

**AFS Estuaries Section Virtual Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2020**  
**10am to 12pm Eastern Time**

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Meeting called to order by President Catherine Johnston at 1003 EDT

36 total attendees, 21 of which are on the current AFS Estuaries Section membership list

1. Review agenda and call for additional agenda items
2. Overview of virtual meeting guidelines and reminder of Code of Conduct
  - a. <https://fisheries.org/about/governance/afs-meetings-code-of-conduct/>
3. Introduction of section officers
  - a. Catherine Johnston, President
  - b. John Mohan, President-elect
  - c. Konstantine Rountos, Treasurer
  - d. Jim Vasslides, Secretary
  - e. Lee Benaka, Past-president
  - f. Abigail Archer, Web Master
4. Ice breaker - Poll Everywhere questions (see Appendix for results)
  - a. Where are you calling from?
  - b. What is a fun thing you have been doing more of with the pandemic and quarantine?
  - c. What is your favorite estuarine species?
5. President's remarks
  - a. AFS Governing Board report for past year submitted
    - i. Highlighted 2019 Reno meeting activities, student "travel" award, newsletter content
  - b. Tax status update
    - i. Estuaries Section was successfully reinstated as tax exempt this summer after work led by Treasurer Konstantine Rountos and help from AFS HQ staff and members of the Invasive and Introduced Species section
  - c. Announcement of training opportunity through AFS - AFS Media Training Workshop during the Virtual Annual Meeting – Doug Austen spoke about this opportunity (which actually had already closed) and about the plenary speaker at the AFS VAM Marcy McGinnis who will facilitate the training. Similar training opportunities may be available to AFS members in the future
  - d. Off-year for officer elections this year
    - i. Terms expire next year (fall 2021) so a call for nominations will go out this winter/spring. Students and ECPs are encouraged to consider serving on the Executive Committee
  - e. Membership numbers update

- i. 210 total registered members as of August 2020
      - 1. 53% regular members, students about 23%
    - ii. Membership usually bumps up a little with the annual meeting
- 6. Presentation of 2020 Student “Travel” Award to Matthew Mensinger, University of Maine M.S. student
  - a. Matthew’s presentation is titled “Evidence of Personality in Juvenile American Eels and Implications for Upstream Movement.” The research was a laboratory experiment to link individual eel personality with climbing ability.
- 7. AFS Virtual Annual Meeting (VAM) Sept 14-25
  - a. Currently 799 registrants
  - b. Poll Everywhere questions
    - i. How many folks are attending the annual meeting – about 26 people.
    - ii. How many are giving a presentation – 8 talks, no posters
    - iii. How many are registered for spawning run – 8 members
  - c. Open discussion of VAM and member activities to watch out for
    - i. Catherine Johnston – Abstract ID: 43232, Title: Experimental Larval Sampling to Improve Methods for Estimating Abundance and Distribution of Endangered Delta Smelt
    - ii. Lee Benaka – organized a live session (#9469) on 9/24 “Fishery Dependent monitoring and Data analysis” and is giving a talk on by-catch estimation
    - iii. Troy Tuckey – talk on paenid shrimp in Chesapeake Bay
    - iv. Des Kahn – talk on “Ensuring Stock Assessment Is A Scientific Enterprise”
    - v. Christine Moffitt – talk in “Lessons in Leadership” session
    - vi. Kerry Flaherty-Walia, Abstract ID: 44329, Marine Fish Ecology, Fish associated with estuarine hard bottom habitats
    - vii. Victoria Quenessen – Abstract ID: 43496, Title: Does Accounting for Short-Term Population Dynamics Improve the Use of No-Take Marine Reserves for Fishery Management in Oregon?
- 8. Treasurer’s report
  - a. Tax exempt status has been reinstated!!
  - b. Balance as of July 31 2020 of \$3,804.52
    - i. 2019 membership dues not included in accounting (\$1,250)– original check misplaced during COVID campus shuffling, AFS National is reissuing check
    - ii. Check for current student “travel” award (\$100) also not included yet.
- 9. Reminder of plan for next AFS Annual Meeting
  - a. 151st AFS Annual Meeting, August 8–12, 2021 in Baltimore
  - b. Will be a continuation of the 150th anniversary celebration, which means another good opportunity for some retrospective-themed symposia about estuaries
  - c. “Monsters of” event (Lee)
    - i. Columbus was postponed – collaboration with Socio-economic section planned, so we will carry that forward

