

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management
2400 Bren Hall, University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
Phone: +1 (207) 205 8435
Email: juancarlos@ucsb.edu
Web: villasenor-derbez.com

Juan Carlos Villaseñor-Derbez
PhD Candidate, UC Santa Barbara

EDUCATION

- 2022 Ph.D. Environmental Science and Management. University of California, Santa Barbara (Expected June 2022)
- 2017 Master of Environmental Science and Management. University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2015 B.Sc. Oceanography, *Honors*. Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, México

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published (*co-first authorship)

- 2022 Wilson M. W., Lawson J. M., Rivera-Hechem M. I., **Villaseñor-Derbez J. C.**, Gaines, S. D. Evaluating Conditions for Moored Fish Aggregating Device Fisheries Development in the Caribbean and Bermuda. (In Press). *Frontiers in Marine Science* DOI: [10.3389/fmars.2022.827068](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.827068)
- 2021 Millage K.D.*, **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.***, Bradley D., Burgess M., Lenihan H., Costello C. (2021). Self-Financed Marine Protected Areas. *Environmental Research Letters* DOI: [10.1088/1748-9326/ac3439](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac3439)
- Tuholske C., Halpern B., Blasco G., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Frazier M., Caylor K.K. (2021). Mapping global inputs and impacts from human sewage in coastal ecosystems. *PLoS ONE* DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0258898](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258898)
- Ramírez-Valdez A., Rowell T. J., Dale K., Craig M., Allen L., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Cisneros-Montemayor A., Hernández-Velasco A., Torre J., Hofmeister J., Erisman B. (2021) Asymmetry across international borders: Research, fishery and management trends and economic value of the giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*). *Fish & Fisheries*. DOI: [10.1111/faf.12594](https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12594)
- Lynham J., Nikolaev A., Rainor, J., Vilela T., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.** (2021). Reply to "Catch rate composition affects assessment of protected area impacts". *Nature Communications*. DOI: [10.1038/s41467-021-21608-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-21608-3)
- 2020 Wilson M. W., Lawson J. M., Rivera-Hechem M. I., **Villaseñor-Derbez J. C.**, Gaines, S. D. (2020). Status and trends of moored fish aggregating device (MFAD) fisheries in the Caribbean and Bermuda. *Marine Policy*. DOI: [10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104148](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104148)
- Lynham J., Nikolaev A., Rainor, J., Vilela T., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.** (2020). Economic Impact of Two of the Largest Protected Areas on Earth. *Nature Communications*. DOI: [10.1038/s41467-020-14588-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-14588-3)
- Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Lynham J., Costello C. (2020). Environmental Market Design for Large-Scale Marine Conservation. *Nature Sustainability*. DOI: [10.1038/s41893-019-0459-z](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0459-z)
- 2019 **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Aceves-Bueno E., Fulton S., Suarez-Castillo A., Hernández-Velasco A., Torre J., Micheli F. (2019). An interdisciplinary evaluation of community-based TURF-reserves. *PLoS ONE*. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0221660](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0221660)

O'Hara C. **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.**, Ralph G., Halpern B. (2019). Mapping status and conservation of global at-risk marine biodiversity. *Conservation Letters*. DOI: [10.1111/conl.12651](https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12651)

Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.*, Fitzgerald S.* (2019). Spatial variation in allometric growth of invasive lionfish has management implications. *PeerJ*. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.6667](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.6667)

- 2018 Peake, J., Bogdanoff A.K., Layman C.A., Castillo B., Chapman J., Dahl K., Patterson W., Eddy C., Ellis R., Faletti M., Higgs N., Johnston M., Muñoz R., Sandel V., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Morris Jr. J.A. (2018). Feeding ecology of invasive lionfish (*Pterois volitans* and *Pterois miles*) in the temperate and tropical western Atlantic. *Biological Invasions*. DOI: [10.1007/s10530-018-1720-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-018-1720-5)

Villaseñor-Derbez J.C. Faro C., Wright M., Martínez J., Fitzgerald S., Fulton S., Mancha-Cisneros M.M., McDonald G., Micheli F., Suárez A., Torre J., Costello C. (2018). A user-friendly tool to evaluate the effectiveness of no-take marine reserves. *PLoS ONE*. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0191821](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0191821)

- 2016 Hernández-Velasco A.J., Fernández-Rivera Melo F.J., Melo-Merino, S.M. **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.** (2016). Occurrence of *Holacanthus clarionensis* (Pomacanthidae), *Stegastes leucurus*, and *S. acapulcoensis* (Pomacentridae) at Isla Magdalena B.C.S., Mexico. *Marine Biodiversity Records*. DOI: [10.1186/s41200-016-0062-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/s41200-016-0062-1)

