

Young Professional Spotlight

Young Professional members of AIFRB represent the next generation of leaders in fisheries science and management. Through *Briefs* and our social media platforms we will be highlighting our Young Professionals as a way to introduce them to the full membership and create opportunities for collaborations. AIFRB's Young Professional Representative, Connor Capizzano (connor.capizzano001@umb.edu), will be showcasing a new Young Professional each month through a series of biographical interviews. This month's Young Professional Spotlight features **Dr. William Goldsmith, Capital District and Senior Associate at Lenfest Ocean Program.**

Dr. William Goldsmith – Capital District



What is your current position, with what company/organization, and what do you do?

In February 2019, I joined the Lenfest Ocean Program in Washington, DC, as a Senior Associate. The Lenfest Ocean Program is a grantmaking program within The Pew Charitable Trusts that supports scientists to conduct policy- and management- relevant ocean and coastal research. In my new role, I work with Lenfest grantees to broaden the impact of their work on decision-making through outreach with key managers, policymakers, stakeholders and more.

Where did you go to school, and what helped pave your way to your current position?

I graduated from Harvard University with a B.A. in History in 2010, and completed my Ph.D. at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, in January 2018. My graduate research used a combination of satellite telemetry and econometric modeling to better understand the biological impacts and human dimensions of the recreational Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery along the U.S. east coast. Over the course of this work, which involved a high degree of collaboration with both fishery managers and bluefin tuna fishermen, I became increasingly interested in helping to connect fisheries science both with those making relevant policy and management decisions and with stakeholders who could be impacted. As a result, following my Ph.D. I completed a Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship in the office of Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) working on a variety of issues, including fisheries policy on both local and national scales. Once I completed my fellowship in Senator Markey's office, I began my current position with Lenfest.

What is the focus of your research and/or work?

At Lenfest, I coordinate outreach activities for numerous projects conducting critical fisheries science research, including using genomics to infer population structure and exploitation history, exploring how species distribution and management will be affected by climate change, and developing ecological reference points for forage fish. Throughout the research process, I work closely with project grantees to develop strategies that will ensure that their work makes it to the appropriate audiences and has the maximum possible impact. Examples of outreach activities include



developing and hosting webinars, arranging for visits with policymakers on Capitol Hill, and tracking project impacts.

How does your research apply to fishery management—local, state or federal?

A key goal of all Lenfest-funded projects is that the research conducted is taken into account during the management or policymaking process. Once such research is funded, I and the rest of Lenfest’s outreach team work to connect the science being done by project grantees to fishery managers at the relevant scale. While many fisheries scientists are interested in seeing their work being used to inform policy, they often simply don’t have the time or resources to engage with the relevant audiences to do so. That’s where we come in.



Senator Ed Markey (D-MA; left) and Dr. William Goldsmith (right)

What got you started studying fisheries?

I’ve been passionate about fish and fisheries for as long as I can remember. As a lifetime recreational angler, I grew up fishing along the shores of the Charles River in downtown Boston and on groundfish party boats in Gloucester, MA, and was always fascinated by both the diversity of fish species and the variety of environments in which they were able to make a living. Equally intriguing to me were the communities that developed around fisheries resources, and the tensions that existed between those resource users and managers. I endeavored to work toward better understanding the science of fisheries while improving the levels of collaboration and trust among scientists, fishermen, and managers.

What do you enjoy most about being a fishery scientist?

In my role at Lenfest, I am grateful for the opportunity to learn about the exciting empirical research that is being conducted by leading fisheries scientists, while also affording those scientists with an opportunity to advance their research in the policy sphere. In general, I also very much enjoy interfacing with stakeholders—the resource users—whether through using their views and knowledge to scope initial project ideas, conducting collaborative research, or working with them advance management activities supported by research.

What drew you to AIFRB, and what does AIFRB do for you?

I first joined AIFRB during the 2017 American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL, where I was struck by the strong sense of collegiality and mutual support among members. I was also pleasantly surprised to learn that many of my fisheries colleagues were already AIFRB members, which made joining an easy choice! Since then, I’ve been grateful to have my AIFRB membership as a tool for further strengthening my network and laying the groundwork for future collaborations with fellow AIFRB members.

Please contact William (wgoldsmith@lenfestocean.org) to continue the conversation!