

NAOMI BLINICK

naomi.blinick@gmail.com
www.naomiblinick.com

(408) 348-1155
PO Box 422
Walla Walla, WA
99362

PROFILE

A highly motivated conservation professional with a diverse background in biological field work, outreach, and multimedia production, with a strong work ethic and attention to detail.

EDUCATION

Prescott College, Prescott, AZ

May 2009

B.A. Environmental Studies

Major in Environmental Studies

- *Emphasis in Marine Studies*

Minor in Photography

De Anza College, Cupertino, CA

Dec 2004

A.A. Liberal Arts

Certificate in Photography

WORK EXPERIENCE

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Boating

- Department of Interior Motorboat Operator Cert. (MOCC)
- NOAA Component Small Boat Operator
- Sea Days: 300+

First Aid

- Emergency First Responder
- PADI Emergency O₂ & AED
- DAN Diving First Aid for Professional Divers

Diving (400+ logged dives)

- NPS Blue Card (100')
- NOAA Scientific Diver (130' with Spec. Task End. for Marine Debris)
- PADI Open Water, Advanced, Nitrox, Drysuit, Rescue, Divemaster

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission/ WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Science Technician 2: Hanford Reach Chinook Sampling

Columbia River/Hanford Reach, WA
40 hrs/week, Nov-Dec 2017

Conduct anadromous fish escapement surveys in the Upper Columbia River Hanford Reach region. Perform duties related to the protection, preservation, propagation, and sampling of Chinook salmon.

- Conduct adult salmonid carcass surveys by identifying and collecting dead adult Chinook salmon.
- Handle and collect biological data from Chinook salmon carcasses. Make standardized observations such as species identification, length, reproductive condition, fin clips or tags.
- Collect and organize biological samples (scales, otoliths, and heads), summarize and input biological data on field forms and desktop computers.
- Detect coated-wire tags using a T-Wand and process carcasses for mark recapture surveys.
- Regularly lift 40 - 50 lbs., use gaffs to collect carcasses in situ.
- Operate a 20 ft. aluminum jet boat safely in heavy current, and conduct fine-scale maneuvering among obstacles like boulders, boat launches, and debris. Load and unload boats on trailers, tow & maneuver trailers.
- Conduct boat-based field operations in inclement weather including rain and snow.

University of Minnesota: Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
Field Crew Leader, Lead Diver, Senior Lab Technician

St. Paul, MN
40 hrs/week, July 2017 - ending mid-Oct 2017

Facilitate underwater invasive zebra mussel surveys in ten lakes throughout Minnesota.

- Serve as crew leader, lead diver, and boat tender.
- Build the framework for an institutional scientific diving program, to ensure that all activities fall under the OSHA Scientific Diving Exemption.
- Participate in site selection, data sheet design.
- Manage field equipment ordering, preparation, decontamination, and maintenance.
- Establish permanent transects for use in the future.
- Conduct low-visibility surveying for small (≤ 1 inch), cryptic zebra mussels.
- Assure accurate data collection, recording, and entry.
- Trailer a twenty-foot pontoon boat up to five hours a day in city and highway conditions. Operate that boat on small lakes in support of scuba diving activity, including launching and recovery.

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WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Naomi Blinick Photography (sole proprietor)

Location varies per project

Field Research Technician, Photographer, Media Production Specialist

Hours vary per project, Sept 2012 - Current

Provide field research support services for media production and expedition teams. Recent projects have included:

- In Dec. 2016, provided SCUBA and photography support for the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center and National Geographic during exploration on the USS *Arizona* in Pearl Harbor, HI. Aided in collecting GPS super-point data on the ship, sediment and oil sample collection and processing, heavy gear transport (lifting and carrying up to 60 lbs.) loading and unloading boats, diving operations, camera maintenance, and in-water communication system troubleshooting.
- In May 2016, was contracted as a field naturalist and English/Spanish translator for a BBC Natural History Unit film production team in a blue-footed booby colony in the Gulf of California, Mexico. Working daily on a remote island, assisted in location selection, transportation of gear within a sensitive seabird habitat with minimal disturbance, detection of harmful wildlife (scorpions and rattlesnakes), and translating between the English-speaking filmmakers and Spanish-speaking boat crew.

