

# 2026 Annual Meeting of the South Carolina American Fisheries Society

Holiday Inn & Suites, Beaufort, SC  
Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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## Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

**11:00 – 12:00 pm**

Check In, AV Loading

Pre-Function Area

**12:15 – 6:30 pm**

Welcome, Workshop

Salon A & B, Penn Center, &

Marshview Community Farm

12:15 pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Amy Dukes, SC AFS President, SC DNR

12:30 pm

Travel to Penn Center and Farm  
Rotation 1: Group A @ Marshview Community Farm; Group B @ Penn Center

1:00 pm

Gullah Geechee Workshop: Rotation 1  
Rotation 1: Group A @ Marshview Community Farm; Group B @ Penn Center

3:00 pm

Gullah Geechee Workshop: Rotation 2  
Rotation 2: Group B @ Marshview Community Farm; Group A @ Penn Center

5:00 pm

Gullah Geechee Dinner (Dinner on your own for non-workshop participants)  
Marshview Community Farm or the Greater Beaufort Area

**6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Poster Setup, Check In, AV Loading

Salon C, D & E

**7:30 – 8:30 pm**

Poster Social

Salon C, D & E  
Cash Bar

# Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

**7:30 – 8:30 am**





Breakfast, AV Loading

Salon C, D, & E

**8:30 – 10:00 am**

Presentation Session 1

Moderated by Preston Chrisman

- 8:30 am  SCDNR Charter Observer Program  
Jordy Wolfe
- 8:40 am  Strike While the Pan's Hot! Unifying the Predictions of the Thermal Tolerances of Fishes Using the Thermal Death Time Model  
Jacob Daley
- 9:00 am  Hurricanes & droughts: patterns and processes of stream fish communities in a highly dynamic riverscape  
Catherine Masatani
- 9:20 am Historical Trends of Blue catfish on the Santee Cooper Lakes  
Zach Dailey
- 9:40 am  Salinity Shifts and Serenades: The Impacts of Extreme Weather and Salinity Drops on Fish Courtship Songs  
Ann Jessica Miller

Salon A & B

**10:00 – 10:10 am**






Break

Hotel Conference Area

**10:10 – 11:40 am**

Presentation Session 2

Moderated by Troy Farmer

- 10:10 am  Fourier-transform near infrared spectroscopy for estimating age and differentiating between sexes of the red snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, from otoliths  
Claire Murdock
- 10:30 am  Investigating the spawning phenology of American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) in the Altamaha River system  
Bridgette Nicolosi
- 10:50 am  Investigating covariates driving the distribution of American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) in the South Carolina Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain using eDNA and electrofishing monitoring methods  
Brandon Fair
- 11:10 am  Spatiotemporal distribution of different age classes of weakfish, *Cynoscion regalis*, and Atlantic white shrimp, *Litopenaeus setiferus*, and correlation with environmental parameters  
Julia Lynch
- 11:30 am  Tracking an invasion: how the distribution and abundance of Lionfish (*Pterois spp.*) has changed along the U.S. Atlantic Coast  
Margaret Finch

Salon A & B

**11:40 – 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**





*Greater Beaufort Area*

**1:30 – 2:50 pm**

**Presentation Session 3**

Moderated by Derek Crane

*Salon A & B*

- 1:30 pm  Annual, biennial, triennial or something in-between: reproductive periodicity in coastal carcharhinid sharks  
Bryan Fraizer
- 1:50 pm  Migration timing and summer habitat selection in Edisto River, SC, Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)  
Jacob Hill
- 2:10 pm  Lifetime Movements of Two Shallow Water Groupers off of the Southeast U.S.A.  
Mary Sterling
- 2:30 pm  Lost in the Noise: Vessel Traffic Contaminates Seasonal Fish Choruses in Urban Estuaries  
Hayden Dunning

**2:50 – 3:00 pm**

**Snack Break**





*Salon B*

**3:00 – 4:10 pm**

**Presentation Session 4**

Moderated by Bryan Frazier

*Salon A & B*

- 3:00 pm  Survey of Lake Marion channel widening using Live Sonar  
Robert Hinson
- 3:10 pm  Evaluating the Diets of Two Marine Fish Species (*Lutjanus campechanus* and *Centropristis striata*) Along the Atlantic Coast of the Southeastern United States  
Jenny Grossmann
- 3:30 pm  Connectivity Gradients and Community Structure of U.S. Virgin Islands Freshwater Fauna  
Jacob Laurain
- 3:50 pm  From Continuum to Discontinuity: Effects of Dams on Larval Fish Assemblage Patterns  
Madison Niles

