Curriculum Vitae

ADAM KENTCH OBAZA

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EDUCATION

May 2009: Master of Science
Department of Biological Sciences
Florida International University, Miami, FL
Advisor: Joel C. Trexler

May 2006: Bachelor of Science in Biology, Marine Science
Minor in Chemistry
University of Miami, Coral Gables FL
Cum Laude/Honors in Marine Science

WORK EXPERIENCE

Paua Marine Research Group, Senior Biologist, January 2017 – present, Long Beach, CA

- Plan and implement field operations in support of abalone restoration in Southern California including small boat operations and scientific diving
- Analyze data using various statistical approaches and synthesize results into biological reports and presentations
- Plan, implement and monitor estuarine restoration activities including eelgrass mitigation in accordance with the California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy and/or mitigation bank agreements
- Continue leadership of YOY citizen survey program in Washington, USA. Includes all outreach and data collection, analysis and synthesis outlined in Rockfish Recovery Team Scientist VI.

Rockfish Recovery Team, Scientist VI, January 2017-April 2017, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA. Dan Tonnes.

- Develop and coordinate a citizen science dive program dedicated to surveying young-of-year (YOY) rockfish in Puget Sound
- Perform dive operations to survey YOY rockfish and kelp forest habitat in Puget Sound as a NOAA diver
- Conduct outreach with local citizen dive groups to promote interest in rockfish
- Collect, analyze data and write in support of reports, presentations and publications in peer-reviewed journals that address management of complex natural resource problems in Puget Sound

Protected Species and Marine Habitat Specialist, November 2009 – December 2016, National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Regional Office, Long Beach, CA. Bryant Chesney.

- Incorporate economic, social and biological analysis to evaluate and regulate development projects in coastal, estuarine and marine habitats and draft associated policy under the Essential Fish Habitat provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Contribute to recovery efforts for protected species listed under the Endangered Species Act (white and black abalone and rockfish in Puget Sound) including development of citizen science fish surveys, recovery planning and species monitoring.
- Provide technical advice on habitat and protected species policy and regulations, including sensitive, controversial issues, to stakeholders and external partners through outreach, presentations at regional and national conferences, technical reports and peer-reviewed articles.
- Conduct field work throughout Southern California and Puget Sound, including as a NOAA diver, in support of marine habitat and protected species management programs. This role required me to

operate, transport and maneuver small boats via trailer in addition to an occasional need to troubleshoot electrical, electronic and mechanical problems with small boats and trailers.
- Coordinate habitat related research projects in a team setting such as characterization of non-native species on overwater structures, monitoring offshore eelgrass habitat and restoration of rocky reef habitat through removal of invasive algae.

Project Coordinator, *August 2007 – June 2009, University Park Campus, Florida International University, Miami, FL. Dr. Joel Trexler.*
- Coordinated sampling and data collection for an experimental protocol (drift fence technique) used to parameterize a statistical model of effects of nutrient enrichment and hydroperiod on key components of the aquatic (freshwater) food web in Everglades National Park.
- Collected and identified fish and key macro-invertebrates.
- Supervised and coordinated technicians and students assisting with project.
- Communicated biologically and technically complex issues with federal (USDOI) and state (SFWMD) colleagues through annual and comprehensive assessment reports for US Department of Interior.
- Analyzed and managed data with programs including SAS, SYSTAT and Sigmaplot.

Independent Research Project Collaborator, *May 2008 – June 2009, National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Division Virginia Key, FL. Dr. Todd Gedamke.*
- Developed simulation model to evaluate bias in length-based mortality estimators for fishes managed under fishery management plans associated with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Ran simulation models of population structures on R and Tinn-R software.
- Prepared figures to present at conferences showing effects of recruitment on population structures on fishery resources.

Teaching Assistant, *August 2006 – June 2007*, *University Park Campus, Florida International University*, *Miami, FL. Dr. Tom Pitzer*.
- Taught lab sections for a Human Biology course by leading lectures, discussion groups, experimentation and dissections on topics including cell structure, genetics, organ systems, conservation and environmental policy.
- Taught and enforced general laboratory safety to students.
- Wrote a study guide for use with future classes.

