



## Winamac Community High School Group Leader Agreement

### School Group Terms and Conditions

#### 1. How do students register?

Your Earthwatch Group Expedition Advisor will help you select a project which matches your groups' interests, desired destination, schedule, and budget. Expedition dates can typically be created to match groups' needs, and therefore do not necessarily have to fit within the published research schedule. After the group leader has selected a project and dates have been confirmed by the scientist, a group agreement form will be sent to the group leader. The agreement form should be signed and emailed or faxed back to Earthwatch, attention Group Expeditions Advisor (fax: 978-461-2332). Then, informational materials specific to the selected expedition will be sent to the leader for any student/parent meetings.

All volunteers/group participants must complete their registration online. Student volunteers under 18 years of age may not register themselves. Instead, a parent or guardian must register their student(s) online by providing basic contact information for both the parent and the student along with their initial deposit of \$300. Please be sure that all participants in your group are clear about the physical demands of the expedition BEFORE they register, as some expeditions are more strenuous than others. It is each participant's responsibility to review the project conditions and physical demands as described in the project briefing and determine if they are able to safely participate in the expedition. Participants should discuss their participation in this expedition with their doctor if they have a question or concern about their health and/or ability to participate. Earthwatch reserves the right to require that a doctor approve anyone's participation on a project. If you or a fellow chaperone are 80 years of age or older, or will be prior to departure for your expedition, a doctor's signature is required.

#### 2. General Payment Information

Earthwatch accepts credit cards (Visa, MasterCard or American Express), checks, or money orders. Earthwatch cannot accept cash. Checks should be made payable to *Earthwatch Institute*. Although group leaders typically collect and send all deposits via check to Earthwatch with the registrations, exceptions can be made for parents who prefer to pay by credit card. Please clearly mark payments with:

**Winamac Community High School**  
**Emily Hintz**  
**Conserving Marine Life along Catalina's Coast**

Checks should also contain the name of the participant and the name of the payer, email of the payer, address of the payer, and phone number of the payer who is signing the check.

If the group is fundraising for the expedition, contributors' checks can be made out directly to Earthwatch and collected by the group leader, OR they can be made out to and submitted to the participating school, which will then issue a check to Earthwatch for the full amount.

The school or group leader may also choose to start an [Expedition Fund](#). An Expedition Fund can be started with a minimum contribution of \$25. Once an Expedition Fund is open, volunteers and contributors of all kinds (parents, colleagues, community members, etc.) can add to it in increments of \$5 or more. Contributors will receive an email confirmation of their non-refundable, tax deductible donation as well as a tax-letter in the mail in January of the year after their donation is made. All Expedition Fund contributions are to be used toward the cost of the group's expedition and will be credited to anyone the group leader designates as a participant. Should a group have to cancel, ***all contributions made into its Expedition Fund must be used for an Earthwatch expedition within 3 years of the initial deposit or these contributions will be considered general donations to Earthwatch.***

### 3. What is the Payment Schedule and Process?

Initial deposits in the amount of \$300 USD per participant are required to secure your place on the team. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Failure to adhere to fundraising and payment schedules may result in cancellation of expedition, and refunds subject to policies stated in Section 4 below. Payment schedule based on March 20, 2020 expedition start date:

Activity	Action Deadline
Initial deposits for early enrollment (\$300)	Friday, April 5, 2019
\$100/mo collected by trip leader or paid to Earthwatch	Monthly, May-deadline
50% of total expedition cost due (\$1325)	Friday, September 20, 2019
Proof of airfare purchase submitted	Friday, November 1, 2019
Remaining balance (\$1325) and volunteer forms due	Friday, December 20, 2019
Start Date for Expedition	Friday, March 20, 2020

### 4. Exchange, Refund, and Cancellation Policy

#### Cancellations and exchanges up until final payment deadline (based on above schedule):

- **Cancellation:** the initial deposit of \$300 per participant will be retained by Earthwatch Institute.
- **Exchange:** There is no fee to replace one participant with another. All [volunteer forms](#) are due 90 days before the team start date.

#### Cancellations and exchanges after final payment deadline (based on above schedule)

- **Cancellation:** All payments are non-refundable.
- **Exchange:** Replacements will be considered on a case by case basis and are subject to a \$300 fee. [Volunteer forms](#) are due at least 90 days before the team start date.
  - No replacements will be considered within 60 days of the start date of the expedition.

All completed volunteer forms must be collected online through the My Earthwatch Profiles of each students' parent, or collected as hardcopy forms by the group leader. All forms must be submitted to Earthwatch no later than 90 days before the departure date for the Expedition. **Failure to submit these volunteer forms by this date may result in cancellation from the team without refund.**

**NOTE:** Upon request, Earthwatch may purchase airfare, hotel reservations, and other services via a third party travel support provider, on behalf of the group and include these costs in each participant's total balance, for an administrative fee of \$50/traveler. Any payments collected by Earthwatch designated for these purchases are subject to the cancellation and refund policies of the individual service providers, and Earthwatch is not liable for such refunds in the event of a participant's cancellation. Please see section 7 ("What about travel insurance?") for recommendations on cancellation coverage.

#### How to Cancel

Emily Hintz 3/8/2019 7:25 PM

**Comment [1]:** The rest will be refunded to the participant (unless contributed via the Expedition Fund, in which case it can be used for a different expedition within 3 years.)



The Group Leader or volunteers (or parents/guardians if volunteer is under 18 years of age) must cancel their participation on the project by calling the Groups Expedition Manger and in writing via email to Earthwatch.

#### **Finding a Replacement**

Helping you get students into the field is important to us. If a student needs to cancel and you have a replacement, please notify Earthwatch. Replacements will be approved or denied by Earthwatch based on the suitability of the replacement. The suitability of a replacement depends on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the student's ability to submit forms on time, ability to meet the project's essential eligibility requirements as described in the expedition briefing, remaining days to departure date, and room availability if the replacement is of a different gender. Provided Earthwatch finds the replacement suitable, you will receive a refund in keeping with the exchange policy above.

**Should the group leader be unable to find a suitable replacement, the group contribution costs may be adjusted to compensate for the smaller group size.**

**Note:** Any funds retained due to late cancellation will support expedition field research and will be considered a charitable gift to Earthwatch Institute. In the unlikely event that Earthwatch must cancel an expedition, your expedition contribution will be refunded in full. Earthwatch does not reimburse airfare or other personal travel expenses associated with a cancelled expedition.

#### **5. Pricing**

Earthwatch pricing for groups is based upon total number of participants in your group to cover fixed research costs required for each specific expedition. For the standard "group price" (standard adult price plus \$400) Earthwatch covers the contribution cost of 2 teachers or chaperones as long as a minimum of 6 paying participants are recruited. If the team size falls below minimum of 6 paying participants, it may be cancelled or repriced according to the discretion of Earthwatch.

If the group fills to the maximum team size (if less than 12) or 12 paying participants with 2 chaperones, then Earthwatch will offer a credit of \$300 to each paying participant to reduce the cost of airfare.

#### **6. What does the contribution cover?**

The contribution cost associated with each expedition, covers your meals, accommodation, on-site travel (not airfare or other travel costs to/from the rendezvous point unless otherwise stated in this contract), emergency medical/evacuation insurance, 24 hour emergency service, the guidance of experienced field scientists and Earthwatch staff, and all of the various costs of field research (field permits, etc.). For some expeditions, additional project costs may exist (e.g. sunscreen, hiking boots, rain pants, souvenirs, a special meal at a restaurant etc.) so please check with your Group Expedition Advisor if you have any questions.

