

Laila SanAhmadi

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Education	<p>Master of Science, Interdisciplinary Marine and Estuarine Sciences <i>Estuary and Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State University</i> 3150 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, California, Anticipated graduation year: 2026 Advisors: Ellen Hines and Jaime Jahncke</p> <p>Bachelor of Science, Marine Science <i>California State University of Monterey Bay</i> 100 Campus Center, Seaside, California, Graduated: 2015</p>
Skill Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced husbandry skills with pelagic fishes, tropical fishes, cephalopods, tropical corals, zooplankton, larval fish rearing, phytoplankton and zooplankton culturing - trained by the Monterey Bay Aquarium for +5 years• Live pelagic fish handling skills developed by working with bluefin, yellowfin, and albacore tuna; scalloped hammerhead sharks, and mahi-mahi in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Tuna Research and Conservation Center and Animal Research and Care Center for tagging efforts, animal welfare checks, and transportation efforts• Proficient with Macintosh/Windows hardware and database software: Loligo Systems AutoResp, Tracks, Microsoft Access, BestNotes• In-person and virtual teaching experience on various science, technology, and math topics for college and elementary school students• Versatile science outreach communication skills for public audiences: acquired through additional Monterey Bay Aquarium workshops and multiple outreach events
Research Experience	<p>Marine Laboratory Research Assistant, Point Blue Conservation Science Petaluma, California 94954</p> <p>4/2022-5/2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At-sea-work experience with Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies in the Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary gathering samples via Tucker net, Hoop net, CTD, Niskin bottles• At-sea-work experience gathering and processing zooplankton, microplastic, eDNA, phytoplankton, and nutrient samples• Assisted in creating a pilot project gathering microplastic samples for future analysis• Analyzed marine predator diet samples for the California sea lion, Cassin's auklet, Brandt's cormorant, California least tern and Western gull via species identification and morphometrics of otoliths, scales, and other finding to determine prey species, distribution, and abundance• Trained volunteers and new lab assistants in lab operations and sample processing• Presented and taught outreach activities focusing on Brandt's cormorant pellets and zooplankton at a local community college and the California Academy of Sciences <p>10/2021-1/2022</p> <p>Scientific Aide, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Rancho Cordova, California 95670</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted shore and kayak surveys for annual pre-spawning mortality and escapement rates of Chinook salmon via carcass collection and monitoring in the lower American River• Located and tracked presences of Chinook salmon redds in the lower American River• Organized and repaired gear for field surveying• Obtained and recorded morphometrics, biological samples, disc tags, and provided quality control of data• Conducted juvenile fish survey along the lower American River to determine native and invasive species presence

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1/2018-4/2020	<p>Aquarist Trainee - Tuna Research Conservation Center, Monterey Bay Aquarium Monterey, California 93940</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored and recorded the welfare of tagged and untagged pelagic fish: Pacific bluefin tuna, Pacific yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna, Pacific chub mackerel, jack mackerel, Northern anchovy, yellowtail amberjack • Assisted in research in the Tuna Research Conservation Center: live handling and tagging of bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, and chub mackerel; necropsies for animal welfare and tissue sampling; steelhead trout tagging and respirometry study; tissue sampling for Puffy Snout Syndrome; live animal collection from Monterey Bay for research sampling and aquarium exhibits • Assisted in archival research in the Ocean Memory Lab: herbarium study for local coastal algal species, handedness and morphology study on swordfish bills, preparing various samples for stable isotopes • Created databases and assisted with manuscript writing for future research publication • Created safety protocols and trained volunteers/interns in husbandry and research tasks • Led outreach tours for Stanford Hopkins Marine Station and the Monterey Bay Aquarium to promote conservation • Presented about tuna conservation and tagging operations with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Education Department for the Teen Conservation Leadership program • Assisted with the database creation, analysis of data, and manuscript writing of a study • In charge of all financial records and itemization for the Tuna Research and Conservation Center
5/2017-6/2017	<p>Assistant Aquarist, Monterey Bay Aquarium Monterey, California 93940</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily husbandry and life support care for semi-open and open tropical and temperate tanks • Monitored welfare of pelagic fish species (including Northern anchovy and Pacific mackerel), tropical fish species, coral species, and cephalopods (cuttlefish, squid, and octopi), moray eels, and California spiny lobsters • Covered service areas and operations for senior level aquarist • Trained volunteers and interns in aquarium operations and husbandry skills • Took morphometrics of mortalities to determine exhibit health • Assisted in the monitoring and culturing of the pelagic red crab
8/2016-3/2017	<p>Husbandry Intern - Shale Reef and Larval Culture Room, Monterey Bay Aquarium Monterey, California 93940</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided daily husbandry for larval fish culture room and shale reef organisms • Cultured fish species (primarily blue banded goby, jacksmelt, tubesnout, starry rockfish) from egg to juvenile life stage using the Modular Larval Rearing Systems (MoLaRS) • Studied jacksmelt from egg to juvenile life stage to document growth to perfect husbandry care • Presented jacksmelt finding to the Husbandry Department • Assisted in culturing algae species and invertebrates (mysids, copepods, and <i>Artemia</i>) for feedings
<p>Teaching Experience</p> <p>9/2019-3/2022</p>	<p>STEM Academic Tutor, College Living Experience Monterey, California 93940</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person and online individual/group tutoring, social, and executive functioning support for college level students with learning differences • Documented all sessions with database BestNotes and reported improvements and concerns directly to the Academic Coordinator • Tutored in multiple maths (general to calculus), academic writing skills, natural sciences (biology and environmental science), and led study halls for student groups

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8/2016-1/2018	Volunteer Guide, Monterey Bay Aquarium Monterey, California 93940 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educated guests about the Monterey Bay Area and marine conservation using the exhibits and touch pools as teaching tools and ambassador animals• Took additional workshops provided by the aquarium to become a red-jacket (top) level guide• Taught new volunteer guides how to best approach and communicate with guests throughout the aquarium• Participated in multiple communication workshops led by the Monterey Bay Aquarium dedicated to discussing different science communication skills
Acknowledgments	<p>Grimes T, and Galinat A. 2022. Lower American River fall-run Chinook salmon escapement survey October 2021-January 2022. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Central Region.</p> <p>Miller EA et al. 2021. Electron microscopy reveals viral-like particles and mitochondrial degradation in scombroid puffy snout syndrome. Diseases of aquatic organisms.</p> <p>Miller EA, Lisin SE, Smith CM, Van Houtan KS. 2020. Herbaria macroalgae as a proxy for historical upwelling trends in Central California. Proc. R. Soc. B 287:20200732</p>
Certifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) Husbandry Department Internship: “Cultivating Larval Fish: The Development of <i>Atherinopsis californiensis</i> (jacksmelt)”• NAUI Open Water Diving• ArcGIS (Geographical Information System) and Intermediate Mapping
Professional References	<p>Meredith Elliott - <i>Senior Scientist/ACCESS Program Leader</i> Point Blue Conservation Science 3820 Cypress Drive, Suite #11, Petaluma, California 94954 Email: melliott@pointblue.org Phone: (501) 604-1550</p> <p>Erica Burton - <i>Research Ecologist</i> Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 99 Pacific Street, Building 455A, Monterey, California 93940 Email: erica.burton@noaa.gov Phone: (831) 647-4246</p> <p>Emily Miller - <i>Research Technician</i> Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute 7700 Sandholdt Road, Moss Landing, California 95039 Email: emilyamiller@gmail.com Phone: (510) 919-3262</p>