

# Conner Muir Smith

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## EDUCATION

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**Masters of Environmental Science and Management** (Expected June 2023)

**Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)**

Specializations: Economics and Politics of the Environment, Coastal Marine Resources Management

Focus: Strategic Environmental Communications

**Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Policy**, 3.9 GPA (May 2017)

**Bachelor of Arts in Global Development Studies**, 3.9 GPA (May 2017)

**University of California, Berkeley (UCB)**

Honors/Awards: Dean's List (4 years)

Leadership/Involvement: Berkeley Student Cooperative, National Society of Collegiate Scholars

## DATA AND POLICY ANALYSIS EXPERIENCE

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**Fellow – Sustainable Ocean Alliance/Environmental Defense Fund**, Remote, Santa Barbara, CA (6/22–present)

- Awarded \$10k micro-grant through the Leadership for Climate-Resilient Fisheries Fellowship
- Synthesizing research on Indigenous-led fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal management initiatives
- Working to leverage science promoting Native leadership and co-management strategies

**Researcher – The Nature Conservancy**, Remote, Santa Barbara, CA (6/22–8/22)

- Worked on contract with TNC staff to research kelp forest restoration activities
- Interviewed two dozen government, non-profit, industry, and private stakeholders to assess urchin removal methods and costs
- Produced a report identifying key opportunities to grow urchin removal workforce at a program scale

**Researcher – Ocean Analytics**, Santa Barbara, CA (11/21–8/22)

- Conducted comprehensive analysis of all 46 federally managed fisheries in the United States to develop the first nationwide review of prevailing management strategies
- Article published in Fish and Fisheries in December 2022
- Leveraged R software to process fishery stock assessment data and perform analyses to identify effectiveness of policies aimed at ensuring sustainability of international high seas fisheries

**Policy Analyst – Atlas Public Policy**, Remote, SF Bay Area (4/21–6/21)

- Directed research, data collection, and writing for two reports funded by a large trade association identifying climate, environmental justice, and economic opportunities of transportation electrification
- Managed project proposals for five figure contracts with partners including NGO, government, and private sector entities seeking to develop a living database of climate policies in the U.S.
- Leveraged original research and data collection to publish data-based storytelling funded by key players in the electric vehicle (EV) and environmental policy spaces

**Policy Associate – Atlas Public Policy**, Remote, SF Bay Area (2/19–4/21)

- Led data collection and outreach for the Atlas EV Hub, a subscription-based platform that grew from 500 to more than 1,000 professional users over this time
- Assisted with a six figure, government-funded analysis of widespread fleet electrification across all public vehicles in the state of Washington, revealing that the state could cost effectively electrify nearly all vehicles by 2035
- Published more than 10 research papers funded by partnerships with stakeholders in the clean transportation space

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### PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

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Christopher M. Free, Tracey Mangin, John Wiedenmann, Conner Smith, Haley McVeigh, Steven D. Gaines. 2022. "[Harvest control rules used in US federal fisheries management and implications for climate resilience.](#)" *Fish and Fisheries*.

Conner Smith and Sachiko Lamén. 2021. [Santa Barbara Kelp Forest Dynamics – Shiny App](#).

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

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2022 Sustainable Ocean Alliance and Environmental Defense Fund Leadership for Climate-Resilient Fisheries Fellowship, \$10,000

### OTHER EXPERIENCE

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#### **Program Associate – Clinton Foundation, New York, NY (6/17–10/18)**

- Simulated a country-wide adoption of 100 percent renewable energy in Belize using excel and HOMER software, culminating in several presentations to more than 10 elected officials
- Conducted research under a \$5 million grant with partners at the Rocky Mountain Institute to develop long term clean energy roadmaps for island nations
- Helped secure millions of dollars in commitments from Clinton Global Initiative member organizations targeting disaster relief and climate resilience in regions impacted by devastating hurricanes in 2017
- Prepared more than 50 research and policy memos for President Clinton and foundation leadership to inform internal policy and data collection across the Foundation

#### **Researcher – Sierra Club, Oakland, CA (11/18–4/19)**

- Created two excel-based tools, three blog posts, and a buyer's guide on a limited contract with the Clean Transportation for All campaign highlighting opportunities advance EV adoption
- Designed internal systems to organize data around the tracking of public investment in EVs and policy actions at the national, state, and local levels
- Helped campaign teams secure commitments from more than 100 U.S. cities pledging to completely decarbonize transportation and energy

#### **Communications Intern – Pacific Institute, Oakland, CA (10/18–1/19)**

- Generated website and social media content to communicate findings of reports concerning water issues in the Western U.S. to more than 10,000 followers
- Conducted internal research around current events in the water space to enhance partnership development and data sharing efforts
- Met with more than 50 water regulators and officials to discuss water management at the state capital in Sacramento

### SKILLS

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**Computer:** R Studio/Github, Mac/PC, Microsoft Power BI, Microsoft Office, Google Suite

**Languages:** English (fluent), Spanish (conversational)

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Researcher – Energy and Resources Group, Berkeley, CA (12/16–5/17)**

Worked with professors, graduate, and undergraduate students to assess the environmental, economic, and social impacts of dam construction on different areas of the Lower Mekong Basin

**Researcher – Asociación ANDES, Cusco, Peru (6/16–7/16)**

Produced research proposals in partnership with collective of Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Andes advancing cooperative agriculture practices

**Summer Research Fellow – blueEnergy Nicaragua, Bluefields, Nicaragua (7/16–8/16)**

Participated in a six-week intensive research and fieldwork program that culminated in a design proposal for a water filtration strategy for community-level use on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua

**Writer – Daily Californian, Berkeley, CA (12/15–5/17)**

Produced several investigative reports by compiling data, conducting interviews, and additional research

**Summer Intern – Think Phi, Mumbai, India (6/15–8/15)**

Researched rainwater catchment and water policy impacting informal settlements in the city of Mumbai