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Minor Outlying Islands

Biological Volunteer

40 hrs/week, Dec. 2016 - Feb 2017

- Performed daily nest surveys of two species of north Pacific albatross as part of an annual nest census for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This included walking 8-10 miles per day through varied terrain, over sensitive burrowing Bonin petrel habitat with minimal disturbance.
- Assisted with FWS efforts to protect nesting albatrosses from attacks by invasive house mice (*Mus musculus*), including albatross colony surveys to identify impact zones, pre- and post-baiting surveys of impacted breeding adults and chicks. Conducted hand-broadcasting of rodenticide.
- Small mammal trapping of house mice for density monitoring.
- Supported habitat restoration activities: native plant propagation, outplant site maintenance, and invasive plant removal.
- Used handheld GPS units to navigate to and within survey areas, map waypoints and tracklines.
- Conducted shore-based marine debris removal.
- Built an Adobe Lightroom-based photo database for the refuge. Organized and keyworded 8,000+ images in 8 working days.
- Documented the hatching of Wisdom's chick (the world's oldest known bird, a Laysan albatross). My photographs were featured on the USFWS social media feeds and syndicated worldwide by National Geographic, NPR, Huffington Post, and many other news agencies.

Research Cooperative of the University of Hawaii/Joint Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Research

Honolulu, HI

NOAA Marine Debris Technician

40-50 hrs./week, July 2014 - Nov 2014

Conducted snorkel surveys for 21 operational days to locate and remove 57 tons of derelict fishing gear (via freediving) from submerged reef structures and beaches in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, as part of a NOAA team aboard the NOAA Ship Oscar Elton Sette.

- Completed two months of intensive training for remote diving, boating, and debris removal operations prior to the cruise.
- Located sampling locations in the field using satellite imagery, maps, compass, and GPS units.
- Marine-based debris removal efforts involved up to 3 hours of continuous ocean swimming in search of nets and other derelict fishing gear, recovered via freediving to depths of 30 ft.
- Efforts were conducted in a remote, hot, tropical climate and often in rough sea conditions, from 17 ft. inflatable boats in open water and shallow coral reef environments, with support from a 220 ft. research vessel.
- Prepared, operated and maintained research equipment including scuba diving gear, small boats and motors, hand-held radios, digital cameras, and other scientific equipment.
- Accurately collected, entered and organized field data of daily activities following established protocols, and recorded data using Microsoft Excel and Oracle database manager.

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WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore North Truro, MA
Science Communication Technician (Federal position, GS-0404-07) 40 hrs./week, July 2013 - Nov. 2013

In a span of 4.5 months, effectively produced printed media, webpages, videos, and other science communication products to increase organizational and public awareness of Natural Resource Division programs and to extend the visitor experience. In order to produce multimedia products, extensive time was spent in the field with NPS scientists and technicians, assisting with and documenting their field work. Involvement in field research included:

- Conducted piping plover breeding chronology monitoring; locating nests, identifying individuals by their calls, delineating closures with string and flagging, and observing feeding behavior in fledged chicks.
- Monitored roseate and common tern migration via stationary point counts.
- Conducted Real Time Kinematic GPS surveys of coastal dunes.
- Located sampling locations in the field using aerial photography, maps, compass, and handheld GPS units.
- Assisted with data entry, following established protocols using Microsoft Excel and ArcGIS.
- Performed physical work in remote settings, on sandy spits, salt marshes, forests, and kettle ponds.
- Worked on remote field projects that involved hiking over rough and sandy terrain, under hot conditions, and in an environment with natural hazards including biting insects (ticks and mosquitoes), and inclement weather. Field excursions required driving an off road vehicle in a seashore setting.
- Additional responsibilities included advanced media production, website management, and event coordination.

