River had microplastics within the stomachs, comprised of polyethylene fragments and polyester fibers.



Microplastic fibers from stomach of striped bass.

### Refining our Understanding of Cownose Ray Migration

In a recent study published in the journal *Ecosphere*, researchers led by Matt Ogburn and Chuck Bangley (formerly) at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and Robert Fisher (now retired) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, pinpointed which variables cue cownose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) to migrate to, and from, their spawning and overwintering habitats. While spawning areas are distributed throughout estuarine areas within the south and mid-Atlantic regions, previous research

**Continued page 9 >>**

## Virginia At-Large Update | Sally Roman

Commercial fishers and recreational anglers have a variety of fisheries and species to choose from in Virginia, ranging from cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) and striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) to blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) and oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*). While the iconic Chesapeake Bay dinner table features crab and striped bass, local shrimp could soon be on the menu, too. That's because shrimp species are shifting north. Until recently, waters off the mouth of the Bay and in the southernmost part of the Chesapeake were not warm enough to host large numbers of shrimp. But in the last decade, warmer ocean temperatures have pushed penaeid shrimp farther north in numbers big enough to host a commercial fishery off Virginia. In addition to areas off Virginia Beach, Virginia is experimenting with a shrimp fishery off the coast of the Eastern Shore.

Over the past few years, commercial fishers have observed increased shrimp abundances; resource surveys conducted by the



Photo credit: Marcia B Sportfishing

White shrimp (*Penaeus setiferus*), harvested from Virginia waters.

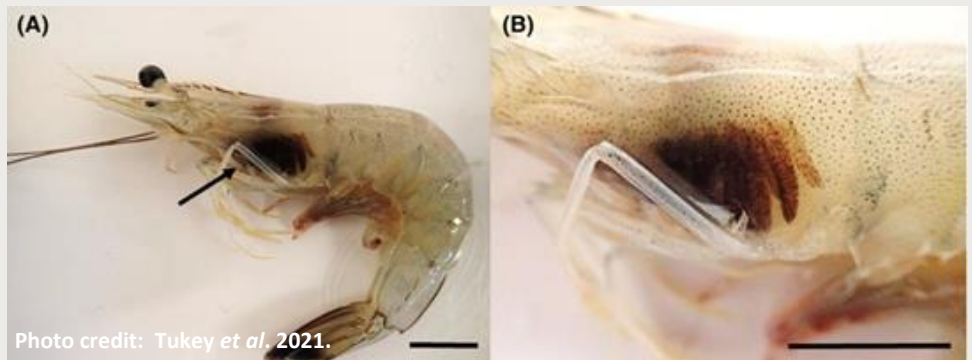


Photo credit: Tukey *et al.* 2021.

Although development of a shrimp fishery in the Chesapeake Bay region could bring economic benefits, the fishery may be hampered by the presence of a disease syndrome known as shrimp black gill. These white shrimp exhibit a severe case of black gill disease (arrow; scale bar = 15 mm).

Virginia Institute of Marine Research (VIMS) have observed similar. Penaeid shrimp include the brown (*Penaeus aztecus*), white (*Penaeus setiferus*), and pink (*Penaeus duorarum*) shrimps. The penaeid shrimp fishery has been an important commercial fishery in North Carolina for decades, and the increase in the penaeid shrimp population in Virginia is thought to be related to increased water temperatures that have allowed for a northward range expansion for shrimp.

Fishers and scientists began seeing increased numbers of shrimp in Virginia waters in 2017. To coincide with this rise, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) began developing an experimental trawl fishery for penaeid shrimp at the request of the commercial seafood industry. The use of trawl gear has been limited in state waters since 1989. Development of the fishery has been slow, with a limited number of experimental permits issued to individual fishermen in 2017-2020. In 2021, the VMRC approved a limited commercial

shrimp fishery, as well as regulations for the recreational harvest of shrimp. The commercial fishery is limited to 12 participants, who are selected based on a lottery system. There also are regulations on the type of trawl net allowed to be fished and the use of approved bycatch reduction devices to limit incidental capture of fish species. Other regulations include season and area limitations, as well as a tow duration limit. Black gill disease, however, may have a negative impact on survival and is an important topic to understand for this emerging fishery.

Scientists at VIMS have been studying black gill disease that has been observed in shrimp in the state. This disease can be found in shrimp species along the southern East Coast. Results from a study by Tukey *et al.* (2021) for shrimp sampled in the Chesapeake Bay found only juvenile white shrimp exhibited black gill disease. Brown and pink juvenile shrimp did not show any signs of disease, although white shrimp were the most abundant out of the three species.



