

Benjamin A. Staton, PhD

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
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EDUCATION

2016–2019	PhD in Fisheries Management, Auburn University
2014–2016	MSc in Fisheries Management, Auburn University
2009–2013	BSc in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and Management (with Honors), Michigan State University

EXPERIENCE

2019–Present	Quantitative Fisheries Scientist
CRITFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop salmon life cycle models
Portland, OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the likely impacts of habitat restoration on juvenile salmon survival
Dr. Seth White	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide general quantitative support for fisheries analyses
2016–2019	Graduate Research Assistant (PhD)
Auburn University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed simulation models for use in salmon management strategy evaluations
Auburn, AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessed the reliability and utility of salmon run timing forecast models
Dr. Matt Catalano	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simulation-tested hierarchical Bayesian models for multi-stock spawner-recruit analysis• Assessed methods for updating estimates of salmon run size using Bayesian inference• Built an interactive tool to allow managers and stakeholders to evaluate risks and trade-offs of harvesting based on the most current run assessment information• Extensive use of programs R, JAGS, and BUGS for specifying and fitting models• Presented research findings to subsistence fishery stakeholders, area biologists, and managers and lead these groups through participatory modeling exercises• Aided in teaching population dynamics and quantitative fisheries assessment courses
2016–2019	Pathways Student
Yukon Delta NWR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produced daily assessments of incoming salmon runs and distribute to all interested parties
USFWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed and applied methods to estimate effort and harvest in subsistence fishery openings
Bethel, AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as a technical advisor to the federal in-season harvest manager
Dr. Lew Coggins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked closely with state and tribal management organizations• Frequently presented findings from run assessments including run size estimates, harvest estimates, and risk analyses to decision-makers and stakeholders
2014–2015	Graduate Research Assistant (MSc)
Auburn University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tested the sensitivity of integrated Bayesian population models for stock assessment
Auburn, AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted age-structured spawner-recruit analyses for Alaska Chinook salmon stocks
Dr. Matt Catalano	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a habitat-based model for deriving biological reference points for data-poor stocks• Assisted other graduate students with field, laboratory, and statistical work
2013 May–Oct	Fisheries Field Technician
Indiana DNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aided in standardized fish sampling of reservoirs and streams
Martinsville, IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use boat and tow-barge electrofishers, gill nets, and trap nets
Rhett Wisener	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed other tasks as needed: data entry, scale pressing/aging, and gear maintenance
2012 Jun–Aug	Undergraduate Research Assistant (NSF-REU)
Marine Sci. Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sampled fish and invertebrates with bottom trawls on coastal vessels
Port Aransas, TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extracted, embedded, sectioned, photographed, and measured otoliths
Dr. Ben Walther	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compiled and organized data and conducted statistical analyses