- 2015 Ramírez-Valdez A., Dominguez-Guerrero I., Palacios-Salgado D.S., Cota-Nieto J.J., Hinojosa-Arango G., Correa-Sandoval F., Reyes-Bonilla H., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Hernandez A., Aburto-Oropeza, O. (2015). The nearshore fishes of the Cedros archipelago and their biogeographic affinities, northeastern Pacific. *CalCOFI Reports*

Dreyfus M., Mejía-Trejo A., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.** (2015). Analysis of null sets (no catch) made by the Mexican tuna seine fleet (2000-2013). *Ciencias Marinas*. DOI: [10.7773/cm.v41i2.2471](https://doi.org/10.7773/cm.v41i2.2471)

- 2014 **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.** & Herrera-Pérez R. (2014). Brief description of prey selectivity and ontogenetic changes in the diet of the invasive lionfish *Pterois volitans* (Actinopterygii, Scorpaenidae) in the Mexican Caribbean. *Pan-American Journal of Aquatic Sciences*, 8(2):131-135

R&R, In Review, In Prep

R&R Wintergalen E., Molina R., Oyanedel R., **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.**, Fulton S. Opportunities and challenges for livelihood resilience in urban and rural Mexican small-scale fisheries. (Revise and Resubmit). *Ecology and Society*.

In Rev Arafeh-Dalmau et al., Towards transboundary networks of climate-smart marine reserves in the Southern California Bight. *Science Advances*

In prep **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.** et al., The economic value of private marine reserves.

Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C. et al., Two decades of community-based marine conservation in Mexico: what do the numbers tell us?

Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C., et al., A global market for marine conservation.

Ramírez-Valdes A., Montaña-Moctezuma G., **Villaseñor-Derbez J. C.**, A biogeographic analysis of fish communities in the southern limit of the kelp forest in the Northwestern Pacific.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant for graduate-level courses

- 2020 ESM 206 – Introduction to Environmental Data Science & Statistics with Dr. Allison Horst (100+ students)
ESM 201 – Ecology of Managed Ecosystems with Dr. David Tilman (86 students)
- 2019 ESM 201 – Ecology of Managed Ecosystems with Dr. David Tilman (82 students)

Guest Lecturer

- 2020 ESM 206 – Data Analysis and Statistics: “Package-less” coding: Coding in base R (100+ students)
EEMB 168 – Conservation Ecology: Marine Conservation in Practice (100+ students)
- 2018 ESM 244 – Adv. Data Analysis and Statistics: The development cycle of web-based apps (~70 students)

Data Science Workshops ([link](#))

- 2021 EcoDataScience Workshop: GNU make and Makefiles for continuous development (and reproducibility)
- 2019 EcoDataScience Workshop : Collaborative workflows with git and GitHub
LAFF workshop: Coding ecological models in R
- 2017 EcoDataScience Workshop: Introduction to R Markdown

Technical Workshops

- 2019 Evaluation and budgeting of Marine Reserves in Mexico
- 2018 Empirical valuation of Marine Reserves effectiveness
- 2017 A general approach and tool to evaluate the effectiveness of no-take marine reserves
Empirical valuation of Marine Reserves effectiveness
- 2015 REEFCheck California monitoring techniques

MENTORING

Master's Group Theses Mentored (Client in parentheses)

- 2020 Marine Extractive Reserve performance in Brazil (World Wildlife Fund Brazil)
Students: Peyton Moore, Ruben Sanchez-Ramirez, Dylan Glave, Elliott Matthews
- 2019 Assessing Brazil's Marine Aquaculture Potential (World Wildlife Fund Brazil)
Students: Caio Della Colleta Vianna, Eva Marrero, Kirby Bartlett, Anna Calle, Sandra Fogg
- 2018 Economic quantification of delaying management in the Midriff Islands, Mexico (Comunidad y Biodiversidad)
Students: Edaysi Bucio, Seleni Cruz, Vienna Saccomanno, Juliette Verstaen, Valeria Tamayo
- 2018 Insurance instruments to leverage natural infrastructure for climate change resilience
Students: Mario Colon, Daniel Elkin, Lauren Kaapcke, Madison Meltzer, Casey Moorhead

- 2017 Creating Effective Marine Reserves (Fundación Claudia y Roberto Hernández)
Students: Fabio Castagnino, Roxanne Diaz, Denise Garcia, Sarah Salem, Camila Vargas

High school students (Placement)

- 2018 Alex Reulbach. Small-scale variation in the diet of invasive lionfish. (Marine Biology, UNC)

Alisha Naidu. Ontogenetic habitat shifts in invasive lionfish. (Computer Science, Williams College)

Joseph Sausville. Optimal marine reserve design to maximize economic and conservation benefits.

