

Leah M. Morgan

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EDUCATION

- 2019 University of Southern Mississippi, Ocean Springs, MS
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Master of Science, Coastal Sciences, Fall 2019
Emphasis in Coastal Ecology and Ecological Processes
- 2016 University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Bachelor of Science, Marine Science, Spring 2016
Minor: Journalism

EXPERIENCE

- 2020-Present Science Fellow, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – Wilmington, DE
- Assisted with implementation of the Mussels for Clean Water Initiative (MuCWI) and tasks associated with planning and partner coordination with regard to freshwater mussel hatchery project facilitation.
 - Participated in other ongoing monitoring and field projects relating to shellfish, habitat restoration, and/or wetland ecology as needed.
 - Supported multiple outreach projects and National Estuary Program deliverables including but not limited to the PDE Science and Environmental Summit, the Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin (TREB), and multiple webinar series.
 - Facilitated administrative responsibilities including but not limited to payroll, accounts payable, and accounts receivable.
- 2017-2019 Graduate Research Assistant, University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory – Ocean Springs, MS
- Reviewed scientific literature for formulation of prospectus and thesis on oyster larval ecology and recruitment limitation.
 - Assisted with research fieldwork for data collection and analysis.
 - Transcribed and presented thesis project and conclusions (October 8, 2019) with anticipated future publication.
- 2016-2017 Field Technician, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Dover, DE
- Conducted face-to-face interviews of anglers at various shore and boat ramp sites in Delaware to collect data as part of the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS).
 - Weighed, measured, and identified angler catches when possible and meticulously completed appropriate paperwork.
 - Utilized state of Delaware fleet vehicle to travel to and from assignment sites along the coast of the state.
- 2015 Summer Scholars Intern, University of Delaware – Lewes, DE
- Completed individual research project under faculty sponsor Dr. Doug Miller at the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment marine studies campus

- Full time extensive in-depth research on how the effect of seafloor dredging on incidental mortality of sea scallops affects its predator/prey relationships.
 - Participated in weeklong sea scallop survey cruise off Nantucket coast.
- 2015 Marine Science Study Abroad, University of Delaware – New Zealand
- Completed course requirements for coastal field biology and marine invertebrate biodiversity classes by visiting a variety of marine habitats and viewing diversity of New Zealand’s marine biology.
 - Gained global understanding of a new culture and a myriad of unique life experiences.
- 2015 Semester in Residence student, University of Delaware – Lewes, DE
- Participated in numerous research cruises to survey physical, biological and geological properties of the Delaware Bay, Broadkill River, and Atlantic Ocean.
 - Took 16 credits of marine studies coursework in the field and in class, including four credits of research experience in biodiversity.
- 2014 Intern, Cape May Whale Watch & Research Center – Cape May, NJ
- Collected and input data, lead touch tank instruction, educated whale watch passengers, photographed marine animals, and maintained tanks.
 - Completed an independent research project on the general impact of humans on marine mammals.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 **Morgan LM**, Rakocinski, CF. Predominant factors limiting the recovery of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) in western Mississippi Sound, USA. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, Volume 264.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2021.107652>.

PRESENTATIONS

* to indicate presenting author(s)

Invited

- 2019 **L. Morgan***. GCRL Science Cafe, Ocean Springs, MS, June 3. Early recruitment of *Crassostrea virginica* to restored and natural oyster reefs in the western Mississippi sound.

Contributed

- 2022 D. Kreeger*, K. Cheng, M. Gentry, **L. Morgan**, J. Moody. National Shellfisheries Association 113th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 4. Beyond restoration aquaculture: testing the propagation, rearing, and deployment of freshwater mussels for water quality enhancement of impaired habitats.
- L. Morgan***, M. Gentry, K. Cheng, J. Moody, D. Kreeger. National Shellfisheries Association 113th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 1-2. Coupling freshwater mussel and shoreline restoration practices in the Delaware Estuary, USA.

