

BIOGRAPHY

 **La Jolla, California, USA**

Catalina López-Sagástegui is a Marine Biologist from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur (2001) in La Paz, Mexico, and obtained a Masters degree on marine biodiversity and conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography (2006). Although her initial interests focused on marine mammal ecology, her focus shifted to understanding how coastal communities adapt to changes in their socio-economic realities when public policies aimed at protecting and managing species are implemented.

From 2006-2010 she worked at NOS Noroeste Sustentable A.C., where she coordinated an effort to create a common vision for the Upper Gulf of California with scientists, conservationists, and the fishing sector. Catalina joined UCMEXUS at the University of California Riverside in 2010 as a scholar in residence where she began to develop multidisciplinary research programs that incorporate resource users' participation in collaboration with the Gulf of California Marine Program (GCMP). Together with the Centro para la Biodiversidad Marina y la Conservación A.C., she developed a fisheries monitoring program that has generated data for the last 11 years, contributing to fisheries management on both, local and regional scales throughout the Gulf of California and Mexican Pacific.

Catalina's experience with conflict resolution helps her create opportunities for multistakeholder collaborations and has reinforced the importance of access to information to build trust and empower communities. In 2014, Catalina helped launch dataMares, GCMP's initiative to promote transparency in scientific research and provide a space where access to scientific data is possible.

In 2017, Catalina became the GCMP's director and, while she continues to do research related to small-scale fisheries in Mexico, she dedicates a significant portion of her time to promote binational research collaborations.

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