



## Table of Contents

- President's Letter
- Atlantic City Events:  
Board Meeting,  
Tradeshow, Social and  
Symposium
- 2018 Awards
- Kasahara Nominations
- Membership Report
- Member Spotlight
- New District Director
- District Activities
- Young Professional  
Spotlight:  
Connor Capizzano



## Letter from President Kim Anthony

Dear Members,

It has been two months since our Board meeting, held this year in Atlantic City on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. In just two days, the Board covered a broad range of business items, including further development of the Institute moving forward. My sincere thanks go to our most dedicated Board for retreating to a conference room for productive discussions and for serving as ambassadors to AIFRB throughout the American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting all week. Key accomplishments during the Board and AFS meetings were:

- Approved operating budget for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of \$17,175
- Approved recipients for five Clark Hubbs Research Assistant Awards
- Announcement of the 2019 Distinguished Service Award to Doug Zemeckis, Keystone District Director
- Announcement and presentation of the W.F. Thompson Award for best publication by a student to Connor Capizzano, lead author of the 2016 paper titled, *Estimating and mitigating the discard mortality of Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) in the Gulf of Maine recreational rod-and-reel fishery*
- Outstanding AIFRB social spearheaded by new Keystone District Director, Doug Zemeckis
- Dynamic and crowd-pleasing AFS trade show booth managed by Todd Chapman and Mary Blasius and crewed by all Board members in attendance
- Successful AIFRB Symposium ("Making Waves: Political intervention in the fisheries science and management process"), organized by Treasurer Cate O'Keefe, Past President Steve Cadrin, and AFS Liaison, Sean Lucey
- Presidential appointment of officers and committee chairs, notably a new Secretary, new Young Professionals Representative and a new Newsletter Editor

In addition to these important business undertakings, we continue to address and make progress on the issues that I have marked as goals during my term.

1. **District revival.** During the Board meeting, we discussed focusing attention on one district at a time for revival. The Board agreed to a mentoring program, where one Director of an active district will work hand-in-hand with the Director of a district in need of support. This year, Danny Heilprin of Southern California is currently working with Bonnie Ahr of Florida, as we move beyond of a successful 2017 Tampa meeting and social.
2. **Member services, involvement and participation.** Interaction during this year's tradeshow and solicitation by Board members has increased the interest of some seasoned and new members, who have graciously volunteered time and resources in support of AIFRB and our annual meeting. In particular, we thank Emily Slesinger for providing artwork for this year's meeting t-shirts. In addition, we welcome Beth Bowers to the Board as our Newsletter Editor.
3. **Membership recruitment.** Membership continues to increase and our trade show booth managers, under the leadership of Membership Chair, Todd Chapman, have done an excellent job of making new connections and friends of AIFRB.

4. **Social media marketing and branding.** The Board agrees that there is a need for AIFRB to make a stronger move into the world of social media and exhibit ourselves as relevant and dynamic, all while operating under the values and code of conduct set forth by AIFRB's Founding Fellows. We are working on a plan to engage our members through social media, updating our brochures, soliciting ideas for artwork and we encourage all members to mention AIFRB in your online media posts. Hashtag suggestions include: #aifrb and #aifrbresearch.
5. **Young Professionals.** From my previous messages, you're already aware of how important I believe the Young Professionals Representative (YPR) is for the Institute. I'm excited to appoint Connor Capizzano as our new YPR, whom already has terrific ideas for showcasing our YP members via the website and social media.
6. **New website.** AIFRB's new website is up and running. Be sure to visit and browse through it and send me a message if you have suggestions or comments. We welcome our members to use the website as a platform for showcasing research, advertising for assistance or making AIFRB members aware of current issues. Please contact me with your ideas.
7. **Symposium.** Finally, the Board made a tough, but necessary decision not to move forward with a symposium in 2020. However, we continue to move forward with discussions on how to prepare and raise interest and funds for a symposium in the near future. This is another issue that we encourage you to share your thoughts on through your District Directors.

I'm proud of the work that we've accomplished as an organization in the past year. Congratulations to our AIFRB award winners and thank you to our generous volunteers and to the Board for its members' dedication and efforts toward AIFRB's continued success!

As we move into the holiday season, our volunteer work naturally tapers off for much deserved rest and time with friends and family. Be safe, enjoy the holidays and we will look forward to a productive 2019.

