

## MELISSA CRONIN

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UC Santa Cruz Long Marine Lab, 115 McAllister Way, Santa Cruz CA 95060

### CAREER OBJECTIVE

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Integrate ecological and social science research methods to develop evidence-based fisheries sustainability solutions.

### EDUCATION

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#### University of California, Santa Cruz

2016—present

*Ph.D. Candidate*, Conservation Action Lab, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department

Designated Emphasis: Coastal Science & Policy

***Dissertation: Mapping and Mitigating Bycatch in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Through Population Genetics, Spatial Mapping, and Policy Analysis Approaches [In Progress]***

*Graduate Research Fellow*, National Science Foundation

*Young Explorer*, National Geographic Society

*Switzer Environmental Fellow*, Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation

*P.E.O. Scholar*, P.E.O. International

#### New York University, New York, NY

2009—2013

*Magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List, GPA: 3.8/4.0

B.A. Environmental Studies, B.A. Journalism; Minor: Environmental Biology

### RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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#### Graduate Student Mentor

Jun 2017—present

*Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, UC Santa Cruz*

- Field mentored for 20 underrepresented undergraduate students in intensive 8-week field courses (4 summers)
- Led professional development and interactions, résumé, cover letter workshops
- Facilitated inclusive, diverse, and equitable conservation science and field ecology coursework

#### Workshop Designer and Coordinator

Jun 2018—present

*Center to Advance Mentored, Inquiry-Based Opportunities in Ecology and Conservation*

- Developed workshop: “Preventing & Managing Sexual Harassment and Assault in Field Settings”
- Delivered 25 trainings to >600 field scientists, students and managers, including at 6 international conferences
- Launched train-the-trainer program to train 30 certified facilitators to deliver workshop at their institutions
- Wrote manuscript of best practices for scientific journal (in review); second study in progress

#### Student Representative, Board of Directors

Jun 2019—present

*Society for Conservation Biology North America*

- Lead Student Affairs Subcommittee, head of NACCB conference student events planning

#### Graduate Student Representative

2018—2020

*Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department, UC Santa Cruz*

- Participated in biweekly faculty meetings, represent graduate perspective to faculty
- Organized departmental graduate student events and professional development symposia

#### Graduate Student Researcher

2016—2018

*Coastal Science and Policy Program, UC Santa Cruz*

- Led graduate researcher for UC's coastal sustainability Master's program
- Coordinated Monterey Area Research Institutions' Network for Education (MARINE)

#### Vice-President, Former Secretary

2016-2018

*Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay Subunit of the American Fisheries Society*

- Oversaw operations, grant-writing and fundraising for 200+ member organization

### **Chair, Conservation Committee**

2017-2018

*Society for Conservation Biology: Santa Cruz Chapter*

- Developed strategy for conservation projects to be carried out by the chapter
- Delegated fundraising and volunteer tasks to SCBSC members

### **Graduate Leadership Certificate Program**

2018

- Participated in weekly full-day leadership and professional development training program

### **Professional Development Program**

2017-2018

*Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators, UC Santa Cruz*

- Participated in multi-day active learning and inquiry education trainings

### **Research Assistant, NYU Department of Environmental Studies**

2011-2013

*Dr. Jennifer Jacquet, Professor of Environmental Studies*

- Conducted investigative research on corporate responsibility within sustainability organizations
- Received the NYU Green Grant to continue research on conservation project success
- Developed an outline for a textbook focused on Evidence-Based Conservation

