

# Jessica Weidenfeld

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San Diego, CA | (530) 304-6077 | [weidenfeldjessica@gmail.com](mailto:weidenfeldjessica@gmail.com) | [linkedin.com/in/jessica-weidenfeld-a9814a165](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-weidenfeld-a9814a165)

## About

Aquatic environmental professional with extensive experience in fieldwork, data analysis, meeting facilitation and project coordination. Expertise in coastal and freshwater ecosystems, ecological monitoring, and environmental data analysis using R and other tools. Proven ability to manage multiple projects and collaborate across interdisciplinary teams to achieve environmental and research goals.

## Education

### M.Sc. Marine ecology

Oct 2020 - March 2024

#### *San Diego State University*

Thesis: The Effects of a Sea Urchin's Diet on its Commensal Polychaete.

### B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Biology

Sept 2016 - May 2018

#### *University of California Davis*

Concentration: Fisheries

## Professional Experience

### California Sea Grant State Policy Fellow

April 2024 – Present

#### *Delta Stewardship Council: Science Communication and Synthesis Unit*

- Coordinate monthly reports that are presented to the Delta Stewardship Council by the lead scientist
- Created science communication materials for a [state hosted website](#) as well as improved the user interface
- Automated a data pipeline from Excel to R, streamlined calculations and transitioned monthly reporting to a dynamic web-based platform, improving efficiency and communication
- Presented and co-created a webinar promoting science communication to multiple state and agency partners
- Facilitated discussions and created materials for an equitable grant making working group w/ HI & CA Sea Grant
- Managed art submissions for a state sponsored conference (2024 Bay Delta Science Conference)

### Laboratory Technician

May 2021 – Jan 2024

#### *Southern California Coastal Water Research Project*

- Conducted California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for various watersheds (Episodic and Ephemeral)
- Developed R-based data pipelines and visualizations for hydrologic and biological data
- Assisted in storm water analysis and sewage pipe integrity monitoring

### Laboratory Technician

May 2022 – Aug 2023

#### *Sunken Seaweed LLC*

- Prepared and analyzed macroalgal samples using Mass Spectrometry for carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus
- Coordinated laboratory volunteer efforts and ensured accuracy in nutrient analysis

### Junior Specialist

July 2018 – Dec 2020

#### *UC Davis: Grosholz lab: Suisun Marsh Salinity Study*

- Led all field and lab operations in Suisun Marsh, CA
- Conducted chlorophyll, zooplankton and clam sampling for ecosystem monitoring and research objectives
- Deployed and maintained water quality monitoring equipment in Suisun Marsh for over a year
- Managed and analyzed 3 years of project data independently, ensuring accurate and timely reporting.
- Co-developed experimental designs and research protocols creating novel research approaches

- Collaborated with multiple labs and agencies to streamline research and data sharing efforts

## Student Assistant

May 2021 – Jan 2024

### ***UC Davis: Hobbs lab: Biogeochemical and Fish Ecology Lab***

- Assisted with boat-based fieldwork in various SF Bay tributaries, deploying SLS, otter, and 20mm trawls.
- Processed and Identified contents of trawl samples for Myside shrimp, invertebrates and larval fish species
- Entered and managed data for a multi-year study Long Fin Smelt study

## Student Assistant

May 2021 – Jan 2024

### ***UC Davis: Teh Lab: Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory***

- Conducted reference toxicity testing and prepared water standards for experimental protocols.
- Cultured algae and handled fish euthanasia using MS222 in accordance with lab standards.
- Performed hardness, alkalinity, and ammonia analysis to assess water quality.
- Applied sterilization techniques and handled concentrated herbicides for lab experiments.

## Other Research Experience

### **Juvenile Chinook Tagging**

Jan 2019 - Feb 2020

*UC Davis: Ryple lab*

### **Suisun Marsh Fish Study**

Jan 2015 - Sept 2020

*UC Davis: Moyle/Durand lab*

### **Native Tule Restoration**

Sept 2018

*Department of Water Resources*

### **Tomales Bay Invertebrate Community Composition**

June 2018 - 2020

*UC Davis: Ben Rubinoff*

### **Putah Creek Rotary Screw trap**

March 2017 - June 2017

*UC Davis: Moyle lab*

## Skills & Abilities

- Meeting facilitation
- Technical scientific reporting and writing
- Stream Assessment
- Algal Identification
- Mass spectrometry sample prep, analysis & maintenance
- CA wetland plant identification
- Science communication
- R studio: Data Visualization and Data Pipelines
- ESRI story map
- Soil analysis
- Fish, polychaete and mollusk husbandry
- ImageJ

## Certifications & Trainings

### **CA Tribal Affairs 101 Training**

2024

### **Meeting Facilitation Training: *California Sea Grant***

2024

### **Summer Science Mentorship Training Program: *California Sea Grant***

2023

### **Center for Teaching and Learning Graduate Teaching Certificate: *San Diego State University***

2022

### **Implicit Bias and Microaggression Workshop: *CSU COAST***

2021

### **Active Bystander Intervention Workshop: *CSU COAST***

2021

### **Motorboat Operator Training Course: *UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab***

2018

## Awards

### **Elliot Family Fund Scholarship (\$5,000): *San Diego State University***

2023

### **Dr. Kenneth H. Coale Graduate Scholar Award (\$4,000): *CSU COAST***

2023

Environmental Data Science Innovation & Inclusion Lab Summit Travel award (\$1,000): <i>NSF</i>	2023
Sustainable Oceans National Science Foundation Scholars Program (\$1,000): <i>UC Davis</i>	2022
Harold & June Grant Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500): <i>San Diego State University</i>	2021
University Grant (\$9,000): <i>San Diego State University</i>	2021
Biology Scholarship (\$1,164): <i>San Diego State University</i>	2020
Citation for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement : <i>UC Davis</i>	2018

## Outreach

Pride Committee Speaker Series: <i>California Natural Resource Agency</i>	2024
• Coordinated disability pride month secretary speaker series, contacted and organized speakers	
Marine Science Day Donation Coordinator: <i>San Diego State University</i>	2023 - 2024
• Contacted over 50 local companies for donations that were raffled for Marine Science Day where we had over 1200 attendees	
Marine Science Career and Research Presentation: <i>Be-Wise Girls San Diego</i>	2023
• Co-created a presentation and tour for 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade girls interested in marine science	
Science Leader Volunteer: <i>Ocean Discovery Institute</i>	2023 – Present
• Engaged K-6 <sup>th</sup> students from underserved communities, sharing my research and inspiring interest in marine science careers	
Aquaculture Community Science Outreach: <i>Blue Economy Symposium: Fort Bragg, CA</i>	2022
• Demonstrated purple urchin aquaculture to the Fort Bragg, CA community at the Noyo Science Center	

## Professional Service

SURE Student Applicant Reviewer: <i>California Sea Grant at San Diego State University</i>	2022
Student Travel Grant Reviewer: <i>Western Society of Naturalists</i>	2022

## Selected Presentations

Weidenfeld, J., Grosholz T. “Experimental field study of growth and survival of invasive clams in Montezuma Slough” Poster presentation at Bay Delta Science Conference 2024.	
Weidenfeld, J., Hentschel B. “Effects of a Sea Urchins diet on its commensal polychaete <i>Flabesymbios commensalis</i> ” Oral presentation at Sustainable Oceans Symposium, 2023.	
Weidenfeld, J., Grosholz T. “Growth of <i>Potamocorbula amurensis</i> and <i>Corbicula fluminea</i> in Suisun Marsh 2018” Oral Presentation at Estuarine Ecology Team, 2020.	
Weidenfeld, J., Grosholz T. “Experimental field study of growth and survival of invasive clams in Montezuma Slough” Recorded Oral Presentation at Virtual Interagency Ecological Program, Aug 2020	

## Teaching Experience

Biological Statistics Using RStudio: <i>San Diego State University</i>	2022 – 2024
Intro to Animal Biology: <i>San Diego State University</i>	2021
General Biology: <i>San Diego State University</i>	2020

## Activities and Organizations

Student Co-Chair: <i>The Western Society of Naturalists</i>	2021-2023
Treasurer: <i>Marine Ecology and Biology Student Association San Diego State University</i>	2021-2024
Photographer: <i>American Fisheries Society Cal-Neva chapter</i>	2019
Docent & Waterways field trip assistant: <i>Putah Creek Council</i>	2019-2020
Treasurer: <i>American Fisheries Society Davis-Sac Subunit</i>	2017-2018
Stewardship Leader: <i>Putah Creek Council</i>	2014-2016