

Tony Blade
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EDUCATION

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK
Bachelor of Science, Fisheries and Marine Sciences; *Summa Cum Laude*

Relevant Coursework: Marine Mammal Biology, Physiology of Marine Organisms, Organic Chemistry, Regression and Analysis of Variance, Data Analysis and Writing for Aquatic Sciences

HONORS AND GRANTS

Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Achievement (URSA) Award “Microplastic Presence in Pacific Walrus Tissue” (2024)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Undergraduate Research Assistant, August 2023 - Present

Advisors: Dr. Lara Horstmann

Designed and conducted research on microplastic presence in marine mammal tissue. Handled marine mammal tissue processing, chemical digestion, examination, data collection, and analysis. Wrote and developed published research manuscript.

PUBLICATIONS

Blade, T., and L. Horstmann. 2026. Microplastics in muscle and blubber of the Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*). *Marine Environmental Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2025.107825>.

PRESENTATIONS

Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Anchorage, AK, January 2025. Blade, T; Horstmann, L. “Microplastics in Pacific walrus muscle and blubber” (poster)

Undergraduate Research Symposium, Fairbanks, AK, April 2024. Blade, T; Horstmann, L. “Microplastic Presence in Pacific Walrus Tissue” (poster) **Dean’s Choice Award**

Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Anchorage, AK, January 2024. Blade, T; Horstmann, L. “First Visual Confirmation of Microplastics in Pacific Walrus Tissue” (poster).

Eskimo Walrus Commission, Anchorage, AK, December 2023. Blade, T; Horstmann, L. “Visual Evidence of Microplastics in Walrus Tissues” (presentation).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alaska Department of Fish & Game Arctic Marine Mammal Program

College Intern, December 2023 – Present

Responsible for processing marine mammal tissue from indigenous Alaskan subsistence harvest. Day to day activities include stomach processing, prey sorting and identification, tissue subsampling for analysis and projects, and project/survey database entries. Responsibilities included field work in rural Alaskan villages directly sampling harvested animals and interacting with hunters and community members regarding animal health, population status, and local concerns.

College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Course Assistant, January – May 2024

Course: Marine Mammals of the World, Instructor: Dr. Lara Horstmann

Responsible for reviewing and grading assignments and online discussions for asynchronous online course. Assisted instructor in addressing student concerns and questions regarding coursework, schedule, and content.

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE**Alaska Student Chapter of the Society for Marine Mammalogy**

Undergraduate Representative, August 2024 – May 2025

Organized Chapter meetings at University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. Assisted Chapter leadership in outreach and organization fundraising.