Other outreach activities

- 2019 Instructor
Family Ultimate Science Exploration: <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/programs/fuse>
Taught science to high school students and their families

Guest lecturer
Laguna Blanca high school
How can economics help conserve the environment?
- 2017 Guest lecturer
Colegio Puerto Aventuras (Mexico)
Introduction to computer programming in R

GRANTS & AWARDS

Research Grants

- 2021 Environmental Solutions Research Grant (\$20,000)
Schmidt Family Foundation
Incentives for Equitable and Cost-effective Marine Conservation

Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation
Designing Conservation Markets for International Cooperation
- 2020 H. William Kuni Research Award (\$14,950)
Economic and Ecological responses to global economic shutdowns in coral reef communities.
With Erin Winslow and Nathaniel Grimes
- 2019 Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (\$11,500)
Unveiling the Ecology of Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*).
With Arturo Ramírez-Valdez and Kyla Blincow
- 2018 H. William Kuni Research Award (\$15,000)
The proliferation of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the Caribbean Sea.
With Molly Wilson, Julia Lawson, and Ignacia Rivera
- 2017 PADI Foundation Research Grant (\$6,600)
Natural history of the giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) in Mexican waters.
With Arturo Ramírez-Valdez and Paula Sgarlatta.

Fellowships, scholarships, and awards

- 2019 Best presentation
Integrated Marine Biosphere Research
Awarded best presentation at the Future Oceans Conference
- 2017 Doctoral Fellowship (\$61,194)
UC Mexus
Complimentary funding to complete a Ph.D in Environmental Sciences
- Latin American Fisheries Fellowship (\$57,400)
University of California, Santa Barbara
Complimentary funding to complete a Ph.D in Environmental Sciences
- International Student's Doctoral Fellowship (\$146,619)
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACyT)
Four years of funding to complete a 5-year Ph.D in Environmental Sciences
- Honorable Mention
Integrated Marine Biosphere Research
Runner-up for best student project at the IMBeR ClimEco6 Summer School
- 2015 Latin American Fisheries Fellowship (\$42,000)
University of California, Santa Barbara
Complimentary funding to complete a Master in Environmental Science and Management
- CONACyT International Student's Master's Fellowship (\$64,946)
Mexican Government
Funding to complete a Master in Environmental Science and Management
- 2014 Pedro Mercado Sánchez National Oceanography Award
Asociación Mexicana de Oceanólogos
For the best undergraduate research project presented at the XVIII National Oceanography Conference
- 2014 Hoonorable Mention
CONACyT
Runner-up for best student paper at the 2nd State Meeting of Young Researchers
- 2014 Distinguished Student of the Oceanography program
Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
Ranked first in academic performance for the overall major in 2014
- 2013 Best presentation
CONACyT
For the best student paper at the 1st State Meeting of Young Researchers
- Best presentation
Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
1st Place for the best undergraduate presentation at the XXI Student Conference

- 2012 Honorable mention
Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
2nd Place for the best undergraduate presentation at the XX Student Conference
- 2012 Distinguished Student of the Oceanography program
Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
Ranked first in academic performance for the overall major in 2012

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 - current Graduate Student Researcher. Environmental Markets Lab, UCSB.
- 2019 - 2020 Graduate Student Researcher. National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UCSB.
- 2015 - 2016 Data analyst. Mexican Tuna Purse Seine Fleet Research Trust
- 2013 - 2013 Research Intern. Fundación para el Estudio y Conservación de Condrictios, SQUALUS
- 2013 - 2013 On-board scientific observer. Fisheries Ecology Lab, CICESE
- 2012 - 2012 Oceanographic Cruise Research Intern. Oceanography Department, CICESE
- 2011 - 2015 Research Assistant. Kelp Forest Ecology Research Group, UABC

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee Activity

Ecological Modeling, Frontiers in Marine Science, Gulf and Caribbean Research, Bulletin of Marine Science, Nature Sustainability

