

**Annual Meeting of the Alabama Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2026 Business Meeting**

Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL  
6 February 2026  
(Submitted by Tommy Purcell)

**Officers:**

President: Kaelyn Fogelman  
President-Elect: Clint Lloyd  
Secretary: Henry Hershey  
Treasurer: AnaSara Gillem  
Immediate Past President: Katelyn Lawson

**Meeting Minutes:**

- Chad Fitch made motion to start meeting, Katelyn Lawson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and meeting started at 9:24am.
- A quorum was determined to be present for the meeting.
- Members of the AL-AFS EXCOM were introduced.
- Kaelyn Fogelman presented the President's report.
  - Officers have been planning for Southern Division AFS and Kaelyn and Katelyn are attending EXCOM meeting at New Orleans meeting.
- Clint Lloyd presented the President-Elect report
  - Clint thanked all attendees and discussed low attendance at the meeting and the need to get more people involved in future meetings.
- Katelyn Lawson presented the Past President report
  - She enjoyed her time on EXCOM and looking forward to being co-chair of Southern Division.
- AnaSara Gillem presented the Treasurer's report.
  - She displayed a spreadsheet with the meeting and other expenses.
  - AL-AFS spent about \$20,000 on this meeting and used this meeting to better prepare for a meeting at a similar venue.
  - She discussed the investment account and is getting more information on how to access this money.
- Henry Hershey was not present, so Kaelyn presented the Secretary's report.
  - She discussed the previous meeting minutes that were summarized reported and sent to Parent Society.
- 2026 Committee reports:
  - Scholarship Committee: Clint Lloyd presented the David Bayne Scholarship to Hannah Talbert. A-game award was awarded to Gavin Southerland which was accepted by Katelyn Lawson since Gavin was unable to attend the meeting. Best Student Oral Presentation was awarded to Renee Hintz.

- Program Committee: Clint Lloyd discussed the venue, Perdido Beach Resort, and discussed the diversity of talks, and hoped everyone enjoyed the venue. It was discussed again, how the venue this year will be used as a learning tool to host meetings at larger venues in the future. One hundred and six individuals were registered for this meeting with about 35 being from the Alabama Chapter.
- Membership Committee: Kaelyn Fogelman and others on the committee are working towards finding out who in the State is working on aquatic natural resources and see if they would be willing to get involved with Southern Division and beyond. Our chapter has always been sportfish oriented, but with Southern Division and the Parent Society, there is more of a diversity with other aquatic resources, aquaculture, etc.
- Student Affairs Committee: Justin Kowalski, President of Auburn University Chapter AFS gave an update on the student Chapter. Auburn has about 75 members with about 25-30 regular attenders to their meetings. He discussed their shrimp sale that went well as a fundraiser, and they are hoping to use the money to send undergraduates to Southern Division in 2027. They are having a student-mentor social on April 24, and he is looking for professionals that would be interested in being a mentor.
- Sponsorship Committee: AnaSara Gillem discussed sponsorship for the meeting. Mississippi brought in most of the sponsorship money for this meeting. Alabama received \$1,000 from American Sportfish, \$1,000 from Trutta Environmental Solutions, and \$250 from Alabama Wildlife Federation.
- Website Committee: Chad Fitch discussed how registrations this year were handled through Mississippi's website for this meeting. He encouraged attendees to send in pictures from recent work that he will put on the website.
- Audit Committee: Chaired by Steve Rider; however, he could not attend the meeting, so Kaelyn gave report. Steve will review financials and is involved with overseeing how all money is spent.
- Old Business
  - 2025 Minutes were distributed and a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Southern Division AFS 2027 meeting
    - Katelyn Lawson presented the venue for Southern Division as the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, AL and a contract has been assigned. She is working with Crystal Hightower on local arrangements. They are currently working on finding a venue for the Grand Social and have visited several options within walking distance of the hotel.
    - She presented the Committee Chair Members for Southern Division:
      - General Meeting Co-chairs – Kaelyn Fogelman and Katelyn Lawson
      - Program Committee – Shannon Brewer and Anita Kelly

- Local arrangements – Crystal Hightower
    - Finance Committee – AnaSara Gillem
      - Kaelyn Fogelman and Katelyn Lawson had a planning meeting with Southern Division EXCOM in the summer of 2025, and we are ahead of schedule in the planning process.
  - 501c3 Status
    - Our 501c3 status was revoked due to some previous financial issues that have been resolved.
    - There has been work taking place with a lawyer and accountant to reinstate the 501c3 status.
    - This reinstatement will help with sponsorships moving forward so businesses can write off the expense of sponsorship.
    - Paperwork has been completed and it is currently with the lawyer to finalize paperwork to resubmit to the IRS for reinstatement.
    - This will also help if we adopt a conflict-of-interest policy.
- New Business
  - Clint Lloyd took over as the new Chapter President
    - Clint Lloyd thanked Kaelyn Fogelman for her service as President over the past year and presented her with a plaque for her service.
  - Election of new officers:
    - President-Elect candidate – Chad Fitch
    - Secretary candidate – Tommy Purcell
    - Clint Lloyd opened the floor for any other nominations.
    - No other nominations were brought forward.
    - A motion was made to accept the slate of candidates and the motion seconded and carried.
  - Increase membership.
    - Clint Lloyd suggested setting up a booth at other similar conferences to promote our Chapter and reaching out to other Universities and other professionals in the private sector in the state.
    - It was suggested again to reach out to other areas of aquatic management to diversify the constituents in the Chapter.
    - Kaelyn Fogelman suggested to change the 2028 Chapter conference to the Fall to see if that increased participation.
    - It was also suggested to have the Chapter conference with another organization such as the Alabama Rivers and Streams Network (ARSN).
  - Conflict-of-Interest Policy
    - A motion to adopt the conflict-of-interest policy and it passed unanimously.
  - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, and it passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:43am.