

Brett Sweezy

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Marine Biology) 2021 – Present

(Cumulative GPA: 4.00)

Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX

Evaluating the habitat requirements and ecological connectivity of elasmobranch species in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Master of Science (Marine Science) 2015 – 2018

(Cumulative GPA: 3.71)

University of New England, Biddeford, ME

Estimating the discard mortality of Atlantic cod in the Gulf of Maine commercial lobster fishery

Bachelor of Science (Biology) 2011 – 2013

(Cumulative GPA: 3.87, Major GPA: 3.88)

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

Skills & Certifications

Competent in the statistical computing software R

Proficient in Geospatial Analysis with ArcGIS software

Experience with phlebotomy and blood analysis of marine fishes

Operation of small watercraft vessels with a USCG certified Operator's License

Certified AAUS Scientific Diver

Employment & Research Experience

Texas A&M University – Galveston, Texas Aug 2021 – Present

Supervisor: David Wells, PhD. Position: Graduate Research Assistant

- Using acoustic and satellite telemetry to estimate spatiotemporal partitioning and ecological connectivity of shark species at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS)
- Evaluating trophic ecology of shark species at the FGBNMS using a novel stable isotope technique combined with compound specific stable isotope analysis
- Teaching Assistant for Ichthyology lab

Virginia Institute of Marine Science – Gloucester Point, Virginia Jan 2021 – July 2021

Supervisor: Emily Rivest, PhD. Position: Laboratory & Research Specialist

- Maintains experimental conditions among research aquaria by performing routine laboratory maintenance, monitoring water quality, and providing culturing support
- Performs standard operating procedures and data management for seawater chemistry analysis
- Operation and maintenance of oceanographic equipment in addition to efficiently collecting and analyzing collected water samples during field deployments

Department of Environmental Quality - Washington, North Carolina

Jul 2018 – Jun 2019

Supervisor: Daniel Zapf. Position: Marine Technician II

- Collection of ageing structures and diet samples, species identification, and determining reproductive condition of crustacean and finfish species captured in the Pamlico and Neuse River systems
- Coding, data verification, and collection of landings information from fishery-independent and dependent sampling
- Lead field projects involving trawl samples, beach seining, fish tagging, and collection of biological samples from commercial fish houses
- Communicate efficiently and effectively with the public, recreational and commercial fisherman, and commercial stakeholders
- Operation and maintenance of outboard motorboats, trailers, and field and laboratory equipment

University of New England - Biddeford, Maine

Jun 2015 – Aug 2018

Advisor: James Sulikowski, PhD. Position: Research Assistant

- Used acoustic telemetry to determine the post-release mortality of Atlantic cod in the Gulf of Maine commercial lobster fishery
- Conducted research with pop-up satellite archival transmitting tags to determine the post-release mortality of dusky sharks within the western Atlantic pelagic longline fishery
- Responsible for field logistics, data organization and analysis, writing of annual reports, proposals, and outreach to local communities
- Responsible for outreach with the public, commercial shareholders, and local fisherman to maintain healthy relationships for current and future research
- Supervised and assisted with data collection and analysis for multiple undergraduate research projects

Mote Marine Laboratory - Sarasota, Florida

Jan 2015 – May 2015

Advisor: Nick Whitney, PhD. Position: Internship

- Monitored lemon and nurse sharks within a flow tunnel respirometer to determine standard metabolic rate (SMR) and routine metabolic rate (RMR)
- Use of acceleration data loggers on lemon and nurse sharks in an effort to measure indirect energy consumption of wild individuals through SMR and RMR data
- Responsible for husbandry of laboratory elasmobranch species

Oceans Research - Mossel Bay, South Africa

Feb – Mar 2014

Advisor: Enrico Gennari, PhD. Position: Internship

- Collected data for the resident population of white sharks found in Mossel Bay through dorsal fin identification to assess the population dynamics within the ecosystem
- Monitored populations of pyjama shark, puffadder shyshark, and leopard catshark through trapping and rod-and-reel fishing
- Aided aquarium through local outreach programs and husbandry practices
- Used QGIS to monitor sightings for the resident population of white sharks within Mossel Bay