#### **7. What about travel insurance?**

The contribution cost of your expedition includes our mandatory travel insurance, which provides coverage for emergency travel medical assistance and expenses in addition to emergency medical and security evacuation. You can find additional information on what is covered within this policy at <http://earthwatch.org/expeditions/travel-insurance>. This insurance cannot be waived for any reason.

In addition to this coverage, Earthwatch recommends that group members purchase trip cancellation insurance. Group members are responsible for protecting themselves against airline and travel agency cancellation fees. You may find it helpful to visit comparative websites such as [insuremytrip.com](http://insuremytrip.com).

Emily Hintz 3/10/2019 4:53 PM

**Comment [2]:** More is less.

## 8. Departure and Arrival Requirements

Earthwatch expeditions have pre-set rendezvous and departure locations and times. Rendezvous and departure locations are normally at or near the airport or hotel closest to the research site. This rendezvous information will be communicated to the group leader when initial deposits are made. Group flights must be arranged to arrive and depart in accordance with the designated location and time. Any deviations may result in additional fees or a decrease in field time. **Earthwatch expedition costs only include airfare if requested prior to the signing of this contract.** Earthwatch is able to book airfare through our travel partner, [Key Travel](#). They offer competitive group airfare pricing, support in case of travel issues or delays, and compassionate customer service.

## 9. Risk and Safety Management

At Earthwatch, we are committed to caring for the safety and welfare of all individuals involved in our activities anywhere in the world. Although risk is an inherent aspect of the environments in which we work, we believe that through careful risk management and diligent planning all participants can have a rewarding, educational and inspirational Earthwatch experience.

All Earthwatch project locations and volunteer activities are thoroughly evaluated for the safety and security of our participants. The project's conditions and essential eligibility requirements are clearly described in the expedition briefing in order to assist participants in determining if they are able to safely participate prior to fielding.

Should any problems occur in the field, all projects have an emergency response plan and communication protocols both with area health care facilities and with the Earthwatch office. Our emergency medical assistance provider [On Call International](#) can give advice, assistance or support at any time around the world. Earthwatch has a staff member on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to assist volunteers and field staff and to be available to relay emergency messages from home.

In the event of a safety incident occurring on an Earthwatch project, the management of that incident will be coordinated by Earthwatch and according to Earthwatch protocols.

You can reach us at: Phone (978) 461-0081

## 10. Are project costs tax-deductible?

Volunteers and contributors to an Expedition Fund are subject to the tax laws of their individual country (and state, province, etc.), which vary widely. Volunteers and contributors should consult their local tax laws and/or tax attorneys or other qualified professionals for official tax advice. Earthwatch offers the following information as general guidelines only:

U.S.A.: In the United States, Earthwatch Institute is a public charity described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is not a private foundation, as it is an organization described in Section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(VI) of the Internal Revenue Code. In general, contributions of cash, securities and property donated by US citizens to support scientific research projects sponsored by Earthwatch Institute are tax-deductible.

**Note: All Expedition Fund donations are non-refundable. Any Expedition Fund donation not used toward an expedition within three years will be considered a donation to Earthwatch.**

## 11. Right of Refusal and Dismissal

Earthwatch Institute reserves the right to refuse reservations on its projects. Such a refusal would typically, but not exclusively, be due to safety concerns, such as an applicant's failure to meet the essential eligibility requirements of a particular project, logistical limitations or in the interest of team compatibility.

Participants are required to adhere to the project safety protocols in the field. Earthwatch Institute will support the right of the Earthwatch scientist, other project leadership or Earthwatch staff to send volunteers away from a project should their behavior compromise the safety, research objectives or general performance of the team.

Emily Hintz 3/10/2019 4:55 PM

**Comment [3]:** Option for travel support.

Emily Hintz 3/10/2019 4:58 PM

**Comment [4]:** Important.



Misrepresentation of one’s qualifications in any way, including but not limited to age, health, intentions on the expedition, etc. will also be grounds for rejection of reservations or dismissal from project. In the case of deliberate misrepresentation, volunteers will not be eligible for a refund. For more information, please see Earthwatch’s [Code of Conduct](#) and [Teen Behavior Agreement](#).

**PLEASE NOTE:** These terms and conditions are subject to change at any time, and each Earthwatch Institute office implements its own policies according to the laws and subsidies of their country of residence, whether the US, the UK, Australia, or Japan.

**FINAL REMINDER:** Earthwatch Institute projects are scientific research expeditions, **not tours**. Earthwatch Institute makes every effort to describe field conditions accurately both in its publications and verbally, but fieldwork in remote locations is a delicate business and prone to last-minute changes. We accept this variability as part of what makes an Earthwatch Institute project a unique experience and encourage volunteers to embrace the role of the unexpected in scientific discovery.

Emily Hintz 3/10/2019 5:00 PM  
Comment [5]: Exactly!

**Expedition Title:** Conserving Marine Life Along Catalina’s Coast

**Location:** Catalina Island, CA

**Team Dates:** March 20-26, 2020

**Number of Participants:** 6-8 students, 2 teachers

**Cost per Student:** \$2,950 + airfare if requested

**Cost per Leader:** Free, unless otherwise agreed upon

**School Name:** Winamac Community High School

**Street Address:** 715 School Dr

**City, State, Zip:** Winamac, IN 46996

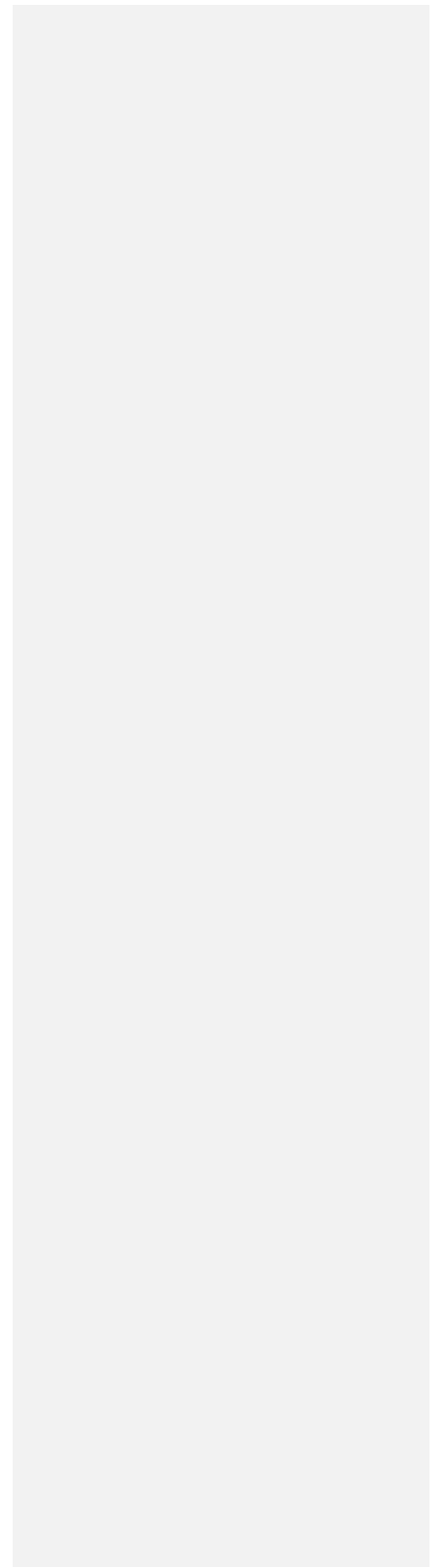
I have read and agree to all of the terms and conditions described above and agree to abide by the conditions outlined therein.

