

## Benjamin Hlina – AFS-OC President-Elect Candidate



Benjamin Hlina is a postdoctoral fellow currently based at the [Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research](#) working with Drs. [Aaron Fisk \(University of Windsor\)](#) and [Tim Johnson \(OMNRF\)](#). He grew up on the south shores of Lake Superior, near Duluth/Superior, Minnesota/Wisconsin, USA, which provided a deep love and appreciation for the water and all things that live in it. His current fisheries research investigates the mechanisms that influence the spatial ecology and food web processes of near-and offshore fishes in Lake Ontario. He is interested in how changes in near-and offshore prey communities caused by changing abiotic and biotic conditions (e.g., oxy-thermal habitats, nutrient loading, lower trophic level diversity and abundance, and introduced/invasive species) affect spatial ecology and population health of desired fish species (e.g., Walleye,

Chinook Salmon, and Lake Trout). Ben has previously worked within fish spatial ecology, aquatic trophic dynamics, bioenergetics, fish physiology, fish endocrinology, aquatic toxicology, and aquatic invasive species management. He is interested in being a part of the Ontario chapter of the American Fisheries Society because he wants to learn more about different fisheries science and management practices that are occurring in Ontario. He has experience in different leadership roles, including being an active member of the Ocean Tracking Network and a student member on the conference committee for the Society of Aquatic Scientists.