Nicholas Jacobs ’23 Interns with Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Nicholas spent the summer working at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego as a part of the Brice Semmens Lab. This lab focusses on fishery ecology along with other marine ecology related projects. Nicholas was given the choice of what to study for the summer and after discussion with Dr. Semmens and Dr. Erin Satterthwaite from California Oceanic Fisheries Investigations, he decided to study the impact of larval fish abundance on Brandt’s Cormorant mortality along the California coast. While there was a field aspect of participating in beach surveys to find stranded birds and mammals, most of his work took place with R Statistical Software.

Nicholas began his work by reading numerous papers on Brandt’s Cormorant diet and the impact of that diet. He then spent time cleaning and wrangling thousands of data entries down to the exact information that he would need and proceeded to run statistical tests on this data to find a relationship between the larval fish abundance and the ratio of dead Brandt’s strandings to living Brandt’s spotted. While it was found that Northern Anchovy appear to play the largest role in Brandt’s Cormorant mortality, the project is ongoing and will continue to run statistical test and time series analyses going forward. There is also a plan in place to create an online interactive data visualization.

For more information you can visit: https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/surf-program-scripps-oceanography-wraps-another-successful-year-2021 or attend the SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum October 29-30 at Wofford where Nicholas will be presenting his findings.
PROFIL OF THE WEEK:
University of Miami – Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science

Located on Virginia Key, Florida, the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) was begun in the 1940’s and has grown to become one of the leading academic oceanographic and atmospheric research institutions in the world. The 65-acre campus encompasses a marine research and educational park, along with two NOAA laboratories and a marine and science technology high school.

The Master of Professional Science Program (MPS) is for students seeking advanced training in marine and atmospheric science. MPS offers areas of study in Applied Marine Physics, Marine Affairs and Policy, Marine Biology and Fisheries, Marine and Atmospheric Chemistry, Marine Geology and Geophysics, or Meteorology and Physical Oceanography. MPS is a professional degree rather than a traditional, research-based MS degree and is geared toward those students who seek employment that requires scientific knowledge and professional skills.