

# Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

March 3-5, 2026

Thelma Keller Convention Center

Effingham, IL



Jason DeBoer, President

Alison Stodola, President-Elect

Andrya Whitten Harris, Secretary

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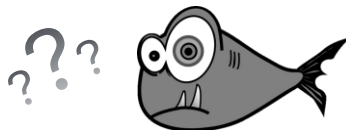
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Abstracts

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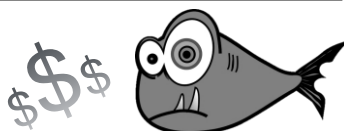
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IL AFS is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. If you have any questions or concerns during the meeting, please find any of the ExCom members listed above.

## **American Fisheries Society Meeting Code of Conduct**

### **Purpose:**

American Fisheries Society (AFS) meetings are among the most respected scientific meetings of fisheries professionals in the natural resource scientific community. AFS values the diversity of views, expertise, opinions, backgrounds, and experiences reflected among all attendees, and is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants and AFS staff. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, staff, service providers, and others, are expected to abide by this Meetings Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct applies to all AFS meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than AFS but held in conjunction with AFS events, in public or private facilities.

### **Expected Behaviors:**

- Treat all participants, attendees, AFS staff, and vendors with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions, and critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech directed toward other attendees, participants, AFS staff, and suppliers/vendors.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants. Alert AFS staff or venue event staff if you notice a dangerous situation or someone in distress.
- Respect the rules and policies of the meeting venue, hotels, AFS-contracted facility, or any other venue.
- To foster a welcoming environment, assist AFS members with impaired physical or cognitive abilities, if necessary.

### **Unacceptable Behaviors:**

- Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form is unacceptable. Harassment includes speech or behavior that is not welcome or is personally offensive. Behavior that is acceptable to one person may not be acceptable to another, so use discretion to be sure respect is communicated. Harassment intended in a joking manner still constitutes unacceptable behavior. Regardless of your intent, if you are advised directly or by another party that some aspect of your speech or behavior at an AFS meeting is harassment, you are expected to stop engaging in such speech or behavior.
- Do not physically or verbally abuse any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, AFS staff member, service provider, or other meeting guest.
- Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, unwelcome or offensive verbal comments related to age, appearance, or body size, employment or

military status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, individual lifestyle, marital status, national origin, physical or cognitive ability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, race, or religion. Harassment can also include the use of sexual and/or discriminatory images in public spaces or in presentations; deliberate intimidation; stalking; following; harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; bullying behavior; inappropriate physical contact; and unwanted sexual attention.

- Appropriate and responsible personal use of photographs or posts to social media of another individual's oral presentation, poster, or likeness is acceptable unless permission is specifically denied by the individual.
- Do not disrupt talks at oral or poster sessions or activities in the exhibit hall or at other events organized by AFS at the meeting venue, hotels, or other AFS-contracted facilities.
- Any retaliation against participants for reporting unacceptable behavior is unacceptable. Like harassment or discrimination, retaliation against reporting poor behavior will be subject to consequences.

#### **Reporting Unacceptable Behavior:**

- Anyone experiencing or witnessing behavior that constitutes an immediate or serious threat to public safety at any time should contact local law enforcement (by calling 911) and immediately notify facility security without delay.
- If you are not in immediate danger but feel that you are the subject of unacceptable behavior, you are encouraged to file a formal complaint to the AFS Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee and/or an AFS officer or the AFS Executive Director which will then be forwarded to the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee for assessment.

#### **Consequences:**

- Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- Consequences to unacceptable behavior will be determined by the AFS Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee in conjunction with AFS officers and the AFS Executive Director.
- Consequences may include one or more of the following actions:
  - Dismissal from the meeting without refund,
  - Reporting to your agency,
  - Exclusion from any future AFS (subunit/chapter/division) meetings for five years,
  - Revocation of AFS membership without the opportunity for renewal for five years,
  - If the offense is criminal, local law enforcement will be contacted.

