

Ciera Aimée Villegas (she/her/hers)

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Environmental Sciences** – Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR Sept 2017-current
Candidate, GPA: 3.77, *Advisors:* James Watson and Michael Harte
- B.A. Environmental Studies** - University of San Diego, San Diego, CA Aug 2014-May 2017
GPA: 3.22
- Environmental Science** - University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA Sept 2013-Jun 2014
GPA: 3.42

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Internship and Mentorship Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA, Emerging Leaders PDX, The Contingent** Oct 2020-current
- Enhance the experience and increase the number of internship placements and mentor matches for low-income students of color and first-generation college students across the state of Oregon.
 - Work to engage company and university leaders along with volunteer mentors to improve The Contingent's ability to recruit and execute on key program functions
 - Assist in enhancing the program curriculum to support program impact for the organization, student, and mentor engagement.
 - Review and advance data collection strategies
 - Support the data collection and analysis of program participation and feedback and ensure that data is aggregated and well documented for future use.
 - Compile evaluation metrics and data points into reports to inform the project, improvements needed, and funding opportunities.
- Contractor, Secure Fisheries, One Earth Future Foundation** Sept 2018-Mar 2020
- Provided research support by cataloging and coding data for Secure Fisheries' Fisheries Conflict Database.
- University of San Diego, Center for Student Success, San Diego, CA** Feb 2015-May 2017
USD Commuter Commons
- Promoted a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for commuter students
 - Ascertained authority during emergency situations and quiet hours
 - Communicated clearly and openly with co-workers
 - Coordinated social events bi-annually
 - Performed inventory entry using MS Excel

Old Fliegler's Farm, Fallbrook, CA

Jul 2014-Aug 2014

Summer Farm Hand and Teaching Assistant

- Aided employer with heavy lifting
- Prepared materials for animal education program
- Supervised children while in close proximity to animals

Major Market Inc., Fallbrook, CA

Jan 2013-Jun 2013

Courtesy Clerk /Grocery Bagger

- Managed high-volume traffic in a fast-paced environment by communicating with team members
- Maintained cleanliness and organization in workstations ensuring a smooth check-out process for customers
- Assisted customers with loading groceries into their cars

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Intern, Secure Fisheries, One Earth Future Foundation

Jun 2018-Sept 2018

- Provided research support for Secure Fisheries' scientific assessment of Somali fisheries.
- Provided research support for Secure Fisheries' Fisheries Conflict Database.

Graduate Research Assistant, Oregon State University

Sept 2017-Jun 2018

Advisors: Michael Harte, PhD and James Watson, PhD

- Developed web content (blog) for the environmental sciences graduate program
- Geo-referenced data from the correlates of war project (COW) database
- Conducted literature review on peer-reviewed sources of marine resource conflict and cooperation.

Undergraduate Researcher, University of San Diego

Sept 2015-May 2017

Advisor: Jennifer C. Prairie, PhD

“Rate of Marine Snow Aggregate Formation: Effect of Phytoplankton Growth Phase.”

- Investigated the effect of phytoplankton growth phase on the rate of marine snow aggregate formation, utilizing the phytoplankton species *Thalassiosira weissflogii*
- Accessed particle concentration and particle size of marine snow aggregates vs. time, utilizing Beckman Coulter Counter, microscopy, ANCOVA statistics analyzing the slopes of the linear regression lines
- Research results argued that the linear regression slopes for particle size vs. time were significantly different and the data from microscopy and Coulter Counter showed major differences

Research Assistant, University of San Diego

Aug 2016-Sept 2016

- Aided in hydrographic surveys and zooplankton sampling in Mission Bay under the supervision of a graduate student in the Marine Science Master's Program at USD

PUBLICATIONS

Devlin, C., Glaser, SM., Lambert, JE., & **Villegas, C.** (2021). The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict around the Horn of Africa. Manuscript in review. Feb 2021

Villegas, C., Gómez-Andújar, NX., Harte, M., Glaser, SM., & Watson, JR. (2021). Linking Cooperation and Conflict in the Small-scale Fisheries of Puerto Rico: Towards a unified framework. Manuscript in preparation. Feb 2021

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Devlin, C., Glaser, SM, **Villegas, C.** & Poinatte, N. (2020). Rough Seas: The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict in Somali Waters. One Earth Future. Jan 2020

Villegas, C., Roberts, P. & Wilson, M. (2019). Fishing for the Long-term: An Illustrated Guide to Sustainable Practices. One Earth Future. Available in English and Swahili. Apr 2019

Glaser, SM, Devlin, C., Lambert, JE, **Villegas, C.** & Poinatte, N. (2018). Fish Wars: The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict in Tanzania. One Earth Future. Nov 2018

WEB-BASED PUBLICATIONS

Villegas, C. (2018). Investing in Sustainable Fisheries in Somali Waters. One Earth Future. July 2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

McNair Scholar Incentive Program, Oregon State University Sept 2017-Jun 2021
Tuition remission under the Targeted Graduate Tuition Scholarship Program.

