

## NASPS News

June 2026



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### The Society's Mission Statement:

*The North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS) was founded in 2012 at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in St. Paul, MN and is the North American affiliate of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS). Seeking to address current declines in sturgeon and paddlefish populations across North America, NASPS is dedicated to promoting the conservation and restoration of these species by developing and advancing research pertaining to their biology, management, and utilization. Distributing scientific, cultural, and historical information related to sturgeon and paddlefish in North America and encouraging the inclusion of sturgeon and paddlefish fisheries science in college and continuing education curricula is critical to achieving these objectives. As such, NASPS recognizes the importance of engaging NASPS members, local, national, and international government organizations, educational institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the general public through publications, professional meetings, and community events.*

Not everyone who receives these listserv newsletters is a member of NASPS. Here are a few reasons why you should consider it...

Your 2026 membership contributes towards:

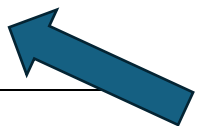
- Cultivation of a unified body focused on conservation of North American sturgeons and paddlefish,
- Student research and travel awards,
- The ability to create a professional profile on our website and seek expertise on a wide range of sturgeon related questions,
- Development of annual NASPS meetings,
- Reduction in registration fees to attend NASPS conferences,
- A 20% reduction in WSCS membership fees

You can renew at [www.nasps-sturgeon.org/about/join-us.aspx](http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org/about/join-us.aspx)

For Returning Members – You do not need to log into the member area to renew. If you have been a member in the past, you only need to pay your membership dues and do not need to fill out a profile. If you are new to NASPS, please create a member profile while paying your membership dues. Thanks in advance!

*Unsure if you have renewed your NASPS membership for 2026? Check your email inbox for an acknowledgement of your renewal.*

Memberships are on a calendar year, so please consider renewal now for 2026.



# NASPS Annual Meeting 2026

Registration for the October 18-22 NASPS 2026 meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is open.

**Register** [HERE](#).

Registration will include a welcome social on Sunday (5-8 PM), all breakfasts (Monday-Wednesday), all lunches (Monday-Wednesday), and a poster social (6:00-7:00 PM) and dinner banquet (7:00-10:00 PM) on Wednesday.

**Lodging:** A limited block of rooms will be available until September 18<sup>th</sup> for a reduced nightly rate of \$110 plus resort fee from Sunday through Wednesday and \$139 plus resort fee on Thursday night, so reserve your room now- [2026 NASPS Annual Meeting - River Spirit Casino Resort](#)

**Travel:** River Spirit provides free shuttles to/from Tulsa International Airport (TUL), so there's no need to get a rental car or rideshare. As you determine your travel itinerary, please add your details to [this worksheet](#) so we can help coordinate shuttle logistics.

**Abstracts:** The abstract submission portal is now open [HERE](#). Deadline for abstracts (poster and oral presentations) will be July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Workshop:** The meeting program will include a half-day paddlefish field trip workshop to Keystone Lake on Thursday October 22. Hands-on content will highlight paddlefish restoration aquaculture techniques, coded wire tags (insertion, extraction, and decoding), field sex identification, management strategies, and use of live sonar for recreational snagging. A sign-up form for the workshop will be available in future communication.

**Meeting sponsors:** NASPS is fortunate to have already received sponsorship pledges from these organizations with several others still pending



*Heirloom  
Rustic Ales*

## Society News, Action Items, & 2026 NASPS Election

The NASPS Governing Board is currently reviewing and revising the Constitution and Bylaws. Within the next few months, we will provide a draft to NASPS members and a vote to approve. In the meantime, if you'd like to view our guiding documents (dated October 2015), you can find them on our website [HERE](#).

Have you renewed your NASPS membership for 2026 yet? You can do so [HERE](#).

### Call for Nominations – NASPS Governing Board

Term: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028

NASPS will be holding elections September 1-30 for positions on their governing board. NASPS is seeking nominations for 10 positions including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six members at large.

