Kate Blackwell

Joining Dr. Heather Lynch's lab in Fall 2020, Kate is working toward her Ph.D. in Ecology & Evolution at Stony Brook University. The Lynch Lab leads the analysis of data from the long-term Antarctic Site Inventory biological monitoring program. Kate's work focuses on identifying the nesting locations of Antarctic petrels and understanding the connectivity between them using genetics and morphology.

She graduated from George Mason University with an MS in Geographic and Cartographic Sciences after analyzing factors used to determine where wildlife cross roads in an effort to mitigate roadkill. She also worked on characterizing the bacterial microbiome of deep-sea coral located in the Gulf of Mexico. From Randolph-Macon Woman's College, she obtained her BS in Biology, minoring in Chemistry, and BA in English.

In between her studies, Kate identified whales and tracked their behavior off the Gulf of Maine and did the same for bottlenose dolphins in Wales. Her time in the Gulf of Mexico was spent finding her sea legs while pipetting seawater samples and assisting with the deep-sea submersible. When not in the field, Kate interned for the Marine Mammal Collection, National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution, dissecting and preparing new specimen for collection entry and assessing the population connectivity of bottlenose dolphins using skull morphology.

In her spare time, Kate enjoys scuba diving. Recent travels took her to the Big Island of Hawaii, where she dove with manta rays and experienced the pelagic magic black water night dive, and Rincón, Puerto Rico.