## **FUNDING AND AWARDS**

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| • National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, 2018 (tuition and stipend for three years) | • American Fisheries Society John E. Skinner Memorial Award, 2019 (\$800)               |
| • International Seafood Sustainability Contest Grand Prize, 2020 (\$45,000)                        | • UCSC Grad Lab Funding Award, 2019 (\$823.50)  |
| • P.E.O. Scholar Award, 2020 (\$15,000)  | • Wells Fargo Coastal Sustainability Fellowship, Spring 2018 (tuition and full stipend) |
| • Save Our Shores Keystone Grant, 2020 (\$8,000)   | • Myers Oceanographic & Marine Biology Trust Grant, 2018 (\$1,000)                      |
| • <b>Best Speed Talk</b> , Student Conference for Conservation Science, 2019                       | • Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Small Project Grant, 2018 (\$950)  |
| • Switzer Foundation Fellowship, 2019 (\$15,000)   | • Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Small Project Grant, 2017 (\$950)  |
| • Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association Scholarship, 2019 (\$7,500)                       | • National Geographic Explorers Grant, 2017 (\$4,600)                                   |
| • Save Our Shores Keystone Grant, 2019 (\$8,000)   | • Grist Climate Fellow, 2016  |
| • Seymour Center Student Research and Education Award, 2019 (\$1,293.50)                           | • NYU Green Grant, 2012   |

## **SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS**

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Stewart, J., Palacios, M.D., Kashiwagi, T., **Cronin, M.R.**, Notarbartolo di Sciara, G., Deakos, M.H., Rubin, R.D., Dudgeon, C.L., Hinojosa-Alvarez, S., Richardson, A.J., Hosegood, J.E., Marshall, A.D., Hall, M.A., Lezama-Ochoa, N., Froman, N., Stewart, J.D., Venables, S.K., Burgess, K.B., Stevens, G.M.W., Peel, L.R., Armstrong, A.J., Jaine, F.R.A., Germanov, E.S., Couturier, L.I.E., Fernando, D., Laglbauer, B.J.L., Bennett, M.B., Croll, D.A., McGregor, F., Townsend, K.A. & Armstrong, A.O. (2018). **Research Priorities to Support Effective Manta and Devil Ray Conservation**. *Front. Mar. Sci.*, 5, 1–27.

Carlson, A.K., Taylor, W.W., **Cronin, M.R.**, Eaton, M.J., Eckert, L.E., Kaemingk, M.A., Reid, A.J., Trudeau, A. (2020). **A Social–Ecological Odyssey in Fisheries and Wildlife Management**. *Fisheries*. 10.1002/fsh.10439

## **SELECTED SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS**

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- **Gaps and conservation opportunities for mitigating elasmobranch bycatch in global tuna fisheries**  
International Marine Conservation Congress — August 25, 2020.
- **Live Storytelling: An Old Tool for New Conservation**

International Marine Conservation Congress—August 22, 2019.

- **Gaps and conservation opportunities for mitigating elasmobranch bycatch in global tuna fisheries**  
North American Conference for Conservation Biology— July 22, 2020.
- **Disentangling Fisheries Bycatch: Multiple Approaches to Protect a Vulnerable Ocean Giant**  
The Tech Interactive/National Geographic Explorers Event—July 30, 2020.
- **Policy with Teeth: Reducing Chondrichthyan Bycatch in Global Tuna Fisheries**  
American Fisheries Society – The Wilderness Society Joint Meeting — *September 2019*.
- **The Ecology of the Internet: Lessons Learned from a career in Journalism**  
American Fisheries Society – The Wilderness Society Joint Meeting — *September 2019*.
- **The Art of Live Storytelling: New Uses for an Old Tool**  
Conservation Optimism Summit, Oxford, UK — *September 2019*.
- **Chasing the Devil: Mobulid Conservation in the Galapagos**  
Public talk aboard National Geographic Endeavor II, Galapagos Islands — *September 12, 2018*.
- **Sustainable Fisheries and Manta Ray Conservation in the Pacific**  
National Geographic Learning/CENGAGE Meeting — *August 4, 2018*.
- **The Ecology of the Internet: Lessons Learned from a career in Journalism**  
MARINE Oceans Colloquium. *April 8, 2017*.
- Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Cal-Neva Conference – Presenter of a panel of fishermen, stakeholders, buyers and processors. *April 5-7, 2017*.