_____	_____	_____
Group Leader Name (print)	Group Leader Signature	Date
<u>Zachary Zimmerman</u>	_____	_____

Group Expedition Advisor (print)

Group Expedition Advisor Signature

Date







# CONSERVING MARINE LIFE ALONG CATALINA'S COAST



# PLANNING CHECKLIST

## PLANNING CHECKLIST

### IMMEDIATELY

- Make sure you understand and agree to Earthwatch's [Terms and Conditions](#) and the [Participant Code of Conduct](#).
- If you plan to purchase additional travel insurance, note that some policies require purchase at the time your expedition is booked.

### 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Log in at [earthwatch.org](http://earthwatch.org) to complete your participant forms.
- If traveling internationally, make sure your passport is current and, if necessary, obtain a visa for your destination country.
- Bring your level of fitness up to the standards required (see the Project Conditions section).

### 90 DAYS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Pay any outstanding balance for your expedition.
- Book travel arrangements (see the Travel Planning section for details).
- Make sure you have all the necessary vaccinations for your project site.

### 60 DAYS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Review the packing list to make sure you have all the clothing, personal supplies, and equipment needed.

### 30 DAYS PRIOR TO EXPEDITION

- Leave the Earthwatch 24-hour helpline number with a parent, relative, or friend.
- Leave copies of your photo ID and flight reservation number with a parent, relative, or friend.

**READ THIS EXPEDITION BRIEFING THOROUGHLY.** It provides the most accurate information available at the time of your Earthwatch scientist's project planning, and will likely answer any questions you have about the project. However, please also keep in mind that research requires improvisation, and you may need to be flexible. Research plans evolve in response to new findings, as well as to unpredictable factors such as weather, equipment failure, and travel challenges. To enjoy your expedition to the fullest, remember to expect the unexpected, be tolerant of repetitive tasks, and try to find humor in difficult situations. If there are any major changes in the research plan or field logistics, Earthwatch will make every effort to keep you well informed before you go into the field.



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# NOTE FROM THE PI

## DEAR EARTHWATCHER

Welcome to the 'Conserving Marine Life Along Catalina's Coast' expedition! You will be traveling to one of the most exceptional and unspoiled coastlines along southern California, a crown jewel of the region and one of the eight Channel Islands off of Southern California. The island features stunning coastal scenery and nine Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These clear and clean waters support beautiful kelp forests and rocky reefs, important to marine life and visitors who treasure the great snorkeling, fishing, and kayaking. Your time on this project will be an adventure on and around the water focused on exploring, understanding and sustaining our extraordinary marine ecosystems.

On this expedition, you'll help document the health and changing landscape of some of Catalina's MPAs. MPAs function by setting boundaries that exclude extractive activities from occurring in special marine places, much like nature reserves on land. By doing so, they protect more than just one or two species, but all the important organisms and linkages within those ecosystems. Well-managed MPAs benefit commercial fisheries, safeguard sensitive fish nurseries, nurture vulnerable species, and boost activities like ecotourism and research. For this reason, California has set up the largest network of MPAs in the United States, protecting over 120 unique marine regions along our coast.

As you immerse yourself in Catalina Island's stunning waters, you will work side by side with researchers to gather critical long-term data on our local MPAs. You will observe the remarkable marine mammals and intertidal creatures that make these habitats their homes, and the minuscule life inside each drop of ocean water that shapes our water quality. Because humans are part of the ecological equation too, you will also help monitor the complex ways in which visitors use and appreciate these exceptional places throughout the year.

Together, these data allow us to make keen insights about the health of our coasts amidst a changing planet. The information builds important baselines against which we can measure the influence of climate change and reveal trends that help managers adapt our MPAs over time.

We look forward to having you join us on Catalina Island. Your work will reinforce the critical role that MPA's play in coastal conservation, and ensure that our coastlines continue to provide maximum benefit and enjoyment for all. It will be a lot of fun too, so let the adventure begin! Be prepared to work hard, get wet, and take part in astonishing experiences as we delve into Southern California's spectacular marine world.

Sincerely,  
Dr. John Heidelberg









# THE RESEARCH

## CONSERVING MARINE LIFE ALONG CATALINA'S COAST



### THE STORY

There is mounting evidence that Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)—regions of the ocean set aside for conservation purposes—can increase the health and abundance of key marine species (Dugan and Davis 1993; Lubchenco et al. 2003). More than 100 MPAs span the coast of California in an effort to safeguard marine animals, plants, and their habitats by limiting human activities such as fishing or boating. But how effective are these MPAs in protecting coastal ecosystems? And how are global threats such as climate change impacting marine life in this region?

Catalina Island, located just 22 miles off the coast of Los Angeles, is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species, and surrounded by some of the most vibrant kelp forest habitats in the world. This region is also home to multiple areas of special biological significance and nine MPAs. However, there are numerous threats to the waters surrounding Catalina, including climate change, human activities, and harmful algal blooms.

Catalina is sometimes referred to as a 'living laboratory.' Despite its close proximity to Los Angeles, a major urban landscape, the island is relatively remote and significant efforts have been made to protect its coastal waters. It is therefore an ideal region to study not only the effects of MPAs on the health of marine ecosystems, but how global threats, such as climate change, are impacting these waters.



## RESEARCH AIMS

Maintaining MPAs and expanding marine protections to new regions requires dedicated conservation and enforcement efforts. These efforts require a substantial amount of ongoing monitoring and data. The results from this study will feed directly into Catalina's coastal policies and enforcement practices for MPAs, helping to ensure that these protected areas receive the support they need to function effectively. Even more broadly, the research findings will be used to support MPA management in California by establishing a baseline dataset and detailed record of biodiversity—including native and non-native species—in the region.

Research questions will involve four different coastal research programs, all oriented to a common goal of gathering baseline information on our coastal environment that documents natural variability, tracks ecosystem change, and helps gauge the success of resource management strategies.

Specific program goals are as follows:

- **HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB) WATCH**

In HABWatch, participants will determine when HAB species are present and abundant in the local waters of Catalina Island, and whether Catalina exhibits different HAB patterns than the mainland. The results of your data collection are shared with entities such as the CA Health Department which regulates seafood consumption in CA waters.

- **MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH**

The program goals are: 1. To determine if MPAs are meeting their goal of enhancing recreational activities; 2. To provide contextual information on human use for interpretation of biological and socioeconomic monitoring data; 3. To inform MPA management decisions regarding human activity inside MPAs; and 4. To build MPA stewardship among program participants and the public (Murray et al., 2014). Locally, MPA Watch efforts are led by the non-profit Heal the Bay.

- **MAMMAL SURVEYS**

Tracking cetacean and pinniped abundance and distributions will inform long-term research, and test the hypothesis that environmental perturbations such as sea surface temperatures, El Niño events, and human activities may impact mammal populations.

- **INTERTIDAL SURVEYS**

Participants will conduct intertidal surveys to develop a baseline for a long term monitoring project collecting compatible coastal data and contributing to a centralized database. This will also in part help to assess impacts of sea level rise, temperature change, and storm occurrences.

## HOW YOU WILL HELP

You'll help scientists to record the abundance of marine mammals such as California sea lions, gray whales, and common dolphins; collect water samples; survey the inhabitants of the intertidal zone; and observe the ways in which humans use this delicate habitat. You'll contribute to Pacific coast datasets and help to conserve a valuable marine ecosystem.