Committees

- 2020 Faculty Search. Assistant Professor in Environmental Data Science. Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, UCSB
- 2019 Dean's Advisory Council. Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, UCSB
- 2018 PhD Symposium organization committee. Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, UCSB
- 2014 Student Conference Organizer. Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, UABC
- 2013 Student Council. Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, UABC

Working groups and panels

- 2021 Data Science communities in Santa Barbara. Master of Environmental Data Science Program, UCSB
- 2019 Palau's National Marine Sanctuary: Managing Ocean Change and Supporting Food Security. NCEAS
- 2017 Marine Spatial Planning in Baja California: Connecting MPA networks in a transboundary context. COBI
- 2017 Defining Socioeconomic and Ecological indicators for to evaluate marine protected areas. COBI / TNC

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*Indicates awarded)

- 2019 **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Rivera-Hechem M.I., Wilson, M. W., Lawson, J. M. & Gaines, S. D. Status and trends of moored fish aggregating device (MFAD) fisheries in the Caribbean and Bermuda. *72nd GCFI*
- *Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Lynham J., Costello C. Change in behavior and effort redistribution after implementation of Large Scale Marine Protected Areas. *Future Oceans2*
- 2018 **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.**, Aceves-Bueno E., Fulton, S., Suarez-Castillo, A., Hernández-Velasco, A., Torre, J., Micheli, F. Effectiveness of community-based marine reserves in small-scale fisheries. *3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Conference*
- 2017 **J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, C. Faro, M. Wright, J. Martínez, C. Costello. A general approach and tool to evaluate the effectiveness of no take marine reserves. *28th International Congress for Conservation Biology*.
- 2014 **J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, A. Ramírez-Valdez, G. Montaña-Moctezuma, G. Torres-Moye. Because size matters: Differences in size structure of exploited and unexploited fish populations along the coasts of Baja California, Mexico. *XIV National Ichthyology Meeting and III Latin-American Ichthyology Symposium*.
- Ramírez-Valdez A., Montaña-Moctezuma G., Torres-Moye G., Aburto-Oropeza O., **Villaseñor-Derbez JC**. Biogeographic relationships of fish communities associated to Kelp Forests off the coasts of Baja California, Mexico. *XIV National Ichthyology Meeting and III Latin-American Ichthyology Symposium*.
- 2014 ***J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, A. Ramírez-Valdez, G. Montaña-Moctezuma, G. Torres-Moye. Effects of recreational fisheries over sizes and biomasses of fish associated to Kelp Forests. *2nd State Meeting of Young Researchers*.
- 2014 ***J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, A. Ramírez-Valdez, G. Montaña-Moctezuma, G. Torres-Moye. Latitudinal distribution of sizes of fish associated to Kelp Forests off the coasts of Baja California, Mexico. *XVIII National Oceanography Conference*.
- *J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, A. Ramírez-Valdez, G. Montaña-Moctezuma, G. Torres-Moye. Latitudinal distribution of sizes of fish associated to Kelp Forests off the coasts of Baja California, Mexico. *XXII Student Conference at the Marine Sciences School and 1st National Student Conference on Marine and Environmental Sciences*.
- J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**. Description of feeding habits and ontogenetic changes in the invasive lionfish *Pterois volitans* (Linnaeus, 1758) diet off the coasts of Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo. *1st Student Conference of Biological Sciences*.
- 2013 **J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, G. Montaña-Moctezuma, G. Torres-Moye y A. Ramírez-Valdez. Community relationships of fish associated to Kelp Forests off the coasts of Baja California, Mexico. *1st State Meeting of Young Researchers*
- J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**, G. Montaña-Moctezuma, G. Torres-Moye y A. Ramírez-Valdez. Community relationships of fish associated to Kelp Forests off the coasts of Baja California, Mexico. *XXI Student Conference at the Marine Sciences School*
- 2012 **J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez**. Contribution to knowledge of diet and biometrics of the invasive lionfish [*Pterois volitans* (Linnaeus 1758)] off the coasts of Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico. *XIII National Ichthyology Meeting and 1st Latin-American Ichthyology Symposium*

***J.C. Villaseñor-Derbez.** Contribution to knowledge of diet and biometrics of the invasive lionfish [*Pterois volitans* (Linnaeus 1758)] off the coasts of Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico. *XX Student Conference at the Marine Sciences School*

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

(Not all peer-reviewed; All written or available in Spanish)

