

# Jennifer Jarrell Wetz

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## EDUCATION:

M.S., Marine Science, University of South Florida, 2000  
B.S., Ecology, University of Georgia, 1996

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

*Fisheries Project Manager*, Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University. 06/11 – Present. Coordinator of the South Texas Artificial Reef Monitoring Project. Responsible for initial and on-going project development. Manages field and laboratory logistics for sampling multiple artificial reef sites. Monitoring protocols include the use of micro-ROVs (VideoRay Pro4, and Mission Defender), SCUBA surveys and Vertical Longline sampling. Served as Dive Supervisor for 11 scientific divers and coordinates all SCUBA sampling. Trained in the operation and maintenance of a micro-ROV (VideoRay Pro4). Responsible for developing video analysis protocols for ROV footage, subsequent video analysis, and maintenance of database. Coordinates with state agency and other universities to develop consistent protocols for Texas artificial reef monitoring. Responsible for writing technical reports, proposals, and manuscripts related to artificial reef project. Trains and supervises undergraduate/graduate students and technical staff in field and laboratory techniques. Manages day-to-day lab operations and oversees lab budget.

*Research Assistant*, Institute of Marine Science, University of North Carolina. 02/07 – 12/08. Coordinated biweekly laboratory analysis of water quality field samples. Responsible for method development of QPCR assay for *Vibrio vulnificus* in filtered seawater samples. Analyzed samples for *V. vulnificus* using QPCR and published manuscripts with results. Trained personnel in laboratory techniques and supervised undergraduate interns.

*Faculty Research Assistant*, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science, Oregon State University. 04/02 – 08/06. Coordinated and participated in biological and chemical sampling on multiple cruises for two large scale oceanographic research programs. Completed laboratory analysis of nutrient and chlorophyll samples. Responsible for screening and subsequently publishing a 7-year data set of biological and chemical variables.

*Research Specialist*, North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 10/00-12/01. Responsible for the maintenance of instrumentation and

the QA/QC of continuous water quality data and meteorological data. Coordinated and participated in bi-weekly faunal cruises to collect plankton and benthic specimens for long-term ecological monitoring. Also participated in bi-weekly fish sampling. Additional responsibilities included data analysis/dissemination of collected water quality and weather data.

*Lab technician*, University of South Florida, 07/99-09/00. Coordinated and participated in numerous projects concerning water quality in the state of Florida. Studies focused on beach water quality, viral longevity/infectivity in seawater, human pollution in canal and reef environments, and the effects of septic drain field placement. Techniques utilized included RT-PCR, Dot Blot Chemiluminescence, membrane filtration, and various field sampling methodologies. Responsible for the analysis of field and lab data to explain factors affecting public and environmental health. Authored permit requests, technical reports, coordinated with other state and federal research entities, and maintained contact with private landowners.

*Graduate Research Assistant*, University of South Florida, 08/96-12/99. Worked to develop a quick field assay to determine the sex of grouper using a sex specific plasma protein. Lab techniques utilized include SDS-Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, ELISA, Western Blotting, histological analysis and preparation of gonadal tissue. Also participated in study to develop a “genetic tag” in hatchery reared *Centropomus undecimalis* by screening of fin clips through DNA extraction, restriction enzyme analysis, and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

*Intern, The Ocean Conservancy*, 07/99-12/99. Worked with project manager to research, plan and coordinate projects related to marine fisheries and habitat conservation policies. Promoted science based advocacy by composing action alerts and press releases pertaining to fisheries management council actions in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Organized and helped coordinate an activist workshop, specifically related to marine reserve establishment. Participated in planning meetings and attended state and regional meetings concerning fisheries management decisions.

*Undergraduate Lab Assistant*, University of Georgia, 01/96-05/96. Population and Community Ecology research. Analyzed foliage for leaf area removed using a digitizing program (LAR) and aided in sorting and identifying insects collected from areas harvested with different types of forestry practices.

*Intern*, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and Mote Marine Lab, 06/95-09/95. Worked with investigators at both institutions on a project in conjunction with Florida Marine Research Institute to enhance Florida’s snook, *C. undecimalis*, population by stocking hatchery reared fish. Devised and helped conduct a comparative larval health study.

*Undergraduate Lab Assistant*, University of Georgia, 05/95-07/95 and 01/96-06/96. Compiled and interpreted data using the Photostation method to quantify change in coral cover in the Florida Keys using Coral Image Analysis Software.

