

# Curriculum Vitae

## Demian Alexander Willette

---

188 Life Science Building, 1 LMU Drive, Loyola Marymount University  
Office Phone: 310-338-6425  
E-mail: demian.willette@lmu.edu

### EDUCATION:

B.S., 1999-2003      Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA  
M.S., 2003-2006      Biology, California State Univ., Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Ph.D., 2006-2010      Environmental Health Sciences, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, CA

### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

Instructor, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles	2015 – Present
Assistant Project Scientist I, UC Los Angeles	2015 – Present
Adjunct teaching faculty, UC Los Angeles	2013 – 2016
Adjunct teaching faculty, Cal State LA	2009 – 2016
Adjunct teaching faculty, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles	2013 – 2015
Post-doctoral research fellow, joint position UC Los Angeles/Old Dominion	2012 – 2013
Post-doctoral research fellow, Dept of Biology, Old Dominion University	2010 – 2012
CSU Chancellor Doctoral Incentive fellow, Cal State LA	2007 – 2009
Celia and Joseph Blann fellow, UC Los Angeles	2007 – 2008
Eugene Cota-Robles Diversity fellow, UC Los Angeles	2006 – 2010
Adjunct teaching faculty, Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology, Dominica	2003 - 2009
CEA-CREST Diversity fellow, Cal State LA	2003 - 2006
Student researcher, Iowa State University	2000 - 2003

### CURRENT AND PAST GRANT SUPPORT:

2017    Seaver College Continuing Faculty Research internal grant.  
2016    Sol Leshin Program for BGU-UCLA Academic Cooperation Grant, Principal Investigator (with Paul Barber, Gidon Winters).  
2016    United States National Park Service, Risk Management of Invasive Species Grant, Principle Investigator (with Peggy Fong).  
2016    Seaver College Community Service internal grant.  
2015    Sol Leshin Program for BGU-UCLA Academic Cooperation Grant, Principal Investigator (with Paul Barber, Gidon Winters).  
2014    United States National Park Service, Invasive Mediterranean seagrass in the *St. John/Virgin Island National Park*. Principle Investigator (with Peggy Fong)  
2014    W.E. Keck Research Gift.  
2011    Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Population structure of blue swimming crabs (*Portunus pelagicus*) in the Philippines. Co-PI.  
2011    Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Sustainability of Sardine Fisheries in the Philippines: Genetic and Biological Analysis, Co-PI.  
2007    UCLA Global Health Training Program Travel Grant  
2007    Anchor Environmental, Inc. Graduate Student Research Grant

## REFERRED PUBLICATIONS:

\* indicates student/mentee author

22. **Willette DA**, Simmonds SE, Cheng SH, Esteves S\*, Kane TL, Neutzel H, Pilaud N\*, Rachmawati R, Barber PH. Using DNA barcoding to track seafood mislabeling in Los Angeles restaurants. **Conservation Biology**, doi:10.1111/cobi.12888.
21. Ith S\*, Bumrungsri S, Thomas NM, Bates PJJ, **Willette DA**, Khan FAA, Wonglapsuwan M, Soisook P, Maryanto I, Huang JCC, Furey NM. (2016) Geographic variation of *Rhinolophus affinis* (Chiroptera: Rhinolophidae) in the Sundaic Subregion of Southeast Asia, including the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra. **Acta Chiropterologica**, 18: 141-161.
20. **Willette DA**, Santos MD, Leadbitter D. (2015) Longtail tuna *Thunnus tonggol* (Bleeker, 1851) shows an atypical partitioning into multiple stocks across the Indo-Pacific based on mitochondrial DNA. **Journal of Applied Ichthyology**, 32: 318-323.
19. **Willette DA**, Iniguez AR\*, Kupriyanova EK, Starger C, Varman T, Toda AH, Maralit BA, Barber PH. (2015) Christmas tree worms of Indo-Pacific coral reefs: untangling the *Spirobranchus corniculatus* complex, **Coral Reefs**, 34: 899-904.
18. Steiner SCC and **Willette DA**. (2015) Dimming sand halos on coral reefs in Dominica: new expansion corridors for the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea*. **Reef Encounters**, 41:43-45.
17. Rogers C, **Willette DA**, Miller J. (2014) Rapidly spreading seagrass invades the Caribbean with unknown ecological consequences. **Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment**, 12:546-547.
16. Steiner SCC and **Willette DA**. (2014) *Halophila stipulacea* (Hydrochoritaceae, Angiospermae) is changing the seagrass landscape in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Lesser Antilles. **Caribbean Naturalist**, 22:1-19.
15. Sienes PM\*, **Willette DA**, Romena L, Alvior C\*, and Estacion J. (2014) Biodiversity and the discovery of a cryptic species within a valued crab fishery in the Philippines. **Philippine Science Letters**, 7 (2): 317-323.
14. **Willette DA** and Padin JIM\*. (2014) Identifying the biodiversity of marine jacks (Carangidae) in the freshwater Taal Lake, Philippines using phenotypic features and mitochondrial DNA. **Journal of Applied Ichthyology**, 30: 490-495.
13. **Willette DA**, Chaifour J, Debrot AO, Engel S, Miller J, Oxenford HA, Short FT, Steiner SCC, and Vedio F. (2014) Continued expansion of the trans-Atlantic invasive marine angiosperm *Halophila stipulacea* in the Eastern Caribbean. **Aquatic Botany**, 112: 98-102.
12. **Willette DA**, Allendorf FW, Barber PH, Barshis DJ, Carpenter KE, Cresko WA, Fernandez-Silva I, Matz MV, Meyer M, Santos MD, Seeb LW and Seeb JE. (2014) So, you want to use next-generation sequencing in marine systems? **Bulletin of Marine Science**, 90: 79-122.
11. **Willette DA**, Carpenter KE, and Santos MD. (2014) Evolution of the freshwater sardinella, *Sardinella tawilis* (Clupeiformes: Clupeidae), in Lake Taal, Philippines and phylogeography of its sister-species, *Sardinella hualiensis*. **Bulletin of Marine Science**, 90: 455-470.