- 2021 Sumaila U.R. et al. WTO must ban harmful fisheries subsidies. (2021) Letter to *Science*. 374(6567):544
DOI: [10.1126/science.abm1680](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abm1680)
- 2020 **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.** El Pez León invasor en el Caribe Mexicano. (2020). *Biodiversitas* 149: 2- 6
- 2018 Hernández-Velasco A., Beas-Luna, R., **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.**, Domínguez-Guerrero I., Precoma de la Mora, M., Gómez, A. (2018). Los Bosques Sumergidos de México. *Biodiversitas* 137: 2 - 6
- 2017 Ramírez-Valdez A., Sgarlatta M.P., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Rowell T.J., Erisman B., Hernández A. (2017). Buscando al gigante de los bosques de kelp en las aguas de Baja California: el mero gigante. *Mediterraneus*. DOI [10.13140/RG.2.2.17855.82082](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.17855.82082)
- 2016 Dreyfus, M., Robles, H., **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.** (2016). Distribución espacial de tallas del atún aleta amarilla (*Thunnus albacares*) capturado por la flota atunera mexicana durante el 2001 y 2014. *El Vigía*, 20(43), 5:8.
- 2015 **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.**, Hernández-Velasco, A., Erauskin, M., Fulton, S., Cota-Nieto, J.J., Torre-Cosío, J., Herzka-Llona, S., Aburto-Oropeza, A. (2015). Effects of short-term marine reserves on grouper and bass populations. *DataMares*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13022/M33K52>
- 2015 Hernández-Velasco, A., **Villaseñor-Derbez, J.C.**, Suárez Castillo, A., Torre Cosío, A., Espinoza, A. (2015). Isla Natividad en la Reserva del Vizcaíno. *Espacio Profundo*, 136: 34-40.
- Robles H., Dreyfus M., **Villaseñor-Derbez J.C.** (2015). Descargas de la flota atunera mexicana en el Pacífico Oriental en 2014 y su comparación con el período 1992-2013. *El Vigía*, 19(42), 3:5.
- 2014 Ramírez Valdez A., Montaña Moctezuma G., Torres Moya G., **Villaseñor Derbez J.C.**, Aburto-Oropeza O. (2014). Counting fish in the Kelp forests of Baja California. *DataMares*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.13022/M3BC7X>

NON-ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 Independent Consultant
- Bioeconomic estimation and simulation of costs and benefits of select community-based marine reserves
 - Review of 20 year of community-based marine conservation in Mexico
 - Evaluation of fisheries subsidies in small-scale fisheries
- 2018 Independent Consultant
- Web-app development to calculate operational costs of implementing community-based marine reserves.
 - Prepared materials and taught a course on app functionality to environmental managers, NGO members, and government officials.
- 2018 Independent Consultant
- Prepared materials and taught three courses on marine reserve evaluation methods to environmental managers and NGO members.

- 2017 Independent Consultant
 - Performed a national evaluation of marine reserves in Mexico with case studies from the Gulf of California, Pacific and Caribbean.
- 2015 Field Assistant & Data Manager. Comunidad y Biodiversidad (COBI)
 - Coordinated fieldwork to evaluate voluntarily established marine reserves along Baja California
 - Produced 3 brochures, 1 interactive visualization and a peer-reviewed article on occurrences of tropical fish in temperate regions

DATA SCIENCE

DataScience leadership:

- EcoDataScience: Organize workshops and maintain website; Group of 250+ members: eco-data-science.github.io
- ERRE – A blog about “Rstats”, in Spanish: erre-esp.org

Software development

- startR: An R-package for internal workflow management: emlab-ucsb.github.io/startR/
- CostApp: A web-based app to estimate costs of marine-reserve implementation: innovacionazul.shinyapps.io/AppCosteo/
- MAREA: The Marine Reserve Evaluation App; A web-based app to evaluate conservation interventions: innovacionazul.shinyapps.io/MAREA
- GPSelector: A web-based tool to optimize the allocation of students to group projects at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management:

R and RStudio

Numerical simulation, Spatial analyses (vector, raster), Machine learning (tidymodels), BigData (sparklyr, data.table), Package development, ShinyApp framework, R Markdown, Unit Testing, Continuous Development and Integration

Git & GitHub

<https://github.com/jcvdav/>

Google Cloud Platform

BigQuery (Standard SQL), ComputeEngine, CloudStorage

OTHER SKILLS

Languages

- Spanish (Native)
- English (Fluent; TOEFL iBT: 102; graduate school completed in English)
- French (Basic; DELF A2 certification)

SCUBA certifications

- PADI Open Water Diver
- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver
- PADI Rescue Diver
- FCM-UABC Scientific Diver
- TDI Side mount Diver