

Rebecca Ann Howard

Curriculum vitae

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences June 2024

Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences

Dissertation: “Predicting life-history specific species distributions in the North Pacific”

Minor: Statistics

M.S. Marine Resource Management December 2020

Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences

Thesis: “Change in Oregon’s nearshore groundfish trawl fishery: Perspectives from science and industry data”

B.S. Aquatic Biology June 2015

University of California, Santa Barbara, College of Letters & Science

Minor: Earth Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – **Research Fish Biologist**
NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, RACE Division
Field biologist for Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska bottom trawl surveys. Prepare model-based estimates of abundance for groundfish species as part of the Groundfish Assessment Program. Conduct scientific research on commercially important species.
- 2023 – 2024, **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Assistant**
2021 – 2022 *Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences*
Evaluating the use of size-structured and size-aggregated statistical species distribution models for projecting distributions of California Current System fish and invertebrate species under different climate scenarios using the NEP ROMS.
- 2022 – 2023 **Cooperative Institute for Marine Ecosystem and Resources Studies Graduate Research Assistant**
Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Developed updated species distribution models for Alaskan snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) in order to provide short term forecasts. Used machine learning methods to predict distributions of different sexes and sizes.
- 2020 - 2021 **North Pacific Research Board Graduate Research Assistant**
Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Hindcasted and forecasted eastern Bering Sea groundfish spawning distributions under future oceanographic conditions using the Bering 10K ROMS-NPZ. Used statistical modeling to hindcast distributions that then informed models used to forecast distributions during different emissions scenarios.
- 2018 – 2020 **Oregon Sea Grant Graduate Research Assistant**

Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Used statistical models to investigate the effects of oceanography and climate on groundfish long-term distribution and abundance in the northern California Current. Studied the overlap of fishery-independent and -dependent data sources on the continental shelf and their potential utility for assessment of nearshore flatfishes.

PUBLICATIONS

- RA Howard**, LA Rogers, KA Kearney, LL Vary, L Ciannelli. (In Press). Projecting marine fish distributions during early life stages under future climate scenarios. *Fish and Fisheries*.
LL Vary, LA Rogers, MJ Harte, **RA Howard**, L Ciannelli. (2023). Temperature-dependent spawning behavior and larval thermohaline associations of Bering Sea groundfishes. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 80(7), 1881-1898.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsad113>
- RA Howard**, L Ciannelli, WW Wakefield, MA Haltuch. (2023). Comparing fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data for analyzing the distributions of Oregon shelf groundfishes. *Fisheries Research*, 258, 106553. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2022.106553>
- RA Howard**, L Ciannelli, WW Wakefield, and MR Fewings. (2021). The effects of climate, oceanography, and habitat on the distribution and abundance of northern California Current continental shelf groundfishes. *Fisheries Oceanography*, 30(6), 707–725.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/fog.12553>

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW & REVISION

- RA Howard**, L Ciannelli, ER Ryznar, MA Litzow. Static and climate-linked habitat features explain the collapse of a well-managed fishery. In Review at *Nature Communications*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- RA Howard**, L Ciannelli, LA Rogers, KA Kearney, LL Vary. (2024, April 16-18). *Projecting future shifts of Bering Sea groundfish spawning distributions*. Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, Sitka, AK, USA.
- RA Howard**. (2014, June 1). *Hypoxia: Climate change in the coastal oceans*. Coastal Fund Gala, Santa Barbara, CA, USA.

CONTRIBUTED ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- RA Howard**, LA Rogers, KA Kearney, LL Vary, L Ciannelli. (2024, February 18-23). *Changes in ocean conditions over the next century lead to shifts in spawning distributions of Bering Sea groundfishes*. Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- RA Howard**, MA Litzow, L Ciannelli, ER Ryznar. (2023, October 23-27). *Sex- and maturity-specific distributions of eastern Bering Sea snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*)*. PICES-2023 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, USA.
- L Ciannelli, **RA Howard**, RG Asch, KE Dale, LA Rogers, LAK Barnett, ME Hunsicker. (2023, October 23-27). *Size-explicit species distribution models for marine fishes*. PICES-2023 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, USA.
- KE Dale, L Ciannelli, J Fiechter, M Pozo Buil, RE García Gómez, SPA Jiménez-Rosenberg, G Aceves-Medina, AR Thompson, JC Field, TD Auth, RI Perry, LA Rogers, **RA Howard**, RG Asch. (2023, October 23-27). *Tradeoffs between shifts in phenology and geography among early life history stages of fishes in response to environmental changes in the Eastern Pacific*. PICES-2023 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, USA.
- RA Howard**, L Ciannelli, JC Field, BK Wells, LAK Barnett, RG Asch. (2023, April 17-21). *The*

influence of ontogeny and size on the distribution of pelagic young-of-the-year fishes. 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean, Bergen, Norway.

RA Howard, L Ciannelli, LA Rogers, KA Kearney, LL Vary. (2022, February 27-March 4). *Effects of future climate variability on Bering Sea groundfish spawning distributions.* Ocean Sciences Meeting, Virtual.

RA Howard, L Ciannelli, LA Rogers, KA Kearney, LL Vary. (2022, January 24-27). *Effects of future climate variability on Bering Sea groundfish spawning distributions.* Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Virtual.

