MELISSA CRONIN, PHD
melcronin.com | melissa.cronin@umassd.edu

CAREER OBJECTIVE

Integrate creative, interdisciplinary science methods to inform sustainable and equitable fisheries policy.

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Cruz *2016—2022*
Ph.D., Conservation Action Lab, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department
Designated Emphasis: Coastal Science & Policy
Dissertation: *Disentangling Bycatch: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Map and Mitigate Shark and Ray Bycatch in High Seas Tuna Fisheries;* **Advisors:** Dr. Don Croll, Dr. Bernie Tershy

New York University, New York, NY *2009—2013*
Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List, GPA: 3.8/4.0
B.A. Environmental Studies, B.A. Journalism; Minor: Environmental Biology

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Shared Seas Lab *2025—present*
Department of Fisheries Oceanography, School for Marine Science and Technology
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Smith Conservation Research Postdoctoral Fellow (current Research Affiliate) *2023—2025*
Duke University Coasts and Commons Co-Lab, supervisor Dr. Xavier Basurto
Partner Organizations: Conservation International, Global Fishing Watch
- Conducted global vulnerability assessment for impacts of industrial fisheries on food security and biodiversity
- Identified case studies of small-scale fishing communities vulnerable to industrial fishing
- Mentor and committee member for two Master's student theses

Co-Founder & Executive Director, FieldFutures LLC (www.fieldfutures.org) *2018–present*
Formerly: Building a Better Fieldwork Future Program
- Launched and lead successful international organization to train field scientists to prevent harassment and assault
- Supervise staff of six (one full-time staff) to generate >$100,000 revenue in first year of operation
- Delivered >700 trainings to >10,000 field scientists, students, practitioners, and managers

Founder and Host, Fish Tales Live Storytelling Event *2017—present*
Sponsored by American Fisheries Society & Potluck Magazine
- Sole organizer and host for live storytelling event with 500+ attendees; annual events in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2024, 2025

Co-Founder & Ecuador Director, *Mobula Conservation* *2018—present*
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico
- Lead non-profit organization for community-focused conservation for mobulid (manta and devil) rays
- Provide expert elicitation to NOAA Giant Manta Ray Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan

Project Lead, Manta and Devil Ray Bycatch Mitigation in Tuna Fisheries *2020—2025*
International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
- Led fisher-centric project to deploy and test novel bycatch reduction device on tuna vessels (*manuscript in revision)*
- Conducted fisher interviews, surveys, focus groups, long-term vessel-based fieldwork (5 months at sea)
- Hosted collaborative workshop series with tuna fishermen to co-design bycatch mitigation (*Cronin et al, ICES 2023)*

Visiting Faculty, Graduate Student Mentor *2017—2025*
Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, UC Santa Cruz
- Instructor and mentor for >160 underrepresented undergraduate students in annual intensive 8-week field course
- Facilitate inclusive and equitable conservation science and field ecology coursework

Graduate Student Researcher *2016—2018*
Coastal Science and Policy Program, UC Santa Cruz
- Led launch and administrative development of new coastal sustainability Master's program

Research Assistant, NYU Department of Environmental Studies *2011-2013*
Dr. Jennifer Jacquet, Professor of Environmental Studies
- Conducted investigative research on global taxonomic expansion of aquaculture species

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS *(† denotes senior author)*

Cronin, M. R., Murua, J., Croll, D.A., Hutchinson, M., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Lopez, J., Murua, H., Palacios, M.D., Victor Restrepo, V., Stewart, J.D., Swimmer, Y., Zilliacus, K., Moreno, G. Evidence for a fisher-designed solution to manta and devil ray bycatch in tuna fisheries. *In press, Conservation Biology*.