10. Thomas RC Jr\*, **Willette DA**, Carpenter KE, and Santos MD. (2014) Hidden diversity in sardines: Genetic and morphological evidence for cryptic species in the Goldstripe sardinella, *Sardinella gibbosa* (Bleeker 1849). **PLoS One**, 9(1): e84719.
9. Barber PH, Ablan M, Ambariyanto, Berlinck R, Cahyani D, Crandall E, Gotanco R, Junio-Menez A, Mahardika N, Shankar K, Starger C, Toha H, Wahyu A, and **Willette DA**. (2014) Advancing biodiversity research in developing countries: the need for a new paradigm. **Bulletin of Marine Science**, 90: 187-210
8. Maralit BA\*, Aguila RD\*, Ventolero MFH\*, Perez SKL, **Willette DA**, and Santos MD. (2013) Detection of mislabeled commercial fishery products in the Philippines using DNA barcodes and its implication to food traceability and safety, **Journal of Food Control**, 33: 119-125.
7. **Willette DA** and Santos MD. (2013) Correcting the widespread misidentifications of a highly abundant and commercially important sardine species *Sardinella lemuru* in the Philippines. **Journal of Applied Ichthyology**, 29: 881-885.
6. **Willette DA** and Ambrose RF. (2012) Effects of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* on the native seagrass and fish community in the Eastern Caribbean. **Aquatic Botany**, 103: 74-82.
5. **Willette DA**, Santos MD, and Aragon MA. (2011) First report of the Taiwan sardinella *Sardinella hualiensis* (Clupeiformes: Clupeidae) in the Philippines, **Journal of Fish Biology**, 79: 2087-2094.
4. Steiner SCC and **Willette DA** (2010) The distribution and size of benthic marine habitats in Dominica, Lesser Antilles. **Revista de Biologia Tropical**, 58 (2): 589-602.
3. Steiner SCC, MacFarlane KJ\*, Price LM\*, and **Willette DA** (2010) The distribution of seagrasses in Dominica, Lesser Antilles. **Revista de Biologia Tropical**, 58 (3) 89-98.
2. **Willette DA** and Ambrose RF (2009) The distribution and expansion of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* in Dominica, West Indies, with a preliminary report from St. Lucia. **Aquatic Botany**, 91: 137-142.
1. **Willette DA**, Janzen FJ, and Tucker JK (2005) Linking climate and physiology at the population level for a key life-history stage of turtles. **Canadian Journal of Zoology**, 83: 845-850.

#### **UN-REFERRED PUBLICATIONS:**

2. **Willette DA**. (2013) Increasing the conservation yield from molecular fisheries research in the Philippines. **Current Conservation**, 7(2): 7-15.
1. **Willette DA**, Bognot EDC, Mutia TM, and Santos MD. (2011) Biology and Ecology of sardines in the Philippines: A review. **NFRDI Technical Paper Series**, Vol 13 (1), August 2011.