## North Carolina At-Large Update | Jacob Boyd

The foundation of North Carolina's coastal economy is based on the abundance of healthy habitats in its 2.9 million acres of coastal waters. Fishing, outdoor recreation, and tourism all depend on a healthy ecosystem. With over 20,000 acres of shell bottom, 191,000 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) historically, and 4.5 million acres of wetlands, prioritizing where to focus efforts is essential to making effective progress.

The North Carolina Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) pulls together information on the value of different habitats to fish, their status, activities negatively influencing the condition of the habitats, and provides recommendations to protect and restore fish habitat. Initially completed in 2005, the CHPP is updated every five years. The most recent update and resulting CHPP Amendment was approved in November 2021. This [Amendment](#)

focuses on five priority issues: 1) SAV protection and restoration through water quality improvements, 2) wetland protection and restoration through nature-based solutions, 3) environmental rule compliance to protect coastal habitats, 4) wastewater infrastructure solutions for water quality improvement, and 5) coastal habitat mapping and monitoring to assess status and trends. The implementation of the CHPP, among other things, has advanced coastal habitat mapping, oyster restoration, identification of Strategic Habitat Areas, improved stormwater management, and enhanced interagency collaboration.

There are many challenges to managing coastal habitats in the face of climate change. Impacts include sea level rise, changing water temperature and salinity, increasing storm intensity and frequency, and increasing coastal flooding. These result in wetland loss, shoreline

erosion, and degraded water quality leading to loss of oysters and SAV. Extreme rain events and resulting flooding increase nutrient loads in estuaries. Major storms also cause physical disturbance.

In the wake of Hurricane Florence (2018), North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order 80 committing state agencies to address climate change and transition to a clean energy economy, incorporating mitigation and adaptation practices in their programs, policies, and operations. This led to the 2020 development of the [NC Risk and Resilience Plan and Natural Working Lands Action Plan](#). These efforts were incorporated into the 2021 CHPP Amendment by prioritizing actions for coastal habitats that will also increase ecosystem and community resilience, carbon sequestration, and environmental justice.

## Maryland At-Large Update continued

pinpointed communal overwintering was centered around Cape Canaveral, Fla. This new study highlighted how male and females respond to different cues to leave their overwintering habitat and head northward. This is contrasted with the end of summer when both sexes travel together southward. With warming global

temperatures, scientists predict that the rays may push even further north, to cooler regions of the ocean.

These discoveries may have crucial implications for the future of the cownose ray, since the species is particularly vulnerable to climate change and exploitation due to their life history. This ray

can live for over 20 years, but with an average of six years to reach maturity, over-harvest would mean it would take the population decades to recover.

The authors hope study findings will aid in creation of fishery management regulations for the species in the Atlantic.

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

The AFS Tidewater Chapter (TAFS) encourages the exchange of information by those residing, working in, or having a professional interest in the estuarine and coastal fisheries of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the States of Maryland and North Carolina. We are committed to championing diversity, equity, and inclusion by proactively recruiting, retaining, and preparing a diverse workforce; and engaging and serving communities that are representative of the populations within our region.

## Tidewater Executive Committee

President—Jim Morley; morleyj19@ecu.edu

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Past-President—Jan McDowell; mcdowell@vims.edu

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UNCW—hiatus

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Listserv Manager—Scott Baker; msbaker@ncsu.edu



## 2023 Tidewater Chapter Meeting Heads to Solomons, Maryland!

The TAFS Executive Committee is pleased to announce the 36th annual meeting will take place at the Chesapeake Biological



Laboratory in Solomons, Md., from March 23 – 25, 2023. We are planning some exciting new options for student and professionals to kick things off Thursday afternoon ahead of a poster social. **Registration and lodging reservations will begin no later than Jan. 23.** More information soon will be posted to the chapter LISTSERV [tidewater@afsmembers.org](mailto:tidewater@afsmembers.org) and on the chapter website: [www.tidewater-afs.org](http://www.tidewater-afs.org).



## LISTSERV Migration

The TAFS listserv hosting service will be changing later this month (prior to 12/31/2022). Existing mailing list members will migrate automatically. Expect an upcoming email describing the new service and message posting instructions. Until then, you may continue to post to the listserv; simply send it to this single email address [tidewater@afsmembers.org](mailto:tidewater@afsmembers.org). The email will go to ALL subscribers. The settings are configured such that replies sent only to the email sender. There is no automated sign-up process. To subscribe to the listserv, send a request to Scott Baker at [msbaker@ncsu.edu](mailto:msbaker@ncsu.edu).