

Maximilian Claus

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Professional Summary

I am pursuing a passion for research by continuing to develop skills and experience in laboratory and field-based work, with the aim of researching the role of siphonophores in marine ecology. I have written two unpublished scientific papers, and so have gained experience with generating experimental designs. I have experience with science communication for a large age range, and hope to make the products of my work available to the general public.

Research Experience

- Worked alongside six other undergraduate students to study the inhabitants of ephemeral stingray pools on North Stradbroke Island in Queensland, Australia. The study placed a particular emphasis on the value of the pools for commercially important species.
- Worked with three undergraduate students to study the rate at which *Planaxis sulcatus*, an intertidal snail, erodes the beach rock at Heron Island in the Great Barrier Reef. We examined the contribution of this species to reef formation.
- Assisted PhD student Benjamin Walker in understanding the effect of climate change on Dungeness crabs.
 - ❖ Measured crabs with calipers and monitored their health along with water temperature and pH levels in their tanks.
- Assisted PhD candidate Nikka Malakooti's lab in their investigation of the possible link between climate change and disease in Channel Islands sea urchin species.
 - ❖ Labeled individuals as having one of two diseases based on symptoms described by scuba divers.

Skills

Experimental design | Science communication | Video editing software | Fluency in German | Collaboration | Communication

Education

Marine Biology BS, University of California, Santa Cruz, Expected graduation date 2024

- Current GPA: 3.89
- Relevant courses:
 - ❖ Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology UCEAP program
 - ❖ Biological Oceanography
 - ❖ Invertebrate Zoology (and accompanying laboratory course)

Volunteer Experience

- Volunteered as Exhibit Guide at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center for 3 years.
 - ❖ Educated on average approximately 150 visitors of all ages every week about animals and exhibits on display at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center.
 - ❖ Facilitated hands-on learning in marine biology, ecology, and conservation at a touch table containing intertidal organisms and a swell shark tank.
- Volunteered with California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) at UCSC for 1 year.
 - ❖ Organized events to raise awareness about and petition for legislation on key environmental and academic issues among the UCSC student body.
 - ❖ Created Instagram posts to generate publicity for CALPIRG's events.