

## ROBIN ELAHI, Ph.D.

Hopkins Marine Station; 120 Ocean View Blvd; Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
elahi@stanford.edu; www.stanford.edu/~elahi; www.github.com/elahi

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### CURRENT POSITION

**NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Biology** (2014 – 2016)

- Advisors: Dr. Giulio De Leo (Hopkins Marine Station), Dr. Mary O'Connor (University of British Columbia), Dr. Rebecca Tyson (University of British Columbia)

### EDUCATION

**University of Washington, Seattle, WA:** Ph.D. in Biology (2006-2012)

**California State University, Northridge, CA:** M.S. in Biology, with distinction (2005)

**Northeastern University, Boston, MA:** B.S. in Biology, with highest honors (2003)

### PUBLICATIONS

**Elahi, R.,** O'Connor, M.I., Byrnes, J.E.K., Dunic, J., Eriksson, B.K., Hensel, M.J.S. and

P.J. Kearns. 2015. *Recent trends in local-scale marine biodiversity reflect community structure and human impacts*. Current Biology 25: 1938-1943

\*\*\*Data and code available at <http://github.com/elahi/marBioDivChange>\*\*\*

**Elahi, R.,** Dwyer, T.R. and K.P. Sebens. 2014. *Mesoscale variability in oceanographic retention sets the abiotic stage for subtidal benthic diversity*. Marine Ecology

Progress Series 498: 117-132

**Elahi, R.** and K.P. Sebens. 2013. *Experimental removal and recovery of subtidal grazers highlights the importance of functional redundancy and temporal context*. PLoS One 8(11):e78969.

**Elahi, R.,** C. Birkeland, K.P. Sebens, K.R. Turner and T.R. Dwyer. 2013. *Limited change in the diversity and structure of subtidal communities over four decades*. Marine Biology 160: 3209-3219

**Elahi, R.** and K.P. Sebens. 2012. *Consumers mediate natural variation between prey richness and resource use in a benthic marine community*. Marine Ecology Progress Series 452:131-143

**Elahi, R.** 2008. *Effects of aggregation and species identity on the growth and behavior of mushroom corals*. Coral Reefs 27: 881-885

Edmunds, P.J. and **R. Elahi**. 2007. *The demographics of a 15-year decline in cover of the Caribbean reef coral Montastraea annularis*. Ecological Monographs 77: 3-18

**Elahi, R.** and P.J. Edmunds. 2007. *Determinate growth and the scaling of photosynthetic energy intake in the solitary coral, Fungia concinna (Verrill)*. Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 349:183-193

**Elahi, R.** and P.J. Edmunds. 2007. *Tissue age affects calcification in the scleractinian coral, Madracis mirabilis*. Biological Bulletin 212: 20-28

**Elahi, R.** and P.J. Edmunds. 2007. *Consequences of fission in the coral Siderastrea siderea: growth rates of small colonies and clonal input to population structure*. Coral Reefs 26:271-276

## **RESEARCH FUNDING (LAST 10 YEARS)**

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship: \$140000 (2014 - 2016)

Lerner-Gray Grant for Marine Research: \$1444 (2010)

American Association for Underwater Science: \$1500 (2009)

UW Biology-FHL Awards: \$1400 (2010); \$1750 (2007)

## **AWARDS (LAST 10 YEARS)**

NSF GK-12 Fellowship: \$30000 (granted 2x; 2008-09, 2011-2012)

UW Biology Tunnicliffe Writing Fellowship: \$4300 (2011)

UW ARCS Fellowship: \$3000 (granted 3x; Spring 2007, 2008; Fall 2007)

CSU Outstanding Graduate Research Award (2006)

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship: honorable mention (2005)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Instructor**

*California State University, Monterey Bay, CA: Ecology and Marine Biology (Spring 2013)*

*Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles, CA: Intro Biology for non-majors, with lab (2006)*

### **NSF GK-12 teaching fellow**

*Garfield High School, Seattle, WA: Marine Science (2010 – 2011)*

*Friday Harbor High School, Friday Harbor, WA: Biology (2008-2009)*

### **Teaching assistant**

*Friday Harbor Labs, Friday Harbor, WA: Ocean Acidification (2011), Marine Environmental Research (2009), Scientific Diving (2009), Marine Invertebrate Zoology (2008), Marine Subtidal Ecology Research (2007), Marine Botany (2007)*