If you are interested in running or know someone you would like to nominate for any of these positions, please submit your/their name, contact information, and a short biography (<150 words) to Tim Haxton ([tjhaxton1@gmail.com](mailto:tjhaxton1@gmail.com)) by August 7th. Nominees must be a NASPS member in good standing to be included on the ballot and only active members who attended one of the three immediately preceding annual society meetings are eligible for nomination. Candidate biographies will be distributed to NASPS members in good standing and will also be made available through the NASPS website ([www.nasps-sturgeon.org](http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org)). Voting will occur online for a period of 30 days in September with an option to submit your votes through email if needed. NASPS's bylaws are available from the NASPS website ([HERE](#)) for members who would like to learn more



about the duties associated with each position. Alternatively, contact Jason Schooley or Tim Haxton for further information.

The newly elected NASPS governing board will be announced at the annual meeting in Tulsa, OK and will assume society duties on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

## Order of Acipenser

NASPS is seeking nominations for the society's highest award, the Order of Acipenser. The OoA is presented to an individual or individuals for their outstanding contributions to the conservation, recovery, and/or management of sturgeon and paddlefish in North America.

Past recipients include: Serge Doroshov (2009), Ronald Bruch (2015), Mike Parsley (2016), Tim King (2017), Dennis Scarnecchia (2017), Ethan Mora (2019), Tim Haxton (2021), Joel Van Eenennaam (2022), Kim Scribner (2022), Ed Baker (2022), Gary Anderson (2024), Jim Clugston (2024), Frank Parauka (2024), Larry Hildebrand (2025), and Patrick Braaten (2025).



2025 Order of Acipenser recipient Larry Hildebrand holding the sturgeon with nominating committee members from left to right Wendy Horan, James Crossman, Molly Webb, 2016 OoA recipient Mike Parsley, Jason McLellan, Steve McAdam, and Andrea Schreier

The nomination deadline is August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. See the website for instructions- <https://nasps-sturgeon.org/order-of-acipenser/>

## World Sturgeon Conservation Society Updates

Planning continues for ISS11 to be held in 2029 in Padua, Italy.

WSCS election for 2027-2031 has been announced on the website. Nomination for positions is open April 30 – September 15. <https://www.wscs.info/end-of-term-of-the-current-bod-and-new-elections/>

## Student Awards

2026 will be a big year for NASPS student awards! The society has already awarded Tyler Edwards with the Student-Mentor Collaboration Award earlier this year. Since this award was originally carried over from 2025, the governing board agreed that it shouldn't take the place of a full award in 2026.

Therefore, NASPS is pleased to solicit applications for the In Memoriam Student Research Award (up to \$3000, n=1) in addition to several Student Travel Awards (\$500 each, up to n=6). These awards are being jointly funded by the society and the subunit, aiming to fulfill one of our core objectives to assist with student education and networking.



2025 Student Travel Award recipients (from left to right) Collin Atwood, Samantha Embersits, Shasta Kamara, Daniel Millea, Jenna Scott, and Levi Umland

Applications for both awards are open now and the deadline is August 7<sup>th</sup>. See website for more details- <https://nasps-sturgeon.org/studentbenefits/>

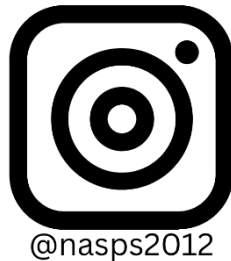
# Student & Early Career Professional Subunit

## NASPS Digital Content Portal

Reminder- the Student and Early Career Professional Subunit has developed a portal for NASPS members to submit digital content (i.e., photos and videos) for use in outreach and social media efforts. Instructions and content guidelines are included at the link to the form. Please share your content so we can highlight your work and the amazing species we study! [CLICK HERE](#)

## Follow Us on Instagram!

The subunit maintains an active Instagram presence! If you have a paper, project, person or sturgeon to highlight please let us know so that we can highlight your project!



Why should you consider joining the NASPS student subunit? Check out all the benefits [HERE](#).

Interested in joining our subunit board meetings? Want to be added to our communication list or have other ideas for us? Email us here: [naspsstudents@gmail.com](mailto:naspsstudents@gmail.com)



## Paddlefish & Sturgeon Employment / Educational Opportunities

Check out the NASPS LinkedIn account [HERE](#) to help us build a network of job-seeking sturgeon professionals.

