**Diego Norena**

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Recent Graduate in Environmental Science with an Alaskan focus, fueled by an unwavering commitment to environmental protection. I am dedicated to environmental preservation and adept at using multimedia tools-photography, videography, and writing-to convey scientific findings to non-specialized audiences. My experiences include creating impactful educational content using multimedia, leading data collection projects, and assisting in wildlife research. Fully bilingual in Spanish, I bring strong interpersonal skills, independence, and a passion for integrating science with art to promote environmental stewardship and awareness.

**EDUCATION**

**University of Alaska Southeast** - Juneau, AK Graduated May 2025

* Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resources

**Semester by the Bay** – Homer, AK

* Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Conservation Ecology

**University of Dayton** - Dayton, OH 8/2022 – 12/2023

* Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geoscience, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology GPA: 3.88/4
* Transferred to University of Alaska Southeast to finish my undergraduate education.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center, Science Communication Intern**, Remote/Juneau, AK 1/2025-Present

* Develop multimedia stories on climate change impacts in Alaska, including original narratives on changing snow and ice impacts on salmon and glacier outburst floods.
* Conduct interviews with scientists, Indigenous knowledge holders and local community members to create meaningful, place-based communication.
* Contribute to *Alaska Voices,* a podcast elevating community and scientific perspectives on climate adaptation.
* Apply research synthesis, interviewing, and storytelling skills to make complex scientific issues relatable and relevant to diverse audiences.

**Cedar Group, Multimedia and Communications Intern,** Juneau, AK 1/2025-Present

* Produce short-from videos and visual content for local organizations and environmental nonprofits, aligning multimedia storytelling with mission-driven narratives.
* Proficient in professional camera systems (Canon C300, C70, 5D), drones for aerial videography, MixPre-3 for audio, and multiple point lighting rigs.
* Manage and create digital media library with over 200 terabytes of footage and ensure streamlined postproduction workflows.
* Edit video projects using Adobe Premiere Pro and photo editing in Adobe Lightroom, with attention to color grading, sound design, and storytelling cohesion.
* Conduct field shoots, capture interviews, and collaborate with communications and design teams to deliver engaging content across YouTube, Instagram, and Client Channels including Sealaska Corporation, Tlingit and Haida Business Corporation, Devil’s Club Brewery, and Tracy’s King Crab Shack.

**Winged Whale Research Non-Profit, Intern,** Kachemak Bay, AK 1/2024 – 5/2024

* Conducted photo identification of humpback whales and harbor porpoises to enhance long-term whale records.
* Organized and scanned historical whale fluke photographs to update identification catalogs from 1980-2010.
* Led public outreach initiatives, including designing flyers and managing social media campaigns, aimed at reducing whale strikes during the King Salmon Derby and general boat traffic.

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Research Assistant –** Homer, AK 1/2024 – 5/2024

* Trained in radio telemetry for wildlife tracking.
* Participated in goose banding efforts, identified key migrations sites for species Cacking, Canada, Snow, and Greater White-fronted Geese.
* Assisted in baiting, trapping, and banding geese to track migration patterns from Homer to Alaska’s North Slope, contributing to a larger study by ADF&G to discover unknown breeding locations.

**Alaska Beluga Monitoring Program, Research Assistant** – Kenai River, AK 1/2024 – 5/2024

* Conducted shore-based monitoring of endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales as part of NOAA Fisheries’ community science initiative.
* Collected standardized observational data on beluga distribution and behavior at key feeding sites to support ongoing research and conservation efforts.

**Kachemak Bay Birders - Sea Duck Survey and Shore Bird Monitoring,** Kachemak Bay, Ak. 1/2024 – 5/2024

* Engaged in the Kachemak Bay Sea Duck Survey and Shore Bird Monitoring programs, contributing to data collection on overwintering sea ducks and migratory shorebirds using Kachemak Bay as a migratory stopover.
* Supported the Kachemak Bay Birders Monitoring efforts, a community science-based organization who have collected data for more than 15 years.

**University of Alaska Anchorage - Intertidal Zone Surveys,** Kachemak Bay 1/2024 – 5/2024

* Led the 2024 Intertidal Zone Surveys in Kachemak Bay, overseeing all aspects of data collection and team coordination
* Managed data collection across randomized transects at two distinct locations, focusing on species diversity, abundance, and distribution of intertidal life. Also collected data on water quality.
* Contributed to long-term monitoring project aimed at assessing and understanding the changes in intertidal ecosystems in Kachemak Bay over time.

**University of Alaska Anchorage, Independent Research, Vessel Impact Biodiversity and Abundance of Marine Invertebrates in the Homer Harbor –** Homer, AK 1/2024 – 5/2024

* Conducted study on vessel impact on marine invertebrates in Homer Harbor.
* Compared invertebrate abundance and diversity at high vs. low boat traffic sites.
* Collected data using quadrats and GoPro’s.
* Found reduced biodiversity and abundance in high vessel traffic areas suggesting negative impacts of boat traffic on marine ecosystems.

**KBBI Radio, Science Fridays,** Interviewee – Homer, AK 5/2024

* Participated in multiple Science Friday segments at KBBI, Homer’s local radio station, where I discussed various scientific projects occurring in Homer/Kachemak Bay related to marine and environmental science.
* Shared personal journalism stories about Kachemak Bays’ wildlife, highlighting the significance of local research and community involvement in environmental conservation. Those stories can be found at diegonorena.biz/Alaska-postcards

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**Alaska Conservation Postcards, Personal Project**

* Developed a multimedia project to raise climate change awareness, featuring postcards with insights on local changes and their global impact.
* Utilized photography and videography skills to visually document and convey scientific, cultural, and personal information of sea otters, sea ducks, and Dall sheep.
* Crafted engaging content to inform and educate the public about climate change effects and conservation efforts in Alaska.

**Summer 2023 Albany River, Canada, Northwaters Outdoor Leadership Training Program**

* 30-day canoe trip traveling over 1,000 km with a focus on building leadership skills including team building, decision making under stress, problem-solving, strategic thinking, navigation, white water safety, and wilderness first aid

**Summer 2021-2022, Northwaters and Langskib**, **Canoe camp**

* 22-day canoe trips focusing on physical and mental resilience, teamwork, communication, and outdoor survival.