Sincerely,



Kim Anthony  
President

[kim.anthony@aifrb.org](mailto:kim.anthony@aifrb.org)

**+ Make a Difference!**

***Your work matters to the Institute***

- Share your research interests, AIFRB activities, and pictures – *Briefs* is always looking for exciting content to share with our members!
- Make a tax deductible donation to the Institute to support student awards!
- Get involved with your regional district and consider volunteering!

## Annual Board Meeting/Tradeshaw 2018 – Atlantic City, New Jersey



The AIFRB Board met on August 18-19 at the Atlantic City Convention Center, in conjunction with the American Fisheries Society's 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. This year's meeting included the appointment of a new Secretary and Young Professional Representative, discussions of the new website and social media platforms, approval of the 2019 budget, and plans for 2019 regional and national events.

With great appreciation, the Board accepted Secretary Barbara Warkentine's resignation. Barbara has served in the role twice; first from 1996-2006, and again from 2014-2018. Barbara's efforts and continuous support for AIFRB were recognized by the Board. Taking over the role of Secretary is Mary Blasius, the former Young Professional Representative. Mary hails from the Southern California District, and has been an active AIFRB member since 2014. Filling the Young Professional Representative role is Connor Capizzano. Connor is this year's W.F. Thompson Best Student Paper Award winner. Connor comes to the Board from the New England District and has worked closely with several Board members on research of groundfish species in the New England region.

AIFRB's booth at the AFS Tradeshow had another successful year with 36 new member sign-ups. The majority of new members represent districts on the east coast, with New England bringing in 13 new faces.



**Secretary, Mary Blasius, President Kim Anthony, and Membership Chair, Todd Chapman at the AIFRB Tradeshow**

## 2018 AIFRB Symposium and Networking Event

AIFRB partnered with several organizations to contribute to AFS' Stakeholder Engagement Day with a contributed symposium and sponsored networking event. Stakeholder Engagement Day was intended to increase the participation of industry stakeholders at the annual AFS meeting to provide the opportunity to learn about science and management impacting their industries, to stimulate collaborative industry-scientist partnerships, and provide opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to meeting events. There were numerous presentations and discussion panels on topics related to collaborative research, fisheries management, offshore energy development, stakeholder engagement, electronic monitoring, summer flounder, black sea bass, sturgeon, lobster, Jonah crab and much more!

## Making Waves: Political Intervention in the Fisheries Science and Management Process



**Greg DiDomenico, GSSA**

AIFRB continued their series of provocative symposia with a look at political interventions in fishery science and management, focused on the summer flounder example. The session was timely, on the heels of the Secretary of Commerce's decision to not uphold the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) finding of non-compliance by the state of New Jersey with respect to summer flounder. The session started with the results of a survey from AIFRB members that found many members recognize that politics should play a role in the fishery management process but that it has not influenced their science. The survey was followed by a presentation on scientific integrity and stakeholder satisfaction in the fishery management process. The highlight of the session was two

keynote presentations from both the stakeholder and management side of the issue. Greg DiDomenico, representing Garden State Seafood Association (GSSA), spoke from the commercial fisheries perspective while David Pierce, the Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF), presented the management perspective. Both presentations were candid and generated thoughtful discussion throughout the session. This symposium was designed to contribute to the larger Stakeholder Engagement Day at the AFS meeting.



**David Pierce, MA DMF**

Symposium Conveners: Cate O'Keefe, Steve Cadrin, and Sean Lucey



## Joint Industry-Science Networking Event



AIFRB co-sponsored an invitation-only networking event to close out Stakeholder Engagement Day. Partnering with Rutgers University, UMass Dartmouth SMAST, The Nature Conservancy, Garmin, Atlantic Capes Fisheries, and Lund's Fisheries, the event featured local donated seafood appetizers, a raffle of books and a Garmin handheld navigation unit, and presentation of the W.F Thompson Best Student paper award. Angelo's Catering from Atlantic City prepared scallop ceviché, dogfish tacos, and alligator sliders, while employees from Atlantic Capes Fisheries shucked their own Cape May Salt oysters onsite. Keystone District Director, Doug Zemeckis, who also served as the Chair of the AFS Program Sub-Committee on Stakeholder Engagement, organized the event and received the 2018 AIFRB Distinguished Service Award for his efforts towards making the Atlantic City meeting a huge success. Over 60 guests attended the event at Bass Pro Shops, and all had rave reviews.