Graduate Research Assistant – Aquaculture Kentucky State University (State)  
<https://www.kysu.edu/academics/college-ahnrc/school-of-aas/index.php>

Protected Species Observer - Coastwise Consulting, Inc. (Private) <https://www.coastwise.co/>

Protected Species Observer - Everett, MA. A.I.S. Inc. (Private) <https://aisobservers.com/careers/>

Commercial Fishery Observer - Sci Tech 2 - Part-Time/On-Call - Non-Perm - Five Openings - 2026-05133 Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (State)  
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/5382510/commercial-fishery-observer-sci-tech-2-part-time-on-call-non-perm-five-op>

Fisheries Monitoring & Research Technician - Scientific Tech 2 - Non-Perm - 31 Openings - 2026-04609 Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (State)  
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/5364460/fisheries-monitoring-research-technician-scientific-tech-2-non-perm-31-op>

Post doctoral researcher USGS (Federal)

Application Deadline: 06/30/2026 Starting Date: after 7/31/2026

Location: Port St. Joe, Florida View Location

Description: The Lamont lab ([Lamont Lab USGS](#)) at the US Geological Survey's Wetland and Aquatic Research Center in Port St. Joe, FL is seeking to fill a one-year (with an expectation of at least one additional year) post-doctoral research position focused on large marine vertebrate ecology (e.g., sea turtles, elasmobranchs, sturgeon). We are seeking a highly motivated applicant with excellent data analysis and writing skills, with a primary focus on movement ecology. A PhD in ecology or a similar field and a strong record of publication in peer-reviewed literature are required.

Preferred skills include experience analyzing satellite and acoustic telemetry data, experience conducting ecosystem-level modeling, and familiarity with marine vertebrate ecology. The primary role of the post-doctoral researcher will be data analyses and manuscript writing, however opportunities to assist with (and potentially lead) research will be available.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, CV, and a list of at least three references to Dr. Margaret Lamont at [mlamont@usgs.gov](mailto:mlamont@usgs.gov). Applicants must be willing to relocate to Northwest Florida (remote applicants will not be considered). Unfortunately, we can only accept applications from U.S. Citizens. We anticipate the applicant's start date will be in July 2026 (but is somewhat flexible).

Contact Meg Lamont [mlamont@usgs.gov](mailto:mlamont@usgs.gov) (preferred contact method)

## Sturgeon & Paddlefish in the News

*Unfortunately, some of the links below may be paywalled. Such is the nature of digital media these days.*

Photos: 116-pound fish caught in the Hudson River <https://www.newsnationnow.com/animals/hudson-river-atlantic-sturgeon-photos/>

From Sturgeon to Knicks Gear, Barney Greengrass Has You Covered <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/15/from-smoked-sturgeon-to-jalen-brunson-barney-greenrass-has-you-covered>

Otherworldly thunder of Atlantic sturgeon inspires awe <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2026/05/otherworldly-thunder-atlantic-sturgeon-inspires-awe>

Capitol region caviar: How conservation led to industry in Northern California <https://www.caprдио.org/articles/2026/06/18/capitol-region-caviar-how-conservation-led-to-industry-in-northern-california/>

Rare 70-pound lake sturgeon makes 681-mile swim to NE, biologists say <https://nebraska.tv/news/local/rare-70-pound-lake-sturgeon-makes-681-mile-swim-to-ne-biologists-say>

## Recent Sturgeon and Paddlefish Papers

*We encourage you to share your recent sturgeon and paddlefish publications or news articles with us for inclusion here. Please send them to [jason.schooley@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:jason.schooley@odwc.ok.gov) (Apologies for any inconsistent citation format, as these may be copied/pasted from various sources.)*

