

Jue Alef Avanzado Lalas

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a marine scientist with a decade of professional experience in biological research, teaching, and project management. Proven track record in leading field studies and publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Marine Science (student)	University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan	Oct. 2021-present
M.Sc. in Marine Science	University of the Philippines-Diliman, Philippines	2016-2020
B.Sc. in Marine Biology	Ateneo de Cagayan-Xavier University, Philippines	2011-2015

PhD thesis: Diversity and ecology of soft corals in shallow fringing reefs of Okinawa Island, Ryukyu Archipelago, Japan

MSc thesis: Community assemblages and population structure of soft corals (Octocorallia: Alcyonaceae) in the Bolinao-Anda Reef Complex, Pangasinan, northwestern Philippines

BSc thesis: Assessment of corals and macroalgae in the shallow reefs of Tubajon, Misamis Oriental, Philippines

SKILLS

1. Coral reef benthos surveys
2. Hard coral and octocoral identification
3. Certified advanced open water SCUBA diver
4. Research paper and proposal writing
5. Statistical analysis
6. DNA barcoding and other basic laboratory techniques
7. Use of the Coral Point Count with Excel extensions (CPCe) software
8. Proficient in Microsoft Office
9. Freediving

PUBLICATIONS

- Lalas, J.A.A.**, Jamodiong, E.A., Reimer, J.D. (2024) Spatial patterns of soft coral (Octocorallia) assemblages in the shallow coral reefs of Okinawa Island, Ryukyu Archipelago, Japan: Dominance on highly disturbed reefs. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*. 103405. [10.1016/j.rsma.2024.103405](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2024.103405)
- Lalas, J.A.A.**, Manzano, G.G., Desabelle, L.A.B., P.M., Baria-Rodriguez, M.V. (2023) Spatial variations in the benthic community structure of a coral reef system in the western Philippines: highlighting hard coral, octocoral, and sponge assemblages. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*. DOI: [10.1016/j.rsma.2023.102859](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2023.102859)
- Lalas, J.A.A.**, Manzano, G.G., Desabelle, L.A.B., Salvador-Reyes, L.A., Alino, P.M., Baria-Rodriguez, M.V. (2023) Notes on the distribution, ecology and mariculture trials of the Philippines blue sponge, *Xestospongia* sp. (Porifera). *Aquaculture, Fish and Fisheries*. 1-17. DOI: 10.1002/aff.298
- Lalas, J.A.A.**, Lim, R.T.L, Cabasan, J.P., Segumalian, C.S., Luciano, R.M., Valino, D.M., Jacinto, M.E., Arceo, H.O., Baria-Rodriguez, M.V. (2022) Spatial and short-term temporal patterns of octocoral assemblages in the West Philippine Sea. *Frontiers of Marine Science*. 8: 782977. DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2021.782977
- Lalas, J.A.A.**, Benayahu, Y., Baria-Rodriguez, M.V. (2021) Community structure and size-frequency distribution of soft corals in a heavily disturbed reef system in northwestern Philippines. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. DOI: [10.1016/j.marpolbul.2020.111871](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2020.111871)
- Jamodiong E.A., Tabalanza, T.D., **Lalas, J.A.A.**, Nakamura, T., Reimer, J.D. (2024) Early-life history of three soft coral species in Okinawa, Japan. *Marine and Freshwater Behaviour and Physiology*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10236244.2024.2374240>
- Mironenko, G., Jamodiong, E., **Lalas, J.A.A.**, Mehrotra, R., Reimer, J.D. (2023) Distribution and molecular phylogeny of the octocoral genus *Nanipora* (Helioporidae) in the western Pacific. *Marine Biodiversity*. 53: 6. DOI: [10.1007/s12526-023-01383-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12526-023-01383-8)
- Manzano, G., **Lalas, J.A.A.**, Desabelle, L.A., Prado, M.A., Alino, P.A., Salvador, L., Baria-Rodriguez, M.V. (2023) Open Sea farming protocols for the Philippine blue sponge. University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute. C2023. ISBN 978-621-8152-12-0. https://drive.google.com/file/d/13UD3jSWHScVYKD1eI3jFo8i8ApBrto_b/view?usp=share_link
- Rodriguez, M.V.B., Segumalian, C.S., **Lalas, J.A.A.**, Maningas, J.M.C. (2019) Octocorals outcompete scleractinians in a degraded reef. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*. Volume 420. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1755-1315/420/1/012027/pdf>
- Bobadilla, J., Escoro, M.C.Z., **Lalas, J.A.A.**, Albasin, B.S., Baria-Rodriguez, M.V., Arceo, H., Alino, P.M. (2018) Competence assessment tool: A guide for marine protected area (MPA) and other MPA network managers and practitioners. SMARTSeas PH- A UNDP project in the Philippines implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau and supported by the Global Environment Facility. http://eascongress2018.pemsea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/S4.2-Competence-Assessment-Tools-for-MPA-Network-Managers_PAlino.pdf