† Ossiander, I.C., Bernardi, G, Palacios, M.D , Trejo Ramirez, A., Roberts, M., Munguia-Vega, A., Perez-Palafox, X.A, Ahuja, P., **Cronin, M.R**. Composition and conservation status of rays sold in Baja California Sur, Mexico. *Accepted, Conservation Science and Practice.*

Carmine, G., Ortuno-Crespo, G., Barkley, C., Tuohy, C., **Cronin, M.R.,** Osterblom, H., Jacquet, J., Halpin, P. Muddied Waters: An updated & expanded evaluation of high seas fisheries management. *In press, Environmental Research Letters.*

Lezama-Ochoa, N., Farchadi, N., Murua, H., **Cronin, M. R.,** Zilliacus, K. M., Palacios, M. D., Palance, D. G., Trejo-Ramírez, A., Buil, M. P., Lavaniegos, B. E., Gómez-Gutiérrez, J., Croll, D. A., & Hazen, E. L. (2025). Modeling predator (*spinetail devil ray, Mobula mobular*) and prey (*Nyctiphanes simplex*) distribution in response to ENSO dynamics. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, **763**, 65-80. DOI: 10.3354/meps14862

Palacios, M. D., Weiand, L., Laglbauer, B. J. L., **Cronin, M. R.,** Fowler, S., Jabado, R. W., Gyi, T. K., Fernando, D., De Bruyne, G., Shea, S. K. H., Hilton, P., Gao, Y. L., & Stevens, G. M. W. (2025). Global assessment of manta and devil ray gill plate and meat trade: conservation implications and opportunities. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, **108**, 611-638. DOI: 10.1007/s10641-024-01636-w

Ellis, A., **Cronin, M.R**., … Croll, D.A. Coalition-building for labor actions in life sciences departments: lessons from the largest academic strike in history. *BioScience* **75**, 152–162 (2025). DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biae123

† Waldo, J. L., Altamirano-Nieto, E., Croll, D. A., Palacios, M. D., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Lopez, J., Moreno, G., Rojas-Perea, S. & **Cronin, M. R.** Bycatch mitigation from the sky: using helicopter communication for mobulid conservation in tropical tuna fisheries. *Frontiers in Marine Science* **11**, 1303324 (2024). DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2024.1303324

Cronin, M. R., Beltran, R. S., & Zavaleta, E. S. (2024). Beyond reporting: proactive strategies for safer scientific fieldwork. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, **39**(3), 213-216. DOI: 10.1016/j.tree.2024.01.003

Cronin, M. R., Zavaleta, E. S., Beltran, R. S., Esparza, M., Payne, A. R., Termini, V., Thompson, J., & Jones, M. S. (2024). Testing the effectiveness of interactive training on sexual harassment and assault in field science. *Scientific Reports*, **14**, 523. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-023-49203-0

Stewart, J. D., **Cronin, M. R.,** Largacha, E., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Lopez, J., Hall, M., Hutchinson, M., Jones, E. G., Francis, M., Grande, M., Murua, J., Rojo, V., & Jorgensen, S. J. *et al.* Get them off the deck: straightforward interventions increase

post-release survival rates of manta and devil rays in tuna purse seine fisheries. *Biol. Conserv.* **299**, 110794 (2024). DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2024.110794

Palacios, M. D., Trejo-Ramírez, A., Velázquez-Hernández, S., Huesca-Mayorga, S. A. K., Stewart, J. D., **Cronin, M. R.**, Lezama-Ochoa, N., Zilliacus, K. M., González-Armas, R., Galván-Magaña, F. & Croll, D. A. Reproductive behavior, seasonality, and distribution of three devil ray species (*Mobula mobular, M. thurstoni, and M. munkiana*) in the Southern Gulf of California, Mexico. *Marine Biology* (2024). DOI: 10.1007/s00227-023-04314-0

Jacquet, J., Franks, B., Godfrey-Smith, P., Sanchez-Suarez, W., Abrams, P., Ainley, D., **Cronin, M.R.,** *et al.* Support US OCTOPUS Act to keep octopuses wild. *Science* **385**, 721–722 (2024). DOI: 10.1126/science.adr3813

