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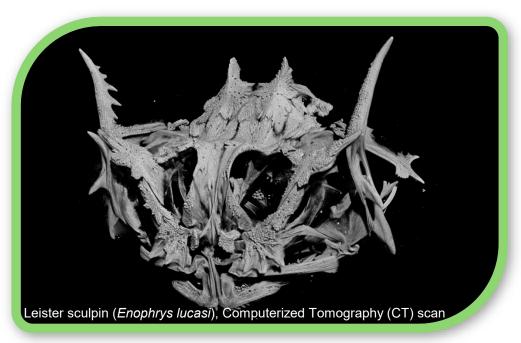


National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center 2022 Groundfish Seminar Series

## Thaddaeus Buser, GAP, AFSC

Tuesday, October 18th @ 10 am Pacific

Stags of the sea? On the evolution and function of cranial weapons in sculpins



Many North Pacific fishes are armed with scutes, spines, and barbs. Presumably they defend against predation, but for most species this defensive function is entirely speculative. I used a variety of techniques, including CT scans and 3D motion capture to describe the morphology and use of preopercular spines in sculpins and compared the evolutionary drivers of the weaponization of sculpin skulls with better-understood terrestrial models, such as the evolution of antlers in stag deer.

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For more