

Conrad Pfalzgraf

Extension Program Assistant

Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center

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Education

Master of Science in Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture

Mississippi State University. Biloxi, MS

Expected 2027

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Emphasis in Marine Ecosystems

Double minor in Biology and GIS

University of Redlands. Redlands, CA

September 2018 – April 2022

School for Field Studies (SFS) Center for Marine Resource Studies

Study Abroad. SFS, Turks and Caicos

August 2021 – Dec 2021

The Palau Expedition: Sustaining Life on a Blue Planet

May Term Course. University of Redlands. Palau, Micronesia

May 2019

Employment

Extension Program Assistant

Mississippi State University Marine Fisheries Ecology Program. Biloxi, MS

October 2025 – Current

- Supervised by Dr. Marcus Drymon
- Contribute to ongoing funded projects of the Marine Fisheries Ecology Program through trainings, workshop planning, and product development
- Assist with offshore bottom longline survey throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico
- Conduct and lead outreach, education, and Extension events to communicate science to the public and to fisheries stakeholders
- Communicate fisheries information to fisheries stakeholders and to the general public
- Organize and conduct port sampling efforts at recreational fishing tournaments
- Assist with social media efforts to communicate to a wide audience

Marine Fisheries Ecology Intern

Mississippi State University Marine Fisheries Ecology Program. Biloxi, MS

March – October 2025

- Assisted with offshore bottom longline surveys throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico
- Collected, processed and archived samples from elasmobranchs and bony fishes, including muscle, vertebrae, gonads, otoliths, and fin clips
- Authored and managed an extensive number of social media posts
- Supported professor and teaching assistant during field trips and lab exercises for undergraduate courses on elasmobranch biology

Marine Mammal Monitor

Cianbro. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery,

August 2024 – March 2025

- Collected marine mammal sighting metadata
- Reported sightings to the NAVY and NOAA
- Called off construction if marine mammals were in the jurisdiction zone
- Used Spectra PLUS-SC program for the acoustics of underwater construction machinery
- Acted as a first responder on the oil spill response team
- Ensured the site was up to code with spill kits

At-Sea Monitor, Fisheries Observer

Woods Hole Northeast Fisheries Science Center, East-West Technical Services. Gulf of Maine

May – August 2024

- Collected and recorded detailed biological data, catch composition, and bycatch information
- Developed strong interpersonal skills and professionalism in challenging environments, including dealing with vessel crews and other stakeholders
- Practiced the ability to react professionally and effectively to unexpected situations at sea
- Adapted to long, irregular hours and the unpredictable nature of at-sea work
- Managed complex data and applied scientific knowledge in a practical setting to support fisheries management and conservation

Fish Hatchery Technician

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Wallace River State Salmon Hatchery. Sultan, WA

November 2023 – May 2024

- Spawned native Pacific Salmon species such as Chinook, Coho, Chum and Steelhead
- Assessed the mortalities of adults in traps and identified if they are unmarked, coded wire tag only (CWT only), adipose fin only and CWT (AD+), adipose fin only (AD only)

- Fish husbandry: Breeding, artificial fertilization, egg collection, incubation, hatching, feeding, sorting, weighing, and grading.
- Monitored and assessed fish health, to prevent and treat diseases, and preserve samples for diagnosis
- Monitored, analyzed and interpreted data on water quality parameters, and conditioning the water
- Operated hatchery equipment, including feeding systems, pumps, filtration systems, and runway crowders
- Cleaned tanks and ponds, performed basic repairs, and maintained hatchery grounds
- Performed outreach with local schools and the public, giving tours and answering questions

Boat Operator and Test Fisher

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Central Sound District. Puget Sound, WA

June 2023 – October 2023

- Collected biological data on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Chinook Salmon and other native salmon catch to obtain stock composition and age structure through scale sampling, length information and origin determination
- Piloted research vessels, launched and docked them, and navigated safely in various weather conditions
- Used GPS, depth finders, and radios, trailered and came alongside other boats
- Conducted test fishing using a variety of methods, such as bait, jigs, and downriggers, to collect data.
- Collected biological information on catch, such as species composition, length, and genetic stock.
- Recorded data using electronic forms and ensured accuracy
- Interviewed recreational anglers for boat surveys and at boat ramps to gather information about their catch
- Performed routine maintenance on the boat, motor, and equipment
- Maintained a safe work environment by following all safety procedures, regulations, and agency policies

Research Technician and Waterfront Assistant

School for Field Studies Center for Marine Resource Studies. Turks and Caicos

Aug 2022 – May 2023

- Led and assisted with research projects including, but not limited to: invasive lionfish distribution, microplastics in conch, marine debris retention on South Caicos, land crab distribution, octopus behavioral analysis, coral assessment and diver impact assessment
- Conducted social science surveys with fishermen regarding finfish and conch fisheries
- Communicated program-wide research to tourists and divers at a neighboring resort and the local island community
- Captained boats for research diving and snorkel expedition settings in adverse conditions
- Helped to plan the South Caicos Coral Consortium, build various coral trees, and outplant corals on them