Palacios, M. D., Stewart, J. D., Croll, D. A., **Cronin, M. R.**, Trejo-Ramírez, A., Stevens, G. M. W., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Zilliacus, K. M., González-Armas, R., Notarbartolo di Sciara, G., & Galván-Magaña, F. (2023). *Manta and devil ray aggregations: conservation challenges and developments in the field*. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, **10**, Article 1148234. DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2023.1148234

Cronin, M. R., Croll, D. A., Hall, M. A., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Lopez, J., Murua, H., Murua, J., Restrepo, V., Rojas-Perea, S., Stewart, J. D., Waldo, J. L., & Moreno, G. (2023). Harnessing stakeholder knowledge for the collaborative development of mobulid bycatch mitigation strategies in tuna fisheries. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, **80**(3), 620-634. DOI: 10.1093/icesjms/fsac093

Cronin, M. R., Amaral, J. E., Jackson, A. M., Jacquet, J., Seto, K. S., & Croll, D. A. (2022). Policy and transparency gaps for oceanic shark and rays in high seas tuna fisheries. *Fish and Fisheries*, **24**(1), 56-70. DOI: 10.1111/faf.12710

Cronin, M. R., Martinez-Estevez, L. & de Wit, L. A. Aligning conservation and public health goals to tackle the global wildlife trade. *Conserv. Sci. Pract.* **4**, e12636 (2022). DOI: 10.1111/csp2.12818

Fordham, S., Koubrak, O., Lawson, J, **Cronin, M.R**. Biology of Sharks & Their Relatives Edition 3. Chapter 23: Elasmobranch Conservation Policy: Progress and Priorities. *CRC Press.* (2022).

Cronin, M. R., Alonzo, A. M., Zavaleta, E. S. *et al.* Anti-racist interventions to transform ecology, evolutionary, and conservation biology departments. *Nat. Ecol. Evol.* **5**, 1213-1216 (2021). DOI: 10.1038/s41559-021-01522-z

Stewart, J., Palacios, M. D., Kashiwagi, T., **Cronin, M. R.,** Notarbartolo di Sciara, G., Stevens, G. M. W. & Croll, D. A. Research priorities to support effective manta and devil ray conservation. *Front. Mar. Sci.* **5**, 314 (2018). DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00314

Carlson, A. K., Taylor, W. W., **Cronin, M. R.** *et al.* A social-ecological odyssey in fisheries and wildlife management. *Fisheries* **45**, 291-302 (2020). DOI: 10.1002/fsh.10439

IN PREPARATION, REVIEW OR REVISION (drafts available upon request)

Cronin, M.R., Finkbeiner E., Virdin, J., Carmine, G., Dalton, K.H., Fitzpatrick, J., Hicks, C.H., Mancha-Cisneros, M., Basurto, X. Mapping global vulnerability of small-scale fisheries to interactions with large-scale fisheries. *In revision, Nature Food*.

Cronin, M.R., Basurto, X. When fisheries collide: A systematic review of competition, cooperation, and conflict between small-scale and large-scale fisheries. *In prep.*

Cronin, M.R., Bernardi, G., Fernando, D, Stewart, JD, Lopez…Croll, DA. Population genetics and fisheries implications for mobulid rays in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. *In prep.*

Cronin, M. R., Watson, J. T., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Moreno, G., Murua, H., Nisi, A. C., Price, C., Taylor, N. G., & Croll, D. A. Evaluating reported shark and ray catch in industrial fisheries: A global review to inform assessment and conservation. *In prep.*

Palacios, M. D., **Cronin, M.R.,** Trejo-Ramírez, A., Croll, D., González-Armas, R., Galván-Magaña, F., & Lezama-Ochoa, N. Declining captures of manta and devil rays in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and conservation implications. *In revision, Environmental Biology of Fishes.*

OTHER SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Cronin, M.R., Murua, J., Croll, D.A., Hutchinson, M., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Lopez, J., Murua, H. Palacios, M.D., Restrepo, V., Stewart, D. Swimmer, Y. Zilliacus, K.M.**,** Moreno, G. Innovative Solutions for manta and devil ray bycatch: Evidence for rapid release using manta sorting grids in the U.S. tropical tuna purse seine fleet. *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party of Ecosystem and Bycatch.* IOTC-2025-WPEB21(AS)-INF11. (2025).

