MEMBER PROFILE

Nick Boucher

Ph.D. Student, Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System, Michigan State University

About my work

From November 2019 to December 2022, I worked as a fishery research program associate at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. In this role, I coordinated review of incoming research proposals, administered ongoing projects, and coordinated the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS). As of January 2023, I am a Ph.D. student advised by GLATOS Director Chris Vandergoot. My Ph.D. research will focus on methods for analyzing acoustic telemetry data and assessing acoustic telemetry arrays.

Inspiration for this work

I was lucky enough to spend five days on a historic skipjack (oyster trawler) in the Chesapeake Bay as part of my fourth grade curriculum. We spent the week catching oysters and blue crabs, and since that time I have been fascinated by aquatic ecosystems.



Something else about myself

While I never played organized hockey and have very little hockey skill, I really enjoyed playing in the IAGLR hockey game at the 2022 JASM Meeting in Grand Rapids. I am looking forward to playing again in Toronto this year (and hope to learn how to skate backwards before then)!

Why I joined IAGLR

IAGLR's State of Lake Michigan Conference in Green Bay was my first academic conference in the Great Lakes region. I really enjoyed the collegial atmosphere of the IAGLR meeting, as well as the breadth of topics covered.

MEMBER PROFILE

Kiersten McCutcheon

VAST Project Coordinator, Niagara Coastal

About my work

I am a young professional working as a project coordinator for Niagara Coastal, a small non-profit organization that works to build a healthy and resilient Great Lakes ecosystem. Over the past two years, I have been developing and managing the Visual Assessment Survey Tool (VAST). VAST is a collaborative initiative that engages community members as citizen scientists to collect data and images that provide evidence of the changing conditions on the Great Lakes. My work ranges from community outreach, project management and data analysis to implementing local coastal restoration projects.

Inspiration for this work

The Great Lakes basin is a region unlike anywhere on earth, and the lakes play a large role in the lives of everyone who lives near them. Whether for drinking water, travelling, spiritual ceremonies, swimming, or my favourite water activity, kayaking, we all rely on the Great Lakes in some way. I was inspired to enter this work to restore and preserve these ecosystems for future generations.

Something else about myself

I am enthusiastic about data and have a deep love for well-designed spreadsheets! One of my favourite aspects of my work is piloting an aerial drone to survey shorelines on the Great Lakes. A drone provides massive amounts of data in a fraction of the time it would otherwise take to collect. Analyses of data collected by drones can quickly assess the impact of stressors on coastal environments.

Why I joined IAGLR

As a shared community resource, the Great Lakes require a community of people passionate about protecting them to ensure they can continue to be used to meet our needs. I joined IAGLR to be more involved within the larger Great Lakes community. I am looking forward to learning from and collaborating with other IAGLR members to preserve these cherished lakes!