Specific tasks include:

- **SURVEYING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:** You'll walk along shoreline, cliffs, and beach roads to monitor human activities in Marine Protected Areas.
- **OBSERVING MARINE MAMMALS:** You will kayak along Catalina's coast to observe, survey, and photograph marine mammals, such as sea lions, whales and dolphins.
- **SURVEYING ROCKY INTERTIDAL HABITAT:** You will observe, measure and record rocky intertidal species and their abundance during low tides.
- **COLLECTING WATER SAMPLES:** To determine the impacts of harmful algal blooms, you will perform plankton tows and use microscopes to determine phytoplankton and algae species present in your water samples.





# DAILY LIFE IN THE FIELD

## PLANS FOR YOUR TEAM



You will have plenty of learning opportunities on this expedition. With a wide variety of activities planned, you get to both learn about and experience research related to harmful algal blooms, marine protected areas, marine mammal surveys, and intertidal surveys.

While you'll spend considerable time on research tasks, you'll always have the chance to ask questions, enjoy the scenery, and take in the majesty of this unique marine environment. In this pristine environment, there are endless opportunities to view rarely seen wildlife and plants. Wrigley Marine Science Center was established in 1965 to encourage responsible and creative decisions in society by providing an objective source of marine and environmental science and fostering an understanding of the natural world among people of all ages. It is not uncommon for participants to sit at a dining hall table with scientists and have a conversation directly with them about their studies. These researchers are also likely to give informal lectures during which in-depth discussions can carry on for hours. You will be in the midst of an intellectual environment unique to a center like this.

### ITINERARY

Weather and research needs can lead to changes in the daily schedule. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

#### DAY 1: ARRIVAL

- Arrive at the Southern California Marine Institute where you will be met by research staff
- Take the USC boat to Catalina Island (approximately a 1.5 hour ride) to the Wrigley Marine Science Center, censusing marine mammals en route
- Arrive at Catalina mid-morning, settle into the accommodations, group lunch, introduction to the facility and research, training on research tasks, and safety briefing

#### DAY 2-6: DATA COLLECTION

- Walk along shoreline, cliffs, and beach roads to monitor human activities in Marine Protected Areas.
- Additional training on research studies and protocols.
- Kayak along Catalina's coast to observe, survey, and photograph marine mammals; Identify, measure and record rocky intertidal species and their abundance.
- To determine the impacts of harmful algal blooms, you will collect plankton tows and use microscopes to determine the abundance of phytoplankton species present in your water samples.
- Evening lectures and videos
- Presentations on the research

#### DAY 7: DEPARTURE

- Finish fieldwork and data entry
- Closing lecture
- Depart Wrigley Marine Science Center mid-afternoon via USC boat.
- Arrive at Southern California Marine Institute (approximately 1.5 hour boat ride)

#### DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Briefing & Prepare for daily fieldwork
9:00 a.m.	Fieldwork and data entry
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Briefing
2:00 p.m.	Continue Fieldwork
4:00 p.m.	Free Time
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Data Entry/Science Talks/Movie/Free Time





# ACCOMMODATIONS AND FOOD

## ABOUT YOUR HOME IN THE FIELD

Located just 22 miles offshore of Los Angeles, Catalina is one of eight Channel Islands along the coast of California. Catalina Island is the only one of the islands with permanent public residents. The island is 21 miles long—the widest point of the island is Long Point (about 8 miles across), and the narrowest, just a few miles away from the Wrigley Marine Science Center, is the Isthmus at Two Harbors (only ½ mile wide!). The highest elevation is on Mt. Orizaba (2,097 feet).

Since the early 1970s, 88% of Catalina's land has been protected, including 62 miles of coastline. The Catalina Island Conservancy maintains a delicate balance of conservation, education and recreation for the over one million people who visit the island each year. One of the most popular introduced animals visitors will see on Catalina is the American Bison, originally brought over in the 1920's by a Hollywood film crew. They are commonly seen grazing on grass even on campus at the Wrigley Institute! Catalina Island offers a stunning coastline with great scuba diving and snorkeling. It is home to some of the best kelp forest habitats in the world, and along with them their unique marine life communities.

### SLEEPING

Your team will stay at the USC Residence Hall, which is set up dormitory style with two or three people per room, separated by gender. Each room contains either twin beds or bunk beds, a desk, chair, closet, and mini-refrigerator. **Linens and bath towels are provided.** Couples accommodations may be possible upon request—contact your Earthwatch representative about this option.

### BATHROOMS

Bathrooms are either private or shared by two dorm rooms. Bathrooms in the residence hall have a sink, shower, and toilet with cold and hot water available. **Catalina Island is facing extreme drought conditions. All visitors to Catalina are asked to limit showers (2–3 minutes) during their stay.**

### ELECTRICITY

You are welcome to bring your own electronic equipment (cell phones, digital cameras, laptops, etc.), but you will be required to limit your use of cell phones or laptops for research work or to recreational time only for personal use.

### PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Wireless Internet access is available on campus. Cell phone reception is available on campus, the town of Two Harbors and for most of the island. In more remote locations, service will be limited.

### FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

The Wrigley Marine Science Center has a dock and pier, active helipad, dive locker and diver staging area. The research facilities include several laboratories, a computer lab, lecture hall, greenhouse, student lounge, and other amenities. The facility has an on-site dining facility and an on-site laundry room. **However due to the extreme drought Catalina is facing, we do ask that all visitors plan for only one laundry load during their visit.** We are a primarily smoke-free facility. Smoking is only allowed in one designated outdoor area. We operate with a small staff and rely on your cooperation to help ensure a smooth operation.

The local town of Two Harbors (two miles from campus) has one bar, restaurant and general store. The next largest town is on the other side of the island. **Should you need to purchase anything, limited basic toiletries, over-the-counter medications, and basic food can be found at the Two Harbors General Store. These items tend to be expensive and are not guaranteed to be in stock, so please pack thoughtfully. (See Expedition Packing Checklist)**

### DISTANCE TO THE FIELD SITE

Your team will travel to general location of the research sites by walking, van, boat, or kayak depending on the site. The furthest site is approximately seven miles via car.





## FOOD AND WATER

Meals will be prepared by a dedicated chef and served cafeteria style in the dining hall. Both indoor and outdoor seating are available. Some days you will take a bag lunch into the field. Meals are designed to be healthy and hearty, with a variety of local cuisine. Participants will eat together with research staff and sometimes with other science groups on campus.

A small selection of snacks (fruit, cereal, drinks), microwave, and refrigerator are available 24 hours/day. There is a soda and snack machine in the lab building. Please don't leave any food or drinks in your room unless you want to be visited by an army of ants!

The field center is located in a remote area, so food is ordered and shipped in weekly.

The following are examples of foods you may find on the menu. Variety depends on availability. We appreciate your flexibility.

### TYPICAL MEALS

<b>BREAKFAST</b>	Bacon, eggs, toast/bagels, yogurt, hash browns, fresh fruit, cereal, and oatmeal
<b>LUNCH</b>	Salad, sandwiches, soups, pasta, tacos, etc.
<b>DINNER</b>	Classic American food. For example: chicken, fish, rice, casseroles, steak, ribs, steamed vegetables, bread rolls, and desserts.
<b>BEVERAGES</b>	Juice, milk, water, soft drinks, tea, coffee, hot chocolate

### SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Please alert Earthwatch to any special dietary requirements (e.g., diabetes, lactose intolerance, nut or other food allergies, vegetarian or vegan diets) as soon as possible, and note them in the space provided on your participant forms.

This expedition can easily accommodate vegetarian diets, as well as vegan, gluten-free, and lactose-free diets, with sufficient prior notice.