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

In Review	B. Connors, M. Siegle, J. Harding, S. Rossi, B.A. Staton , M. Jones, M. Bradford, R. Brown, W. Bechtol, B. Doherty, S. Cox, and B. Sutherland. Chinook salmon population diversity contributes to fishery stability and trade-offs with mixed-stock harvest. Submitted for review to <i>Ecological Applications</i> Nov 2021, revision submitted Feb 2022
In Press	A. Bass, A. Bateman, B. Connors, B.A. Staton , E. Rondeau, G. Mordecai, A. Teffer, K. Kaukinen, S. Li, A. Tabata, D. Patterson, S. Hinch, and K. Miller. Identification of infectious agents in early marine Chinook and coho salmon associated with cohort survival. <i>FACETS</i> . Accepted Feb 2022 ↗ P.F. Galbreath, B.A. Staton , H.M. Nuetzel, C.A. Stockton, C.M. Knudsen, L.R. Medeiros, I.J. Koch, W.J. Bosch, and A.L. Pierce. Precocious maturation of hatchery-raised spring Chinook salmon as age-2 minijacks is not detectably affected by sire age. <i>Transactions of the American Fisheries Society</i> . ↗
2022	B.A. Staton , C. Justice, S. White, E.R. Sedell, L.A. Burns, and M.J. Kaylor. Accounting for uncertainty when estimating drivers of imperfect detection: An integrated approach illustrated with snorkel surveys for riverine fishes. <i>Fisheries Research</i> , 249:106209. ↗
2021	B.A. Staton , M.J. Catalano, S.J. Fleischman, and J. Ohlberger. Incorporating demographic information into spawner–recruit analyses alters biological reference point estimates for a western Alaska salmon population. <i>Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i> , 78(12):1755–1769. ↗ M.J. Kaylor, C. Justice, J.B. Armstrong, B.A. Staton , L.A. Burns, E. Sedell, and S.M. White. Temperature, emergence phenology and consumption drive seasonal shifts in fish growth and production across riverscapes. <i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i> , 90(7):1727–1741. ↗
2020	B.A. Staton , M.J. Catalano, B.M. Connors, L.G. Coggins Jr., M.L. Jones, C.J. Walters, S.J. Fleischman, and D.C. Gwinn. Evaluation of methods for spawner-recruit analysis in mixed-stock Pacific salmon fisheries. <i>Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i> , 77(7):1149–1162. ↗ B.M. Connors, B.A. Staton , L.G. Coggins Jr., C.J. Walters, M.L. Jones, M.J. Catalano, D.C. Gwinn, and S.J. Fleischman. Incorporating harvest – population diversity trade-offs into harvest policy analyses of salmon management in large river basins. <i>Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i> , 77(6):1076–1089. ↗
2019	B.A. Staton and M.J. Catalano. Bayesian information updating procedures for Pacific salmon run size indicators: Evaluation in the presence and absence of auxiliary migration timing information. <i>Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i> , 76(10):1719–1727. ↗ A.P. Moses, B.A. Staton , and N.J. Smith. Migratory patterns of Chinook salmon bound for the Kwethluk and Kisaralik Rivers using radio telemetry, 2015–2016. Submitted to the <i>Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management</i> , 10(2):419–431. ↗
2017	B.A. Staton , M.J. Catalano, T.M. Farmer, A. Abebe, and F.S. Dobson. Development and evaluation of a migration timing forecast model for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. <i>Fisheries Research</i> , 194:9–21. ↗ D.A. Dippold, G.D. Adams, T.M. Farmer, and B.A. Staton . Maximize your meeting: A student’s guide to AFS meetings. <i>Fisheries</i> , 42(4):187–189. ↗ B.A. Staton , M.J. Catalano, and S.J. Fleischman. From sequential to integrated Bayesian analyses: Exploring the continuum with a Pacific salmon spawner-recruit model. <i>Fisheries Research</i> , 186:237–247. ↗ L.M. White, M.E. Meade, and B.A. Staton . Physiological ecology of four endemic Alabama species and the exotic Asiatic weatherfish, <i>Misgurnus anguillicaudatus</i> (Cantor, 1842). <i>Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings</i> , 1(57). ↗

GREY LITERATURE PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 **B.A. Staton.** Improving the Kuskokwim in-season salmon harvest estimation workflow. Project summary report, Quantitative Ecological Services, LLC, Portland, OR, Nov. [↗](#)
- S. White, C. Justice, L. Burns, **B. Staton**, and M. Kaylor. Assessing the status and trends of spring Chinook habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde River and Catherine Creek: annual report 2020. Technical Report 21-02, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Portland, OR, Apr. [↗](#)
- 2020 S. White, C. Justice, L. Burns, **B. Staton**, D. Graves, and M. Kaylor. Assessing the status and trends of spring Chinook habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde River and Catherine Creek: annual report 2019. Technical Report 20-04, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Portland, OR, Apr. [↗](#)
- 2019 B.M. Connors, L.G. Coggins Jr., **B.A. Staton**, M.L. Jones, C.J. Walters, and D.C. Gwinn. Harvest-population diversity tradeoffs for Kuskokwim Chinook. Final project report submitted to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative, Jul. [↗](#)
- B.A. Staton.** *Development and evaluation of assessment tools and management strategies for salmon fisheries in western Alaska*. PhD thesis, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, May. [↗](#)
- M.J. Catalano, **B.A. Staton**, L.G. Coggins Jr., M.L. Jones, and Z. Liller. In-season management policies for kuskokwim chinook. Final project report submitted to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative, Apr. [↗](#)
- 2018 **B.A. Staton.** In-season harvest and effort estimates for 2018 Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fisheries during block openers. Project summary report, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bethel, AK. [↗](#)
- B.A. Staton.** *Intro to R for Natural Resource Scientists*. [↗](#)
- M.J. Catalano and **B.A. Staton.** Run timing forecast models for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. Final project report submitted to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative. [↗](#)
- B.A. Staton.** In-season Chinook salmon Bayesian risk assessment tool: Technical documentation. [↗](#)
- B.A. Staton.** In-season Chinook salmon Bayesian risk assessment tool: User manual. [↗](#)
- 2017 **B.A. Staton** and L.G. Coggins Jr. In-season harvest and effort estimates for 2017 Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fisheries during block openers. Project summary report, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bethel, AK. [↗](#)
- 2016 **B.A. Staton** and L.G. Coggins Jr. In-season harvest and effort estimates for 2016 Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fisheries during block openers. Project summary report, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bethel, AK. [↗](#)
- M.J. Catalano, **B.A. Staton**, T.M. Farmer, D.C. Gwinn, and S.J. Fleischman. Evaluating assessment strategies for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. Final project report submitted to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative. [↗](#)
- 2015 **B.A. Staton.** Assessment strategies for data-limited Chinook salmon stocks of Western Alaska. Master's thesis, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, Dec. [↗](#)
- B.A. Staton**, M.J. Catalano, L.G. Coggins, D.C. Gwinn, and B. Bechtol. Description of the Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon run reconstruction and an investigation of data weighting. Technical report, Invited Independent Model Review Team. [↗](#)
- 2014 **B.A. Staton**, M.J. Catalano, and S.J. Fleischman. Overview of the Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon stock assessment and the application of a Bayesian state-space run reconstruction with integrated stock-recruitment productivity. Semi-annual report for funding agency AYK SSI

