

Cotton Rockwood

Cotton Rockwood is the Senior Marine Ecologist with Point Blue Conservation Science in Petaluma, California. There he works on research ranging from marine spatial planning to minimize whale deaths to evaluating the economic and ecosystem importance of forage fish. Cotton's overarching mission is to understand and mitigate the impacts of human activities to marine ecosystems, food webs and top predators by leveraging the long-term Point Blue marine data sets and working with management partners.

Cotton grew up in Sonoma County where he began his ocean education and started work to enhance the way humans and ecosystems function together. He attended University of California, Davis for his B.S., and continued on to Scripps Institution of Oceanography for his graduate work within the Center for Marine Biology and Conservation. The training at Scripps molded Cotton into an interdisciplinary scientist with expertise in marine ecology, conservation and cumulative impact assessment. He received my M.Sc. from Scripps in 2010 and is in the last stages of his Ph.D. work. By quantifying human impacts to marine ecosystems and particularly top predators such as whales and seabirds, Cotton's research provides tools for the management of wide-ranging oceanic organisms.