Strict kosher diets can sometimes be accommodated based on space availability for a private kitchen. In such case, the participants would be required to cook for themselves.



# PROJECT CONDITIONS

## THE FIELD ENVIRONMENT



The climate is much like that of mainland southern California, with an average high of 75°F in summer and in winter, an average high of 65°F. The average lows are in the 50s in winter and in the mid-60s in summer. Average precipitation is 14 inches, with January traditionally being the wettest month. Water temperatures in the coastal ocean range from a low of 59°F in winter to the mid-70s in summer. We do experience 5 mile per hour average winds in the afternoon on a daily basis. Wind conditions in late winter and early spring can be quite rough with occasional gale force warnings meaning windy conditions rougher than 35 miles per hour.

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following are averages. Please check weather resources for your team dates for more accurate weather predictions. Projects have experienced unseasonable weather at all times of year.

**HUMIDITY:** 20%–60%

**TEMPERATURE RANGE:** 50°–75° F

**ALTITUDE:** sea level

**RAINFALL:** 14 inches per year

### ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

All participants must be able to:

- Follow verbal and/or visual instructions independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Work on or near shore for about two to three hours per day with limited break options and restroom facilities.
- Traverse wet, slippery, rocky terrain.
- Traverse steep hiking trail for up to 1 mile.
- Get low enough to access and collect samples on the ground and in the brush.
- Carry personal daily supplies, such as lunch, water, and a camera.
- Sit in a kayak and paddle with partner to move a two person kayak forward
- Lift and carry kayaks to the water and back up the ramp for storage
- Enjoy being outdoors all day in all types of weather.
- Enjoy being outdoors in the potential presence of wild animals, snakes, and insects.
- Enjoy working as a team, and function cohesively within a group.
- Sit and ride, with seat belt fastened, in project vehicles.
- Enter and exit the water from shore.
- Recommended comfort in swimming in open water and be comfortable using snorkeling gear (mask, fins, snorkel). (not required)





# POTENTIAL HAZARDS

## CONSERVING MARINE LIFE ALONG CATALINA'S COAST

HAZARD TYPE	ASSOCIATED RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS
Transportation	Traffic accidents and injuries are always a hazard of road transport. Vans will travel no faster than 25 mph on public roads, most of which are unpaved. Participants will not drive; only staff will operate vehicles and boats. You must always wear a seatbelt. Participants will be transported to the island on the Miss Christi (USC owned and operated ferry boat). You will be given a safety briefing before the boat departs and shown where life jackets and life rafts are located.
Hiking	You will be walking along a rocky coastline. Some areas are very well protected from the elements, while others are exposed. The trail is steep at times. You will also be walking off-trail, in sometimes thick, low to waist high vegetation. There are no railings on trails or roads. Participants must wear shoes with good grip to avoid slipping and long pants. Please keep in mind that we will also be entering the rocky intertidal, which will be uneven, slippery and wet. It is advised that participants bring a pair of thickly soled water shoes or dive booties.
Kayaking	You will be using two person kayaks to observe marine mammals. You must wear a personal flotation device (life jacket) at all times when using the kayaks. Research staff will be in a separate kayak or motorboat to assist as needed.
Stinging animals	Mosquitoes, sand flies, yellow jackets, wasps and spiders are present, and repellent or long-sleeved shirts and pants can help protect from stings and bites. Stingrays and scorpion fish may be present in the water. All dangerous creatures will be discussed during the training period. Please note that if you have a severe reaction to bee stings you may also have a similar reaction to stingray and jellyfish stings—please consult with your doctor.
Sharks and large fish	Attacks by sharks and other large fish are extremely rare. Team members will be instructed to exit the water in a calm manner in the event of an animal acting aggressively.
Local Wildlife	As we are located on the edge of a nature preserve, it is likely you will come into close proximity with local wildlife... bison, snakes, ravens, the island fox, and...ants! As a general rule, please keep your distance and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Foxes and squirrels are curious creatures that will go into your rooms if the door is left open and ants can be very invasive. Keep your rooms clear of any food drink, wrappers, wet towels, etc. Please do not attempt to feed any of the wildlife.
Climate/ Weather	Dehydration and sunburn are two major risks while in the field. You'll be briefed on proper clothing, sunscreen use, and fluid intake. Project staff will monitor participants for symptoms of exposure or dehydration. Take particular care when working during the hottest periods of the day.
Project Tasks/ Equipment	Hands should always be washed after being in the field, especially before eating. Participants are encouraged to take regular breaks and to avoid over-exerting themselves. Teamwork and attention to proper technique will keep you from wearing out or getting injured. Inform a staff member immediately if you are feeling tired or ill. Laboratory protocols and use of personal protection equipment are required. Long pants, closed toed shoes and use of lab coat (provided by Wrigley Institute staff) are required in the lab.
Personal Security	Crime on Catalina is low; however, do not leave valuables unattended in public areas.
Swimming/ Snorkeling	Swimming/snorkeling is possible during recreational time, and drowning is a hazard. Swimming/snorkeling is permitted only in the presence of a person with lifeguard certification and is not allowed alone on any Earthwatch expedition.
Distance from Medical Care	Medical and rescue assistance along the coastlines is abundant, but can take more time when working on the interior of the island. The Catalina Island Hyperbaric Chamber is located at WMSC and is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and all Chamber staff are trained as first-responders. Baywatch paramedics are a few minutes away. A helipad also connects the WMSC to medical facilities on the mainland, and can transport a patient to LA County hospital within 15 minutes, if needed. If advised by Baywatch, transport to the hospital in Avalon takes approximately one hour by car.
Disease	Please see below for immunization recommendations. Most diseases are prevented with basic safety cautions. Please see the CDC ( <a href="https://www.cdc.gov">cdc.gov</a> ) or WHO ( <a href="https://www.who.int">who.int</a> ) websites for more information. Diseases present in this region of the U.S. include, but are not limited to, Lyme disease, rabies, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, pertussis, and West Nile Fever.



# HEALTH & SAFETY

## CONSERVING MARINE LIFE ALONG CATALINA'S COAST



### EMERGENCIES IN THE FIELD

Project staff members are not medical professionals.

Accommodations, vehicles, and boats all have first aid kits. In the event of a medical emergency, scientists or research staff will administer first aid, and depending on the seriousness of the injury or condition, either take the participant to the medical care using one of the project vehicles (always available) or call emergency services by cell phone. If a participant has to leave the expedition early for emergency reasons, the Earthwatch scientists will determine the most appropriate form of transport to the airport (either one of the project vehicles or ambulance) or arrange a medivac.

For emergency assistance in the field, please contact Earthwatch's 24-hour emergency hotline number on the last page of this briefing. Earthwatch is available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; someone is always on call to respond to messages that come into our live answering service.

### IMMUNIZATIONS & TRAVEL VACCINATIONS

Please be sure your routine immunizations are up-to-date (for example: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella) and you have the appropriate vaccinations for your travel destination. Medical decisions are the responsibility of each participant and his or her doctor, and the following are recommendations only. Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [who.int](https://www.who.int) for guidance on immunizations.

If traveling from countries or region where yellow fever is endemic, you must have a certificate of vaccination.



# TRAVEL TIPS

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ROAD



### YOUR DESTINATION

**LANGUAGE:** English

**TIME ZONE:** Pacific Standard Time, which equals GMT -8 hours.

**CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Casual, modest dress is acceptable nearly everywhere. Tipping restaurant wait staff, taxi drivers, airport curbside baggage handlers, and hotel bellhops is customary.