- ii. Abigail will likely be leading as Lee will be heavily involved with main meeting planning
    - iii. Call for anyone to reach out with suggestions for speakers on the Monsters topic
  - d. Call for any suggestions for the 2021 meeting
- 10. Scott Bonar, AFS President provided a few comments
  - a. Thank you for everyone's help with what will be an exciting Virtual Annual Meeting
  - b. Standardizing processes within the society – sampling methodology, names, etc.
  - c. Climate Change – AFS is moving forward decisively to get the best information out to members and others (communications, policy, worldwide action statement with 108 aquatic scientific societies). Members can help by sharing through their networks (both in person and on social media).
- 11. Drue Banta Winters, AFS Policy Director
  - a. Policy works best when it comes up from the Sections and Chapters directly (i.e. Aquaculture Statement)
  - b. Climate policy working group
    - i. Draft recommendations will hopefully come out soon – please review and comment.
- 12. Discussion of suggestions/plans for Estuaries Section activities over the next year
  - a. Reach out to ExComm members if you have ideas for activities over the next year
- 13. Reminder about our quarterly newsletters
  - a. all members are welcome to provide material for the newsletters - articles about your research, highlighting an estuary/estuarine species, etc
  - b. Contact [geoffreyhsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:geoffreyhsmith@ufl.edu) to contribute
- 14. Section Representation on the Resource Policy Committee
  - a. Policy Statements - Dam Removal, Aquaculture
    - i. Estuaries Section represented by Karin Limburg on the Dam Removal committee
    - ii. Aquaculture statement reviewed by section, no comments
  - b. Regulatory Changes - NEPA, Habitat definition
    - i. Comments provided by Section members on both NEPA and Habitat
    - ii. Usually quick turn around as dictated by regulatory timelines
  - c. Climate change impacts on fisheries
    - i. Longer term group still looking for members
- 15. National Estuaries Week (September 19-26)
  - a. Same week as Annual meeting, we should be highlighting that during the meeting
  - b. AFS National and Estuaries Section will try and get some social network messaging out – contact Catherine and Christine Moffitt with ideas, factoids, etc.
  - c. Picture collage of section members picking up trash in their local estuary.
- 16. Adjourn Estuaries Section Business meeting – meeting adjourned at 1114 EDT
- 17. After meeting adjourned, a few more Estuaries Section related topics came up in the MFS business meeting that followed. Those topics are captured here:

- a. Note from Doug Austen: incoming AFS president Brian Murphy will be proposing that the Climate Change Committee become an AFS Standing Committee which will require a membership vote. People interested in volunteering to work on the climate committee should contact Brian Murphy
- b. There was a suggestion for a *Fisheries* issue devoted to marine and estuary theme. This would take coordination of the Sections and contacting editors early on to begin work and planning
- c. Discussion of ways the Sections can reach out more to students recently joining AFS – to help them learn about the various sections, chapters, and units within AFS. Could do this by dropping in on virtual AFS student subunit calls occurring this academic year. Can reach out to the Student and ECP Subsection here (member Tyler Plum is the Secretary-Treasurer)
- d. Announcement to consider submitting Session and Workshop proposals for CERF 2021: see <https://conference.cerf.science/2021-call-for-session-and-workshop-proposals>
  - i. Can contact Ben Walther with questions

**Appendix: Poll Everywhere responses**

🔔 When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/johnmohan347](https://poll-ev.com/johnmohan347)  
 📱 Text **JOHNMOHAN347** to **37607** once to join

