



Orion S. McCarthy

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Summary

A Fellow and Project Assistant at Meridian Institute with experience working on conservation issues in the government and nonprofit sectors. Graduated Cum Laude from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's in Ecology and Evolution. Education and work experience have focused on marine conservation, particularly protected areas, coral reef ecology, and fisheries research.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

2016–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Fellow and Project Assistant

Provides research, writing, and general support for policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development on projects involving facilitators and outside parties. Assists in the preparation of reports, meeting summaries, meeting materials, press releases, and other communications. Specific project highlights include:

- Member of the Meridian team serving as a secretariat to the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. The primary goal of the Joint Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.
- Member of the Meridian team working on the National Ocean Policy Implementation Initiative aimed at facilitating effective implementation of the Obama Administration's National Ocean Policy. This policy is intended to unify and guide the actions of the multiple federal agencies with ocean management responsibilities and bring greater coherence to the numerous laws addressing ocean and coastal resources in order to facilitate better management in coastal regions.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/omccarthy> for a full list of projects completed.

Previous Experience

World Wildlife Fund

Washington, D.C. 2016

GIS Intern

Used GIS mapping to optimize the placement of Indonesian Marine Protected Areas by identifying reefs that are best poised to survive the impacts of climate change. Created reports, fact sheets, and communications materials, and analyzed ecological data using programs such as Excel, Sigma Plot, and InDesign.

Visited high schools in underprivileged regions of Australia to counsel students on post-grade-school options, ranging from college through vocational school and unconventional career paths. Substantial work with indigenous students.

International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

Seattle, Washington 2014

Research Intern

Designed and executed a fisheries research project to improve the accuracy of stock assessment models and the overall sustainability of the Pacific halibut fishery. Performed research onboard a commercial fishing vessel in Alaska, and incorporated input from fishers, port samplers, and other stakeholders into final recommendations. Published findings in an annual IPHC research report.

Smithsonian National Zoo

Washington, D.C. 2012

Bird House Keeper Aide

Designed and executed an ecological research project on bamboo partridge ethology. Cared for more than 20 species of birds, cleaned and renovated exhibits, prepared diets, and performed senior keeper tasks such as training and weighing birds. Attended weekly pathology meetings with other zoo staff and seminars in animal training.

James Cook University

Townsville, Australia 2014

Student Ambassador

Conserve

Washington, D.C. 2015–Present

Environmental Blogger

Founded Conserve, an environmental [blog](#) dedicated to conservation success stories. Researched a diverse spectrum of conservation issues, synthesized weekly blog posts, and promoted Conserve across social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Flipboard).

Education

University of Maryland

B.A., Ecology and Evolution
2015

James Cook University

Study Abroad, Marine Conservation
2014