

## W. Ryan James

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Florida International University

**Curriculum Vitae, November 14, 2021**

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### EDUCATION

- 2020**                      **PhD Environmental and Evolutionary Biology**  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Advisor: James A. Nelson)
- 2016**                      **MS Biology**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham (Advisor: James B. McClintock)
- 2013**                      **BS Biology**  
University of Alabama (Advisor: Ryan L. Earley)

### EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-Present**            **Postdoctoral Research Associate** – Institute of the Environment  
Florida International University, *Miami, FL* (Mentor: Dr. Rolando O. Santos)
- 2016-2020**            **University Doctoral Fellow** – Ecosystem Ecology Lab  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, *Lafayette, Louisiana*
- 2019-2020**            **Acoustic Telemetry Technician**  
Jesco Environmental, *Portsmouth, New Hampshire*
- 2019-2020**            **Menhaden Port Sampler**  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, *Abbeville, Louisiana*
- 2016**                    **ACES Intern** – Lab for Advanced Sensing  
NASA Ames Research Center, *Mountain View, California* (Mentor: Dr. Ved Chirayath)
- 2014-2016**            **Graduate Teaching Assistant** – McClintock Lab  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, *Birmingham, AL*
- 2012-2014**            **Research Assistant** – Earley Animal Behavior Lab  
University of Alabama, *Tuscaloosa, AL*

### PUBLICATIONS

**James WR**, Santos RO, Rehage JS, Doerr JC, & JA Nelson (*in press*) E-scape: consumer specific landscapes of energetic resources derived from stable isotope analysis and remote sensing. *Journal of Animal Ecology*  
(Pre-print *bioRxiv* 2020 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.03.234781>)

Santos RO, **James WR**, Nelson JA, Rehage JS, Serafy J, Pittman SJ, & D Lirman (*in press*) Influence of seascape spatial pattern on the trophic niche of an omnivorous fish. *Ecosphere*

Rodemann JR, **James WR**, Santos RO, Furman BT, Fratto ZW, Bautista V, Hernandez JL, Viadero NM, Linenfelser JO, Lacy LA, Hall MO, Kelble CR, Kavanaugh C, & JS Rehage (2021) Impact of extreme disturbances on suspended sediment in Western Florida Bay: Implications for seagrass resilience. *Frontiers in Marine Science* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.633240>  
*\*Special issue: Environmental Threats to the State of Florida—Climate Change and Beyond*

Gervasi CL, Santos RO, Rezek RJ, **James WR**, Boucek RE, Bradshaw C, Kavanagh C, Osborne J, & Rehage JS (2021) Bottom-up conservation: Using translational ecology to inform conservation priorities for a recreational fishery. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2021-0024>

Kimball ME, Connolly RM, Alford SB, Colombano DD, **James WR**, Kenworth MD, Norris GS, Ollerhead J, Ramsden S, Rehage JS, Sparks EL, Waltham NJ, Worthington TA, & Taylor MD (2021) Novel applications of technology for advancing tidal marsh ecology. *Estuaries & Coasts* doi: 10.1007/s12237-021-00939-w  
*\*Special issue: Concepts and controversies in tidal marsh ecology revisited.*

Pittman SJ, Yates KL, Bouchet PJ,... **James WR**... (34 additional authors) (2021) Seascape ecology: Identifying research priorities for an emerging ocean sustainability science. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps13661>

Nelson JA, Harris JM, Lesser JS, **James WR**, Suir SM, & WP Broussard III (2020) New mapping metrics to test functional response of food webs to coastal restoration. *Food webs* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fooweb.2020.e00179>  
*\*Special issue: Restoration Initiatives Viewed Through a Lens of Food Web Structure and Dynamics*

Jones SF, Stagg CL, Yando ES, **James WR**, Buffington KJ, & MW Hester (2020) Stress gradients interact with disturbance to reveal alternative states in salt marsh: Multivariate resilience at the landscape scale. *Journal of Ecology* <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.13552>  
*\*Special issue: Reconciling resilience across ecological systems, species and subdisciplines.*

