

Christopher Pullano

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EDUCATION

- **University of Nebraska**, Lincoln, Nebraska **January 2022 – Present**
USGS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
MS in Natural Resource Sciences (Applied Ecology)
Project: Pallid sturgeon movement and ecology in the Platte River, Nebraska
- **University of Maine**, Orono, Maine **August 2014 – May 2018**
Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology **GPA: 3.3/4.0**
Concentration in Freshwater Fisheries

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Field & Data Technician, Trout Unlimited **June – November 2020**
Supervisor – Tracy Brown **April 2021 – August 2021**
Assessing stream crossings using North American Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) non-tidal streams protocol as a Lead Observer and L1 Coordinator. Assessed fish barrier passage using RFIDs and stationary PIT antennas. Developed monitoring and analysis plans for fiber-optic Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS) hydrologic studies on Catskill streams. Produced written reports, presentations, data summaries, project plans, and permits for various ongoing projects. Organized volunteer chapter events and participated in new member outreach.

Seasonal Resource Assistant (American Shad & Sturgeon Project), **April – November 2019**
CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection; **November 2020 – October 2021**
Supervisors – Tom Savoy & Jacque Benway
Monitored Atlantic & Shortnose sturgeon populations in Connecticut rivers and Long Island Sound using gillnets, trawls, egg mats, and sonic telemetry equipment. Conducted juvenile American shad seine assessments along the Connecticut River. Maintained and downloaded information from VEMCO acoustic receiver array. Collected, prepared, aged otoliths, scales and fin rays from sturgeon, shad, river herring, and other estuarine species. Assisted with other research and equipment maintenance as needed.

Bio. Science Technician (Native Trout Conservation), Yellowstone National Park **May – November 2018**
Supervisor – Phil Doepke
Worked extensively on the Lake trout suppression program using gillnets to remove invasive Lake trout from Yellowstone Lake. Led crews of technicians, interns, and volunteers aboard large gillnetting vessels. Collected biological information from fish and entered data into long-term, parkwide databases. Assisted biologists, technicians, and researchers with work as needed, including but not limited to, spawning surveys, telemetry & PIT tag studies, electrofishing, and eDNA sampling.

Fisheries Research Technician, Utah State University, UT **June – August 2017**
Supervisor – Ben Stout
Assisted graduate research working to improve mobile fish detection methods on the San Juan River, NM using novel applications of PIT tag technology. Navigated 500+ river miles rowing pontoon-style catarafts through class I-III rapids with mobile floating PIT antennas. Helped to organize float trips, maintained rafts, field computers, mobile tablets, PIT tag antennas, and other equipment required to collect data in remote settings.

Native Trout Conservation Intern, Yellowstone National Park, WY

May—Aug 2016

Student Conservation Association

Worked as a Student Conservation Association Intern to conserve Yellowstone cutthroat trout throughout the park. Suppressed lake trout populations using gillnets on Yellowstone Lake. Assisted with electrofishing and the use of telemetry equipment to monitor fish populations. Sampled for macroinvertebrates, water quality information, and eDNA throughout the park.

Interpretive Guide, CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection

May—Aug 2015

Supervisor - Justin Wiggins

Provided fishing classes to small/large groups of students for the Connecticut Aquatic Resource Education (CARE) Program, organized classes, and led other professional outdoor educators and volunteers. Taught students about aquatic resources, fish identification, knot tying, safety, fishing regulations, and casting instruction.

RELATED SKILLS

- Construction, repair, and use of trotlines, gillnets, trammel nets, trap nets, seine nets, and skiff trawls
- Boat, backpack, and raft electrofishing
- PIT tagging and telemetry transmitter surgery assistance
- Installing & maintaining acoustic telemetry arrays, static & mobile PIT/RFID antennas, and various water quality monitoring instruments
- Conducting stream hydrologic habitat surveys and spawning assessments
- Scale, otolith, and fin ray collection, preparation, aging, and interpretation
- Software proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, GIS software (ArcGIS, QGIS, MapInfo, Global Mapper), Image Pro, Image J, & basics of LOCATE, PRESENCE, MARK, SAS and R
- Operation of motorized inboard and outboard watercraft up to 33 ft.
- Rowing rafts and drift boats up to 18' through class I-III rapids
- Collaborating with landowners and stakeholders to achieve project goals

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Student Ambassador, University of Maine, ME

August 2017 – May 2018

Led student tours for incoming Wildlife Ecology students and gave presentations to prospective students about the department & program.

Vice President, University of Maine Fishing Club

2015-2017

Helped organize meetings, guest presentations, fly tying classes, ice fishing trips, obtain grants from student government and donations from local businesses.

Member, UMaine AFS Subunit, Trout Unlimited – Hammonasset Chapter, Ducks Unlimited, Native Fish Coalition, Nebraska American Fisheries Society

CERTIFICATIONS

North American Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) L1 Coordinator & Lead Observer

Department of the Interior Motorboat Operator Certification Course (DOI MOCC)

Connecticut Safe Boating & Personal Watercraft Operation Certifications

American Canoe Association Swiftwater Rescue I

Aerie Wilderness First Aid & CPR (2016-2020)