

When I was applying for this internship in the spring I was reading the blog posts of the past summer interns, and I already started to get excited about how great of an opportunity this internship is! Now that I am writing my own blog post it feels like a full circle moment.

This internship allows you to get hands-on experience and work directly with graduate student mentors but is also not all time-consuming and allows you to still be able to work at your job or have some free time in the summer.

My goals at the beginning of this internship were to become more comfortable working with computers and data analysis. I also wanted to gain more insight into what the daily life of a marine biologist looks like.

I am going into my sophomore year at MiraCosta College and majoring in Environmental Studies. I have always had deep love and appreciation for the ocean and its surrounding environments as a surfer. This internship was the perfect combination of my academic and personal interests. Learning about ways to protect our ocean ecosystems is so fascinating and very important to me.



This summer I worked with my mentor Lily McIntire, a Ph.D. student at the Miller Lab, and Shayne Jensen, an SDSU student. We helped Lily with a part of her Ph.D. project. She is studying the thermal ecology of the lined shore crab, and how the rising temperatures associated with climate change will affect their habitat selection. We got to learn some of the basics of image processing with Image J. I was looking through the GoPro footage that Lily has been recording from the last few summers up in Bodega Bay and identifying when crabs were either in a crevice, pool, or an exposed habitat. Lily also taught us how to use R to statistically analyze the data that we gathered from the GoPro footage. Throughout this summer I feel like I gained a lot of new skills and feel more comfortable with data analysis.

Additionally, Shayne and I did a mini-project of our own. For our project, we monitored the habitat selection of the lined shore crab populations found on Harbor Island along with the GoPro footage from Bodega Bay. We were trying to determine how lined shore crabs are affected by changing abiotic conditions such as water and air temperature, humidity, tide, salinity, and time.



I am so incredibly grateful that I was able to intern at CMIL this summer. I have gained such a wide variety of experience from fieldwork, to data analysis. I truly have gotten some insight into what the daily life of a marine biologist looks like. Also, throughout this internship we had the opportunity to speak with a panel of people with careers in marine science, which was super interesting. I had never really known how large of a range of careers there is within the world of marine science. I owe a big thank you to everyone at CMIL and especially my mentor Lily for making this such an awesome experience and a great part of my summer! I would highly recommend this internship to anyone with an interest in Biology as it is such an exceptional opportunity.