**4:10 – 4:30 pm**

**Break and AV Loading**

*Salon A & B*

**4:30 – 5:30 pm**

**SC AFS Business Meeting**

*Salon A & B*

**5:30 – 6:30 pm**

**Oyster Roast**

*Holiday Inn Back Patio*

**6:30 – 10:00 pm**

**Grand Social**

*Salon C, D & E*

*Open Bar 6-9 pm*

# Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

**7:30 – 8:30 am**

Breakfast, AV Loading, Check out

*Salon C, D & E*

**8:40 – 10:00 am**

Presentation Session 5

Moderated by Elijah Lamb

*Salon A & B*

- 8:40 am Simulating 135 years of post-hatchling sea turtle dispersal in a dynamic North Atlantic Ocean.  
Mike Arendt
- 9:00 am  A Course-based Research Experience Exploring Crayfish Shelter-Seeking Behavior for Second-Year Undergraduates  
Johnathan Davis
- 9:10 am Seven years studying microplastic ingestion in South Carolina estuarine fishes: what do we really know?  
Gorka Sancho
- 9:30 am Spilling the Manatee: Highlighting the Florida Manatee in South Carolina Waters  
Kelly Lambert
- 9:50 am  Investigating Atlantic blue crab demographics in the Ashley River, SC  
Nihal Guennouni

**10:00 – 10:30 am**

Break, Check out



*Hotel Conference Area*

**10:30 – 12:20 pm**

Presentation Session 6

Moderated by Kevin Spanik

*Salon A & B*

- 10:30 am Evaluation of stocking density and feeding regime during larval culture of Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*  
Colin Ward
- 10:50 am  Defining and defeating data deficiency in conserving freshwater fishes  
Rachel Moore
- 11:00 am  Surveying adult and early-stage horseshoe crabs in the Charleston Harbor estuary, SC  
Allie Kozachuk
- 11:10 am Using Species Distribution Models to Inform Conservation of Freshwater Fish Species of Greatest Conservation Need  
Colby Denison
- 11:30 am Highlights from the last 10 years of Red Drum Stocking in Charleston Harbor: A Genetics Perspective  
Cameron Doll
- 11:50 am It's all about food! Long-term passive acoustics and visual surveys of Tamanend's bottlenose dolphins as evidence for bottom-up ecology in estuaries  
Eric Montie

# Gullah Geechee Workshop

Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**12:30 - Group A will commute to the Marshview Community Organic Farm**

