

ABSTRACT INSTRUCTIONS & EXAMPLE

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA & MISSISSIPPI CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Abstract submissions follow the Southern Division AFS format and should include presenter's personal information, the paper's title, author(s) names (presenter's name underlined), and superscript numbered references to each author's address. The body of the abstract should be 300 words or less and should include the study objectives, principal results, and conclusions. The general abstract format is given below.

Students intending to compete for Best Presentation Award (Paper/Oral) should state that they would like to compete in both the email for abstract submission and on the "presenter" line of the abstract page. Please add "Student Paper" at the end of the presenter line.

Contributed oral presentations are currently scheduled for **15 minutes** – 12 minutes for the presentation followed by a 3 minute question/answer period. Moderators will strictly enforce the time limit. Microsoft PowerPoint presentations are required for oral presentations.

Poster presentations will be encouraged due to the number of attendees at the meeting. Posters should be no larger than 36" X 44", in landscape or portrait format only. Posters will be exhibited throughout the meeting duration, and poster authors will be available at specific, scheduled times to talk about their work and answer questions.

Example Abstract Format (MS Word .doc or .docx is required):

Presenter: Kevin M. Hunt, kevin.hunt@msstate.edu, 662-325-0870, Student Paper

Title: Habitat impairment scores for Southeastern U.S. Reservoirs

Author(s): Hunt, K.M¹, J. W. Schlechte ², and L.E. Miranda ³

¹ Affiliation and address

² Affiliation and address

³ Affiliation and address

Abstract: The abstract text should be no more than 300 words. Note that the words "Presenter", "Title", "Author(s)", and "Abstract" above SHOULD NOT appear in your Microsoft Word document, they are listed above for instructional purposes only. Add "Student Paper" to your presenter line if you would like to be judged for Best Presentation Awards. **View the example on the next page.**

Any questions regarding oral and poster presentations and abstract submission should be sent to: Nathan Aycock, Program Committee Chair (nathan.aycock@wfp.ms.gov).

Thank you for your submission and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

EXAMPLE

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Variability in the reproductive biology of the Atlantic sharpnose shark, *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*, in the northern Gulf of Mexico

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Reproduction is one life history characteristic that must be understood in order to foster successful management of cartilaginous fishes. Without information regarding when individuals in a population mature and their frequency of reproduction, population demography or stock assessments cannot be adequately implemented. Recently, significant variability in the reproductive cycle several Carcharhinid sharks inhabiting the Gulf of Mexico have been observed, suggesting that the reproductive biology within this family needs to be reassessed. The Atlantic sharpnose shark, *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*, represents an ideal candidate for examining temporal fluctuations in reproductive parameters due to the relatively fast generation time of this species. The objectives of this study were 1) to provide an updated synopsis of the reproductive biology of Atlantic sharpnose sharks from the coastal waters of the northern Gulf of Mexico, 2) compare our findings with those of past studies, and 3) provide contemporary baseline data that could be used to assess the effects of anthropogenic impacts on the reproductive biology of the species. Our data demonstrate that Atlantic sharpnose sharks currently exhibit a protracted mating period, as indicated by the presence of reproductively active adults from March through October. The observed variability in the reproductive cycle of Atlantic sharpnose sharks in the northern Gulf of Mexico could be related to several factors including spatial variability and density dependent factors.