

Conner Muir Smith

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Science and Management, 4.0 GPA (June 2023)

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

Specializations: Economics and Politics of the Environment, Coastal Marine Resources Management

Focus: Strategic Environmental Communication and Media

Highlighted Coursework: Coastal Marine Policy and Management, Advanced Data Analysis, Coastal Marine Ecosystem Processes, Economics and Policy of Climate Change, Environmental Policy Analysis

Master's Group Project (Thesis Equivalent): *Conservation Planning and Management around Surf Breaks*;

Client: Conservation International

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Policy, 3.9 GPA (May 2017)

Bachelor of Arts in Global Development Studies, 3.9 GPA (May 2017)

University of California, Berkeley (UCB)

Honors: Dean's List (8 semesters), National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Leadership/Involvement: Berkeley Student Cooperative

SCIENCE & POLICY EXPERIENCE

California Ocean Protection Council, Sacramento, CA

Sea Grant Fellow – Marine Biodiversity (02/24 – 06/25)

- Advanced Tribal co-management approaches for collaborative marine protection in California
- Recruited for and initiated the first ever expert scientific panel on social science in California MPAs
- Developed communications strategy and storytelling around kelp restoration
- Managed research grants with academic research teams worth \$2 million in public funding

UCSB EmLab/Marine Science Institute, Santa Barbara, CA

Staff Research Associate – Marine Protected Areas and Climate Change (11/23 – 03/25)

- Researched the effects of climate change on MPA management within UCSB's EmLab
- Wrote white paper on climate-smart fisheries management for federal and state funders
- Developed manual for best practices around climate-adaptive management for MPA managers

EmLab/Conservation International, Santa Barbara, CA

Fellow – Impact Investing in the Blue Economy (6/23 – 9/23)

- Led report writing and review of climate change action plans across global MPAs
- Presented study assessing impact investment programs in the ocean ("blue") economy
- Built framework to assess negative outcomes from blue economy interventions

Sustainable Ocean Alliance/Environmental Defense Fund, Santa Barbara, CA

Fellow – Leadership for Climate-Resilient Fisheries Fellowship (6/22 – 6/23)

- Proposed and awarded \$10k micro-grant through the Leadership for Climate-Resilient Fisheries Fellowship
- Coded digital reading list for policymakers highlighting Indigenous-led coastal management initiatives
- Authored NCEAS article promoting opportunities for Indigenous engagement through California MPA DMR

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The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Santa Barbara, CA

Researcher – CA Oceans Program (6/22 – 8/22)

- Executed contract with TNC staff to research and advise on kelp forest restoration activities
- Interviewed 25+ stakeholder groups to assess urchin removal methods and costs to promote kelp recovery
- Produced a 20-page report identifying key opportunities to scale urchin removal workforce

Ocean Analytics, Santa Barbara, CA

Researcher – Federal and High Seas Fisheries (11/21 – 8/22)

- Conducted comprehensive analysis of all 46 federally managed fisheries in the United States
- Articles published in Fish and Fisheries in December 2022 and April 2023
- Met with EDF, NOAA, and federal fisheries management councils on a regular basis to inform research
- Leveraged R software to process fishery stock assessment data and perform analyses

Atlas Public Policy, Oakland, CA

Policy Analyst – Climate and Transportation Electrification (2/19 – 6/21)

- Directed research, data collection, and writing for 2 reports funded by a large trade association connecting wildfires, air quality, COVID-19, environmental justice, and transportation electrification
- Managed project proposals for 5-figure contracts with partners including NGO, government, and private sector entities seeking to develop a living database of climate policies in the US
- Led data collection, report writing, and outreach for the Atlas EV Hub, a subscription-based platform that grew from 500 to 1,000+ professional users over this time
- Contributed original research and writing on a 6-figure government-funded study in Washington, revealing that WA could cost effectively electrify nearly all public vehicles by 2035
- Published 10+ research papers funded by partnerships with stakeholders in the clean transportation space

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

Conner Smith et. al., 2023. [Surf Protected Areas Masters Capstone](#).

Julia M. Lawson, Conner Smith. 2023. [“A synthetic control approach to estimate the effect of total allowable catches in the high seas.”](#) *Fish and Fisheries*.

Christopher M. Free, Tracey Mangin, John Wiedenmann, Conner Smith, Haley McVeigh, Steven D. Gaines. 2022. [“Harvest control rules used in US federal fisheries management and implications for climate resilience.”](#) *Fish and Fisheries*.

Conner Smith. 2023. [“NCEAS Leads Ten-Year Review of California’s MPA Network.”](#) NCEAS.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022-2023 Sustainable Ocean Alliance and Environmental Defense Fund Leadership for Climate-Resilient Fisheries Fellowship, \$10,000

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Clinton Foundation, New York, NY

Program Associate – Clinton Climate Initiative (6/17–10/18)

- Conducted research under a \$5 million grant with partners at the Rocky Mountain Institute to develop long term clean energy roadmaps for island nations with a focus on the Caribbean.
- Helped secure \$ millions in commitments from Clinton Global Initiative member organizations targeting disaster relief and climate resilience in regions impacted by devastating hurricanes in 2017

SKILLS

Computer: RStudio/GitHub, Mac/PC, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Canva, Procreate

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (conversational)