

# TAYLOR S. COOK

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## EDUCATION

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**Master of Environmental Science & Management** (June 2025)

**Business & Sustainability and Coastal Resource Management Specialization**

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Leadership: Net Impact, Master's Group Project Committee Student Representative

Highlighted Coursework: Business and the Environment, Applied Marine Ecology, Advanced Data Analysis, Environmental Accounting, GIS, Applied Population Ecology, Carbon Accounting

**Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science** (May 2015)

Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC

## MASTER'S CAPSTONE PROJECT

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**Fishing for Change: A Bioeconomic Approach to Manage Distant Water Fishing in Liberia** (1/24–Present)

**Role**: Project Manager | **Client**: Conservation International

Performed a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate the market and non-market impacts of Distant Water Fishing in Liberia, analyzing economic and environmental trade-offs across scenarios to inform policy decisions.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute – Graduate Student Researcher** Remote (8/24–Present)

- Conduct GIS analysis, mapping, and interpretation of spatial data to understand California sandy beach and surf zone ecosystems, including key species distributions and climate change impacts.
- Use MaxEnt to run species distribution models for California grunion, leveraging citizen science data to predict habitat and distribution changes under future climate scenarios.

**The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Private Sector Finance Graduate Intern** Remote (6/24–9/24)

- Produced in-depth research and benchmarking on sustainability commitments of major U.S. and select European financial institutions, informing team priorities and engagement strategy.
- Developed resources and drafted key deliverables (e.g., presentations) to support WWF's strategy on Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) Commodities.
- Conducted due diligence to align financial institutions' commitments with WWF's programmatic goals.

**The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)**

**Conservation Program Coordinator**, Remote (9/23–7/24)

- Spearheaded the management and organization of 20+ programmatic work plans, ensuring alignment with grant objectives and sustainable project deliverables.
- Aligned two program-wide strategic plans with organizational goals and grant requirements.
- Collaborated on multi-million-dollar budgets, emphasizing resource optimization to drive success.
- Administered grant reports that facilitated project tracking and proposal preparation.

**Research Officer**, Maui, HI (3/22–9/23)

- Organized fieldwork, data collection, and analysis using Microsoft Excel and statistical software, quantifying a reduction of sediment and nutrient pollution in West Maui.
- Arranged over 10 grant reports for major stakeholders, including NOAA, the Department of Health, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, showcasing project progress and impact.
- Established and maintained collaborative partnerships with community groups, government agencies, and NGOs, promoting cooperation and shared environmental goals and initiatives.

**Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources – Research Intern**, Wailuku, HI (1/21–10/22)

- Executed over 25 comprehensive marine surveys in collaboration with Aquatic Biologists, employing SCUBA and advanced scientific diving equipment for data collection and analysis.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

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**East Maui Watershed Partnership – Field Assistant/GIS Technician, Makawao, HI (9/19–10/21)**

- Analyzed data through ArcGIS to consistently meet monthly deliverables in collaboration with partner organizations, ensuring timely project milestones.
- Utilized ArcGIS and GPS to create detailed maps of invasive species locations, current and proposed fence lines, and feral animal activity, contributing to effective environmental management.
- Enhanced knowledge of native Hawaiian flora and fauna, while gaining a deeper understanding of the threats posed by alien species to the delicate ecosystem.

**Blue Ventures – Marine Conservation Intern, Ataúro, Timor-Leste (10/19–12/19)**

- Conducted scientific research dives and monitoring of more than 10 local coral reefs and at-risk seagrass habitats, contributing to critical ecological and community data collection.
- Achieved expertise in underwater scientific diving techniques and honed skills in local fish and benthic species identification, enhancing the precision of research activities.
- Participated in developing conservation and community priorities through active involvement in fisheries management, organizing beach clean-ups, and facilitating language exchange sessions.

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**GRADUATE COURSE PROJECTS**

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**Projecting California Grunion Habitat and Distribution in a Changing Climate (9/24–12/24)**

Developed species distribution models and habitat projections using citizen science data and USGS CoSMoS outputs to assess California's MPA network in conserving grunion under different climate scenarios.

**Mapping Ocean Species Richness and Threats in California - Master's Final GIS Project (1/24–3/24)**

Utilized vector and raster geospatial data to map and identify the overlap of California's Central Coast species richness and ocean threats with National Marine Sanctuaries

**Discovering Biodiversity Credits - Master's Business and the Environment Course Project (9/23–12/23)**

Showcased analytical skills through interviews with industry experts, understanding biodiversity credit challenges, standardization, and identifying opportunities in the current market.

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**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**GreenBiz 25**, Phoenix, AZ (2/25 – 2/25)

**Blue Economy Summit**, Santa Barbara, CA (1/25)

**Maui Nui Makai Network**, Hana, HI (7/18–7/23)

**Ke Ao Hali'i**, Hana, HI (7/18–7/20)

**Mahele Farm**, Hana, HI (5/17–5/20)

**U.S. Forest Service**, Cordova, AK (8/15)

**Copper River Watershed Project**, Cordova, AK (8/15)

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**SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

**Computer:** RStudio, ESRI ArcGIS, ArcGIS Story Maps, QGIS, GaBI (LCA), Square Inc., Photoshop, WordPress, Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), Salesforce, Expensify, Smartsheet, Canva

**Certifications:** Modeling Risk and Uncertainty – eCornell University (2024); Financed Emissions: Hitting Targets While Not Missing the Point – FORVIS (2023); Resilience-Based Management Course – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (2023); ESRI ArcGIS (2021); Remote Sensing and Mapping for Coral Reef Conservation and Management – TNC (2020); PADI Rescue Diver (2019)