

DR. REBECCA L. ATKINS

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Accomplished coastal scientist with a proven ability to develop effective research programs and partnership engagement which advance ecological theory and understanding. Diverse academic and professional background highlights technical expertise ranging from coastal ecology to sea level rise, coastal hazards, and resilience. Creative and skilled educator and communicator with demonstrated project management dexterity in complex environments spanning scientific research programs, multi-stakeholder workshops, community outreach, and federal interagency collaboration.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(On contract with Consolidated Safety Services Inc.)

1305 East West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910 United States

2/2023 – Present

Scientific Program Manager

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Serve the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Competitive Research Program (CRP), supporting the Effects of Sea Level Rise (ESLR) and Event Response (ESLR-ER) programs, Harmful Algal Bloom programs (MERHAB, PCMHAB, ECOHAB, and SEAHAB), the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, and the Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology (CIROH).
- Perform a suite of program management duties across CRP's portfolios to achieve agency and stakeholder needs. This includes development of short- and long-term research program plans, oversight and control of efforts to support each project's requirements, procurement, development, testing, implementation, publication, and briefing of relevant project results to leadership, external partners, and congressional audiences.
- Engage with colleagues at academic institutions and NOAA, as well as with stakeholders in other Federal and state agencies, local government, and industry to identify sea level rise, harmful algal bloom, hypoxia, and ecosystem issues in order to design and direct research projects to inform stakeholder decisions.
- Co-Lead the Coastal Ecosystem Prediction System project, under NCCOS's Coastal Change science priority, in administering over \$2,100,000 to internal and external partners.
- Co-lead development and execution of the 2024 ESLR and ECOHAB Programs' Federal Funding Opportunities (FFOs), totaling approximately \$5,000,000. This includes developing FFO priorities and language, leading a mail and panel review of proposals, and development of selection justification materials for NCCOS leadership.
- Manage an active project portfolio of over \$2,00,000 across projects within MERHAB, CIROH, ESLR-ER and Community Direct Spending programs, spanning the physical and social sciences.
- Serve as the Executive Secretariat of the NCCOS Coastal Change Work Group.
- Participate on the following teams: United States Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) Coasts Working Group, NOS Coastal Resilience Working Group, Interagency Working Group – Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act (HABHRCA), Hypoxia Task Force, Gulf of Mexico Alliance Water Resources Team.
- Serve as a reviewer and panelist across numerous NOAA funding competitions and programs.
- Support review of relevant Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) reports and proposals.

Shoals Marine Laboratory

8 College Road

Durham, NH 03824 United States

5/2023 – Present

Teaching Faculty and Scientist in Residence

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Mentor students in the Shoals Undergraduate Research Group (SURG) program, including preparing teaching materials and facilitating the development of independent research projects.
- Co-instruct Research in Biology (RiB), an immersive two-week course centered on research design, execution and communication.
- Assist with organizing Shoals Marine Laboratory's (SML) annual Research Symposium.
- Support SML's research activities, including maintaining an intertidal tide pool temperature monitoring program.

2/2022 - 2/2023

Knauss Marine Policy Fellow**Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:**

- Worked directly in partnership with the NOAA Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience to lead the strategic planning and coordination of coastal resilience activities across NOAA.
- Organized and curated ongoing collaborations between the Senior Advisor and National Ocean Service (NOS), other NOAA Line Offices, federal agencies, and international organizations, as well as partners in academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations.
- Oversaw short- and long-term strategies and activity roadmaps that provide clarity on the scope, schedule, and outcomes of key initiatives within the Senior Advisor's portfolio.
- Coordinated within- and cross-line office communication, including preparing briefing materials, presentations, graphics, and talking points for the Senior Advisor and other NOS executive leadership.
- Served as the Executive Secretariat of the NOS Coastal Resilience Work Group.
- Lead the Knauss Fellow FORCE (Fellows Organized for Resilient Coastal Efforts) Committee, which convenes over 20 Knauss fellows spanning 6 executive agencies and across the legislative branch.
- Supported ongoing efforts to coordinate White House interagency work groups related to coastal resilience to achieve outstanding Administration and community priorities.
- Assisted with drafting the NOS Strategic Plan and gathering feedback from both public partners and NOS program offices.
- Participated in the International Science for Disaster Reduction working group to support ongoing efforts related to the Sendai Framework.

