

### Speaker Series Quiz

Something that I found was present in all the speaker presentations was the importance of good communication. Emma Atkinson said it very explicitly, that good science needs communication to collaborate with other scientists, to convey your results appropriately, and to share your research with people outside academia. Karlisa Callwood gave important advice to improve communication skills, specifically for researchers working in the field with people who are impacted by conservation and management issues. I think they both highlighted that while your field and desktop research skills are important, the best science is done when you can work with other researchers and effective conservation research is done when you can communicate with the stakeholders that are influenced by your study. While he didn't outline communication specifically, I think Sean Godwin also pressed the need for good communication regarding how he addresses conversations with the fishing industry and the media. Shannon Hennessy also shared the use of scientific illustration as a tool for education and to visually represent scientific processes.

Another takeaway I had from the speaker series was that there are so many distinct "niches" within ecology and conservation. Dr. Callwood pointed out today that she got to her current job through a mix of networking to create opportunities for herself and finding roles that fit her by a bit of chance. I don't know whether all the speakers feel like they are in the exact job and life stage that they want, but all their career paths seemed to follow very different trajectories dependent on what they specifically were excited and interested in. Sean's point that you need to reach out to others who are doing the things you want to do really speaks to this. Seeing this whole series gives me hope that I can one day find a career that is uniquely suited to me, but they also remind me that to get there I should be working to build those networks so that when the opportunities arise, I'm there to take them!

Emma Atkinson's advice to develop complimentary skills in the field and on the computer really stuck with me. I've always felt stilted in my statistics and computer skills because we learned just enough to complete our lab assignments and I really struggled to grasp pure math and statistics because I didn't understand the applications. Listening to her lecture really helped me see the use of models and computer skills and I think will motivate me to continue learning in the future.

I really loved Dr. Callwood's presentation and found a couple of important takeaways. First, I found her framework she uses to study conservation management really fascinating. It feels very intuitive to me – to first understand the ecology of your study, then the socio-economic impacts of the issue, and then the management implications when bridging the two. I really appreciated how clearly she laid out this framework and I think it helped me better understand how research can balance ecological, social and economic impacts of conservation. My other takeaway was her advice for doing qualitative research that works with people. The idea of interviewing people to collect data really terrifies me because I think there is so much room to take a misstep and sway the results because of your wording, or to offend or hurt someone

with your words. Her advice to build community with the people you are speaking to, to be sensitive to local context, and to always respect ethics really helped me see how you can do this very important research properly.

There were a couple of things from the speaker series that I was able to apply to course material. I am very glad that Shannon Hennessy's lecture was first because her advice to always observe really stuck with me. Since most of my courses leading up to Bamfield had little outdoor work, I have grown used to developing hypotheses and asking questions purely from reading literature. I really took this advice to heart every time we went on a field trip and tried to observe patterns to then be inspired and ask questions. I think it not only gave me a deeper enthusiasm for all the organisms we studied and questions we investigated, but I also think it helped me come up with more questions independently rather than relying on literature. Another useful piece of information for me was Sean Godwin's history and background on aquaculture. This is an industry I don't know much about and he gave a super useful overview of when and why aquaculture arose, what types of fish are harvested, the differences between wild and farmed, the stakeholders involved, and a bit about global economics of aquaculture. I think having this background info made it easier for me to follow our lectures on conservation management.

My final take away is that all these speakers were just very rad people. I aspire to one day be a badass ecologist like they are 😊