Curriculum Vitae

**Brenton T. Spies**

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

University of California, Los Angeles

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**Education**

2013 – present Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

2010 – 2014 M.S. California State University, Northridge. Department of Biology

2005 – 2008 B.S. San Diego State University. Major: Biology

**Research Experience**

2013 – present Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation research - seasonally closed estuaries of California: community ecology, metapopulation dynamics, and conservation of endangered species.

2010 – present Graduate Research Assistant, California State University

Northridge: SONGS Mitigation Monitoring Project.

2010 – 2014 Masters thesis research: The effects of temperature and latitude on larval traits of the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and its sister species the arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*).

2007 – 2008 Undergraduate Research Assistant, San Diego State University:

Investigating the levels of trace metals and persistent organic pollutants in the green sea turtle food web.

2006 – 2008 Undergraduate Research Assistant, San Diego State University: Micro-carnivorous fishes limit epifauna abundance and enhance seagrass production.

2005 – 2006 Undergraduate Research Assistant, San Diego State University:

Morphological study of balaenoid phylogeny including extant species and several well-known fossil taxa.

**Teaching/Work Experience**

2017 Lecturer: Conservation Biology, ESRM/BIO 313, California State University, Channel Islands

2017 Teaching Associate: Field Ecology, EEB 124A, University of California, Los Angeles, Mo’orea, French Polynesia

2017 Teaching Associate: Experimental Marine Invertebrate Biology, EEB 106, University of California, Los Angeles, Mo’orea, French Polynesia

2015 & 2016 Teaching Associate: Community Ecology, EEB 155, University of California, Los Angeles

2014 Teaching Associate: Field Ecology, EEB 124A, University of California, Los Angeles, Mo’orea, French Polynesia

2014 Teaching Associate: Experimental Marine Invertebrate Biology, EEB 106, University of California, Los Angeles, Mo’orea, French Polynesia

2011 – 2013 Teaching Associate: General Biology, Bio106L, California State University Northridge

2011 Teaching Associate: Life in the Sea, Bio325L, California State University Northridge

2011 Graduate Assistant: Biometry, Bio502 & 502L, California State University Northridge

2003 – 2011 Marine Science Naturalist, Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, “Key to the Sea” Program, K-12

2008 – 2010 Aquarist, animal husbandry, California Science Center

2005 – 2008 Aquarist, animal husbandry, Birch Aquarium at Scripps

2003 – 2005 Aquarist/Naturalist, Santa Monica Pier Aquarium

**Scientific Publications**

Spies BT (2014). The effects of temperature and latitude on larval traits of the

endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and its sister species the

arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*). MS Thesis. Department of Biology, California State

University, Northridge.

Spies BT, Tarango BC, Steele MA (2014). Larval duration, settlement, and larval

growth rates of the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and

the arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*) (Pisces, Teleostei). Bulletin of Southern

California Academy of Sciences 113(3):165-175.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.3160/0038-3872-113.3.165>

Spies BT and Steele MA (2016). Effects of temperature and latitude on larval traits of

two estuarine fishes in differing estuary types. Marine Ecology Progress Series

544:243-255. doi:10.3354/meps11552

Swift CC, Spies BT, Ellingson RA, Jacobs DK (2016) A New Species of the Bay Goby

Genus *Eucyclogobius*, Endemic to Southern California: Evolution, Conservation,

and Decline. PLoS ONE 11(7): e0158543. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0158543

**Professional Presentations**

2017**\*** **Best Talk in Observational Ecology**: Status, Habitat Impacts, and

Metapopulation Management of the Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*). **Western Society of Naturalists (WSN)**

2016 Evolution, Speciation, and Endangerment of the Tidewater

Gobies. **American Society of Ichthyologists and**

**Herpetologist (ASIH)**

2016 Status, Habitat Impacts, and Metapopulation Management of the Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*): A Federally Endangered California Coastal Endemic. **American Fisheries Society Cal-Neva Chapter (AFS)**

2015 Status, habitat impacts, and management of the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*): A federally endangered California coastal endemic. **ASIH**

