

EDUCATION

Jacksonville University – College of Arts & Sciences

Master of Science in Marine Science

Jacksonville, FL
Class of 2024

- Assessing metal concentrations in muscle tissue of blacktip sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) from coastal Maryland compared to the Florida Peninsula

University of North Carolina – College of Science & Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology

Wilmington, NC
Class of 2020

Study aboard at Murdoch University in Perth Australia, Summer 2019

- Course Credit: Field Methods and Tropical Marine Ecology
- Researched impact of Marine Protected Areas on Giant Clams in Ningaloo Reef

WORK EXPERIENCE

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Research Specialist

Gloucester, VA
July 2024- Current

- Participate and lead offshore wind (OSW) research studies to assess environmental impacts that OSW turbines may have on fisheries and fish ecosystems
- Participate in sea scallop research cruises to assess stock abundance of sea scallops and other bycatch in the Mid-Atlantic, Georges Bank, and the New York Bight
- Analyze catch, biological, and environmental data using coding software such as R, and mapping software such as ArcGIS
- Present data and research at meetings and conferences through presentations to other scientists, fishermen, stakeholders, management, and the public
- Plan to develop and lead pelagic research project using longline to assess OSW impacts on Highly Migratory Species in the Mid-Atlantic

OCEARCH

Deckhand

Jacksonville, FL
Nov. 2023- July 2024

- Fabrication and maintenance of fishing equipment
- Assist engineer, leaderman, and captain with ship operations
 - Sample collection and deployment of tags on white sharks
- Responsible for deployment of fishing equipment
- Served as an OCEARCH representative to the students and the public

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Biological Scientist – Fisheries Independent Monitoring

Jacksonville, FL
April 2022 – July 2024

- Participate in monthly identification and sampling of inshore and offshore fish and invertebrates to monitor species abundance
- Analyze fish catch data to characterize fish abundance, community structure, and age/size distributions
- Deploy and monitor fishing gear to assess Red Snapper habitats and population characteristics
- Identify fish species using microscopes, dichotomous keys
- Collect samples such as otoliths, tissue, fin clips, and spines for age and growth, mercury, and genetic analyses
- Coordinate and communicate with the public through events and festivals as well as at boat ramps and marinas
- Facilitate public discourse about topics relating to fish and wildlife

Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute

Marine Operations Technician and First Mate

Jacksonville, FL
Aug. 2021 –April 2022

- Managed marine tanks, husbandry, and research vessels
- Worked on a 40ft research vessel, leading river excursions alongside students and researchers

- Captained smaller vessels to participate in sample collection along the St. Johns River
- Learned to operate, tow, and dock vessels

Fish Finder Charter Fishing Boat

Ocean City, MD

First Mate

May 2020 – Aug 2021

- Caught, handled, and released sharks in the Mid-Atlantic
- Collected blood, tissue, and DNA Samples for research projects and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Prepared and deployed fishing equipment
- Participated in public outreach and education about sharks, biology, and natural resource conservation

Karren Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital

Topsail, NC

Intern

Aug. 2019- Dec. 2019

- Researched illness, disease and anthropogenic threats impacting sea turtles native to North Carolina
- Cleaned, fed, and cared for various sea turtle species
- Analyzed migratory patterns and protection of endangered species
- Conducted public outreach relating to protecting turtle habitats

RESEARCH

Assessing Metal Concentration in Muscle Tissue of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) from Coastal Maryland Compared to the Florida Peninsula

Jacksonville, FL

Aug. 2021- Current

Jacksonville University

- Collected muscle tissue samples from thirty sharks in four locations
- Heavy metal analysis using atomic absorption mass spectrometry
- Collaborative data collection with other universities and research groups for samples
- Statistical analysis using SigmaPlot, ArcGIS, Excel, and SAS
- Advisor: Dr. Gretchen Bielmyer-Fraser
- Committee: Dr. Bryan Franks, Dr. Dean Grubbs

Sanctuary Zone Impacts on Giant Clam Abundance at Ningaloo Reef

Perth, Australia

Murdoch University

June 2019- July 2019

- Used haphazard random sampling to study effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in Western Australia
- Used previous year data to understand trends in abundance

Zonation of Chitons (Polyplacophora) in the Rocky Intertidal at Cape Peron

Perth, Australia

Murdoch University

June 2019- July 2019

- Studied the dispersal and competition of invertebrates in the Western Australia rocky intertidal
- Presented research to class

Biotic and Abiotic Stress Effects on primary Producers and Primary Consumers in Differing Zones in a Salt Marsh Community

Wilmington, NC

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

May 2019

- Studied salt marsh communities using transect surveys in coastal habitats
- Presented research to class

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course Work: Fisheries Biology, Invertebrate Zoology, Marine Biology, Tropical Marine Ecology, Field Methods, Marine Phycology, Forensics, Criminology, Organic Chemistry, Coastal Law, Coastal Observations

Presentations: Jacksonville University School of Sponsored Activities 2023, Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute Advisory Board 2023, American Elasmobranch Society 2023, FWC Annual Meeting 2024

Societies & Associations: American Fisheries Society, American Elasmobranch Society, National Shellfisheries Association

