

# Erin Ristig

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## MARINE CONSERVATION CONSULTING

### Independent Consultant – Fisheries Management and Marine Conservation

June 2020 - Present

#### Environmental Defense Fund – Fisheries Toolkit Improvement Project

February 2023 - Present

- Lead a fisheries toolkit experience and needs analysis, consulting with regional teams and conducting qualitative interviews to identify priority actions for Toolkit improvements and development of new resources
- Facilitated three-day workshop to discuss and strategize prioritization and implementation of analysis results
- Created a facilitation guide for gathering and incorporating local stakeholder knowledge into participatory CVA processes

#### NOAA & CMSF – Marine Resource Protection Program Coordinator

June 2020 - Present

- Coordinate with marine wardens and partner organizations to streamline design and increase utilization of an electronic app system; improve user experience for collection of more accurate enforcement data in CA
- Analyze data, producing figures and reports to communicate the utility of enforcement technologies to partner agencies

#### The Nature Conservancy – FishPath FMP Template Development

May - September 2023

- Developed an adaptable fishery management plan template to serve as an outline for writing a FMP; created guidance on stakeholder facilitation and translation of discussions and decision-making into FMP content

#### The Nature Conservancy – Fisheries Scorecard Development

September 2022 - March 2023

- Systematically evaluated top California fish species, analyzing catch-at-length metrics against size at maturity
- Developed a standardized scorecard “rating” each species and describing the current state of size limits being used in California state fisheries management

#### Barefoot Ocean – Octopus Fishery Analysis; Survey Design

September 2022 - June 2023

- Analyzed Indonesian octopus fishery temporary closure data to provide management recommendations
- Refined survey design to collect community-level fishery data, catch data, and social-economic data

#### Environmental Defense Fund – Fisheries Toolkit Website Redesign

May 2021 - September 2022

- Facilitated workshops, focus groups, and assessments to solicit feedback, redesign the website framework, and refine the toolkit to better meet the needs of a broad and international set of users
- Managed the development of web pages and visual content, in coordination with subject matter experts and the communications team; led team effort to review, edit, and finalize all website content

#### The Rāhui Center – Fisheries Research Project Management

June 2021 - June 2022

- Designed and implemented a field data collection program for small-scale fisheries management in French Polynesia; devised and wrote project methodology guides and work plans
- Coordinated and facilitated between anthropological and scientific researchers to analyze field work situations and problem solve the combining of disparate data into holistic management recommendations
- Provided guidance, solutions, and technical expertise to international team of data collectors

#### Nature Analytics – Fisheries Modelling and Communication

January - December 2021

- Developed an online, educational toolkit to explain fisheries science concepts to non-science audiences
- Created two global Shiny applications to be used for facilitation of fishery management decision-making – a yield-per-recruit teaching tool and a minimum size limit tradeoff tool; translated the applications into Spanish

#### Rare – Gender and Fisheries Paper Development

March - December 2021

- Led group on design and outline of a ‘gender in fisheries’ research paper, utilizing household surveys data

#### The Nature Conservancy – Global Trap Fisheries Analysis

April - July 2021

- Conducted a global assessment of trap and pot fisheries, based on a determined set of enabling conditions, to evaluate the potential market for a lost gear recovery toolkit
- Presented results of assessment, potential barriers, and suggestions for scaling to program leadership

#### UC Santa Barbara – MPA Compliance Research

October 2020 – May 2021

- Examined and researched regulatory compliance of MPAs in small-scale fisheries, drawing on quantitative data from an international NGO (Rare) database in partnership with an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow

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## PROJECT AND DATA MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

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### **Fisheries Analyst**

June - November 2020

#### **The Nature Conservancy - Remote**

- Co-developed fisheries models to estimate optimal size limits under a range of scenarios for a fisheries management plan at Ka'ūpūlehu, Hawai'i; produced a 100-page management recommendation report
- Designed a Shiny application to guide decision-making for setting species-specific minimum fish size limits for Ka'ūpūlehu; led facilitation and presentation of the application

### **Marine Protected Area Program Assistant and Data Analyst**

October 2019 - June 2020

#### **California Marine Sanctuary Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA**

- Produced communication materials, including written descriptions of MPAs, presentations, social media advertising, and website content, to outreach and educate about the statewide network of MPAs
- Provided data analysis using ArcGIS and R, for ongoing efforts to analyze and validate data from MPA enforcement and domain awareness technologies with NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

### **Project Manager, Master's Group Project: Spatial Analysis to Inform Shark Protection**

April 2020 - June 2021

#### **Wildlife Conservation Society (Client) - Remote**

- Conducted a spatial prioritization and recommended a network of MPAs to be incorporated into client's larger MPA network design for Mozambique and national policy for shark and ray conservation
- Co-managed a 5-person project team, served as primary client contact, facilitated team and client meetings, and directed project development from initial proposal to final deliverables

### **Project Development Intern**

July - October 2019

#### **NOS Noroeste Sustentable - La Paz, Mexico**

- Consulted with members of a fishing cooperative on initial development of an alternative livelihood, ecotourism project to lay the foundation for future business advancement
- Guided project team of 10 to design and improve upon the tourism product, develop an organizational management structure, build capacity, and conduct market research for tourism business

### **Western Forest Conservation Coordinator**

April 2018 - May 2019

#### **American Forest Foundation - Washington, DC**

- Served as primary point of contact with 15+ project partners throughout the western U.S. ensuring they had the tools and capacity to effectively outreach to family forest landowners to take conservation action
- Developed an internal data tracking system, processes, and procedures to track and record partners' project metrics as well as managing staff and partners to ensure quality and coherent data maintenance
- Provided research and writing support for a \$9.5 million California Carbon Initiative CALFIRE grant proposal; upon securing funding worked with team of 4 on strategic project design and startup

### **Global Project Support Associate**

March 2017 - March 2018

#### **Management Sciences for Health - Arlington, Virginia**

- Supported 9 country portfolios for the USAID-funded SIAPS project, facilitating essential project operations and correspondence between home office and field offices
- Directed 4-person Mozambique staff, both remotely and in-country, to close out the project and office
- Monitored proper completion and submission of project deliverables for 20 global projects

### **International Program Coordinator**

May - September 2016

#### **Foundation for Sustainable Development - Salta, Argentina**

- Supervised an international internship program; partnered with 15 local NGOs and facilitated collaboration and communication between interns, community members and NGO officials
- Developed and implemented high-quality, technical trainings and materials for volunteer interns, including strategies for cross-cultural integration and project development and management

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## EDUCATION

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**Master of Environmental Science and Management**

June 2021

**Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)**

Specialization: Coastal Marine Resources Management | Focus: Environmental Data Science

Master's Group Project: Spatial Analysis to Inform Policy Recommendations for Shark and Ray Protection in Mozambique – Wildlife Conservation Society

**Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Analysis and Spanish**

May 2015

**Claremont McKenna College** - Claremont, CA

Awards/Leadership: Phi Beta Kappa; Cum Laude; The Keck Center Senior Thesis Award for Fieldwork

Thesis: "Proyectos de desarrollo sostenible basados en la comunidad: una empresa de ecoturismo en El Topo, Ecuador" (Community-based Sustainable Development Projects - An Ecotourism Business in El Topo)

Study Abroad: SIT Comparative Ecology and Conservation - Ecuador

Fall 2013

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

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**Computer**: R/RStudio; Shiny; Git; ArcGIS; Microsoft Office Suite

**Language**: Spanish (Full professional proficiency); Portuguese (Conversational); French (Conversational)

**Certifications**: PADI Advanced Open Water Diver; CPR certified; ASA 101 Keelboat Sailing