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# AFS Estuaries Section— A Successful Partnership



Texas Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve.  
Photo credit: NOAA

Since the 2004 AFS annual meeting in Madison, the Estuaries Section ([fisheriessociety.org/estuaries/](http://fisheriessociety.org/estuaries/)) has been offering travel awards to students in support of their attendance and presentations at the AFS meetings. Until 2007, the section offered two awards each year in the amount of \$500–600, although the section's small treasury was barely able to fund even these modest amounts.

In 2007, Section Past President Steve Jordan, who represents EPA's Gulf Ecology Division in the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML), proposed to SAML that they sponsor student travel awards through the Estuaries Section. This proposal was accepted, and since then, SAML has been providing \$1000 to the section each year, sponsoring two awards.

The Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML) is an organization of laboratory directors throughout the southeast, from Texas to Maryland, plus Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Panama, and Antarctica. It is one of three regional associations within the National Association of Marine Laboratories ([naml.org](http://naml.org)), along with the Western Association of Marine Laboratories and the Northeast and Great Lakes Association of Marine Laboratories. The purposes of SAML are:

- To promote the importance of research and education to the economy and society;
- To further wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources;
- To increase effectiveness of member institutions;
- To stimulate cooperation among members;
- To provide a forum for resolution of common problems at marine labs.

This partnership has been a great success, not only helping students to attend and present at AFS meetings, but also serving the missions and goals of SAML, the Estuaries Section, and AFS. The section now sponsors only one award each year, relieving the burden on its reserves, but is able to offer two additional awards through the SAML partnership. Preference for the SAML awards is given to students from schools in the SAML region (not necessarily SAML members) who are presenting a talk or poster at the AFS meeting. In addition to \$500, each student receives a plaque acknowledging the sponsor. Students for all of the section awards are selected through a competition judged by the section's Executive Committee. Interested students who are members of the Estuaries Section (\$2 – a real bargain!) should expect to receive an announcement for the 2012 awards competition by late spring or early summer. Non-member students also are eligible and should look for announcements through their institutions. 🐟

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## From the Archives

The prevalence of disease among fish in natural waters has received little attention in this country and there is a general belief that epidemics caused by infectious diseases are very exceptional under such conditions. Although heavy mortalities are reported occasionally, they are usually blamed on pollution and oxygen deficiency. Those factors are, no doubt, a frequent cause of fish mortality but the possibility of the presence of an infection disease should be no means be ignored.

*H.S. Davis, p. 102, Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting, Transaction of The American Fisheries Society, 1947*