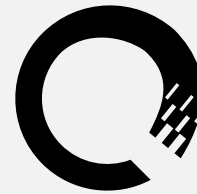# BENJAMIN D. BEST, PHD

**Environmental Data Scientist**

Currently working on automation and visualization of environmental data and scientific workflows. Seeking to continue promulgating these technical skills for solving pressing environmental problems.

## 🎓 EDUCATION

**2016**

**Ph.D. in Marine Science and Conservation**
Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke 📍 Durham, NC

Dissertation: Data to Decision in a Dynamic Ocean: Robust Species Distribution Models and Spatial Decision Frameworks

**2007**

**M.S. in Environmental Sciences**
Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke 📍 Durham, NC

Thesis: Geospatial Modeling of Habitat and Connectivity

**1998**

**B.A. in Geography, B.S. in Aquatic Biology**
University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) 📍 Santa Barbara, CA

## 💼 RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2016 | present**

**Environmental Data Scientist & Founder**
EcoQuants, LLC 📍 Santa Barbara, CA

**2021 | 2022 / 2014 – 2016**

**Lecturer (part-time)**
Masters in Environmental Data Science / Bren School of Env. Sci. & Mgmt., University of California
📍 Santa Barbara, CA

**2014 – 2016**

**Senior Analyst, Ocean Health Index**
National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis, UCSB
📍 Santa Barbara, CA

## 🖥 RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**2022**

**Machine Learning in Environmental Science**
Masters in Environmental Data Science, University of California
📍 Santa Barbara, CA

**2021**

**Team Science, Collaborative Analysis and Project Management**
Masters in Environmental Data Science, University of California
📍 Santa Barbara, CA

## CONTACT INFO

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 github.com/bbest
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## SKILLS

Instructor, trained with Software and Data Carpentry, developing webinars, 2-day workshops and semester courses in environmental data science.

Spatial ecologist expert in commercial ArcGIS and open-source R and Python techniques for environmental problem solving.

Full stack developer from system administration, cloud computing, relational database design and front-end web development.

Experienced in statistical analysis, species distribution modeling, ecological indicator development and machine learning.

*Last updated: 2023-03-17*

# 📄 RECENT RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**2022**

**Novel Marine Energy Environmental Compliance Reporting Application Summarizes Disparate Content by Tags and Location**
*Offshore Technology Conference*
Barr ZW, BD Best, WJ Peplinski, C Jones, G Chang, JD Roberts, S Kramer

**2021**

**Webenizing Condition Reports: Communicating Data-Driven Ecosystem Indicators in a Visually Engaging and Interactive Online Platform**
*National Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series*
Spector P, BD Best, J Ranganathan, T Murray, JA Brown, C Caldow, G Canonico, A DeVogelaere

**2021**

**Reef-Fish Abundance, Biomass, and Biodiversity Inside and Outside No-Take Marine Zones in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: 1999–2018**
*Oceanography*
Medina M, C Estes, BD Best, C Stallings, E Montes, L McEachron, F Muller-Karger

**2021**

**tbeptools: An R package for synthesizing estuarine data for environmental research**
*Journal of Open Source Software*
Beck MW, MN Schrandt, MR Wessel, ET Sherwood, GE Raulerson, AA Budihal, BD Best

**2021**

**Improving the IEA approach using principles of open data science**
*Coastal Management*
Bastille K, S Hardison, L DeWitt, J Brown, J Samhouri, S Gaichas, S Lucey, K Kearney, BD Best, S Cross, S Large, E Spooner

**2020**

**Data-driven approach for highlighting priority areas for protection in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction**
*Marine Policy*
Best BD, ME Visalli*, RB Cabral, W Cheung, N Clark, C Garilao, K Kaschner, ..., DJ McCauley
*\* shared first authorship*

**2019**

**Submarine Cable Analysis for U.S. Marine Renewable Energy Development**
**Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5000-71125.**
Best BD, L Kilcher