2014 The effects of temperature and latitude on larval traits of the endangered tidewater goby, (*Eucyclogobiua newberryi*) and its sister species the arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*). **ASIH**

2014 Life-history and ecology of the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobiua newberryi*): implications for conservation and management. **Santa Monica Pier Aquarium (Heal the Bay)**

2014 The effects of temperature and latitude on larval traits of the endangered tidewater goby, (*Eucyclogobiua newberryi*) and its sister species the arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*). **UCLA EcoEvoPUB Departmental Seminar Series**

2013 The effects of temperature, latitude, and habitat preference on larval traits in two native California estuarine fish species. **WSN**

2013 Temperature – mediated variation in larval traits of a seasonally closed estuary specialist fish: how much does latitude matter? **ASIH**

2013 Larval duration, size at settlement, and growth rates of the arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*) and the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*): Poster – **WSN**

2013**\*** **Honorable Mention:** Temperature – mediated variation in larval traits of a seasonally closed estuary specialist fish: how much does latitude matter? **CSU State Research Competition**

2013**\* Best Talk Winner:** Temperature – mediated variation in larval traits of a seasonally closed estuary specialist fish: how much does latitude matter? **CSUN Annual Student Research & Creative Works Symposium**

2013 Temperature – mediated variation in larval traits of a seasonally closed estuary specialist fish: how much does latitude matter? **Southern California Academy of Sciences (SCAS)**

2012Latitudinal variation in the early life history of the endangered tidewater goby, *Eucyclogobius newberryi*: **California Estuarine Research Society (CAERS); ASIH; and AFS**

2011A comparison of environmental variation in estuaries inhabited by the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogbius newberryi*) with that in estuaries occupied by the non-endangered sister species, arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*): Poster – **WSN; CSUN Annual Student Research & Creative Works Symposium**

**Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

2017 Rafe Sagarin Award for Best Paper in Observational Ecology – WSN

2016 – 2017 CSU Chancellors Doctoral Incentive Mini Grant: $2,500

2015 – 2016 UCLA La Kretz Center Graduate Research Grant: $800

2015 – 2016 UCLA Dean’s Field Biology Award: $6,000

2015 – 2018 CSU Chancellors Doctoral Incentive: $30,000

2015 – 2018 US Fish & Wildlife Contract Agreement: $111,626

2015 – 2016 National Parks Service Research Grant: $4,500

2014 – 2015 UCLA La Kretz Center Graduate Research Grant: $1,000

2014 – 2015 Kickstarter Project – *Diversity of California Wetlands*: $13,116

2014 – 2015 UCLA Institute IoES Venture Grant: $20,000

2014 – 2015 National Parks Service Research Grant: $5,000

2014 – 2015 Southern California Coastal Waters Research Project: $7,000

2013 – 2014 UCLA La Kretz Center Graduate Research Grant: $1,100

2011 – 2015 IWFA Scholarship Trust Award: $1,000

2011 – 2013 Norris Field Trip Grant: $250

2011 – 2012 Graduate Thesis Support Program: $1,000

**Media and Educational Outreach**

Brenton Spies Nature Photography – <http://www.brentonspies.com/>

* Instagram: <https://instagram.com/gobi_guy/>
* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/brentonspiesphotography/>
* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Gobi_Guy>

Science Expert for *Planet Experts* –<http://www.planetexperts.com/author/brentonspies/>

**Collection Permits and Permissions**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife scientific collecting permit (#SC-10750)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife endangered species permit – tidewater goby (#TE43944A-0)

California State Parks – coast wide access

National Parks Service – Golden Gate & Point Reyes National Recreation Area

U.S. Marine Corps – Camp Pendleton

U.S. Air Force – Vandenberg

**Professional Memberships and Certifications**

Certified PADI Divemaster (1000+ logged dives)

Certified scientific research diver, American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

Diver Alert Network

First Aid/CPR and O2 Certified (Exp. 03/14/2019)

BoatUS Safety Course Certified

California Estuarine Research Society

American Fisheries Society

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Western Society of Naturalists

Sigma Xi

Heal the Bay

Surfrider Foundation