

I have just recently changed my major from business to biology and I was unsure of what to expect coming into this lab and internship. I do know that I love marine biology



and I want to be able to have hands-on experience with it. Most of my time spent at the CMIL internship was working with Jessie Patzlaff on her experiment for her masters working with octopus and red abalone. Most of the experiments that we conducted during the summer were for the effects of octopus predation risks on juvenile red abalone. Most of my days spent at the lab were taking care of the octopus, abalone, urchins, and anemones that we were using for our experiment. Before

this, I didn't know the type of extensive care that each animal needs in order to survive in a lab. Every day I would start off with cleaning each tank, feeding all the animals, and playing with the octopus to ensure they are stimulated and not bored.



As the summer progressed and we began working on our experiments, a lot of unexpected obstacles came our way. The octopus and abalone began escaping from their enclosures and not acting the way we thought they would which made us have to

do a lot of designs. We redesigned the octopus enclosures to ensure they could no longer escape and redesigned the refuges for the abalone.

Another unexpected problem was octopus babies! By the end of the summer, four out of the seven octopus we have had laid eggs. The issue with this is that California two spot octopus can lay anywhere from 70,000 to 100,000 eggs! Despite all the challenges we faced and the redesigns we had to do, each day was a fun and new experience.



I learned about things I did not think I would have to know as someone interested in marine biology. I learned how to use power tools, cut plexiglass, and do some light carpentry in order to complete our experiments! Despite all the redesigns and bumps in

the road, we were able to keep going and continue with the experiments. Finding the preliminary research to ask bigger questions into the conservation of the abalone species. This internship taught me a lot not only about marine biology but the post graduate process, learning about new problems that I was not aware of, and conservation efforts. I am forever grateful to have been a part of this internship and I will take with me everything I have learned to help grow as a marine biologist! Thank you to Jessie for being an amazing mentor and thank you to CMIL who gave me this opportunity!