

Robert Dodge Ellis

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Education

Ph.D., Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida State University, 2009 - 2015
Dissertation title: *Ecological effects of habitat manipulation by red grouper (*Epinephelus morio*) in Florida Bay, FL*
Co-advisors: Dr. Felicia C. Coleman, Dr. Thomas E. Miller

M.S., Oceanography, Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University, 2007 - 2009
Thesis title: *Modeling gag grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) in the Gulf of Mexico: Exploring the impact of marine reserves on the population dynamics of a protogynous grouper*
Major advisor: Dr. Joseph E. Powers

B.S., Aquatic Biology, University of California Santa Barbara, 1999 - 2004

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory, 2011-2012
“The recovering goliath grouper population of the southeastern US: non-consumptive investigations of reproduction for stock assessment.”
Funded by: NOAA-MARFIN, PI: C.C. Koenig

Graduate Technician, USGS Mesophotic Reef Deepwater Horizon Follow-up Cruise, 2011

Research Assistant, Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory, 2010
“Impact of crude oil on coastal and ocean environments of the West Florida Shelf and Big Bend Region from the shoreline to the continental Shelf Edge.”
Funded by: Northern Gulf Institute, Co-PI: F.C. Coleman

Graduate Fellow: Louisiana State University, 2007-2009

Undergraduate Research Assistant: St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, 2002
Undergraduate Thesis: “Spatial and temporal distribution of reef-based piscivores: patterns of individual movement and variability”, Advisor: R.R. Warner, UCSB

Undergraduate Research Assistant: St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, 2002, J.W. White, UCSB

Intern: National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, Santa Barbara, CA, 2001-2002

Grants and Fellowships

Florida SeaGrant Elise B. Newell Seminar Series (with F. Coleman), 2012
SciFlies.org Featured Project, 2012
PADI Foundation Grant, 2011
Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid of Research, 2010
FSU Congress of Graduate Students Conference Presentation Grant, 2010, 2011
Louisiana State Board of Regents 8G Graduate Fellowship, 2007-2009
Mote International Symposium in Fisheries Ecology Student Travel Grant, 2008

Academic Honors and Awards

Jack Winn Grambling Endowed Scholarship, Department of Biological Science, FSU, 2012
Best Poster, Inter-American Seas Research Consortium Kickoff Symposium, 2011
Outstanding Teaching Assistant (nominated), Florida State University, 2011
American Association of Underwater Scientists Kathy Johnston Scholarship, Honorable Mention, 2011
AAAS Program for Excellence in Science participant (nominated), 2008, 2010
LSU Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences Graduate Student Symposium: Best Presentation, April 2009
Distinction in Major: University of California Santa Barbara, 2003
Worster Award for Undergraduate Research, UCSB, 2002

Publications

Ellis, R.D. and J.E. Powers. 2012. Gag grouper, marine reserves, and density dependent sex change in the Gulf of Mexico. *Fisheries Research*. 115-116: 89-98.

Pastore, A.I., E.S. Gornish, C.M. Prather, C.A. Ryan, **R.D. Ellis**, and T.E. Miller. *In review*. Testing mechanisms of the intermediate disturbance hypothesis in saxicolous lichen communities. *Ecology*.

Presentations

Inter-American Seas Research Consortium Kick-Off Symposium, December 2011
“Red grouper: prairie dogs of Florida Bay?” (poster)

Mote International Symposium for Fisheries Ecology, November 2011
“Red grouper: prairie dogs of Florida Bay?” (poster)

American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting, September 2011
“Habitat manipulation by grouper in South Florida” (poster)

Linking Science to Management: A Conference and Workshop on the Florida Keys Ecosystem, October 2010
“Red Grouper as Drivers of Biodiversity in Florida Bay” (poster)

Benthic Ecology Meeting, March 2010
“Modeling the gag grouper population in the Gulf of Mexico: influence of density-dependent sex change on marine reserve effectiveness”

American Fisheries Society, Southern Division Annual Meeting, January 2009
“Issues in MPA design: modeling gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico”

Mote International Symposium for Fisheries Ecology, November 2008
“Spatial issues in MPA design: modeling gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico” (poster)

Teaching Experience

BSC 3312, Marine Biology: Florida State University, Spring 2013

BSC 4933, Field Marine Science: FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory, Summer 2010 & 2011

BSC 2011L, Animal Diversity Lab: Florida State University, Spring 2012 & Fall 2012

BSC 2010L, Biological Science Lab 1: Florida State University, Fall 2009 & Spring 2010

Mentoring Experience

Undergraduates in the FSU Marine Certificate Program:

Ashley Carriero & Amie Lentner – Summer 2012

Nate Levine – Summer 2011

Teaching / Outreach Training

Science Communication Workshop, Florida State University Coastal & Marine Lab, 2012

COMPASS Media Training Workshop: “Meet the Press: Opportunities and Challenges for Scientists in a Changing World”: April 2010

FSU Department of Biological Science Teaching Workshop: August 2009

Professional Service and Outreach

Reviewer for *Aquatic Ecology*

Symposium Volunteer: AAAS Annual Meeting, 2010

Departmental Steward: Graduate Assistants United, Florida State University, 2009-2011

Volunteer Judge: Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair, 2008-2009

Elected Positions

President: Ecology and Evolution Discussion and Reading Group, FSU, 2011-2012

Treasurer/Secretary: American Fisheries Society Florida Chapter Student Subunit, 2011

Social Chair: LSU Marine Environmental Researchers, 2008-2009

Professional Societies

American Fisheries Society

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, Associate Member (inducted 2010)

Relevant Certifications and Skills

Diving First Aid & Oxygen Provider for Professional Divers (DAN), November 2011

SCUBA: Dry-suit Diver, NAUI, 2011

Enriched Air Diver, NAUI, 2010

Rescue Diver, NAUI, 2004

Scientific Research Diver, American Academy of Underwater Sciences, 2002

Advanced Diver, NAUI, 2002

Open Water, Scuba Schools International, 2001