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dates	Project	Funding agency	Duties
May 2022-present	University research and teaching assistantship	University of the Ryukyus (Under Dr. James Reimer)	Research and teaching assistant
January-December 2022	Biology Faculty	Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, Philippines	Part-time biology faculty
September 2019- August 2021	Discovery and Development of Health Products: Anti-Infective and Anti-Cancer Drug Candidates from Marine Microorganisms and Sponges: Discovery and Development	Department of Science and technology	Research associate (chemical ecology component)
July 2018-July 2019	Securing the Eastern Corridor: Understanding the resiliency of Reef Environments in the Philippine Rise Region (SECURE Philippine Rise project)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines	Research associate (focusing on octocoral assessment)
June 2017 – June 2018	Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines (SMARTSeas PH project)	United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Research associate (focusing on the development of a monitoring and evaluation system for marine protected areas)
April 2015- April 2016	Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH project)	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Research associate
April 2015-May 2016	Assessment of fisheries in selected municipalities of the Philippines	Rare	Consultant
March 2016	Seagrass assessment in the municipality of Nasugbu	The Coral Triangle Conservancy Inc.	Field assistant
April-June 2015	Assessment of mangroves in selected sites in the Philippines	Rare	Consultant
March 2015	Coral restoration project in the municipality of Villanueva	Municipality of Villanueva local government unit	Field assistant
2013-2014	Environmental impact assessment of the STEAG power plant in the Municipality of Villanueva coastal areas	STEAG State Power, Inc.	Field assistant

2014	Giant clam restocking project in Camiguin Island	Ateneo de Cagayan-Xavier University	Field assistant
2012-2013	Macajalar Bay Resource and Ecological Assessment	Misamis Oriental provincial government	Field assistant
2012	Agutayan Island giant clam restocking project	Ateneo de Cagayan-Xavier University	Field assistant

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Conference	Date	Title of presentation	Type of presentation
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology-CNRS joint symposium for west pacific marine biology	2024	Relationship of soft corals and reef-associated fishes in the shallow coral reefs of Okinawa Island, Japan	Poster
5 th Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium	2023	Spatial variation of soft coral community assemblages in shallow fringing reefs of Okinawa Island	Oral
2 nd International Conference on Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems	2022	Spatial variations on the community structure of a coral reef system in the Central Philippines: Highlighting hard coral, octocoral, and sponge assemblages	Oral
15 th Philippine Association for Marine Sciences Symposium	2021	Notes on the distribution and mariculture trials of the Philippine blue sponge (<i>Xestospongia</i> sp.)	Oral
Federation of Institutions for Marine and Freshwater Studies conference 2019	2019	Community assemblages and population structure of soft corals in the Bolinao-Anda Reef Complex, Pangasinan, Northwestern Philippines	Oral
Society for Coastal Ecosystems Studies-Asia Pacific Symposium 2019	2019	Community assemblages and population structure of soft corals in the Bolinao-Anda Reef Complex, Pangasinan, Northwestern Philippines	Oral
15 th Philippine Association for Marine Sciences Symposium	2019	Community assemblages of soft corals in the Bolinao-Anda Reef Complex, Pangasinan, Northwestern Philippines	Oral
Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium	2018	Soft coral generic richness and cover of soft corals in Bolinao, Pangasinan, Philippines	Poster

		Development of a competence assessment tool for marine protected area managers and practitioners	Oral
Society for Coastal Ecosystems Studies- Asia Pacific Symposium 2017	2017	Linking Competency of Managers in Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Management Performance	Oral
13 th Philippine Association for Marine Sciences Symposium	2015	Community assemblages of reef fishes in coral reefs with different distances from mangrove forests	Oral

ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Position	Inclusive dates
Philippine Association for Marine Sciences	Member	2015- present
Society for Coastal Ecosystems Studies- Asia Pacific	Member	2017- present
University of the Philippines- Marine Science Society	Member	2015- present
Xavier University- Marine Science Society	Member	2011- present
University of San Carlos Mountaineers	Member	2009- present
Xavier University- Ateneo Mountaineering Society	Member	2010- present

TRAININGS ATTENDED

Name	Organizer	Date
Octocoral taxonomy and systematics training workshop	Yehuda Benayahu, Catherine McFadden, Andrea Quattrini	June 23-27, 2023
Soft coral identification workshop	University of the Philippines- Marine Science Institute	July 2019
Capacity Building for Reef Assessment and Coral Taxonomy	De la Salle University- Philippines	January & March 2018
Introduction to the competence assessment tool for marine protected area managers and practitioners	University of the Philippines- Marine Science Institute	February 2018
Marine Protected Area Design Training Workshop	Capturing coral reef ad related ecosystem services (CCRES) project	June 2017

Introduction to geographic information system (GIS)	Geographic Innovations Development Solutions, Inc.	April 2016
Introduction to the use of the baited remote underwater video system (BRUVS)	University of the Philippines- Los Baños/ Oceana	March 2016
Marine protected area design workshop	Marine Environment and Resource Foundation	November 2015
Introduction to R	University of the Philippines- Marine Science Institute	June 2015
Basic Rescue Training	Xavier University- Marine Science Society	February 2015
Sea turtle rescue and Philippine wildlife acts seminar	Xavier University- Mckeough Marine Center	November 2014
Bathymetry and basic map making	Xavier University- Mckeough Marine Center	April 2014
Advanced open water diving training	Professional Association for Diving Instructors (PADI)	April 2014
Open water diving training	Professional Association for Diving Instructors (PADI)	April 2013

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

James D. Reimer, Ph.D.

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Maria Vanessa Baria-Rodriguez, Ph.D.

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