

Geoff Shester

Dr. Geoff Shester is Oceana's California Program Director based in Oceana's Monterey office and working with Oceana's Pacific Team. After completing a double major in Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Geoff Shester interned for the *Exxon Valdez* Restoration Office in Anchorage, Alaska and then landed his first big job at Oceana's first field office located in Juneau, Alaska in 2002.

At Oceana, he crafted proposals that ultimately led to the largest suite of seafloor habitats protected from trawling in North America, totaling over 1,000,000 square miles of marine protected areas from the Mexican border to the Arctic. He worked as an Oceana consultant while he earned his doctorate in the Stanford University Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources out of Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, studying the interplay between marine ecology and the economics of fisheries in Baja California.

Before returning to Oceana, he served for two years as the senior science manager for the Monterey Bay Aquarium's influential Seafood Watch Program, where he led a team of scientists responsible for evaluating the sustainability of hundreds of types of seafood. Now his main objectives at Oceana are to protect the food web of the California Current Ocean Ecosystem, identify and protect important ecological areas, and restore endangered Pacific sea turtle and shark populations. He also served as the Expedition leader for Oceana's 2010 and 2011 undersea expeditions, which gathered footage of never-before-seen seafloor habitats off Monterey Bay, Southern Oregon, and the San Juan Islands with remotely operated vehicles.

Geoff is also an avid scuba diver and underwater photographer. He currently resides in Marina, California with his wife, son, and daughter.