Benjamin E. Meyer

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Dedicated to excellence in natural resource management and ecological research

Areas of Experience

- Aquatic ecology, salmon biology, climate change research
- Fieldwork and logistics in remote environments
- Use and calibration of analytical equipment
- Reproducible research; science outreach

Skills and Techniques

- R programming, RStudio, Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Power Point), and ArcGIS.
- Salmonid sampling, ID, and tagging; diet and scale analysis; growth modeling.
- Water quality data collection and analysis; aquatic insect sampling and ID.
- Alaskan field operations planning, logistics, staff management, and safety.

Education

University of Alaska Fairbanks

- M.S. Fisheries (2020); Graduate G.P.A.: **3.93**
- B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and B.S. Biological Sciences (2009); Overall G.P.A.: **3.72**

Employment History

Kenai Watershed Forum

Water Quality Coordinator (Kenai, Alaska)

November 2020 – Present

Overseeing research programs in water quality monitoring and analysis, salmon habitat mapping, and conservation planning in the Kenai Peninsula area. Working with community partners and volunteers to implement sustainable practices in fisheries, water quality, and land management.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Research Technician III (Douglas, Alaska)

April 2020 – June 2020

Technician for Berner's River coho salmon smolt coded wire tag fieldwork. Independently oversaw capture and tagging of >20k out-migrating coho salmon smolt at a remote field site. Regular use of airboat, jet boat, and, and prop boat. Supervised one field technician, camp management, safety, and logistics.

Academia

Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Fairbanks, Alaska.)

Research Tech./Manager Summers 2014, 2020; Graduate Student Jan. 2015 – April. 2020

Designed, executed, and published peer-reviewed research as an M.S. student to investigate impacts of climate change on juvenile salmon habitat in the Kenai River watershed. Hired and managed multiple field and lab technicians, and conducted remote field operations. Oversaw and developed

two separate field and laboratory research projects in juvenile salmon ecology in the Yukon River watershed. Designed and taught multi-day curriculum and outreach activities for public education. Awarded "Best Student Poster" and "Best Introduction" at state-wide academic conferences.

University of Alaska Fairbanks Dept. of Biology & Wildlife (Fairbanks, Alaska.)

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

Taught two laboratory sections per semester for two courses: a.) Fundamentals of Biology II (BIOL 116) and Animal Physiology (BIOL 310). Oversaw and developed course material, graded assignments, and provided tutoring for >40 students per semester.

Institute of Arctic Biology (Fairbanks, Alaska). Held a variety of volunteer and paid positions throughout undergraduate education, including caretaker/naturalist at Large Animal Research Station, wildlife toxicology research assistant, and ground squirrel cache collector near Toolik, Alaska.

Consulting

R2 Resource Consultants (June - December 2013. Anchorage and Talkeetna, Alaska.) Surveyed and characterized aquatic productivity throughout Susitna River basin including macroinvertebrates, algae, and juvenile salmonids. Oversaw data entry, QA/QC, and sample chain of custody.

Three Parameters Plus (May 2008 - May 2009. Fairbanks, Alaska). Performed field delineation and ground-truthing of wetlands mapping in southwest Alaska using soil profiles, vegetation surveys, and water quality sampling using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers protocols.

Other

Chena Hot Shots, Gannett Glacier (Wildland Fire Crews) (May 2009 – September 2011. Fairbanks and Palmer, Alaska). Crew member, sawyer. Performed wildfire suppression under extreme conditions throughout Alaska and the lower 48 in a team environment.

US Forest Service Technology and Development Center (November 2010 – March 2011. San Dimas, California). Wildland fire science research technician. Examined and tested materials including pumps, hoses, and tools for quality prior to government contract purchase.

Selected Publications

1) **Meyer B.E.**, Wipfli M.S., Rinella D.J., Falke J., Schoen E. *Landscape setting modulates projected climate change impacts on growth rates of stream-resident juvenile salmon in the Kenai River watershed, south central Alaska*. In prep for Transactions of the American Fisheries Society.
2) **Meyer B.E.**, Wipfli M.S., Rinella D.J., Falke J., Schoen E. *Water temperature monitoring in lower stream reaches to characterize upstream thermal regimes in anadromous watersheds*. Manuscript in prep.
3) Grunblatt, J., **Meyer, B.E**., and Wipfli, M.S. 2019. *Invertebrate prey contributions to juvenile Coho Salmon diet from riparian habitats along three Alaska streams: Implications for environmental change*. Journal of Freshwater Ecology 34(1): 617-631.

4) **Meyer B.E**. 2017. *The King of Fish Book Drop: Generating Conversation and Shared Values about Salmon in Alaska.* Fisheries, 42(7): 351-352.

5) Schoen, E.R.; Wipfli, M.S., Trammell, E.J.; Rinella, D.J.; Floyd, A.; Grunblatt, J.; McCarthy, M.; **Meyer, B.E.**.; Morton, J.; Powell, J.; Prakash, A.; Reimer, M.N.; Stuefer, S.L.; Toniolo, H.; Wells, B.; Witmer, F. 2017. *Future of Pacific Salmon in the Face of Environmental Change: Lessons form One of the World's Remaining Productive Salmon Regions.* Fisheries, 42(10): 583-553.

6) Cardona-Marek T., Knott K.K., **Meyer B.E.**, O'Hara T.M. 2009. *Mercury concentrations in Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears: variation based on stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen*. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. 28(7): 1416-1424.

Other Skills and Qualifications

- Wilderness First Responder (First Aid for remote environments; 2012 - current).
- Experienced motorboat operator, including jet/prop outboards and airboats. M.O.C.C. certified (5-day Motorboat Operator Certification Course, U.S. Dept. of Interior) (expired May 2019).
- Swiftwater Rescue Certification (acquired May 2014).
- Small business owner, "Ben The Balloon Guy," family entertainment and science interpretation for young audiences.
- Professional written and spoken fluency in Spanish.
- Basic carpentry and MIG welding skills.

Selected Interviews in local media

- From biology to balloons, meet Ben the Balloon Guy. Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, October 15, 2016.
- Scientific collaboration connects humans, salmon on the Kenai. Peninsula Clarion, May 14, 2016.

Personal Activities

- Subsistence and sport fishing, cooking and food preservation, hunting, cross-country skiing, bicycling, packrafting, hiking, cooking, ukulele, travel, yoga, paragliding, gardening, bus remodeling and construction.

Volunteer Activities

- Academic conference planning/fundraising (Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society).
- Family literacy volunteer for Mat-Su Special Santa; annually acquire and distribute >5k free children's books.
- Local science fair judge and presenter at Fairbanks Children's Museum

References

Dr. Mark Wipfli, Professor

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Dr. Erik Schoen, Research Scientist

- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska
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  (907) 444-3867

Dr. Daniel Rinella, Research Scientist

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska
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