

Gena B. Bentall

Monterey Bay Aquarium
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EDUCATION

University of California Santa Cruz
M.A. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology **2005**
 Thesis: "Morphological and behavior correlates to population status in the southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*): a comparative study between central California and San Nicolas Island"

Oregon State University
B.S. Zoology **2001**
 Graduated with honors: Summa cum laude

AWARDS

- Society for Marine Mammalogy Student Award: Runner up Best Pre-Doctoral Oral Presentation, 16th Biennial Conference. **2005**
- Friends of Long Marine Laboratory Student Research Award **2004**
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research Fellowship **2000**
- Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research **2000**
- Clara and Fred Horne Scholarship for Women in Science **2000**
- Waldo-Cummings Outstanding Student Award **1999 - 2000**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Special guest speaker, Aptos High School, Advanced Placement Science classes- "Sea otter ecology" **2008**

Teaching Assistant – " Undergraduate Biology : Evolution and Ecology" **2004-2005**
 Developed syllabus and overall structure of supplemental sections, and administered all grades applicable to section.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA
2007-present

Research Biologist, Sea Otter Research and Conservation
 Participate in all aspects of long term wild sea otter field research study. Plan, supervise and execute remote field research expeditions. Give oral presentations at schools, special events and professional conferences. Carry

out and publish ongoing ecological research.

Alaska SeaLife Center, Seward AK

2006

Research Technician-Sea Otter Program

Assisting with planning and execution of large-scale sea otter population study in the Commander Islands, Russia. Duties include training of field staff, organization of field station, intensive multi-seasonal monitoring of study animals in a remote region, under all kinds of weather conditions, data compilation in an MS Access database, and data analysis.

University of California Santa Cruz Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, U.S. Geological Survey—Biological Resources Division

**Wildlife Research Technician/
Graduate Student Researcher**

2003 –2006

Developed and implemented sea otter foraging study at remote island site. Responsible for data collection at the site, organizing capture crews of >20 skilled personnel, and supervising field technicians. Analysis of data and compilation and presentation of results including oral presentations at annual sea otter research meetings and international conferences.

2001-2003

Field Technician, Field Crew Leader

Daily field tracking of wild sea otters equipped with VHF transmitters and rear flipper tags. Daily use of telemetry equipment and GPS. Collection of foraging and demographic data for long term population dynamics study of federally listed, threatened species. Primary supervisor of field staff, San Simeon, 9/01-9/03.

Oregon State University, Department of Zoology

Field Technician/Researcher

1998-2001

Assisted professor and graduate students with field and laboratory research. Lab focuses on amphibian behavior and ecology. Supervising professor: Dr. Andrew Blaustein.

Wildlife Safari, Winston, Oregon

Animal Keeper/Ungulate Ranger

1995-1998

Provided a broad range of animal care to a wide variety of species in both the 600 acre drive-through preserve, as well as the walk-through village area. Extensive experience with all manner of hoofstock, incl. rhinoceros, hippopotamus, and giraffe. Hand-rearing of hoofstock species. Assisted in medical procedures, and capture and restraint

SHORT TERM PROJECTS

- *Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation*. Contract biologist: "The effect of the Moss Landing Power Plant thermal discharge plume on the distribution and behavior of sea otters" winter 2005.
 - *Alaska SeaLife Center*. Sea Otter Biologist, Adak, Aleutian Islands, summer 2005.
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PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Seth D. Newsome, Bentall, G. B., Tinker M. T., Oftedal, O., Ralls, K. Fogel, M. L., Estes, J. A. Variation in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ diet-vibrissae discrimination factors in a wild population of California sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) Ecological Applications, in press.
 - "Morphological and behavioral correlates of population status in the southern sea otter: a comparative study of central California and San Nicolas Island" oral presentation, 7th CA Islands Symposium, Feb. 2008
 - M. Tim Tinker, Bentall, G. B., Estes, J. A. "Food limitation leads to behavioral diversification and dietary specialization in sea otters" Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, Jan 2008.
 - "Male territoriality and movement behavior in southern sea otter populations of varying density" oral presentation, Defenders of Wildlife Carnivore Conference, St. Petersburg, FL, 2006
 - "Morphological and behavioral correlates of population status in the southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*): a comparative study of central California and San Nicolas Island" Master's thesis, manuscript in progress.
 - "Morphological and behavioral correlates of population status in the southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*): a comparative study" oral presentation: Society for Conservation Biology 20th Annual meeting, San Jose CA, June 2006; oral presentation: 16th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, San Diego, CA, December 2005
 - "Foraging ecology of sea otters at San Nicolas Island" oral presentation: IX International Otter Colloquium, Frostburg, MD, June 2004
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RELAVENT SKILLS

- Certified Motorboat Operator for the Department of the Interior
 - Microsoft Access Database, Systat, ArcGIS, PowerPoint.
 - Telemetry equipment
 - Use and analysis of time-depth recorders (Wildlife Computers, Inc.)
 - Biological illustration/ Artistic rendering
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MEMBERSHIPS

- The Society of Marine Mammal Biologists
 - Ecologists Society of America
 - The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
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CONTACTS

- Dr. James A. Estes, UC Santa Cruz, estes@ucsc.edu, 831-459-2820
- Dr. M. Tim Tinker, Post doctorate, UC Santa Cruz, tinker@biology.ucsc.edu, 831-459-2357.
- Andrew Johnson, AJohnson@mbayaq.org , SORAC, Monterey Bay Aquarium (831) 648-7934

