

**BEN ALAN WASSERMAN**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Current Address: Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
The University of California-Santa Cruz  
Long Marine Laboratory  
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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, The University of California-Santa Cruz 2014-present  
(Supervisor: Eric Palkovacs)

B.S. Wildlife Ecology, B.A. Mathematics and Statistics, The University of Maine 2005-2009  
*summa cum laude*, GPA: 3.84  
Honors Thesis: Predator mediated coevolutionary responses to competition in *Poecilia reticulata*  
and *Rivulus hartii*. (Supervisors: Michael Kinnison and Eric Palkovacs)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Assistant, UC Santa Cruz 2015-present

- BIOE 155 Freshwater Ecology, Fall 2015, Winter 2016
  - Lead discussion sections, graded tests and quizzes, gave substitute lectures
- BIOE 107 General Ecology, Active Learning Edition, Spring 2016
  - Facilitated active learning activities, graded tests, quizzes, and written work

Graduate Student Researcher, UC Santa Cruz 2014-2015

- Local adaptation in thermal transgenerational plasticity (Supervisor: Stephan Munch)

Natural Resource Technician, Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2013-2014

Integrated Environmental Resource Management Advisor 2010-2012  
United States Peace Corps, Fiji

Research Technician, Duke University Marine Laboratory 2009-2010

- Contemporary evolution in poeciliid fishes (Supervisor Eric Palkovacs)

Laboratory Assistant, School of Biology and Ecology, The University of Maine 2005-2009

- Population biology and evolutionary ecology of fishes (Supervisor: Michael Kinnison)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on the reciprocal interactions between ecology and evolution over contemporary time. I integrate careful, detailed measurements of natural selection and phenotypic evolution with ecological measurements in order to understand how eco-evolutionary feedbacks shape both evolutionary change and ecological patterns and processes in natural and human-altered ecosystems.

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Hiebeler, DE, IJ Michaud, BA Wasserman, and TD. Buchak. 2013. Habitat Association in Populations on Landscapes with Continuous-valued Heterogeneous Habitat Quality. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. 317:47-54. [[pdf](#)]

Palkovacs, EP, BA Wasserman, and MT Kinnison. 2011. Eco-Evolutionary Trophic Dynamics: Loss of Top Predators Drives Trophic Evolution and Ecology of Prey. *PLoS ONE* 6(4): e18879. [[pdf](#)]

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Wasserman, BA, A Paccard, TM Apgar, AP Hendry, RDH Barrett, EP Palkovacs. 2016. Intermittent estuary environments promote diverse armor genotypes and phenotypes in threespine stickleback on California's central coast. American Fisheries Society, Western Division Annual Meeting, Reno, NV.

Wasserman, BA, S Kurland, TM Apgar, A Paccard, R El-Sabaawi, RDH Barrett, AP Hendry, and EP Palkovacs. 2015. Intermittent estuary environments promote diverse armor genotypes and phenotypes in threespine stickleback on California's central coast. 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Stickleback Behavior and Evolution. Stony Brook University.

Wasserman, BA. 2010. A Darwinian fishery in the Lowe's parking lot? Mostly Marine Informal Seminar Series, Duke University Marine Lab.

Wasserman, BA. 2009. Contemporary coevolution and geographic variation in character displacement between *Poecilia reticulata* and *Rivulus hartii*. Honors Thesis Symposium, The University of Maine.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Wasserman, BA, TM Apgar, S Kurland, RDH Barrett, AP Hendry, and EP Palkovacs. 2015. Intermittent estuary environments promote diverse armor genotypes and phenotypes in threespine stickleback on California's central coast. American Fisheries Society, California-Nevada Chapter Annual Meeting, Santa Cruz, CA.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

Friends of Long Marine Laboratory, Student Research Award. \$965. 2015. Santa Cruz Estuary Monitoring Program.

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Summer Research Award. UCSC. \$1500. 2015. An experimental test for eco-evolutionary feedbacks along a classic evolutionary pathway. Santa Cruz Fish & Game Advisory Commission. \$2000. 2015. Santa Cruz Estuary Monitoring Program.

Friends of Corcoran Lagoon Beach. \$250. 2015. Santa Cruz Estuary Monitoring Program.

Friends of San Lorenzo River Wildlife. \$250. 2015. Santa Cruz Estuary Monitoring Program.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Honorable Mention, NSF GFRP	2015, 2016
Travel Grant, Western Division, American Fisheries Society	2016
Travel Grant, Fisheries Society of the British Isles	2015
Student Travel Award, 8 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Stickleback Behavior and Evolution	2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Cal-Neva AFS Student Poster Competition	2015
P.F. English Award, Northeast Section, The Wildlife Society	2009
Robert I. Ashman Award, The University of Maine School of Forest Resources	2008
Morris K. Udall Scholarship	2007
The University of Maine Presidential Scholarship	2005-2009

## STUDENTS MENTORED

Kevin Coll (UCSC undergraduate senior project 2015-2016)

David Arevalo (UCSC undergraduate 2015-present)

Emily Lohman (UCSC undergraduate 2014-present)

Nicklaus Menge (UCSC undergraduate 2014-2015)

Arjun Srivatsa (SIP program high school senior 2015)

Alyssa Kobayashi (SIP program high school junior 2015)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

UCSC Natural Reserve System Advisory Board Graduate Student Representative	2015-present
Friends of Fiji, <i>Board of Directors</i>	2014-2015
Society for Conservation Biology, The University of Maine Student Chapter	2005-2009
• President	2008-2009
Student Advisory Committee to the Dean of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, The University of Maine	2006-2009

## OUTREACH

### *Volunteer Work*

Monterey Bay Aquarium WATCH Volunteer	2015-present
UCSC Science Internship Program Mentor for High School Students	2015
Morris K. & Stewart L. Udall Foundation Parks in Focus Intern	2008,2009

*Presentations at schools about careers in biology*  
Soquel High School  
Wantagh Elementary School

2015  
2007

## **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

The Ecological Society of America  
The Society of American Naturalist  
The American Fisheries Society: Cal-Neva Chapter, Santa Cruz Student Subunit  
Society for the Study of Evolution  
Fisheries Society of the British Isles  
American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists  
California Estuarine Research Society