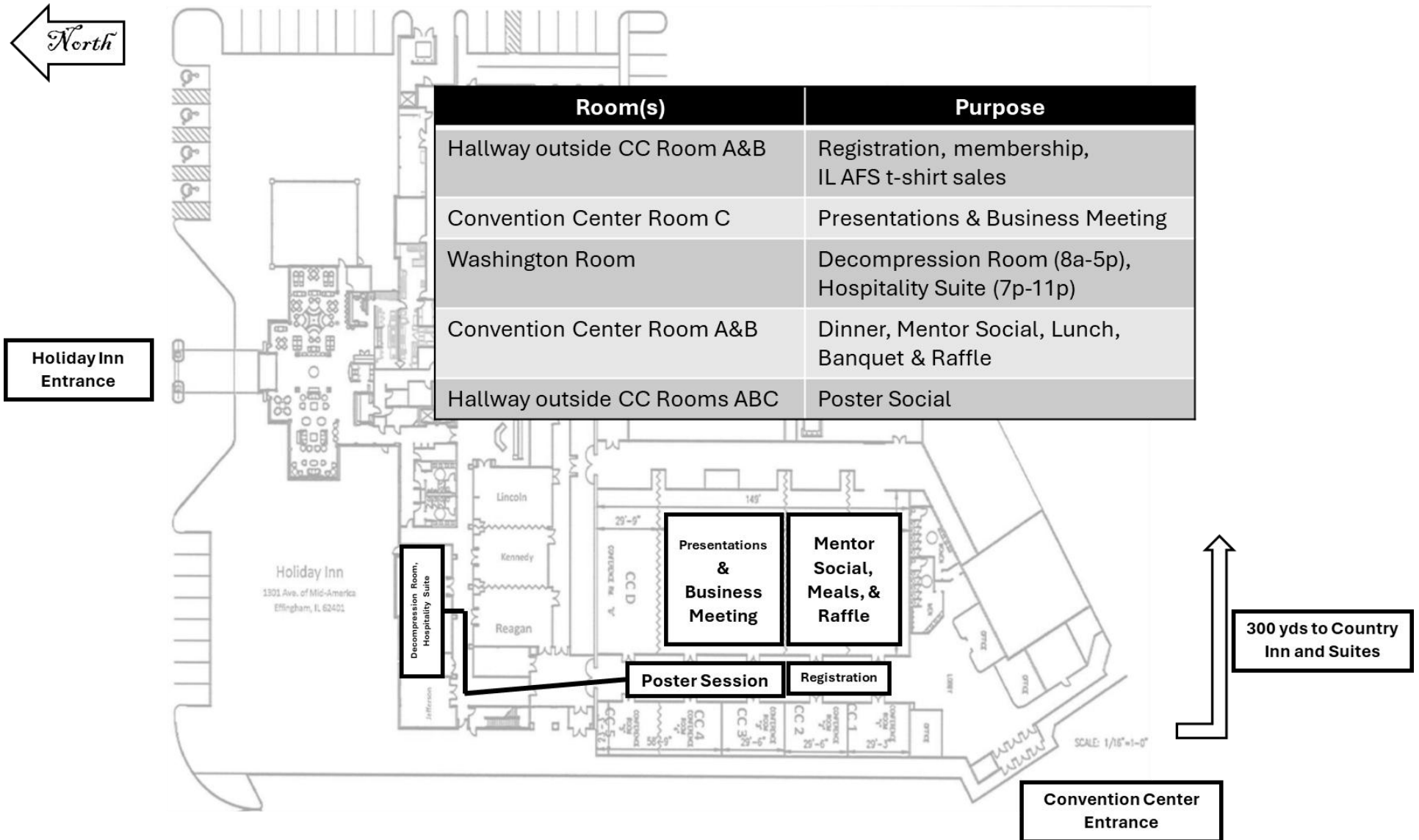


## Schedule at-a-glance

| Tuesday                                                            | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                    | Platform Session 3<br>8:30 am – 10:10 am     | Platform Session 5<br>8:30 am – 9:50 am           |
|                                                                    | Break (snacks)<br>10:10 am – 10:40 am        | Break (snacks)<br>9:50 am – 10:10 am              |
| Registration table open<br>beginning at 12:00 pm                   | Platform Session 4<br>10:40 am – 12:20 pm    | Platform Session 6<br>10:10 am – 11:50 am         |
|                                                                    | Lunch (provided)<br>12:20 pm – 1:45 pm       | Closing Remarks and Awards<br>11:50 am – 12:30 pm |
| Platform Session 1<br>1:00 pm – 2:50 pm                            | IL AFS Business Meeting<br>1:45 pm – 3:45 pm | Travel safely and see you next<br>year!           |
| Break (snacks)<br>2:50 pm – 3:30 pm                                | Break (snacks)<br>3:45 pm – 4:00 pm          |                                                   |
| Platform Session 2<br>3:30 pm – 5:10 pm                            | Poster Session<br>4:00 pm – 6:00 pm          |                                                   |
| Dinner (provided)<br>5:45 pm – 7:00 pm                             | Banquet and Raffle<br>6:15 pm – 10:00 pm     |                                                   |
| Mentor-Mentee Social (7pm-9pm)<br>and Hospitality Suite (7pm-11pm) |                                              |                                                   |