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution/Advanced Imaging and Visualization Laboratory Woods Hole, MA
Imaging Specialist 45 hrs./week, Oct 2011 - Sept 2012

Produced wide-area panoramic imagery of the RMS Titanic and other deep-sea shipwrecks for popular publication and scientific analysis.

- As part of a team, used Adobe Photoshop to create 6 massive-scale photo mosaics of the *Titanic* in situ, and dozens of smaller mosaics of artifacts in the debris field, featured in *National Geographic* magazine and numerous other publications.
- Collaborated with a multi-agency archaeological analysis team (NPS and NOAA), to protect submerged historical sites.
- Supported the design and construction of a 3D video production lab aboard the R.V. Alucia.
- Restored and digitized historical filmstrips for long-term image comparison analysis.

National Park Service Submerged Resources Center Nationwide
Our World - Underwater Scholarship Society Intern 45 hrs./week, July - Oct 2011

This highly competitive internship focused on diving with NPS dive teams around the country, providing a unique opportunity to work with leading archaeologists, underwater photographers, and scientists in the National Park Service and other agencies in the Federal government.

- Dived with teams of resource managers to monitor underwater biological and cultural resources at seven National Park Units throughout the USA.
- Supported field activities for direct management of marine wildlife and habitats, including invasive lionfish removal, reef fish point counts, kelp forest monitoring (belt transect and fish point counts), recovery and replacement of underwater radio receivers.
- Assisted with data collection utilizing multiple underwater monitoring techniques in diverse ecosystems ranging from coral reefs to an alpine lake.
- Participated in several multi-day research cruises with NPS and partner agencies aboard oceanographic vessels.
- Developed and maintained positive working relationships with people of diverse backgrounds and professions, including NPS volunteers, rangers, scientists, divers, resource managers, and scientists from partner agencies.

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WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Prescott College: Kino Bay Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies

Research and Conservation Fellow

Bahía de Kino Sonora, México

50 hrs./week, Sept. 2009 - July 2011

Lived and worked at a remote biological field station in rural Mexico, regularly performing field activities for established natural resource monitoring projects, supporting field station operations, and teaching undergraduate students field biology techniques and local species identification.

- Scientific Communication and Outreach:
 - Disseminated monitoring and research results from the Research and Conservation Program to various partners in the public, private, academic, and government sectors.
 - Produced scientific communication products: wrote scientific articles, edited and designed four official reports and created slide presentations for local, scientific, and student audiences.
 - Edited, designed and produced visual aids, including posters, fliers, and presentations that described scientific results to a variety of technical and non-technical audiences.
- Wildlife and habitat inventory and monitoring activities:
 - Identified coastal wetland plants, herbaceous plants, exotic and invasive vegetation, avian species, invertebrates, fish, reptiles and amphibians in the field. Followed detailed sampling protocols for the collection of natural resources and biological research projects, while accurately recorded environmental and biological data at remote sites and entered data in Microsoft Excel.
 - Co-wrote and edited reports detailing natural resource projects including methodologies and procedures followed, data collected, and findings.
 - Developed and maintained good working relationships with students, employees, local residents and government officials of diverse backgrounds.
- Fisheries Research:
 - In continuation of senior thesis research, developed and implemented a survey methodology for sampling size frequencies of sharks & rays within the bycatch of commercial shrimp trawlers.
 - Trained and facilitated onboard data collection (including the use of dichotomous keys for fish identification) and data entry by undergraduate student observer groups.
 - Using Microsoft Excel and ArcGIS, analyzed 5 years of data on trawler bycatch for the later publication of a peer-reviewed scientific article, and presented results of the by-catch project at two regional conferences.

The Turtle Hospital

Rehabilitation and Education Intern

Marathon, Florida

40 hrs/week, May - Aug 2007

Completed daily animal husbandry and laboratory tasks pursuant to marine turtle rehabilitation; drawing blood, administering medications, taking x-rays, assisting in surgical procedures, feeding animals and maintaining enclosures.