### Select Field Research

06/11 thru Present. *Offshore Research*. Gulf of Mexico. Coordinated personnel and activities for artificial reef research. Operated a 36' offshore research vessel. Performed vertical longline fish collection, SCUBA and ROV surveys.

07/02 through 05/05, *Research Cruises*, Oregon and California coastline. Coordinated and participated in multiple cruises as part of two multi-disciplinary studies of the California Current System and coastal upwelling (100+ days at sea).

04/23/99-04/29/99, *Research Cruise*, Dry Tortugas, University of South Florida. Served as SCUBA dive-leader for video documentation, photo documentation, and sediment sampling of outlier-reef tract. Also assisted in multi-beam mosaic of several areas throughout the Tortugas area.

01/98-08/98, Gulf of Mexico, University of South Florida. Conducted weekly hook and line sampling of red and gag grouper onboard recreational party boat, *M.V. Friendly Fisherman*. Samples used for thesis research.

06/98, *Research Cruise*, Gulf of Mexico, University of South Florida. Collection of gelatinous zooplankton by blue water diving practices and collection of mesopelagic fishes through trawling. Specimens used in ongoing research at USF and HBOI.

07/97, *Research Assistant*, Belize, C.A. Assisted in a study of the health of the barrier reef system by video documentation of coral cover, documenting disease presence, and recording fish species present in different localities of the barrier system.

### Teaching

*Lab instructor*, July 2000, Oceanography Camp for Girls, University of South Florida. Co-designed and taught an 8-hour, hands-on course on water quality monitoring.

*Camp counselor and staff*, 01/98-07/99, Oceanography Camp for Girls, University of South Florida. During summer of 1998 and '99 acted as full time counselor/instructor for numerous field trips and labs concerning the biology and ecology of the marine environment. As year round staff worked on promotion and organization of first nation-wide camp and continuing local camp and assisted with the maintenance and design of camp web page.

*Teaching assistant*, 08/98-12/98, University of South Florida, Department of Marine Science. Acted as a TA in graduate level Biological Oceanography course.

*Lab instructor*, July 1997 & 1998, Oceanography Camp for Girls, University of South Florida. Co-designed and taught an 8-hour, hands-on course on fish ecology and evolution.

*Public education*, 05/97, Marine Quest, Florida Marine Research Institute. Presented concepts in fish ecology to elementary and middle school students at DEP's annual open house.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Jennifer J. Wetz**, M.J. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2017. What are we missing? A comparison of SCUBA and ROV-based fish community surveys on artificial reefs. *In Preparation*.

Matthew K. Streich, M.J. Ajemian, **Jennifer J. Wetz**, J. Williams, J. B. Shipley, and G.W. Stunz. 2017. A comparison of size structure and age and growth of Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) from artificial and natural habitats in the western Gulf of Mexico. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. *In Press*.

Matthew K. Streich, M. J. Ajemian, **Jennifer J. Wetz**, G. W. Stunz. 2017. A comparison of fish community structure at mesophotic artificial reefs and natural banks in the western Gulf of Mexico. Marine and Coastal Fisheries. 9:1, 170-189, DOI:10.1080/19425120.2017.1282897

Matthew J. Ajemian, **Jennifer J. Wetz**, B. Shipley-Lozano, J.D. Shively, and G.W. Stunz. 2015. An analysis of artificial reef community structure along the Texas shelf: Potential impacts of "Rigs-to-Reefs" programs. PLOS One. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0126354

Matthew J. Ajemian, **Jennifer J. Wetz**, B. Shipley-Lozano and G. W. Stunz. 2015. Rapid Assessment of fish communities on submerged oil and gas platform reefs using remotely operated vehicles. Fisheries Research. 167: 143-155. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2015.02.011>

**Jennifer J. Wetz**, M.J. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2014. Fish Community Structure and Abundance on Texas Artificial Reefs: A Preliminary Assessment. Extended Abstract. 66<sup>th</sup> Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

**Jennifer Jarrell Wetz**, A.D. Blackwood, J.S. Fries, Z.F. Williams, and R.T. Noble. 2013. Quantification of *Vibrio vulnificus* in an estuarine environment: a multi-year analysis using QPCR. *Estuaries and Coasts*. DOI: 10.1007/s12237-013-9682-4.