## 2018 AIFRB Awards

We had an excellent pool of candidates and nominees for all of the 2018 AIFRB awards! We were able to fund five Clark Hubbs Research Assistant Travel Awards, helping students from four Districts attend professional scientific meetings to present original research. We received nine nominations for the W.F. Thompson Award for best scientific publication by a student in 2016, representing a wide range of topics from spatial population structure to discard mortality to climate change management. The Board was happy to announce that Dr. Doug Zemeckis, Keystone District Director, was nominated by the Board to receive the 2018 Service Award. We congratulate all 2018 AIFRB award winners, and look forward to presenting the awards at upcoming events.

## 2018 Clark Hubbs Research Assistant Travel Award Winners



### Steven Baker

Steven Baker is a M.S. student in the Department of Biology at the University of Central Florida. For his thesis he is using acoustic telemetry to study the movement patterns and habitat use of red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) around the Kennedy Space Center and Indian River Lagoon, FL. More broadly his research interests focus on exploring the interactions among environmental variables and behavior, and understanding how these factors influence residency and movement patterns of marine fishes.

### Amanda Guthrie

Amanda Guthrie's research goal is to integrate ecology, fisheries, and social sciences to support sustainable natural resource use. Her Ph.D. research investigates forage fish habitat at planted marshes (living shorelines) versus natural marshes and assesses the factors that influence property owner shoreline development decisions. Amanda is studying at the College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. This is the second year in a row that Amanda has received a Hubbs Travel Award.





### Kyler Hecke

Kyler Hecke is a Ph.D. student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville under the advisement of Dr. Brian Alford, where his dissertation research focuses on assessing the extinction and conservation of native fish in the upper Tennessee River drainage. His research interests are in aquatic-fauna conservation, ecology, and management. Kyler is currently working on determining the current distribution and conservation status of the Sickle Darter *Percina williamsi*, a species endemic to the upper Tennessee River drainage.

### Jacob Kasper

Jacob Kasper is a Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut. His research investigates alternative management strategies for marine fisheries and uses the tautog recreational fishery as a model system. Previously, he lived in Iceland where he earned a Master of Resource Management Degree and studied Lumpfish at the Marine Research Institute.



### Molly Stevens

Molly Stevens is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Miami whose dissertation research focuses on linking dynamic cohort-based fishery simulation models to the economic productivity of Florida's coral reef fisheries. Her work strives to optimize management strategies based on joint biological-economic criteria.

## 2018 W.F. Thompson Best Student Publication Award Winner

### Connor Capizzano

Connor Capizzano's paper, "Estimating and mitigating the discard mortality of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the Gulf of Maine recreational rod-and-reel fishery", published in ICES Journal of Marine Science in 2016, received the highest evaluation by the W.F. Thompson review committee. Connor's paper was nominated by Dr. Doug Zemeckis of Rutgers University. Connor is completing his Ph.D. at UMass Boston and was a previous recipient of the Hubbs Student Travel Award.

**Capizzano, C.W.**, J.W. Mandelman, W.S. Hoffman, M.J. Dean, D.R. Zemeckis, H.P. Benoit, J. Kneebone, E. Jones, M.J. Stettner, N.J. Buchan, J. Langan and J.A. Sulikowski. 2016. Estimating and mitigating the discard mortality of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the Gulf of Maine recreational rod-and-reel fishery. ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsw058



**Steve Cadrin presented the award to Connor Capizzano in Atlantic City**

The W. F. Thompson Best Student Paper Award is given annually to recognize excellence in research as well as to encourage student professionalism in fisheries and aquatic sciences and publication of research results. All scientists are eligible as long as the senior author conducted the research while a student of fishery science or some aspect of aquatic science and conservation. The award includes a check for up to \$1,000.00.

## Kasahara Early Career Award Nominations

AIFRB established the Kasahara Early Career Award in 2006 to honor the memory of Dr. Hiroshi Kasahara and the lasting contributions made by Dr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Toshiko Kasahara to fisheries science and the work of the Institute. The Kasahara Award is intended to recognize the Institute's most promising young associates and members early in their research careers. The award and \$2,500 were presented to Jamal Moss in 2007 and to John Field in 2010. After a long hiatus, AIFRB is now soliciting nominations for a 2019 award.



