
PALMETTO PISCIFORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

www.SCAFS.fisheries.org

Summer 2026



President's Message

A message from the President
Julie Vecchio, SCAFS President,
vecchioj@dnr.sc.gov

Dear SC AFS Members,

Happy Summer everyone! School is out and fieldwork is in full swing! Boy, did it get hot here on the coast over the past few weeks! I hope everyone is staying hydrated and using their sun protection! Speaking of the coast, thanks to all who helped make our 2026 SCAFS meeting in beautiful Beaufort a rousing success. I'm amazed by the variety of innovative science going on throughout the state of South Carolina. From offshore marine charter observing to tracking stream communities in the upstate, we run the gamut. Please keep sharing with your friends, so we can continue to grow this community. Remember, AFS isn't just about fish. It's about all aquatic resources and the ecosystems that sustain them!

Inside this Issue

President's Message
2026 SCAFS Annual Meeting Report
SCAFS Officer Contact Info
Clemson Subunit Report
Treasurer's Report 25-26
Calendar of Events
Save The Date 2027

I'm also incredibly grateful to our Gullah Geechee hosts from St. Helena Island. From learning history at the Penn Center, to the construction of bateau boats for subsistence fishing in local marshes, traditional indigo dying at Marshview Community Organic Farm, and Gullah cuisine catered by Chef Greene, our hosts graciously invited us into their world.

The Ex-com is hard at work planning our 2027 SCAFS chapter meeting at Camp Cannan in Rock Hill. The camp is located close to the former Rock Hill DNR office that used to be beside Lake Wylie Dam, and camp staff are eager to learn about your work. I'm personally grateful to president-elect Preston Cristman for suggesting and coordinating with the camp. I hope y'all continue to stay safe and well-hydrated this summer while collecting lots of new data to share at the meeting February 17-19, 2027.

SCAFS President
Julie Vecchio

2026 SCAFS Annual Meeting Report

We held the annual meeting of SCAFS February 18-20, 2026, at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Beautiful Beaufort, SC. The Ex-Com would like to thank everyone who had a hand in organizing, running, and participating in the meeting. Wednesday before our talks started, we got the chance to visit the historic Penn Center, and Marshview Community Organic Farm. That night attendees got to hear from a dozen poster presenters which was double what we had in 2025! A huge thank you to all the poster presenters for making that possible!

Thursday and Friday we got to hear an incredible 13 student talks, 6 lightning talks, and 9 professional talks. This was also a big increase from our 2025 meeting so thank you to everyone who gave a presentation!



An oyster roast provided by Dixieland Delights kicked off our grand social although I'm not sure who ate more, us or the mosquitoes. After everyone had a chance to eat, outgoing President (now Past-President) Amy Dukes got to hand out our awards. The SCFWA Award for the Best Student Paper was awarded to Ms. Madison Niles for her presentation titled "From Continuum to Discontinuity: Effects of Dams on Larval Fish Assemblage Patterns." The SCAFS Award for Best Poster was awarded to Ms. Catherine Stewart for her poster titled "Thermal Zone Preference of Native Crayfishes and Displacement by a Non-indigenous Crayfish." This year's Jack Bayless Award for best professional paper at last year's meeting went to Mrs. Margaret Finch for her talk titled "Black Sea Bass Year Class Strength and Spatial Extent from Two Long-Term Surveys." Thank you to all the volunteers who served as judges for the annual awards.

The 2026 Conservationist of the Year is Mr. Kevin Kubach of SCDNR's Statewide Research Team and this year's 2025 SCAFS Service Award went to Mr. Shane Boring.

The social also included our annual Fishbowl Fun Prize to raise funds for students and sub-unit travel awards. We used funds from our Fishbowl fun prizes to give out 17 student travel awards to students from 4 universities.

Congratulations to all our award winners!



Fishbowl Fun Prize Student Travel Award Recipients.



Ms. Catherine Stewart,
Best Poster



Mrs. Margaret Finch,
Jack Bayless Award



Mr. Shane Boring,
SCAFS Service Award



Ms. Madison Niles,
Best Student Paper



Mr. Kevin Kubach,
Conservationist of the Year

SCAFS Officer Contact Information

President- Jule Vecchio

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President elect- Preston Chrisman

chrismnp@dnr.sc.gov

Treasurer- Wiley Sinkus

sinkusw@dnr.sc.gov

Secretary- William Wood

woodw@dnr.sc.gov

Past president- Amy Dukes

dukesa@dnr.sc.gov

Clemson Fisheries Society Report 2025-2026

President: Sawyer Osborne
(sawyero@clemson.edu)

The goal of the Clemson Fisheries Society (CFS) during the 25-26 school year was community building. The officers wanted to provide opportunities for students in related, adjacent, and removed fields to get to know each other and find ways they could interact with fisheries science.

We hosted several community and skill development nights to gather students from various colleges together. Aside from professional and social development in hosted meetings, we also participated in volunteer opportunities provided by the SCDNR including the sampling work and

trout fin clipping. Students and officers greatly appreciated the ability to interact with professionals and get firsthand experience electrofishing (some for the first time) and handling fish to be stocked.

In the future, CFS aims to boost representation at these events and further strengthen our interactions within our Clemson community and outside of it. As we mentioned last year, we hope to continue aiding a gentleman in Easley by monitoring and maintaining his pond aquatic ecosystem; this not only promotes a healthy aquatic

ecosystem for him but also provides our students with an opportunity to grow their confidence and experience in such settings.

In the future, we aim to boost the academic representation of Clemson students at local and statewide forums and symposiums. Between Clemson's in-house symposiums, statewide conferences like SCAFS, and the Southern Division meetings, it is always a great opportunity to work and interact with experts in the field to share our research and find ways in which we can improve and grow.

SC AFS Treasurer Report 2024-2025

SCAFS Checking Totals (BoA)	
Balance As of 4/01/2024	\$28,115.32
Total Deposits	\$22,830.71
Total Debits	-\$22,232.13
Balance as of 05/05/2025	\$28,713.90

SCAFS Checking Debit Details	
2025 Meeting Expenses	\$20,485.28
2024/2025 Taxes, Charity Reg.	\$51.85
2024/2025 Website	\$240.00
Clemson Student Subunit Funding	\$500.00
Southern Division AFS Donation	\$500
Ex.Com. Parent Society Reg.	\$455.00

SCAFS Savings (BoA)	
Balance as of 04/01/2024	\$10,000.89
Dividends	\$0.06
Withdrawals 06/07/2024	\$10,000.95
Balance as of 05/05/2025	\$0.00

High Yield Savings Account	
Balance as of 04/01/2024	\$0.00
Deposits 06/07/2024	\$10,000.95
Interest	\$339.84
Balance as of 05/05/2025	\$10,340.79

Calendar of Events

2026 AFS Annual Meeting
August 30 – September 03
Columbus, Ohio

2027 SCAFS Annual Meeting
February 17 – 19
Rock Hill, South Carolina

2027 SDAFS Annual Meeting
March 04 – 07
Mobile, Alabama

SC AFS 2027 Annual Meeting
February 17 - 19
Canaan Retreat Center
Rock Hill, SC

