



Spotting Giant Sea Bass Internship

Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

University of California, Santa Barbara

Fall 2026 - Spring 2027

The Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory is seeking UCSB undergraduate students for an internship to support research on giant sea bass.

About the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

Based at the Marine Science Institute at UCSB, the [Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory](#) applies marine science and technology to create scalable solutions to pressing ocean health problems. The Lab leads projects that address a variety of marine ecosystem threats, including climate change, endangered species, ocean pollution, and marine resource extraction.

Internship Description

The Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory is seeking a project intern to support research on Giant Sea Bass, *Stereolepis gigas*. The intern will work on [Spotting Giant Sea Bass](#), a project that uses community science and Artificial Intelligence to track endangered Giant Sea Bass off the Southern California and Baja California coasts. Community scuba divers submit photographs and videos of their encounters with Giant Sea Bass to the Spotting Giant Sea Bass database, and the UCSB research team uses an AI model and the unique spot patterns on Giant Sea Bass to identify and track individual fish.

The intern will work independently, with supervision by Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory research staff, to manage core data workflows, lead community outreach efforts, and serve as a primary point of contact for the project's network of community scientists and stakeholders. This internship is ideal for a UCSB undergraduate student looking to pursue a career in marine science, ecology, data science, wildlife conservation, and/or science communication.

Core responsibilities:

- Review incoming photos and videos of Giant Sea Bass and prepare images for processing by the project's AI model. Independently review and confirm the AI model's results.
- Manage the project's email and social media presence, including designing, drafting, and posting content on Instagram and Facebook.

- Conduct project outreach to raise awareness about the project, including presenting at regional scuba diving club meetings, meeting with dive boat and dive shop owners, and other public-facing events.
- Draft and design quarterly project email newsletters to keep stakeholders and supporters informed of project updates.

Other responsibilities may include:

- Manage the Spotting Giant Sea Bass database, including assigning new user accounts and annually cleaning and uploading data to a publicly-accessible database.
- Participate in meetings with project collaborators and build and maintain relationships with the local scuba diving community.

Qualifications:

- UCSB undergraduate student during the 2026-2027 academic year
- Interest in ecology, marine, and environmental science
- Data processing and analysis experience preferred, or willingness to learn
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Self-motivated, proactive, and comfortable working both independently and collaboratively

This is a part-time internship (**10-15 hours per week**) for the **Fall 2026 through Spring 2027 quarters**. Work will be conducted on a hybrid basis, with a combination of remote and in-person hours. The intern will have access to a dedicated workstation at the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory. **Compensation is \$22/hr.**

We encourage applicants to submit an optional brief Personal Statement with their application materials. This may include a description of the applicant's professional aspirations, values, and/or demonstrated service and commitment to supporting and improving their professional and/or academic institutions.

The Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory proactively strives to bring the voices, intellect, and talents of people of all colors, backgrounds, and identities into our work to further science and conservation, and we commit to taking concrete actions to achieve this vision.

Application Instructions: Please send the following to bosl-contact@ucsb.edu with the subject line "Spotting Giant Sea Bass Internship" by Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 11:59 PM PDT:

- 1. A cover letter describing your motivation for applying to the internship and your relevant academic and/or professional experience and interests (one**

page max in PDF format). Please include a short description of your availability for the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters

- 2. Resume (one page max in PDF format)**
- 3. Optional Personal Statement (<500 words, PDF format)**