Senior Thesis Researcher, *September 2005 – May 2006, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Virginia Key, FL. Dr. Martin Grosell*.
- Developed and performed behavioral experiments to test sublethal effects of arsenic on the common pond snail, *Lymnaea stagnalis.*
- Responsible for husbandry of snail population in wet lab.
- Analyzed and managed data using programs including SYSTAT, SigmaPlot and Microsoft Office

Research Experience for Undergraduates Intern, May *2005 – August 2005, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland, Solomons, MD. Dr. Chris Rowe.*
- Developed and implemented behavioral experiments to test sublethal effects and associated environmental impacts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) on juvenile snapping turtles, *Chelydra serpentina*.
- Collected live turtles from Chesapeake Bay estuaries.
- Responsible for husbandry of juvenile snapping turtles in wet lab.
- Assisted in injecting turtles with oxytocin to induce egg laying and removal of PIT tags from juvenile snapping turtles.
- Analyzed and managed data with programs including SigmaPlot, SYSTAT, and Microsoft Office

Aquarist Intern, *June 2003 – August 2003, Syngnathid Lab***,** *National Aquarium in Baltimore, Baltimore, MD. Jorge Gomez-Jurado*
- Assisted in husbandry of many species of syngnathids including sea-dragons, pipe-fishes and sea horses.

- Reared live food items with mixtures of vitamins (Docosahexaenoic acid and Arachidonic acid) and enriched algae to increase and conserve the health of syngnathids, including decapsulation of *Artemia nauplii*.
- Operation of many filtration devices including ultraviolet light, activated carbon, protein skimmers and biofilters.
- Shipped and received fragile aquatic organisms.

PAPERS

Hollarsmith, J.A., K. Andrews, N. Naar, S. Starko, M. Calloway, A. Obaza, D. Tonnes, E. Buckner, J. Selleck and T. Therriault. *In prep*. Towards a conceptual framework for managing and conserving kelp forests in future oceans: a case study in the Salish Sea

Obaza, A.K., A. Bird, R. Sanders, R. Ware and D. Ginsburg. *In prep*. Variable function of two open coast eelgrass species.

Obaza, A.K., A. Bird, W. Hagey, M. Neuman, D. Witting. *In prep*. Shifts in white abalone distribution in Southern California

Andrews, K.S., K. Nichols, C. Harvey, N. Tolimieri, A. Obaza, R. Garner and D. Tonnes. All hands on deck: local ecological knowledge and expert volunteers contribute to the first delisting of a marine fish species under the Endangered Species Act. Citizen Science: Theory and Practice 4(1)

Tanner, R. A. Obaza, D. Ginsburg. Secondary production of kelp bass *Paralabrax clathratus* in relation to coastal eelgrass *Zostera marina* habitat in a Southern California Marine Protected Area. Bulletin of Southern California Academy of Sciences 118(3): 158-172

Obaza, A., J. Williams. 2018. Spatial and temporal dynamics of the non-native fouling community in southern California, 69: 1771-1783

Marks, L.M., D.C. Reed and A.K. Obaza. 2017. Assessment of control methods for the invasive seaweed *Sargassum horneri* in California, USA. Management of Biological Invasions 8(2): 205-213

Obaza, A., R. Hoffman, R. Clausing. 2015. Long-term stability of eelgrass fish assemblages in two highly developed coastal estuaries. Fisheries Management and Ecology, 22(3): 224-238

Obaza, A., C.B. Ruehl. 2013. Regressions for estimating gastropod biomass with multiple shell metrics. Malacologia, 56(1-2): 343-349

Obaza, A.K., D.L. DeAngelis and J.C. Trexler. 2011. Using data from an encounter sampler to model fish dispersal. Journal of Fish Biology, 78(2): 495-513

DeAngelis, D.L., J.C. Trexler, C.C. Cosner and A.K. Obaza. 2010. Fish population dynamics in a seasonally varying wetland. Ecological Modelling, 221(8): 1131-1137

REPORTS

Andrews, K., A. Obaza, J. Selleck and N. Tolimieri. *In prep*. Young-of-year rockfish monitoring plan for Puget Sound

Obaza, A. and D. Tonnes. 2017. Results of young of year rockfish surveys in Puget Sound 2015-2016. Report to NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Protected Resources Division, May 1, 2017. 10 pp.

Obaza, A., A. Bird, M. Neuman and D. Witting. 2018. Abalone surveys and research at San Nicolas Island, CA. Report submitted in accordance with US Navy and NMFS Agreement #WCR-1511. 25 pp.

