

Rebecca Best



Rebecca Best is beginning her PhD with Dr. Jay Stachowicz in the Population Biology Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis. Rebecca comes to the United States from British Columbia, Canada, and holds both a Bachelor's in Environmental Sciences and a Master's in Ecology from the University of British Columbia. For her Master's research, Rebecca studied non-native grasses

and grazers invading an endangered island ecosystem in southwestern Canada. Moving from islands to the ocean for her PhD work, Rebecca plans to study the ecology and evolution of non-native marine invertebrates. She is especially interested in what non-native plants and animals can tell us about how diverse communities of species are able to coexist together, and how much co-evolution matters for coexistence. Aside from research, Rebecca is committed to teaching and community outreach. At UBC, she worked with the University's Learning Exchange to facilitate community service learning projects at inner-city schools and community organizations. She also started the UBC Sustainability Pledge program to help university students find socially and ecologically responsible career options. Before starting classes in Davis last fall, Rebecca spent the summer at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, where she had a fantastic time learning about research in her new lab and getting her feet wet.