**Award sponsor, Mrs. Toshiko Kasahara  
and Past President Dick Beamish**



**Jamal Moss (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) receiving the 2007  
Kasahara Award**

Candidates must...

- be accomplished researchers in fisheries science, with competence in conservation and proper utilization of fishery resources,
- demonstrate potential for leadership in scientific frontiers,
- have received a PhD within the last seven years (exceptional scientists who do not have a PhD should have received their BS within the last fifteen years),
- be a professional associate or member of the Institute in good standing, and
- be nominated by a professional associate, member or fellow of the Institute.

Preference will be given to candidates who...

- develop innovative approaches to fisheries science,
- promote connections between basic and applied research,
- integrate science and policy for sustainable management of fishery resources
- demonstrate active involvement or leadership in research and science organizations.

Please send nominations to the committee chair, Steve Cadrin ([scadrin@umassd.edu](mailto:scadrin@umassd.edu)). All nominees will be contacted and requested to submit a curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, and a one-page summary of how the award would be used to promote the nominee's research. The committee will work by correspondence to evaluate all nominees who submit the required information and recommend an award recipient to the AIFRB Board.



**John Field (right) receiving the 2010 Kasahara Award**

***For more information, visit the Awards page of the AIFRB.org website:  
<https://www.aifrb.org/kasahara-early-career>***



## Membership Report

We had an incredible number of new membership applications at the 2018 AIFRB Tradeshow! The Membership Committee Chair, Todd Chapman, along with President Kim Anthony, Secretary Mary Blasius, Southern California District Director Danny Heilprin, and several other Board members dedicated an unprecedented effort towards engaging members of the fisheries science field, from students to experienced researchers, to join AIFRB and contribute their expertise and volunteer spirit! New members include 16 Student Associates and 20 Member/Fellows. We thank the entire Membership Committee, and welcome all new AIFRB members!

### Student Associates

Beth Bowers  
Brian Galvez  
Samantha Glover  
Alex Hansell  
Linas Kenter  
Elise Koob  
Emily Markowitz  
Alejandro Molina-Moctezuma

Noelle Olsen  
Sarah Rubenstein  
Rachel Shaw  
Brittany Harried  
Janne Haugen  
Justin Hulbert  
Ryan Knotek  
Emily McGuckin

### Fellows/Members

Betsy Barber  
Pingguo He  
Ed Henry  
Philip Hoffman  
Olaf Jensen  
Adrienne Kovach  
Joe Langan  
Eric Powell  
Ibrahim Usman  
Solomon David  
Dave Rudders  
Chuck Anderson  
David Berlinsky  
Aubrey Church  
Keith Cox  
Thomas Heimann  
Roberto Koeneker  
Bart Merrick  
Derek Orner  
Scott Schlueter

## New District Director



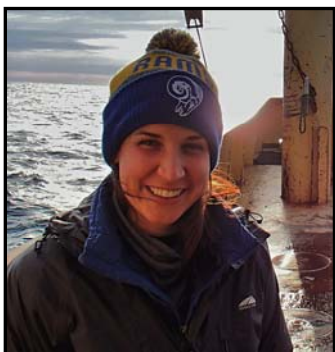
### *Greg DeCelles – New England*

The New England District is pleased to announce Dr. Greg DeCelles as the new District Director, taking over his duties after two years of service from the previous Director, Dr. Ben Galuardi. Greg is currently working as a Stock Assessment Specialist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Greg's research is focused on investigating the life history, stock structure, and migratory behavior of groundfish in New England. Greg has been involved in a variety of cooperative research projects throughout his career, ranging from industry-based surveys for flatfish to real-time bycatch avoidance programs. In particular, Greg is interested in documenting Fishermen's Ecological Knowledge related to the spawning behavior and distribution of groundfish, and incorporating that knowledge into assessment and management.

Greg received a BS in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of New Hampshire in 2004, and a PhD in Marine Science and Technology from UMass Dartmouth (SMAST) in 2014. Greg also completed a postdoctoral research position at SMAST. Greg remains involved in the SMAST community, where he is an adjunct professor, and serves on graduate student committees. Greg also serves on the New England Fisheries Management Council's Plan Development Teams for groundfish and monkfish. Feel free to contact Greg via email ([Gregory.DeCelles@mass.gov](mailto:Gregory.DeCelles@mass.gov)) with any questions about the New England District.