PRESENTATIONS

2017 Obaza, A., K. Andrews, J. Selleck, N. Tolimieri and D. Tonnes. Development of a rockfish young-of-year monitoring program in Puget Sound. Western Society of Naturalists Annual Meeting, Pasadena, CA, November 18, 2017

2016 Obaza, A., C. Grosso and W.B. Chesney. EcoAtlas: An online visualization tool for eelgrass distribution. Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, May 6, 2016

2015 Obaza, A., J. Williams and W.B. Chesney. Spatial and temporal dynamics of the non-native fouling community in southern California. Coastal Estuarine Research Federation Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. November 12, 2015

2015 Obaza, A. Increased Exposure: The use of Underwater Photography for Regulatory, Outreach and Scientific Purposes. NOAA West Coast Region Employee Communications in the Workplace Monthly Talk, May 27, 2015

2015 Obaza, A., W.B. Chesney. Tracking Long-Term Dredge and Disposal Effort in Southern California. Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, May 15, 2015

2014 Meux, B., A. Obaza, L. Marks, W.B. Chesney. Invasive Algae Removal with a Supersucker. Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Camarillo, CA, May 2, 2014

2014 Obaza, A., J. Williams, W.B. Chesney. The Fouling Community Assemblage of Overwater Structures within the Southern California Bight. Western Society of Naturalists 95th Annual Meeting, Tacoma, WA, November 13-16, 2014

2013 Obaza, A. NOAA Fisheries Southwest Region Habitat Conservation Division and Invasive Species Eradication. California Seagrant invited spearker at "Watersheds and Invasive Species Education" Teacher Workshop. San Pedro, CA, March 23, 2013

2013 Obaza, A. An Introduction to NOAA Fisheries Southwest Region: Habitat Conservation Division. Invited speaker at Deep Blue Scuba Dive Club meeting. Long Beach, CA, March 7, 2013

2011 Obaza, A. Eradication of *Caulerpa taxifolia* from Southern California. California Seagrant invited speaker at "Wetlands: A World of Discovery and Change" teacher's workshop. Huntington Beach, CA, October 8, 2011

2009 Obaza, A. , Trexler, J. Application of a Foraging Model to Estimate Fish Movement Rates From Trap Data. Ecological Society of America 94th Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, August 2-7, 2009

2009 Obaza, A., Effectiveness of Drift Fences in Modeling Fish Movement Rates. Everglades National Park invited guest speaker. Homestead, FL, May 11, 2009

2009 Obaza, A. , Effectiveness of Drift Fences in Modeling Fish Movement Rates. Florida International University 11th Annual Biology Research Symposium, Miami, FL February 7, 2009

2008 Obaza, A., Effectiveness of Drift Fences as a Method for Monitoring Fish Movement. Florida International University Biology 10th Annual Research Symposium, Miami, FL February 16, 2009

2005 Obaza, A., Effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) on the behavior of snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*). Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, Cambridge, MD August 12, 2005

POSTERS

2008 Obaza, A., Effectiveness of drift fences in monitoring fish movement. Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference, Naples, FL July 28-Aug 1, 2008

2006 Ebanks, S.C., Obaza, A.K., Grosell, M.G., The effect of arsenic on foraging efficiency and air-breathing frequency in the common pond snail, *Lymnaea stagnalis.* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Educational Partnership Program Fourth Education and Science Forum, Tallahassee, FL October 30 – November 1, 2006

2005 Eisenreich, K.M., Obaza, A., Rowe., C.L., PCB exposure in snapping turtles: effects on growth, metabolism and behavior. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 26th Annual Meeting in North America, Baltimore, MD November 13-17, 2005

CERTIFICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CPR certification
- First aid certification
- AED certification
- NOAA Endangered Species Act listing decision training
- Rescue and Master SCUBA Dive Certified
- American Academy of Underwater Science and NOAA diver (Over 600 logged dives)
- President's Volunteer Service Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
- US Coast Guard Basic Skills and Seamanship small boat course
- US Fish and Wildlife Service MOCC small boat course

SERVICE

- Executive Board Member – Friends of Colorado Lagoon (2017-present)
- Volunteer Diver – California Science Center (2011-2015)
- Volunteer Diver – Los Angeles Waterkeeper (2011-2014)