
Carolyn J. Kovacs

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Bocas del Toro, Panamá

EDUCATION

M.S. Marine Sciences, Savannah State University, Savannah, GA, 2012

Thesis: Interactions between common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and shrimp trawlers in Savannah, Georgia

B.S. Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, 2009

Study abroad, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia, 2008

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

School for Field Studies, Bocas del Toro, Panamá

Resident Lecturer in Tropical Coastal Ecology, 2018-2020

Create lesson plans and teach an upper-level field-based Tropical Coastal Ecology course (SFS 3790) to university students from the US in a semester-long study abroad program.

Mentor students in a Directed Research course and assist them in executing a research project. Assist with community engagement activities and day-to-day life around the center.

Served as Acting Center Director in the summer of 2019.

Sea|Mester, Global Expeditions Group

Marine Science Instructor and Program Manager, 2013-2017

Developed course materials and instructed lecture and field-based science courses to university and gap year students: Introduction to Marine Biology (OCB 1000) and Introduction to Oceanography (OCE 1001).

Planned 90-day program schedules and coordinated with organizations on shore in various countries; served as the point of communication between the students, the staff on the vessel, and in the office; managed a staff of seven; supervised and monitored the safety of student groups; guided scuba dives and sailed the vessel.

ActionQuest and LifeWorks, Global Expeditions Group

Operational Director, Summers 2015 and 2018

Led groups of 12 high school students on an adventure travel program in Australia and service learning trip in Thailand. Handled logistics and accounting, provided supervision, and facilitated group discussions and interactive learning opportunities.

Savannah State University, Savannah, GA.

Instructor for Department of Natural Sciences and Marine Sciences Technician, 2012-2013

Developed course materials and instructed Introduction to Marine Biology (MSCI 1501), served as the editor for Technical Writing (MSCI 3901 and MSCI 5401).

Managed both laboratory and field aspects of the dolphin research lab, mentored undergraduates in their research, and wrote and edited manuscripts.

National Science Foundation / Chatham County Public Schools, Savannah, GA.

National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellow, 2010-2012

Created lesson plans for 7th grade life science and 8th grade physical science classes based on marine science research; assisted in middle school science classrooms and at an outdoor education facility for K-12 students.

Multiple organizations

Research Internships, 2008-2010

NATO Undersea Research Center Marine Mammal Risk Mitigation Project, Italy
Charleston Dolphin Abundance and Distribution Project, NOAA, SC
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory, FL
Environmental Response Lab, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, AL
Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, FL

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Bocas del Toro Hope Spot, Bocas del Toro, Panamá

2019 – Present

Founding member and awardee of the Mission Blue Hope Spot recognition for Bocas del Toro; collaborate with multiple NGOs in Panama to promote the conservation of our marine ecosystem; create and disseminate educational materials on coral reefs and other marine topics to the community of Bocas del Toro; provide training to the marine park guards; write scientific content for the new tour guide certification textbook for our region; create and post educational social media content

Women of the Ocean, Sirenas, and Bocas del Drago Swim Team, Bocas del Toro, Panamá

2018 – Present

Serve as a mentor for local girls for various youth empowerment organizations; give educational presentations on marine biology and conservation topics; assist with swim, surf, and snorkel lessons

Batukaras CLEAR, Batukaras, Indonesia

September-November, 2017

Worked with local staff to create lesson plans and implement environmental-based art and educational activities as well as English lessons to children ages 6-18.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Adult First Aid / CPR / AED
- DiveMaster (PADI *Not currently active)
- Group fitness instructor (American Council on Exercise)
- Stand up paddle board instructor (PaddleFit)

SKILLS

- Strong writing and public speaking skills
- Experience teaching both in traditional and non-traditional settings
- Excellent at organizing activities and managing a group schedule
- Strong communication and team management skills
- Comfortable living with small group of people for an extended period of time
- At ease living in remote areas of the world as well as in new cultures
- Advanced proficiency in Spanish
- Skilled photographer
- Experience working on and driving boats, with over 500 days at sea
- Use of Microsoft Office, online communication systems, and social media

