

## 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](mailto: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 **Ryan Logan, Florida District and PhD student at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL.**

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### *Ryan Logan – Florida District*



***What is your current position, with what company/organization, and what is the focus of your research/work?***

I am currently a PhD student in the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, and a Research Associate with the Guy Harvey Research Institute, both at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. My dissertation investigates the long-term movements, fine-scale behavior and trophic ecology of the blue marlin, black marlin and sailfish in the eastern tropical Pacific, based out of Panama.

***Where did you receive your education, and what helped pave your way to your current position?***

I graduated from the University of Hawaii in 2013 with a B.S. in Marine Biology, and completed a research based internship at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, FL shortly thereafter. From there, I obtained my M.S. in Biology from California State University Long Beach where I tracked three species of important recreational gamefish on an artificial reef. Being from Colorado originally with no scientists in my family, I never saw myself becoming a doctor of marine biology. But it was the support of my family, in addition to all of the PhD students I assisted in Hawaii, my internship supervisor in FL and my graduate advisor in CA who all pushed me to become a better scientist, are without a doubt the reason I am currently pursuing my own PhD.

***How does your work apply to, or influence, fishery management (e.g., stock assessments, sportfishing, commercial regulations, habitat protection, etc.)?***

The Eastern Tropical Pacific is widely considered to be one of the world's best sportfishing locations for my study species. As such, substantial recreational fishing effort has developed in the region, contributing significantly to local economies which have a vested interest in conserving the fishery. In addition, these are all highly migratory species which are likely interacting with commercial fishing gear regularly, and being caught as bycatch. The findings from my



research will go directly toward improving knowledge of the species in the region, and how to best guide management and conservation strategies for these billfish and their ecosystem.



***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)?***

While working in the education department at the Waikiki Aquarium in Hawaii, I was always astounded at how little people knew about the ocean and the life in it, let alone something as complex as fisheries management, so easy-to-understand education is paramount. In general, fisheries management and enforcement in the United States should largely be viewed as exemplary for other countries looking to improve their fisheries, but I think we could be doing better at educating people from a young age the importance of the ocean and the resources gained from it. I believe organizations focused on fishing transparency (e.g. Global Fishing Watch) will become fundamental to fisheries management as we try to tackle overfishing on a global scale and improve the way fishing is viewed and managed.

***What is the importance of young fishery professionals today and for the future of fishery management?***

Young fishery professionals today have access to resources unfathomable only a generation ago, making them uniquely capable of learning how the system operates and ways of reducing error and estimations. Fisheries management will never be a perfect endeavor, but the young fisheries professionals of today, I believe, have the best chance and know-how to improve fishery population estimation and management.

***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 went to one AIFRB district meeting to see what the organization was about and if I would be interested in joining as a young graduate student. Everyone at the meeting was very welcoming and it seemed like a great opportunity to expand my network and get to know some of the fishery biologists in my area. AIFRB is a great resource for me as I move forward in my graduate career with travel funding availability for conferences, and support and advice from superiors in my field, which should also appeal to any other young fishery professionals trying to make a career in this field.

**Please contact Ryan (rlogan@nova.edu) to continue the conversation!**