Baker R, Taylor MD, Beck MW, Cebrian J, Colombano DD, Connolly RM, Currin C, Deegan LA, Feller IC, Gilby BL, Kimball ME, Minello TJ, Rozas LP, Simenstad C, Turner RE, Waltham NJ, Weinstein MP, Ziegler SL, zu Ermgassen PSE, ... **James WR**... (29

additional authors) (2020) Fisheries rely on threatened salt marshes. *Science* DOI: 10.1126/science.abe9332

**James WR**, Topor ZM, & RO Santos (2020) Seascape structure influences the community structure of marsh nekton. *Estuaries & Coasts* doi: 10.1007/s12237-020-00853-7  
\*Special issue: *Concepts and controversies in tidal marsh ecology revisited*.

Harris JM<sup>†</sup>, **James WR**<sup>†</sup>, Lesser JS<sup>†</sup>, Doerr JC, & JA Nelson (2020) Foundation species shift alters the energetic landscape of marsh nekton. *Estuaries & Coasts* doi: 10.1007/s12237-020-00852-8

<sup>†</sup>Contributed equally

\*Special issue: *Concepts and controversies in tidal marsh ecology revisited*.

Lesser JS, **James WR**, Stallings CD, Wilson RM, & JA Nelson (2020) Trophic niche size and overlap decrease with increasing ecosystem productivity. *Oikos* doi: 10.1111/oik.07026

**James WR**, JS Lesser, SY Litvin, & JA Nelson (2020) Assessment of food web recovery following restoration using resource use metrics. *Science of the Total Environment* doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.134801.

Nelson JA, Lesser JS, **James WR**, Behringer DP, Furka V, & JC Doerr (2019) Food web response to foundation species change in a coastal ecosystem. *Food Webs* e00125  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fooweb.2019.e00125>

Eggenberger CW, Santos RO, Frankovich T, **James WR**, Madden C, Nelson JA, & JS Rehage (2019) Coupling telemetry and stable isotope techniques to unravel movement: Snook habitat use across variable nutrient environments. *Fisheries Research* 218:35-47  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2019.04.008>

**James WR**, Styga JM, White S, Marson KM, & RL Earley (2018) Developmentally plastic responses to predation threat in the mangrove rivulus fish (*Kryptolebias marmoratus*): behavior and morphology. *Evolutionary Ecology* 32:453-468  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10682-018-9952-5>

**James WR** & JB McClintock (2017) Anti-predator responses of amphipods are more effective in the presence of conspecific chemical cues. *Hydrobiologia* 797:277-288 doi: 10.1007\_s10750-017-3191-6

Smith KE, Aronson RB, Steffel BV, Amsler MO, Thatje S, Singh H, Anderson J, Brother CJ, Brown A, Ellis DS, Havenhand JN, **James WR**, Mosknes P, Randolph AW, Sayre-

McCord T, & JB McClintock (2017) Climate change and the threat of novel marine predators in Antarctica. *Ecosphere* 8(11):e02017. 10.1002/ecs2.2017

***Manuscripts under review***

**James WR**, Santos RO, Rodemann JR, Rezek RJ, Fratto ZW, Furman BT, Hall MO, Kelble CR, Rehage JS, & JA Nelson (*in revision*) Widespread seagrass die-off has no legacy effect on basal resource use of seagrass food webs in Florida Bay, USA.