PUBLICATIONS

- Kovacs, C.J.**, Perrtree, R.M. & Cox, T.C. (2017). Social differentiation in common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) that engage in human-related foraging behaviors. *PLOS ONE* 12(2): e0170151.
- Perrtree, R.M, **Kovacs, C.J.** & Cox, T.C. (2014). Standardization and application of metrics to quantify human-interaction behaviors by the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops* spp.). *Marine Mammal Science* 30(4):1320-1334.
- Kovacs, C.J.** & Cox, T.C. (2014). Quantification of interactions between common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and a commercial shrimp trawler. *Aquatic Mammals* 40(1): 81-94.
- Kovacs, C.J.**, Curran, M.C., & Cox, T.C. (2013). Where's that dolphin? Using sightings of bottlenose dolphins to study spatial patterns. *The Science Teacher* 80(9): 24-29.
- Kovacs, C.J.**, Curran, M.C., & Cox, T.C. (2013). Using mathematics to conduct social analyses of bottlenose dolphins in the classroom. *Science Scope*: 36(8): 52-60.
- Kovacs, C.J.**, Daskin, J.H., Patterson, H., & Carmichael, R.H. (2010). *Crassostrea virginica* shells record local variation in wastewater inputs to a coastal estuary. *Aquatic Biology* 9: 77-84.
- Carmichael, R.H. and **Kovacs, C.J.** (2010). Comment on Watanabe *et al.* (2009). *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 60: 314-315.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Kovacs, C.** Coral reef ecology and human impacts on the marine environment. (2019). CARES (Conservation Animal Rescue and Eco Studies) Project. Bocas del Toro, Panamá.
- Scott, C. & **Kovacs, C.** Investigaciones de ciencias marinas en el Centro para Estudios de la Biodiversidad de las Islas Tropicales. (2019). Universidad de Panamá, Changuinola, Panamá.

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

- Kovacs, C., Perrtree, R., & Cox, T. (2013).** Social differentiation in common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) that engage in human interaction behaviors near Savannah, GA. Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium. University of North Florida, FL.
- Kovacs, C., & Cox, T. (2012).** Rate of interactions between bottlenose dolphins and shrimp trawlers varies with trawler activity. Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium. Nova Southeastern University, FL
- Kovacs, C., Perrtree, R., & Cox, T. (2011).** Interactions between bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and shrimp trawlers in Savannah, Georgia. (2011). Southeast and Mid Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium. Coastal Carolina University, SC.
- Kovacs, C., Perrtree, R., & Cox, T. (2011).** Are common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) interactions with shrimp trawlers resulting in social segregation in Savannah, Georgia? Biennial Conference for the Society of Marine Mammalogy. Tampa, FL. (Poster)

SELECTED CO-AUTHORED PRESENTATIONS

- Using marine mammal research as a way to engage K-12 students in the sciences. (2106). Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS), Beaufort, SC. (C. Curran, oral presentation).
- Integration of social analyses and habitat utilization by common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). (2015). Biennial Conference for the Society of Marine Mammalogy. San Francisco, CA. (T. Cox, oral presentation)
- Outreach success versus social learning: Changes in human-interaction behaviors by common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). (2015). Biennial Conference for the Society of Marine Mammalogy. San Francisco, CA. (R. Perrtree, poster)
- From charismatic megafauna to parasites: incorporating scientific research into K12 activities. (2014). Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS), Coastal Georgia Center, GA, South East Estuarine Research (C. Curran, oral presentation)
- Nitrogen in bivalve shell & soft tissues: Implications for N sequestration and cycling in coastal waters. (2103). Goldschmidt2013. Florence, Italy. (R. Carmichael, oral presentation)
- From charismatic megafauna to parasites: incorporating scientific research into K12 activities. (2103). Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation. San Diego, CA. (C. Curran, oral presentation)
- Begging behavior of the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in waters around Savannah, Georgia. (2012). Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. Salt Lake City, UT. (R. Riley, poster)
- Spatial variation in the predominant behavior of common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the estuaries of Savannah, GA. (2011). Biennial Conference for the Society of Marine Mammalogy. Tampa, FL. (A. Reyes, poster)