

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-garren-6090773b](http://www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-garren-6090773b) (LinkedIn)  
[workingocean.com](http://workingocean.com) (Company)  
[www.ted.com/speakers/melissa\\_garren.html](http://www.ted.com/speakers/melissa_garren.html) (Other)  
[www.switzernetwork.org/users/mgarren2010](http://www.switzernetwork.org/users/mgarren2010) (Other)

## Top Skills

Ecology  
Microscopy  
Molecular Biology

## Languages

French  
Spanish

## Certifications

PADI Divermaster

## Honors-Awards

National Science Foundation  
Graduate Research Fellowship  
Marine Protection Prize  
Environmental Leadership Fellow

# Melissa Garren

Founder & CEO at Working Ocean Strategies  
Monterey

## Experience

Working Ocean Strategies  
Founder & CEO  
February 2020 - Present (1 year)  
Monterey, California, United States

California State University, Monterey Bay  
Adjunct Research Professor  
June 2015 - Present (5 years 8 months)

Pelagic Data Systems  
COO & Chief Scientist  
January 2014 - February 2020 (6 years 2 months)  
San Francisco, CA

Provide scientific leadership and guide the integration of social and ecological needs with our technology solutions. Striving to support the growth of environmentally and economically sustainable human-ocean relationships.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
September 2011 - June 2015 (3 years 10 months)

Leading an international collaboration on coral reef health among academic and government institutions in the USA, Australia, and Israel. Adapting microfluidic and microscopy technologies to advance our understanding of the invertebrate-bacteria interactions governing health in the face of climate change and our ability to assess the risks of disease. Mentoring graduate and undergraduate students.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
5 years 1 month

Program Coordinator for the Scripps Community Outreach Program for Education (SCOPE)  
September 2008 - July 2011 (2 years 11 months)

Coordinated a network of >50 volunteers to communicate earth sciences to the general public. Expanded the program to host over 80 events annually

reaching more than 6,300 people of all ages and increased the annual budget through donor support.

#### Graduate Researcher

July 2006 - July 2011 (5 years 1 month)

Conducted independent and collaborative research in the combined effects of climate change and coastal pollution (from unsustainable aquaculture practices and wastewater discharge) on coral reef ecosystem health.

Innovated coral reef microbial ecology using advanced imaging, culture-dependent and independent techniques in both field (SCUBA diving) and laboratory (aquaria, model systems) settings. Collaborations included non-profit, industry, government, and academic partners. Mentored undergraduate and masters students.

#### University of San Diego

##### Adjunct Faculty

January 2011 - June 2011 (6 months)

Independently taught environmental science laboratory course ("Life in the Oceans") for undergraduate students designed to introduce them to all domains of life in the ocean and the connections among physical, chemical, and biological oceanography. Developed printed, online, and activity-based course materials.

#### Ambit Biosciences

##### Research Associate

July 2005 - July 2006 (1 year 1 month)

Greater San Diego Area

---

## Education

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego

PhD, Marine Biology · (2006 - 2011)

#### Yale University

BS, Molecular Biology · (1999 - 2003)