

Kelsey L. Martin

Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Marine Biology, **GPA 4.0**, August 2022
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
Research Advisor: Dr. Greg Stunz
Dissertation: The Role of Artificial Reefs and Natural Banks in the Distribution and Abundance of Economically Important Fishes
- M.S. Coastal Marine and Wetland Studies, **GPA 4.0**, December 2017
Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC
Research Advisors: Dr. Daniel Abel and Dr. Derek Crane
Thesis: Habitat Use of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) at Fishing Piers
- B.S. Marine Science, minor in Applied Mathematics, **GPA 3.9**, Magna cum laude, December 2012. Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – present *Research Associate*, Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2020 – present *Dive Control Board Member*, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2019 – present *Editor-in-Chief*, Third Coast Science Magazine, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2018 – 2022 *Research Assistant*, Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2018 – 2022 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Scholar*, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2019 – 2020 *Treasurer*, Marine Science Graduate Student Organization, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2018 – 2019 *President*, Marine Science Graduate Student Organization, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2017 – 2019 *Student Affairs Committee*, American Elasmobranch Society
- 2015 – 2017 *Graduate Assistant*, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC
- 2014 – 2015 *North Pacific Groundfish Observer*, Alaskan Observers Incorporated, Seattle, WA
- 2013 – 2013 *Volunteer Intern*, Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation, Bimini, Bahamas
- 2011 – 2012 *Teaching Assistant*, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

RELATED SKILLS

Have developed multiple models in Fortran, including an individual-based model and a predator-prey interaction model
Exemplary in R, SPSS, SAS, GIS, and Linux operating systems

Active Scientific Diver, AAUS

Certified in CPR and First Aid, Diver Alert Network

Played a critical role in the analyses of the hydroacoustic data at Texas artificial reefs and natural banks for the Great Red Snapper Count

Developed original design for stereo-remote underwater video system and proficient with analyzing stereo-video data

Skilled with acoustic telemetry, surgery, accelerometry, longlining, gillnetting, and conducting behavioral trials for fishes including elasmobranchs and related species

FUNDING SOURCES/GRANTS AWARDED

- 2021 R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Scholarship. **Harte Research Institute.**
K.L. Martin - \$4,500
- 2021 Earl C. Sams Foundation Scholarship. **Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.** K.L. Martin - \$3,000
- 2020 R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Scholarship. **Harte Research Institute.**
K.L. Martin - \$4,000
- 2020 Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Scholarship Award. **TCAFS.**
K.L. Martin - \$1,500
- 2019 Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment Scholarship. **Harte Research Institute.**
K.L. Martin - \$5,000
- 2018 Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment Scholarship. **Harte Research Institute.**
K.L. Martin - \$5,000
- 2018 Fall Graduate Student Scholarship. **Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.**
K.L. Martin - \$1,000
- 2016 – 2018 Habitat use of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) at Fishing Piers.
Ocean Tracking Network. K.L. Spencer (PI) – Loan of Five Vemco VR2W Receivers
- 2017 Habitat use of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) at Fishing Piers.
Myrtle Beach State Park. K.L. Spencer (PI) – Donated three Vemco V9 transmitters
- 2017 Habitat use of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) at Fishing Piers.
Essex County Turtle Back Zoo. K.L. Spencer (PI) - \$250
- 2016 – 2017 Habitat use of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) at Fishing Piers.
Coastal Carolina University Graduate Incentive Grant. K.L. Spencer (PI) – \$1,000
- 2016 Habitat use of Blacktip Sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) at Fishing Piers.
Myrtle Beach State Park. K.L. Spencer (PI) – Donated two Vemco V9 transmitters

PUBLICATIONS

- C. Collatos, D.C. Abel, **K.L. Martin.** 2020. Seasonal occurrence, relative abundance, and migratory movements of juvenile Sandbar sharks, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, in Winyah Bay, South Carolina. **Environmental Biology of Fishes** 103:859-873
- K.L. Martin,** D.C. Abel, D.P. Crane, N. Hammerschlag, E.J. Burge. 2019. Blacktip shark *Carcharhinus limbatus* presence at fishing piers in South Carolina: association and environmental drivers. **Journal of Fish Biology** 94:469-480