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2021** Grande Ronde spring Chinook life cycle model: Model update/overview. Grande Ronde Model Watershed Life Cycle Modeling and Restoration Scenarios Workshop, Nov
Grande Ronde spring Chinook life cycle model: update and overview. Invited Presentation to Grande Ronde Model Watershed ATLAS Implementation Team, Feb
- 2020** A hierarchical approach to joint estimation of juvenile salmonid abundance and probability of detection. Annual Oregon Chapter AFS Meeting, Bend, OR, Mar
Rethinking methods for quantifying snorkel survey detection efficiency. CRITFC Brown Bag Seminar, Portland, OR, Feb
- 2019** State-space models for estimating sub-population diversity in mixed-stock Pacific salmon fisheries. Annual National AFS Meeting, Reno, NV, Sep
Development and evaluation of assessment tools and management strategies for salmon fisheries in western Alaska. Departmental Exit Seminar, Auburn, AL, May
- 2018** The expected value of information for intra-annual harvest management in Pacific salmon fisheries. Annual National AFS Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ, Aug
Evaluation of several approaches to Bayesian updating of pre-season indicators of run strength in Pacific salmon fisheries. Annual Western Division AFS Meeting, Anchorage, AK, May
Development and evaluation of a migration timing forecast model for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. Annual Western Division AFS Meeting, Anchorage, AK, May
A decision support tool for considering Kuskokwim Chinook salmon harvest targets during the run. A presentation to Kuskokwim River Salmon Managers, Bethel, AK, Apr
- 2017** Problems and solutions in the assessment of mixed-stock salmon fisheries. Invited Guest Speaker, Quantitative Group Seminar Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC., Dec
In-season simulation models for assessing the potential value of information for community-based monitoring activities in the Kuskokwim River: Part Two. NCEAS Working Group Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, Oct
Evaluation of several approaches to Bayesian updating of pre-season indicators of run strength in Pacific salmon fisheries. Annual National AFS Meeting, Tampa, FL, Aug
In-season simulation models for assessing the potential value of information for community-based monitoring activities in the Kuskokwim River: Part One. NCEAS Working Group Meeting, Bethel, AK, May
Run timing forecast models for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon and their utility for in-season management. Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop, Bethel, AK, May
In-season simulation models for harvest strategy evaluation and participatory modeling exercises: Part Three. Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop, Bethel, AK, May
Development and evaluation of a migration timing forecast model for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. Annual Southern Division AFS Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK, Feb
- 2016** In-season simulation models for harvest strategy evaluation and participatory modeling exercises: Part Two. Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop, Bethel, AK, Dec
In-season simulation models for harvest strategy evaluation and participatory modeling exercises: Part One. Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop, Bethel, AK, Feb
Estimation of stock-specific productivity to assess trade-offs in mixed-stock Pacific salmon fisheries. Joint Meeting of the AL and GA AFS State Chapters, Columbus, GA, Feb
- 2015** Assessment strategies for data-limited Chinook salmon stocks of western Alaska. Departmental Exit Seminar, Auburn, AL, Dec
Evaluation of a Bayesian state-space stock assessment model for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. Annual National AFS Meeting, Portland, OR, Aug
A Bayesian state-space run reconstruction for Kuskokwim Chinook salmon. Kuskokwim Area Interagency Meeting, Bethel, AK, Mar
Development and evaluation of a habitat-based model for Chinook salmon in Alaska. Graduate Student Research Symposium, Dauphin Island, AL, Mar
- 2014** Stock assessment in data-limited situations: An integrated run reconstruction with spawner-recruit analysis for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon. Annual AK Chapter AFS Meeting, Juneau, AK, Oct

