

Natasha Johnson Breaux

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Education

M.S., Marine Biology, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi TX, August 2017

B.S., Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville FL, May 2009

Professional Experience

Research Associate, Coastal Conservation and Restoration Ecology Laboratory

Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX • Summer 2017 to present

- Lead field sampling activities for benthic and water quality projects

- Work with incoming students to establish and maintain effective sampling protocols and databases

- Fulfill QA/QC requirements of multiple funding agencies

- Complete progress and final reports for field sampling projects

- Prepare proposals for future project funding

- Develop and coordinate community outreach events

- Maintain laboratory and field gear including stable isotope and water quality monitoring equipment

Graduate Research Assistant, Coastal Conservation and Restoration Ecology Laboratory

Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX • 2015 to 2017

- Coordinated sampling events within our laboratory and partnering entities

- Analyzed benthic core samples for macrofaunal abundance, diversity and biomass

- Processed biological and sediment samples for stable isotope analyses

- Maintained database and complete statistical analyses of biological and physical data collected

- Created lasting sampling partnerships with commercial anglers and state officials

- Planned and participated in numerous outreach events with a variety of age groups

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Marine Ecology

Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX • Spring 2016

- Planned and facilitated numerous laboratory and field experiences for students

- Independently tutored students on concepts and techniques in Marine Ecology

- Organized 24-hour diurnal sampling event requiring cooperation among various groups

Marine Fisheries Biologist, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

New Orleans, LA • 2011 to 2015

- Used both dependent and independent sampling methods to establish records of the fishery

- Effectively communicated fisheries projects, goals, and status to the public

- Served as State representative for NRDA sampling

- Acted as study area liaison for federal Menhaden aging and commercial (TIPS) programs

- Safely and efficiently operated sampling vessels and equipment including trawls, tongs and dredges; seine, gill, and trammel nets

Veterinary Assistant, Metairie Small Animal Hospital
Metairie, LA • 2010 to 2011

Aided in clinic, laboratory and pharmaceutical practices
Independently ran a variety of diagnostic laboratory tests to allow for prompt reporting to clients
Maintained patient records by precisely recording treatments and test results

Research Assistant, University of Florida Ecosystem Ecology Laboratory
Gainesville, FL • 2008 to 2009

Processed soil and plant samples for pH and nutrient values
Worked independently and in conjunction with staff and students on various extraction techniques
Maintained a clean, orderly, and well-stocked laboratory setting

Gopher Tortoise Relocation/Research Intern, Nokuse Plantation
Bruce, FL • Summer 2007

Worked with Field Biologists to take in, tag, and track Gopher Tortoises
Analyzed land area for suitable habitat using GPS and GIS mapping systems

Scholarships and Awards

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and Research Grant, Texas A&M University College of Graduate Studies, 2017

Henry Hildebrand Memorial Scholarship, Texas A&M University Center for Coastal Studies, 2016

Millicent Quammen Memorial Scholarship, Texas A&M University Center for Coastal Studies, 2015

Student Success Scholarship, Texas A&M University, 2015

Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship, State of Florida, 2005-2009

New College of Florida Presidential Scholarship, New College of Florida, 2005

Scientific and Professional Conference Presentations

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. March 2018. Serpulid Reef Communities as Critical Habitat for Invertebrate Prey Resources. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Corpus Christi, Texas.

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. November 2017. Evaluating Effects of Extreme Salinity Change on a Benthic Predator. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference. Providence, Rhode Island.

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. April 2017. Evaluating Effects of Extreme Salinity Change on a Benthic Predator. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. January 2017. Evaluating Macrofaunal Response to Salinity Disturbance. TAMU Marine Biology Interdisciplinary Program Retreat. Galveston, Texas.

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. December 2016. Evaluating Ecosystem Response to Salinity Disturbance in a Hypersaline Estuary. Marine Science Graduate Student Organization Student Research Forum. Corpus Christi, Texas.

Thomas, J, **Breaux, N**, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B, and Pollack JB. December 2016. Salinity Disturbance and Benthic Macrofauna in Baffin Bay, TX. Marine Science Graduate Student Organization Student Research Forum. Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Third Place: Undergraduate Poster Presentation*

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. September 2016. Evaluating Ecosystem Response to Salinity Disturbance in a Hypersaline Estuary. TAMU Pathways Research Symposium. Prairie View, Texas.

**Second Place: Master's Level Environmental Sciences Poster Presentation*

Smykla, L, **Breaux, N**, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. September 2016. Understanding Black Drum Resource Use in a Hypersaline System. TAMU Pathways Research Symposium. Prairie View, Texas.

**First Place: Undergraduate Life Sciences Poster Presentation*

Beseres Pollack, J, Stunz G, Ajemian M, Wetz M, Palmer T, Lebreton B, Mendenhall K, and **Breaux N.** June 2016. Linking benthic food resources, water quality, and black drum in Baffin Bay, Texas. Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program Baffin Bay Symposium. Corpus Christi, Texas.

Beseres Pollack, J, Stunz, G, Ajemian, M, Wetz, M, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B, Mendenhall, K and **Breaux, N.** April 2016. Linking benthic food resources, water quality & Black Drum in Baffin Bay, TX. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Port Aransas, Texas.

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. April 2016. Evaluating Ecosystem Resilience Following a Salinity Disturbance in Baffin Bay, TX. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Port Aransas, Texas.

**First Place: Poster Presentation*

Breaux, N, Palmer, T, Lebreton, B and Pollack, JB. March 2016. Ecosystem Resilience Following a Salinity Disturbance in a Hypersaline Estuary. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Portland, Maine.

Breaux, N. December 2015. Ecosystem Resilience Following a Salinity Disturbance in a Hypersaline Estuary. Marine Science Graduate Student Organization Student Research Forum. Corpus Christi, Texas.

Certifications/ Professional Skills

Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite, Primer v6, R v3.3.1, ArcGIS v10.2 and SAS data management system

Safe Boating certified (TX and LA), with 7+ years of experience operating small vessels

PADI Open Water SCUBA certified

DAN Diving First Aid for Professional Divers certified (First Aid, CPR, AED, BBP, O₂ Administration, Neurological and First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life)

Service and Outreach

Guest Speaker- Mireles Elementary Science Spectacular Program-2017 to 2018

Invited Speaker- Youth Summer Science Program, UTMSI- 2015 to 2018

Poster Judge- Marine Science Graduate Student Organization Student Research Forum-December 2017

Science Fair Judge- Incarnate Word Academy- February 2017

“Sink Your Shucks” Oyster reef restoration volunteer- 2016 to present

Marsh Planting Outreach- Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program- 2016

Oyster Recycling Outreach Program- 2015 to Present

Sampling volunteer- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department- 2015

Volunteer with Florida DEP- Beach Restoration Projects- 2008

Professional Memberships

Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation

Gulf Estuarine Research Society

Benthic Ecology Meeting Society