**FUNDING**

**2021** Seagrass seascape state, stability, and function in relation to water quality in Biscayne Bay – PI: Recommended for funding by US Environmental Protection Agency South Florida Geographic Program, \$347,738

An examination of the risk of pharmaceuticals in South Florida: extent and pathways of exposure in a valuable recreational fishery, bonefish – Co-PI: Recommended for funding by US Environmental Protection Agency South Florida Geographic Program, \$292,530

Quantifying ecological importance, historical threat exposure and resilience potential for coral reef Areas of Special Interest in Puerto Rico’s Northeast Marine Corridor to support efficient conservation goals – Co-PI: Funded by Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program 2022-24, \$119,425

FISHSCAPE Project (Fish In Seagrass Habitats: Seascape Connectivity Across Protected Ecosystems)– Postdoc and grant writer: Funded by NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, \$1,916,914

Biscayne Bay shrimp commercial harvest and its potential ecological impacts on the recreationally fish species – Co-PI: Funded by Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, \$16,575

The effects of the legacies of a large-scale seagrass die-off on energy resources and foraging of a top consumer – Co-PI and REU mentor: Funded by National Science Foundation, Florida Coastal Everglades Long-term Ecological Research (DEB-2025954), Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), \$6,750

**2016-2020** UL University Fellow; \$90,000

UL Graduate Student Organization Research Supply Grant; \$1060 total

**2017-2019** UL Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant; \$1240 total

**2017** Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Travel Grant; \$300

**2016** Ted Beaulieu Sr. Coastal Conservation Association Louisiana Scholarship; \$5000

**2015** UAB Biology Department Travel Grant; \$400

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Grant in Aid of Research; \$850

Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research; \$400

***Proposals pending or not selected for funding***

**2021** A comprehensive analysis of the angler survey dataset: Assessing status, trends & dependencies on restoration & climate dependencies in Everglades coastal fisheries – Co-PI: Submitted to Everglades National Park, \$210,074 (*In Review*)

The influence of nearshore inputs (freshwater inflows) on the habitat use of an ecosystem indicator species: Spotted Seatrout in Florida Bay – Co-PI: Submitted to the US Coastal Research Program, \$279,158 (*Not selected for funding*)

Assessing the resilience of coastal fisheries through a comprehensive analysis of fisheries-dependent records: the Everglades as a case study – Co-PI: Submitted to the US Coastal Research Program, \$283,844 (*Not selected for funding*)

Quantifying coral demographic performance within a functional trait space to inform coastal ecosystem conservation – Co-PI: Submitted to the US Coastal Research Program, \$299,005 (*Not selected for funding*)

**2020** Critical data for Dolphin (*Coryphaena hippurus*) fisheries sustainability: Assessing stock structure, properties, trends & vulnerabilities across U.S. jurisdictions – Co-PI: Submitted to NOAA Marine Fisheries Initiative, \$524,000 (*Not selected for funding*)

**MENTORING**

**2020-Present** **Graduate and Undergraduate Student Research Mentor**, Florida International University – Part of the lab leadership team that mentors 8 graduate students, 4 REUs, and 5 undergraduate research technicians

**2016-2020** **Undergraduate Student Research Mentor**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Laura McDonald – *The energy storage of nekton species in coastal Louisiana habitats*

- Presented at the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation meeting (CERF 2019) in Mobile, AL
- Presented research at the UL Biology undergraduate research conference  
*The effect of feeding mode on energy storage in three fish species*
- Presented research at the UL honors program undergraduate research conference

Blake Kitchen - *The role of food quality in growth and energy storage in killifish*

**2015-2016** **Undergraduate Student Research Mentor**, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Ciara Duncan - *Predators effect the foraging behavior of the amphipod *Hyaella azteca**

- Received 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for poster presentation at UAB Undergraduate Student Research Days

Keegan McFarland and Deontae Mitchell - *Transgenerational effects of predator exposure of the amphipod Hyalella azteca*

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### ***Teaching Assistant***

- 2020**      *Fish Ecology and Management* – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
**2019**      *Introduction to R* – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
**2018**      *Fundamentals of Biology II Lab* – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
**2017**      *Landscape Ecology* – University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
**2014-2016**      *Introductory Biology Lab* – University of Alabama at Birmingham