GRANTS & AWARDS

2021–2023	Kuskokwim Salmon In-Season Harvest Predictive Tools. Awarded to Quantitative Ecological Services, LLC by the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative, Administered Under Bering Sea Fisherman's Association Project AC-2016; \$57,070
2021	Improving the Kuskokwim In-Season Salmon Harvest Estimation Workflow. Awarded to Quantitative Ecological Services, LLC by the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Administered Under Bering Sea Fisherman's Association Projects AC-2101 and AC-2105; \$20,328
2018	Swingle Award for Best PhD Student, Auburn University School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences
2016–2018	Run Timing Forecast Models for Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon. Awarded to M. J. Catalano, B. A. Staton, and T. M. Farmer by the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative; \$110,478
2014–2018	Travel funds to conduct graduate work by participating in meetings, scientific conferences, and working groups. Auburn University; \$15,000+
2014–2018	Three separate travel awards to present research at scientific conferences. Auburn Chapter of the American Fisheries Society; \$500
2015	Swingle Award for Best MSc Student, Auburn University School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences
2013	Graduated with Honors from Michigan State University with a BSc (GPA 3.91) Niles R. Kevern Scholarship for Excellence in Undergraduate Studies in Fisheries and Wildlife

TEACHING

2022	
<i>Sole Instructor</i>	Intro Topics in Bayesian Inference, Annual MTAFS Virtual Meeting, March (4)
2021	
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, Annual WDAFS Virtual Meeting, May (16)
2020	
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, Annual AFS Virtual Meeting, Sep (16)
2019	
<i>Sole Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, CRITFC Main Office, Portland, OR, Nov (16*)
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, Annual National AFS Meeting, Reno, NV, Sep (16)
2018	
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	Intro to R for Natural Resource Scientists, Auburn University, AL, Autumn (12)
<i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Bayesian Methods in Biology, Auburn University, Sep (3)
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, Annual National AFS Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ, Aug (16)
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Fish Population Dynamics, Auburn University, Spring (12)
2017	
<i>Sole Instructor</i>	Intro to R for Natural Resource Scientists, Auburn University, AL, Autumn (12)
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, Annual National AFS Meeting, Tampa, FL, Aug (16)
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Quantitative Assessment of Fish Populations, Auburn University, Spring (12)
<i>Co-instructor</i>	Graphing and Fisheries Modeling with R, Southern Division AFS Meeting, Feb (8)
2016	
<i>Sole Instructor</i>	Intro to R for Natural Resource Scientists, Auburn University, AL, Autumn (12)
<i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Bayesian Methods in Biology, Auburn University, Sep (3)
<i>Lead Instructor</i>	BUGS/JAGS for Fish Biologists, Annual National AFS Meeting, Kansas City, MO, Aug (16)
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Fish Population Dynamics, Auburn University, Spring (12)
2015	
<i>Sole Instructor</i>	Intro to R for Natural Resource Scientists, Auburn University, AL, Autumn (12) & Spring (10)
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Intro to BUGS for Fish Biologists, Annual National AFS Meeting, Portland, OR, Aug (8)
<i>Guest Lecturer</i>	Bayesian Methods for Salmon Stock Assessment, Auburn University, AL, Mar (3)
2014	
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Intro to R in Fisheries, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, AL (8)

*Numbers in parentheses represent the total hours of active instruction