

Curriculum Vitae

Benjamin E. Meyer

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Professional Profile

I am an environmental scientist with interest in freshwater ecology, fisheries, and history. From research experience throughout Alaska in the private, academic, and nonprofit sectors, I am comfortable tackling challenges from getting home through a gale storm or learning new data analysis techniques. I am seeking opportunities to further public engagement in science, promote transparency, and access new research frontiers. Currently seeking opportunities to pursue doctorate studies.

Skills and Experience

- Aquatic ecology, freshwater fish biology, climate change research
 - Field operations and logistics in remote environments
 - Use and calibration of analytical equipment
 - Reproducible research; science outreach
 - R programming, RStudio, GitHub, Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Power Point), and ArcGIS Pro
 - Grant writing and project management
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Education

- January 2015 – April 2020
 - M.S. Fisheries, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska (co-advisors, Dr. Mark Wipfli and Dr. Daniel Rinella)
- Sept. 2003 - May 2009
 - B.S. Biological Sciences and B.S. Biochemistry, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska
- 1999-2003
 - Wasilla High School, Wasilla, Alaska

Publications

Peer-reviewed literature

Cardona-Marek, T.; Knott, 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.

Gouin, T; Wilkinson, D; Hummel, S; **Meyer, B.E.**; Culley, A. 2010. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in air and snow from Fairbanks, Alaska. *Atmospheric Pollution Research*. 1(1):9-15.

Grunblatt, J; **Meyer, B.E.**; Wipfli, M.S. 2019. Invertebrate prey contributions to juvenile Coho Salmon diet from riparian habitats along three Alaska streams: Implications for environmental change. 34(1):617:631.

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

Schoen, E.R.; Trammell, E.J.; Rinella, D.J.; Floyd, A.L.; Grunblatt, J; McCarthy, M.D.; **Meyer, B.E.**; Morton, J.M.; Powell, J.E. 2017. Future of Pacific salmon in the face of environmental change: Lessons from one of the world's remaining productive salmon regions. *Fisheries* 42(10): 538-553.

Schoen, E.R.; Sellmer, K.W.; Wipfli, M.S.; López, J.A.; Ivanoff, R; **Meyer, B.E.** 2022. Piscine predation on juvenile salmon in sub-arctic Alaskan rivers: Associations with season, habitat, predator size and streamflow. *Ecology of Freshwater Fish* 31(2):243-259.

Meyer, B.; Wipfli, M.S.; Schoen, E.R.; Rinell, D.J; Falke, J.A. 2023. Landscape characteristics influence projected growth rates of stream-resident juvenile salmon in the face of climate change in the Kenai River watershed, southcentral Alaska. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 152(2): 169-186.

Leaf, A. T., M. J. Haserodt, **B. E. Meyer**, S. M. Westenbroek, and J. C. Koch. 2024. Simulating present and future groundwater/surface-water interactions and stream temperatures in Beaver Creek, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. US Geological Survey.

*See the [Google Scholar page](#) for most current list of peer reviewed publications

Selected Technical Reports and Other Writing

Meyer, B. 2021. Status of Copper and Zinc Throughout the Kenai River Watershed. Kenai Watershed Forum. Available from <https://dec.alaska.gov/media/22967/copper-zinc-field-report-2019-2020.pdf>.

Meyer, B. 2021. 2020 Kenai Beach Bacteria Monitoring Report. Kenai Watershed Forum. Available from <https://dec.alaska.gov/media/23091/kenai-river-beach-2020-final-report.pdf>.
Theses

Meyer, B. 2020, August. Landscape Characteristics Influence Climate Change Effects on Juvenile Chinook And Coho Salmon Rearing Habitat In The Kenai River Watershed. M.S., University of Alaska Fairbanks. Available from <http://hdl.handle.net/11122/12313>.

