

Megan Hockin-Bennett

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Personal Statement

Natural history camera operator/assistant, editor and assistant producer currently based on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Worked across multiple disciplines since 2014 from camera trainee to operator on a variety of projects across television, short films, low budget movies, box office features and a mix of online content. Clients include National Geographic, Disney, BBC, CNN and The Nature of things working around the globe including Africa, Iceland, the UK and Canada. Spent the last eleven summers with Orcalab recording unique audio and visual content of orca and humpback whales, for use in research and filmmaking outreach projects. Owner of her own filmmaking equipment, including a Sony FS7, variety of Canon lenses, and a DJI Mavic drone. Proficient in using most professional camera systems including ARRI, Black Magic, Sony, RED and Canon. Megan is also experienced in large scale data management and video editing, using both Premier Pro and Final Cut Pro. My background in filmmaking and my passion for conservation have come together for strong visual storytelling with conservation based messages. Available for freelance opportunities as a videographer, or editor.

Examples of recent work

Hakai, Time to listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw7KAVuApYQ>
Generations of sound: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/502441711>
Farewell Harbour Lodge: <https://vimeo.com/409091735>
WDC: Welcome to Orcalab: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/499492722>
WDC August 2020 update: <https://vimeo.com/user36814745>

Data management

Data management is key for all media project projects. Managing Orcalab's growing data set of audio recordings, video recordings and written data is often hard to juggle on a daily basis but as the years have progressed I have found ways to make sure we are being as efficient as possible.

Communication skills

During my eleven years with Orcalab I have slowly taken on more responsibility with managing the teams of volunteers that arrive every summer to volunteer. Teams of up to 25 people camping off grid can need a lot of managing so communication in training and team moral is super important to keeping a project running smoothly. We would also give many tours of the facility to guests, kayak groups and potential funders that I would lead. Over the last 3 years I have also been giving weekly presentations at Farewell Harbour Lodge about marine mammals on the BC coast and showcasing some of the history and the work achieved by Orcalab focusing on the land based research.

Determination and sense of humour

A career progression in the film industry as well as in conservation demands self motivation, willingness to learn and resilience. Working to strict briefs and being your own boss are all important but when on set and working within a team, positivity and a good sense of humour can go along way. When it comes to my work with WDC it has always been myself and a computer for many long hours meeting edit deadlines for their social media content. I feel I am always engaged with the job at hand regardless of it's priority and constantly provide an excited energy for teams and positivity towards an end goal.

Interest in science

Over the past 10 years I have spent a large portion of each year dedicated to the better understanding, conservation and protection of the coastal waters of British Columbia. Focused mainly within the Broughton Archipelago with Orcalab, I have slowly integrated myself into the wider community of people that feel the same way. From film makers to creek walkers, from salmon farm occupation leaders to poets. I feel there are so many stories to be told to help this coast continue to thrive. I am currently in the early stages of producing a podcast about some of the amazing women along this coast. Both the underwater and above water world fascinates me. Although I do not come from a scientific background I still feel my skillset can help teams achieve what we all want, health and sustainability for our ecosystems.

Equipment currently owned

- Sony FS7 mki
- Canon 100-400mm MKii
- Variety of canon and sigma lens's
- DJI Mavic Pro 1
- Manfrotto fluid head pro video tripod
- Zoom H5 recorder
- Sennhieser shotgun microphone
- Gopro 7 black plus accessories

Additional skills

- Wilderness first aid certificate
- 2 years UK commercial drone flying experience with small commercial units
- Cold water scuba diving experience (Open water advanced) approx 170 dives. (Own all my own equipment)
- Experience in deploying underwater cameras and hydrophones (minimal experience working with Gates, Aquatica and IKELite housing)

Education

De Montfort University, Leicester, England, Graduating June 2010
Bachelors Degree: 2:1 Higher second division in Film Studies with Film production and Photography

Written References

Rob Lott, WDC:

Megan has played a key role as we have grown our fundraising programme at Whale and Dolphin Conservation. Often working in remote, isolated

locations, Megan has shown enormous creativity and flexibility as she delivers consistently high quality work on budget and to tight deadlines. Her ability to organise and prioritise her work for our charity has been incredibly professional and is testament to her strong work ethic and passion for her subject. Please contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Rob Lott

Whale and Dolphin Conservation

rob.lott@whales.org

Louisa Gilbert. Wild Bus Films:

When Megan and I have worked together she met the projects with professionalism and enthusiasm. It became instantly clear to me that, like myself, others who work along side Megan; from top scientists and student volunteers to boat captains and DFO officials respect and value her contribution. Megan is hands on, committed and fundamentally, passionate about the work she does - she's the recipe for success! Megan took the reins for Wild Bus Films in leading a recce for a landmark National Geographic project, where her thoughtful and detailed observations have proven essential to the shoots success. Throughout our time working together on a Hakai film, Megan shot, catalogued footage, ran boats, scuba dived a was an all round hugely valuable asset.

louisa@wildbusfilms.com