**LOCAL CURRENCY:** U.S. dollar

### COUNTRY AND PROJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry visa requirements differ by country of origin, layover, and destination, and do change unexpectedly. For this reason, please confirm your visa requirements at the time of booking and, again, 90 days prior to travel. Please apply early for your visa (we recommend starting 6 months prior to the start of your expedition). Refunds will not be made for participants cancelling due to not obtaining their visa in time to meet the team at the rendezvous. You can find up to date visa requirements via the following site:

[www.travisa.com](http://www.travisa.com)

If a visa is required, participants should apply for a TOURIST visa. Please note that obtaining a visa can take weeks or even months. We strongly recommend using a visa agency, which can both expedite and simplify the process.

If traveling internationally, passports must generally be valid for at least six months from the date of entry and a return ticket is required.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

You may be required to list the following contact information on your visa application and immigration form, or if your luggage does not make it to baggage claim at your destination:

#### USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies

c/o Ann Close  
1 Big Fisherman Cove  
Avalon, CA 90704  
(213) 740-6780



# TRAVEL PLANNING

## RENDEZVOUS AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

### RENDEZVOUS

**LOCATION:** Southern California Marine Institute  
820 S Seaside Ave  
San Pedro, California 90731

**DATE:**

**Team 1:** Feb. 15, 2019

**Team 2:** Apr. 12, 2019

**Team 3:** Sep. 27, 2019

**Team 4:** Oct. 25, 2019

**Team 5:** Nov. 8, 2019

**TIME:** 7:00 a.m. (boat leaves at 8:00 a.m.)

Although Earthwatch can often suggest resources to help with travel planning, please remember that you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to the rendezvous site and that airline information is subject to change. You are encouraged to register your travel itinerary with your embassy.

It is essential to the success of the expedition that you do not plan to arrive late or leave the expedition early.

### HOW TO MEET YOUR TEAM

Participants should plan to arrive at the Southern California Marine Institute on first day of their expedition, at 7:00 a.m., in order to catch the USC boat "Miss Christi" to Catalina Island at 8:00 a.m. Boat reservations are made by the program.

In order to meet this rendezvous we advise that you fly into one of the Los Angeles area airports (Los Angeles International Airport - LAX or Long Beach Airport - LGB) the night before the rendezvous. The rendezvous is 23 miles from LAX or 13 miles from LGB and easily reached via taxi or rideshare.

Participants can also opt to drive directly to the Southern California Marine Institute. For this we recommend participants arrive earlier than 7:00 a.m. to have enough time to search for a parking spot on the street before the rendezvous. Please take note of the no-parking signs in front of any gates and refrain from parking inside SCMI's gate; it is for staff only.

The team will meet at a designated area at the Southern California Marine Institute parking lot. Research staff with an Earthwatch sign will meet you. You will then board the USC boat, "Miss Christi", that will take you to Catalina Island. It is approximately a 1.5-hour boat ride to the island. Closed toed shoes are required and an extra layer (such as a sweatshirt) is recommended regardless of the time of year. **The Miss Christi does not have a bathroom on board, so please plan accordingly and use the restroom at SCMI before departure. Participants are responsible for their own breakfast prior to arrival. Please also fill your drinking bottle with water in preparation for the trip.**

### ARRIVING EARLY

Please do not arrive early at the project site. However, arriving early in the area can give you a great opportunity to explore the Los Angeles area before the project begins. TEEN team participants are strongly discouraged from arriving in the area early, due to unavailability of supervision.

### ARRIVING LATE

Do not reserve a flight that arrives after your team's scheduled rendezvous time. If you plan an arrival after your scheduled rendezvous time, you may be asked to reschedule at your own expense. If your flight is delayed and/or you miss the rendezvous, call the boat phone at 213-700-4508.

If you are unable to reach a project staff member, please contact Earthwatch's 24-hour emergency hotline number on the last page of this briefing.







## DEPARTURE

**LOCATION:** Southern California Marine Institute  
820 S Seaside Ave  
San Pedro, California 90731

**DATE:**

**Team 1:** February 21, 2019

**Team 2:** April 18, 2019

**Team 3:** October 3, 2019

**Team 4:** October 31, 2019

**Team 5:** November 14, 2019

**TIME:** Drop off at SCMI at 5:00 p.m.—  
Flights departing after 8:00 p.m. that day

**NOTE:** Early departures cannot be accommodated except in cases of emergency. Before leaving a project early for any reason you must sign an Earthwatch release form.

Participants will be returned to the Southern California Marine Institute for departure, arriving at the Institute around 5:00 p.m. From there you can continue enjoying your time in Southern California or head to one of the nearby airports. Travelers should plan to check into their departing flights at least an 90 minutes in advance, so please do not book a flight that departs from LAX or LGB earlier than 8:00 p.m.

TEEN Team expeditions officially end when you are dropped off at the designated departure point. It is not possible to schedule alternative departure points or times; therefore, you are advised against extending your travel beyond the expedition. Participants on Teen Teams who choose to book travel outside the outlined times and locations against the advice of Earthwatch may be asked to complete an additional waiver form, which will require the signature of the participant along with relevant legal guardian(s).





# EXPEDITION PACKING LIST

## WHAT TO BRING

### EXPEDITION PACKING CHECKLIST

#### GENERAL

- This expedition briefing
- Your travel plans, rendezvous details, and Earthwatch's emergency contact information
- Photocopies of your passport, flight itinerary, and credit cards in case the originals are lost or stolen; the copies should be packed separately from the original documents
- Passport and/or visa (if necessary)
- Certification of vaccination (if necessary)
- Documentation for travel by minors (if necessary)
- Signed copy of your USC release form

#### CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR FOR FIELDWORK

- Loose-fitting, quick-drying, comfortable pants (one or two pairs)—pants with zip-off legs work well and can double as shorts
- Quick-drying, lightweight shirts (two to four)
- Lightweight, long-sleeved shirts to prevent sunburn (one or two)
- Well worn-in, comfortable hiking boots or waterproof Gore-Tex shoes (you will be walking through muddy, rocky, and wet areas)
- Warm layers of clothing (e.g., lightweight jacket or fleece for cool evenings)
- Rain jacket (rain is uncommon, but possible)
- Hat to protect against sun and beanie to provide warmth in evenings
- Shoes for intertidal work and kayaking (Nonslip dive booties or slip-resistant water shoes can work)
- Long pants and closed-toed shoes are required in the research laboratories

#### CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR FOR LEISURE

- At least one set of clothing to keep clean for end of expedition
- Swimsuit and beach towel for recreational time

#### FIELD SUPPLIES

- Small daypack for your daily personal items and field equipment
- Sunscreen (waterproof with SPF 30+)
- Two one-liter water bottles
- Insect repellent

- Sunglasses

#### BEDDING AND BATHING

**NOTE:** Bedding, a pillow, and a bath towel will be provided by the project

- Shower sandals, if desired

#### PERSONAL SUPPLIES

- Personal toiletries (biodegradable soaps and shampoos are encouraged)
- Antibacterial wipes or lotion (good for cleaning hands while in the field)
- Personal first aid kit (e.g., anti-diarrhea pills, antibiotics, antiseptic, itch-relief, pain reliever, bandages, blister covers, etc.) and medications
- Spending money
- Seasickness medications (Dramamine, Bonine, etc.) if you are concerned about seasickness. We suggest getting the non-drowsy formula!

#### OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Snorkel gear: mask, snorkel, long fins, and rash guard. Snorkeling is optional and lots of gear is available; please bring your own gear if you prefer.
- Comfortable shoes to change into after conducting fieldwork
- Knee Pads for working in the intertidal (neoprene pads are available)
- Binoculars
- Pencil and notebook for note taking during lectures or journaling
- Flashlight with extra batteries and extra bulb
- Camera, film or memory card(s), extra camera battery
- Hardware for sharing digital photographs at the end of the expedition
- Dry bag or plastic sealable bags (e.g., Ziploc) to protect equipment like cameras from dust, humidity, and water
- Books, games, art supplies, etc. for free time
- Earplugs for light sleepers

**NOTE:** Do not bring more luggage than you can carry and handle on your own. If traveling by air and checking your luggage, we advise you to pack an extra set of field clothing and personal essentials in your carry-on bag in case your luggage is lost or delayed.





# PROJECT STAFF

## YOUR RESOURCES IN THE FIELD

**NOTE:** The specific staff scheduled to run your team is subject to change.



**DR. JOHN HEIDELBERG** is the Associate Director of Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, and head of the Marine and Environmental Biology section in the Biology Department at USC. He is an expert in the growing field of microbial genomics, studying the metabolic potential of marine bacteria by sequencing their DNA. Since coming to USC in 2006, Dr. Heidelberg has been a regular fixture at the Wrigley Marine Science Center where he maintains his laboratory and is actively engaged in the research and curriculum offered at the Catalina facility.



**ANN CLOSE** is the Associate Director of Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, as well as the Director of Education. A member of the Wrigley Institute since its founding, Ms. Close supervises the institute's Education team including program development related to public groups and outreach initiatives and coordination of the institute's GeoBiology field course. She also serves in diverse regional marine education roles, including regional coordinator to the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, a nationwide high school competition.



**DR. JESSICA DUTTON** is the Special Projects Director at Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. Her background is in marine eco-physiology, looking at the distribution and function of intertidal species such as mussels along the California coast. She also has strong experience in marine policy, having worked in Washington DC with the National Fisheries Service and the National Academy of Sciences prior to joining USC. Dr. Dutton works to advance the institute's research programs, and connect those programs with coastal policy and education initiatives on campus and beyond.



**LINDA CHILTON** is the USC Sea Grant Education Programs Manager. She is responsible for developing, implementing, and coordinating a wide range of educational programs and citizen science initiatives. Ms. Chilton helped to develop and coordinates the harmful algal bloom watch program with 12 informal science centers in the Southern California area, the urban tides initiative, and MPA bioblitz efforts in the Los Angeles Marine Protected Areas. Her current efforts include addressing education pathways for Aquatic Invasive Species, integrating ocean and environmental literacy into schools and climate change education.







**LYNN WHITLEY** is the Director of Pre-College Education for the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. She divides her time between the USC mainland campus and the Wrigley Marine Science Center where she leads and supports education and outreach experiences for students, teachers and visitors. She enjoys engaging participants in field experiences, laboratory activities, and immersing them in the special ecological environment of Catalina Island. Ms. Whitley serves as a facilitator and educational support for Earthwatch expeditions.



**LORRAINE SADLER** is a marine educator for the Wrigley Institute Education Outreach Department, she instructs all ages on snorkeling, environmental and ecological marine science subjects, as well as teaching labs on marine science. Involved in diving since the late 1960s, she started teaching marine biology and ecology to scuba divers and elementary school children in the early 1970s. Participants of the USC Family Science programs often comment on her enthusiasm and energy for teaching during her snorkeling sessions. Lorraine has worked in numerous capacities in the entertainment industry, functioning as location manager on Catalina Island for television series, a stunt diver, stand in, dive safety director, equipment/prop/repair manager, and as a safety diver. Lorraine also works for the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber and is a certified hyperbaric technologist.



**MEGHAN MACGREGOR** is a marine science educator at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center. As a full-time Catalina Island resident and dive master, she enjoys sharing her knowledge of the local marine environment and spreading awareness about sustainable living. With a background in marine biology and wildlife conservation, Meghan has worked as a marine mammal research assistant and done work with wildlife in Belize, Costa Rica, and Indonesia. She recently completed her Master's degree in Conservation Medicine and hopes to facilitate an interdisciplinary approach to help conserve Catalina's marine life.



# RECOMMENDED READING

## YOUR RESOURCES AT HOME

### RESOURCES

#### BOOKS

- Wild Catalina Island: Natural Secrets and Ecological Triumphs (Frank Hein and Carlos de la Rosa)
- The Edge of the Sea (Rachel Carson)

#### FIELD GUIDES

- Natural History of Santa Catalina Island (Gerald Bakus)

#### PROJECT-RELATED WEBSITE

- <http://www.whalemapp.org/>
- <http://dornsife.usc.edu/uscseagrant/habwatch/>
- <http://www.mpawatch.org/>
- <http://wrigley.usc.edu>
- <http://limpets.org/rocky-intertidal-monitoring/>

#### EARTHWATCH SOCIAL MEDIA

- FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/Earthwatch](https://www.facebook.com/Earthwatch)
- TWITTER: [twitter.com/earthwatch\\_org](https://twitter.com/earthwatch_org)
- INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/earthwatch](https://www.instagram.com/earthwatch)
- BLOG: <https://blog.earthwatch.org/>
- YOUTUBE: [youtube.com/earthwatchinstitute](https://www.youtube.com/earthwatchinstitute)



# LITERATURE CITED

## YOUR RESOURCES AT HOME

### LITERATURE CITED

- Dugan J. and G. Davis. (1993) Applications of Marine Refugia to Coastal Fisheries Management. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, v.50(9): 2029-2042.
- Lubchenco J., Palumbi S., Gaines S., S. Andelman. (2003) Plugging a hole in the ocean: the emerging science of marine reserves. *Ecological Applications* v.13(1): S3-S7.
- Murray, D.R., et al. 2014. "MPA Watch: citizen scientists monitoring human coastal and marine resource use of marine protected areas." *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences*, vol. 113, no. 2, p. 110.





# RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

I, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree that in consideration for permission to participate in the Activities (defined below), I, my spouse, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives hereby voluntarily indemnify, release from liability, agree to defend, and hold harmless the University of Southern California, The USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies and any organization affiliated therewith, including all of their respective agents, employees, administrators, representatives, officers, trustees, students and assigns (collectively "USC"), for any accident, injury, illness, death, loss, theft, damage to person or property, or other consequences arising or resulting directly or indirectly from any activities which I may engage in, on, about or by access through any property owned, operated or managed by USC (whether permitted or not permitted by USC), including, without limitation, activities such as swimming, diving, snorkeling, scuba diving, wading, or boating (collectively, the "Activities"), including but not limited to claims arising from or related to USC's negligence and/or products liability, including strict products liability. In the event that I am injured, I agree to assume any financial obligation, either through my health insurance, or through some other means, for any medical costs that I incur. USC assumes no responsibility for any medical expenses, injury or damage suffered by me in connection with my participation in the Activities.

IT IS MY INTENTION BY SIGNING BELOW TO EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE UPON MYSELF, TO THE EXCLUSION OF USC, AND TO EXEMPT AND RELIEVE USC FROM LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH.

By signing this agreement, I waive my right to bring any legal action now or at any time in the future to recover compensation or obtain any other remedy for any injury to myself or my property or for my death, however caused, arising out of my participation in the Activities. I further agree that I, my spouse, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives will not make any claim against, sue or attach the property of USC for any loss or damage resulting from my participation in the Activities. I understand that none of the Activities are endorsed, sanctioned, guaranteed, supervised or monitored by USC.

