

# KAYLA BLINCOW

University of the Virgin Islands

8124 Subbase PMB357 St. Thomas, VI 00802

kaylamblincow@gmail.com / +1 (832)274-7309 / kmblincow.github.io

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2023 – Pres. Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, College of Science and Mathematics, University of the Virgin Islands
- 2022 – 2023 Part-Time Faculty, Master of Marine and Environmental Science, University of the Virgin Islands
- 2021 – 2023 Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Marine and Environmental Studies, University of the Virgin Islands

## EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. Marine Biology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego
- 2017 Geographic Information Systems Professional Certification, UC San Diego Extension
- 2014 Master of Conservation Biology, University of Queensland
- 2012 B.S. Ecology Behavior Evolution Biology, UC San Diego

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 **Blincow, KM**, Nemeth RS, Smith TB, Kadison E, Heidmann SL, Brandtneris V, Quetel J, Townsend J, Smith E, Kintzing E, Gochfeld DJ, Slatter M. Characterizing changes in density, space use, and diel behavior of lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) on mesophotic coral reefs in the US Virgin Islands. *Marine Biology*. (in press)
- 2025 Shaw AK, Fouda L, Mezzini S, Kim D, Chatterjee N, ...**Blincow KM**...Teitelbaum CS, Cagnacci F. Perceived and observed biases within scientific communities: a case study in movement ecology. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. (in press)
- 2024 **Blincow, KM**, Haynie AC, Semmens BX. Disparities between sustainability of country-level seafood production and consumption. *PLOS ONE*. 19(12): e0313823.
- 2024 Brunson T\*, **Blincow KM**, McGregor A\*, Matley J, Jobsis P. Influence of environmental and biological factors on the space use and movement behavior of juvenile Caribbean green sea turtles. *Herpetologica*. 80(4): 333-346.
- 2023 **Blincow KM**, Elstner JT, Ben-Aderet N, Bellquist LF, Nosal AP, Semmens BX. Spatial ecology of the Giant Sea Bass, *Stereolepis gigas*, in a southern California kelp forest as determined by acoustic telemetry. *PeerJ*. 11:e16551.
- 2023 Gong AY, Nosal AP, Cartamil DP, Anderson JM, Bellquist LF, Ben-Aderet NJ, **Blincow KM**, Burns ES, Freedman RM, Caldow C, Logal RK, Lowe CG, Semmens BX, Stirling BS, White CF, Hastings PA. Migration, aggregation, and philopatry of two nearshore elasmobranch species in Southern California Bight. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 724:111-125.
- 2022 **Blincow KM**, Swalethorp R, Ramirez-Valdez AR, Semmens BX. Giant Appetites: Using stable isotope and gut content analysis to characterize the trophic ecology of southern California's largest predator, the Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*). *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 695:157-171.

- 2022 **Blinco** **KM**, Semmens BX. The effect of sea surface temperature trends on the structure and connectivity of species landings interaction networks in a multispecies recreational fishery. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*. 79(7): 1109-1119.
- 2021 Nosal AP, Cartamil DC, Ammann AJ, Bellquist LF, Ben-Aderet NJ, **Blinco** **KM**, Burns ES, Chapman ED, Freedman RM, Klimley AP, Logan RK, Lowe CG, Semmens BX, White CF, Hastings PA. Triennial migration and philopatry in the Critically Endangered Soupfin Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*). *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 00: 1-13.
- 2020 **Blinco** **KM**, Bush PG, Heppell SA, McCoy CM, Johnson BC, Pattengill-Semmens CV, Heppell SS, Stevens-McGeever SJ, Whaylen L, Luke K, Semmens BX. Spatial ecology of Nassau Grouper at home reef sites: using acoustic telemetry to track a large, long-lived epinephelid across multiple years (2005-2008). *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 655: 199-214.
- 2010 Hanna G, **Blinco** **KM**, Hein E. Species abundance and sex ratios of *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Zaprionus indianus* in two different habitats of the Tropical Dry Forest of Alamos, Mexico (Diptera: Drosophilidae). *Drosophila Information Service*. 93: 106-109.