**Where are you calling from?**





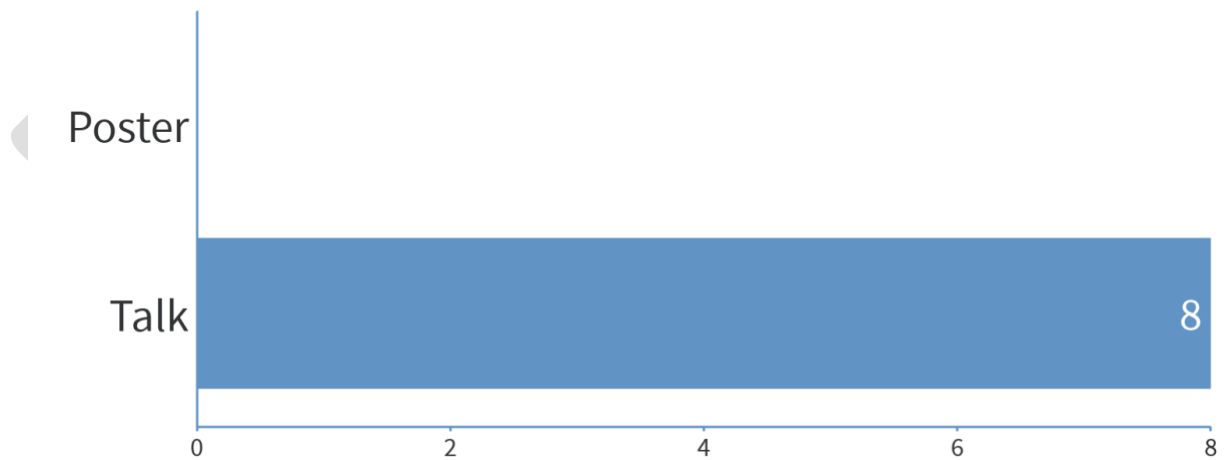
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## How many of you are attending the virtual annual meeting



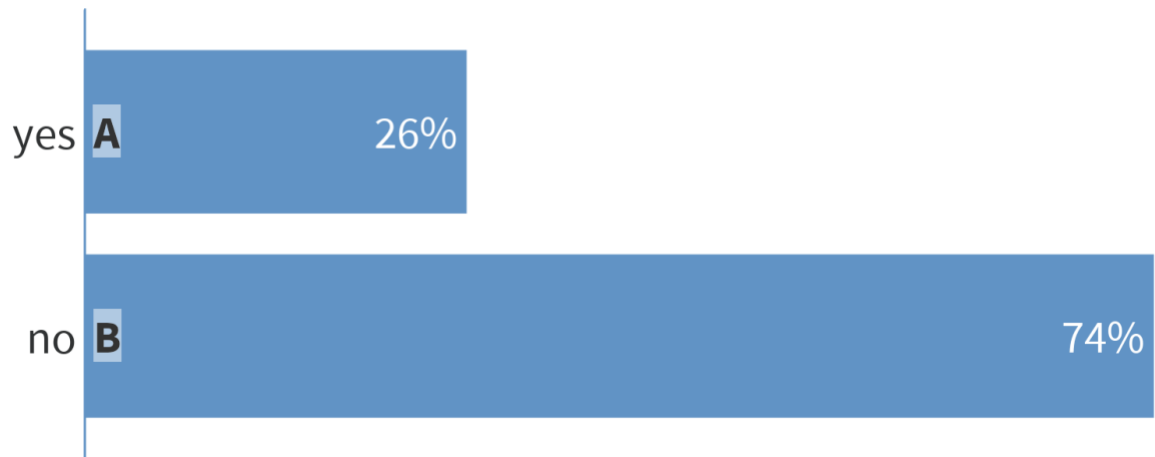
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## How many of you are giving presentation



Respond at [PollEv.com/johnmohan347](https://PollEv.com/johnmohan347)  
Text **JOHNMOHAN347** to **37607** once to join, then **A or B**

## How many of you are registered for the Spawning Run?



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