- Identified sea turtle species of the SW Atlantic, as well as identifying sea turtle crawls and nests.
- Responded to live and dead sea turtle strandings.
- Regularly participated in stranding, rescue, and release activities: collection, transportation, handling agitated turtles, release site selection and interfacing with the public and state/federal agencies.
- Participated in necropsies and collecting blood and tissue samples from sea turtles.
- Conducted daily interpretive tours for school groups and the general public.
- Interacted with members of the public, government, and press when rescuing and releasing turtles.
- Utilized specialized knowledge of marine science for the development of visual interpretive products.

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WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Global Vision International

Mahe, Seychelles

Science Officer/ Volunteer Researcher

60 hrs. /week, Apr - Dec 2005

Led field crews in detailed sampling protocols for a long-term coral and fish diversity and abundance monitoring program at a biological field station on an island in the Indo-Pacific. Daily tasks included line-intercept transects for coral cover, using quadrates to monitor coral recruitment, stationary point counts for marine fish, belt transects for marine invertebrates, and conducting beach walks to monitor nesting sea turtles.

- Served as divemaster and boat captain for daily scientific diving operations. Supervised all monitoring equipment preparation, safety briefings, site orientations and dive planning. Conducted boating operations on a 24 ft. dual-hulled motor vessel in nearshore waters, including shallow coral reef environments.
- Achieved competency in several scientific diving techniques for coral, reef fish, and invertebrate monitoring.
- Mastered the identification of 150 species of fish and 47 genera of hard corals in the Indo-Pacific.
- Trained multi-national volunteers in coral and reef fish identification, underwater survey and monitoring techniques, and scientific diving skills.
- Led small volunteer groups (3-5 people) on week-long excursions to remote islands to monitor nesting sea turtles.
- Accurately recorded environmental and biological data in the field on a daily basis, including environmental parameters such as climate, sea conditions, and water turbidity.
- Ensured quality and continuity of data entered by volunteers, including geospatial data.
- Coordinated all aspects of long-term weekly marine plankton monitoring program in partnership with a local NGO. Conducted precise boating operations along permanent transects for sample collection.
- Performed physically intensive field work in remote, tropical island settings, including strenuous hiking over rough terrain and scuba diving and surveying in rough sea conditions. Other natural hazards included venomous sea life, biting insects, and inclement weather.
- Identified and avoided potentially hazardous conditions through daily safety assessments (i.e. checking weather conditions, dive briefings) prior to field activities. Performed thorough health and safety orientations for all residents of the field station upon arrival.
- Developed and maintained good working relationships with international volunteers, employees, local Seychellois residents and government officials.

PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Blinick, NS and Fleishman, AF. 2013. Diurnal Predation by a Coyote (*Canis latrans jamesi*) on an Adult Blue-Footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) on Isla Tiburón, Gulf of California, Mexico. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 58.3: 368-370.

Meltzer L, **Blinick NS**, Fleishman AB. 2012. Management Implications of the Biodiversity and Socio-Economic Impacts of Shrimp Trawler By-Catch in Bahía de Kino, Sonora, México. *PLoS ONE* 7(6): e35609. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0035609

Fleishman, AB and **Blinick, NS**. 2012. Northerly Extension of the Breeding Range of the Roseate Spoonbill in Sonora, Mexico. *Western Birds* 42:4.

Fleishman, AB and **Blinick, NS**. 2011. Nesting Least Terns *Sternula antillarum* at Estero Cardonal, Sonora, Mexico: a newly discovered colony in the Gulf of California. *Marine Ornithology* 39: 277-279.

Hurley, EK and **Blinick, NS**. 2011. Fledging chronology of Craveri's Murrelet *Synthliboramphus craveri* on Isla Alcatraz, Gulf of California, Mexico. *Marine Ornithology* 39: 274-276.