

# EARTH HACKS MENTORS

## **Prof. Jeff Shields**

Department of Aquatic Health Sciences  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

### **Contact Information:**

Discord: Exquisitor#3789

Email: jeff@vims.edu

### **Availability:**

Friday: 8:00-10:00 pm via email.

Saturday: 9:00-10:00am on Discord

1:00-2:00pm on Discord.

I may check on discord later on Saturday afternoon, but that can also be arranged/negotiated by email.

Sunday: Discord at 7:00 am



### **Bio:**

Jeff is the Moses D. Nunnally Distinguished Professor of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary. He began his career with a B.A. in Aquatic and Population Biology from UC Santa Barbara in 1980 (while double majoring in surfing), a M.Sc. in Parasitology from UC Berkeley in 1983, and a Ph.D. in Aquatic and Population Biology from UC Santa Barbara in 1987. His Ph.D. research was on fecundity and egg mortality in *Cancer* crabs. After a postdoc at the University of Queensland, Australia, he did a short stint at Purdue University before starting at VIMS in 1992. At W&M he teaches undergraduate courses in Parasitology and Marine Biology, and graduate courses in Disease Ecology and Crustacean Health Issues.

Jeff is an international authority on the ecology of pathogens in marine invertebrates, particularly those in crustaceans. He has published over 135 peer-reviewed papers covering a diverse range of topics, including pathogens in fish and shellfish, *Pfiesteria*, contaminants and other environmental diseases in lobsters, the first pathogenic virus from a lobster, invertebrate microbiomes, the effects of climate change on pathogens, and many more. He has an active interest in climate change issues and drives a Tesla.



**Professor Molly Mitchell**

Center for Coastal Resources Management  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
College of William & Mary  
Gloucester Point, VA, USA

**Contact Info:**

Discord: Molly Mitchell#8065  
Email: [molly@vims.edu](mailto:molly@vims.edu)

**Availability:**

Friday: 5:00-6:00pm on Discord/email

Saturday: 8:00-10:00am on Discord/email

**Bio:**

Dr. Molly Mitchell is an Assistant Research Professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary, engaged in research and advisory efforts that help the management of natural resources in the Chesapeake Bay and elucidate the impacts of different decision-making pathways. Her recent research focuses particularly on trends in sea level rise and acceleration rates around the United States and their impacts to tidal marshes, estuarine systems, and the built environment. She works to help managers and policy makers to understand the risks, vulnerabilities and potential adaptations to sea level rise. She is a 2020 W. Taylor Reveley, III Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellow and was awarded a 2019 US CLIVAR Early Career Leadership Awards for her climate change communication efforts.



**Dr. Raha Hakimdavar**

**Contact Info:**

Discord: RahaHD#0130

**Availability:**

Saturday: 9am-12pm on Discord

Sunday: 10-11am on Discord

**Bio:**

Raha Hakimdavar is the Director of Space Sciences at Ball Aerospace, where she leads strategic engagements with the Government and broader space sciences community. Previously, Dr. Hakimdavar served as a hydrologist and acting national program lead for the U.S. Forest Service's remote sensing, monitoring and geospatial analysis research activities and consultant for the World Bank and UN Environment on flood risk reduction projects in the Caribbean. One of her two Presidential Management Fellowship appointments was with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she coordinated research and applications for various Earth science disciplines across NASA centers and headquarters. She was a consultant for the World Bank and UN Environment on flood risk reduction projects in the Caribbean. Dr. Hakimdavar earned a B.S. in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering with an emphasis on hydrology from Columbia University. She was awarded a NAF-Fulbright research fellowship to the Netherlands and the KLM Sustainability and Innovation award for her work and research on hydro-ecology.