Educator at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Pacific Science Center Camps for Curious Minds. Bellevue, WA

May 2021 – August 2021

- Lead field investigations focused on local topics like flora, fauna, ecosystems, and water quality
- Modeled respect for the environment and participants, shared enthusiasm for nature, and fostered positive interactions with the natural world
- Ensured participant safety by enforcing all policies and procedures while providing appropriate supervision during all activities
- Prepared and altered program materials and equipment, and provided feedback on curriculum development
- Facilitated activities for community outreach events and helped maintain the education center facilities

Assistant Director

Beach Camp at Sunset Bay. Edmonds, WA

June – August 2019, May – August 2020

- Developed procedures to increase camp productivity and efficiency
- Trained counselors and staff on daily activities and responsibilities
- Ensured compliance with safety recordkeeping and reporting
- Performed porpoise photo identification and acoustics CPOD-F surveys in affiliation with the Pacific Marine Mammal Research and Evergreen College

Research Experience

Evaluating Sheepshead Habitat Use and Seasonal Residency in Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Mississippi State University. Biloxi, MS

October 2025 – Current

- Established and currently maintain a network of 12 acoustic receivers, ensuring optimal functionality for data collection and habitat monitoring
- Implemented best practices in fish handling and catch-and-release techniques to promote sheepshead health and conservation
- Successfully deployed acoustic transmitters in sheepshead using advanced surgical suturing techniques, enhancing tracking capabilities for research purposes
- Collaborate with local experts to develop effective strategies for locating and capturing sheepshead, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific methods
- Actively engage with the community and local fishermen to raise awareness about sheepshead ecology and ongoing research initiatives, fostering partnerships and support for conservation efforts

Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries. Can Marine Protected Areas Be Used as an Effective Tool to Support Global Fisheries?

University of Redlands. Redlands, CA

January 2022 – April 2022

- This study comprised a comprehensive survey method of peer-reviewed literature that investigated the ecological effects of MPAs around the world.
- Data were compiled from (Giakoumi et al. 2017) and (Guidetti et al. 2014).

Anthropogenic Marine Debris: Local and Geophysical Factors Affecting Prevalence on South Caicos in The Turks and Caicos Islands

School for Field Studies Center for Marine Resource Studies Turks and Caicos

August 2021 – December 2021

- Conducted surveys with 1 m x 1 m quadrats placed along a transect laid on the highest high tide (HHT) line, parallel to the shore.
- Collected debris from within the quadrat or any debris touching the edge of the quadrat.
- Gathered microplastics along the transect were placed in a separate container to ensure they were not lost, or that larger debris that broke down in the trash bag was not later misidentified as microplastics
- Accumulated marine debris from the sites was brought back to the lab, washed, and weighed.
- Washed marine debris was organized into categories based on material and/or use.
- Interviews about waste management and marine debris impacts on South Caicos were conducted with a representative from the EHD
- A total of 15,075 pieces of AMD were collected, weighing 50.87 kg in total

Extension Publications

Pfalzgraf CD, Anderson AQ, McAree DM, Drymon JM. 2025. Gulf Coast Fisherman Newsletter, Issue 39. Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium publication MASGP 25-001-03.

Presentations

Pfalzgraf CD, Anderson AQ, McAree DM, Drymon JM. Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Research Symposium, 2025. Evaluating Sheepshead Habitat Use and Seasonal Residency in Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Pfalzgraf CD, Rajah-Boyer KI. Environmental Science Department, 2022. Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries. Can Marine Protected Areas Be Used as an Effective Tool to Support Global Fisheries?

Outreach Experience

Marine Fisheries Ecology Program:

University of South Alabama Marine Science Club Career Panel
2025

Fishermen Invested in Science Healthy Ecosystems and Sustainability (FISHES)

2025

North Woolmarket Elementary and Middle School

2025

National Estuaries Day

2025

Hearts Homeschool Group

2025

Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo Captains Meeting

2025

Shark Fest at Gulf State Park Pier

2025

Three Rivers Elementary School

2025

Three Rivers Elementary School

2025

Celebrate the Gulf

2025

My Two Boots

2025

North Bay Elementary School

2025

Wallace River State Salmon Hatchery:

Hatchery Tour Sultan High School

2024

Hatchery Tour Sultan Elementary School

2024

Salmon Dissection Sultan Elementary School

2023

Hatchery Tour Sultan Elementary School

2023

School for Field Studies Center for Marine Resource Studies:

Study Abroad Ambassador for University of Redlands

2021 – 2023

Reoccurring Saturday Outreach with South Caicos locals

Spring 2023

Sea Day with Local Schools

2023

Reoccurring Saturday Outreach with South Caicos locals

Fall 2022

Reoccurring Saturday Outreach with South Caicos locals

Fall 2021

Big Buddies After School Program and Mentoring

2018 – 2022

Work trips

Jack Crevalle Tagging Alabama

Led by: Marcus Drymon, Capt. Sam Glass of FlyWay Charters and Blane Chocklett and
2025

