Connor J. Hughes

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EDUCATION:

University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Natural Sciences   Amherst, MA
    Bachelors of Science in in Natural Resource Conservation   May, 2020
    Concentration in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology and Conservation
    Certificate in Geographic Information Systems and Technologies
    Cumulative GPA: 3.6

Bristol County Agricultural High School   Dighton, MA
    Major in Natural Resource Management and Conservation.   June, 2016
    Cumulative GPA: 3.9

PUBLICATIONS:

Hughes, C. J. and Sutherland, C. *In Preparation.* Bathymetric variability affects nesting site selection
    in Loggerhead Sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) on Cumberland Island National Seashore, GA.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

Teaching Assistant for NRC 585: Introduction to GIS   Amherst, MA
University of Massachusetts Amherst Geosciences Department.   Sept 2017 - *Present*

- Oversees in class lab work, answers students' questions on the lab, rubrics, or ArcMap in general, troubleshoots software issues with ArcMap.
- Grades student's lab and midterm assignments using online software, providing extensive online feedback to students with incorrect answers.
- Updates lab rubrics as needed, and keeps a detailed record of areas of struggle to help focus future in class discussions

Student Leader of the Umass Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society   Amherst, MA
University of Massachusetts Amherst   Vice President 2017-2019 : President 2019-*Present*

- Organizes club events including career development workshops, guest speakers, community involvement activities, and club trips all with the intention of involving and educating students on local flora and fauna, and increasing members skills in the field.
- Leads club meetings and facilitates group discussion and student involvement
- Effectively communicates with and delegates tasks to other members of the officer team

GIS Technician Amherst, MA
University of Massachusetts Amherst Clean Energy Extension. Sept 2018-Jan 2019
- Prepared visual database of local solar potential based on provided parameters, created an interactive map that was visually appealing and easy for stakeholders to understand, and a comprehensive final table outlining solar potential by town and by site classification
- Collaborated with stakeholders to understand the projects goals and needs, met biweekly with project facilitator to reassess project goals and timeline as needed.
- Wrote up step by step workflow so that this process could be applied to other towns

Greenhouse Technician and Caretaker Dighton, MA
Bristol County Natural History Museum June 2015 - June 2016
- Care and upkeep of captive wildlife and flora associated with cooperative research, headstarting projects, and museum exhibits, including a variety of protected fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and grasses, many of which are species of special concern in the state
- Used scientific instruments including electronic scales and calipers to collect biological data, keeping detailed lab notes and records of the results
- Followed standardized biosecurity protocols put in place when dealing with lab space containing sensitive species, and safe specimen handing techniques unique to each species.

FIELD EXPERIENCE:

Turtle Telemetry Technician Amherst, MA
American Turtle Observatory Apr 2019-Sept 2019
- Monitored the bi-daily movements of 60+ individuals of three species of endangered turtles using radio telemetry: navigating difficult terrain, working independently in the field often in areas with no cell reception, in all weather conditions
- Acquired coordinates for each tracked individual three times a week using a handheld GPS unit, and recorded data regarding habitat variables, including plant community, for each individual's location. Maintained extensive online database with this project information.
- Notched and collected standardized data for any additional turtles encountered to add to the sites data base

Wildlife Technician .St. Marys, GA
Cumberland Island National Seashore May 2018 - Aug 2018
- Surveyed the 18.5 miles of beach each morning for Sea Turtle emergences, assessing each emergence, identifying species and probing the sand for a nesting chamber. Collected a genetic sample from each nest and followed standard protocols, and relocated nests laid too low on the shoreline and susceptible to washover back to the dune line
- Created and presented public education programs on sea turtles and project specifics for all ages, encouraging the public to engage with wildlife in a way that does not disrupt nesting.
- Assisted other biologists with a variety of other wildlife projects on the island, including locating and flagged gopher tortoise burrows and setting up pitfall traps for mark recapture, monitoring nesting shorebird populations of Oystercatchers Plovers and Terns, assisting in banding, and Live-Trapping raccoons and other nest predators

Fisheries Technician Sitka, AK
US Forest Service Sitka Ranger District May 2017 – Sept 2017

- Identified and counted pacific salmonid species as they were passed through a weir, marking 20% of passed sockeye salmon for recapture by clipping the adipose fin, and anesthetizing some salmonids for data collection, including sex, mass, standard length, and scale samples.
- Followed bear safety protocol, working safely in proximity with bears and other hazardous wildlife, practiced safe firearms handling techniques
- Lived in and operated remote field camp in close proximity to a team of coworkers for up to 10 days at a time, used critical thinking skills and the limited resources available in the field to solve problems on the fly, operated skiff with outboard motor and larger drop bow to commute to field sites, and communicated with forest service base and other team members using handheld radios

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PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Professional Objective: A career in wildlife ecology and conservation with a skillset focused on spatial ecology and population modeling.

Special interest in population movements and response to anthropogenic impacts including changing climate, habitat loss and fragmentation, and introduced invasive species. There are a wide variety of species that interest me, and I look to apply my skills GIS technologies and quantitative statistics (R) to help better understand any and all wildlife populations. I am however especially interested in herpetofauna and tend to focus any personal research in that area.