

Inside ELAW: Providing the Science Communities Need

Marine Scientist Joins ELAW

We are pleased to welcome a new ELAW Staff Scientist, **Heidi Weiskel**. Heidi brings valuable expertise in marine and coastal ecology. She received an M.S. with honors from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and a BA from Harvard. She is currently completing a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California at Davis, where she studied the effects of nutrient pollution on marine species.

"I am thrilled to join the ELAW team," says Heidi. "I look forward to working with our partners around the world on strengthening protection for living marine resources and the coastal communities that depend on them."

In addition to her field research experience, Heidi also worked on the staff of the Pew Oceans Commission to develop recommendations for Congress to improve national marine resource laws and regulations. She also worked as an environmental policy research fellow at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and has worked with scientists in Cuba, Panama, and Argentina. She is fluent in Spanish, and also speaks some French and Russian.

Welcome Heidi!



Heidi Weiskel

ELAW Science Interns

Volunteers increase ELAW's impact by contributing hundreds of hours of service every year. ELAW Science Interns range from seasoned scientists to undergraduates and Ph.D. candidates. ELAW Science Interns help ELAW partners tap scientific resources to make the case for clean air, clean water, and healthy communities. Many thanks to our recent Science Interns: **Vidusha Devasthali, Willis Langsdon, and Keats Conley**.

Vidusha is completing a Master's degree in Public Administration at the University of Oregon. She has a graduate degree in Biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. She spent ten years doing research both in academia and in the biotechnology industry, and wants to learn more about how scientific research is used to inform policy decisions. "Working with ELAW is a great opportunity. I am inspired by the prospect of using science to contribute to a strong legal framework that will protect our natural resources around the world."

Willis is a senior at the University of Oregon, majoring in Environmental Science with minors in Biology and Geography. Last year he visited Mossman Gorge in Queensland, Australia, and met community organizers who were helping Aboriginal

communities become more involved in management of local forests. "This trip sparked my interest in environmental issues in marginalized communities and volunteering at ELAW," he says.

Keats is completing a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon and has a Bachelor of Science from Idaho College. She worked for four years at the Ruth Melichar Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center in Boise, facilitating the release of 6,000 songbirds and waterfowl back into the wild.



Vidusha Devasthali



Keats Conley



Willis Langsdon