

Lauren Cortez French

Lauren Cortez French is an undergraduate student majoring in Biology and Environmental Science & Policy at the College of William & Mary. She grew up in Maryland where she noticed her local streams changing with human activity and quickly became passionate about threats to aquatic systems and their impacts on ecology and human society. Lauren studies the effects of water quality on freshwater fungal community composition using environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding with Dr. James Skelton and Dr. Michelle Jusino. Lauren is honored to receive the 2022 MSA Undergraduate Research Award and Mentor Student Travel Award and is very excited to attend her first MSA conference to present her research this summer. In Fall of 2022, she will be moving to Seattle, WA to start a master's program in University of Washington's School of Marine and Environmental Affairs where she hopes to continue studying fungi in changing freshwater systems using eDNA metabarcoding.