Adrian Draughn
Extension Program Assistant
MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center
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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Biology
The University of Texas at Austin. Austin, TX
December 2025

Estuarine Ecology
May term course. University of Texas Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, Texas
May 2024

Microplastics in Coastal Environment
May term course. University of Texas Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, Texas
May 2024

WORK EXPERIENCE

Mississippi State University- D'iberville
Extension Program Assistant for Marine Fisheries Ecology Lab with MSU
October 2026-Present

- Process samples from elasmobranchs (muscle, vertebrae, jaw) for own lab and collaborators
- Lead outreach events for local aquariums, schools, and community events
- Operate boats of varying sizes- trailering, docking, driving
- Create hands-on activities for students at outreach events
- Coordinate sample processing and shipment
- Data cleaning and entering for sheepshead and elasmobranch projects
- Create extension publications for teacher usage in classroom
- Develop and contribute to social media content
- Collect samples from bony fish (otoliths, gonads, fillets) and elasmobranchs (fin clip, blood, muscle, vertebrae, jaw, brain)

Mississippi State University- D'iberville
Intermittent Worker for Marine Fisheries Ecology Lab with MSU
March 2026-October 2026

- Conducted offshore and nearshore fishery independent sampling methods including bottom longline surveys, gillnetting, seine, and rod/reel throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Handled, measured, tagged various elasmobranch species
- Collected samples from bony fish (otoliths, gonads, fillets) and elasmobranchs (fin clip, blood, muscle, vertebrae, jaw, brain)
- Processed samples from elasmobranchs (muscle, vertebrae, jaw) for own lab and collaborators
- Led numerous elasmobranch reproductive assessments on varying sizes and species
- Led outreach events for local aquariums, schools, and community events
- Developed dichotomous key proficiency and in-field species ID for bony and elasmobranch species
- Developed dentition recognition for elasmobranch species common in northern Gulf of Mexico
- Improved scientific paper analysis skills and proficiency
- Operate boats of varying sizes- trailering, docking, driving

University of Texas at Austin- Austin, TX
Teaching Assistant for MBS320 Cell Biology
August 2024-December 2024
- Facilitate classroom discussion and exam reviews
- Hold regularly scheduled offices hours to advise and assist students
- Help professor answer questions during and after lecture

Teaching Assistant for MNS308 Humans and a Changing Ocean
August 2022-December 2022
- Facilitate classroom discussion and exam reviews
- Hold regularly scheduled offices hours to advise and assist students
- Help professor answer questions during and after lecture

General Chemistry Undergraduate Learning Assistant
August 2022-December 2022
- Facilitate classroom discussion and exam reviews
- Hold regularly scheduled offices hours to advise and assist students
- Help professor answer questions during and after lecture

Research Experience

Undergraduate Research Assistant for Coastal Ecology Lab
May 2024-August 2024

- Conducted inshore seagrass sampling for the Texas Seagrass Monitoring Program (Tier 2) for hundreds of sites in various bays near Port Aransas and Laguna Madre, Padre Island
- Conducted seagrass field sampling using sediment cores and quadrats and processed samples through filtering, drying, and chlorophyll analysis.
- Conducted independent laboratory analysis examining sediment iron concentrations and grain-size distributions in coastal ecosystems.
- Managed, cleaned, and analyzed research data using Microsoft Excel and RStudio.
- Contributed to statistical analyses, scientific writing, figure development, and preparation of research for peer-reviewed publication.
- Maintain/clean boats of varying sizes during and after field work

Published Works

Paper: "Seagrass Meadow Loss Reduces Their Role as Long-term Blue Nutrient Reservoirs"
- Listed co author; helped collect data, write methods, and edit figures that appear in paper.

Community Service and Leadership Experience

Gulfside Montessori Christian School
- Presented for classroom and lead field related activities

Living Life Local | November 2026
- Presented at outreach event for local community

Sheepshead Showdown | October 2026
- Talked to public about sheepshead and acoustic telemetry

River Oaks Elementary | October 2026
- Presented for classroom and lead field related activities

National Estuaries Day | September 2026
- Presented for tours and educated public regarding estuaries

First Baptist Biloxi | September 2026
- Presented for church and lead field related activities

West Wortham Elementary | September 2026
- Presented for classroom and lead field related activities

Audubon Aquarium | July 2026
- Presented and led dissection (Carcharhinus limbatus) for aquarium event

Sharkfest at Gulf State Park Pier | June 2026
- Presented for local community and led interactive critical thinking exercises over the course of 3 days

Marine Discovery Day | June 2026
- Presented at museum for local community

Dauphin Sea Lab Sharks and Rays Class | May 2026
- Led field work for undergraduates-bottom longline, trawling, gillnetting, seine

SandJam at Pascagoula State Pier
- Presented at outreach event for local community

Celebrate the Gulf | April 2026
- Presented at outreach event for local community

Classroom Outreach | April 2026
- Presented for classroom and lead field related activities

Salvation Army | August 2020- August 2024
- Stock shelves, move boxes, organize store

Work Trips/Collaborations

Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo
Led by: Alena Anderson & Danielle Mcaree
2026

Cobia Tagging Alabama
Led by: Dr. Dylan Kiene, Capt. Branden Collier of Capt.Collier's Charter's
2026

Tripletail Tagging Alabama
Led by: Dr. Dylan Kiene, Capt. Patric Garmeson of Ugly Fishing Charter's
2026

Tiger Shark Acoustic Tagging Alabama
Led by: Alena Anderson & Danielle Mcaree, Capt Jonathan
2026

Jack Crevalle Sampling Alabama
Led by: Alejandra Herrera Tejada
2026

Guitarfish Sampling Alabama
Led by: Bryan Huerta, Dr. Alfonsina (Kena) Romo Curiel, Sofia Armada-Tapia
2026

Tulane DNA Repository
Led by: Mark Grace, Conrad Pfalzgraf
2026

Alabama Shad eDNA Assay
Led by: Bryan Huerta, Conrad Pfalzgraf
2026

Sheepshead Acoustic Telemetry Assessment
Led by: Conrad Pfalzgraf, Nate Mcgreggor
2026

Sheepshead Tagging GrandBay NERR
Led by: Conrad Pfalzgraf, Nate Mcgreggor
2026

Academic Awards

Timothy David Baker Endowed Scholarship in Marine and Freshwater Biology
2024

Dean Scholar at The University of Texas at Austin
2021-2024

Computer Skills

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Adobe Illustrator

Canva

Mendeley

R-studio

ArcGIS