## Member Spotlight



### *Sarah Borsetti – Keystone District*

Sarah Borsetti is a PhD student at Rutgers University working with Dr. Daphne Munroe at the Haskin Shellfish Research Lab. Broadly, she is working to understand population dynamics of waved whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) in the Mid-Atlantic. Recent expansion of this unmanaged whelk fishery within the U.S. has prompted her work into investigating local life history parameters of this species. As commercial demand and interest in this fishery continue, it is critical to obtain baseline life history information to inform future stock assessments and support fishery management. Her recent publication in *Fisheries Research* describes the regional variability in length distribution, sex ratio, and size of

sexual maturity of local whelk populations. Based on life history and dispersal behavior, a strong genetic structure is expected for this species which raises concerns for the viability of its exploitation. Work is underway using microsatellites to evaluate the population structure and divergence of whelk in the Mid-Atlantic. Additionally, she is evaluating statolith growth rings to describe the age-length relationship of local populations. Currently, Sarah is working on a manuscript which describes the annual reproductive cycle of whelk in the Mid-Atlantic Bight.



#### Recent Publications

**Borsetti, S.**, D. Munroe, D.B. Rudders, C. Dobson and E.A. Bochenek. 2018. Spatial variation in life history characteristics of waved whelk (*Buccinum undatum* L.) on the U.S. Mid-Atlantic continental shelf. *Fisheries Research* 198: 129-137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2017.10.006>

Munroe, D., **S. Borsetti**, K. Ashton-Alcox and D. Bushek. 2017. Early post-settlement growth in wild Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica* Gmelin 1791) populations. *Estuaries and Coasts*. 40(3): 880- 888. DOI: 10.1007/s12237-016-0185-y

**Borsetti, S.** 2017. Baseline Data Collected for Emerging Offshore Waved Whelk Fishery in the Mid- Atlantic. *The Fish Rapper: Newsletter of the Northeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society*, May 2017. 33(1):16. [https://ned.fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FishRapper\\_May2017\\_1.pdf](https://ned.fisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FishRapper_May2017_1.pdf)

### *Jacob Kasper – Keystone District*

Jacob Kasper, a PhD student at the University of Connecticut working with Dr. Eric Schultz and a 2018 AIFRB Hubbs Travel Award winner, is enhancing management efficacy by including life history biology and resource user behavior into stock assessment and forecasting models. He is using tautog (*Tautoga onitis*) as a model organism as they are long-lived, slow growing, and have low release mortality, making them an ideal candidate for the effective implementation of alternative management strategies. As the backbone of his modeling work, he collaborated with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to develop a Long Island Sound-specific stock assessment (ASMFC, 2016). Jacob is currently writing a manuscript evaluating the outcomes of harvest slot limits on the stock. In a related project, he is surveying harvesters in order to assess behavioral change in response to regulatory change. Survey results will inform forecasting the impact of harvest slot limits.







Jacob is a US representative member to the ICES Stock Assessment Methods Working Group. Through this internationally collaborative work he is evaluating the consequences of different selectivity curves on Atlantic Cod stocks. Prior to his studies at UConn, Jacob worked at Iceland's Marine Research Institute as a fisheries scientist studying Lumpfish. His publications included: identifying Lumpfish stock structure (Pampoulie et al., 2014), describing Lumpfish migratory behavior (Kennedy et al., 2015, 2016), identifying and describing a new species of microsporidian which infects Lumpfish (Freeman et al., 2013), and evaluating Lumpfish growth rates (Kasper et al., 2014). After completing his PhD, Jacob would like to work for a governmental agency or an NGO to promote fisheries sustainability. <https://jacobkasper.weebly.com/>

#### Recent Publications

ASMFC, 2016. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2016 Tautog Stock Assessment Update.

