

Rebecca Vega Thurber



The Around the Island Project: Holistic and high spatial scale biodiversity dynamics across Moorea's lagoon

Observations of regional heterogeneity in the MCR time series as well as insights from reef bleaching and nutrient patterns motivated our team to deeply explore the dynamics and regional variability of multiple levels of biological complexity, from microbial diversity to macroscale benthic community members. In the Around the Island Project we have surveyed, analyzed, and here interpreted spatial and habitat differences in bacterial, invertebrate, fish, and macroalgae biodiversity measures synoptic with numerous biogeochemical parameters, climate and weather information, as well as land use data for 5 years at 200 sites. These data measures were derived from multiple methodologies for comparison and benchmarking and to inform future monitoring programs aimed at capturing complex dynamics across an entire ecosystem. In this talk we will present 4 years of these data with emphasis on the bacterial, fish, and benthic community dynamics and how they might relate to potential restoration, regeneration, and conservation outcomes for Moorea's coral reefs.

Dr. Vega Thurber's Background

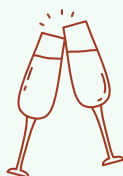
PROFESSOR; DIRECTOR OF MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE, UC SANTA BARBARA

Dr. Rebecca Vega Thurber is a Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology and the Director of the Marine Science Institute at UC Santa Barbara. Her lab investigates the role and dynamics of bacteria and viruses in threatened hosts and habitats in order to better understand and mitigate or prevent the proximate causes of disease, habitat degradation, and ecosystem alteration. She is currently a Senior Editor of the flagship journal *The International Society for Microbial Ecology Journal (ISMEJ)* and the Editor and Chief of the new fully free journal *Open Advances in Marine Biology, PeerJ*. Dr. Vega Thurber is committed to communicating science to broader audiences including the production of a multilingual cartoon series and a full-length documentary on coral reef decline entitled, *Saving Atlantis*.

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