**Desiree Zhuk**

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| **EDUCATION** |  |
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| **Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Marine & Estuarine Sciences**  *San Francisco State University | San Francisco, CA*  Thesis work on Southern sea otter prey accessibility in low risk areas within San Francisco bay, advised by Ellen Hines. | 2023 - 2025 |
| **Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology**  *University of California Santa Cruz | Santa Cruz, CA*  Focused on animal behavior ecology, kelp forest ecology, genetics, and research paper writing. | 2017 - 2021 |
| **SKILLS** |  |

Scientific diving NAUI certified at University of California, Santa Cruz.

RStudio and GitHub analysis and data infographic creation.

Lesson planning and teaching science curriculum to a wide range of audiences.

Scientific illustration through species guidebook creation for local fishermen, painted murals in large facilities, maintained observation sketchbooks, and provided infographics for students of a wide age range.

| **WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE** |  |
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| **Marine Science Instructor**  *Marine Science Institute | Redwood City, CA*  Presented science curriculum to Pre-K through College students with a range of programs that include: on site stations, aboard the research vessel Robert G.BrownLee, visited schools with mobile aquariums, hosted public events, and traveled to Richmond, San Francisco, and Antioch to host city specific programs tailored to the ecosystem located there. Taught classes through inquiry based learning and hands-on activities, tailored to each program’s needs, and included hydrology data collection and animal handling aboard research vessels and on land. | Sep 2022 - June 2023 |
| **Volunteer Guide**  *Monterey Bay Aquarium | Monterey Bay, CA*  Educating the general public on current aquarium displays, leading schools through educational demonstrations, handling animals, public speaking on marine science and assisting aquarium staff. | May 2022 - Present |
| **Artist and Educator**  *Minorities In Shark Science | ​Bradenton, FL*  Created scientific infographics for classrooms, public events and online curriculum. Responsibilities included lesson plan making, dichotomous key creation, and both illustrating and curating a 32 page elasmobranch field guide for the waters of Florida which included information of life history, characteristics, habitat, fishery regulations and carefully illustrated images used to identify each species; with fishermen and scuba divers being the targeted audience. | Jan 2022 - July 2022 |
| **Education and Aquarist Intern**  *Pennington Marine Science Center | Avalon, CA*  Created and taught lesson plans surrounding oceanography and aquaristry for the public while maintaining a large aquarium facility containing fragile and protected specimens native to Catalina Island. Produced standard protocol for future paid interns while helping re-establish the aquarium after covid related shutdowns. Collected a variety of specimens through scuba and freediving. Assisted graduate students from Stanford with their population genetic screening for white pointer shark presence, using samples collected on-site and PCR to amplify suspected species DNA. | June 2021 - Aug 2021 |
| **Undergraduate Research Internships**  *University of California, Santa Cruz | Santa Cruz, CA*  Created research papers through the Raimondi-Carr Lab and Undergraduate Research in EEB: Scientific Writing Lab, on kelp forest ecology: specifically kelp and urchin relationship dynamics and fish transect survey methodology. Assisted graduate students Ellen Willis-Norton and Casey Sheridan with thesis projects including the sea urchin mesocosm lab researching interactions and responses of purple sea urchins through predator/prey dynamics and response cues as well as the ocean acidification lab researching the effect of future predicted water quality on fish larval development through remote data analysis, using the ImageJ program. | Dec 2019 - May 2021 |
| **Volunteer Scuba Diver**  *Long Marine Lab | Santa Cruz, CA*  Upkept marine mammal facilities by scuba diving within designated tanks using power tools to clean off algae particulates and help provide proper care for two bottlenose dolphins. | Nov 2019 - May 2021 |
| **Volunteer Assistant**  *Bodega Bay Marine Labs | Bodega Bay, CA*  Worked in a wet lab with researchers on various studies. General upkeep of tanks, displays and animal care such as meal prep for large rockfish exhibits, size checks on scallops, and fish. | June 2016 - Aug 2016 |
| **PAST PAPERS** *https://desireezhuk.com/written-works/* |  |

Purple Sea Urchin Avoidance Response to Specific Predation Cues of Red Rock Crabs.

Sexual Behavior Tactics for Hierarchical Male Elephant Seals: when too much can be detrimental to one’s success.

Analyzing the Methodology used to Survey Fish in Kelp Forests.

Bottom-Up or Top-Down? The Relationship Between Giant Kelp and Purple Urchins in Monterey Bay, California.