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| <p>Chen, W. et al. Osmoregulatory physiology and energy metabolism of hybrid sturgeon (<i>Acipenser baerii</i> ♂ × <i>Acipenser schrenckii</i> ♀) under gradient salinity acclimation. <i>Aquaculture</i> 624, (2026).</p> <p>Chen, Y. et al. Development and immunoprotective evaluation of a chitosan-based nanovaccine against <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> in Yangtze sturgeon (<i>Acipenser dabryanus</i>). <i>Fish &amp; Shellfish Immunology</i> 173, (2026).</p> <p>Choupani, S., Smiley, A. &amp; Alikhani, M. Zebrafish (<i>Danio rerio</i>) embryo extracts improve immune response, antioxidant capacity, and stress tolerance of ship sturgeon (<i>Acipenser nudiiventris</i>). <i>Comparative Immunology Reports</i> 10, (2026).</p> <p>Ding, Y. et al. Sperm quality, reproductive hormones, and membrane-bound progesterone receptor expression in Chinese sturgeon (<i>Acipenser sinensis</i>). <i>Comparative Biochemistry And Physiology B-Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology</i> 284, (2026).</p> <p>Fatira, E. et al. Feasibility of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) in activated sturgeon eggs. <i>Aquaculture</i> 620, (2026).</p> <p>Friedrich, T. &amp; Graf, L. On the current situation of sturgeon in the Danube. <i>Wasserwirtschaft</i> 116, 18–22 (2026).</p> <p>Gammeltoft, P. Decision time for the Danube sturgeon - Establishing connectivity at the Iron Gates. <i>Wasserwirtschaft</i> 116, 3–3 (2026).</p> <p>Gu, X., Feng, B., Li, Y. &amp; Feng, G. Integrated LEK, eDNA, and Maxent modeling reveals habitat suitability and conservation priorities for Chinese sturgeon (<i>Acipenser sinensis</i>) in the East China Sea coastal waters. <i>Global Ecology And Conservation</i> 67, (2026).</p> <p>Hubálek, M. et al. In vitro egg-ageing and sperm quantity in the artificial reproduction of sterlet (<i>Acipenser ruthenus</i>): is 'the less, the better' a good rule for avoiding ploidy abnormalities in small sturgeon species? <i>Aquaculture</i> 619, (2026).</p> <p>Peng, D. et al. Gut Microbiota Dysbiosis Drives Lethal Bacterial Enteritis in Sturgeons: Insights From Ex Vivo Cultivation and Metagenomic Investigations. <i>Journal Of Fish Diseases</i> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.70218">https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.70218</a> (2026).</p> | <p>Redeker, M. &amp; Gatzweiler, J. The Iron Gate dams: key to aquatic biodiversity in the Danube river basin. <i>Wasserwirtschaft</i> 116, 10–17 (2026).</p> <p>Song, H. et al. Optimizing genomic mating in sturgeon by incorporating dominance effects from whole-genome sequencing. <i>Aquaculture</i> 619, (2026).</p> <p>Song, H. et al. Development and validation of a 40 K liquid SNP array for the sturgeon. <i>Aquaculture</i> 624, (2026).</p> <p>Song, H. et al. Harnessing SNPs and InDels from whole-genome sequencing to enhance genomic prediction in sturgeons. <i>Aquaculture</i> 624, (2026).</p> <p>Soto, E. et al. Susceptibility of Ictavirus acipenseridallo2, White Sturgeon iridovirus, and ranaviruses to buffered povidone iodine complex, chlorine, and Virkon Aquatic. <i>North American Journal Of Aquaculture</i> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/naaqua/vrag011">https://doi.org/10.1093/naaqua/vrag011</a> (2026)</p> <p>Sun, H. et al. Chronic ammonia-N exposure impairs the intestinal health of the Siberian sturgeon (<i>Acipenser baerii</i> Brandt): through the pathways of oxidative stress, tight junction proteins, inflammatory factors, and intestinal microbiota. <i>Fish &amp; Shellfish Immunology</i> 173, (2026).</p> <p>Zhang, S. et al. Sturgeon roe protein hydrolysate alleviates cyclophosphamide-induced ovarian dysfunction in mice with reduced ovarian oxidative-inflammatory injury, granulosa cell apoptosis, and HPO axis-related endocrine imbalance. <i>Food &amp; Function</i> <a href="https://doi.org/10.1039/d6fo02422j">https://doi.org/10.1039/d6fo02422j</a> (2026).</p> <p>Zhang, W. et al. The role of sturgeon roe membranes and ooplasm in caviar quality evolution: mechanisms and regulatory trends. <i>Trends In Food Science &amp; Technology</i> 172, (2026).</p> <p>Zhu, H., Geng, Y., Li, Z. &amp; Chen, D. Genome-wide characterization of the caspase family genes in different sturgeons: Insights into lineage-specific expansion and immune responses. <i>Fish &amp; Shellfish Immunology</i> 173, (2026).</p> |
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