

...PRESENTS: KRISTIN DE NESNERA

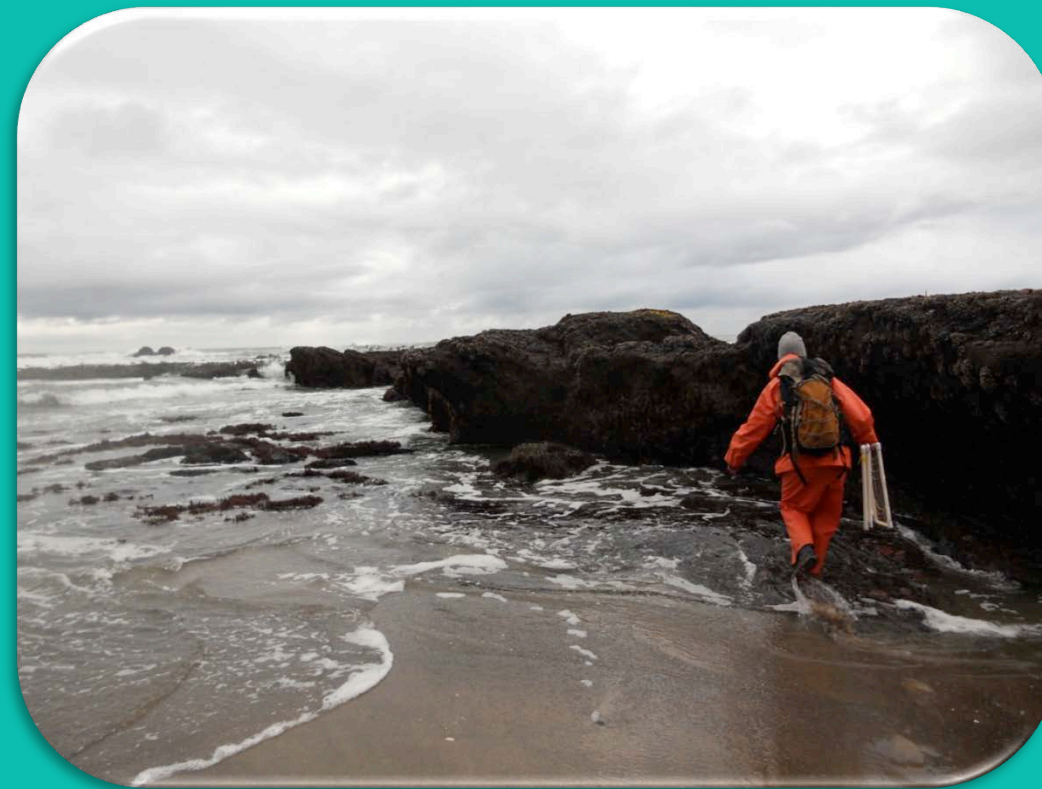
WHS SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE, 2013-2014



I love field research because it is always an adventure! Here I am sampling a plot on the edge of a rocky shore in Oregon!

Some stuff about me:

- Ⓢ **Age:** 27
- Ⓢ **Where I grew up:** Fredericksburg, Virginia
- Ⓢ **High School:** Chancellor High School
- Ⓢ **Favorite subjects in high school:** Biology
- Ⓢ **College (undergraduate):** College of William and Mary
- Ⓢ **Some of my favorite things:** Running, playing in the ocean, and chocolate!
- Ⓢ **Something weird about me:** I was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I promise it is a real place!
- Ⓢ **What I think or do when I get frustrated:** Take three deep breaths. This always helps me relax and gives me time to think about how to react to my problem.



I travel to sites all along the central coast of California.



The California sea mussel (*Mytilus californianus*)



When mussels first settle onto shore they are very small! Seaweeds can provide protection from harsh environmental conditions to help these juvenile mussels survive.



The California sea mussel (*Mytilus californianus*) attaches to rocky shores using byssal threads and forms dense mussel beds all along the west coast of North America. This mussel is often referred to as a foundation species because mussel beds provide habitat for lots of other marine species.

What I study

I love being near the ocean and I care a lot of about protecting it. My research focuses on mussel beds and how to better protect and restore these habitats following human disturbances.

Mussel beds are found all along the west coast of North America in what is known as the rocky intertidal zone: a species-rich band of habitat that lies between the high and low tide mark. These habitats are extremely valuable but are also vulnerable to human threats like harvesting and oil spills. My goal is to understand how positive species interactions (where one species protects another) can be harnessed for restoration purposes following these disturbance events.

My science career has allowed me to do so many exciting things including being a SCWIBLES fellow this year! As a fellow, I'm eager to learn with Watsonville High students and teachers and share my love of the marine habitats in our backyard!

