

## Paige Smallman

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### EDUCATION

#### McGill University

PhD in the Department of Biology 2024-2030 (expected)  
McGill/STRI Neotropical Environment Option (NEO) Program  
Co-supervised by Rowan Barrett (McGill) and Matthieu Leray (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute)

Research focus: Ecological and Evolutionary Responses to Environmental Variation in Coral Reefs  
Keywords: Biodiversity, marine environment, climate change, fishes, coral reefs, genomics, DNA metabarcoding, ecology, evolution, fisheries, conservation

#### University of British Columbia

BSc Combined Major, Oceanography and Biology 2018-2022

Relevant Coursework: Biological Oceanography, Computer Methods in Oceanography, Physical Oceanography, Comparative Invertebrate Zoology, Experimental Invertebrate Zoology, Entomology, Survey of Algae, Fisheries Management, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology

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### SKILLS

- Computational
    - MATLAB, R, ImageJ, Species360 ZIMS, High Performance Computing
  - Wet Laboratory
    - Identification of fish, marine invertebrates, and algae; Dissection of fish and marine invertebrates; Culturing bacteria; marine invertebrate propagation; Fish husbandry; Chlorophyll extraction; Flowcam imaging; Spectrofluorometry; Spectrophotometry; SDS-PAGE; PCR
  - Aquarist
    - Aquatic animal husbandry; Exhibit, field, and presentation SCUBA diving, collections records in ZIMS, propagation and breeding of fishes and invertebrates
  - Science Communication
    - Video and audio media production, editing, and publication; Presentation; Media interviews, Writing for peer-reviewed publication and diverse public audiences.
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### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

#### O'Connor Lab, Biodiversity Research Centre, UBC

Lab Assistant / Technician September 2021 - October 2022  
Worked with several graduate students to measure the effects of climate change on seagrass ecosystems in British Columbia.

- Propagated phytoplankton and measured growth to study the effects of climate change on competition and nitrogen fixation. Chlorophyll extractions, hemocytometry, respirometry, spectrophotometry, spectrofluorometry, and flow imaging microscopy using a FlowCam.
- Collected, propagated, and managed experimental husbandry of marine invertebrates to test the effects of heat stress on fecundity.
- Ran sediment analysis experiments to measure carbon sequestration in coastal eelgrass meadows with sediment sampling and isotope analysis.

### **Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre**

UBC Field School for Oceanography

April 2022

Investigated the effects of salinity on the diversity of the coast of the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. While I focused on zooplankton species distribution, I collaborated with team members highlighting the chemistry, physical data, and phytoplankton samples.

- Coordinated field sampling with CTD and plankton tows at three sites.
- Identified thousands of zooplankton in nine classes.
- Visualized data in Matlab, R, and Excel.
- Earned 89% (A) for the final paper and presentation.

### **Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution, UBC**

Living Data Project Intern

May - August 2021

Collaborated with the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution on various projects aimed at digitizing legacy datasets and preserving high-risk biodiversity data.

- Worked with a team to standardize data digitization and cleansing.
- Digitized and organized primary datasets, including Arctic Birds and Mammals and Water Chemistry Data.

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## **MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE**

### **Vancouver Aquarium**

Aquarium Biologist

January 2024 - August 2024

- Responsible for animal care and daily husbandry for nine cold saltwater exhibits representative of local BC species, including fish and invertebrates.
- Cross-training in additional exhibits, including tropical saltwater and freshwater exhibits.
- SCUBA diver trained by the Canadian Association of Underwater Science (CAUS) for in-aquarium husbandry diving and field collection

Aquarium Interpreter; Presentation Diver

October 2022 - January 2024

- SCUBA diver trained by the Canadian Association of Underwater Science (CAUS) for aquarium diving operations and presentation diving.
  - Dive supervisor and point person for presentation dives.
- Interviewed for TV and social media about aquarium animals as an official spokesperson.
- Interpreter for educational programs on natural history, husbandry, training, and rescue of aquarium animals.
  - The total audience at my programs was approximately 47,000/year.
- Responsible for basic husbandry and handling of local marine invertebrates.

- Manage the collection of preserved specimens for education.
- Lead volunteers in training and development.

