

# Kaylan Michelle Dance

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## EDUCATION

**M.S. Marine Biology**, Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus, TX Dec. 2017  
*Thesis: Feeding ecology of Gray Triggerfish (*Balistes capriscus*) and Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) at artificial reefs in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico.*

**B.S. Marine Biology**, Texas A&M University, TX Dec. 2012

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant** | Shark Biology & Fisheries Science Lab Jan. 2014-Present  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** | Shark Biology & Fisheries Science Lab Jan. 2016-May 2016  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

**Lab Technician** | Shark Biology & Fisheries Science Lab May 2013-Dec. 2013  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

**Lab Technician** | Fisheries Ecology Lab Sept. 2012-May 2013  
Texas A&M University, Department of Marine Biology, Galveston, TX

**Field Research Assistant** | Ecology & Evolutionary Department May 2011-Oct. 2011  
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

**Student Employee** | Office of the Vice President and CEO Aug. 2010-Sept. 2012  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

**National Resource Center for Cephalopods Internship** | Marine Biomedical Institute Aug. 2009-Dec. 2009  
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Plumlee JD, **Dance KM**, Matich P, Mohan JA, Richards TM, TinHan TC, Fisher MR, Wells RJD (In Review) Community structure of elasmobranchs in estuaries along the Northwest Gulf of Mexico. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, submitted August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - **Dance KM**, Rooker JR, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2017) Feeding ecology at artificial reefs in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico. *Proceedings of the 69<sup>th</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*: 309-310
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## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Texas A&M University Graduate Student Scholarship 2016-2017
  - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Student Travel Award 2016
  - Mooney Travel Award 2016
  - Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Student Scholarship 2016
  - Texas A&M University Graduate Student Scholarship 2015-2016
  - Great Lakes National Scholarship 2015
  - SeaSpace Endowed Scholarship 2015
  - Texas A&M University Graduate Student Scholarship 2014-2015
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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant** | Shark Biology & Fisheries Science Lab Jan. 2014-Present  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX  
*Advisor: Dr. R.J. David Wells*

- Organized monitoring surveys (SEAMAP protocol) of artificial reefs in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife's (TPWD) Artificial Reef Program.
- Experience using imaging sonar (ARIS) to assess fish biomass.
- Utilized natural stable isotopes and gut content analysis to examine the feeding ecology of reef fish.
- Record and manage TPWD monitoring data.
- Prepared and wrote quarterly and annual reports for state funding agencies (e.g. TPWD).
- Utilized a variety of statistical packages to analyze data (PRIMER-E and R).

**Lab Technician** | Shark Biology & Fisheries Science Lab May 2013-Dec. 2013  
 Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX  
*Supervisor:* Dr. R.J. David Wells

- Maintained laboratory records, inventory, equipment, website, and ordered laboratory materials.
- Prepared animal use protocols as well as state and federal permits.
- Assisted in research using fisheries laboratory techniques, such as otolith chemistry and/or otolith-based age and growth.
- Prepared tissue samples for natural stable isotope analysis to examine regional differences in the feeding of European Common Cuttlefish in the Mediterranean Sea and Northeast Atlantic Ocean.
- Aided in the deployment of electronic tags on pelagic shark species to examine movement patterns in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Worked on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (PI: Dr. R.J. David Wells).

**Lab Technician** | Fisheries Ecology Lab Sept. 2012-May 2013  
 Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Jay Rooker

- Utilized a variety of genetic techniques to identify larval billfish and tuna species, including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and high-resolution melting analysis (HRMA).
- Assisted with collection of offshore ichthyoplankton samples using bongo and neuston nets.
- Received basic training to deploy a multiple opening/closing net and environmental sensing system (MOCHNESS).
- Sorted ichthyoplankton samples and visually identified target taxa (billfishes, tunas, dolphin fishes and flying fishes).

**Undergraduate Research (2 credit hours)** | Fisheries Ecology Lab Jan. 2012-May 2012  
 Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Jay Rooker

- Completed an independent research project under the supervision of a PhD student using otolith chemistry to examine the relationships between otolith and somatic growth of juvenile Red Drum, and compare them between three different bays within the Gulf of Mexico.

**Field Research Assistant** | Ecology & Evolutionary Department May 2011-Oct. 2011  
 Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

- Conducted sampling of crab megalopae as well as environmental data (salinity and temperature), and identified/sorted target species (Blue Crab).

**Volunteer** | TMMSN Texas Marine Mammal Stranding network Sept. 2009-Dec. 2010  
 Galveston, TX

- Trained for treating, handling during treatment, and health inspection of beached marine mammals.

**National Resource Center for Cephalopods Intern** | Marine Biomedical Institute Aug. 2009-Dec. 2009  
 University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

- Monitored and maintained cuttlefish tanks for growth rate experiments. Tasks included food preparation and feeding, cleaning tanks, sex identification, and recording of hatch data for juvenile cuttlefish.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Guest Lecturer** | MARB 311 Ichthyology & MARB 312 Field Ichthyology Feb. 2016, Oct. 2017  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** | MARB 311 Ichthyology Jan. 2016-May 2016  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

- Instructed two (50 students) weekly labs that covered topics in fish biology, morphology, physiology, taxonomy, biodiversity, and form and function of marine and freshwater species.
- Developed supplemental class material.
- Created and presented an oral presentation at the beginning of each lab, linking lecture material to the laboratory section.
- Wrote lab quizzes, and conducted grading of all laboratory assignments.

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## OUTREACH AND LEADERSHIP

**Graduate Mentor** | MARB 491 Directed Research Aug. 2014-May 2016  
Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus, Department of Marine Biology, Galveston, TX

- Served as the primary graduate mentor for 10 undergraduate students conducting directed research at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Students Mentored: Aly Peterson, Jason Williams, Olivia Mouch, Abigail Acord, Sarah Logan, Alexis Sulik, Christine Satterwhite, Jill Thompson-Grim, Zechariah Turk, and Jonathan Kubacak.

**Shark Conservation Day** | Darwin L. Gilmore Elementary School Sept. 2013-Sept. 2017  
League City Pkwy, League City, TX

- Developed material and activities for a school wide shark research and conservation outreach event.

**President/Social Coordinator** | Galveston chapter of the Texas Academy of Science Aug. 2009-Dec. 2010  
Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

- Promoted undergraduate research and encouraged undergraduate participation in the scientific community.
- Organized and advertised for social events aimed at fostering interaction between students and faculty.

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## ORAL PRESENTATIONS (presenter listed first)

### Oral Presentations

- **Dance K**, Rooker JR, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2017) Use of dietary tracers to examine feeding patterns of Red Snapper and Gray Triggerfish at Texas artificial reefs. TPWD Artificial Reef Program, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Science and Research Consortium, Corpus Christi, TX
- **Dance K**, Rooker JR, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2016) Feeding ecology of fishes at artificial reefs in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico. The 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
- **Dance K**, Rooker JR, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2016) Feeding ecology of two model predators at artificial reefs in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. 2016 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society, Kerrville, TX
- **Dance K**, Rooker JR, Dance MA, TinHan TC, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2016) Reef fish associated with artificial reefs and the feeding ecology of two model predators. TPWD Artificial Reef Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Science and Research Consortium, Corpus Christi, TX
- **Dance K**, Rooker J, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2015) Feeding ecology of reef fish at artificial reefs in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. The 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. AFS. Portland, OR
- **Bradley K**, TinHan TC, Rooker JR, Wells RJD (2015) Fish assemblages associated with nearshore artificial reefs. TPWD Artificial Reef Program, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Science and Research Consortium, Corpus Christi, TX

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## PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

### Graduate

- TPWD Artificial Reef Program 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Science and Research Consortium (Corpus Christi, TX, 2017)
- Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, 2016)
- TPWD Artificial Reef Program 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Science and Research Consortium (Corpus Christi, TX, 2016)
- American Fisheries Society 145th Annual Meeting (Portland, OR, 2015)
- TPWD Artificial Reef Program 2nd Annual Science and Research Consortium (Corpus Christi, TX, 2015)
- TPWD Artificial Reef Program 1st Annual Science and Research Consortium (Corpus Christi, TX, 2014)
- Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute 66th Annual Conference (Corpus Christi, TX, 2013)

### Undergraduate

- Texas Academy of Science Conference (Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX, 2010).

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## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

All Certifications were received at Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus.

- NAUI Master SCUBA Diver
- NAUI First AID/CPR
- NITROX diver
- NAUI Rescue SCUBA Diver
- AAUS Scientific Diver
- NSS - CDS Cavern Diver
- Texas Boater Safety Course

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Fisheries ecology, coral reef ecology, population connectivity, sustainable fisheries, habitat assessment, anthropogenic effects