

TAYLOR WITKIN

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Sustainable (sea)food advocate with 5+ years of experience researching & working in local food systems. Effectively bridges communication gaps between food harvesters, scientists, activists, policy-makers, & the public. Passion for sustainable, transparent, community-supported food systems that value innovation, education, & stakeholder collaboration.

EDUCATION

M.A. of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island, May 2018 (expected)

Master's Thesis: *Triggering Diverse Seafood Diet in New England*

B.A. in Environmental Studies, Colby College, May 2016

Honors Thesis: *The Role of Underutilized Fish in New England's Seafood System*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Rhode Island & Rhode Island Sea Grant, Coastal Resources Center

Narragansett, RI

Graduate Teaching & Research Assistant, May 2017 – Present

- Conduct interviews & focus groups with aquaculture industry stakeholders to gauge interest in a market for farmed kelp
- Organize & analyze social science data for a supply & value chain analysis of kelp farming in the Northeastern US
- Survey consumers at farmer's markets to gauge interest in locally grown kelp as a sustainable food product
- Assist in preparation & teaching of GIS Applications in Coastal & Marine Management

Oceana, Inc.

Washington, DC

Science Fellow, February 2015 – May 2016

- Identified & tracked illegal, unreported, & unregulated fishing activity using Global Fishing Watch
- Provided research & data analysis for Oceana reports on sustainable seafood & illegal, unreported, & unregulated fishing
- Advocated for & initiated partnerships between Global Fishing Watch & seafood traceability platforms
- Prepared outreach & marketing materials for the press & funding sources using best available science

Boston Smoked Fish Co.

Boston, MA

Farmer's Market Sales Associate, August 2014 – January 2015

- Sold sustainably sourced wild Alaskan salmon at farmer's markets
- Communicated to customers the benefits of choosing sustainable seafood
- Blogged about smoked fish, local seafood, & sustainable food systems for the company website

SUSTAINABLE FOOD & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Seafood Throwdown Volunteer Organizer, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, *July – September 2017*

Organized a cooking competition at the Boston Local Food Festival showcasing sustainable, underutilized fish caught by local fishermen. Communicated importance of supporting small-boat fishing communities to the public.

Faces of New England Task Force, Healthcare without Harm, *December 2016 – May 2017*

Worked with a group of sustainable food professionals & advocates in New England to create partnerships between small-scale food harvesters/suppliers & healthcare institutions looking to provide healthy, local, sustainable meals to patients.

Science Communications Fellowship, The Discovery Museums, *October 2016 – January 2017*

Participated in professional development workshops to learn effective communications strategies for public outreach. Shared a hands-on sustainable seafood & marine ecosystem activity with children at a *Meet the Scientists* event.

Sustainable Seafood Consultant, Eating with the Ecosystem, *January 2015 – August 2017*

Conducted interviews with local stakeholders & analyzed fisheries catch data for a project gauging symmetry between marine ecosystems & seafood markets. Wrote blogs & represented the organization at the 2016 Local Seafood Summit.

SCIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY, & FOOD WRITING

- Co-author of two peer-reviewed articles in the journal *Fisheries Research*: [Opportunities & barriers for fisheries diversification: Consumer choice in New England](#) & [Do community supported fisheries \(CSFs\) improve sustainability?](#)
- Personal blog, SustainFish.com, discussing seafood, food systems, sustainability, & my relationship with food. Guest blogger for [Oceana](#), [Sustainable Seafood Blog Project](#), [Eating with the Ecosystem](#), [Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance](#)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Proficient in ArcGIS, Global Fishing Watch, Google Cloud Suite, Hootsuite, Microsoft Office, STATA, Tableau, WordPress