## CLASSROOM TEACHING

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- **Lecturer**, Fall 2020: *Marine Conservation Biology BIOE165*. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Dept. UCSC
  - Lead instructor for upper-division class of 65 students
- **Teaching Assistant**, Fall 2019: *Marine Conservation Biology BIOE165*. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Dept. UCSC
- **Inquiry-Based Teaching: The Evolution of Genetic Drift**.
  - Developed and led full-day active learning classroom workshop using inquiry-based methods developed through UCSC Professional Development Program

## MENTORSHIP

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Julia Amaral, Research Assistant, *EEB, UCSC Class of 2019* | Christina Langford, Research Assistant, *EEB, UCSC Class of 2020* | Senior Thesis: *Tackling sea turtle bycatch through tRFMO policy* | Jeannie Johnson, Research Assistant, *Marine Biology, UCSC Class of 2021* | Mia Buak, Research Assistant for ‘Preventing’ Workshop, *Law, Class of 2020* | Olivia Wilms, Research Assistant for ‘Preventing’ Workshop, *Ecology, Class of 2022* | Raquel Lozano, Research Assistant for ‘Preventing’ Workshop, *Ecology, Class of 2022*

## CONSULTING

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**Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation** 2020

- Aid in development of comprehensive institutional anti-harassment policy for large philanthropic organization

**UCSC Divisional Graduate Climate Committee** 2020  
Physical and Biological Sciences Division

- Developed white report on graduate student representation in faculty hiring process

## OUTREACH, 2016-2018

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- **“Third Annual Fish Tales: A Live Storytelling Event”** – Sole organizer and host for second live storytelling event in downtown Santa Cruz for 150+ attendants, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society and Potluck Magazine. May 2019.
- **Weekly column in VICE Media’s science and technology outlet, Motherboard.** Focused on conservation, ecology, science and science communication
- **“Second Annual Fish Tales: A Live Storytelling Event”** – Sole organizer and host for second live storytelling event in downtown Santa Cruz, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society and Potluck Magazine. April 27, 2018.

- **“Bayou Women: Stories of resilience and ingenuity in south Louisiana’s changing landscape.”** Longform profile series produced in Cocodrie, Louisiana for OCEANDOTCOMM, an innovative science communication conference. Multimedia stories hosted by Louisiana Sea Grant: <http://www.laseagrant.org/communications/voices/bayou-women/>.
- **“Fish Tales: A Live Storytelling Event”** – Sole organizer and host for annual live storytelling event in downtown Santa Cruz, sponsored by the American Fisheries Society and Potluck Magazine. 2017, 2018, 2019.
- Maintain social media channels and web presence for the **Conservation Action Lab** and the Santa Cruz Subunit of the American Fisheries Society
- **Co-founder and fiction editor, Potluck Magazine.** Weekly editing publishing for environmental voices on national literary magazine

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### Professional Society Memberships

- Society for Conservation Biology, North America (Student Representative to the Board)
- American Fisheries Society (former local chapter Vice President)
- American Elasmobranch Society

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### SELECTED VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE

#### Graduate Student Representative 2018—2020

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department, UC Santa Cruz

- Attend biweekly faculty meetings, represent graduate perspective to faculty
- Organize graduate student events and professional development symposia

#### Graduate Search Committee Member 2018

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department, UC Santa Cruz

- Assisted in search for new full-time faculty position at UCSC

#### Junior Board Member, Club Blue 2016—2020

Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz

- Founding member of junior board to foster volunteerism among young professionals
- Develop and mentor sustainability, fisheries, and science activities for children ages 8-13

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### OTHER EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

#### Journalism Positions: 2013—2016

- Climate Fellow at *Grist Magazine*
- Staff Writer at *Gawker*
- Senior Staff Writer at *The Dodo*
- Science Intern at *The Huffington Post*

#### Freelance Writing:

- Written work appeared in *Salon*, *Orion Magazine*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Popular Science*, *The Verge*, *Vox Media*, *Narratively*, *VICE*, *Motherboard*, *Newest York Potluck Magazine*, *Discovery*, *EarthTouchNews*, *Azula*, others
- Covering the environment, wildlife, conservation and politics in both long and short form
- Produced news articles and long-form features involving field reporting, intensive research
- Interviewed field leaders including Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Bob Steneck
- Publications: <http://melcronin.com/links/>

#### NYU Office of Sustainability 2012—2013

- *Program Assistant, Engagement and Communications*

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**OTHER SKILLS:** Data analysis with R and JMP, statistics and modeling in R, ArcGIS, HTML, CMS, Photoshop, Movable Type, WordPress, social media platform management