

# JESSICA MYERS

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
CORPUS CHRISTI

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## EDUCATION

### **COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY** - Conway, SC

Bachelor of Science, Marine Science, GPA: 3.9 (May 2019)

- Sustainability Certificate
- Honors Program

### **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** - Corpus Christi, TX

Master of Coastal and Marine Systems Science, GPA: 3.8 (anticipated May 2022)

Thesis: Is Plastic a Vector for Mercury in the Marine Food Web? A characterization of Mercury Sorption to Plastic Debris Consumed by Fish Species of Lavaca Bay, TX

Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Conkle

Committee: Dr. Keisha Bahr, Dr. Benjamin Walther

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **SEP 2020 - Present**

Researcher, C-Hawq Lab at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX

Performing quality analysis/quality control for microplastic samples. Running suspected plastic samples using FTIR and processing FTIR spectral data and verifying or correcting the original inputs to ensure accurate results for publication using OMNIC and OpenSpecy software. Project: Writing Standard Operating Procedure for this process using OpenSpecy open-source software

### **JUL 2020-AUG 2020**

Researcher, C-Hawq Lab at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX

Dosed, fed, and dissected tilapia for a contaminant dosing study (pending publication), Calibrated instruments, assessed water chemistry

### **OCT 2019**

Crew, San Antonio Bay Waterkeeper - Port Lavaca, TX

Assessed cleanup efforts and collected microplastic (nurdle and powder) samples from outfall sites near the Formosa Plastic Plant in Lavaca Bay, TX to assist with a Clean Water Act lawsuit.

### **AUG 2017- 2019**

Laboratory Assistant, Coastal Carolina University Marine Science Department - Conway, SC

Set up, prepared solutions, calibrated instruments (YSI, pH meter, spectrophotometer, turbidimeter), and maintained chemical inventory for teaching labs as a laboratory assistant for Coastal Carolina University MSCI department. Trained incoming hires and students on lab protocol and safety.

### **AUGUST 2017**

Crew, Coastal Carolina University Department of Geology - Research cruise on the R/V Hugh R. Sharp

Selected to collect geological cores from 60 miles off the coast of South Carolina, looking for evidence of icebergs through a USGS grant. Interpreted CHIRP data to determine sampling sites. Took and processed core samples for later analysis

### **JAN 2017- 2018: Undergraduate Honors Thesis**

Marine Science Lab at Coastal Carolina University – Conway, SC

Collected, filtered, and analyzed water samples for concentration of microplastic fibers

Title: Assessment and comparison of distribution and impacts of microfiber plastics between the Northern Coast of South Carolina and Bimini, Bahamas

## **MAY 2017**

Student, Bimini Biological Field Station - Bimini, Bahamas

- week long, hands-on Biology of Sharks course through Coastal Carolina University.
- Assisted with shark longlining, recording data, and work-up
- Was selected to perform dissection to remove key samples for research
- Assisted with the work-up and ultrasound of a 12ft-long, pregnant tiger shark

## **AUG 2015-MAY 2019**

Volunteer, Coastal Carolina Shark Research Crew – Georgetown, SC

- over 100 hrs of service
- assisted with acoustic surgeries, animal workups, and data collection
- maintained and organized field gear, calibrated instruments
- trained new crew members
- successful tag and release of red drum, and 5 species of sharks

## **LEADERSHIP & RELEVANT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

### **FEB 2020**

Volunteer, Texas Parks and Wildlife – Corpus Christi, TX

- Participated in efforts to rescue and transfer cold shocked sea turtles during winter storm Uri

### **JAN-MAY 2020**

Head Teaching Assistant, TAMUCC Department of Chemistry

- trained other TA's for upcoming experiments
- was selected for the committee for the department's response to COVID-19
- facilitated student issues
- organized lab schedules
- recorded, edited, and created curriculum for the online (COVID-19 adjusted) courses

### **SEP 2017- MAY 2019 Secretary of CCU's SCUBA Club.**

-Assisted the president with planning, decorating, and pursuing all club events. Successfully fundraised over \$5000 for Relay For Life, planned a 30-person SCUBA trip, and coordinated with the local dive shop to keep trips running every weekend. Acquired reef-cone donations for a newly sunken memorial reef.

**SEP 2016-2017 Treasurer for CCU's SCUBA Club.** Kept record of financials for the club, assisted with event planning and fundraising. Coordinated with the local dive shop to train new divers.

**AUG 2016-MAY 2017 Resident Advisor, Coastal Carolina University, University Housing**

- oversaw 56 residents in my building, remembering key facts, names, etc
- designed attractive bulletin boards and activities for residents
- performed weekly walk-throughs and on-call shifts, filing accurate and detailed reports
- kept open and efficient communication with supervisor regarding student issues
- enforced University policy

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**JAN 2020 – Present** Tutor, Red Apple Tutoring, Corpus Christi, TX

- teaching algebra, anatomy, chemistry, physics, pre-calculus, and SAT prep to high school students

**AUG 2019-Present** Teaching Assistant, TAMUCC Department of Chemistry, Corpus Christi, TX

- teaching General Chemistry I for undergraduates
  - mixing solutions and prepping lab materials
  - teach weekly labs emphasizing techniques and principles of chemistry
- Promoted to Head TA position in Jan 2020

## **MAY 2014 - 2017**

Summer Camp Counselor, Delaware Museum of Natural History - Greenville, DE

-taught weekly science-themed camps to ages 3-14

-educated the public on various live animals and local environmental issues

-Project (2014): Designed a Shark-themed summer camp curriculum that performed as one of the most popular camps since its creation

## **SEP 2015 - Present**

Remote volunteer writer/illustrator, The Fins United Initiative (TFUI)

- Main project: an annual series of articles and illustrations highlighting uncommon chondrichthyan species

-Past projects: logo design, social media take-overs presenting science in real time

## **AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, & SCHOLARSHIPS**

**FEB 2021** - HiBar Sustainable Future Scholarship

**NOV 2020** - 41st SETAC North American Conference

**MAY 2020** - TAMUCC Research & Innovation Research Enhancement Grant

**OCT 2019** - Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium Presentation

**MAY 2019** - CCU's Marine Science Student of the Year

**MAR 2019** - SEERS Conference Presentation

**DEC 2018** - CCU Marine Science Symposium Presentation

**APR 2018** - CCU Undergraduate Research Competition Presentation

**MAR 2018** - WRNN Hot Talk Radio

**AUG 2015** - CCU Presidential Scholarship

## **CERTIFICATIONS & TECHNICAL SKILLS**

PADI Rescue Diver

PADI Emergency Oxygen Provider, CPR/First Aid

Science communication, microscopy work, microplastics, plankton ID, marine invertebrate ID

General graphic design, animal handling, boating, field sampling, chemistry, biological, geological, and ecological lab skills

Experience with R & R studio, ArcPro GIS, photoshop,

## **REFERENCES**

Released upon request.