Oregon Lottery Graduate Scholarship Recipient, Oregon State University Sept 2020-Jun 2021
Funds for this scholarship are provided through the Oregon State Lottery to graduate students during 2020-2021.

Dr. Hari S. & Dr. Renuka R. Sethi Graduate Scholarship Recipient, Oregon State University, A merit-based graduate scholarship program with preference given to graduate students studying in the areas of fisheries science or human development during 2020-2021. Sept 2020

Graduate Student Travel Award Recipient, Oregon State University Graduate Travel Award recipient for International Studies Association 2020. Mar 2020

Astronomy and Earth and Environment Sciences Preview Weekend, University of Michigan Fully funded preview weekend, application required Nov 2016

Enhanced Student-Faculty Intervention Fund, University of San Diego Funding for participation in 2016 SACNAS Conference in Long Beach, CA Sept 2016

McNair Summer Research Scholar, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA May 2016-Aug 2016
 Stipend, housing, and research equipment funds awarded, and proposal submitted
USD Dean's List First Honors, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA May 2015

CONFERENCES

Villegas C, Gómez-Andújar N (2020). "Marine Resource Disputes in Latin America: A New Dataset." Multiscale Approaches to Studying Fisheries Conflict and Governance Panel. International Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, HI (Panelist). Cancelled due to COVID-19. Presenting at ISA 2021. Mar 2020

Villegas C, Montgomery Q, Proctor K, Prairie JC (2016). "Rate of Marine Snow Aggregate Formation: Effect of Phytoplankton Growth Phase." SACNAS Research Conference, Long Beach, CA (poster) Oct 2016

Villegas C, Montgomery Q, Proctor K, Prairie JC (2016). "Rate of Marine Snow Aggregate Formation: Effect of Phytoplankton Growth Phase." UCSD Summer Research Conference, San Diego, CA (PowerPoint presentation) Aug 2016

Villegas C, Montgomery Q, Proctor K, Prairie JC (2016). "Rate of Marine Snow Aggregate Formation: Effect of Phytoplankton Growth Phase." USD McNair Research Colloquium, San Diego, CA (PowerPoint presentation) Aug 2016

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

Villegas C (2019). "A Tale of Snow and Fire: Tanzania Fisheries Conflict." Guest Lecture for "Oceans in Crisis" taught by Michael Harte. Corvallis, OR (PowerPoint presentation) Feb 2019

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook
- Intermediate knowledge of R, ArcGIS, and CRM portals
- Conversational in Spanish
- Experience with utilizing remote applications such as: Zoom, Skype, Slack, Google Drive, Asana, Teams

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Environmental Sciences Graduate Program Advisory Board, Graduate Student Representative**, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR Oct 2018-current
- Provide advice, advocacy, guidance and support for ESGP
- GIS Day Volunteer**, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR Nov 2017
- Obtained training on the OMNIglobe
 - Helped coordinate behind the scenes logistics and planning
- Sigma Theta Psi Think Pink Affair Event Coordinator**, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA Oct 2016
- Sigma Theta Psi's Think Pink Affair is an annual Breast Cancer Awareness event open to the public and the university community.
 - Planned the logistics of the event, contacted guest speaker and obtained donations and funding for the event.
- National Ocean Science Bowl Volunteer**, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA Feb 2016
- NOSB is an ocean trivia competition to engage high school students in ocean sciences and prepare them for careers in STEM.
 - Score keeper for the NOSB.
- Youth Summer Intern, UCSD's Scripps Birch Aquarium, La Jolla, CA** Jun-Aug 2012
- Worked with a team of 16 other interns
 - Interacted, as a team, with a diverse audience of more than 100,000 visitors about pollution, endangered species, and human activities in and around San Diego Bay.
- Volunteer, Fallbrook Union High School Summer Special Education Program, Fallbrook, CA** Summer 2010, Summer 2011
- Assisted the classroom teacher in supervising with snack time, indoor, and outdoor activities