### **Beaty Biodiversity Museum, Vancouver, BC**

Museum Interpreter

June 2022 - August 2023

- Hired as an interpreter after volunteering with the education team since October 2019.
- Managed collection of education specimens from tetrapods, herbaria, entomology, marine invertebrates, fishes, and fossil collections.
- Wrote reviews of primary sources for the interpretive and volunteer teams.
- Developed and led education sessions for school groups of all ages, focusing on sustainability, evolution, and biodiversity research.
- Trained volunteers in customer service skills and science education.

### **Museum of Science, Boston, MA**

Butterfly Garden Intern

May- August 2019

- Oversaw maintenance and cleaning of the garden and 20 smaller arthropod enclosures.
- Husbandry of diverse aquatic and terrestrial arthropod species
  - Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Phasmatodea, Araneae, Coleoptera, Mantodea, Scorpiones
- Horticultural work, including watering, planting, pruning, and integrated pest management care.
- Handled ambassador invertebrates while educating visitors on their ecological importance.
- Spearheaded the development of educational materials on insect ecology for summer course visits. Taught visitors about the 60 species of butterflies living in the garden.

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### **TEACHING**

- Teaching Assistant, McGill University, BIOL 215, Ecology and Evolution (Fall 2025)
- Teaching Assistant, McGill University, BIOL 111, Organismal Biology Lab (Fall 2024)
- Guest Lecture, McGill University, Biology 305, Animal Diversity (April 2025)
- Guest Lecture, Roger Williams University, First-Year Seminar: Explorations in Animal Ethics (December 2023)

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### **SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

- Volunteer, Science & Policy Exchange. 2024 - Present
- Board Director. Underwater Council of British Columbia. 2023 - Present
- Founder of Vancouver Aquarium Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group, 2023
- Vancouver Aquarium Pride Working Group, 2023
- President of UBC Undergraduate Oceanography Club, 2020-2022
- Secretary, Social Media Manager of UBC Aqua Society SCUBA Club 2020-2022
- Volunteer at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum 2019-2022

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### **CERTIFICATIONS**

- SCUBA
  - PADI Advanced Open Water
  - Scientific Diver, Smithsonian Scientific Diving Program
  - Canadian Association of Underwater Science Diver Level 1

- Special Certifications: Drysuit, Emergency Oxygen Provider, Full face mask
    - 120+ dives logged
  - Occupational First Aid Level I
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## AWARDS

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Spring 2025 McGill Grad Mobility Award                                        | \$5,852.00  |
| Spring 2025 Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science Excellence Award           | \$1,750.00  |
| 2024/2025 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute McGill-NEO (SMN) fellowship | \$12,000.00 |
| Summer 2025 McGill Grad Excellence Award in Biology                           | \$2,000.00  |
| Winter 2024 McGill Grad Excellence Award in Biology                           | \$1,250.00  |
| Fall 2024 McGill Grad Mobility Award                                          | \$1,327.00  |
| Fall 2024 McGill Grad Excellence Award in Biology                             | \$1,250.00  |
| Fall 2024 Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science Excellence Award             | \$1,280.00  |

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## MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS:

- Personal Social Media
  - Science communication videos for a public audience.  
<https://www.instagram.com/paige.smallman/>
  - Collaborations with McGill Science, McGill Biology, Vancouver Aquarium
- Website
  - Public-facing communication of my research and outreach activities,  
[www.paigesmallman.com](http://www.paigesmallman.com)
- Vancouver Aquarium Social Media
  - Interviewed for events including LGBTQ+ in STEM day.  
([https://www.instagram.com/reel/CzzAX5prIFu/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/CzzAX5prIFu/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==))
- Developed and presented LGBTQ+ pride-themed aquarium tour for the Vancouver Aquarium (June 2024).
- Local News Interview - Marine Mammal Research and Conservation. Joy TV.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_NdEH7u5rQg&t=232s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NdEH7u5rQg&t=232s) (Mar 4, 2024)
- Smallman, P.C. and Lamb, A. *Rockfish Monitoring and Community Science Diving with Marine Life Sanctuaries Society*. Conference oral presentation. (March 3, 2024)
- <https://www.vanaqua.org/explore/special-events/divers-weekend/>
- Volunteer Workshop Leader; Research Diver. Marine Life Sanctuaries Society, Vancouver, BC. (2022 – Present)
- Vancouver Tourism Award Nominations for public science communication (January 2023, February 2023, May 2023, August 2023, September 2023).