

Wanda M. Ortiz Báez, MS

Guánica, Puerto Rico 00653
wanda.ortiz.baez@gmail.com
Mobile: (787) 205-4732

OBJECTIVE

Perform tasks that will allow me to continue acquiring knowledge and field work experience regarding the biology, ecology, management and observation of marine organisms while providing my services while applying my skills, previous knowledge and 10+ years of working experience. My goal is to be surrounded in a successful environment where I can gain as much experience as possible and further become an advocate for marine life management and conservation by means of scientific research as well as scientific communication and education.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Hard working and high-performance individual passionate for marine life and education. I use my attention to detail, creativity, organization and improvisational skills in every task I perform to get the job done. I'm always eager to learn more as well as to help others in whatever is necessary in order to both understand and improve the world we live in, making a difference one step at a time.

RELEVANT COURSES

- Biochemistry
- Biological Oceanography
- Biology of Sharks
- Ecology
- Ecology of Microorganisms
- Ichthyology
- Shark Research Skills
- Marine Ecology
- Marine Microbiology
- Marine Molecular Biology
- Research Methods
- Microbiology
- General Oceanography
- Zoology
- Zoology of Invertebrates

SKILLS

Knowledge: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point); laboratory and field shark-research techniques and instruments; shark capture and release for research sampling, measuring, tagging and suturing; freediving; snorkeling; SCUBA diving; helmsman; writing; public speaking; blog and website editing; drawing

Interpersonal: Teamwork, leadership, determination, hard worker, discipline, integrity, initiative, disposition, organization

Languages: Fluent in Spanish and English

EXPERIENCE

MARINE EDUCATOR, Sea Grant College Program of the University of Puerto Rico | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | August 2020-Present

- Offer lessons and talks, host educational activities and create hands on informative and educational resources for teachers and students. Employed by Ruperto Chaparro and Offer the Climate Change course to elementary school teachers. Teachers will later incorporate this course into their Science curriculum and perform the lessons and the activities with their students. Employed by the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez and supervised by Delmis Alicea.

CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EDUCATOR, Little Women, Big Sharks LLC | Lajas, Puerto Rico | September 2020-Present

- Host educational activities as well as create both informative and educational resources Rico about the biology and ecology of the sharks and rays of Puerto Rico to be used as tools by the Puerto Rican general public.
- Delegate and supervise tasks within organization.

INTERN & COLLABORATOR, Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation | Bimini, The Bahamas & Florida, United States | October 2021-December 2021, May 2022, February 2023

- Learn shark research field skills, perform shark research, process field samples, translate educational resources & assist in station and research tasks. Activities supervised by Matthew Smukall and Jasmine Nyce.

FIELD TECHNICIAN, HJR Reefscaping | Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico | June-September 2021, March-June 2022

- Tag nurse sharks, collect samples and data from each specimen, and deploy Baited Remote Underwater Video stations off the southwest coast of Puerto Rico as well as gather and organize field data. Activities supervised by Héctor Ruiz.

COPY EDITOR AND TEMP EDUCATOR, Sea Grant College Program of the University of Puerto Rico | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | August 2016 - Present

- Review, correct and update a series of marine-fact sheets called *Datos Marinos*; write new marine fact sheets for these series; and lead the group of copy editors assigned for this project and edit their work. Occasionally, offer exhibitions, and educational conferences and activities on the topic of sharks of Puerto Rico. Employed by Ruperto Chaparro and supervised by Cristina Olán, Cynthia Maldonado and Ruperto Chaparro.

LABORATORY INSTRUCTOR, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | August 2016, August 2019-December 2020, August 2020-December 2021

- Taught the Biology and Microbial Ecology laboratory courses; attended office hours; designed evaluation methods; evaluated students on course assignments, quizzes, experiment reports, and tests; attended weekly meetings and trainings; and assisted professors during their exams. Fulfilling paid duty on a period of approximately 20 hours a week. Employed by the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez and supervised by Jeanine Vélez and Bárbara Sánchez.

ASSISTANT & COLLABORATOR, Sea Grant College Program of the University of Puerto Rico | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | August 2013-August 2016

- Assisted in whatever was necessary, contributed to the program with my research knowledge on seashells and wrote small articles for the magazine *Marejada*. Fulfilled paid duty on a period of 10-20 hours a week. Employed and supervised by Ruperto Chaparro, Tania López and Yulissa García.

AQUATIC-BIOLOGY RESEARCH INTERN, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | January 2013-May 2015

- Sampled, sorted and classified marine gastropods and bivalves to compare these gathered specimens with the same early fauna collected during 1940s until 1990s. Fulfilled duty on a period of 6 hours a week. Research activities supervised by Carlos Santos.

VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Mamíferos Marinos Program of Department of Natural and Environmental Resources | Puerto Rico | May 2018- May 2021

- Perform necropsies on sharks found stranded at shore around Puerto Rico in order to determine cause of death and further contribute to available biological knowledge of the different species found. Assist in necropsies of marine mammals. Work supervised by Grisel Rodríguez.

Isla Mar Research Expeditions | Lajas, Puerto Rico | March 2018-February 2019

- Scuba dove and tested a developing application Ardi for identifying tropical marine fish underwater. Fulfilled service whenever called upon. Volunteer assistance supervised by Chelsea Harms-Tuohy and Evan Tuohy.

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science | Maryland, United States | October 2018

- Assisted collecting and processing HAB cysts samples collected from the Gulf of Maine on board the NOAA Ship Nancy Foster. Fulfilled work on a period of 8 hours a week for 2 weeks. Work supervised by Terry McTigue, Christine Alex and Bruce Keafer.

HJR Reef Scaping | Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico | January 2018-April 2018

- Organized and transferred field data of BRUV surveys of sharks and rays into an Excel document for the Global Fin Print initiative. Fulfilled service on a period of 4 hours a week. Volunteer assistance supervised by Michelle Schärer.

Aquatic biology laboratory, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | August 2013-December 2013

- Sampled and sorted small aquatic insects. Fulfilled service on a period of 10 hours a week. Volunteer assistance supervised by Carlos Santos and Nahira Arocho.

Sea Grant College Program of the University of Puerto Rico | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | August 2012-December 2012

- Performed small jobs and assist in whatever was necessary. Fulfilled service on a period of 6 up to 10 hours a week. Volunteer assistance supervised by Cristina Olán Martínez and Alessandra Otero Ramos.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Biology, University of Puerto Rico

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Microbiology, University of Puerto Rico

Master of Science in Biological Oceanography, University of Puerto Rico

AWARDS

Professional Development Grant from Sea Grant College Program of the University of Puerto Rico

Field School Scholarship for Introduction to Shark Research Skills course

MISS Fellowship from MISS Elasmó