Cronin, M.R., Murua, J., Moreno, G., Manta Sorting Grid Construction Instructions for Purse Seine Vessels. *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party of Ecosystem and Bycatch.* IOTC-2025-WPEB21(AS)-INF11. (2025).

Cronin, M.R., Moreno, G., Murua, J., Restrepo, V. Progress in addressing key research to inform Mobulid ray conservation in the Pacific Ocean. *IATTC Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group Meeting* (2024).

Cronin, M.R., Moreno, G., Restrepo, V. Information available on mobulid rays in the Atlantic Ocean and the need for conservation. *International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas*. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 81(4), SCRS/2024/040: 1-12. (2024).

Ellis, J.R., Carlson, J., Coehlo, R., **Cronin, M.R.,** et al. Mobulid Rays in the ICCAT Convention Area: A Review of Current Knowledge. *ICCAT Standing Committee of Research and Statistics*. (2024).

Stevens, G., Dando, M., Hutchinson, M., Laglbauer, B**., Cronin, M.R.**, Fernando, D., Nortabartolo di Sciara, G., Merritt, A., Palacios, M.D., Rojas, S., Waldo, J.L. Field Guide to Manta and Devil Rays in Pacific Ocean Fisheries. (2023).

FUNDING AND AWARDS ($718,801 total)

- Restoring Force Fellowship, 2025
- Mobulid Conservation Graduate Student Support, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation ($25,000)
- Switzer Foundation Professional Development Grant, 2025 ($2000)
- Smith Conservation Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2023-2025 ($204,588)
- Ecological Society of America Conference Registration Grant, 2024 ($610)
- Explorer, National Geographic Society ($2,600)
- LegalZoom/National Basketball Association Small Business Grant, 2024 ($10,000)
- NOAA NMFS PIRO Grant, 2023 ($155,894)
- Best Talk, North American Congress for Conservation Biology, 2022
- UC Center Sacramento Emerging Scholar Award, 2021 ($750)
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife grant for BBFF training series ($25,142)
- Finalist, UCSC Grad Slam 2020
- International Seafood Sustainability Contest Grand Prize, 2020 ($45,000)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, 2018-2021 ($147,000)
- P.E.O. Scholar Award, 2020 ($15,000)
- Save Our Shores Keystone Grant, 2020 ($8,000)
- Best Speed Talk, Student Conference for Conservation Science, 2019
- UCSC PBSci Future Leaders in Coastal Science Award, 2019 ($19,500)
- Switzer Foundation Fellowship, 2019 ($15,000)
- Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association Scholarship, 2019 ($7,500)

- Save Our Shores Keystone Grant, 2019 ($8,000)
- Seymour Center Student Research and Education Award, 2019 ($1,293.50)
- American Fisheries Society John E. Skinner Memorial Award, 2019 ($800)
- UCSC Grad Lab Funding Award, 2019 ($823.50)
- Wells Fargo Coastal Sustainability Fellowship, Spring 2018 (tuition and stipend)
- Myers Oceanographic & Marine Biology Trust Grant, 2018 ($1,000)
- Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Small Project Grant, 2018 ($950)
- Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Small Project Grant, 2017 ($950)
- Grist Climate Fellow, 2016 ($45,000)
- NYU Green Grant, 2012 ($4,000)