#### **PUBLICATIONS IN REVIEW/PREPARATION:**

1. **Willette DA** and Cheng SH. Delivering on seafood traceability under the new U.S. import monitoring program. **Ambio**, In review

2. Chiquillo KE and **Willette DA**. Unusual flowering of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* in its historic and invaded range. **Aquatic Botany**, In preparation
3. **Willette DA** and Sbrocco EJ. Predicting the future Caribbean-wide distribution of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* using ecological niche modeling. **Biogeography**, In preparation

#### **JOURNAL REVIEWER:**

Biodiversity and Conservation, Biological Conservation, Botanica Marina, Environmental Biology of Fish, Global Ecology and Conservation, Journal of Applied Ichthyology, Journal of Coastal Research, Journal of BioSciences, Journal of Sea Research, Marine Biodiversity Records, Marine Biology Research, Philippine Journal of Fisheries, PLoS ONE

#### **ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Willette, DA** ‘Leveraging actionable science to help combat illegal fishing’

1. University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, June 14, 2017
2. U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines, June 15, 2017

**Willette, DA** ‘Urban Land, Urban Sea: Applied Research in Los Angeles.

1. Fulbright Scholar Day, Loyola Marymount University, March 9, 2017

**Willette, D.A.** “Invasiveness of *Halophila stipulacea* in the Caribbean”.

1. Seagrass workshop, InterUniversity Institute, Eilat, Israel, (Virtual) May 19, 2017
2. EuroMarine workshop, InterUniversity Institute, Eilat, Israel, July 4, 2016

**Willette, D.A.** “Investigating top-down and bottom-up ecological change in threatened and exploited marine populations”.

1. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, Feb 12, 2016

**Willette, D.A. et al** “Ahead of the Spread: Predicting the introduction and impact of invasive species before they arrive”.

1. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014
2. Western Society of Naturalists Conference, Oxnard, CA Nov 7-10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Willette, D.A. et al** “Centrifugal speciation and the origin of a freshwater sardine”.

1. Western Society of Naturalists Conference, Seaside, CA, Nov 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Willette, D.A. et al** “Towards a sustainable fishery: Molecular genetics approaches to sardine management in the Philippines”.

1. Pan-Pacific Advanced Studies Institute, Dumaguete, Philippines, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012
2. Nha Trang University, Nha Trang, Vietnam, April 6, 2012
3. University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines, December 5, 2011
4. Philippine Association of Marine Science Conference, Tagaytay, Philippines, Oct 20, 2011
5. Conservation International – Philippines, Sardine workshop, Quezon City, Sept 14, 2011
6. NSAP-BFAR Annual Conference, Quezon City, Philippines, Sept 14, 2011
7. PIRE Project Symposium, Silliman University, Dumaguete, Philippines, August 12, 2011
8. Biodiversity Lecture Series, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, May 5, 2011
9. US AID – Philippines, Pasay City, Philippines, January 19, 2011
10. Bureau of Fisheries Regional Directors meeting, Quezon City, Philippines, Dec 16, 2010

11. NSAP-BFAR Workshop, Quezon City, Philippines, December 13-17, 2010
12. FishCon 2010, Quezon City, Philippines, October 11-12, 2010

**Willette, DA** “Phylogeography of the freshwater sardine *Sardinella tawilis* in Taal Lake, Batangas and Implications for a sustainable management strategy.”

1. Protection Area Management Board – Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Executive Committee meeting, Batangas, Philippines, March 31, 2011
2. National Lake Congress of the Philippines, Laguna, Philippines, April 27, 2011

**Willette, D.A., E.D.C. Bognot, and M.D. Santos** “The biology, ecology and identification of Philippine sardines”

1. NSAP-BFAR Workshop, Quezon City, Philippines, December 13-17, 2010
2. BFAR Small Pelagic Workshop, Puerto Princesa, Philippines, March 14-15, 2011

**Willette, D.A. and R.F. Ambrose.** “The impact of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* on the native seagrass *Syringodium filiforme*.”

1. World Seagrass Conference, Phuket, Thailand, November 20-25, 2010
2. AMLC Scientific Meeting, Roseau, Dominica, May 25-29, 2009

**Willette, D.A. and P.J. Krug.** “Identity Crisis: Using DNA to identify native and invasive species in coastal habitats.”

1. CSULA Student Research Symposium, Los Angeles, Feb 24, 2006
2. 20<sup>th</sup> CSU Student Research Competition, Camarillo, CA, May 5-6 2006
3. Joint meeting of Western Society of Malacologists and American Malacological Society, Pacific Grove, CA, June 26-30, 2005

**Willette, D.A. and P.J. Krug.** “Shallow surf riders: small-scale larval distribution in Estuarine Waters.”

1. Larval Biology Symposium 2006, Coos Bay, Oregon, Aug 27 – Sept 1, 2006
2. Southern California Acad of Sci Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, May 20- 21, 2005.
3. CSULA Department of Biological Sciences seminar series, May 26, 2005
4. CEA-CREST Environmental Science Conference, Los Angeles, May 6, 2005
5. CSULA Student Research Symposium, Los Angeles, Feb 24, 2005
6. Western Society of Naturalists, 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Rohnert Park, CA, Nov 11-14, 2004.