**Jennifer Jarrell Wetz**, A.D. Blackwood, J.S. Fries, Z.F. Williams, and R.T. Noble. 2008. Trends in total *Vibrio* spp. and *Vibrio vulnificus* concentrations in the eutrophic Neuse River Estuary, North Carolina, during storm events. *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.* **53**: 141-149.

**Jennifer Jarrell Wetz**, E.K. Lipp, D.W. Griffin, J. Lukasik, D. Wait, M.D. Sobsey, T.M Scott and J.B Rose. 2004. Presence, infectivity, and stability of enteric viruses in seawater: relationship to marine water quality in the Florida Keys. *Marine Pollution Bulletin.* 48(7-8): 700-706.

Andrew M. Lohrer and **Jennifer Jarrell Wetz**. Dredging-induced nutrient release from sediments to the water column in a southeastern saltmarsh tidal creek. 2003. *Marine Pollution Bulletin.* 46(9): 1156-1163.

Erin K. Lipp, **Jennifer L. Jarrell**, Dale W. Griffin, Jennifer Jacukiewicz, Jerzey Lukasik and Joan B. Rose. Preliminary evidence for human fecal contamination in corals of the Florida Keys, USA. 2002. *Marine Pollution Bulletin.* 44: 660-665.

Sarah Blaine Kennedy, John W. Tucker, Carole L. Neidig, Greg V. Vermeer, Valerie R. Cooper, **Jennifer L. Jarrell**, and Daniel G. Sennett. Bacterial management strategies for stock enhancement of warmwater marine fish: A case study with common snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*). 1998. *Bulletin of Marine Science*, 62(2), 573-588.

## POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS

**Jennifer Jarrell Wetz** and Gregory W. Stunz. 2013. Beneath the Surface: A Closer Look at the Science Behind Artificial Reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. Tide Magazine. Coastal Conservation Association. March/April 2013. Pp. 16-21.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

**Jennifer J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2015. South Texas Artificial Reef Monitoring and Fish Community Assessment. Contract End Report for TPWD. Contract No. 439195.

**Jennifer J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2014. South Texas Artificial Reef Monitoring and Fish Community Assessment. Annual Progress Report for TPWD. Contract No. 439195.

**Jennifer J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2013. South Texas Artificial Reef Monitoring and Fish Community Assessment. Annual Progress Report for TPWD. Contract No. 415254.

G. W. Stunz, M. Johnson, D. Yoskowitz, M. Robillard, and **Jennifer J. Wetz**. 2013. iSnapper: Design, testing, and analysis of an iPhone-based application as an electronic logbook in the for-hire Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. Final Report submitted to NMFS. Grant NA10NMF4540111.

**Jennifer J. Wetz** and G.W. Stunz. 2012. South Texas Artificial Reef Monitoring and Fish Community Assessment. Annual Progress Report for TPWD. Contract No. 415254.

**Jennifer J. Wetz** and P.A. Wheeler. 2006. Particulate and Dissolved Organic Carbon and Nitrogen Data from the GLOBEC Long-Term Observation Program, 1997-2004. College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Data Report 204, Reference 2006-2.

**Jennifer J. Wetz** and P.A. Wheeler. 2005. Pump Station Data Report for the May 2001, August 2001 and January 2003 COAST Cruises: Nutrients, Extracted Chlorophyll, and Dissolved and Particulate Organic Carbon and Nitrogen. College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Data Report 202, Reference 2005-5.

J. H. Fleischbein, A. Huyer, M. Kosro, R. L. Smith, **Jennifer J. Wetz**, and P.A. Wheeler. 2005. Upper Ocean Water Properties and Currents along Paired Sections in the Northern California Current, Spring 1998-2003. College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Data Report 203, Reference 2005-6.

J. H. Fleischbein, A. Huyer, M. Kosro, R. L. Smith, **Jennifer J. Wetz**, and P.A. Wheeler. 2005. Upper Ocean Water Properties and Currents along Paired Sections in the Northern California Current, Fall 1998-2003. College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Data Report 2##, Reference 2005-#.

**Jennifer J. Wetz**, J. Hill, H. Corwith and P.A. Wheeler. 2004. Nutrient and Extracted Chlorophyll Data from the GLOBEC Long-Term Observation Program, 1997-2003. College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Data Report 193, Reference 2004-1.

