

Notes from the Editor

The first issue of 2021 is (the winter issue) is a bit late—and a bit smaller than our recent issues. We imagine that the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been shown to significantly impact scientific research over the last year-plus, is impacting publications as well. A recent article in *Nature Human Behavior* documented that some groups have been disproportionately affected, highlighting the impacts on female scientists, especially those with young children.

Despite the challenges that the pandemic has brought, we are seeing some momentous changes to the Journal this year. At the end of 2020, our online submission system went live! All manuscripts must now be submitted through this system, which creates a streamlined and time-saving process for me, my Associate Editors, and our reviewers. Please note that with the new submission system, the Journal submission guidelines were updated to reflect the changes. Be sure to use the most up-to-date guidelines when submitting to the *California Fish and Wildlife Journal*. Also, this issue is the first to implement our new DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers). DOIs, used by most major scientific journals, are permanent identifiers for each article and will provide increased accessibility and visibility for the Journal's publications.

Our editorial team continues to grow, meeting the challenges of increased submissions from our new online submission system—we have three new Associate Editors. Justin Dellinger, a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), received a B.S. in Biology at University of North Carolina-Wilmington in 2008 and a M.S. in Wildlife Biology at Auburn University in 2011 studying foraging and spatial ecology of red wolves in North Carolina. After that, he did a 1.5-year stint as a mountain lion researcher in Arizona and New Mexico. Next, in 2018, he completed a PhD in Wildlife Biology at the University of Washington in Seattle studying impacts of gray wolves on mule and white-tailed deer in Washington state. He started working for the Department in December 2015 after finishing his field work for his PhD. For the past five years, he has been the agency researcher for mountain lions and the agency researcher for wolves since June 2017.

Pete McHugh is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor) in the Marine Region. He received a B.S. from Ohio State University (1999) and graduate degrees (M.S. [2003], PhD [2006]) from Utah State University, with a focus on Fisheries Management and Fish Ecology. Inclusive of graduate work, he has worked on fish population and habitat assessments for nearly two decades, in places as far-reaching as South Island, New Zealand to the brook trout-filled streams of Vermont's Green Mountains. He has spent most of his professional career working on fishery models and stock assessments to support the sustainable management of ocean salmon fisheries in state, tribal, and federal co-management arenas. He joined the Department in 2019 and is currently a co-leader of the Department's Ocean Salmon Project in Santa Rosa. Pete has coauthored papers in a variety of scientific journals, regularly supports the scientific publishing process through peer-review activities, and is looking forward to serving as a member of the California Fish and Wildlife Journal's editorial team.

Jennifer Olson is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) with the Department's Coastal Habitat Conservation Planning group in the Eureka field office. She has worked

for the Department since 2013 in a variety of roles, primarily focused on environmental review and permitting. She currently serves as the Caltrans Liaison for Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties. Prior to working for the Department, she worked as a Research Associate for the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit where she supervised field crews and data management for projects focused on life history variation in songbirds in the U.S, Venezuela, and Malaysian Borneo. Jen is originally from Minnesota and has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. In her free time, she enjoys birding, running, finding new places to go hiking and backpacking with her husband and her dog, and expanding her natural history knowledge about her Northern California home.

Katrina Smith is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) that provides statewide coordination for CESA Incidental Take Permitting, including Consistency Determinations and Safe Harbor Agreements. Katrina holds an M.S. degree in Natural Resources, Wildlife from Humboldt State University and a B.S. in Ecology and Environmental Biology from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Her graduate work focused on habitat selection modeling to support a long-term population monitoring program for Townsend's big-eared bats hibernating in volcanic caves. In addition to her tenure with CDFW, she has also worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, providing strategic direction and science-based adaptive management for a variety of natural resources.

Lastly, Grace Myers is the first to join our new "Junior Associate Editor" program. Junior Associate Editors are scientists without significant publishing experience, but who would like to learn. Junior AE's are paired with an experienced AE to learn about the publication and editorial process. Grace is an Environmental Scientist for our Cannabis Permitting Program and has been with us for just over a year. Her role primarily entails assisting cannabis cultivators through the Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) notification process. Although originally from the Bay Area, California, she spent some time on the East Coast, where she earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont. Focusing primarily on birds and plants, she has worked on a variety of different long-term projects for monitoring breeding bird populations and their habitats. Some of her favorite projects were concentrated on the Bicknell's thrush, common loon, and rusty blackbird. Currently, she is happy to be assisting with the Wildlife Conscious Cannabis Certification program, an initiative promoting wildlife friendly cannabis practices.

Our fourth and fifth special issues will be coming out this year, so keep an eye out for both the CESA (California Endangered Species Act) and Human-Wildlife Interactions special issues later this spring or early summer (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Publications/Journal/Special-Issues>).

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Editor-in-Chief
California Fish and Wildlife Journal