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Benjamin Meyer

Letter of Interest to Potential PhD Advisors

CONTACT

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March 21, 2023

To potential doctoral advisors,

After fifteen years of a career in Alaska focused on aquatic ecology and natural resources in the nonprofit, academic, and private sectors, I am seeking to leverage my experiences by pursuing doctorate studies.

Ideally, a PhD position will allow the opportunity to build on my existing connections throughout the community of people focused on research and conservation of freshwater habitat for fish and wildlife, and the human connections throughout. If you are looking for a dedicated student with strong communication skills focused on how we may balance the needs of watershed health and society, please consider my attached resume.

My master's work through University of Alaska Fairbanks (co-advisors Dr. Mark Wipfli and Dr. Daniel Rinella) focused on salmon habitat and climate change and resulted in a peer-reviewed manuscript publication. For PhD studies I am interested to examine how communities can become empowered to apply research that addresses local watershed conservation concerns, such as fish habitat mapping and water quality monitoring. I have a proven record of distilling complex challenges into concrete results. Given the opportunity, I am confident in my ability to achieve similarly as part of your team.

I have attached my CV and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how our interests align. Additional details are also available on my website. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone to arrange a meeting. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Meyer

Curriculum Vitae

Benjamin E. Meyer

580 Devray St
Kenai, Alaska 99611

(907) 232-0280 | benjamin.meyer.ak@gmail.com | www.benjamin-meyer.net

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 whether they be 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, salmon biology, climate change research
 - Field operations and logistics in remote environments
 - Use and calibration of analytical equipment
 - Reproducible research; science outreach
 - R programming, RStudio, Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Power Point), and ArcGIS
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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.

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

Public Technical Reports

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>.

Conferences/Presentations

- Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
 - 2015, Homer, Alaska **Best student poster (\$200)*
 - 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska
 - 2021, Virtual
 - Western Division of the American Fisheries Society
 - 2017, Missoula, Montana
 - 2018, Anchorage, Alaska
 - Student Division of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
 - 2015, Fairbanks, Alaska
 - 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska **Best introduction (\$100)*
 - 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
 - Kenai River Special Management Advisory Board
 - Nov. 2022, Soldotna, Alaska
 - Alaska Section of the American Water Resources Association
 - Mar. 2023, 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 2023 (\$99,000)
 - U.S. Geological Survey Climate Action Science Center (\$220,000)
 - Field coordinator, June 2022 – June 2024
 - Trout Unlimited, Embrace-a-Stream (\$10,000)
 - Principal investigator, June 2021 – December 2023
 - 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 – present (\$85,000)
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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

Water Quality Coordinator, Kenai Watershed Forum, Soldotna, AK

November 2020 – Present

Oversee ongoing 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.

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 tag fieldwork. 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 including macroinvertebrates, algae, and juvenile salmonids. 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

Professional Affiliations

- Center for Watershed Protection
- American Fisheries Society

Volunteer Activities

- Tsalteshi Trails Youth Ski Program, coach
- Board member and activity leader, Kenai Peninsula Trout Unlimited
- Family entertainment (balloon art) at community events (Alaska Pioneers Home, Health Fairs, etc.)
- AK Special Santa program; librarian

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.

References

Dr. Mark Wipfli, Professor

- University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska
mwipfli@gmail.com
(907) 388-9544

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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