

...PRESENTS:

KRISTIN MCCULLY

WHS SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE, 2012-2013



Kristin and her friends clean up marine debris from Midway's reefs



Some stuff about me:

- 📍 **Age:** 28
- 📍 **Where I grew up:** Palos Verdes, CA
- 📍 **High School:** Palos Verdes Peninsula High School
- 📍 **Favorite Subject in High School:** Biology, Website Design
- 📍 **College (undergraduate):** UCLA
- 📍 **Some of my favorite things:** reading, scuba diving, traveling, cooking, playing with my dogs, just hanging out
- 📍 **Something weird about me:** My hair was white-blonde when I was a kid, but is now growing out brown unless I spend a lot of time in the sun!
- 📍 **What I think or do when I get frustrated:** I try to break down the problem into manageable tasks and reward myself with a walk or a piece of chocolate when I accomplish one of them.

Kristin with a pearl oyster



Black-lipped pearl oysters make black pearls!



What I study

Even after fishing or hunting stops, the populations of some organisms don't bounce back for a long time.

I'm trying to figure out why by studying the population dynamics of pearl oysters at Midway Atoll (midway between California and Japan!) in the North Pacific Ocean. Black-lipped pearl oysters were heavily fished in these islands in the late 1920s, but their populations have still not recovered!

To collect my data I had to do a lot of scuba diving and snorkeling. Now I spend most of my time reading, doing mathematical and genetic analysis of the data, and writing about what I found.

As a SCWIBLES fellow, I'm excited to share my enthusiasm for science and my love for the ocean and the organisms that live in it. I also believe it's important for everyone to understand how we, as humans, impact and interact with the natural world around us. I hope to continue learning from and with WHS students!