**Jennifer L. Jarrell**, E. K. Lipp, D. W. Griffin, J. Lukasik, D. Wait, M. Sobsey and J. B. Rose. 2000. Presence, infectivity and stability of viral pathogens and microbial indicators in the surface waters of the Florida Keys and *in vitro*. Final Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Technical Advisory Committee of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

## PRESENTATIONS

Downey, C., R. Brewton, **J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2016. Diet analysis of Red Snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, on natural and artificial reefs in the western Gulf of Mexico. 8th Biennial Education and Science Forum: NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions. New York City, NY

**Wetz, J.J.** 2016. Fisheries research in your backyard...what's happening at Texas A & M – Corpus Christi. Careers in Marine Biology. Texas State Aquarium Sea Camp.

Downey, C., R. Brewton, **J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2016. Diet analysis of Red Snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, on natural and artificial reefs in the western Gulf of Mexico. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. April. Port Aransas, TX.

**Ajemian, M.J.**, J.J. Wetz, R.A. Brewton, M.K. Streich, C.H. Downey, and G. W. Stunz. 2016. Relative value of Rigs-to-Reefs habitats to Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) stock building in the western Gulf of Mexico. Benthic Ecology Meeting. March 16-19<sup>th</sup>. Portland, ME.

Streich, M., **J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2016. Relative abundance, age, and growth of Red Snapper: A comparison between artificial and natural habitats in the western Gulf of Mexico. Annual Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. February 17-21<sup>st</sup>. Wheeling, WV

Downey, C., R. Brewton, **J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2016. Reproductive biology of Red Snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, on natural and artificial reefs in the western Gulf of Mexico. Annual Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. February 17-21<sup>st</sup>. Wheeling, WV.

**Wetz, J.**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2016. Good, Better, Best: A comparison of SCUBA and ROV fish community surveys. Texas Parks and Wildlife 3rd Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX February 11-12<sup>th</sup>.

Downey, C., R. Brewton, **J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2016. Reproductive biology of Red Snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, on natural and artificial reefs in the western Gulf of Mexico. Texas Parks and Wildlife 3rd Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX February 11-12<sup>th</sup>.

Streich, M., **J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2016. Relative abundance, age, and growth of Red Snapper: A comparison between artificial and natural habitats in the western Gulf of Mexico. Texas Parks and Wildlife 3rd Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX February 11-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Wetz, J.**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2015. Artificial Reef Fish Community Structure along the Texas Shelf: Potential Impacts of “Rigs-to-Reefs” Programs. 145th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Portland, OR.

Streich, M., **J.Wetz**, M. Ajemian, and G. Stunz. 2015. Artificial reefs as surrogate habitats for Red Snapper in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico: A Fishery-Independent Comparison of Artificial and Natural Habitats. 145th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Portland, OR.

Downey, C., R. Brewton, **J.J. Wetz**, M. Ajemian, and G.W. Stunz. 2015. Reproductive biology of Red Snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, on natural and artificial reefs in the western Gulf of Mexico. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Port Aransas, TX. April 8-9, 2015.

Walker, L.M., M. Streich, **J.J. Wetz**, and G.W. Stunz. 2015. Colonization of the Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef: A comparison of underwater video and traditional sampling gears for indexing reef fish presence and abundance. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Port Aransas, TX. April 8-9, 2015.

**Wetz, J.J.**, M. Streich, M.J. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2015. Using Vertical Longline data to assess Red Snapper on various habitat in the Texas Coastal Bend Region. Texas Parks and Wildlife 2nd Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX February 5-6th, 2015

Streich, M., M.J. Ajemian, **J.J.Wetz** and G.W. Stunz. 2015. Effects on Red Snapper and the associated community following the construction of the Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef. Texas Parks and Wildlife 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX February 5-6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Ajemian, M.J., **J.J. Wetz**, and G.W. Stunz. 2015. An analysis of artificial reef fish community structure along the Texas shelf: Potential impacts of “Rigs-to-Reefs” programs. Texas Parks and Wildlife 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX February 5-6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Ajemian, M.J. \*, **Wetz, J.J.**, Streich, M.K., and G.W. Stunz. 2014. Fish community assessment on artificial reefs of the western Gulf of Mexico: Potential impacts of 'Rigs-to-reefs' programs. Invited Seminar, University of Alicante, Alicante, SPA. November 26, 2014.

