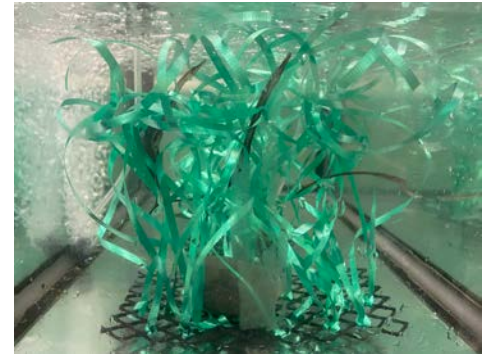


Eli Thunder

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My name is Eli, and I'm going into my second year at San Diego Mesa College. I am considering a major in biology or environmental science. Being unsure of my career goals, I aim to explore different fields through internships and research opportunities. This summer I had the opportunity to explore what it would be like to work as a marine scientist!



During my internship at SDSU's Coastal and Marine Institute Lab, I worked alongside my mentor, Lily Jorrick, and SDSU student, Jada Robinson. Lily's research is focused on the effects of global stressors, like ocean warming and acidification, on the predation of bay pipefish. For this summer's project, we made an experiment to test pipefish predation in different water temperature conditions.

The initial portion of my internship was dedicated to designing the experiment. For example, we were initially going to observe pipefish predation through GoPro footage



but switched to using sieves. The sieves were used to filter out and count the remaining prey after a feeding period.

After setting up the experiment, I helped with aquarium maintenance. This included tasks such as cleaning the tanks, feeding the pipefish, and recording water conditions. I also got the chance to try fieldwork by collecting pipefish at Shelter Island. I found this intimidating because I had never

done fieldwork before and was worried about making mistakes. However, the experience turned out to be very fun. I'm glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone, as I found the experience to be rewarding. Also, throughout the summer there were workshops about things like graduate school and professional communication. I found these to be helpful because I've never been shown tools or information like this before.



Overall, I had a really fun experience and learned a lot about what it means to be a scientist this summer. Everyone made me feel welcome and comfortable, which helped me to fully engage and participate in the activities. I now feel more confident in my abilities and excited to continue learning. Thank you so much to everyone at CMIL, especially my mentor Lily!