## **COURSES TAUGHT:**

\*\* Indicates course taught as ‘Instructor of Record’

### **Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles**

- Biol 111 – General Biology Laboratory I\*\*
- Biol 112 – General Biology Laboratory II\*\*
- Biol 398 – Applied Plant Ecology\*\*
- Biol 598 – SS Ecology, Policy, and Pirate Fishing\*\*
- HHSC 150 – Human Anatomy and Physiology\*\*
- HHSC 255 – Human Anatomy and Physiology\*\*

### **California State University, Los Angeles**

- Biol 100A – Introduction to Biology\*\*
- Biol 100C – Animal/Plant Anatomy and Physiology
- Biol 155 – Animal Biology
- Biol 200A/B – Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II
- Biol 300 – Biometrics\*\*

Biol 320 – Writing for Biologists  
Biol 360 – General Ecology\*\*  
Honors 331 – Global Climate Change\*\*

### **University of California Los Angeles**

M1W – Global Environment Cluster  
M1W Seminar – The Ocean's Response to the Human Element\*\*  
EEB 101 – Aquatic Botany  
EEB 109 – Introduction to Marine Science\*\*

### **Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology (Dominica)**

AC 301 – Natural History & Identification of Marine Organisms\*\*  
AC 303 – Marine Research Methodology and Practicum\*\*  
AC 305 – Tropical Marine Ecology & Conservation\*\*

### **Silliman Univ. (Philippines)/Nha Trang Univ. (Vietnam)/Prince of Songkla Univ. (Thailand)**

Marine Molecular Ecology and molecular laboratory techniques\*\*

### **WORKSHOPS DEVELOPED/HOSTED:**

2017 eDNA method for monitoring of fish catches, Univ of Philippines, Developer and coordinator  
2016 2bRAD Genotyping workshop, Catalina Island, CA, Co-developer and coordinator  
2015 2bRAD Genotyping workshop, Catalina Island, CA, Co-developer and coordinator  
2014 2bRAD Genotyping workshop, Catalina Island, CA, Co-developer and coordinator  
2012 Pan-Pacific Advanced Studies Institute, National Science Foundation supported, Dumaguete, Philippines, Co-developer and principle workshop coordinator  
2012 Coral Triangle Partnerships for International Research and Education synthesis meeting, National Science Foundation supported, Manila, Philippines, co-developer and coordinator  
2009 Assoc of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean meeting, Roseau, Dominica, Co-coordinator

### **AWARDS AND SOCIETIES:**

#### **Awards/Honors**

2017 Fulbright Global Award, US State Department  
2017 New Investigator Award, LMU Office of Research and Sponsored Projectss  
2013 APEC Prize for Innovation, Research & Education, US Nominee – US State Department  
2013 APEC Prize for Innovation, Research & Education, Campus Nominee – UCLA  
2011 1<sup>st</sup> place Biological Sciences Poster – National Research Council of the Philippines  
2010 Dean's Outstanding Student Award – UCLA School of Public Health  
2010 Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society – UCLA School of Public Health  
2009 Best Student Presentation – Assoc. of Marine Laboratories of the Carib. Sci. Meeting  
2008 CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program recipient  
2006 Best Graduate Paper in Biology – California State University Research Competition  
2006 Best Graduate Paper in Biology – CSULA Student Research Symposium  
2002 Student Poster Award – Iowa State University Student Research Symposium

#### **Professional Societies**

AAAS, Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean, Philippine Association of Marine Science, World Seagrass Association, Western Society of Naturalists, The Crustacean Society

## **FIELD EXPEDITIONS FOR SAMPLE COLLECTION/RESEARCH:**

**Ecuador:** Guayaquil (2017)

**Israel:** Red Sea (2016)

**U.S. Virgin Islands:** St. John/U.S. Virgin Island National Park, Coral Reef Monument (2014/2017)

**Thailand:** Koh Samui (2011), Trang (2011), Songkla (2013)

**Vietnam:** Nha Trang (2011), Phu Quoc Island (2012)

**Taiwan:** Yilan County (2012)

**Philippines:** Manila (2010/2017), Batangas (2011), Palawan (2011), Negros (2011), Bohol (2012), Siquijor (2012)

**Indonesia:** Bali (2010)

**Florida:** Florida Keys (2010)

**Eastern Caribbean:** Dominica (2006), St. Lucia (2006), Antigua (2007), Guadeloupe (2007), Puerto Rico (2007)

**California:** Catalina Island (2005), Central Coast (2006)

**Alaska:** Kodiak Island (2005)

**Panama:** Bocas del Toro, Panama City (2004)

**Honduras:** Roatan (2000)