# 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 new Young Professionals throughout the year using a series of biographical interviews. This month's Young Professional Spotlight features **Brian Galvez**, **Capital District** and **Environmental Review Coordinator** at **Delaware Fish and Wildlife** in **Dover, DE**.

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## *Brian Galvez – Capital District*

***What is your current position, with what company/organization, and what is the focus of your research/work?***
I currently work as an Environmental Review Coordinator for Delaware Fish and Wildlife. The primary responsibilities of my position are to review development projects – industrial, commercial or individual – and coordinate with the appropriate biologists within state and federal agencies to provide recommendations about how permittees can minimize their environmental impacts with regards to rare, threatened, and endangered species. Ultimately, the focus of this position is to scrutinize projects through an ecologist lens to help protect federally listed species under the ESA, Delaware species of greatest conservation need, and key wildlife habitat documented in the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan.

***Where did you receive your education, and what helped pave your way to your current position?***
I received my BS in Marine Fisheries Biology in 2014 from Humboldt State University and my MS in Natural Resources in May 2019 from Delaware State University (DSU). Between degrees, I gained a great mix of experience in San Diego, CA as a marine scientist for the environmental consultant Tierra Data, and as a research technician for Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute. In 2017, I found an excellent opportunity for a funded masters degree at DSU with the NOAA-Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC). The LMRCSC proved to be an excellent opportunity to perform quality research, attend conferences, network with fisheries professionals, and gain relevant work experience via internships, workshops, and field work. I think the culmination of my education, work experience, and my graduate research helped put me in the position I have today.

***How does your work apply to, or influence, fishery management (e.g., stock assessments, sportfishing, commercial regulations, habitat protection, etc.)?***
Many of the projects that I review are permit applications for a variety in-water projects. For these projects, the recommendations that I coordinate with the state fisheries biologists are typically incorporated as stipulations of each permit, of which typically pertain to ASMFC managed species. I also comment on federal consistency projects under the Coastal Zone Management Act that relate to federal fisheries management activities such as NMFS fishery amendments and Army Corps state programmatic general permits.

***What is your professional outlook for fisheries management? In other words, what will the future of fisheries management look like 10-20 years from now. What are we doing correctly, what needs to be improved (e.g., in research, policy, education)?***
In my opinion, U.S. fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act is functioning as it was intended, and I believe that the transparent stakeholder engagement process is essential to continuing the positive outcomes that the fisheries community has achieved.

At this point in my career, my professional outlook for fisheries management is that ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) is going to be well established and increasingly informed by technology. I envision a future where the toughest fisheries questions will be answered by eDNA, compound-specific stable isotope analysis, artificial intelligence, autonomously operated vehicles, and machine learning.

The future of fisheries management under the EBFM system is the logical next step to recovering depleted fish stocks and aquatic habitats around the country and the world. One of the ways to increase the efficacy of EBFM is through improving interagency and interdisciplinary fisheries research collaborations. However, even though fisheries investigations can inform management, I think that young fishery professionals need to get more involved in the regulatory processes of our local and state land use practices, as these are important but often overlooked contributors to fisheries resources.

***What is the importance of young fishery professionals today and for the future of fishery management?***
Today, young fishery professionals face unique challenges unforeseen by the biologists who came before us. We carry with us the innovative solutions and ideas to face these challenges, bringing a modern point of view that I think will help answer the unsolved fisheries questions from previous generations. Nevertheless, it's our responsibility to continue the success of the MSA, increase its effectiveness, and dedicate our careers to advancing fisheries science.

***What drew you to AIFRB, and what does AIFRB do for you and what can it do for other young professionals in this field?***
I learned about AIFRB at the 2018 AFS annual meeting in Atlantic City. I inquired about the organization at the trade booth and was quickly acquainted with AIFRB and the members who represent it. I joined for two important reasons: 1. it's potential for networking within the fisheries community and 2. because it's dedicated to promoting fisheries science and the individuals who advance it. Through its access, awards, and dedication to the fisheries community, young professionals can make a name for themselves through showcasing their achievements via AIFRB events and spotlights like these.

**Please contact Brian (briangalvez427@gmail.com) to continue the conversation!**