- M. Gentry*, K. Cheng, **L. Morgan**, D. Kreeger. National Shellfisheries Association 113th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 1-2. Municipal stormwater ponds as low-maintenance, high-impact grow-out sites for juvenile freshwater mussels in the Delaware River Basin, USA.
- 2021 K. Cheng, M. Gentry*, **L. Morgan***, J. Moody, D. Kreeger. 2021 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop, October 19. Expanding Living Shorelines to Fresh Waters of the Delaware Estuary: A Monitoring Plan to Guide Expectations. Cape May, NJ.
L. Morgan*, K. Cheng, D. Kreeger, M. Gentry. 2021 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit, March 1, virtual. Utilizing stormwater ponds to expedite juvenile mussel growth in New Castle County, Delaware.
- 2020 C. Rakocinski* and **L. Morgan**. 2020 Bays and Bayous Virtual Symposium, December 3. Recruitment limitation of the Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Mississippi Sound.
- 2019 **L. Morgan*** and C. Rakocinski. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 25th Biennial Meeting, Mobile, AL, November 4. Larval supply of eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) to restored and historic reefs in Mississippi.
C. Rakocinski* and **L. Morgan**. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 25th Biennial Meeting, Mobile, AL, November 4. Early recruitment of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Mississippi Sound.
C. Rakocinski*, V. Fleeer, and **L. Morgan**. National Shellfisheries Association 111th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 9. The role of early recruitment of *Crassostrea virginica* relative to oyster reef restoration in Mississippi Sound.
- 2018 **L. Morgan*** and C. Rakocinski. Alabama Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium, Mobile, AL, November 28. Early recruitment of *Crassostrea virginica* to restored and natural oyster reefs in the western Mississippi Sound: post settlement success.
L. Morgan* and C. Rakocinski. Gulf Estuarine Research Society Biennial Meeting, Galveston, TX, November 9. Early recruitment of *Crassostrea virginica* to restored and natural oyster reefs in the western Mississippi Sound: post settlement success.
L. Morgan* and C. Rakocinski. Dauphin Island Sea Lab Graduate Student Symposium, Dauphin Island, AL, March 3. Early recruitment of *Crassostrea virginica* to restored and natural oyster reefs in the western Mississippi Sound in terms of larval supply and post settlement.
- 2015 **L. Morgan***, D. Ferraro, D. Miller. University of Delaware Summer Scholars Undergraduate Research and Service Celebratory Symposium, Newark, DE, August 13. The effect of incidental mortality of sea scallops inside and outside a dredge scar on predator/prey relationships.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018 Gulf Estuarine Research Society Biennial Meeting Student Travel Award,
Dauphin Island Sea Lab Graduate Student Symposium Travel Award

SERVICE

2021-Present Student Mentor, Mentor Collective – University of Delaware
2019 Volunteer vendor, 2019 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Restoration Summit – Biloxi, MS
2017-2019 Secretary, American Fisheries Society, GCRL Subunit – Ocean Springs,
MS
2015-2016 EnvironMentor, University of Delaware – Newark, DE
2013, 2015 Horseshoe crab surveyor, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
– Dover, DE
2013-2014 Secretary, Ray Street Complex, University of Delaware – Newark, DE
2012-2013 NET Captain, George Read Complex, University of Delaware – Newark,
DE
2012, 2013 Volunteer, Coast Day, University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean,
and Environment – Lewes, DE

MEMBERSHIPS

National Shellfisheries Association
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
Atlantic Estuarine Research Society
World Aquaculture Society
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
Gulf Estuarine Research Society (2017-2019)
Marine and Estuarine Graduate Student Association (2017-2019)
American Fisheries Society, GCRL Subunit (2017-2019)

SKILLS

Assembly, utilization of autonomous underwater vehicles, utilization of Lisst-Holo machines,
side-scan sonars
Licensed in small boat operations (Delaware DNREC Basic Boating and Water Safety Course,
2015)
Licensed in boat safety (Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, 2019)
Fluent in American Sign Language
Basic reading and writing in Spanish
Exceptional leader and team member