*University of Washington, Seattle, WA: Biology of Algae (2011), Marine Invertebrate Zoology (2008, 2007), Evolution and Systematics (2008), Foundations of Ecology (2006)*

*California State University, Northridge, CA: Physiological Ecology (2005), Introductory Biology (2005, 2003), Invertebrate Zoology (2004)*

*Northeastern University Three Seas Marine Biology Program: Tropical Terrestrial Ecology (Moorea, 2006), Biology of Corals (Moorea, 2006, 2005; Jamaica, 2004)*

## **MENTORING**

### **Three Seas East West Marine Biology Program, Friday Harbor Labs, WA (2012)**

Jackie O'Mara: The effect of chiton (*Tonicella* spp.) diversity on experimental epifaunal communities (Northeastern University masters student)

### **Research Experience for High School Students; Friday Harbor Labs, WA (2011)**

Robin Gropp and Julia Trace: Quantifying changes in the growth of the temperate coral *Balanophyllia elegans* over a 40-year period (Orcas Island H.S., WA; Scottsdale H.S., AZ)

### **Marine Ecology Research Apprenticeship, Friday Harbor Labs, WA (2009)**

Emily Haug, Meghan Rock, Ross Whippo: Characterizing the diets of urchins and chitons from subtidal rock walls (UW undergraduate students)

## **SKILLS**

Programming, data analysis and visualization in R

PADI SCUBA Divemaster (970 dives)

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) Scientific Diver (since 2002)

Nitrox, CPR, First Aid, Oxygen Administration, Defibrillation, Hazardous Marine Life  
Small boat operator (Washington State boat license)

### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (LAST 10 YEARS)**

*All were 15-20 minute talks unless noted otherwise; only recent titles are included for brevity*

Elahi, R., O'Connor, M.I., and J.E.K. Byrnes. 2014. Human-driven gains and losses of local species diversity in modern marine ecosystems. Western Society of Naturalists; Tacoma, WA

Elahi, R. and K.P. Sebens. 2012. Functional redundancy and the non-additive impacts of marine consumers. Ecological Society of America; Portland, OR (poster)

Elahi, R. and K.P. Sebens. 2012. A consumer one-two punch...facilitation and functional diversity prevent reversal in community state. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology; Charleston, SC

Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (Seattle, WA 2010)

Western Society of Naturalists (2011, 2010, 2009, 2006)

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (Vancouver, CA; 2011)

International Temperate Reef Symposium (Adelaide, Australia; 2009)

### **PEER REVIEW**

Functional Ecology (2015), Coral Reefs (2015), Bulletin of Marine Science (2015), PLoS One (2013), Marine Biology (2013), Ecology Letters (2011), Ecology (2008, 2015), Galaxea (2007), Hydrobiologia (2007), Marine Ecology Progress Series (2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2014)

### **RESEARCH FEATURED IN POPULAR PRESS**

University of British Columbia. Human activities, shifts in local species reshaping coastal biodiversity. Science Daily, 9 July 2015. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/07/150709132447.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/07/150709132447.htm)>.

Sebens, K.P. and S. Laggan. Safeguarding marine species: a dynamic approach to preservation. International innovation, Research Media Ltd., Bristol, UK, February 2013.

Swalla, B.J. Underwater rock walls in the San Juan Islands are healthy and amazingly diverse! San Juan Islander, San Juan Island, WA, September 2013.  
<<http://sanjuanislander.com/opinion/columnists/tide-bites/16823>>.

### **REFERENCES**

Dr. Mary O'Connor (postdoctoral advisor)

Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada  
oconnor@zoology.ubc.ca; 604-827-5653

Dr. Kenneth P. Sebens (chair of PhD committee)

Friday Harbor Laboratories, 620 University Rd, Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
sebens@u.washington.edu; 206-616-0764

Dr. Peter J. Edmunds (chair of MS committee)

Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge, CA 91330  
peter.edmunds@csun.edu; 818-677-2502