Monica Fabra

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I am a marine biologist specialised in ecological restoration of marine habitats and currently working on oyster restorative aquaculture at the Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge (MD). During my PhD I worked on the hatchery production of the European native oyster *Ostrea edulis* for restoration purposes at the University of Portsmouth (UK), where I have designed and built the Solent Oyster Restoration Hatchery and managed the production of native oyster spat-on-shell. Some of my previous work experiences also involved nutrient pollution and nitrogen remediation by oyster habitat, as well as microplastic pollution and the role of microplastics as pathogen vectors. Overall, I have over ten years' experience in marine ecological restoration, working on different restoration projects (oyster reefs, vermetid reefs, seagrass meadows).

Employment history:

2024	Assistant Research Scientist, Horn Point Laboratory, UMCES, Cambridge, MD *Investigation on the suitability of alternative substrates for use in fisheries, harvest and oyster restoration areas*
2023	Research Assistant, University of Portsmouth, UK *Search and collection of research evidence: impacts of eutrophication and water quality (e.g., nutrient enrichment, turbidity, harmful algal blooms) on oyster habitat*
2019 - 2023	Full-time PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of

	Portsmouth, UK *Investigation of the factors affecting O.edulis gametogenesis and broodstock conditioning in hatchery settings*
2019 - 2022	Hatchery manager, Solent Oyster Restoration Hatchery, Institute of Marine Sciences, Portsmouth, UK *Management of hatchery production of native oyster spat-on-shell*
2019	Research Assistant, SEES University of Portsmouth, UK *Collection and report of evidence of Impacts for the Research Excellence Framework*
2019	Marker of literature reviews, SEES University of Portsmouth, UK. *Marking of scientific essays submitted by students as part of their coursework assessment*
2018	Research Assistant, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK *Investigation of the impact of pathogen-enriched microplastics on oyster health and the role of microplastics as vectors for diseases.*
2016 / 2017	Guest Researcher, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK *Qualitative (biodiversity) and quantitative (abundance) analysis of zooplankton communities across different locations in the Solent (Solent Oyster Restoration Project)*
2016 / 2019	Laboratory demonstrator, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK. *Assistance with lab and field courses demonstrating methods and helping students with practical exercises and activities*

2013 / 2015	Internship, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e del Mare (Department of Terrestrial and Marine Science), University of Palermo, Italy *Qualitative (biodiversity) and quantitative (abundance) analysis of meiobenthic molluscan communities associated with the endangered intertidal vermetid reefs*
2010 / 2012	Internship, Biosurvey srl., University of Palermo, Italy *Transplantation of Posidonia oceanica to restore damaged seabeds (seagrass restoration)*

Education:

2019 - 2023	PhD, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK
2012 / 2015	Masters Degree in Marine Ecology, Institute of Maths, Physics and Natural Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy
2006 / 2012	Bachelor Degree in Biology, Institute of Maths, Physics and Natural Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy

Publications:

Author - Preston J., Fabra M., Helmer L., Johnson E., Harris-Scott E., Hendy I.W. (2020). Interactions of larval dynamics and substrate preference have ecological significance for benthic biodiversity and *Ostrea edulis* Linnaeus, 1758 in the presence of *Crepidula fornicata*. *Aquatic Conserv: Mar Freshw Ecosyst.*, **30**: 2133-2149.

Co-author - Preston J., Gamble C., Debney A., Helmer L., Hancock B., zu Ermgassen P.S.E. (eds) (2020). European Native Oyster Habitat Restoration Handbook. The Zoological Society of London, UK., London, UK.

Editor - zu Ermgassen P.S.E., Gamble C., Debney A., Colsoul B., Fabra M., Sanderson W.G., Strand Å., Preston J. (eds) (2020). European Guidelines on Biosecurity in Native Oyster Restoration. The Zoological Society of London, UK., London, UK.

Co-author - zu Ermgassen P.S.E., Bos O., Debney A., Gamble C., Glover A., Pogoda B., Pouvreau S., Sanderson W., Smyth D., Preston, J. (eds) (2021). European Native Oyster Habitat Restoration Monitoring Handbook. The Zoological Society of London, UK., London, UK.

First author - Fabra M., Williams L., Watts J.E.M., Hale M.S., Couceiro F., Preston J. (2021). The plastic Trojan horse: Biofilms increase microplastic uptake in marine filter feeders impacting microbial transfer and organism health. *Science of the Total Environment*, 797-149217.

Co-author - zu Ermgassen, P.S.E., Strand, Å., Bakker, N., Blanco, A., Bonačić, K., Boudry, P., Brundu, G., Cameron, T.C., Connellan , I., da Costa, F., Debney, A., Fabra, M., Frankic, A., Gamble, C., Gray, M. W., Helmer, L., Holbrook, Z., Hugh-Jones, T., Kamermans, P., ... Colsoul, B. (2023). Overcoming *Ostrea edulis* seed production limitations to meet ecosystem restoration demands in the UN decade on restoration. *Aquatic Living Resources*, 36, [16].

Co-author - zu Ermgassen P. S., Albentosa, M., Bakker, N., Blanco, A., Bonačić, K., Carboni, S., ... & Kamermans, P. (2023). Ten priority questions for increasing the consistency and success in hatchery production of the European flat oyster for habitat restoration. *Aquatic Living Resources*, *36*, 29.

Others:

2018 - present	Member of Native Oyster Restoration Alliance (NORA)
2018 - present	Member of the Native Oyster Network, UK and Ireland
2018 - 2021	Member of the UK Circular Microplastics Network
2018 - 2019	Organizer/Volunteer for the See Bin See Change non-profit organization

Languages:

Italian

English

Portuguese (basic)

Referees:

Prof. Elizabeth North, Professor in fisheries oceanography and plankton physical-biological interactions, Horn Point Laboratory, UMCES, Cambridge, MD, enorth@umces.edu

Matthew Gray, Associate Professor in aquaculture and ecological restoration, Horn Point Laboratory, UMCES, Cambridge, MD, mgray@umces.edu

Joanne Preston, Professor in Marine Biology and Evolution, University of Portsmouth, UK, joanne.preston@port.ac.uk