

# CÒMPASS

Participant Biographies  
2020-2021 Leaders for Sea Change

## Participants

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### Juliano Palacios Abrantes

University of British Columbia

Juliano Palacios Abrantes graduated in Biology in 2012 from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City. There he focused on improving food security in coastal communities of the Mexican Pacific coast. In 2014, he was honored with a Latin American Fisheries Fellowship to study a master's in environmental science & management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. During this time, he was part of a team that developed an ecological monitoring protocol for California's Pacific intertidal. Currently, Juliano is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of British Columbia, Canada. His work looks at the socio-ecological implications of climate change on fisheries management.

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### Natalie Ban

University of Victoria

Dr. Natalie Ban is an Associate Professor at the University of Victoria's School of Environmental Studies. Having obtained her PhD in Resource Management and Environmental Studies (University of British Columbia), and Master's in Geography (McGill University), her interdisciplinary research seeks to identify options for marine management and conservation in a changing climate whilst respecting people's needs and aspirations. She investigates social and ecological themes to understand how marine social-ecological systems function, and how stewardship can be improved for a better future for people and biodiversity. Her research emphasizes partnerships with Indigenous peoples, NGOs, and governments, in addition to academic collaborations.

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## Fiona Beaty

University of British Columbia

Fiona Beaty is a passionate marine ecologist whose goal is to build community and ecological resilience to climate change. Having grown up in the Pacific Northwest, she is very connected to the incredible life that thrives in her home waters, the Salish Sea. Accordingly, Fiona now studies the adaptive capacity of this region to climate change as a part of her

doctorate in Zoology at the University of British Columbia, and is grateful to work with community, Indigenous, and government partners on regional conservation and nearshore restoration. Fiona is a strong advocate for pairing research with conservation action, and loves to champion the protection of our beautiful coasts and communities.

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## Gustavo Daniel Danemann

Pronatura Noroeste A.C.

Gustavo D. Danemann initiated his career as a marine biologist in 1984 studying birds, fish, wetlands and natural protected areas in NW Mexico; his further professional development focused on policy analysis and natural resources administration. In July 2007 he was designated as Executive Director of Pronatura Noroeste AC, where he leads marine and

coastal conservation, sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas, shorebirds, education and communication projects.

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## Santiago Dominguez-Sánchez

Gulf of California Marine Program

Santiago was born in Colombia and always had a great motivation to study the oceans. Chasing this dream, he moved to Mexico to become a marine biologist. In his university years he became captivated by giant manta rays. Though the absence of these rays in the Gulf of California made him realize the reality of the ocean's health and its uncertain future, which led him to work in conservation, fisheries and fishing

communities. These experiences showed him that we could preserve the ocean by involving those who depends on it and utilizing science to present clear messages to the public.

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## Inés López Ercilla

Comunidad y Biodiversidad AC (COBI)

Inés López Ercilla was born in a Spanish family living in Mexico. Because of her parents' work, she has been lucky to live in four different countries during her childhood. Inés believes this made her understand how diverse people and ecosystems are around the world. She grew up inspired to think big, be brave enough to dare to think out of the box but keep her feet on the ground through hard work and preparation. She is personally committed to gender equality, specifically in fisheries; and will use this opportunity to reflect and connect with her peers.

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## Paula Ezcurra

Scripps Institution of Oceanography & Climate Science Alliance

Paula Ezcurra is a binational Mexican-born, US-raised, scientist. Paula grew up in the border town of San Diego, spending most of her childhood between there and her birthplace of Mexico City. She studied marine sciences at UC Santa Barbara, where she became more engrossed in the subject of climate change during her time interning as a scientific diver. Paula decided to pursue an interdisciplinary master's at UC San Diego to learn more about climate science, and the different ways in which we need to address it. Now she is putting this into practice through her work. Currently, she is working as a Staff Researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where she works on a broad range of projects relating to science communications and coastal ecology research. She is also completing a fellowship with the Climate Science Alliance, working to connect groups tackling binational climate projects.