\*student mentee

## CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 **Blinco** **KM**. Searching for Stories in Data: The increasingly blurry line between data science and research. Emerging Caribbean Scientists Seminar Series. St. Thomas, USVI (Talk)
- 2023 **Blinco** **KM**. Giant Appetites: What we can learn by asking what predators eat. Emerging Caribbean Scientists Seminar Series. St. Thomas, USVI. (Talk)
- 2023 **Blinco** **KM**, Cheramie J, Nemeth R. Measuring the influence of adjacent land development and sedimentation on the spawning behavior of Yellowtail Parrotfish (*Sparisoma rubripinne*) in Reef Bay, St. John. Gordon Research Conference: Movement Ecology of Animals. Lucca, Italy. (Poster)
- 2023 **Blinco** **KM**, Elstner J, Ben-Aderet N, Bellquist L, Nosal A, Semmens BX. Tracking Giants: Examining the spatial ecology of Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) in the La Jolla kelp forest in relation to existing spatial management measures using acoustic telemetry. Gordon Research Seminar: Movement Ecology of Animals. Lucca, Italy. (Poster)
- 2023 **Blinco** **KM**, Brunson T, McGregor A, Hart K, Jobsis P. Comparing and contrasting movement behaviors of juvenile green (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles using hidden Markov modelling of fine-scale positioning acoustic receiver array data in the US Virgin Islands. International Sea Turtle Symposium. Cartagena, Colombia. (Poster)
- 2022 **Blinco** **KM**, Cheramie J, Nemeth R. Measuring the influence of adjacent land development and sedimentation on the spawning behavior of Yellowtail Parrotfish (*Sparisoma rubripinne*) in Reef Bay, St. John. Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference. Destin, FL. (Talk)

- 2022 **Blinco KM.** Leveraging the Brewers Bay Fine Scale Positioning Array. VI-EPSCOR Annual Conference: Our Islands, Our Youth, Our Future. St. Thomas, USVI. (Talk)
- 2022 **Blinco KM.** What do giants eat? Using stable isotopes to reveal the trophic ecology of a kelp forest predator, the Giant Sea Bass. Northwest Fisheries Science Center Monster Seminar Jam Fall 2022 Invited Speaker. (Talk)
- 2022 **Blinco KM.** Understanding connections between ecology, culture, and natural resource use to address applied fisheries problems. University of the Virgin Islands Center for Marine and Environmental Studies Invited Seminar Speaker. (Talk)
- 2020 **Blinco KM, Semmens BX.** Quantifying and visualizing causal interaction networks between target species landings in a multispecies recreational fishery. International Marine Conservation Congress. (Talk)
- 2020 **Blinco KM, Doss Y, Angne P, Ramirez-Valdez A, Semmens BX.** Using stable isotope analyses to investigate the trophic ecology of an IUCN Critically Endangered species, the Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*). International Marine Conservation Congress. (Poster)
- 2020 **Blinco KM.** Jurassic Park: Kelp Forest Edition—Exploring the wild animals of the California Coast, with a lot less carnage. SIO Women and Minorities in Science Student Seminar Series. (Talk)
- 2020 **Blinco KM, Doss Y, Ramirez-Valdez A, Semmens BX.** Addressing knowledge gaps in the ecology of Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) using tagging and stable isotope analyses. Giant Sea Bass Symposium. Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, CA. (Talk)
- 2020 **Blinco KM, Semmens BX.** Uncovering causal interaction networks between target species in a multispecies recreational fishery. Ocean Sciences Meeting. San Diego, CA. (Talk)
- 2019 **Blinco KM, Doss Y, Ramirez-Valdez A, Semmens BX.** Addressing knowledge gaps in the ecology of Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) using tagging and stable isotope analyses. Western Society of Naturalists Meeting. Ensenada, MX. (Talk)
- 2017 **Blinco KM, Semmens BX.** Uncovering causal interaction networks between target species in a multispecies recreational fishery. Western Society of Naturalists Meeting. Pasadena, CA. (Talk)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 The Edna Bailey Sussman Fund Graduate Environmental Internship (carried out with Dr. Alan Haynie at NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center) (\$3,000)
- 2020 Women Divers Hall of Fame Marine Conservation Scholarship sponsored by the Rachel Morrison Memorial Fund (\$2,000)
- 2019 Co-Author of Mohammed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund Grant (\$11,500)
- 2019 Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Foundation, Maxwell J. Fenmore Memorial Fellowship (\$8,000)
- 2018 Mia Tegner Memorial Fellowship (\$3,020)
- 2017 WILDCOAST Outreach Grant (\$1,050)
- 2016 Program for Interdisciplinary Environmental Research Fellowship (sources split below)  
San Diego Fellowship (\$33,000)

Mary M. Yang Graduate Fellowship for Environmental Stewardship (\$25,000)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of the Virgin Islands (2022 – Present)

