

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 **Evelyn Bond, Southern California District** and MS student at **California State University, Fullerton** in Fullerton, CA.

Evelyn Bond – Southern California District



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

I am a master's candidate at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and am conducting research in Dr. Kristy Forsgren's Fish Reproductive Biology Lab. My research is aimed at characterizing the roles of surfperch (Embiotocidae) genital papilla (located ventrally) and the paired flank organs (located on both sides of the anal fin) during the reproduction and their involvement in sperm transfer. My research will clear up some of the inconsistencies and misunderstandings of male surfperch reproduction, specifically the external reproductive structure used during copulation.

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

I completed my undergraduate work and received my B.S in Biological Science with an emphasis in Marine Biology at CSUF. As an undergraduate student, I was research scholar in CSUF's Southern California Ecosystems Research Program (SCERP). The program provided me with guidance, and the encouragement I needed as a new scientist. I was also introduced to great faculty members and is how I met my current research advisor, Dr. Forsgren. I credit Dr. Forsgren for guiding me along the way and always preparing me for success.

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

The management of marine resources is based on the best available scientific information, and many fisheries are data-poor (i.e., surfperches). The lack of essential fishery information and basic biological information such as reproductively-based data which includes when and how fish reproduce is important when determining a population's ability to replenish itself and at what level it might be harvested sustainably. Thus, reproductive information is crucial to fully assess fish stocks and to set appropriate restrictions (e.g., timing of harvest, fishery closure) on fisheries.





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)?

I believe that fisheries management helps to protect natural resources and will continue to provide suitable fish stocks for future generations. While fisheries management could be a challenge given unpredictable circumstances (e.g., impacts of climate change, presence of microplastics), it is important to continue educating professionals and the general public of such beneficial practices for our future.

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

As the environment and ecosystems continue to change, we must be the example to young professionals in our field. It is our job as professionals, scientists, and ambassadors of the ocean and fisheries conservation to motivate and encourage young professionals to continue the work we are currently focusing on.

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 was encouraged by my research advisor to join AIFRB 2015. I have been an active member since then, and I am now holding my second term as the Secretary/Treasurer for AIFRB's southern California District. It is truly a pleasure to be a part of the AIFRB community because it gives me an opportunity to give back to young scientists who are excited to share their research. AIFRB gave me the opportunity to network and build professional relationships with others in the scientific community. Being a part of the AIFRB community gave me a competitive edge because of the exposure and mentorship from top professionals in my field of study and is why young professionals should consider joining this great community.

Please contact Evelyn (evelync.bond@gmail.com) to continue the conversation!