Freeman, M.A., **J.M. Kasper** and Á. Kristmundsson 2013. *Nucleospora cyclopteri* n. sp., an intranuclear microsporidian infecting wild lumpfish, *Cyclopterus lumpus* L., in Icelandic waters. Parasit Vectors 6, 49. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1756-3305-6-49>

**Kasper, J.M.**, B. Bertelsen, H.G. Ólafsson, J.C. Holst, J. Sturlaugsson and S.P. Jónsson. 2014. Observations of growth and postspawning survival of lumpfish *Cyclopterus lumpus* from mark-recapture studies. J. Fish Biol. 84, 1958–1963. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.12389>

Kennedy, J., S.P. Jónsson, **J.M. Kasper** and H.G. Ólafsson. 2015. Movements of female lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) around Iceland. ICES J Mar Sci. 72, 880–889. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsu170>

Kennedy, J., S.P. Jónsson, H.G. Ólafsson and **J.M. Kasper**. 2016. Observations of vertical movements and depth distribution of migrating female lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) in Iceland from data storage tags and trawl surveys. ICES J Mar Sci. 73, 1160–1169. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsv244>

Pampoulie, C., S. Skirnisdottir, G. Olafsdottir, S.J., Helyar, V. Thorsteinsson, S.P. Jónsson, A. Fréchet, C.M.F. Durif, S. Sherman, M. Lampart-Kałużniacka, R. Hedeholm, H. Ólafsson, A.K. Daniélsdóttir and **J.M. Kasper**. 2014. Genetic structure of the lumpfish *Cyclopterus lumpus* across the North Atlantic. ICES J Mar Sci. 71, 2390–2397. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsu071>

## District Activities



### *New England District: Networking in the North*

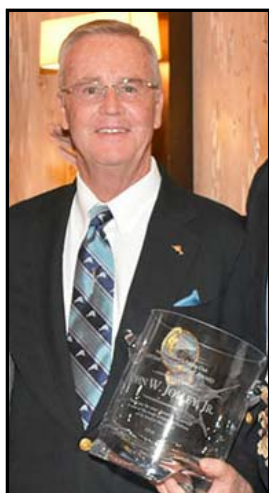
New England's new District Director, Greg DeCelles, is organizing a social networking event in Portland, ME on November 14<sup>th</sup> to introduce himself to members of the northern New England District. The social is being co-hosted by Dr. Lisa Kerr and will be held at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on Portland's historic waterfront. The event will be a great opportunity to network with colleagues in the region, while sharing some food and drinks.

## Southern California District: Student Awards

For the past 27 years the Southern California District of the AIFRB has granted cash awards to honor graduate and undergraduate student authors of fisheries-related papers and posters presented at the annual meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. A panel of AIFRB members judge both oral and poster presentations and the winner of the presentation award receives a check for \$500 and the winner of the poster award receives \$300. This year, Alyssa Clevestine from California State University in Long Beach won the best student presentation for her work on "Seasonal Movement and Aggregation Behavior of the Protected Giant Sea Bass *Stereolepis gigas* on Catalina Island, CA." The best student poster winner was Bruno Passarelli from the University of California Los Angeles for his poster titled "Metazoan parasites of California grunion *Leuresthes tenuis* in southern California." Congratulations to both winners from AIFRB.



**Best Student Presentation  
Winner Alyssa Clevestine**



## Florida District: Emeritus Award

The venerable West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) surprised Emeritus Member John Jolley last January at their 81<sup>st</sup> Silver Sailfish Derby (the patriarch and oldest billfish tournament in the world) awards banquet with their Lifetime Achievement Award. As reported in the WPBFC publication, *Tight Lines*, "The award recognizes an individual who has made an exceptional commitment to sport fishing, marine conservation and WPBFC community initiatives." It is only the fifth time the award has been given in the WPBFC's 84 year history. The recognition noted John's contributions to furthering biological understanding and management of sailfish, redbait, and swordfish. John was "speechless" upon receiving the award and stated, "I am very honored to be included with those who came before me!" For additional details, visit [westpalmbeachfishingclub.org](http://westpalmbeachfishingclub.org) (Tight Lines Magazine, Spring 2018).

## Capital District: Crab Feast

The Capital District Chapter is partnering with the [Potomac Chapter of the American Fisheries Society](#) to kick off the fall with the Annual Crab Feast on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Crab Feast is a great way to mix and mingle with fisheries professionals from across the region, including students who wish to join our profession. This year, the event will be returning to AFS HQ in Bethesda! The event will take place at the Forester Building (101000 Laureate Way, Bethesda, MD).



