

Project Update: January 2023

Here is a summary of our activities in the last 3 months:

- Exploration of new kelp forests, that are about 10km from our fixed dive sites (as described in our 2nd Rufford application). Our new data will expand on our baseline dataset for fish, invertebrates, kelp forest habitat complexity, and marine mammals (sea otters, whales, Orcas and dolphins).
- I am part of a WhatsApp group that monitors and shares information on marine mammals (abundances, species, and location) in south-central Chile. It has proven to be a very useful way of collecting data on marine mammals.



Simon Gartenstein taking photos on the border of kelp forest.

- We are archiving our photos that will later be used to update our biodiversity poster, photographic portfolio, and also, they will be used in our community event (in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy) in the second half of 2023.
- As my PhD thesis is due to be finished in April 2023, I have been writing and submitting my work to scientific journals: the Latin American Journal of Aquatic Sciences (Manuscript title: Trophic analysis of *Prolatilus jugularis* inhabiting *Lessonia trabeculata* kelp forests of south-central Chile) and Marine Ecology Progress Series (Manuscript title: Effects of management and ecological subsidies on the size-spectra of kelp forest fish communities). Both journals have

returned my manuscripts with suggestions for re-submission. In general, they commented that the work was interesting and important, especially since there is little data available for the topic areas in south-central Chile.

- The manuscripts will be used as chapters in my thesis. I am currently writing a third manuscript/PhD chapter.

Lastly, in my manuscripts and in my presentation at the Chilean national conference (XLI Congreso de Ciencias del Mar “Las Ciencias del Mar en tiempos de cambio”, May 2022), I acknowledged The Rufford Foundation for their support.



Starfish *Stichaster striatus*.



Nudibranchs *Thecacera darwini*.



Crab *Taliepus dentatus* and fish *Helcogrammoides chilensis*.



Kelp forest *Macrocystis pyrifera*.