# Conference venue map, with key events and places



**Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

**64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

March 3-5, 2026

Thelma Keller Convention Center

Effingham, IL

**Tuesday, March 3**

12:00pm-5:00pm – Registration Table, check in

Location: hallway outside Convention Center A&B

1:00pm-2:50pm – Platform Session 1, Invasive Carps – Jason DeBoer, moderator

Location: Convention Center C

|               |                 |                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:00pm-1:10pm | Jason DeBoer    | President's Welcome Address                                                                                                                    |
| 1:10pm-1:30pm | Joseph Mruzek   | Silver Carp are increasing in size in the Illinois River                                                                                       |
| 1:30pm-1:50pm | Yixuan Feng     | A Tale of Two Rivers: Is the Invasive Silver Carp Niche Evolving or Just Filling Up?                                                           |
| 1:50pm-2:10pm | Kaiden Vinavich | Invasive silver carp growth chronologies: evaluation of harvest success and drivers of annual growth                                           |
| 2:10pm-2:30pm | Alexis Gerber   | A Comparison of Environmental Drivers on Reproductive Phenology: How Annual Variability Affects Invasive Carp and Native Riverine Fish Species |
| 2:30pm-2:50pm | Steven Butler   | Zooplankton as assessment metrics for bigheaded carp control efforts                                                                           |

***2:50pm-3:30pm – BREAK (snacks provided, hallway)***

3:30pm-5:10pm – Platform Session 2, Invited presentation and Long-Term Monitoring – Amanda Carter, moderator

Location: Convention Center C

|               |               |                                           |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 3:30pm-3:50pm | Austin Happel | Hosting an AFS Hutton scholarship student |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------|



|               |                  |                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:50pm-4:10pm | Gunter Nusbaumer | Taxonomic and Functional Changes of Fish Assemblages in the Spoon River Over Five Decades                                |
| 4:10pm-4:30pm | Olivia Wertman   | Assessing the Long-Term Temporal Trends of the Wabash River Fish Assemblage                                              |
| 4:30pm-4:50pm | Julia Hampton    | Habitat mosaics in a large-river floodplain ecosystem: Uncovering physical-biological relationships across multiple taxa |
| 4:50pm-5:10pm | Rob Mooney       | FishTrends: An online tool to detect annual changes and long-term trends of fisheries metrics                            |

**5:45pm-7:00pm – DINNER (provided, Convention Center A&B)**

7:00pm-9:00pm – DEI Committee’s Student-Mentor Social (water/tea/coffee provided)  
Location: Convention Center Room A&B

7:00pm-11:00pm – Hospitality Suite (BYOB&S – beverages and snacks)  
Location: Washington Room

## **Wednesday, March 5**

### ***Breakfast – on your own***

8:00am-5:00pm – Registration Table, check in

Location: hallway outside Convention Center A&B

8:30am-10:10am – Platform Session 3, Fish Physiology – Claire Snyder, moderator

Location: Convention Center C

|                |                 |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30am-8:50am  | Michael Louison | Impact of Microplastic Exposure on Behavior, Swimming Performance, and Metabolic Rate in hybrid bluegill ( <i>Lepomis macrochirus x cyanellus</i> ) |
| 8:50am-9:10am  | Travis Wilcoxon | Comparison of sampling techniques for small fish stress physiology                                                                                  |
| 9:10am-9:30am  | Sandra Leal     | The Impacts of Temperature on the Physiological Performance of Paddlefish ( <i>Polyodon spathula</i> )                                              |
| 9:30am-9:50am  | Shasta Kamara   | Relationships Between Female Size and Egg Characteristics Across the Range of Paddlefish                                                            |
| 9:50am-10:10am | Kelly Campbell  | Swimming metabolism of blue catfish, <i>Ictalurus furcatus</i> : Implications for fish passage design on the Mississippi River                      |

### ***10:10am-10:40am – BREAK (snacks provided, hallway)***

10:40am-12:20pm – Platform Session 4, Mussels and Macroinvertebrates – Brian Metzke, moderator

Location: Convention Center C

|                 |                 |                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:40am-11:00am | Hugo Ruellan    | First year summary of statewide surveys of mussel species of greatest conservation need                             |
| 11:00am-11:20am | Alison Stodola  | Short-term mussel response to the Carpentersville dam removal on the Fox River                                      |
| 11:20am-11:40am | Jeanette Bovard | Effect of Low-Head Dam Removals on the Macroinvertebrate Community of the Vermilion and North Fork Vermilion Rivers |

|                 |                |                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:40am-12:00pm | Taryn Tarquin  | Assessing Macroinvertebrate Communities as Indicators of Ecological Recovery in Urban and Agricultural Streams |
| 12:00pm-12:20pm | Shaley Klumker | Stream fish and macroinvertebrate community recovery trends post-fertilizer spill into an Illinois stream      |

