



Alejandro Sevilla Benitez

Low trophic aquaculture specialist

As an aspiring marine researcher with a passion for coastal ecosystems and low trophic aquaculture, I bring a unique blend of scientific expertise and practical experience. Skilled in interdisciplinary collaboration and education, I am dedicated to advancing marine research and eager to contribute to forward-thinking projects in sustainable aquaculture practices.

Experience

Feb - Aug 2024 | Master Thesis & student assistant

Aquaculture and Fisheries charigroup (AFI) - Wageningen University
Droevendaalsesteeg 4, 6708 PB Wageningen



I completed my thesis in the Fisheries Ecology department, titled "Environmental factors affecting *Mytilus edulis* growth". This research, conducted as part of the INNOPRO project, aims to enhance Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) models by utilizing Remote Sensing Phytoplankton Community Data to gain deeper insights into bivalve growth and accurate model predictions. I am currently leading as the main author the publication of this research.

In addition, I worked as a Student Assistant for the Aquaculture and Fisheries department during my thesis, which allowed me to refine my skills in organizing course content and effectively guiding students.

Sep 2023 - Jan 2024 | Researcher (internship)

Dansk Skaldyrcenter - Danish Technical University | DTU Aqua
Ørøddevej 80, 7900 Nykøbing Mors, Denmark



As part of LTA BOOST (EU funded project), I conducted a research titled as "Bivalve hatchery management: Microalgae diet design and feeding testing for *Ostrea Edulis* spat" which unveils how different diets affect the ingestion efficiency, and consequently, the growth of flat oyster spat at a hatchery level. Apart from the main project, I also worked as an employee, increasing knowledge on:

- Functioning of a shellfish and macroalgae hatchery: water systems, water quality control and required biosecurity measures (incl. quarantine methodology and protocols).
- Microalgae production (bags and photobioreactor) and the use of **flow cytometer**.
- Production of flat oysters from broodstock conditioning to spat production.
- Micronursery work.
- Production of flat oyster for aquaculture and restoration on different type of cultch.

The research is waiting for the results of the fatty acid analysis to be published as a co author. Preliminary results were already presented in AQUA 2024 congress ([view abstract, page 904](#)).

Jul 2023 | Marine Masters Summer Course

NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research
Landsdiep 4 1797 SZ 't Horntje (Texel)



I participated in the two-week Marine Masters Summer Course at NIOZ, focusing on cutting-edge marine research. I conducted fieldwork in De Schorren, Mokbaai, and aboard the RV Navicula, and learned about **stable isotope analysis for creating food web chains**.

2020 - Present | Part time researcher at Torsso



Involved in several aquaculture business development projects related to the aquaculture sector as part of **INTERREG V-A Spain-Portugal Cross-Border Cooperation Program (POCTEP) 2014-2020** and the **University of Vigo**

- Participated in the development of processes for smoked and marinated products using Galician raw materials. Project recognized as a semifinalist in the "Sherpa do Mar" program.
- Participated in the development of a hatchery and nursery for bivalve mollusks using RAS technology, finalist in "Spin Up" and "Business Factory Food 2022."
- Contributed to the creation of a sustainable insect farm for producing insect-based protein flour. Finalist in the "Spin Up" call.

2020 - 2021 | Food Quality + R&D Specialist

Ameztoi anaiak SL



During my final 2 years at university, I completed 2 internships at Ameztoi Anaiak SL. First, I spent 4 months in the Food Quality department. Then, I did a 6-month stint in R&D, where I restructured the lasagna dish packaging and formulation for my bachelor thesis. Most proposed changes were implemented. We also achieved IFS certification, developing the required documentation and tools.

References

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Education

SEP 2022- AUG 2024

• MSc Aquaculture and marine resource management

Wageningen University & Research
Low Tropic Aquaculture specialist

FEB -AUG 2022

• Pre master- MSc Aquaculture and marine resource management

Wageningen University & Research

SEP 2017- AUG 2021

• BSc Gastronomy and Culinary Arts

Basque culinary center - Mondragon university. Gipuzkoa (Spain)

Food technology specialization

Expertise

- Experimental design
- IMTA
- Data analysis in R
- Remote sensing data processing
- Flow cytometry
- Stable isotope analysis
- Fatty acid analysis
- RAS systems

Language

English - Business/research proficiency

Spanish - Native