*Courses where Instructor of Record:*

- MES 503: Research Methodologies and Tools I (graduate)
- MES 504: Research Methodologies and Tools II (graduate)
- MBI 424: Marine Ecology (undergraduate)
- SCI/CSC 230: Data Science I (undergraduate)
- MSC 239 LAB: Oceanography Lab (undergraduate)
- SCI 100: The Natural World (undergraduate)
- BIO 339: Vertebrate Structure (undergraduate)

University of California San Diego (2018 – 2020)

*Courses where Teaching Assistant:*

- SIOB 272: Advanced Statistical Techniques (graduate)
- BIEB 135: Aquatic Ecology Lab (undergraduate)

*Courses where Guest Lecturer:*

- MBC 258: MAS-MBC Forum, Topic: Introduction to R (graduate)
- SIOB 272: Advanced Statistical Techniques, Topic: Bootstrapping (graduate)
- SIO 139: Current Research Methods in Marine Biology, Topic: Quantitative Tools (undergraduate)

## WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

- 2024 BayesBATS: Bayesian Instructor Training Boot Camp. Vassar, Poughkeepsie, NY.
- 2024 Sloan Foundation Hidden Curriculum Workshop. St. Thomas, USVI.
- 2023 Conservation Teaching and Learning Studio. American Museum of Natural History: Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners.
- 2023 Python for Everybody Specialization. Coursera Certification offered by University of Michigan.
- 2022 Hidden Markov models for animal movement and other ecological data. International Statistical Ecology Conference.
- 2020 Science Storytelling. 6<sup>th</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress.
- 2019 FISH 558: Decision Analysis in Natural Resource Management (attended coding boot camp and audited course). University of Washington. Seattle, WA.
- 2019 Time Series Analysis Workshop at PSAW II. La Jolla, CA.
- 2019 Protected Species Assessment Workshop (PSAW II). La Jolla, CA.
- 2018 Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment Methodology (CAPAM) Spatial Stock Assessment Models Workshop. La Jolla, CA.

- 2018 FISH 559: Numeric Modelling in Fisheries (attended coding boot camp and audited course). University of Washington. Seattle, WA.
- 2018 Movebank Workshop. NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Raleigh, NC.
- 2017 Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment Methodology (CAPAM) Recruitment Workshop. Miami, FL.

## MENTORSHIP

- 2024 – Pres. Miranda Goad (**main advisor, M.S.**)
- 2024 – Pres. Zhoriana George (undergraduate laboratory technician)
- 2022 – 2024 Stefanie Maxin (**co-advisor, M.S.**)
- 2021 – Pres. Committee member for 8 M.S. students at UVI
- 2021 – 2023 Taylor Brunson, Andrew McGregor, Jenna Cheramie (M.S.)
- 2020 – 2021 Sara Herrejon Chavez (Undergraduate): Científico Latino Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative
- 2019 – 2020 Kara Wiggin (Ph.D.): SIO PhD Peer Mentor Program
- 2019 Youssef Doss (R.E.U.): “Small Foray into the Realm of Giants: Investigating the Movement Ecology of Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*).”
- 2017 – 2021 PhD Mentor to 5 Masters of Advanced Studies Students: Meghan Emidy, Ross Cooper, Emi Koch, Lauren Martin, Tyler Loughran

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Ongoing* Reviewer for *Scientific Reports*, *Ecological Applications*, *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, *Journal of Fish Biology*.
- 2021 – Pres. Faculty Advisor/Co-Founder of UVI R Users Group
- 2021 – Pres. Committee member for 4 M.S. students at UVI
- 2020 SIO Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Staff Hiring Committee
- 2019 SIO Faculty Hiring Committee Student Representative
- 2019 – 2021 SIO Diving Control Board Student Representative
- 2018 – 2021 Leader of SIO R Users Group
- 2018 – 2021 SIO Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Student Representative
- 2016 – 2018 Coordinated Interdisciplinary Forum for Environmental Research at SIO

## OUTREACH

- 2020 – Pres. Skype a Scientist Program
- 2020 – Pres. Científico Latino Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative
- 2020 Guest Speaker for Lewis Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Class
- 2019 Science Lecturer for SEACAMP San Diego
- 2018 – 2021 Letters to Pre-Scientist Pen Pal Program
- 2018 American Fisheries Society Hutton Scholar Pen Pal Program
- 2017 Produced training film for kayak guides in Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

SIO Small Boating Course

AAUS Scientific Diver/NAUI Rescue Diver

DAN First Aid/CPR Certified