



University of California, Santa Barbara

Master's position in Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology with the Spotting Giant Sea Bass Project

*The McCauley Lab and the Benioff Ocean Initiative are recruiting a master's student for fall 2022. The primary research focus will be on the analysis of data from photo-identification of giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) in California to develop population insights.*

Project Description

Spotting Giant Sea Bass is a collaborative community science effort coordinated by marine scientists at UC Santa Barbara. Giant sea bass are the largest resident bony fish along the California coast. By matching the unique spot patterns of individual giant sea bass in images submitted by recreational scuba divers to the [Spotting Giant Sea Bass website](#), our research team will be able to answer critically important research questions to improve our understanding of this charismatic fish and to continue to improve stewardship of this species.

The graduate student will have access to 5+ years of data to answer key research questions:

- What is the spatial and temporal extent of giant sea bass movement patterns?
- Where do giant sea bass aggregate? When and for how long?
- What are the relationships and associations between individual giant sea bass?
- To what extent are the location and frequency of diver encounters with giant sea bass driven by ecological or human factors?

The goal will be to share these research outcomes with the marine conservation community and produce peer-reviewed publication(s).

Student Profile

Qualified candidates for this position will have a strong interest in marine biology and population ecology. Candidates should have proficiency in R, ArcGIS, or other similar data analysis program(s). Candidates should be self-motivated to work independently and as an active member of the larger Spotting Giant Sea Bass research team. Research will be almost entirely data/computer-based, with opportunities for outreach and engagement with scuba divers, dive boat operators, and other stakeholders and research collaborators, although no new field data collection is anticipated. UCSB is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, and is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community.

Location

The student will work in the lab of [Dr. Douglas McCauley](#), Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology. The student will work closely with the Spotting Giant Sea Bass team in collaboration with the [Benioff Ocean Initiative](#). Our offices are located at the [Marine Science Institute](#) at UC Santa Barbara in Santa Barbara, California.

Application Details and Contact

Apply directly to the UCSB Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology by December 1, 2021 (<https://www.eemb.ucsb.edu/academics/graduate/apply>). In addition, send your CV and a one-page letter of intent describing your background and research interests to spottinggiantseabass@gmail.com by December 1, 2021. Questions about this position may also be directed to spottinggiantseabass@gmail.com.

Duration and Financial Support

Two years starting from September 2022. The intent of this position will be to fully support a student in good standing for the duration of the student's studies through a combination of graduate student research, teaching assistantships, and fellowships. (Learn more: <https://www.eemb.ucsb.edu/academics/graduate/support>)