

Curriculum Vitae

Ryan C. Lowndes

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Education

Coastal Carolina University (CCU)

- M.S. Coastal Marine & Wetland Studies, 2023

University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW)

- B.S. Marine Biology, 2019

State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany

- M.A. Criminal Justice, 2015
- B.A. Sociology, 2013

Work History

2023 – Present

Assistant Research Scientist

Fisheries Science and Emerging Technologies (FSET) Program, New England Aquarium

Providing research, technical, and field support to projects assessing the influence of wind energy collection on the movement ecology of large pelagic vertebrates.

2021 – 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Marine Science, Coastal Carolina University

Providing support to Introduction to Marine Science, Marine Biology, and Biology of Sharks undergraduate courses and Biology of Sharks field course at Bimini Biological Field Station, The Bahamas.

2020 – 2021

Graduate Assistant

Dean's Office & Advisement Center, CCU Gupta College of Science

Assisting academic advisors in student outreach and aid, plus developing instructional videos for incoming students.

2019 – 2020

Endangered Species Observer

Dial Cordy & Associates Inc.

Monitoring dredge operations on the Cape Fear River to report presence, injury, and/or death of protected species in project area while safely operating a 23 ft vessel.

2017 – 2019

Laboratory Technician

Benthic Ecology Lab, UNCW Center for Marine Science

Assisting with several projects centered around the ecology of oysters in southeast North Carolina, monitoring oyster reef health, examining flora and fauna of natural and man-made reefs.

2017 – 2019

Project Leader for St. James Living Shorelines

Benthic Ecology Lab, UNCW Center for Marine Science

Leading effort with town of St. James in building new oyster reefs and planting marsh grass along the community's shoreline to create habitat and prevent further erosion.

- 2014 – 2016 **Administrative Assistant**
Office of Forensic Services, NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services
Assisting management of the NY State criminal DNA databank.
- 2014 **Administrative Assistant**
Grants Program Administration, NY State Division of Homeland Security
Conducting data analysis on grant funding allocations, other administrative work as needed.

Research & Field Experience

Master of Science Thesis Project at Coastal Carolina University (2020 – 2023)

Assessing the deterrent effects of experimental Select Magnetic and Repellant-Treated (SMART) hooks and newer “SMARTER” hooks on sharks in coastal South Carolina waters in recreational and commercial fishing.

Assisting coastal shark research led by Dr. Dean Grubbs at Florida State University (2019)

Helping with deployment and retrieval of baited longlines and gillnets to investigate community structure of elasmobranchs and bony fishes in Florida’s “Big Bend,” Gulf of Mexico.

Assisting shark tagging trips led by Dr. Charles Bangley (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center) (2018, 2019)

Helping with deployment and retrieval of long lines, drumlines, and gill nets in the Cape Fear River and Pamlico Sound to assess shark and ray populations and nursery potential for these sites.

Conducting experiment testing applications of an experimental commercial crab bait at Benthic Ecology Lab, UNCW (2019)

Setting baited commercial-size crab traps in Masonboro Inlet, some with experimental bait, others with natural bait.

Risk-Allocation Hypothesis experiment at Benthic Ecology Lab, UNCW (2018 – 2019)

Examining predator-prey interactions between Florida stone crabs (*Menippe mercenaria*) and banded tulip snails (*Cinctura lilium*) by observing the snails’ behavior in varying degrees of exposure to the crabs

Conducting experiment exploring predatory fish influence on mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) habitat usage at Benthic Ecology Lab, UNCW (2018)

Examining mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) shelter preference between seagrass and oyster shell habitat both within and without the presence of a predator in an experimental setting.

Traveling to Calabash Caye, Belize as part of a field class to conduct self-directed research (2018)

Examining abundance and diversity of fishes between coral reefs and sea grass beds video surveys, assisting with gel-tagging study of Permit (*Trachinotus falcatus*) movement ecology, conducting sea grass species diversity surveys.

Awards & Certificates

- Diving First Aid (including CPR/AED) for Professional Divers (2023)
- Offshore Marine Safety Training (2023)
- Awarded Graduate Research Incentive Grant by CCU in April, 2022 for \$1,420
- Certified in boating safety by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the US Coast Guard (Certificate #55867K965LK5HD7)
- Completed 5.5 hr introduction to ArcGIS course in ESRI (certificate available upon request) and completed graduate level course in ArcGIS Pro
- Certificate in Public Sector Management, Homeland Security Concentration