Mara Salisbury

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KEY SKILLS

Project Management
Field Scientific Surveys
Technical and Grant writing
Permitting and Policy
GPS Mapping
Data Management
CA Plant, Bird, Marine species ID
Excel, ArcGIS, Google Earth Pro
Google and Microsoft Suite
Strong Communication and Interpersonal Skills
Proactive Self-Starter

PUBLICATIONS

Marine Protected Areas Decadal Management Review

United States. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, *Marine Protected Areas Decadal Management Review.* Marine Protected Areas Management Project., 2022.

- A 10 year review of California's network of 124 Marine Protected Areas, evaluating the progress toward meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act.
- Analyzed and provided data for law enforcement throughout California's Marine Region

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Restoration and Research Coordinator **May 2022 - Present**
Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Huntington Beach CA

- Project Management and Future Project Development
  - Coordinate and lead field operations for habitat restoration activities and community science programs within the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and neighboring project sites
  - Train and supervise junior staff, interns, and volunteers
  - Communication and coordination with various government agencies, non-profits, funders, and community groups
  - Main Restoration Project Sites: 55 acre coastal sage scrub habitat, 50 acre salt marsh habitat
  - Animal monitoring: Green sea turtle surveys, California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover nest sites, Light Footed Ridgeway's rail remote camera traps, Insect Surveys
    - Piloted new community science sea turtle monitoring program
- Oversee animal husbandry of live exhibits and aquariums including life-support systems
- Field Scientific Sampling: GPS mapping, vegetation cover, camera traps
- Technical writing: Permits, Project Reports, Grants and Budgets

Scientific Aid, Temporary Appointment **April 2021 - December 2021**
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Seal Beach, CA

- Created and managed a database of Marine Protected Areas law enforcement citation data
- Coordinated with law enforcement staff and allied agencies to conduct a case study of disposition data collected from public county court records
- Prepared technical reports and presentations

Marine Naturalist Interpreter **March 2020 - May 2022**
City of Newport Beach, Newport Beach, CA

- Lead tours and education programs about tide pool ecosystems and human impact
- Created interpretive displays for public outreach
- Communicated with the public to convey scientific principals and Marine Protected Area regulations

Restoration Intern, Temporary Appointment **November 2019 - December 2020**
Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Huntington Beach, CA

- Assisted with habitat restoration of coastal scrubland and salt-marsh habitat
- Performed habitat surveys including vegetation, avian bird surveys, and gps mapping
- collected and propagated native seeds, tended to nursery plants
- Lead volunteer groups, performed outreach, assisted with tours and school groups as needed

Assistant Manager and Divemaster **March 2016 - August 2019**
Aqua Safaris Scuba Center, Santa Cruz, CA

- Assisted with SCUBA classes and lead SCUBA tours for certified divers
- Supervised staff and trained new employees, oversaw retail operations
- Mixed specialty nitrox gas-blends, repaired gear

VOLUNTEER WORK AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Board Member **September 2023 - Present**
Seal Beach Restoration Advisory Board, Seal Beach, CA

- Citizen panel comprised of representatives from the community, the Navy, and federal, state, and local regulatory agencies
- Discuss and advise on environmental restoration within the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station and Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge

Group Facilitator **May 2022- Present**
North OC Invasive Weed Group, Huntington Beach, CA

- Multi-agency group aimed at collaborating and share integrative weed management techniques across different properties adjacent to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and neighboring properties
- Coordinate, schedule, and lead discussions and moderate discussion boards

Eyes On Nest Sites (EONS) Volunteer **April 2021 - June 2021**
Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Huntington Beach, CA

- Conducted visual surveys of least tern and snowy plover nest sites
- Recorded behavior, predator activity, and life-stage events of chicks

Volunteer **April 2019 - August 2019**
Santa Cruz Native Animal Rescue, Santa Cruz, CA

- Provided husbandry to injured and orphaned native animals including birds, small mammals, and reptiles
- Relayed rescue and conservation information to the public.

Volunteer **Seasonally Jun 2016- Aug 2019**

Reef Check California, Santa Cruz, CA

- Performed kelp, invertebrate and fish population surveys via SCUBA. Performed California species identification. Collected and recorded data

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ADVANCED COURSEWORK

BIOE 161 Kelp Forest Ecology **September 2017 - December 2017**

UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

- Performed field sampling techniques via SCUBA in a kelp forest environment including UPC, fish surveys, invertebrate and algae swaths.
- Investigated the relationship between juvenile Strongylocentrotus purpuratus recruitment and associated algal and invertebrate species in a kelp forest and barrens environment

BIOE 151 Ecology and Conservation Supercourse **March 2017 - June 2017**

UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

- Practiced field sampling techniques and experimental design in terrestrial and aquatic systems located in the UCSC Reserves, Los Padres National Forest, and Isla de El Pardito, Baja California
- Investigated the bottom-up controls of invertebrate and fish distributions in a tropical mangrove forest

BIOE 159 Marine Ecology Field Quarter **September 2016 - December 2016**

UC Santa Cruz, STARESO Marine Station, Corsica, France

- Used marine sampling techniques via SCUBA to make field observations and collect data including elastomer tagging, and specimen collection
- Investigated the relationship between Gobius incognitos and its associated home anemone

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EXTENDED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

Birds of Southern California **2024**
Sea and Sage Audoban Society
Sylvia Gallagher

Sick and Injured Pelican Rescue **2024**
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center

First Aid and CPR **2023**
Health & Safety Institute

Bumblebee Atlas **2023**
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

GIS 120: Intro to GIS **2021**
Rio Hondo Community College

PADI Divemaster **2018**
Aqua Safaris Scuba Center

AAUS Scientific Diver **2016**
University of California, Santa Cruz

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Santa Cruz **2018**
B.S. Marine Biology

AWARDS

One OC Spirit of Volunteerism: Environment and Sustainability **2020**
Bolsa Chica Conservancy