Hello there! Thanks for visiting my website. My name is Haley Ohms and I am a Fisheries Ecologist in the Collaborative Fisheries Program at the University of California Santa Cruz and NOAA’s Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

My research is focused on how humans and fishes can coexist when resources are limited. I study the conditions that fish populations need to thrive, and use that information to guide management decisions that benefit both fish and people.

Here are several examples of projects I am currently working on:

Dams are used worldwide for water, flood control, and electricity, but they also block fish migrations that are critical to population survival. I study how and when fish move around dams (over spillways, through bypasses), so we can build better passage infrastructure at dams.

Freshwater and diadromous fish need freshwater to survive, but so do humans. Human population growth (and economics) requires more and more water, but in dry climates, like California, water is already a scare resource. I study what how much stream flow fish need in each season, and identify seasons where excess water could be withdrawn without harming fish growth, survival, and migrations.

Recent research has shown that diverse populations (those with a variety of ages, behavioral patterns, genetics, etc.) are more resilient to extreme events, such as droughts. I study how population diversity arises and is maintained through natural selection, so we can tailor management actions, like stream restoration, to promote population diversity.

My interest in human-fish coexistence is rooted in my early life experiences with fisheries. I grew up in Alaska and spent many summers commercial fishing with my family in Prince William Sound. I saw how healthy fish populations benefited me as an individual, my family, and my greater community.