Stroman, K\*, **J.J. Wetz**, M.J. Ajemian and G.W. Stunz. 2014. An analysis of fish communities on South Texas artificial reefs: Does structure type matter? Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Port Aransas, TX. April, 2014.

**Wetz, J.J.\***, M.J. Ajemian, and G.W. Stunz. 2014. What are we missing? A preliminary comparison of ROV and SCUBA surveys. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Texas Artificial Reef Consortium. Corpus Christi, TX. January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.



**Wetz, J.J.\***, M.J. Ajemian, and G.W. Stunz. 2013. Fish community structure and abundance on artificial reefs of South Texas: a preliminary assessment. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Corpus Christi, TX. †

Ajemian, M.J.\* , **J.J. Wetz**, and G.W. Stunz. 2013. Micro-ROV survey methodology for submerged oil and gas platform artificial reefs. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Corpus Christi, TX.

Stunz, G.W., **J.J. Wetz**, M.J. Ajemian\*, M. Streich, D. Shively, B. Shipley-Lozano. 2013. Artificial reefs in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico as fisheries habitat. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Corpus Christi, TX. †

Downey, C.H.\* , T.R. Kling, M.J. Ajemian, **J.J. Wetz**, and G.W. Stunz. 2013. Vertical longline gear performance on artificial reefs of the Texas Coastal Bend. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Corpus Christi, TX.

Streich, M.\* , M.J. Ajemian, **J.J. Wetz**, and G.W. Stunz. 2013. Relative abundance and size structure of red snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, across habitat types in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Corpus Christi, TX.

Zimmermann, D.\* , M.J. Ajemian, **J.J. Wetz**, and G.W. Stunz. 2013. A Comparison of trophic structure among artificial reefs of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Corpus Christi, TX.

Swain, M.A\*., G.W. Stunz, and **J. Wetz**. 2013. ROV Adventures: A Comparison of Standing and Cut-off Artificial Reef Structures in the Gulf of Mexico. Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Altoona, FL.

Matthew J. Ajemian\*, **J.J. Wetz**, Gregory W. Stunz. 2013 Crunching the numbers: the importance of offshore artificial reefs to Texas fisheries. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting, Port Aransas, TX

**Jennifer J. Wetz\*** and P. Wheeler. 2006. Biogeochemical characteristics of coastal phytoplankton blooms. Time Series of the Northeast Pacific, North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES): Symposium to mark 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Line-P. July 5-8. Victoria, BC, Canada.

**Jennifer J. Wetz\*** and A. Lohrer. 2001. Using multi-faceted estuarine monitoring to detect an aperiodic anthropogenic impact at the North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR. Estuarine Research Federation Biennial Meeting, November 4-8. St. Pete Beach, FL

**Jennifer J. Wetz\*** and A. Lohrer. 2001. Effect of a controlled forest burn on estuarine nutrient concentrations in Thousand Acre Marsh. Southeastern

Estuarine Research Society Semi-annual Meeting, March 29-31, 2001.  
Charleston, SC

**Jennifer Jarrell\*** and R. Wilson. 2000. Use of a synthetic polypeptide to determine the sex and reproductive status of field-caught red grouper, *Epinephelus morio*. California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, May 19-20, 2000. Los Angeles, CA

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Best Student Paper Award in Physiology and Genetics, SCAS Meeting, 2000.  
Von Rosenstiel Fellowship for Research, 1998.  
Tampa Bay Parrothead Club Scholarship for Marine Science, 1998.  
Aylesworth Foundation for the Advancement of Marine Science Fellowship, 1997&1998.  
Old Salt Fishing Club Scholarship, 1997.  
USF Marine Science Department New Student Fellowship, 1996/1997.  
Hope Scholarship, UGA, 1994-1996.  
Alumni Scholarship, UGA, 1992-1996.

## **ACTIVITIES**

LoneStar Lionfish Symposium Planning Committee – member. 2015-present.  
Montessori School of Corpus Christi Fundraising Committee - member and event co-chair, 2013-2015.  
Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, Scientific Diving Advisory Board Member, 2013-present  
Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, AAUS Scientific Diver, 2012-present  
University of South Florida, AAUS Scientific Diver, May 1997-2000  
President USF SCUBA Club, 1997, 1998