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## Kristin M. Hardy

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Dr. Kristin Hardy is an associate professor of Biology at California Polytechnic State University, where she has worked since 2011. Here she runs an active marine ecophysiology research program, with a focus on the effects of oxygen limitation (hypoxia) on metabolism and muscle physiology in

crustaceans and molluscs. Through her research program, Dr. Hardy has served as a mentor to 40+ undergraduate students and 6 graduate students. Additionally, she is an enthusiastic instructor of several physiology and marine concentrated courses. When she isn't educating GenZ-ers about the realities of climate change, she can be found raising her three young children with her biologist husband in the rocky intertidal.

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## Lekelia Jenkins

Arizona State University

Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins is from Baltimore, where she grew up fishing and crabbing recreationally on the Chesapeake Bay. She received her PhD from Duke University by pioneering a field of study into the invention and adoption of marine conservation technology. Her research centers on the human dimensions of sustainable fisheries and tidal energy and dance as a means of science engagement. Her numerous accolades for research and science engagement include the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship in Ocean Sciences, National Academies of Sciences Ocean Science Board member, and AAAS IF/THEN Ambassador. She is an Associate Professor at Arizona State University.

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## Francis Juanes

University of Victoria

Francis Juanes is the Liber Ero Chair for Fisheries Research and a Professor at the University of Victoria. Francis completed his undergraduate degree at McGill, M.Sc at Simon Fraser University and PhD at the State University of New York – Stony Brook. After a post-doc at UBC he became a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he taught for 18 years until relocating to UVic in 2011. Currently, his work focuses on measuring underwater soundscapes, the effects of anthropogenic noise on fish sound production, effects of aquaculture on wild populations, and the ocean ecology of Pacific salmon.

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## Iain McKechnie

University of Victoria and Hakai Institute

Dr. Iain McKechnie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) and the principal investigator of the Historical Ecology

and Coastal Archaeology laboratory (HECA Lab). He is a coastal archaeologist whose research focuses on the human use of animals, with a particular concentration on fish, shellfish, and marine mammals along the Pacific Northwest Coast. He explores how these ancient records broaden contemporary perspectives on present day resource management challenges and the legacy of Indigenous settlement, use, and care for coastal environments.

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## Hem Nalini Morzaria-Luna

CEDO Intercultural / Long Live the Kings / NOAA

Hem Nalini Morzaria-Luna is a marine ecologist with over 15 years of experience in research and conservation. She applies modeling approaches, including end-to-end ecosystem modeling, to management, conservation, and to assess climate change impacts in coastal and marine areas in Mexico and the US. Since 2004, Hem has worked for CEDO Intercultural, a US-Mexico binational non-profit centered in the Gulf of California. In 2017, she also joined Long Live the Kings, a non-profit focused on salmon conservation in Puget Sound, Washington. She currently collaborates with researchers in Mexico to assess the impacts of climate change on commercial fisheries.

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## Katharine Nalven

Defenders of Wildlife

Katy Bear Nalven is the Alaska Marine Representative for Defenders of Wildlife; a national organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of all native species in their natural communities. Founded in 1947, with over 1.8 million members and supporters, Defenders prioritizes protection and restoration of imperiled species to conserve our nation's biodiversity. Katy's role mobilizes science to drive advocacy efforts for marine wildlife in Alaska. Katy's work includes all marine mammals including cetaceans, pinnipeds, and sea otters with special emphasis on priority species such as Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears and Cook Inlet beluga whales. Katy leads citizen science projects, coordinates collaborations with tribes, and works within coalitions on issues such as oil spill response, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Katy values her work to promote coexistence of Alaskans and wildlife as the effects of climate change exemplify the interconnections between environmental and social justice. Before joining Defenders, Katy received a B.S. in Biology from Lyon College, spent several years working in ecotourism on whale watching cruises in Southeast Alaska and Hawaii,

and earned her M.S. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University.