SELECTED SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

- **Evidence supporting rapid release of mobulids using sorting grids in tuna purse seine fisheries**
  - *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch, Sete, France, 2025*
- **Scientific and technical innovations to revolutionize knowledge production for the conservation and management of migratory and straddling biodiversity.** Ortuño Crespo, G., Cheung, W., Cronin, M. & Shillinger, G.
  - *One Ocean Science Congress, Nice, France, 2025*
- **Mapping global small-scale fishery vulnerability to interactions with industrial fisheries,** Cronin M.R.
  - *Ecological Society of America, Long Beach, USA, 2024*
  - *World Fisheries Congress, Seattle, USA, 2024*
- **Beyond reporting: proactive strategies for safer scientific fieldwork,** Cronin M.R.
  - *Ecological Society of America, Long Beach, USA, 2024*
- **Progress in addressing key research to inform Mobulid ray conservation in the Pacific Ocean.** Cronin, M.R., Moreno, G., Murua, J., Restrepo, V.
  - *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, June 2024*
- **Selective sorting grids for improved best handling and release practices of large mobulid rays in tropical tuna purse seiners**. Murua, J., Ferarios, J.M., Grande, M., Moreno, G., **Cronin, M.R.,** Murua, H., Cuevas, N., Santiago, J.
  - *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, June 2024*
- **Improving inclusion in Earth science: preventing gender-based harassment and assault during fieldwork.** Yager, J. A. & Cronin, M.R.
  - *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts 2024*
- **Evaluating publicly available reported shark and ray catch data in industrial fisheries: A global review to inform assessment and conservation,** Cronin M.R.
  - *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group 2023*
  - *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Scientific Meeting (U.S. Delegation member) 2023*
- **Assessing the impact of high seas tuna fisheries on vulnerable oceanic sharks and rays,** Cronin M.R.
  - *North American Congress for Conservation Biology, 2022*
- **Harnessing Stakeholder Knowledge for Collaborative Bycatch Mitigation for Mobulids in Tuna Fisheries,** Cronin M.R.
  - *Ocean Sciences Meeting, Feb 2022*
- **Assessing the impact of high seas tuna fisheries on vulnerable oceanic sharks and rays,** Cronin M.R.
  - *Ecological Society of America, 2022*
  - *International Congress for Conservation Biology, December 2021*
- **Building a Better Fieldwork Future: Growth, Development, and Assessment of a Bystander Intervention Program for Field Science Settings,** Cronin M.R.
  - *UCSC Sexual Violence Research Symposium, April 2021; SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, April 2021; National Academies of Sciences Action Collaborative on Sexual Harassment in Education, 2019, 2020*
- **Collaborative research to develop bycatch mitigation innovations for Mobulid rays,** Cronin M.R.
  TUNACONS Skipper Capacity Development Meeting, Jan 2021.

- **Gaps and conservation opportunities for mitigating elasmobranch bycatch in global tuna fisheries,** Cronin M.R.
    - *International Marine* Conservation *Congress*, *2020.*
    - *North American Conference for Conservation Biology, July 2020.*
- **Live Storytelling: An Old Tool for New Conservation,** Cronin M.R.
    - *International Marine Conservation Congress, August 2019*
- **Disentangling Fisheries Bycatch: Multiple Approaches to Protect a Vulnerable Ocean Giant,** Cronin M.R.
    - *The Tech Interactive/National Geographic Explorers, July 2020*
- **Policy without Teeth? Reducing Chondrichthyan Bycatch in Global Tuna Fisheries,** Cronin M.R.
    - *American Fisheries Society – The Wilderness Society Joint Meeting*, *September 2019*
- **The Ecology of the Internet: Lessons Learned from a Career in Journalism,** Cronin M.R.
    - *American Fisheries Society – The Wilderness Society Joint Meeting*, *September 2019.*
- **The Art of Live Storytelling: New Uses for an Old Tool,** Cronin M.R.
    - *Conservation Optimism Summit, Oxford, UK, September 2019*
- **Chasing the Devil: Mobulid Conservation in the Galapagos,** Cronin M.R.
    - *National Geographic Endeavor II, Galapagos Islands*, *September 2018*
- **Sustainable Fisheries and Manta Ray Conservation in the Pacific,** Cronin M.R.
    - *National Geographic Learning/CENGAGE*, *August 2018*
- **The Ecology of the Internet: Lessons Learned from a career in journalism,** Cronin M.R.
    - *MARINE Oceans Colloquium, April 2017*

