

# RIKKE K. F. JEPPESEN (formerly R. K. Preisler)

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## RESEARCH SCIENTIST | PROJECT LEADER

Research & Analysis | Project Management | Team Leadership

Environmental Science | Natural Resource Management | Habitat Conservation

- ✓ **Accomplished Research Scientist** with 10+ years of experience and success in leading biological monitoring projects, securing grant funding, performing fieldwork and studies, and advancing environmental research. Expertise in estuarine ecology, water quality, and marine bioinvasions. Proficient at hypothesis development, quality assurance, data evaluation and analysis, and delivering interpretations of findings based on scientific experimentation and existing knowledge.
- ✓ **Practiced Project Leader** managing projects with research grant money from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for advances in the field of coastal resource management—ensuring quality of research execution, while adhering to program and budgetary reporting requirements. Recognized for strong organization, efficiency, and time management skills—continuously working to improve processes and efficiency of operations.
- ✓ **Skilled author, co-author, and public speaker** published in a number of academically recognized and peer-reviewed journals. Invited to speak at a number of events—including an undergraduate course at Stanford University.
- ✓ **Authentic leader, mentor, and teacher**—fostering morale and teamwork among employees and volunteers to effectively achieve research goals. Co-advised a student who won second-best poster at the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Symposium.

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## CORE SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Strategic Planning & Leadership
- Laboratory Operations & Management
- Budget Management & Reporting
- Team Leadership, Mentorship & Training
- Recruiting, Interviewing, Hiring & Selection
- Grant & Proposal Writing

Expertise with field surveys of vegetation, vertebrates, and invertebrates; surveys for ecologically sensitive and invasive species; sampling protocols in field ecology; development of hypotheses; experimental design; data analysis and evaluation; field and laboratory techniques, including analysis of water quality samples for nitrite, ammonia, and chlorophyll-a; statistical tools for analyzing uni- and multivariate data. Ability to deploy, calibrate, and maintain water quality monitoring sondes.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**ELKHORN SLOUGH, NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE (ESNERR)**

2003—Present

**ESTUARINE ECOLOGIST (2010—Present)**

Hired into a part-time role and transitioned into full-time role in May 2014 to plan, coordinate, and execute research projects—including water quality monitoring, mudflat surveys, crab monitoring, oyster recruitment, effects of water quality on invertebrate and vertebrate growth and survival, and effects of eutrophication on marsh plants—with funding from NOAA.

- **Oversaw and managed the monthly, 2-day water quality analysis and laboratory activities**, organizing volunteers to collect samples, directing marine lab activities, and submitting results to the national database.
- **Led the data collection and administrative management of 2 reserve programs**, collecting data on weather, water quality and nutrient levels, and owning the submission of data to comply with grant reporting requirements.
- **Improved federal grant compliance and on-time reporting**, developing and communicating an annual timeline of monitoring events and research activities—aligned with environmental conditions, migratory seasons, etc.
- **Directed and managed multiple interns from local, national, and international universities**, who all went on to submit a technical paper, poster, or presented at a scientific meeting—assisting in hypotheses development, designing experiments, and collecting, managing, and analyzing data.
- **Championed the development of a chemical hygiene plan for workgroup/laboratory operations.**

**GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT (2003—2010)**

Supported research and data collection activities for a variety of annual monitoring programs for the Research Coordinator. Managed the recruitment, selection, training, and management of volunteers.

- **Developed and led multiple presentations on current status of monitoring programs to management, staff, and volunteers**, collecting and organizing the data, volunteers, schedules, lab work, and reporting activities.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED...)

- **Contributed to the collection of data for monitoring marsh birds and crabs, and assisted in annual invertebrate mudflat and semiannual bank erosion surveys**, entering data and submitting results to databases maintained by various researchers and federal agencies—including the Central Data Management Office (CDMO).

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ (UCSC)

2001—2003

#### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Selected for a 3-month research project as a Field Assistant to the Professor of Physical and Biological Sciences division to monitor and seek understanding of mating systems in lark buntings—located in Colorado. Transitioned to role as a Research Assistant to several graduate students in the UCSC Lyon Lab to perform field research and monitoring to understand the ecological and evolutionary basis of reproductive strategies.

- **Played an integral role in a research project on sexual selection among lark bunting birds**, contributing intellectually during data collection that led to a new finding—not included in previous studies.
- **Performed volunteer research on the relative importance of recruitment and settlement of intertidal fish (sculpins)**, co-authoring a paper with the UCSC Ph.D. student who originated the study.

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## EDUCATION, TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

**NERR TECHNICIAN TRAINING WORKSHOP** (2013)

**COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAM WORKSHOP, “Water Words That Work”** (2013)

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE WORKSHOP, “Communicating Science”** (2008)

**Ph.D., ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY—University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA** (2010)

—Biogeographic variation in abundance, habitat, and behavior of the European green crab, *Carcinus maenas*

—Graduate Research Fellow, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Elkhorn Slough (2006—2009)

—Session Leader of Teacher’s Assistant Workshop (2006)

—Co-Advisor for a California State University, Monterey Bay senior thesis student (2005—2006)

**B.S., BIOLOGY—University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA** (2003)

—Settlement and recruitment patterns of three species of intertidal sculpins, *C. globiceps*, *C. recalvus*, and *O. snyderi*, on the coast of Central California.

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF UNDERWATER SCIENCE (AAUS) SCIENTIFIC DIVER, UCSC** (2003—2008)

**SMALL BOAT OPERATOR, UCSC** (2003—2008)

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## INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY**—“Estuarine Invertebrate Invasions and the European Green Crab” in the undergraduate course: Exploring the Critical Interface Between the Land and Monterey Bay: Elkhorn Slough (2013, 2011, 2009, 2008)

**LOS GATOS LIONS CLUB**, “Estuarine Invertebrate Invasions and the European Green Crab” (2009)

**LOS GATOS HISTORY CLUB**, “Estuarine Invertebrate Invasions and the European Green Crab” (2008)

**MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP** (2006)

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## PUBLICATIONS

—Preisler R.K., Wasson K., Wolff W.J., Tyrrell M.C., (2009) “*Invasions of estuaries versus the adjacent open coast: A global perspective. In: Biological Invasions in Marine Ecosystems.*” Eds. Rilov G, Crooks J. Ecological Studies Vol. 204 [Book]. Editors: Gil Rilov and Jeff Crooks. Springer, Berlin, Germany. Page 587-617

—Ritter A.F., Wasson K, Lonhart S.I., Preisler R.K., Woolfolk A., Griffith K.A., Connors S., Heiman K. (2008) “*Ecological signatures of anthropogenically altered tidal exchange in estuarine ecosystems.*” Estuaries and Coasts 31(3): 554-571

—Ritter A.F., Preisler R.K. (2006) “*Spatial variation in the structure of an intertidal fish assemblage reflects daily settlement patterns.*” Marine Ecology Progress Series 317: 211-223