

# Leela Dixit

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## EDUCATION

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**Master of Environmental Data Science** (Expected June 2026)

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

Highlighted Coursework: Working with Environmental Datasets, Statistics for Environmental Data Science, Geospatial Analysis and Remote Sensing, Modeling Environmental Systems, Machine Learning for Environmental Data Science, Data Visualization and Communication, Environmental Policy Evaluation, Text and Sentiment Analysis for Environmental Data Science, Databases and Data Management (all to be completed by 6/26)

**Bachelor of Science in Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity** (June 2018)

**University of California, Davis, Davis, California**

## PROJECTS

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**Low Hanging Fruits: Leveraging Least Impact Dams to Power a Net Zero Future**

Advisor: Dr. Rafael Schmidtt, UCSB, Client: Dr. Jeff Opperman, WWF

*Assessing the sustainability of global future hydropower dam locations by utilizing river network and multi-criteria decision analysis.*

## EXPERIENCE

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**Husbandry and Data Specialist – White Abalone Captive Breeding Program**, Bodega Marine Lab (11/21 – 11/24)

- Responsible for animal husbandry of thousands of endangered White Abalone, including organizing spawning events and taking a leadership role during the event.
- Collected and managed large data sets concerning biological and experiment data, and participated in reporting including writing and figure creation.
- Managed volunteers including participating in the SRJC-BML internship program as a mentor, collaborated with partner institutions to assist with spawning and husbandry, and conducted outreach through social media, public tours, and science communication within the BML community and outside.

**Fish and Wildlife Scientific Aid – Department of Water Resources**, West Sacramento, CA (03/20 – 11/21)

- Coordinated water quality collection, processing, analysis, collaborator communication, and field/lab protocol training for the North Delta Food Subsidies Study.
- Analyzed long and short-term IEP and special study data sets utilizing statistical software, including co-leading a drought synthesis study and as a sub-team member for the Drought MAST invertebrate analysis.
- Participated in report development, and as an editor for the IEP Newsletter Winter edition for 2020.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Lab Assistant – Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Lab**, Monterey, CA (05/19 - 10-19)

Supported lab and project maintenance on various aquatic toxicology projects including oil dispersant, freshwater and saltwater runoff, pollutants, and agricultural runoff, requiring animal culturing, wild kelp and seaweed collection, dishroom protocols, water quality testing, and general lab maintenance.

**AmeriCorps Discovery Fellow – Ocean Discovery Institute**, San Diego, CA (11/18 – 04/19)

Conducted hands-on, informal STEM and conservation education in the classroom and field to elementary school students, including assisting in program/curriculum development and managing supplies, classrooms, and volunteer participation.

**Research Experience for Undergrads (REU) Intern – Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston, OR (06/17 - 08/17)**

Conducted an independent project looking at the influence of visual cues on marine isopod coloration, involving a controlled lab study and color analysis through photography and ImageJ, outreach sessions with the community, and statistical analysis in R presented at the Western Society of Naturalists conference.

**TECHNICAL REPORTS AND DATASETS**

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Rasmussen, N., P. Lehman, P. Nelson, L. Dixit, D. Bosworth, C. Burdi, L. Twardochleb, and R.K. Hartman. 2026. Selected trait data for the most abundant phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates, and fishes of the Upper San Francisco Estuary ver 1. Environmental Data Initiative. <https://doi.org/10.6073/pasta/7f82bd65512a8479dbe6e8268fbc30e7>

UCD-BML Progress Report No.1 for July 1 to December 30, 2023, White Abalone Recovery and Management Plan, Bodega Marine Laboratory, UC Davis.

UCD-BML Progress Report No.2 for January 1 to June 30, 2024, White Abalone Recovery and Management Plan, Bodega Marine Laboratory, UC Davis.

Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy, 2020 Update. Department of Water Resources, Division of Environmental Services.

Twardochleb L., Maguire A., Dixit L., Bedwell M., Orlando J., MacWilliams M., Bever A., and B. Davis. 2021. North Delta Food Subsidies Study: Monitoring Food Web Responses to the North Delta Flow Action, 2019 Report. Department of Water Resources, Division of Environmental Services.

Twardochleb L, Dixit L, Bedwell M, Davis B and Frantzich J (2021) Delivering Food to Hungry Fish in the San Francisco Estuary. *Front. Young Minds*. 9:611957. doi: 10.3389/frym.2021.611957

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

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Frank, N., Deutsch, A., **Dixit, L.**, “A day in the life of a newborn abalone”, Friday Forum, 10 Jun. 2022, UC Davis-Bodega Marine Laboratory, Talk

**L. Dixit**, A.W.E Galloway, and J. B. Schram. The importance of visual cues in the pigmentation and coloration of the marine isopod *Pentidotea wosnesenskii*. Western Society of Naturalists Conference 2017. Poster presentation.

**L. Dixit**, N. Frank, N. Hood, K.M. Aquilino, P. Shukla, A. Frederick. Improved Production of Endangered White Abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) through Reproductive Conditioning and Post-Larval Survival. Western Society of Naturalists Conference. 2022. Poster presentation.

**SKILLS**

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R, Python, ShinyApp, Affinity Designer, SQL, JMP, ImageJ, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Zotero, GitHub, HOBO, Box, Tableau Public