EDUCATION

PhD in Ecology, University of Georgia

December, 2022

GPA: 3.71 of a maximum 4.0

Credits Earned: 41 Semester Hours

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Maintained ongoing collaborations with the Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Program
- Researched consumer-resource interactions in Southeastern US salt marshes. To accomplish my research goals, I coordinated with seven of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs), two Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Programs, two Nature Conservancy sites, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and multiple state agencies.
- Instructed undergraduate and graduate coursework on research methods, general ecology, and marine biology.
- Collaboratively designed and taught a graduate course and a 3-week module integrating feminist scholarship and the sciences. More broadly, these courses offer a space to critique the production of scientists and scientific knowledge in academia through the lens of power dynamics.
- Collaborated with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant to organize a workshop on marine microplastics. As the event organizer, I coordinated a panel discussion featuring a Sea Grant Extension Agent from the University of Florida, a poster session highlighting UGA student research about microplastics, and a reception connecting local and regional organizations dedicated to watershed health and stewardship.
- Communicated the from my research and teaching in over 32 presentations across the world.

Supervisor: Dr. Craig Osenberg (Osenberg@uga.edu)

Okay to contact this Supervisor: Yes

B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, *Summa cum laude*, University of Florida
Minor in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida

2014

GPA: 3.98 of a maximum 4.0

Credits Earned: 127 Semester Hours

Supervisor: Dr. Brian Silliman

Okay to contact this Supervisor: Contact me first

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia	2015-2021
Lab Technician, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia	2014-2015
Intern, Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), Portland, Maine	2014
Independent Research Project, Swansea University, Wales, UK	2013
Lab Technician, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida	2012-2013
REU Intern, University of Florida, Sapelo Island, Georgia	2012

PUBLICATIONS

Atkins, R. L., Clancy, K. M., Ellis, W. T. and Osenberg, C. W. 2022. Thermal traits vary with mass and across populations of the marsh periwinkle, *Littoraria irrorata*. *Biol. Bull.* 242: 173-196.

Atkins, R. L., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., O'Connor, M. I. and Silliman, B. R. 2015. Consumer-plant interaction strength: importance of body size, density and metabolic biomass. *Oikos*. 124: 1274-1281.

Davidson, A., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Coleman, F., **Atkins, R. L.** and Silliman, B. R. 2015. Non-consumptive predator effects intensify grazer-plant interactions by driving vertical habitat shifts. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 537: 49-58.

Atkins, R. L. and Osenberg, C. W. 2023. Causes and consequences of intraspecific variation within salt marsh snail populations across space and time. In Preparation.

Atkins, R. L., Hamman, E. A. and Osenberg, C. W. 2023. Spatial variability in a salt marsh consumer. In Preparation.

Selected popular science writing

“In Defense of Natural History Museums.” *Athens Science Observer*, February 2021

“The Undead Ghost Forests of Georgia.” *Athens Science Observer*, February 2020

“Capturing Creativity.” *Athens Science Observer*, December 2019

Atkins, R. 2017. Science and art: A mutualism. *Fisheries*. 42(3): 137-139. [featured on the cover]

Science illustration

Majewska, A. A. and Altizer, S. 2018. Planting gardens to support insect pollinators. *Conserv. Biol.* 34(1): 15-25.

Haram, L. E., Kinney, K. A., Sotka, E. and Byers, J. E. 2018. Introduced ecosystem engineer differentially influences the foraging behavior and habitat selection of top predators. *Ecol.* 99(12): 2751-2762.

Osenberg, C. W. 2018. No clean coal for stream animals. *Nat. Sustain.* 1:160-161.