CONTRIBUTED POSTER PRESENTATIONS

RA Howard, L Ciannelli, JC Field, BK Wells, LAK Barnett, RG Asch. (2022, November 7-11). *The influence of ontogeny and size on the distribution of juvenile forage fishes.* International Symposium on Small Pelagic Fish, Lisbon, Portugal.

LL Vary, L Ciannelli, LA Rogers, **RA Howard**. (2022, February 27-March 4). *Biogeography and Behavior: Flexibility of Bering Sea groundfishes' spawning behavior and subsequent impacts on biogeography of early life stages.* Ocean Sciences Meeting, Virtual.

LL Vary, L Ciannelli, LA Rogers, **RA Howard**. (2022, January 24-27). *Biogeography and Behavior: Flexibility of Bering Sea groundfishes' spawning behavior and subsequent impacts on biogeography of early life stages.* Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Virtual.

RA Howard, L Ciannelli, and WW Wakefield (2020, December 1-2). *Visualization and overlap of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data for assessment of the Oregon shelf flatfish fishery.* CalCOFI Conference, Virtual.
https://calcofi.com/downloads/Posters2020/CalCOFI_Poster-Rebecca%20Howard.pdf

RA Howard, L Ciannelli, WW Wakefield, and MR Fewings. (2020, March 4-5). *Four decades of change in the Oregon nearshore flatfish fishery through the eyes of science and industry.* Meeting of the Oregon American Fisheries Society, Bend, OR, USA.

RA Howard, L Ciannelli, WW Wakefield, and MR Fewings. (2019, November 8-9). *Four decades of change in the Oregon nearshore flatfish fishery through the eyes of science and industry.* State of the Coast Conference, Gleneden Beach, OR, USA.

EMPLOYMENT

2016 – 2017 **AmeriCorps Member**

Watershed Stewards Program, placed at the NOAA Fisheries SWFSC

Collected data for population assessment and conservation of endangered Central California Coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout by stream surveys, juvenile trapping, and tagging. Created maps using ArcGIS for conference poster and future publications. Archived historical biological samples.

2015 – 2017 **North Pacific Groundfish Observer**

Alaskan Observers, Inc., contracted for the NOAA Fisheries AFSC

Collected biological, safety, and effort data aboard commercial bottom trawlers in the Bering Sea. Biological data recorded included maturity scans, otoliths, and salmon genetic samples. Worked with observers, NOAA Fisheries scientists, fishermen, and processing plants.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023 Graduate Dean's Catalyst Fellowship, Oregon State University

2023 Wayne V. & Louise Burt Memorial Fellowship, Oregon State University
 2023 CEOAS Outreach Accomplishment Award, Oregon State University
 2022 Ocean Ecology of Nekton Research Scholarship, Oregon State University
 2021 Kuhnel Regional Scholarship, Mensa Education and Research Foundation
 2020 Thesis Completion Award, Oregon State University
 2018 Provost's Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, Oregon State University
 2017 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, Corporation for National and Community Service

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

2024 Scholarly Presentation Award, Oregon State University
 2024 Ocean Sciences Meeting Student Travel Grant, AGU
 2024 NCEAS Environmental Data Science Summit Travel Support, UCSB
 2023 PICES Annual Meeting Travel Grant, NSF
 2023 CEOAS Association of Graduate Students Travel Award, Oregon State University
 2023 Scholarly Presentation Award, Oregon State University
 2023 Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean Travel Grant, PICES
 2022 NSF Travel Grant, WHOI & UMCES
 2022 International Symposium on Small Pelagic Fish Travel Grant, PICES & ICES

FIELD EXPERIENCE

May/Jun 2023 **Volunteer Survey Biologist**
 Pre-Recruit Survey and NCC Ecosystem Survey (NOAAS Bell M. Shimada)
 July 2019 **Volunteer Survey Biologist**
 West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl Survey (F/V Last Straw)
 July 2019 **Mooring and Instrument Deployment Volunteer**
 Partnership for the Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (R/V Elakha)
 May 2017 **Volunteer Survey Biologist**
 Rockfish Recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment Survey (NOAAS Reuben Lasker)

MENTORING & OUTREACH

2019 – 2024 **National Ocean Sciences Bowls**, *Oregon State University*
 Salmon Bowl event volunteer and judge.
 2023 **Guess Who? Fish Edition**, *Oregon State University*
 Developed fisheries activity for College of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences.
 2019 – 2020 **Academic Mentoring Program (CEOAS AMP)**, *Oregon State University*
 Mentor for four undergraduate students in environmental sciences.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Summer 2023 **Biological Oceanography**, *Oregon State University*
 Guest Lecturer
 Winter 2021 **Fishery Biology (online)**, *Oregon State University*
 Graduate Teaching Assistant

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023 Reviewer for Journals: *FACETS*; *Fish and Fisheries*
 2022 – 2023 CEOAS Ocean Ecology & Biogeochemistry Graduate Representative, Corvallis, OR
 2022 CEOAS Promotion and Tenure Student Committee, Corvallis, OR
 2020 CEOAS Promotion and Tenure Student Committee, Corvallis, OR