**Stop at the Bateau behind Gullah Grub Restaurant on way to Farm**

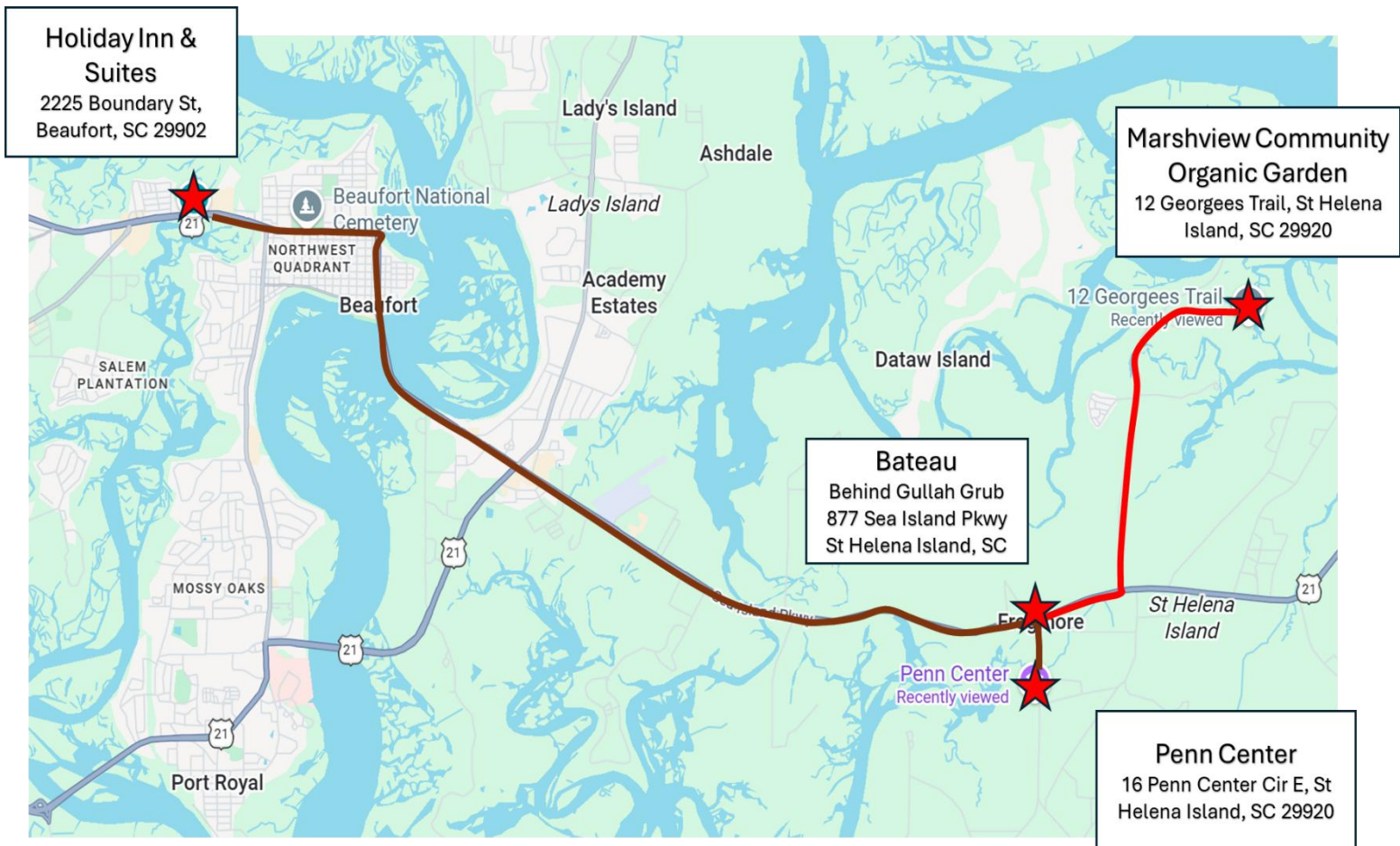
**Group B will commute to the Penn Center**

**3:00 - Group A will commute to the Penn Center**

**Group B will commute to the Marshville Community Organic Farm**

**Stop at the Bateau behind Gullah Grub Restaurant on way to Farm**

**5:00 - Dinner for workshop participants at the Marshville Community Organic Farm**



# Poster Presentations

Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## **Microplastic Ingestion by Atlantic Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) in the Charleston Harbor**

Rea Fauser, College of Charleston

## **Evaluating Macroinvertebrate Community Monitoring Techniques in Upstate South Carolina**

Owen Gilley, Wofford College

## **The Cultivation of Diatoms in the Low Country: An Exploratory Study**

Kadience Hunter, University of South Carolina Beaufort

## **Effects of Urbanization on Fecundity in Mound-Building Lithophilic Spawners**

### ***Nocomis leptcephalus***

Sawyer Osborne, Clemson University

## **Is Bigger Actually Better? Examining the Relationship Between the Thermal Tolerance of Adult Freshwater Fishes and Intraspecific Size**

Tollison Rosol and Nicholas Herden, Clemson University

## **Picking the puzzle pieces for a blue crab stock assessment**

CJ Schlick, SC DNR

## **Cooperative Research at Work: The South Atlantic Deepwater Longline Survey**

Kevin Spanik, SC DNR

## **Thermal Zone Preference of Native Crayfishes and Displacement by a Non-indigenous Crayfish**

Catherine Stewart, Wofford College

## **Relative size selectivity of multiple reef fish species collected by fishery-independent sampling gears**

Julie Vecchio, SC DNR

## **Conservation Messaging and Angler Behavior: Insights for Outreach in South Carolina's Recreational Saltwater Fisheries**

Jasmine Witt, SC DNR

## **Factors Related to Crayfish Abundance in a Rapidly Urbanizing Watershed**

Abigail Zagar, Wofford College

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