

## Krill Prefer Chill: Researcher Bio

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During the four years I've spent as a Ph.D. student at Oregon State University, I've been fortunate enough to visit Antarctica twice. In 2019 I spent more time there than I did in Oregon, living on the ice for eight months! The best part? I got to surround myself with other polar researchers and got to spend my time studying amazing creatures called Antarctic krill.

No bigger than the length of your pinky finger, krill are keystone species in the Southern Ocean and are the primary prey item for whales, seals, penguins and several species of fish and seabirds. The Antarctic environment is changing rapidly as climate change has led to intensive warming in certain areas, most notably the Antarctic Peninsula, which is my region of study. We are uncertain as to how a changing environment will impact krill and those animals that depend on them.



My research primarily focuses on the impacts of environmental change on the reproductive behavior and condition, or "health", of krill. To study this, a lot of my work is done looking at their reproductive biology using a microscope. If you are interested in learning more about this icy ecosystem, these charismatic krill, or maybe you're just a microscope fanatic, please feel free to email me and ask me questions!