**12:20pm-1:45pm – LUNCH (provided)**

Location: Convention Center A&B

**1:45pm-3:45pm – Chapter Business Meeting**

Location: Convention Center C



To view the complete Business Meeting report PDF, snap the QR code to the right



Business Report

**3:45pm-4:00pm – BREAK (snacks provided, hallway)**

**4:00pm-6:00pm – Poster Social**

Location: hallway outside Convention Center Rooms ABC

|                   |                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alexis Vandenberg | Long-term monitoring provides insights on population status of rare fishes in the Illinois Waterway                                       |
| Austin Happel     | Armored shorelines reduce habitat for turtles                                                                                             |
| Billy Nixon       | Evaluating the status of environmentally sensitive aquatic insects in Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) streams in Illinois |
| Carley Capon      | Monitoring what slips through the net: sampling Illinois' fish species of Greatest Conservation Need                                      |
| Austin Ingram     | Eclipsing behavior: zooplankton migration during a total solar eclipse                                                                    |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Olivia Miner    | Impact of hook size and morphology on post-release welfare in channel catfish <i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>                                                                                   |
| Jack Zeitzheim  | Assessing of strontium isotope ratio ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ) as a natural marker for distinguishing large rivers and tributaries in fish calcified structure chemistry studies |
| Hailey Gula     | Habitat quality and its effects on the stress levels of Orangethroat and Johnny Darters in Macon County, Illinois                                                                          |
| Cody Hagloch    | One-way passage: a mechanism to limit fish movement and optimize harvest                                                                                                                   |
| Grace Fuhrer    | Reproductive biology of Emerald Bowfin ( <i>Amia ocellicauda</i> ) in the Emiquon Preserve                                                                                                 |
| Olivia Salrin   | Grass carp trophic ecology in two large rivers: Impact on resource competition with other invasive carps in the absence of aquatic vegetation                                              |
| Shaley Klumker  | Integrating environmental DNA into stream fish recovery monitoring                                                                                                                         |
| Shi Xue         | Building communication strategies for lapsed recreational anglers in IL: A message framing experiment to support recruitment, retention, and reactivation                                  |
| Abigail Roussin | Evaluation of external attachment designs for GPS tagged invasive carp                                                                                                                     |

**6:15pm-10:00pm – DINNER (provided) and RAFFLE**

Location: Convention Center A&B

**Thursday, March 6**

***Breakfast – on your own***

8:00am-12:00pm – Registration Table, check in

Location: hallway outside Convention Center A&B

8:30am-9:50am – Platform Session 5, Catfish – Alexis VandenBerg, moderator

Location: Convention Center C

|               |                 |                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30am-8:50am | Sorin Hilsabeck | Seasonal Changes in Diet Composition of Blue Catfish across five western Illinois lakes                                  |
| 8:50am-9:10am | Ryan Maynard    | Evaluation of Channel Catfish Population Demographics and Management in the Wabash River Basin                           |
| 9:10am-9:30am | Danielle Shubat | Evaluating Artificial Spawning Habitat and Recruitment of Channel Catfish in Illinois Impoundments                       |
| 9:30am-9:50am | Daniel Roth     | Assessment of Flathead Catfish Population Demographics and Evaluation of Management Strategies in the Wabash River Basin |

***9:50am-10:10am – BREAK (snacks provided, hallway)***

10:10am-11:50am – Platform Session 6, Everything That Didn't Fit in Other Sessions – Hugo Ruellan, moderator

Location: Convention Center C

|                 |                     |                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:10am-10:30am | Abigail Rick        | Connecting Urban Lakes: Effects of Physical and Hydrological Conditions on Fish Passage                         |
| 10:30am-10:50am | William Stacy-Duffy | Establishing metrics to reduce the stocking of lake trout in the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan               |
| 10:50am-11:10am | Brian Metzke        | Completeness and coverage of fish occurrence records differ between museum collections and monitoring programs. |

|                                                           |                    |                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:10am-11:30am                                           | Anthony Porreca    | A field comparison of different boat electrofishers with comments on standardization       |
| 11:30am-11:50am                                           | North Joffe-Nelson | Plenty of Fish in the Sea: How the (un)Popularity of Fishing is Influenced by Social Media |
| 11:50am-12:30pm – Award announcements and closing remarks |                    |                                                                                            |