

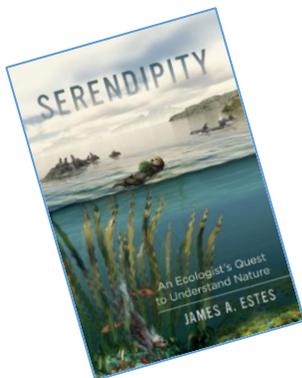
2020 Virtual Sea Otter Science Symposium

October 6, 7, 8, 2020



OUR SPEAKERS

James Estes Keynote, Tuesday October 6, 7 pm PDT



Dr. [Jim Estes](#) is an ecologist and Distinguished Professor at University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), known for his studies of sea otters and kelp forest ecology. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1967, earned a Masters in Biology from Washington State University in 1969, and a Ph.D. in biology and statistics from the University of Arizona in 1974. He worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey from 1974 to 2007 before joining the UCSC faculty. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2014. Estes and his work are featured prominently in the documentary film, *The Serengeti Rules*, which was released in 2018. Jim has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the U.S. Geological Survey's Schumaker Award for excellence in science communication, the Western Society of Naturalists' Lifetime Achievement Award, and the American Society of Mammalogists' C. Hart Merriam Award. He is also a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, and a Member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He is the author of *Serendipity: An Ecologist's Quest to Understand Nature*

Edward Gregr Wednesday October 7, 2:00 pm



Dr. Edward Gregr is an interdisciplinary research scientist and analyst with over 30 years of experience in the spatial analysis of marine systems. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (since 2017), <http://ires.ubc.ca/person/edward-gregr/> and the principal of SciTech Environmental Consulting (since 2002). With interests at the intersection of oceanography, species distributions, and resource management, he has published extensively on a variety of topics related to marine ecology and systems science. He continues to provide scientific analyses to industry, academic, and government partners on a variety of applications related to species and their habitat.

Scott Groth Tuesday, October 6, 1:00 pm



Scott Groth is a shellfish scientist for the Marine Resources Program in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, based in Charleston, Oregon. He grew up in upstate New York, worked on water quality issues in Lake Ontario, hiked Appalachian trail, worked with fishermen as a biologist in Bering Sea Alaska, and worked as a hydrographic surveyor for Army Corps of Engineers in Norfolk, VA. He began his work at the ODFW as a biologist 1999-2001 has been in his current position 2004. He manages Oregon's pink shrimp fishery (first shrimp fishery certified sustainable!), and sea urchin and abalone fisheries. He oversees monitoring, research and management decisions for these fisheries. He is a guide for mountain biking events, plays hockey, and has twin 16 year old daughters.

Sara Hamilton Tuesday, October 6, 2:00 pm



Sara Hamilton is a Ph.D. student and NSF-GRFP fellow at Oregon State University. She did her undergraduate degree in Biology and Gender Studies at Bowdoin College in Maine. For her Ph.D. thesis, she takes an applied and interdisciplinary approach to studying bull kelp forests in the Pacific Northwest, examining many parts of the kelp forest systems including the spatial ecology of sea stars, population dynamics of bull kelp, diets of purple urchins, and best practices in kelp forest conservation. She works with partners such as the Nature Conservancy and the Oregon Kelp Alliance to support kelp forest monitoring, science, and decision-making. Since moving to Oregon in 2017, she has fallen in love with the state and would like to acknowledge that she currently lives on the traditional lands of the Tsankupi band of the Kalapuya peoples, who were forcibly removed from these lands to reservations in the mid-1800s. Today many of the descendants of these peoples are members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

Brent Hughes Thursday, October 8, 1:00 pm



Dr. Brent Hughes is an Assistant Professor in Coastal Ecology and Conservation at Sonoma State University who is generally interested in determining processes that affect the stability of coastal ecosystems. Research in his lab centers around coastal habitats – seagrass, salt marsh, and kelp (aka foundation species) – which provide valuable ecosystem services, yet are threatened by human activities. Currently research in the lab focuses on four themes: 1) the consequences of predator recovery on the functioning and stability of ecosystems, 2) the relative influence of climatic drivers and anthropogenic threats of coastal ecosystems, 3) the role of foundation species in structuring nearshore diversity and functioning and in turn the drivers maintaining foundation species stability, and 4) informing management and restoration on the processes that drive ecosystem resilience. . <http://hughsecology.com/>



Dr. [Daniel Okamoto](#) is a professor and researcher in Department of Biological Science at Florida State University. He received his PhD from University of California Santa Barbara, a masters in Fisheries from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and undergraduate degree from the University of Washington. His work focuses on nearshore ecosystems, including fish, invertebrates and algae, from California to Alaska and many projects involve direct collaboration with local communities. Core research locations include the oceans surrounding the Great Bear Rainforest (British Columbia), the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area (British Columbia), southeast Alaska, and coastal California. He is a participant in several large interdisciplinary collaborative groups such as the Hakai Institute and the Global Impacts of Climate Change on Kelp Forest Ecosystems working group at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS).

Josh Smith Tuesday, October, 6, 3:00 pm



Joshua Smith is a PhD Candidate and NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz. <https://census.eeb.ucsc.edu/> His research explores species interactions that shape the structure and organization of marine communities. Specifically, he focuses on the conditions that determine whether predators or resources drive population and community dynamics. Josh has spent the last five years of his dissertation research studying these concepts in kelp forests around Monterey Bay, California, where a large-scale ecosystem shift recently transformed expansive kelp forests to a patchy mosaic of forests interspersed with sea urchin 'barrens'. Josh's research leverages this mosaic of ecosystem states as a natural field experiment to explore how sea otter and sea urchin behavior underpin kelp forest resiliency. <https://www.joshuagsmith.com/dissertation>

Tim Tinker Thursday, October 8, 2:00 pm



Dr. Tinker is a widely respected, extensively published senior marine ecologist. He is Principal Research Ecologist with Nhydra Ecological Consulting, Halifax, Nova Scotia and currently holds appointments at several universities in the US and Canada. He has frequently participated as an expert advisor to the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. He co-authored the ESA Recovery Plan for the SW Alaska sea otter, and contributed to workshops convened to Develop Population Viability Models for Marine Mammals and Investigate Ecological Impacts of Killer Whale Predation in the North Pacific.

Jaasaljuus Yakgujanaas Wednesday, October 7, 1:00 pm



Jaasaljuus [Yakgujanaas](#) earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology -- Hawaii Pacific University in 2017. Growing up on Haida Gwaii helped foster her connection to the land and sea. She is currently the Assistant Biologist for the Haida Fisheries Program under the direction of the Council of the Haida Nation, working on an array of projects including the 2018 Northeast Pacific Seamount Expedition, underwater dive surveys with focus on harvest species, and most recently the Chiixuu Tll iinasdII – Nurturing Seafood to Grow. She is also a commercial SCUBA diver and a certified PADI Divemaster.