

# Ric DeSantiago

Joint Doctoral Program in Ecology; San Diego State University and University of California Davis  
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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. Ecology**, 2018-current **San Diego State University, CA**  
SDSU GPA: 3.75 **University of California, Davis**  
Advisors: Jeremy Long (jlong@sdsu.edu)  
Ted Grosholz (tedgrosholz@ucdavis.edu)

**B.S. Environmental Sciences**, 2018 **San Diego State University, CA**  
GPA: 3.65

**Study Abroad Program**, 2017 **Universidad de Alcala,**  
GPA: 4.0. **Alcala de Henares, Spain**

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Research Technician**, 2017-2018 **San Diego State University, CA**  
**Principal Investigator:** Jeremy Long, Janet Walker, and Shelby Rinehart  
Understanding how plant-plant interactions influence the belowground biomass of *Spartina foliosa* and *Sarcocornia pacifica*

**Field Assistant**, 2017 **San Diego State University, CA**  
**Advisor:** Janet Walker  
Assessed how herbivorous crabs impact plant-plant interactions between *Spartina foliosa* and *Sarcocornia pacifica* along a latitudinal gradient from southern to northern California

**Undergraduate Researcher**, 2017 **San Diego State University, CA**  
**Supervisor:** Molly Costello  
Collaboration project with San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) to identify and map invasive species in Boulder Creek Preserve

**NSF REU**, 2016 **University of San Diego, CA**  
**Principal Investigator:** Drew Talley  
Assessed if anthropogenic debris (microplastics <5mm) had entered the food web at Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve, San Diego, California

**Field Assistant**, 2016 **University of San Diego, CA**  
**Supervisor:** Joy Shapiro  
Investigated diel changes in plankton communities and the vertical distribution of copepods and nauplii in relation to hydrographic parameters in Mission Bay, California.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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**CMIL Travel Award**, SDSU Coastal Marine Institute Laboratory, 2019 \$400

<b>Directed Research Fellowship</b> , Ocean Discovery Institute, 2018	\$3,000
<b>Graduate Research Fellowship</b> , National Science Foundation, 2018	\$138,000
<b>John and Flora Olsen Endowed Scholarship</b> , San Diego State University, 2017	\$1,077
<b>Dorothy Allshouse Endowed Scholarship</b> , San Diego State University, 2017	\$10,000
<b>SDSU Students Abroad Scholarship</b> , San Diego State University, 2017	\$580
<b>Undergraduate Researcher Stipend</b> , National Science Foundation, 2016	\$5,000

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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**DeSantiago, R.** and D.M. Talley. 2018. Feeding strategy may predict anthropogenic debris consumption in wetland fishes. In: Proceedings of the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) 2018, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma April 5-7, 2018.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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**DeSantiago, R.**, W. White, and J.D. Long “Black abalone declines shifted herbivore communities to those that avoid invasive *Sargassum horneri*” Oral Presentation at Western Society of Naturalists Conference. Ensenada, Baja California, MX. November 1, 2019.

**DeSantiago, R.** “The impacts of invasive *Sargassum horneri* on intertidal grazer communities” Oral Presentation at Cabrillo National Monument Science day. San Diego, CA. April 20, 2019.

**DeSantiago, R.**, A. Clay, and D.M. Talley. “Foraging strategy may predict anthropogenic debris consumption in wetland fishes”. Poster Presentation at National Conference for Undergraduate Researchers. Edmund, OK. April 6, 2018.

**DeSantiago, R.**, A. Clay, and D.M. Talley. “Anthropogenic debris consumption by wetland fishes”. Poster Presentation at NSF REU Symposium. Alexandria, VA. October 24, 2016.

**DeSantiago, R.**, and A. Clay. “A fish tale: The consumption of anthropogenic debris by wetland fishes”. Oral presentation at Climate Change Across the Various Scales of System Organization Symposium. San Diego, CA. August 12, 2016.

## **TEACHING AND MENTORING**

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**Facilitator**, 2018 **San Diego State University, CA**  

- Student Grant Writing Group Workshop

**Directed Research Fellow**, 2018 **Ocean Discovery Institute, CA**  

- Mentored eight high school students from Hoover High School, San Diego, California.
- Conducted a science project in Bahia de Los Angeles, Baja California, Mexico, over the course of ten weeks.

**Science Outreach Educator**, 2014-2017 **San Diego County Office of Education, CA**  

- Developed curricula for Environmental Science programs (grades K-8) focused on watershed science, water quality, water conservation, estuarine ecosystems and food webs

- Taught 20-30 student lessons on the above topics at approximately 300 elementary schools in San Diego County
- Collaborated with the San Diego Zoo to bring interactive lessons to classrooms using watershed models and zoo animals

**Teaching Assistant, 2016**

**Ocean Discovery Institute, CA**

- Assisted science educator with classroom activities and lesson plans
- Instructed students in various hands-on projects such as remote operated vehicle design and watershed model building

**Teaching Assistant, 2014**

**San Diego City College, San Diego, CA**

- Assisted a professor of a Peace Studies 101 course in research and development of course materials
- Facilitated discussion groups and seminars
- Graded research papers, assignments, and exams

**Lab Assistant, 2016**

**University of San Diego, CA**

- Assisted a guest scientist from Scripps institute of Oceanography in teaching a high school biology class the process of dissection and gut content analysis
- Taught 20 students from Hoover High School how dissect and identify the anatomy of fishes

**OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

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**Open house lab booth**, San Diego State University's Coastal Marine Lab, 2019

**Meet-a-Scientist guest**, College and Career Day at McFarland Middle School, 2018

**Seed-to-table agriculture educator**, Port of San Diego's Green Machine, 2014-2017

**Watershed science and garden ecology presenter**, Valley Center Ag Day, 2014-2016

**Energy Conservation Assembly co-creator**, Energy Upgrade California, 2015-2016

**Water quality and conservation educator**, Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival, 2015-2016

**Splash Science Mobile Lab design lead**, San Diego County Office of Education, 2016

**Life Around the Estuary presenter**, Birch Aquarium's World Oceans Day, 2015

**Envisioning exercise facilitator**, Peace and Justice Student Association Conference, 2014

**Water conservation outreach educator**, Pala Indian Reservation, 2014

**REFERENCES**

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**Jeremy Long**

Associate Professor, Department of Biology, San Diego State University  
(619)594-3598; jlong@sdsu.edu

**Drew M. Talley**

Associate professor, Department of Environmental and Ocean Sciences, University of San Diego  
(619) 260-6810; dtalley@sandiego.edu

**Molly Costello**

Professor, Department of Geography, San Diego State University

(619) 594-8560; mpohl@mail.sdsu.edu

**Shelby Rinehart**

Post-Doctoral Researcher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
(860) 318-1746; srinehart@ucdavis.edu