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS (of 32; Presentation award noted with '*')

Knauss Lunch and Learn Webinar	2022
Women's Studies Virtual Friday Speaker Series Lecture	2020
Western Society of Naturalists, Virtual Meeting	2020
Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting	2014, 2016- 2022
Odum School of Ecology Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Athens GA*	2016-2019
LTER All Scientists' Meeting, Monterey, CA	2018
Gordon Research Conference: Unifying Ecology Across Scales, Biddeford, ME	2016, 2018
Benthic Ecology Conference, Corpus Christi, TX*	2018
Benthic Ecology Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC	2017

Benthic Ecology Conference, Portland, ME	2016
Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference, Liverpool, UK*	2015
Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference, Athens, GA	2015
Benthic Ecology Conference, Quebec City, CA*	2015
North Florida Marine Science Symposium, St. Augustine, FL	2014
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Melbourne, FL	2013
Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Research Triangle Park, NC	2013
Marine Biology Symposium, St. Augustine, FL	2012

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON), Tampa, FL	2024
38 th Hypoxia Task Force Public Meeting, Fayetteville, AR	2023
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Biennial Conference	2023
Coastal Ecosystem Prediction System Team Kickoff, St. Pete, FL	2023
Gulf of Mexico All Hands Meeting, Austin, TX	2023
NOAA Centers for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems-II Annual Meeting, Silver Spring, MD	2023
Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	2022
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Coastal Programs Meeting, Fairhope, AL	2022
Restore America's Estuaries, New Orleans, LA	2022
Great Lakes Regional Visit with Mark Osler, Ann Arbor, MI	2022
National Adaptation Forum, Baltimore, MD	2022
United Nations Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022), Bali, Indonesia	2022
NACo-Pew Intergovernmental Roundtable on Disaster Resiliency, Washington, DC	2022
ComSciCon-Atlanta Science Communication Workshop, Athens, GA	2020
Gender, the Body and Fieldwork Across Disciplines Symposium, Athens, GA	2019
Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) National Conference, Athens, GA	2018
Science Writers Workshop, Athens, GA	2018
Science Communication Workshop, Myrtle Beach, SC	2017
American Ecological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD	2015
Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	2013
Marine Resource and Population Dynamics Workshop, RTR Program, Long Key, FL	2013
Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) World Leadership Congress, Washington, DC	2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-Instructor, Research in Biology (RiB) (MEFB 751)	2022-2023
Teaching Assistant, General Ecology Laboratory (ECOL 3500L)	2020-2021
Module Co-Instructor, Topics in Modern Ecology (ECOL 8000)	2020
Co-Instructor, Cross-disciplinary Ecology (ECOL 8030)	2020
Field Trip Co-Instructor, Marine Ecology (ENVS 385), Emory University	2018

STUDENT MENTORING (H=High school student, U=Undergraduate)

Jennifer Duncan^U, William Ellis^{H, U}, Jenny Sycamore^U, Gracen Dutton^H, Kathleen Clancy^U, Hend Rasheed^U, Sam Shaffer^H, Rebecca Templeton^H, Catherine Miller^U, Leeann Frank^U, Megan Kelly^U, Kelly Mayes^U, Courtney Gilbert^U

SELECTED OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Graduate Program Committee , Odum School of Ecology	2020-2021
Prospective Student Committee , Odum School of Ecology	2020
Session Organizer , Gender, the Body and Fieldwork Across Disciplines Symposium	2019
Event Organizer , Art as the Science Lesson Seminar by Dr. Jennifer Seavey	2019
Outreach Volunteer , University of Georgia STEMzone	2017, 2018
Event Organizer , Plastic: Land to Sea Connections Workshop	2017
Mentor , Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Schoolyard Program	2017
Event Co-Organizer , Mapping Your Path in Science: WiSci Career Symposium	2015
Officer , University of Georgia Women in Science (WiSci) organization	2015, 2016

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

M. K. Pentecost Ecology Fund	2016, 2017
Odum School of Ecology Small Grant	2016
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award	2015
University of Georgia Presidential Graduate Fellows Program	2015
British Phycological Society Student Travel Bursary	2015
Challenger Society for Marine Science Travel Award	2015
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Teddy Roosevelt Award	2013
Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research	2013

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Blue Key Honor Society, Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF), Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (affiliate society of CERF), Sigma Xi, Ecological Society of America (ESA)