CONTRIBUTED ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 **K.L. Martin**, G.W. Stunz, M.K. Streich, J.C. Thompson-Grim, J.J. Wetz, T.S. Topping. Comparing fish communities between Texas artificial reefs and natural banks. NOAA EPP/MSI Biennial Research Forum Tallahassee, FL. *Awarded best oral presentation in the category of Healthy Oceans.*
- 2021 **K.L. Martin**, G.W. Stunz. Distribution of fish community assemblages along the Texas continental shelf. Texas A&M Systems MARB IDP Retreat. Virtual
- 2019 **K.L. Martin**, D.C. Abel, D.P. Crane, N. Hammerschlag, E.J. Burge. Blacktip shark *Carcharhinus limbatus* presence at fishing piers in South Carolina: association and environmental drivers. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Snowbird, UT
- 2019 **K.L. Martin**, G.W. Stunz. Characterizing large predatory fish across Gulf of Mexico habitats. Marine Science Graduate Student Organization 8th Annual Research Forum. Corpus Christi, TX. *Awarded best overall short oral presentation.*

CONTRIBUTED POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 **K.L. Martin**, G.W. Stunz. Fish community comparison over differing habitats along the Texas shelf. Council of Principal Investigators and Research Administrators Research Forum. Corpus Christi, TX
- 2019 **K.L. Martin**, G.W. Stunz. Fish community comparison over differing habitats along the Texas shelf. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Snowbird, UT
- 2017 **K.L. Spencer**, D.C. Abel, D.P. Crane, N. Hammerschlag, E.J. Burge, C.M. Collatos, M.E. Larsen. Coastal Shark Movements near Fishing Piers along the NE Coast of South Carolina: Early Results. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Austin, TX
- 2017 **K.L. Spencer**, D.C. Abel, D.P. Crane, C.M. Collatos. Coastal Shark Movements near Fishing Structures along the NE Coast of South Carolina: Early Results. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2017 C.M. Collatos, D.C. Abel, S.J. Gary, **K.L. Spencer**. Habitat Selection and Demographics of Sharks in Winyah Bay, SC. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2017 **K.L. Spencer**, D.C. Abel, D.P. Crane, C.M. Collatos. Pier Pressure: Composition and Movement of Sharks near Fishing Structures along the NE Coast of South Carolina. SCAFS/SCFWA Joint Annual Meeting. McCormick, SC
- 2017 C.M. Collatos, D.C. Abel, S.J. Gary, **K.L. Spencer**. Demographics of Shark Populations in Winyah Bay, SC. SCAFS/SCFWA Joint Annual Meeting. McCormick, SC
- 2013 T. H. Schacht, E. J. Burge, **K. L. Spencer**. Symbiosis between *Crustorhabditis* (Sudhaus, 1974) nematodes and Atlantic ghost crabs *Ocypode quadrata* (J.C. Fabricius, 1787). Benthic Ecology Meeting. Savannah, GA

MEDIA COVERAGE

Helmy, Sam. “Hundreds Of Sharks Filmed Clustering In The Waters Off Texas”. Deeper Blue. February 27, 2022.

White, Robyn. “Hundreds of Spinner Sharks Filmed Off Texas Coast in Rare Congregation”. Newsweek. February 14, 2022.

“Hundreds of spinner sharks filmed off Texas coast in rare congregation”. Texas News. February 13, 2022.

“Hundreds of spinner sharks spotted in huge group off the coast of the US.” Mirror (UK). February 11, 2022.

Brenmer, Jade. “Hundreds of sharks in ‘rare’ cluster off Texas captured on video”. Independent (UK). February 11, 2022.

Browning, Oliver. “Hundreds of sharks filmed swimming in ‘rare’ cluster off Texas coast”. Independent TV (UK). February 11, 2022.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/climate/sharks-texas-rare-cluster-video-b2013246.html>

Aguirre, Priscilla. “Watch: Researcher films ‘rare’ congregation of spinner sharks off Texas coast”. My San Antonio. February 9, 2022.

Willetts, Mitchell. “Hundreds of sharks swarm off Texas Gulf coast in ‘rare’ display, video shows”. Fort Worth Star-Telegram. February 9, 2022.

WPDE-ABC News. “Biting into Coastal Carolina University’s shark research findings.” March 31, 2017. <http://wpde.com/news/local/biting-into-coastal-carolinas-shark-research-teams-findings>

WFXB-FOX TV. “Coastal Carolina research on sharks.” July 12, 2016.

<http://www.wfxb.com/2016/07/12/coastal-carolina-research-on-sharks/>

National Geographic, “When Sharks Attack: Carolina Chaos.”

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/wild/when-sharks-attack/episodes/carolina-chaos/>