Professional Conferences/Presentations

- American Fisheries Society
 - Alaska Chapter
 - 2015, Homer, Alaska **Best student poster (\$200)*
 - 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska
 - 2021, Virtual
 - 2024, Seward, Alaska
 - Student Division of the Alaska Chapter
 - 2015, Fairbanks, Alaska
 - 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska **Best introduction (\$100)*
 - Western Division
 - 2017, Missoula, Montana
 - 2018, Anchorage, Alaska
 - National
 - 2024, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Society for Freshwater Science
 - 2017, Raleigh, North Carolina
- National Watershed and Stormwater Conference
 - 2022, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Mat-Su Salmon Symposium
 - 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022 Palmer, Alaska
- Kachemak Bay Science Symposium
 - 2021, Homer, AK
- International River Symposium
 - Nov. 2022, Vienna, Austria (Virtual)
- Kenai River Special Management Advisory Board
 - Nov. 2022, Soldotna, Alaska
- Alaska Section of the American Water Resources Association
 - Mar. 2023, Anchorage, Alaska
- Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Science Symposium
 - April 2023, Kenai, Alaska. **Planning committee member*
- Cook Inlet Water Quality Symposium
 - October 2023, Anchorage, AK **Planning committee member*

- Alaska Statewide Watershed Workshop
 - Jan. 2024, Juneau, Alaska
 - Alaska Forum on the Environment
 - February 2024, Anchorage, Alaska
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Grants in Support of Research

- Awarded grants
 - National Science Foundation EPSCoR
 - Graduate Assistant, January 2015 – August 2017 (\$160,000)
 - Institute of Arctic Biology Summer Thesis Completion Grant
 - Student, summers 2018 & 2019 (\$20,000)
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Management Planning Grant
 - Principal investigator, January 2022 – December 2025 (\$99,000)
 - Principal investigator, October 2025 – December 2027 (\$160,000)
 - U.S. Geological Survey Climate Action Science Center (\$220,000)
 - Field coordinator, June 2022 – June 2024
 - Trout Unlimited, Embrace-a-Stream (\$7,500)
 - Principal investigator, June 2023 – December 2024
 - Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund
 - Project manager, May 2023 – May 2025 (\$30,000)
 - ConocoPhillips Alaska Community Awards
 - Project manager, May 2024 – December 2024 (\$12,000)
 - Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
 - Field coordinator, August 2024 – August 2026 (\$14,000)
 - National Coastal Resilience Fund
 - Project manager, March 2025 – December 2027 (\$550,000)
 - Managed Grants
 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 - Principal investigator, January 2021 – August 2022 (\$100,000)
 - Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund
 - Co-principal investigator, January 2021 – Oct. 2023 (\$60,000)
 - Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
 - Interim coordinator and principal editor, June 2022 – July 2023 (\$85,000)
 - Trout Unlimited, Embrace-a-Stream (\$10,000)
 - Principal investigator, June 2021 – December 2023
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Invited Reviewer

- North Pacific Fisheries Research Board, grants reviewer
- Scientific Reports, manuscript reviewer

Honors/Awards

- Nicholas Hughes Memorial Scholarship (\$2000)
 - University of Alaska Fairbanks Creative Writing Tuition Scholarship (\$5000)
 - Usibelli Honors Student scholarship (\$2000)
 - Flint Hills undergraduate research grant (\$5000)
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Employment History

Nonprofit Sector

Research Coordinator, Kenai Watershed Forum, Soldotna, AK

November 2020 – Present

Develop and oversee programs in water quality monitoring, fish habitat research, and conservation planning. Develop reproducible workflows for data management, analysis, and visualization. Project development and grant writing; management of interns, volunteers, and community partners. Independently managed and secured over \$950k in funding from public & private sources.

Academic and Government Sectors

Research Technician III, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Douglas, AK

April 2020 – June 2020

Technician for Berner's River coho salmon smolt coded wire tagging project. Independently oversaw capture and tagging of >20k 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.

Graduate Assistant/Research Technician, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Jan. 2015 – April. 2020

Fairbanks, Alaska

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. 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.

*Teaching Assistant, University of Alaska Fairbanks Dept. of Biology and Wildlife,
Fairbanks, AK*

Jan. 2018 – Dec. 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.

