

EDUCATION

University of California Santa Barbara | *B.A. Marine Science, B.S. Environmental Studies, B.S. Ecology and Evolution, 2021-2025* | GPA: 3.96

EXPERIENCE

Marine Science Department, College of Creative Studies: *Santa Barbara, CA*

Teaching Assistant (January 2025 - Present)

- Assist instruction of undergraduate marine data science courses

UCSB Ocean Recoveries Lab: *Santa Barbara, CA*

Research Technician (January 2024 - Present)

- Independent research on the metabolic benefits of coral-fish mutualisms

UCSB Ocean Recoveries Lab: *Santa Barbara, CA*

Research Technician (January 2023 - Present)

- Independent research on the predictive ability of herbarium specimens on the functional ecology of marine macroalgae

UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management: *Santa Barbara, CA*

Data Research and Communication Outreach Intern (June 2022 - September 2022)

- Synthesized data visualizations and communication media regarding the impacts of marine debris in California and Hawai'i using ArcGIS and RStudio

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Environmental Systems Department: *Cambridge, MA*

Environmental Ph.D. Project Assistant (May 2022 - December 2022)

- Synthesized maps displaying spatial and temporal relationships of fishing effort in South Africa

UC Santa Barbara Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration: *Santa Barbara, CA*

Laboratory Coordinator (August 2021 - March 2023)

- Independent research of carbon content in marine sediments as a restoration efficacy indicator
- Organize, train, and supervise volunteers performing invertebrate collection and analysis

UNBER/CDFW Fish Survey *Newport Beach, CA*

Scientific Aid (June 2021 - December 2021)

- Collect and count specimens using beach seines and trawls
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PRESENTATIONS

Western Society of Naturalists *Portland, OR (November 2024)*

- Presented research on the effect of coral-fish mutualisms on coral recovery

Bren School of Environmental Science Diversity Leader's Symposium *Santa Barbara, CA (November 2022)*

- Panelist speaker about BIPOC experience in environmental sciences

Bren School of Environmental Science and Management Mantell Symposium *Santa Barbara, CA (November 2022)*

- Presented research on the locations of southern california whale entanglements and marine debris

UCSB Undergraduate Research Symposium *Santa Barbara, CA (April 2022)*

- Presented research on water quality factors and macroinvertebrate populations within brackish wetlands
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PUBLICATIONS

(In prep) H Vega, N Munk, A Bui, A Stier. **Coral-dwelling fish help corals recover from wounds**

(In review) H Vega, A Bui, E Donham, A Stier. **Models can predict past functional traits of herbarium macroalgae**

Acknowledged, **Debris Free Seas: Assessing Economic Losses and Impacts to Fishers, the State, and the Environment from Lost Fishing Gear**, Masters Project 2023

H Vega, A Sanford. **Deadliest Bycatch: Summarizing and Mapping a Debris Free Sea**, Poster 2022

H Vega, A Grinstead, J Huitema **Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring at Devereux Slough**, Poster 2022

MEDIA & OUTREACH

Author, **Nadav Kempinski**, *BREN School of Environmental Science and Management*, 2025
Artist, **Coal Oil Point: A Seaweed Mosaic**, *UC Reserve System* 2023-2025
Featured, **Blue Future: Citizen Science and Activism**, *Patagonia* 2024
Co-author, **Diving in to REEF Safe Sunscreen: Meet the Scientists**, *Avasol* 2023
Author, **ODA: Twenty Years of Debris Free Seas**, *Ocean Defenders Alliance* 2022
Author, **Safe Boating and Fishing Practices**, *OC Coastkeeper* 2020
Author, **How our Intern Brought Fishing Line Recycling to Seal Beach**, *OC Coastkeeper* 2020

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

College of Creative Studies Travel Grant (November 2024)
UCSB Environmental Studies Research Grant (May 2024)
Tom Rogers Scholar (May 2024)
SACNAS - California Sea Grant Pathways to Inclusive Research Training Program (October 2023)
Shoreliner Scholar (October 2023)
Tom Rogers Scholar (May 2023)
Coastal Fund Research Grant Recipient (March 2023)
DIVERsity in Diving Fellow (November 2022)
Bentson Scholar (November 2022)
Bren Environmental Diversity Leaders Fellowship (June 2022)
FUERTE Undergraduate Fellow (March 2022)
Hispanic Scholarship Scholar (June 2021)

SERVICE

Goleta Surfrider Foundation *Santa Barbara, CA* (October 2021 - Present)

- Sample and publish bacteria content of UCSB beaches

Orange County Coastkeeper *Costa Mesa, CA* (August 2020 - September 2021)

- Draft blog reports about safe boating and angling practices

Seal Beach Fishing Line Recycling Program, *Seal Beach, CA*, (August 2020 - Present)

- Founded a community program to recycle fishing line in Seal Beach, CA

Skills

AAUS Diver, Rescue Diver, Nitrox Diver, CPR & First Aid, RStudio, ArcGIS, ImageJ, EDNA, French biliteracy