

AYANA ELIZABETH JOHNSON, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Ph.D. in Marine Biology; 2011. Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Jackson

- Dissertation: "[Fish, Fishing, Diving, and the Management of Coral Reefs](#)," including (1) reducing bycatch in fish traps, (2) impacts of gill net fishing, (3) socioeconomic survey and time preference experiment with fishers and divers, and (4) ocean policy proposal for Curaçao and Bonaire.
- Co-chair of the [Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries Research Network](#).

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

B.A. in Environmental Science and Public Policy; 2002

- Coursework included: ecology, marine biology, economics, resource management, law, and policy.
- Study Abroad: **School for Field Studies**, Turks and Caicos Islands, marine ecology and policy.

THNK SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE LEADERSHIP, 2015

- Executive training in design thinking, entrepreneurship, innovation, and managing creative teams.

TED RESIDENCY PROGRAM, 2016

- Member of inaugural cohort in this highly-competitive incubator for "ideas worth spreading."

WORK HISTORY

AYANA ELIZABETH CONSULTING LLC

Founder and Principal; 2016 – present

- Consulting on strategy, policy, and communication. Supporting non-profits, foundations, and the private sector in creating, implementing, and amplifying the best ideas in conservation.
- Clients include: Walton Family Foundation, Greenpeace, SeaTime Inc.

WAITT INSTITUTE

Executive Director and Board Member; 2013 – 2016

- Co-founded and led [Blue Halo Initiative](#), and associated business plan/re-brand of Waitt Institute.
- Developed and launched partnerships with governments of Montserrat and Curaçao. Directed and executed project work at all Blue Halo sites. Recruited and managed 5 staff and 8 contractors.

WAITT FOUNDATION

Director of Science and Solutions; 2012 – 2013

- Developed first in-house programmatic initiative – comprehensive ocean policy reform in [Barbuda](#).
- Developed, launched, and managed the [Rapid Ocean Conservation \(ROC\) Grants](#) program.
- Vetted, managed, and provided strategy support for a portfolio of ocean conservation grants.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Knauss Sea Grant Fellow, joint position in NOAA Policy and NOAA Fisheries; 2011

- Drafting and facilitation for NOAA's contributions to [National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan](#).

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, Regulatory Analysis and Policy Team

Environmental Scientist; Washington, DC; 2002 – 2004

- Analyzed aquaculture, ballast water, invasive species and cruise ship policies for environmental, economic, and human health impacts. Received 2 awards for contributions to policy development.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & OUTREACH

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- The Guardian OpEd, 2016. [The Key to Halting Climate Change: Admit We Can't Save Everything](#).
- New York Times OpEd, 2014. [We Can Save the Caribbean's Coral Reefs](#), with Jeremy Jackson.
- Blogging for [National Geographic "Ocean Views"](#) (40+ articles, 2013-2016) and [Huffington Post](#).
- Produced [videos](#) for Blue Halo Initiative and an [animated video](#) of my fish trap research.

PRESS COVERAGE

- New York Times, 2015: [Small Island Takes a Big Step on Ocean Conservation. A Film Explores Curaçao's Effort to Become a Caribbean Haven for Coral](#).
- Scholastic, Inc., 2015: 2 booklets for elementary school students featuring my blog posts.
- The Atlantic, 2014: [How the Famous Marshmallow Study Explains Environmental Conservation](#).
- Profiled as environmental leader by [Nature Magazine](#), [Yale E360](#), [Environmental Working Group](#), [Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#), [Fisheries Magazine](#), [Hearts on Fire](#), and [STEMJobs.com](#).
- Featured on MoveOn.org's The Good Fight podcast, 2015: "[Use the Ocean Without Using it Up](#)"
- Video interviews: [Good Morning Antigua Barbuda](#), [CBS news](#), [Scripps/UCSD](#), [NSF Science360](#).

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

- Hind EJ, Alexander SM, Green SJ, Kritzer JP, Sweet MJ, Johnson AE, Amargós FP, Smith NS and Peterson AM. 2015. Fostering effective international collaboration for marine science in small island states. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 2(86). ([Link](#))
- Johnson AE, and Jackson JBC. 2015. Fisher and diver perceptions of coral reef degradation and implications for sustainable management. *Global Ecology and Conservation*. 3: 890-899. ([Link](#))
- Johnson AE and Saunders D. 2014. Time preferences and the management of coral reef fisheries. *Ecological Economics* 100: 130-139. ([Link](#))
- Johnson AE, et al. 2013. Trends, current understanding, and future research priorities for artisanal coral reef fisheries research. *Fish and Fisheries* 14(3): 281-292. ([Link](#))
- Jacquet J, Boyd I, Carlton JT, Fox H, Johnson AE, Mee L, Roman J, Spalding M, and Sutherland WJ. 2011. Scanning the oceans for solutions. *Solutions* 2(1): 46-55. ([Link](#))
- Johnson, AE. 2010. Reducing bycatch in coral reef trap fisheries: escape gaps as a step towards sustainability. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 415: 201-209. ([Link](#))
- West J, Julius S, Kareiva P, Lawler JJ, Enquist C, Johnson AE et al. 2009. Natural resources and climate change: a synthetic review of concepts and approaches for management adaptation. *Environmental Management* 44(6): 1001-1011. ([Link](#))

INVITED TALKS

- *Keynote*: Blue Vision Summit, Washington, DC. 2015. (Excerpted remarks [here](#).)
- *Lectures*: Georgetown University, Yale University, UC Santa Barbara, University of Washington, University of British Columbia, Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Lab, Birch Aquarium, International Marine Conservation Congress, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute.
- *Panels*: American Museum of Natural History, NYC, 2014. [Global Ocean Action Summit](#), The Hague, 2014. [Summit of Political and Business Leaders](#), Necker Island, BVI, 2013 (Remarks [here](#)). [Aspen Institute Environment Forum](#), Aspen, 2012. AAAS Conference, San Diego, 2010.

HONORS

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS: Residency at TED, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, NSF IGERT Fellowship, UCSD Diversity Fellowship, Switzer Environmental Fellowship, AAUW American Fellowship, Knauss Sea Grant Fellowship. Project AWARE Grant, 2 PADI mini-grants, \$100K grant from Waitt Foundation.

AWARDS & HONORS: UCSD's Muir College Environmental Fellowship 2015; Washington Life's Young and the Guest List 2015 & 2016; Influential Conservation Papers of 2014; winner of Rare/National Geographic [Solution Search](#) 2012; Bouchet Graduate Honor Society 2010; "World Changer" on Dell's [Inspire 100 List](#).