

Elizabeth M. Phillips

Marine Vertebrate Ecology Lab, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039
ephillips@mlml.calstate.edu
831.771.4422

EDUCATION

MOSS LANDING MARINE LABORATORIES, San Francisco State University, Moss Landing, CA
2005 M.S. Marine Science (Dr. James T. Harvey, advisor)

Selected Graduate Courses: Quantitative Marine Statistics, Physical Oceanography, Biological Oceanography, Population Biology, Experimental and Sampling Design, Ichthyology

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, Shannon Point Marine Center, Bellingham, WA
1999 B.S. Biology with Honors, Marine emphasis (Dr. June Ross, advisor)

Selected Undergraduate Courses: Fisheries Management, Aquatic Ecology, Coastal Ecosystem Management, Marine Biology

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, Townsville, Queensland, Australia
1997 International semester abroad at Great Barrier Reef

AWARDS & HONORS

2004 David and Lucille Packard Foundation Student Travel Award, MLML
2003 Dr. Earl H. Meyers and Ethyl M. Meyers Oceanographic and Marine Biology Trust, MLML
2002 College of Science and Engineering Community Service Learning Scholarship, SFSU/MLML
2000 Biology Department Undergraduate Research Accomplishment Award, WWU
1999 Holzman Biology Scholarship Award, WWU

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Associate Researcher, Central Coast Marine Bird Health Study, CA Department of Fish and Game, 2005

- Provide a quantitative demographic assessment of disease and other mortality factors affecting seabird populations in California to federal, state, and local resource managers
- Assist with seabird necropsies, collection of demographic data, tagging and tracking of Common Murres and Sooty Shearwaters, management of an online database and photo gallery
- Use the MBNMS BeachCOMBERS program data to identify and respond to mortality events related to oil spills or other anthropogenic or natural factors

Research Coordinator, Biological Monitoring for Golden State Bridge, Inc., 2005

- Provide trained marine mammal and seabird observers to monitor pile-driving and other associated in-water and out-of water construction activity in Moss Landing harbor
- Mitigate marine mammal interactions with construction activity, including measurement of sound pressure levels from pile-driving activity and establishing pinniped safety and buffer zones

- Provide monthly summaries of observations to Golden State Bridge, Inc., Monterey County, and NMFS

Stranding Coordinator, Monterey County Stranding Network, Moss Landing Marine Labs, 2001-2005

- Respond to marine mammal stranding reports in Monterey County, CA and manage data entry and processing for NOAA
- Coordinate volunteers, students, and local community members to help identify, collect, and necropsy carcasses

Research Assistant, Center for Integrated Marine Technologies, UC Santa Cruz, 2001-present

- Sight marine mammals and birds using NMFS-established data collection techniques along line transects in Monterey Bay, CA
- Assist researchers from 4-5 different lab groups with hydroacoustic sampling, CTD casts, and net tows

Seabird Researcher, Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) Project, 2002-present

- Assess effects of local power plant's thermal outfall on seabird assemblages in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)
- Collect data seasonally at control and study site, analyze data and report findings to MBNMS

Marine Mammal Observer, SFO Bay Bridge Project/SRS Technologies, 2002-present

- Monitor pile driving activity in San Francisco Bay at Bay Bridge Construction Project near local seal and sea lion haul-outs
- Mitigate potential marine mammal interactions before the start of pile driving activity

Marine Mammal Observer, NOAA Fisheries/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, 2004

- Conducted line transect abundance surveys aboard UNOLS vessel R/V Endeavor in North Atlantic along continental shelf and Gulf Stream
- Included species identification, location, behavior and other data collection, entry, and daily analysis

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Marine Statistics, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 2004-2005

- Provide in-depth explanations of statistical concepts and analyses to graduate-level students
- Assist with lab instruction and homework preparation

Graduate Assistant, Marine Science Research Summer Institute, MLML, 2004-2005

- Enable secondary school teachers to present topics in marine biology and oceanography in the classroom
- Developed lecture and lab curricula for high school students, performed classroom visits, and led training workshops

Marine Educator and Director, Island Institute, Vashon Island, WA, 2000-2001

- Instructed students about marine ecology at island-based marine science camp in San Juan Islands, WA

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Phillips, E.M. 2005. Results of a captive feeding study with Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*):

- Implications for scat analysis. M.S. Thesis, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.
- Phillips, E.M. and J.T. Harvey. 2004. Final report of biological monitoring for All Star Services Corporation activity at Timber Pier, Monterey, California. Report to NMFS Long Beach, CA.
- Harvey, J.T. and E.M. Phillips. 2004. Potential impacts to marine birds and turtles during cable-laying activities for the MARS Project (MBARI) off Monterey Bay, California. Report to Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.
- Phillips, E.M. and J.T. Harvey. 2004. Improvements to scat analysis: Results of a captive feeding study with Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*). Poster presented at the American Society of Mammalogy annual meeting, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.
- Phillips, E.M. 1999. The southern resident population of *Orcinus orca* in Puget Sound: Hypotheses on population ratios and the effects of the capture era on behavior of the whales. B.S. thesis, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

RELATED SKILLS

MLML Small Boat Operator, 1500+ hours working at sea on Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, 50+ hours of aerial survey experience, PADI Open Water Diver 1999, animal husbandry and oiled wildlife care training