Bimini Biological Field Station - South Bimini, Bahamas

Sep – Dec 2013

Advisor: Tristan Guttridge, PhD. Position: Internship

- Aided with acoustic tracking and monitoring behavior of lemon sharks in response to external accelerometer attachment

- Collected data to examine personality differences of lemon sharks subjected to open field tests with respect to sensitization rate over multiple trial repetitions
- Monitored and deployed baited remote underwater video stations (BRUVS) throughout the island of North and South Bimini
- Operation and maintenance of small watercraft vehicles, field, and laboratory equipment

Old Dominion University – Norfolk, VA

Jun 2012 – Aug 2013

Adviser: Ian Bartol, PhD. Position: Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Used defocusing digital particle tracking velocimetry (DDPTV) to determine quantitatively distinct gaits of the black ghost knifefish
- Visualize 3D flow vectorization structures produced by body and appendage movements of marine animals
- Digitized swimming gait of green turtles within a water flow tunnel
- Husbandry duties in addition to the operation and maintenance of laboratory equipment

Professional Affiliations

American Elasmobranch Society	2020 – Present
Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research	2017 – Present
American Fisheries Society	2016 – Present
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists	2016 – Present

Awards

• Save Our Seas Foundation Keystone Grant (Awarded: \$16,989)	Jan 2023
• Vemco VR100 Student Offer (Awarded: \$6,000)	Mar 2017
• Undergraduate Research Grant (Awarded: \$6,000)	Aug 2012
• Old Dominion University Transfer Scholarship (Awarded: \$16,000)	Aug 2011

Professional Presentations (Oral)

American Fisheries Society. Atlantic City, NJ. <i>Estimating the discard mortality of <i>Gadus morhua</i> in the Gulf of Maine commercial lobster fishery</i>	Jun 2018
11th International Conference & Workshop on Lobster Bio. and Mgmt. Portland, ME. <i>Estimating discard mortality of Atlantic cod in the southern Gulf of Maine commercial lobster fishery</i>	Jun 2017
Southern New England Chapter – American Fisheries Society. Mystic, CT. <i>Determining the post-release mortality of Atlantic cod within the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery</i>	Feb 2017
Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research. Montréal, QC, Canada. <i>Observing the post-release mortality for dusky sharks, <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>, captured in the U.S. pelagic longline fishery</i>	Jan 2017
Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research. Montréal, QC, Canada. <i>Determining the post-release mortality of Atlantic cod within the Gulf of Maine lobster industry</i>	Jan 2017
American Fisheries Society. Kansas City, MO. <i>Estimating the post-release mortality of Atlantic cod in the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery</i>	Aug 2016

Publications

2020

Swezey, B. B., Capizzano, C.W., Langan J.A., Benoît, H.P., Hutchins II, E.W., Mandelman, J.W., Koh, W.Y., Dean, M.J., Anderson, B.N., Sulikowski, J.A. 2020. Estimating the discard mortality of *Gadus morhua* in the Gulf of Maine commercial lobster fishery. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.

Anderson, B. N., Weissman, A. M., **Swezey, B.B.**, Mandelman, J., Rudders, D. B., Sulikowski, J. A. 2020. Bycatch in a commercial lobster fishery – impacts on two benthic predators. Sea Raven and Longhorn Sculpin. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries*.

2019

Sulikowski, J. A., Golet, W., Hoffmayer, E. R., Driggers III, W. B., Natanson, L. J., Carlson, A., **Swezey, B. B.** 2019. Observing post-release mortality for dusky sharks, *Carcharhinus obscurus*, captured in the U.S. pelagic longline fishery. *Fisheries Research*. 221