Jack Crevalle Tagging Mississippi

Led by: Marcus Drymon, Capt. Kyle Johnson of Coastal Waters Outfitters
2025

Tiger Shark Tagging Florida

Led by: Louisiana State University, Okaloosa County
2025

The Reef Institute x South Caicos Coral Consortium

Planning Meeting and Tour
2023

Certifications

American Safety and Health Institute CPR, AED, and Basic First Aid
2025, 2023

OSHA 10 Certification
2024

Woods Hole Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Observer training certificate
2024

At - Sea Survival Certification from Alaska Marine Safety Education Association
2024

MOTC Boaters License through the National Parks Service
2023

Dive Certifications

Padi Divemaster
2022

Padi Rescue Diver
2022

Padi Advanced Open Water
2021

Padi Open Water
2019

Emergency Oxygen Provider
2022

Wreck Diver
2022

Dive Against Debris
2022

Drift Diver
2022

Peak Performance Buoyancy
2021

Digital Underwater Photographer
2021

Deep Diver
2021

Search and Recovery Diver
2021

Night Diver
2021

Underwater Navigator
2021

Underwater Naturalist
2021

Fish Identification
2021

Boat Diver
2021

Academic Awards

University of Redlands
B.S. Environmental Science
Dean's List
2019 – 2022

Computer Skills

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Adobe (Premiere, Illustrator, Photoshop, Lightroom)

ArcGIS

Social Media and Communications

Podcast Host

The Fisheries Podcast

June 2025 – Current

- A weekly podcast sharing stories of the people and projects that make up the fisheries science profession.
- **November 2025, Episode 335** — Muskie Acoustic Telemetry, Expert Knowledge Holders and the Power of Putting Yourself Out There with Erin Wilson
- **October 2025, Episode 331** — Reproductive Ecology of Silver Carp and Bighead Carp in the Platte River and its Major Tributaries with Madison Casey
- **September 2025, Episode 327** — The Tackle Shop Maine: Navigating the Status of the Striped Bass Fishery and the Role of Informed Anglers in Long-Term Conservation with George Norris

- **August 2025, Episode 322** — Prep and Early Considerations of a PhD, Applied Fisheries Science Technologies, and Importance of Integrating with Your Fisheries Community with Andre Ascura
- **July 2025, Episode 318** Return ‘Em Right, Complexities of Certifying a World Record Fish, and Leveraging Social Media with Nick Haddad
- **June 2025, Episode 315** Meet the New Host, Conrad Pfalzgraf

Spotify Podcast Episode with Morgan Cleary

School for Field Studies Marine Policy Class

“Do People's Perceptions of Sharks’ Shape Policy in Their Favor?”

2021

- Interviewed kids, young and old fishermen, and scientists to compare perceptions

Social Media Content Contributor and Creator

Return ‘Em Right,

Led By: Nick Haddad

Florida Sea Grant

2025 – Current

- Variety of media, including photography and videography, to contribute to Best Catch and Release Practices

Dorsal Outdoors

Led By: Ben Meadows

2025 – Current

- Jack Crevalle Drone footage for Jack Project Video

Tales of the 48

Led By: Ryan Burch

2024 – Current

- Contribute Striped bass Migration Drone footage to his social media and documentary
- Was interviewed for his upcoming documentary
- Continue to give advice and work with him while he’s on the road
- Contribute further footage I have in my library

Shark Depredation Reel

Mississippi State University

Queensland Government of Australia

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Department of Regional Industries and Regional Development

2025

White Shark Photos/Stills for Marcus Drymon

Mississippi State University

Drymon JM, Jargowsky AE, Switzer TS, Hightower CL, Powers PS. 2025. Fishery-independent camera surveys provide novel observations of white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) off coastal Alabama
2025

Social Media Admin and Management

Marine Fisheries Ecology Facebook and Instagram page Admin

Mississippi State University

Marine Fisheries Ecology Program. Biloxi, MS

2025 Current

- Manage and create new and engaging content for social media pages

School for Field Studies Center for Marine Resource Studies Instagram page Admin

School for Field Studies

Center for Marine Resource Studies. Turks and Caicos

2022 – 2023

- Managed and created new and engaging content for social media page

Send a Bag Pick Up a Bag Social Media and Communications Owner

2019–2022

- Program to bring people together to complete beach cleanups through a social media challenge
- Each person who picked up a bag of trash off the road or public space challenged others to do so through social media, creating a never-ending loop
- Together, we picked up over 150 bags of trash out of our public and private spaces before it reached the ocean

Drone Photography

Striped Bass Migration Drone Prints for Sale

The Tackle Shop Maine

2025 – Current

Striped Bass Migration Drone Prints for Sale

Flood Tide Gallery

2024 – Current

Striped Bass Migration Drone Prints for Sale

Eldredge Bros Fly Shop

2024

