



Geoff Shester

California Program Director

Dr. Geoff Shester is the California program director at Oceana, the largest international advocacy group working solely to protect the world's oceans. Shester, based in Oceana's Monterey office, is responsible for protecting forage species in the California Current Ocean Ecosystem as well as protecting seafloor habitat from bottom trawling, restoring endangered Pacific sea turtle and shark populations and reducing bycatch in key trawl and gillnet fisheries.

During his time at Oceana, Shester co-authored proposals that led to the largest suite of seafloor habitats protected from trawling in North America, totaling more than 1,000,000 square miles of marine protected areas, from the Mexican border to the Arctic. He also served as the Expedition leader and co-leader for Oceana's 2010, 2011 and 2013 undersea expeditions, which gathered footage of never-before-seen seafloor habitats off Monterey Bay, Southern and Central Oregon and the San Juan Islands with remotely operated vehicles.

Prior to becoming a program director, Shester also worked as an Oceana consultant while he earned his doctorate in the Stanford University Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources at Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, studying ways to reduce bycatch in nearshore gillnet fisheries off Baja California Sur, Mexico. Before returning to Oceana, he served for two years as the senior science manager for the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program, where he led a team of scientists responsible for evaluating the sustainability of hundreds of types of seafood.

After completing bachelors degrees in biology and environmental studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Shester interned for the *Exxon Valdez* Restoration Office in Anchorage, Alaska.