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## Kerry J. Nickols

California State University Northridge

Dr. Kerry Nickols is an Assistant Professor at California State University Northridge. She holds a B.A. in Integrative Biology and Earth and Planetary Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis. Kerry is an interdisciplinary scientist who integrates ecology and oceanography to study coastal marine ecosystems and climate change. Current research topics include the design and evaluation of Marine Protected Areas and the potential for kelp forests to mitigate ocean acidification. Dr. Nickols is passionate about science communication and integrating science into decision-making in California and beyond.

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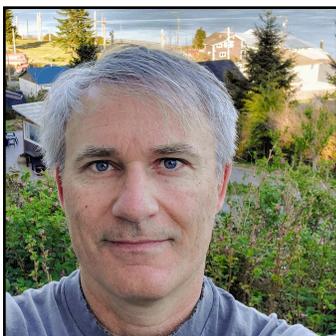


## Kiva Oken

UC Davis

Kiva Oken is an assistant professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology at the University of California, Davis where she is affiliated with the Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute. She uses quantitative tools to study population, community, and fishery dynamics in marine ecosystems. Ultimately, she seeks to increase consideration of ecological and socioeconomic processes into tactical fisheries management. She completed her PhD as an NSF graduate research fellow in Quantitative Ecology & Resource Management at the University of Washington, followed by postdoctoral positions at Rutgers University and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

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## Thomas A. Okey

Broughton Aquaculture Transition Initiative;  
Kwikwasut'Inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation,  
Mamalilikulla First Nation, 'Namgis First Nation

Dr. Tom Okey is Director / First Nations Coordinator of the Broughton Aquaculture Transition Initiative of the Kwikwasut'Inuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamalilikulla, and 'Namgis First

Nations in British Columbia, Canada. This initiative focuses on the transition from salmon farms to a wild salmon social-ecological system. He is also Principal of Ocean Integrity Research and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at UVic. Pacific climate change impacts is the focus of his 2007 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation. He champions coastal ocean citizen science ([leonetwork.org](http://leonetwork.org)) and related educational initiatives, and has considerably advanced marine conservation science, ecology, and ecosystem modelling.

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## Charlotte Regula-Whitefield

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Charlotte Regula-Whitefield is the OAH coordinator for the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Charlotte's work revolves around ocean change science, mitigation, adaptation, education, and policy. Through these lenses, she pursues research on how organisms adapt to their environments and how humans respond to fluctuations in the marine resources they rely on. The goal of her work is to help create more

resilient coastal communities and ecosystems in light of changing ocean conditions, while building community awareness and regional policy. When not working on climate issues, you can find her renovating her 1921 farmhouse and tending to her geese and honey bees.

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## Ana K. Spalding

Oregon State University

Ana K. Spalding is an Assistant Professor of Marine and Coastal Policy at Oregon State University; and Research Associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and Coiba Research Station in Panama. Ana has an interdisciplinary social science background in environmental studies, marine policy and international studies. Professionally,

she has experience as a practitioner (mainly in Panama) and an academic (Panama and the U.S.). Ana is also fascinated by interdisciplinarity and collaboration, where it no longer represents an abstract concept, but instead has become critical for addressing climate change and other pressing threats to marine environments and the people who depend on them.

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## Vivitskaia Tulloch

The University of British Columbia

Vivitskaia Tulloch is a conservation scientist focused on solving conservation problems and informing management decisions for threatened species in contentious and complex spaces, given increasing human pressures and the biggest threat multiplier – climate change. Vivitskaia grew up in Australia working on marine conservation problems across the

South Pacific, and is now living on Vancouver Island in Canada where she has shifted her research focus to multiple stressor problems in North Pacific marine ecosystems. She is an outdoor enthusiast and spends as much time as she can with her 3 year old daughter birding, hiking, skiing, swimming and exploring nature.

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