INVITED ACADEMIC SEMINARS

- University of Massachusetts School of Marine Science and Technology, *February 2025*
- University of Delaware School of Marine Science and Policy, *February 2025*
- University of Maryland Baltimore, Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, *January 2025*
- Duke University Program in Ecology Seminar Series, *February 2023*
- UC Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, *March 2022*
- UC Santa Cruz Ocean Sciences Department Seminar Series, *April 2022*

EDITORIAL AND REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- Guest Editor, *Environmental Biology of Fishes*: Elasmobranch Special Issue, 2023-2025
- Peer Reviewer for *Conservation Letters, Fish and Fisheries*, *Marine Policy*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Lecturer,** Fall 2020: *Marine Conservation Biology BIOE165*. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Dept. UCSC
    - Lead instructor for upper-division class of 65 students
- **Guest Lectures:** UCSC: Conservation Biology (ENVS, 2020), Marine Policy & Governance (ENVS, 2021, 2022, 2023), Marine Science Club (2021)
- **Teaching Assistant,** Fall 2019: *Marine Conservation Biology BIOE165*. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Dept. UCSC
- **Inquiry-Based Teaching: The Evolution of Genetic Drift,** UCSC Professional Development Program

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Faculty Advisor, UMass Dartmouth Society for Women in Marine Science

MENTORSHIP

- Isabella Garfield, UMass Dartmouth SMAST; **Master's Thesis**

- Amelia Reynolds, Committee Member, UCSC EEB 2025; **Master's Thesis**
- Katrina Bernaus, Research Assistant, Duke Master of Environmental Management 2024
- Hayden Dubniczki, Committee Member, Duke Master of Environmental Management 2024; ***Master's Thesis:*** Corporate Accountability in Kiribati's Tuna Purse Seine Fishery (*MS in prep*)
- Jennifer Waldo, Research Assistant, *UCSC EEB 2022,* **URST Award Recipient, Gunderson Award recipient; *Senior Thesis*:** Helicopter Pilot Surveys for Mobulid Bycatch Avoidance in High Seas Tuna Fisheries (Waldo et al. 2024, *Frontiers in Marine Science*)
- Isabella Ossiander**,** Research Assistant, *UCSC* EEB 2022, **URST Award Recipient**; ***Senior Thesis:*** Investigating Seafood Mislabeling of Mobulids in Baja California Sur
- Olivia Wilms, Research Assistant for 'Preventing' Workshop, *Ecology, UCSC 2022*
- Raquel Lozano, Research Assistant for 'Preventing' Workshop, *Ecology, UCSC 2022*
- Jeannie Johnson, Research Assistant, *Marine Biology, UCSC 2021*, ***Senior Thesis*:** A review of Mobula bycatch and conservation solutions in high seas tuna fisheries. **URST Award recipient**
- Connor Price, Research Assistant, Marine Biology, *UCSC 2021*
- Christina Langford, Research Assistant, *UCSC EEB, 2020*, ***Senior Thesis*:** Tackling sea turtle bycatch in tuna tRFMOs
- Mia Buak, Research Assistant for 'Preventing' Workshop, *Law, UCSC 2020*
- Julia Amaral, Research Assistant*, UCSC EEB, 2019*

POLICY ADVISORY ROLES

- Expert presenter, U.S. Delegation, IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch, *September 2025*
- Scientific Advisory Committee, USA Delegation to Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, *2025—present*
- Expert Advisor, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission mobulid ray handling best practices, *February 2025*
- Expert Reviewer, US Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for Giant Oceanic Manta Ray, *2023—2024*
- Member, U.S. Delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, *2023*
- Expert consultant, NOAA National Marine Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, *2019—2022*
- National Science Foundation Polar Program, *2022*
    - Offered expert advice on policy brief for safe polar fieldwork
- Consultant, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology, *2023*
    - Offered expert advice on policy brief for safe polar fieldwork

