

Ashley Ferguson

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EDUCATION:

Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi, TX

B.S. Biology

Emphasis: Marine Biology

May 2015

Glendale High School

Springfield, MO

May 2011

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

Sep 2017 – Present

Research Technician II, Harte Research Institute – Corpus Christi, TX

In the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation lab, I am involved in a variety of grant-funded projects. I participate in a passive shark tagging study, process nekton samples, complete video analysis, process stable isotopes, and I am responsible for data management of various projects and managing a variety of permits. I also train volunteers and new workers in safety and project specific procedures. I help coordinate new websites and update them as needed. I am also involved with a variety of fieldwork and public interactions.

Dec 2016 – Sep 2017

Research Technician I, Harte Research Institute – Corpus Christi, TX

In the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation lab, I am involved in a variety of grant-funded projects. I participate in a passive shark tagging study, process nekton samples, complete video analysis, process stable isotopes, and I am responsible for data management of various projects. I also train volunteers and new workers in safety and project specific procedures. I am also involved with a variety of fieldwork and public interactions.

Jan 2014 – Dec 2016

Research Assistant, Harte Research Institute – Corpus Christi, TX

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May 2009-July 2013

Zookeeper Assistant – Springfield, MO

As a Zookeeper assistant I managed the animals in the education department. I would monitor their diets, clean out their habitats and make sure the education center was in order. I also managed a variety of outreach projects, including programs at schools, nursing homes and holiday events. I trained new volunteers in safety, animal handling, and habitat maintenance.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Assessing the impact of opening Cedar Bayou
- Abundance and trophic ecology of red snapper on natural and artificial reefs
- Satellite and Acoustic tagging sharks in the Gulf of Mexico
- Creel surveys

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS:

- Website Coordinator
 - Building and designing new websites
- Extensive Fisheries Laboratory experience
 - Fish, invertebrate and macro algae identification
 - Gill net repair, fishing tackle maintenance
 - Video analysis (species identification, abundance metrics)
 - Stable isotope sample preparation
 - Histology, otolith and stomach content analysis
 - Maintenance and operation of water quality sondes (Hydrolab, YSI)
- Field experience:
 - Vertical longline, fish trap and hand line sampling
 - Benthic sled, benthic core, seine net, gill net, and quadrat sampling
 - Rod and reel sampling
 - Inshore boat handling and operation
 - Deployment of water quality sonde
 - Sportfish acoustic tagging
 - Elasmobranch dart and SPOT tagging

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Sept 2011 – December 2011 – Texas State Aquarium, Texas

- Fish and herbivore volunteer

Nov 2013 – Texas Sealife Center, Texas

- Photo identification of bottlenose dolphins

Aug 2012 – April 2013 – ChiAlpha leader, Texas

March 2015 – National Park Service Report

April 2015 – Sink Your Shucks Oyster recycling, Goose Island State Park, Texas

- Bagged oyster shells and placed them in a designated oyster reef restoration area

October-November 2015 – OCEARCH: Gulf of Mexico Expedition

March 2016 – Coastal Conservation Association: Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet

March 2016 – National Park Service Report

October 2016 – Babes on Baffin Fishing Tournament

March 2017 – Coastal Conservation Association: Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet

March 2017 – National Park Service Report

April 2017 – Earth Day Bay Day

February 2018 – Coastal Conservation Association: Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- Filming and editing video of field operations
- Creating video for outreach and education
- Laboratory tours
- Educational programs

Publications:

- Investigator's Annual Report: National Park Service
 - Padre Island National Seashore Shark Report 2017
 - Padre Island National Seashore Shark Report 2016
 - Padre Island National Seashore Shark Report 2015
- Gibson, T.J., A.B. Ferguson, M.J. Ajemian, G.W. Stunz. Recreational Anglers as Citizen Scientists: Using Submitted Data to Better Understand Texas' Coastal Shark Populations. 2017. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting.

REFERENCES:

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Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
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Additional references can be provided upon request.