



ALEJANDRO ACEVEDO-GUTIERREZ

Western Washington University, Department of Biology, Bellingham, WA 98225-9160  
(360) 650-3653, [aceveda@wwu.edu](mailto:aceveda@wwu.edu); <https://faculty.aceveda.wwu.edu>

### Education

Postgraduate Researcher, University of California Santa Cruz. 1998-2001.

Ph.D., Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University. 1997.

Biól. Mar., Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, Mexico. (B.Sc. Mar. Biol.). 1989.

### Appointments

Professor in Biology and Science Education, Western Washington University, 2013-Present.

Research Fellow, University of California Santa Cruz. 2001-present.

Associate Professor in Biology and Science Education, Western Washington University, 2007-2013.

Assistant Professor in Biology and Science Education, Western Washington University. 2002-2007.

Senior Aquatic Educator & Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences. 2001-2002.

### Selected Publications (out of 66) (<sup>1</sup>WWU undergraduate student, <sup>2</sup>WWU graduate student)

**Conwell, H. C.<sup>1</sup>, Lewis, Z. K.<sup>2</sup>, Thomas, A., Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A. & Schwarz, D.** 2024. Sex-specific diet differences in harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) via spatial assortment. *Ecology and Evolution* 14: e11417.

**Gard, M.<sup>1</sup>, Lewis, Z. K.<sup>2</sup>, Akmajian, A.M., Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A. & Schwarz, D.** 2024. Novel qPCR assays for determining sex of Steller (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) from scat. *Conservation Genetics Resources*. DOI: 10.1007/s12686-024-01358-2.

**McKeegan, K.<sup>2</sup>, Clayton, K.<sup>1</sup>, Williams, R., Ashe, E., Reiss, S., Mendez-Bye, A., Janik, V. M., Goetz, T., Zinkgraf, M. & Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A.** 2024. The effect of a startle-eliciting device on the foraging success of individual harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*). *Scientific Reports* 14: 3719.

Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A., **Lewis, Z. K.<sup>2</sup>**, Scordino, J. J., Allyn, E. M., Lance, M. M., Brown, S., Schwarz, D. & Akmajian, A. M. 2023. First diet description of the harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) in the northwest corner of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington State. *Northwestern Naturalist* 104: 253-263.

**Bankhead, K.<sup>1</sup>, Freeman, G., Heimbichner-Goebel, W.<sup>1</sup> & Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A.** 2023. Effects of anthropogenic noise on haul-out numbers of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*). *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 101: 720-728.

**Freeman, G.<sup>2</sup>, Matthews, E.<sup>1</sup>, Stehr, E.<sup>1</sup> & Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A.** 2022. Individual variability in foraging success of a marine predator informs predator management. *Scientific Reports* 12: 11184.

Thomas, A. C., Deagle, B., Nordstrom, C., Majewski, S., Nelson, B. W., Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A., Jeffries, S., Moore, J., Loudon, A., Allegue, H., Pearson, S., Schmidt, M. & Trites, A. W. 2022. Data on the diets of Salish Sea harbour seals from DNA metabarcoding. *Scientific Data* 9: 68.

**Voelker, M.<sup>2</sup>, Schwarz, D. Thomas, A., Nelson, B. & Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A.** 2020. Large-scale molecular barcoding of prey DNA reveals environmental predictors of intrapopulation feeding diversity in a marine predator. *Ecology and Evolution* 10: 9867-9885.

**Nikolich, K.<sup>2</sup>, Frouin-Moury, H. & Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A.** 2018. Clear diel patterns in breeding calls of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) at Hornby Island, British Columbia. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 96: 1236-1243.

Schwarz, D., **Spitzer, S.<sup>1</sup>, Thomas, A., Kohnert, C.<sup>2</sup>, Keates, T.<sup>1</sup> & Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A.** 2018. Large scale molecular diet analysis in a generalist marine mammal reveals male preference for prey of conservation concern. *Ecology and Evolution* 8: 9889-9905.

Chasco, B. E., Kaplan, I. C., Thomas, A. C., Acevedo-Gutiérrez, A., Noren, D. P., Ford, M. J., Hanson, M. B., Scordino, J. J., Jeffries, S. J., Marshall, K. N. Shelton, A. O., Matkin, C., Burke, B. J. & Ward, E. J. 2017. Competing tradeoffs between increasing marine mammal predation and fisheries harvest of Chinook salmon. *Scientific Reports* 7: 15439.