I acknowledge and affirm that I am not required to participate in any of the Activities as a condition to obtaining any academic degrees. I further acknowledge and affirm that I am not to be considered an employee of USC and that no benefits customarily afforded to employees of USC will be extended to me by virtue of my participation in the Activities. As an individual who actually IS employed by USC in a capacity unrelated to the Activities, I acknowledge that participating in the Activities is not a condition of my employment.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS INCIDENTAL TO THE ACTIVITIES, THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY, A WAIVER OF MY LEGAL RIGHT TO COLLECT DAMAGES IN THE EVENT OF INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND USC AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

I EXPRESSLY AGREE THAT THIS RELEASE IS INTENDED TO BE AS BROAD AND INCLUSIVE AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL ALLOW AND THAT IF ANY PORTION IS HELD INVALID, I AGREE THAT THE BALANCE SHALL, NOTWITHSTANDING, CONTINUE IN FULL LEGAL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (for minors only) \_\_\_\_\_



# PARENTAL/LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT AND RELEASE FOR MINORS VISITING POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS WORK AREAS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) Name of minor child ("Child") \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth will be participating in laboratory experiments at the University of Southern California and will be working in areas where hazardous chemical or other substances may be present (the "Activity").

As the parent/guardian, I am aware of and accept the potential risks and dangers of my Child entering hazardous work areas, and hereby give my consent for him/her to enter and/or work within the hazardous work areas provided that he/she is:

Under the supervision of a responsible university research staff member who is trained and knowledgeable of the area's potential hazards.

For and in consideration of the University of Southern California permitting Child to participate in the Activity, I, Child, and his/her parents, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives hereby voluntarily indemnify, release from liability, agree to defend and hold harmless the University of Southern California and its officers, trustees, employees, agents, representatives, and any department, organization or group affiliated therewith (collectively "USC") for any accident, injury, illness, death, loss, damage to person or property, or other consequences suffered by Child arising or resulting directly or indirectly from Child's participation in the Activity, including as a result of USC's negligence, if any. In the event that Child is injured, I agree to assume any financial obligation, either through Child's health insurance, or through some other means, for any medical costs which Child incurs. USC assumes no responsibility for any medical expenses, injury, or damage suffered by Child in connection with the Activity.

BY SIGNING BELOW, IT IS THE INTENTION OF CHILD AND HIS/HER PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE UPON HIS OR HERSELF, TO THE EXCLUSION OF USC, AND TO EXEMPT AND RELIEVE USC FROM LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH.

I further agree that Child, his/her parents, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives will not make any claim against, sue or attach the property of USC for any loss or damage resulting from Child's participation in the Activity. I am aware of the potential dangers incidental to engaging in the Activity, that this is a release of liability, a waiver of Child's legal right to collect damages in the event of injury, death or property damage, and a contract between Child and USC, and I sign it of my own free will.

Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

## AROUND-THE-CLOCK SUPPORT



### EARTHWATCH'S 24-HOUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE

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Call Earthwatch's 24-hour on-call duty officer in the U.S.:

+1 (978) 461.0081

+1 (800) 776.0188 (toll-free for calls placed from within the U.S.)

After business hours, leave a message with our live answering service. State that you have an emergency and give the name of your expedition, your name, the location from which you are calling, and if possible, a phone number where you can be reached. An Earthwatch staff member will respond to your call within one hour.

### TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER: ON CALL INTERNATIONAL

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TEL: +1 603-952-2680 (collect calls/reverse charges accepted)

TOLL FREE FROM U.S. & CANADA: 1-833-819-2939

TEXT ONLY: +1-603-945-0103

EMAIL: [mail@oncallinternational.com](mailto:mail@oncallinternational.com)

You may contact On Call International at any time. They can assist in the event of a medical or evacuation emergency or for routine medical and travel advice, such as advice on visas and vaccine requirements.

### FOR VOLUNTEERS BOOKED THROUGH THE EARTHWATCH AUSTRALIA OFFICE:

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### Earthwatch Australia 24-Hour Emergency Helpline

+61.0.3.8508.5537





# MESSAGE FROM EARTHWATCH

DEAR EARTHWATCHER,

Thank you for joining this expedition! We greatly appreciate your decision to contribute to hands-on environmental science and conservation. It is volunteers like you who fuel our mission and inspire our work.

While at Earthwatch, I've had the opportunity to field on a few expeditions, most recently in Kenya with one of my daughters. Each expedition has touched me deeply, and made me proud to be able to roll up my sleeves alongside my fellow volunteers and contribute to such meaningful work.

As an Earthwatch volunteer, you have the opportunity to create positive change. And while you're out in the field working toward that change, we are committed to caring for your safety. Although risk is an inherent part of the environments in which we work, we've been providing volunteer field experiences with careful risk management and diligent planning for nearly 45 years. You're in good hands.

If you have questions as you prepare for your expedition, we encourage you to contact your Earthwatch office. Thank you for your support, and enjoy your expedition!

Sincerely,



Scott Kania  
President and CEO, Earthwatch





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1380 Soldiers Field Rd., #2700  
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United States

[info@earthwatch.org](mailto:info@earthwatch.org)  
[earthwatch.org](http://earthwatch.org)

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Fax: 61-0-3-9686-3652

Earthwatch Japan  
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The University of Tokyo  
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## Earthwatch's Culture of Safety And Risk Management System

At Earthwatch, we are committed to caring for the safety and welfare of over 2,000 individuals involved in the over 50 expeditions we manage throughout the world. Over our 45 year history, Earthwatch has developed a unique culture of safety that flows from our deep appreciation for the volunteers who donate their time and effort to assist in our research. Earthwatch understands that risk is an inherent part of the unique environments in which we work. However we believe that through careful risk management and diligent planning, student volunteers can have a safe and transformational educational Earthwatch experience.

Our **Risk Management System** is embedded across all of our programs and helps shape our culture of safety throughout program development, pre-fielding preparations, and how we go about the field research itself. Earthwatch is preparing for your student's expedition by following these steps:

### 1. Identifying and Assessing Risk

Earthwatch begins planning for volunteer arrival and participation over a year in advanced. Each project goes through a rigorous review process assessing locations for hazards such as crime, disease, geo-hazards and conflict. We lookout for the perfectly mundane, like the availability seatbelts in project vehicles, to the cataclysmic, like the possibility of a nearby volcanic eruption. We keep a watchful ongoing eye on potential hazards and update volunteers when new situations arise. Our goal is to keep you safe.

### 2. Building Trusting Relationships

Earthwatch's partner scientists undergo a strict application process. Not only do we peer-review their proposal with qualified scientists, we assess it for volunteer safety and logistics. Many of Earthwatch's partners have run volunteer research for several decades and are trusted partners. For new scientists and field staff, Earthwatch requires safety trainings to ensure they practice our strong culture of safety. Scientists also undergo background checks to adhere to Earthwatch's Child Protection Policy

### 3. Preparing to Participate Safely

Earthwatch's culture of safety is at its strongest when everyone is fully prepared. Earthwatch specializes in bringing volunteers together from all across the globe to form efficient research teams. This takes careful planning and individual responsibility on behalf of our volunteers. We are diligent about pre-trip briefings and preparing volunteers for their role. Our onsite orientation is as important for us as it is for you and your students.

### 4. Preparing for Emergency Response

Earthwatch's rigorous expedition planning encompasses emergency response in the unlikely case of incident. Our Incident Management Team is ready to mobilize and manage an international response. Through satellite phone, wilderness first aid training, a 24-hour emergency response team and evacuation insurance, we have everyone covered. For more information, our safety policy can be found online at <http://earthwatch.org/safety-policy>