

Education

Master's of Science – Coastal Science and Policy, University of California Santa Cruz
Bachelor's of Science – Marine Biology, University of California Los Angeles (Major GPA = 3.78)

Professional Experience

Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (December 2024 - Present)

Engagement Specialist for the Central & Northern California Ocean Observing System — Monterey Bay, California

- Plan and facilitate regional workshops, training sessions, and community meetings to strengthen partnerships and enhance the delivery of ocean observing information across our region.
- Lead day-to-day tracking, coordination, and progress reporting of engagement and outreach initiatives, managing timelines and deliverables across internal teams and external partners using Trello project management tool.
- Co-develop cross-sector initiatives and proposals, coordinating with researchers, agencies, and community partners (e.g., fishers, industry, city/county municipalities) to align goals, define outcomes, and advance shared priorities.
- Execute CeNCOOS' communications strategy, including social media, newsletters, and community storytelling ([Voices of the Region](#)), to build visibility and trust among partners and the public.

Independent Contractor/Consultant (March 2024 - March 2025)

Freelance Contractor — Santa Cruz, California.

- Worked with environmental non-profits, providing facilitation, meeting design & implementation, community engagement, scientific writing, and primary literature review. Key projects:
 - **The Nature Conservancy:** Facilitated the 2025 Eastern Pacific Kelp Congress (EPaK), a two day virtual conference convening 200+ kelp-connected community members.
 - **The Kelp Forest Alliance/National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS):** Led a four-day working group of international kelp restoration experts to develop a global framework for site selection.
 - **The Ocean Science Trust:** Developed a policy brief for California coastal habitat restoration, integrating literature, community input, researcher, and agency perspectives.

Master's Student Researcher — Advancing Community-Led Kelp Restoration (September 2022 - June 2024)

Capstone Project — Coastal Science & Policy Program, UC Santa Cruz

- Conducted a comparative case study analysis of two community-led kelp restoration efforts in California to identify best practices for community involvement and leadership in habitat restoration (presentation [here](#)).
- Acted as the primary facilitator, implementer, and coordinator between my two capstone partner practitioners: The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Presented my findings at the first inaugural KelpFest in Mendocino County in May 2024.

Checkerspot, Inc. (February 2021 - May 2022)

Senior Communications Specialist — Alameda, California.

- Spearheaded all community engagement efforts (educational workshops, public speaking, mentorship) at local high schools and universities.
- Managed and created all content for grants, certifications, website, social media channels, presentations, and infographics.
- Planned and co-led all-immersive, three day events for Checkerspot's customers.

Internships

Greater Farallones Association (GFA) (August 2020 - February 2021)

Bull Kelp Recovery Program Intern — San Francisco, California.

- Co-facilitated the monthly Kelp Restoration Network working group.
- Authored written blog pieces and content for the program's Facebook page.
- Co-planned and developed content for virtual webinar on Restorative Kelp Aquaculture.

Greater Farallones Association (GFA) (June 2019 - September 2019)

Intern — San Francisco, California.

- Created content for GFA's social media channels.
- Assisted with the Invasive Green Crab Removal Project, located in Bolinas, CA.
- Collected, managed and input data from GFA's Beach Watch, Limpets and Education Programs into online databases.

The Marine Mammal Center (June 2017 - August 2017)

Public Programs/Conservation Intern — Sausalito, California.

- Served as the point person and liaison between all of the volunteers and the directors.
- Led hour-long educational tours of the hospital to the public.
- Developed handouts about marine mammals life-stages, renewable energy, Domoic Acid Toxicosis, etc.

Volunteer

The Beirut Fund (August 2020 - Present)

Founding Group Member — San Francisco, California.

- Co-founded a collective of young Lebanese Americans to fundraise for Beirut relief, using social media campaigns to educate and engage the public.

UC Santa Cruz MARINE Network (September 2023 - June 2024)

UCSC Liaison — Santa Cruz, California.

- Ideated, organized, and executed quarterly professional and research-related networking events for graduate students at UCSC, Stanford, CSU Monterey Bay, Hopkins, Naval Postgraduate, Moss Landing, and the Middlebury Institute.

Mama-to-Mama, The Sumba Foundation (June 2015 - September 2020)

Co-founder — Sumba, Indonesia

- Fundraised for maternal health initiatives and supported rural clinics by preparing prenatal kits, assisting nurses with ultrasounds, and providing meals to malnourished children.

Fellowships, Awards & Certifications

- Fellow: Sustainable Ocean Alliance and Environmental Defense Fund Climate Resilient Fisheries Fellowship (bio [here](#) & certificate of [completion](#)).
- Aspen Institute Future Climate Leader ([bio](#)).
- Certified in Grant Writing for Wildlife Conservation (certification of [completion](#)).

Publications & Research

- Pending: Kelp Forest Recovery Techniques & Decision-Making, led by Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- **Boutros, Alexandra**; Lebrec, Marine; and Ruhl, Henry (2022) "Surface Currents Data for Search and Rescue, Ocean and Weather Forecasting," *Benefits of Ocean Observing Catalog (BOOC)*: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 70. Available at: <https://cbe.miiis.edu/booc/vol2/iss1/70>
- Lebrec, Marine; Daniel, Patrick; and **Boutros, Alexandra** (2025) "Development of User-Friendly Water Quality Dashboards for Coastal Aquaculturists in the Central and Northern California Region," *Benefits of Ocean Observing Catalog (BOOC)*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 7. Available at: <https://cbe.miiis.edu/booc/vol3/iss1/7>
- **Boutros, A. E.** (2024). *A comparative case study analysis of two experimental community-led kelp restoration efforts in California: Caspar Cove and Tanker's Reef* (Master's thesis). University of California, Santa Cruz, Coastal Science and Policy Program. Available at:  Alexandra Boutros: Capstone Report.pdf

Skills: Word Press, Trello, MailerLite, Mailchimp, Google Suit/ Microsoft Office, Grant Writing, Project Management, Community Engagement & Management, Facilitation, Science Communications, Scientific Writing, Public Speaking, Social Science Methodology, Fundraising.