Technician, University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Arctic Biology, Fairbanks, AK

2004 – 2009

Held a variety of volunteer and paid positions throughout undergraduate education, including caretaker/naturalist at Large Animal Research Station, wildlife toxicology research assistant, and paleoecology field assistant.

Scientific Consulting

Technician, R2 Resource Consultants, Anchorage, Alaska

June 2013 – Dec 2013

Surveyed and characterized aquatic productivity throughout Susitna River basin for a hydroelectric baseline assessment. Fieldwork addressed macroinvertebrates, juvenile salmonids and instream flow. Oversaw data entry, QA/QC, and sample chain of custody.

Technician, Three Parameters Plus, Fairbanks, Alaska

2008 – 2009

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

Crew member, Chena Hot Shots, Gannett Glacier (Wildland Fire), Fairbanks / Palmer, AK

2009 - 2011

Performed wildfire suppression under extreme conditions throughout Alaska and the lower 48 in a team environment.

Technician, US Forest Service Technology and Development Center, San Dimas, CA

November 2010 – March 2011

Wildland fire science research technician. Examined and tested materials including pumps, hoses, and tools for quality prior to government contract purchase

Current Professional Affiliations

- American Fisheries Society
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Volunteer Activities

- Youth XC ski coach; Tsalteshi Trails Youth Ski Program (2021 -2023); Skiku (2024 – present)
 - Board member and activity leader, Kenai Peninsula Trout Unlimited (2022 – present)
 - Organizer, Alaska State Fair Giant Cabbage Limerick contest (2018 -present)
 - Family entertainment (balloon art) at community events (Pioneers Home, Health Fairs)
 - AK Special Santa program; librarian
 - Financial data analysis for Mindful Living Collective, Soldotna-based local foods co-op startup
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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).
 - Professional written and spoken fluency in Spanish.
 - Basic carpentry and MIG welding skills.
 - Yoga Instructor (200 hr YTT, Zuna Yoga, Dec. 2024)
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Selected Media Appearances

- **From Biology to Balloons, meet Ben the Balloon Guy.** Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, October 16, 2016. https://www.newsminer.com/features/sundays/community_features/from-biology-to-balloons-meet-ben-the-balloon-guy/article_b70ea37e-926b-11e6-9f2f-07d9722ab295.html
- **As local streams warm, cold water inputs could be crucial for salmon.** KDLL Public Radio, August 25, 2021. <https://www.kdll.org/local-news/2021-08-25/as-local-streams-warm-cold-water-inputs-could-be-crucial-for-salmon>.

- **Stream by stream, volunteers map the Kenai Peninsula's anadromous waters.** KDLL Public Radio, September 7, 2022. <https://alaskapublic.org/2022/09/07/stream-by-stream-volunteers-map-the-kenai-peninsulas-anadromous-waters/>.
 - **Kenai River gets spring check-up.** KDLL Public Radio, May 16, 2022. <https://www.kdll.org/local-news/2022-05-16/river-monitoring>
 - **'They don't necessarily look like salmon habitat'; Kenai Watershed Forum maps the Peninsula's anadromous waters.** KDLL Public Radio, September 18, 2023. <https://www.kdll.org/local-news/2023-09-18/they-dont-necessarily-look-like-a-salmon-habitat-kenai-watershed-forum-maps-the-peninsulas-anadromous-waters>
 - **Kenai Conversation: Mapping anadromous waters.** KDLL Public Radio, November 15, 2023. <https://www.kdll.org/podcast/kenai-conversation/2023-11-15/kenai-conversation-mapping-anadromous-waters>.
 - **Kenai Conversation: Three in the Far North.** KDLL Public Radio, November 29, 2023. <https://www.kdll.org/podcast/kenai-conversation/2023-11-29/kenai-conversation-three-in-the-far-north>.
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References

Dr. Mark Wipfli, Professor

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Dr. Erik Schoen, Research Scientist

- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska
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Dr. Daniel Rinella, Research Scientist

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