

# SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AIS CONFERENCE

APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

Tides Folly Beach Hotel

1 Center Street

Folly Beach, SC 29439

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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**Dial-In: Tel. No.: 1-850-270-2928**

**Phone conference ID: 734 734 841#**

**Meeting ID: 263 401 650 168 92**

**Passcode: eQ9gQ9vM**

[All times stated in the agenda are in Eastern Daylight Time. \* Indicates virtual presentation]

## **TUESDAY APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

8:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks – *Matt Phillips, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FL FWC).*

8:40 Meeting Information – *Michael Kendrick, SC Department of Natural Resources*

8:50 Introductions – *All*

9:00 The SC Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program at the Department of Environmental Services. – *Julie Holling, SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES).*

9:20 Overview of aquatic invasive plants in South Carolina. – *Keith Bradley, SCDNR.*

9:40 Aquatic invasive plant management activities on the Santee Cooper Lakes. – *Chad Holbrook, Santee Cooper (a.k.a. South Carolina Public Service Authority).*

### **10:00 BREAK**

10:20 Research highlights from USFWS State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (SIANSMP) funding to the SCDNR Marine Resources Research Institute: FY2014 to the present day. – *Michael Kendrick, SCDNR.*

10:40 Impacts of Alabama bass invading South Atlantic Slope waterways. – *Mark Scott, SCDNR.*

11:00 Impacts of flathead catfish established in South Atlantic Slope Waterways. – *Kevin Kubach, SCDNR.*

11:20 Trophic impacts of invasive blue catfish in the Albemarle Sound, NC. – *Jim Morley, East Carolina University (ECU)*

**11:40 LUNCH (on your own)**

- 1:20 Tracking an invasion: How the distribution and abundance of lionfish (*Pterois* spp.) have changed along the U.S. Atlantic coast. – *Margaret Finch, SCDNR.*
- 1:40 Invasive eel swimbladder nematode, *Anguillicola crassus* research. – *Jordan Parish, SCDNR.*
- 2:00 Investigating the geographic distribution of the blue land crab, *Cardisoma guanhumi*, by leveraging citizen science. – *Daniel Sasson, SCDNR.*
- 2:20 Using community ecology, genetics, and experimental trials to understand the potential impacts of non-native crayfish in South Carolina. – *Michael Kendrick, SCDNR.*
- 2:40 Caribbean creeping crabs: Implications of the continued spread of the green porcelain crab, *Petrolisthes armatus* up the southeast US coast. – *April Blakeslee, ECU.*
- 3:00 BREAK**
- 3:20 Patterns of native and non-native host-symbiont associations in crayfish of South Carolina, USA – *Greg Rothman, SCDNR.*
- 3:40 Quantifying occupancy of non-native aquatic species in South Carolina’s coastal plain using eDNA and electrofishing. – *Catherine Masatani, Clemson University.*
- 4:00 Seasonal variation in thermal refugia use and angler participation in removal efforts of suckermouth armored catfish in San Felipe Creek, Val Verde County, Texas. \*– *Matthew Troia, University of Texas – San Antonio.*
- 4:20 The genetic legacy of a global marine invader; the Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*. – *Erik Sotka, College of Charleston.*
- 4:40 Adjourn for the day

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**WEDNESDAY APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

8:30 Opening Remarks – *Matt Phillips, FL FWC.*

8:40 Pulsing corals in Puerto Rico: The puzzle. – *Nilda Jimenez-Marrero, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.*

9:00 Update on New ANS Introductions. – *Wesley Daniel, US Geological Survey (USGS).*

9:20 USGS Aquatic Disease and Pathogen Database Update. – *Wesley Daniel, USGS.*

**9:40 BREAK**

10:15 State Reporting.

11:40 Other items – *Matt Phillips, FL FWC / Jim Page, GADNR.*

- Next Meeting (Fall 2026)

12:15 Open Discussion.

**ADJOURN**

*Afternoon free to enjoy the sights, sounds and flavors of Charleston.*