SELECTED OUTREACH, 2018-2021

- Moderator, Blue Economy Summit: Enhancing Equity in Small-Scale Fisheries, Duke University
- **Co-founder and fiction editor, Potluck Magazine**. Weekly editing publishing for environmental voices on national literary magazine.
- Voiz Sustainable Food Summit panelist
- Stanford Children's Hospital National Geographic Virtual Visit
- Labside Chats: A Conversation with a Scientist
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUJ5dwHq1gI
- National Geographic Explorer Classroom
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vujViuIOuFM
- Sit Down with a Scientist: Conserving the High Seas
    - https://tinyurl.com/vc4saf3f
- The Genuinely Interested Podcast: Sustainability In The High Seas?
    - https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-genuinely-interested-podcast/id1499910944?i=1000497320875
- Harvard University 7th Annual Careers in Conservation Conference
- **Weekly column in *VICE Media*'s science and technology outlet, *Motherboard*.** Focused on conservation, ecology, science and science communication
- **"A Whale of a Recycling Problem" art installation,** Seymour Marine Discovery Center, Santa Cruz CA. Supervised 30 undergraduates to install non-recyclable plastic bolus into belly of blue whale skeleton
- Women of the Bayou: Stories of resilience and ingenuity in Louisiana's changing landscape, *Louisiana Sea Grant*

CONSULTING

Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation *2020*
UCSC Divisional Graduate Climate Committee *2020*
The Hydrous *'Manta Ray Eden' virtual reality experience* *2019*

PROFESSIONIAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

- National Geographic Society Explorer
- Ocean Diplomacy Working Group, Duke University
- Distant-Water Fisheries Community of Practice, Conservation International
- National Academies Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in STEM
- Equity in Fisheries Lab Group, UC Santa Cruz
- Ecological Society of America
- Society for Conservation Biology, North America (Student Representative to the Board, 2018—2022)
- American Fisheries Society (former local chapter Vice President)
- American Elasmobranch Society

SERVICE

Student Member of Board of Directors, *Society for Conservation Biology North America* *2019—2023*
Graduate Student Representative, *EEB Department, UC Santa Cruz* *2018—2020*
Vice-President, Secretary, *Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay Subunit of the American Fisheries Society* *2016-2018*
Chair, Conservation Committee, *Society for Conservation Biology: Santa Cruz Chapter* *2017-2018*
Graduate Search Committee Member, *EEB Department, UC Santa Cruz* *2018*

CERTIFICATIONS

Graduate Leadership Certificate Program, *UCSC Graduate Division* *2018*
Professional Development Program, *Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators, UCSC* *2017-2018*

OTHER EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Journalism Positions: *2013—2016*
Climate Fellow at *Grist Magazine;* Staff Writer, Politics & Environment, *Gawker;* Senior Staff Writer, Conservation & Wildlife, *The Dodo;* Science Intern at *The Huffington Post*

Freelance Writing:
Written work appeared in *The New York Times, Salon, Orion Magazine, The Nation, Slate, Popular Science, The Verge, VICE, Vox Media, Narratively, Motherboard, Newest York, Potluck Magazine, Discovery, EarthTouchNews*

NYU Office of Sustainability, *Program Assistant, Engagement and Communications* *2012—2013*

SELECTED NON-SCIENTIFIC WRITING (melcronin.com/publications for more)

- The New Domestic *Catamaran Magazine*
- Coal's Last Gamble: A choking industry bets on one more big score *Grist*
- Lava, Land and Life Forms *Motherboard*
- Justice for the Swamp: Why We Hate Some Ecosystems and Not Others *Motherboard*
- Shameful Sport *Slate*
- A Whaleship Full of Cannibals (Who Happen To Be My Family) *Narratively*
- Place Where You Live: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, *Orion Magazine*
- On the East River, the Fishing Is Good But How Are the Fish? *The New York Times*

- The Rat Hunters Of New York *Narratively*

OTHER SKILLS: Fluent in Spanish, data analysis with R, statistics, modelling, and data visualization in R, ArcGIS, HTML, CMS, Adobe Creative Cloud, Movable Type, WordPress, social media platform management