## 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 new Young Professional Representative, Connor Capizzano ([connor.capizzano001@umb.edu](mailto:connor.capizzano001@umb.edu)), will be regularly showcasing a new Young Professional through a series of biographical interviews. This month's Young Professional Spotlight shines on Connor as a way to introduce him to the Institute and highlight his objectives in the position.

## Connor Capizzano – PhD Student/ Research Technician



### ***What is your educational background, and where are you in your current program?***

I received a B.S. in Marine Biology at the University of Rhode Island in 2011 and a M.S. in Marine Science at the University of New England in 2015. Since the completion of my M.S. degree, I have been enrolled in the Marine Science & Technology PhD program at the University of Massachusetts Boston. I am also employed as a Research Technician in the Fisheries Science and Emerging Technologies (FSET) program at the New England Aquarium's (NEAQ) Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life.

### ***What type of position are you interested in after graduating?***

After receiving my PhD degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston, I'd be most interested in seeking out an assistant professor position at an accredited institution in the southern New England region.

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

My current dissertation research investigates the discard mortality of various gadoids in the Gulf of Maine recreational groundfish fishery in order to better aid stock assessments and management bodies with the future sustainability of such marine fish resources. Recent projects include deriving discard mortality rate estimates of Atlantic

***Photo Credit: Emily Jones NEAQ***

cod, haddock, and cusk in the Gulf of Maine recreational fishery and identifying recommended best practices to reduce the incidental mortality of such species. Future works hopes to probe deeper into the socio-ecological dynamics of the recreational fishery, such as examining the perceptions and motivations of anglers in the region targeting groundfish and identifying the most appropriate communication pathways when disseminating recommended best practices to the community.

### ***How does your research apply to fishery management?***

Results from our recent discard mortality work on Atlantic cod and haddock were recently used to inform management bodies by incorporating them into stock assessments for quantifying total fishery removals. Derived discard mortality rates for Atlantic cod and haddock are also being considered for use in a bio-economic model that generates recreational management measures. Because our projects hinged heavily on collaborations with our industry partners and other institutions, including the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Rutgers University, University of New England, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, we have access to numerous outreach channels for ensuring the dissemination of results and recommendations to invested stakeholder groups and the general public.



***Photo Credit: Steve de Neef  
(stevedeneef.com)***

***Instagram: @stevedeneef, Facebook:  
Steve de Neef Photography***

### ***What got you started studying fisheries?***

I grew up in coastal Rhode Island and took part in a variety of outdoor activities, such as surfing and recreational fishing, so I always had a profound respect for the ocean and its inhabitants. Despite beginning my undergraduate career with a pre-medical track, my time as a NOAA Ernest F. Hollings scholar gave me the opportunity to be engulfed in the world of fisheries science.



***What do you enjoy most about being a fishery scientist?***

I most enjoy the opportunity to work with people of all fields and occupations to address complex problems. Every invested stakeholder, including industry partners, fisheries researchers, and managers, brings a different experience and set of skills to the process, which ultimately benefits the final product.



***Photo Credit: Steve de Neef***

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

I was drawn to AIFRB through word-of-mouth from colleagues at the UMass Dartmouth's SMAST. Although I was initially unable to participate in events held by the New England District, AIFRB provided me with numerous opportunities, including professional networking, education, and travel funding.

Because AIFRB made an effort to invest in my education and future, I wanted to reciprocate those efforts so AIFRB can continue to support the professional development of its younger members. As the recently appointed YPR, I am working to increase AIFRB's online presence in order to foster the recruitment of students and young professionals.

## AIFRB is looking for new District Directors in several regions

***Consider representing your district and join the fun!***



## Contact Information

### President

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Rosemead, CA 91770  
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### Past President

Tom Keegan  
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### Vacant District Director Seats

Alaska, Northern  
Alaska, Southeast  
Arizona/New Mexico  
Carolinas  
Great Lakes, South Central  
Gulf of Mexico, Northeast  
Mississippi  
Texas

### + We need new Directors!

- Plan fun networking events
- Raise funds for students
- Recruit new members
- Contact: Kim Anthony

*BRIEFS*, the newsletter of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, is intended to communicate the professional activities and accomplishments of the Institute and its Members. Comments and written contributions should be sent to cokeefe@umassd.edu

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