## Synergistic Activities

- At WWU, secured \$3,143,026 in external and \$88,969 in internal funding as PI or co-PI. Mentored 21 MSc students, 49 undergraduates, 1 foreign student and 1 high-school teacher, producing 29 student-authored, refereed papers, 30 student-authored, refereed presentations, and 132 presentations at student scientific meetings; incorporated 257 undergraduate research assistants; member of 11 MSc and 3 PhD theses committees. Mentor of 3 High School Senior Projects. At California Academy of Sciences, developed curricula for K-12 teachers, taught docent classes, trained volunteers, led summer camps, conducted presentations, and judged National Youth Science Camp and science fairs. University-level courses taught at the School for Field Studies and Universidad Complutense, Spain. Award for Academic Excellence by the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, Mexico (2002). *2019 Arlan Norman Award for Excellence in Student Mentoring*, Western Washington University.
- Panelist for NSF, NOAA, Barry Goldwater Foundation, and a regional agency. Given 40 seminars and guest lectures to scientists and institutions of higher education in 5 different countries. Given 68 presentations at 42 professional meetings in 6 countries. Reviewed 128 manuscripts for 43 journals, 34 proposals for 8 organizations, 2 book chapters, 84 abstracts for conferences; developed and reviewed GRE questions. Top Minority in Science by CAREER Communications Group (2005); MOSI's National Hispanic Scientist of the Year (2001). Awards for Excellence in Research by the State of Baja California Sur and the City of La Paz, Mexico (2002). Key to the City of Tampa (2001).
- Broadened the participation of underrepresented groups in the science by giving talks and presentations in English and Spanish to >13,000 students and families on science as a career; 122 have been to schools (Pre-K to 12), mostly public or inner-city, and 102 to museums, businesses and conservation institutes.
- Advised 10 conservation and scientific organizations in USA and Costa Rica. Wrote and spearheaded the initial draft of the regulations of marine mammals in Costa Rica. National Board of Directors, Museum of Science & Industry, Tampa, USA.
- Advisor and scientist-on-camera in four different educational films, including Telly Award and Silver CINDY Award winner *Marine Science: Exploring the Deep* and Academy-Award nominee and Silver WorldMedal winner *Dolphins*. Guest of 26 media shows, 129 interviews given to local, regional, national and international outlets, including TV, radio, print and internet.

## Mentored Students

### Department of Biology, Western Washington University

*MSc students (out of 21 total):* Kathleen McKeegan (Biologist, Skagit River System Cooperative), Zoë Lewis (Fisheries Biologist, Lummi Nation), Grace Freeman (Senior Data Analyst, Education Analytics), Bobbie Buzzell (Fisheries Biologist, Lummi Nation), Adrienne Akmajian (Marine Ecologist, Makah Tribe), Dr. Andrew Rothstein (Computational Biologist, Concentric by Gingko Bioworks), Dr. Erin D'Agnesse (Postdoctoral Scholar, Univ. of Washington), Jennifer Olson (Oceanography Faculty, Ocean Research College Academy), Dr. Austen Thomas (Research Scientist, Smith Root), Sasha Ertl (Biologist, Grette Associates), Sarah Howard (Biologist, National Park Service), Dr. Kenady Wilson (Research Scientist, Wildlife Computers), Dr. Sarah Peterson (Wildlife Biologist, US Geological Survey), Katie Luxa (Biologist, National Marine Mammal Laboratory).

*Undergraduate students (out of 49 total):* Kyra Bankhead (MSc student, Oregon State Univ.), Delaney Adams (Fisheries Biologist, Lummi Nation), Madison McKay (MSc student, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories), MSc Rachel Wachtendonk (Analyst, Ocean Associates Inc), MSc Ashlyn Teather (Environmental Education Coordinator, Duke Univ.), MES Erin Stehr (Puget Sound Corps Team Lead, Washington Department of Natural Resources), Raven Benko (MSc student, Univ, Washington), Dr. Kelsey Moreno (Assistant Professor, Saint Xavier University), Erika Winner (MSc student Univ. of Minnesota Duluth), Dr. Kelly Cates (Fisheries Management Specialist, NOAA Fisheries Alaska), MA Kevin Eyer (Science Teacher, North Kitsap High School), MSc Christopher Vennum (PhD student, Colorado State Univ.), Sara Cendejas-Zarelli (Biologist, The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Dr. James Soda (Assistant Professor, Quinnipiac University), Dr. Jessie Perry (Physical Therapist, Valley Physical Therapy), Dr. Sarah Myhre (Program Director, Glasser Progress Foundation), MSc Amber Johnson (Habitat Biologist, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife).