

# Travis Richards

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## EDUCATION

**Texas A&M University at Galveston**  
**Florida State University**  
**Eckerd College**

Ph.D. Marine Biology, Advisor: Dr. David Wells  
M.Sc. Biological Science, Advisor: Dr. Dean Grubbs  
B.Sc. Marine Science

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## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

- Richards, T.M.**, T. T. Sutton, and R.J.D. Wells. (2020). Trophic Structure and Sources of Variation Influencing the Stable Isotope Signatures of Meso- and Bathypelagic Micronekton Fishes. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 7:507992. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2020.507992
- Cook, A., Bernard, A. M., Boswell, K. M., Bracken-Grissom, H., D'Elia, M., Derada, S., ... and **Richards, T.M.** (2020). A Multidisciplinary Approach to Investigate Deep-Pelagic Ecosystem Dynamics in the Gulf of Mexico following Deepwater Horizon. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7, 1122.
- Richards, T. M.**, Gipson, E. E., Cook, A., Sutton, T. T., & Wells, R. D. (2019). Trophic ecology of meso- and bathypelagic predatory fishes in the Gulf of Mexico. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 76(3), 662-672.
- Milligan, R. J., Bernard, A. M., Boswell, K. M., Bracken-Grissom, H. D., D'Elia, M. A., deRada, S., ... and **Richards, T.M.** (2018). The Application of Novel Research Technologies by the Deep Pelagic Nekton Dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico (DEEPEND) Consortium. *Marine Technology Society Journal*, 52(6), 81-86.
- Plumlee, Jeffrey D., K.M. Dance, P. Matich, J. A. Mohan, **T.M. Richards**, T. C. Tinhan, M.R. Fisher, and R.J.D. Wells. (2018). Community structure of elasmobranchs in estuaries along the northwest Gulf of Mexico. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 204: 103-113.
- Briggs, Kevin B., J. K. Craig, S. Shivarudrappac, and **T.M. Richards**. (2017). Macrobenthos and megabenthos responses to long-term, large-scale hypoxia on the Louisiana continental shelf. *Marine Environmental Research* 123: 38-52.
- Grossman, G. D., & **Richards, T.M.** (2016). Active Learning via Student Karaoke Videos. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 28(2), 204-217.
- Richards, Travis M.**, J.M. Krebs, and C. C. McIvor. (2011). Microhabitat associations of a semi-terrestrial fish, *Kryptolebias marmoratus* Poey 1880 in a mosquito-ditched mangrove forest, west-central Florida. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 401: 48-56.
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## RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Texas A&M University at Galveston- Shark Biology and Fisheries Science Laboratory (Galveston, TX)**

(Postdoctoral Research Associate)

2020 – Present

Responsible for multiple research projects including using electronic data loggers to determine post-release survivorship of coastal shark species captured by recreational anglers in the Gulf of Mexico and an examination of the population dynamics of the blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) in the Gulf of Mexico and north Atlantic Ocean.

### **Texas A&M University at Galveston- Shark Biology and Fisheries Science Laboratory (Galveston, TX)**

(Graduate Research Assistant)

2015 – 2020

Conducted research investigating food web structure of animal communities in the deep-pelagic realm of the Gulf of Mexico. Aided in food web, acoustic telemetry, and distribution and abundance studies conducted by the shark biology laboratory in coastal Texas estuaries

**University of Georgia – Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources (Athens, GA)**

*(Laboratory Manager)*

2013 – 2015

Aided in the development and testing of fitness-based models to predict microhabitat selection by juvenile, stream-dwelling salmonids.

**Florida State University – Fisheries Ecology Laboratory (Tallahassee, FL)**

*(Graduate Research Assistant)*

2010 - 2013

Research assistant for multiple research projects including an assessment of ecosystem services provided by marsh dominated habitats in Apalachicola Bay, FL; coastal shark abundance surveys in Florida's Big Bend region; investigation of deep-water fish assemblages associated with submarine canyons and continental slope waters in the Gulf of Mexico

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Apalachicola, FL) *(Fisheries Technician)***

2011 – 2013

Fisheries Independent Monitoring of the Apalachicola Bay Estuary. Aided with monthly sampling of fish and invertebrates using trawls, beach seines and haul seines. Responsible for identification of juvenile and adult fishes and invertebrates

**Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, MA) *(Research Technician)*** 2008 - 2009

Assisted with day to day operations and faunal sampling for a large-scale ecosystem manipulation experiment examining the effects of chronic nutrient loading on salt marsh ecosystems

**NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (Honolulu, HI) *(Biological Observer-Pacific Islands Region)***

2007 – 2008

Collected catch data and biological samples from fishes captured during commercial tuna and swordfish longline operations

**United States Geological Survey – Mangrove Fish Ecology Laboratory (St. Petersburg, FL)**

*(Biological Technician)* 2006-2007

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**RECENT FIRST AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS**

**Richards, T.M.,** Sutton, T., and Wells R.J.D. 2020. Factors Influencing the Stable Isotope Signatures of Deep-Pelagic Micronekton in the Gulf of Mexico. Ocean Sciences Meeting. San Diego, CA.

**Richards, T.M.,** Sutton, T., and Wells R.J.D. 2019. Trophic structure of a deep pelagic micronekton assemblage in the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference. New Orleans, LA.

**Richards, T.M.,** Sutton, T., and Wells R.J.D. 2018. Trophic structure of deep-pelagic micronekton as revealed through bulk and compound-specific stable isotope analysis. 15<sup>th</sup> Deep-Sea Biology Symposium. Monterey, CA.

**Richards, T.M.,** Sutton, T., and Wells, R.J.D. 2017. Distribution and abundance of model meso- and bathypelagic micronekton in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Joint Meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Austin, TX.

**Richards, T.M.,** T. Sutton, R.J.D. Wells. 2017. Trophic dynamics of meso- and bathypelagic micronekton in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Association of the Sciences for Limnology and Oceanography Ocean Sciences Meeting. Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Richards, T.M.,** T. Sutton, R.J.D. Wells. 2017. Trophic dynamics of Meso- and bathypelagic micronekton in relation to mesoscale oceanographic features in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference. New Orleans, LA.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Texas A&M University at Galveston** *(Graduate Teaching Assistant)*

2016 - 2018

**Fisheries Techniques (Laboratory)** (Undergraduate majors – 2 sections) Fall 2018 ○

Responsible for implementing laboratory curriculum designed to provide students with hands-on experience deploying, retrieving and analyzing data from commonly used fisheries sampling gears

**Ichthyology (Laboratory)** (Undergraduate majors – 3 sections) Spring 2016 - 2018

- Responsible for instruction of laboratory sections where the taxonomy, biology, physiology and ecology of fishes was explored
- Designed and presented weekly lectures (~20 minutes) and assessed learning and retention through written quizzes and laboratory exams

**Broadreach Inc.** (*Co-instructor*)

2014

**Sea Turtle Studies in Costa Rica** (Undergraduate - 3 credits)

- Co-leader for an immersive one month study abroad biology class focused on studying the ecology and biology of sea turtles and other tropical marine fauna

**Introductory Veterinary Science in Costa Rica** (Undergraduate - 3 credits)

- Co-leader for a one month class providing students with an immersive, hands-on learning experience in the field of wildlife veterinary medicine

**Florida State University** (*Graduate Teaching Assistant*)

2011 - 2014

**Investigations in Biology (Laboratory)**, (Undergraduate majors) Spring 2014

- Responsible for laboratory focused on hypothesis generating and testing, data analysis, and proper scientific writing techniques.

**Principles of Ecology** (Undergraduate majors) Fall 2013

- Lecture assistant responsible for leading individual and group study and review sessions, grading, and facilitating communication between students and head lecturer

**Animal Diversity (Laboratory)** (Undergraduate majors – 3 sections) Fall 2010, Spring 2013

- Provided weekly lectures (~20min) detailing the biology of animal phyla from Porifera to Chordata and led weekly dissections to provide students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities

**Biology of Fishes (Laboratory)** (Undergraduate majors) Summer 2013

- Responsible for running laboratory dissections and coordinating collection trips into local freshwater, brackish water, and marine habitats

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**INVITED GUEST LECTURES AND SEMINARS**

2020	Univ. New England	Ichthyology	Biology and ecology of deep-sea fishes (digital seminar)
	Texas A&M - Galveston	Intro Bio I	Cell Theory; eukaryotic cell structure
2019	Texas A&M - Galveston	Intro Bio II	Diversity and ecology of invertebrate phyla
		Intro Bio II	Community ecology, direct/indirect species interactions
2018	Texas A&M - Galveston	Intro Bio II	Invertebrate evolution
		Ichthyology	Diversity, biology, and ecology of deep-sea fishes
		Marine Ecology	Deep-sea habitats and ecology of deep-sea fauna
		Ichthyology	Environmental drivers of freshwater fish diversity
		Intro Bio II	Competition, sexual selection, interspecific interactions
2017	Texas A&M - Galveston	Biostats	Introduction to hypothesis testing in statistics
2016	Texas A&M - Galveston	Biostats	T-tests, ANOVAs and post-hoc multiple comparisons
2014	Florida State University	Ecology and Evolution Seminar	Trophic dynamics of a ubiquitous estuarine predator

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**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

- 2019 ["Deep-Sea Foodwebs: It's Complicated"](#) Environmental, Coastal & Offshore Magazine
- 2018 [Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative: Research Spotlight](#) (*Editor for article*)
- Provided information for and edited published description of research findings
- 2018 [Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative: Student Spotlight](#) (Published Interview)
- 2018 **Texas Coastal Brigades** (Lecturer and Instructor)
- Assisted with fish anatomy lessons through dissections and presented a lecture to students on the importance and diversity of animals in the deep sea.

- 2017 **Whale Times, Inc. Creep into the DEEPEND Summer Camp Webinars**
- Spoke to grade school students from around the country about current research in the deep-sea and life onboard an oceanographic research vessels
- 2017 **Gulf of Mexico Exploration Teacher Workshop** (Co-Instructor)
- 2 day workshop designed to provide local science teachers with curriculum and lesson ideas focused on the importance of deep-pelagic ecosystems
- 2011-2014 **Florida State University Saturday's at the Sea** (*Instructor*)
- Led groups of 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students on sampling trips into local saltmarsh, oyster reef and seagrass habitats to observe local flora and fauna
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## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

- 2020**  
Texas A&M University - Galveston: Erma Lee and Luke Mooney Graduate Student Research Excellence Grant (\$1000)
- 2018**  
Texas A&M University - Galveston: The Erma Lee and Luke Mooney Travel Grant (\$500)  
Texas A&M University - Galveston: Marine Biology mini grant (\$500)  
Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Scholarship (\$1500)
- 2017**  
Texas A&M University - Galveston: Marine Biology Department mini-grant (\$500)  
Selected as a Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Scholar
- 2015**  
Texas A&M University - Galveston: Marine Biology Interdisciplinary Program Fellowship (\$40,000)
- 2013**  
Florida State University: Florida State Coastal and Marine Laboratory Scholarship (\$1000)
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