### ***Guest Lectures***

- 2021**      “Intro into R: data types, loops, functions, random sampling, and plotting” (2 part), *Advanced Ecology: Populations and Communities*  
               “Habitat loss and fragmentation effects in seascapes”, *Biodiversity Across Ecosystems*  
**2020**      “Introduction to food webs”, *Intro to Coastal Ecology*  
**2019**      “Data wrangling in R” (2 part), *Quantitative Ecology*  
               “Effect of landscape pattern on ecological processes” (3 part), *Ecosystem landscape ecology*  
               “Maximum entropy ecological niche modeling in R”, *Ecological models and data*  
**2015**      “Long distance prey finding”, *Chemical Ecology*

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2021**      **James WR**, A seascape approach to consumer movement, distribution, and resource use. Virtual Colloquium, Department of Biological Sciences Walla Walla University (Invited)
- James WR**, JS Rehage, & RO Santos. Mapping energy flow: *E*-scapes as a system-level tool to evaluate restoration and ecosystem function. Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration
- 2019**      **James WR**, Geary B, Karubian J, Leberg PL, & Nelson JA. Tracking foraging behavior using consumer-specific energetic landscapes. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation; Mobile, AL

Nelson JA, Lesser JS, & **James WR**. A new niche for isotope ecology: Combining MixSIAR and hypervolume metrics to understand resource use. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation; Mobile, AL

**James WR**, Santos RO, Rodemann JR, Rehage JS, & JA Nelson. Consumer-specific energetic landscapes in Florida Bay: linking seagrass die off to economically valuable fisheries. Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration; Coral Springs, FL

**2018** **James WR**, Lesser JS, Litvin SY & Nelson JA. Assessment of food web recovery following restoration using hypervolume analysis. Gulf Estuarine Research Society; Galveston, TX

Lesser JS, **James WR**, Doerr J & Nelson JA. Food web effects of mangrove encroachment on estuarine consumers. Gulf Estuarine Research Society; Galveston, TX

**James WR**, Santos RO, Rehage JS, Doerr J & Nelson JA. Consumer specific energetic landscapes derived from stable isotope analysis and habitat cover. LTER Network All Scientists' Meeting; Pacific Grove, CA

**James WR**, Litvin SY & Nelson JA. Measuring food web response to restoration in coastal ecosystems. State of the Coast; New Orleans, LA

**2017** **James WR** & Nelson JA. Food Web Response to Habitat Restoration in Various Coastal Wetland Ecosystems. American Geophysical Union; New Orleans, LA

**James WR**, Deegan L, Garritt R & Nelson JA. Residence time of water in estuary alters resource use on multiple trophic levels. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation; Providence, RI

**2016** Adelson J, **James WR**, Chirayath V & Fringer O. A novel approach for estimating vertical profiles of suspended sediment concentration. Ocean Optics XXIII; Victoria, BC

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

**2020** University of Louisiana Graduate School Research Showcase Paper Competition Winner  
University of Louisiana Graduate School 'Say it in 6' Winner

- 2018** Louisiana Sea Grant Discovery, Integration, Application (LaDIA) Graduate Research Scholar
- 2017** Louisiana Sea Grant Coastal Connections 3 Minute Thesis Competition Winner
- 2016** National Science Foundation Antarctic Service Medal
- 2011** University of Alabama Department of Chemistry Outstanding General Chemistry Student Award

### **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2015-Present** **Peer review for:** *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science, Scientific Reports, Marine Biology, Ecological Engineering, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Biology Letters, Marine Ecology Progress Series, Thalassas, Invertebrate Biology, Aquatic Biology, Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*
- 2021-Present** **Peer reviewer,** British Ecological Society Review College
- 2021** **Guest Reviewer,** Biodiversity Across Ecosystems Collaborative Online International Learning Student Research Proposals
- Judge,** Florida International University Biology Graduate Student Symposium
- 2018-2019** **Off-campus representative,** Florida Coastal Everglades LTER Graduate Student Executive Board.
- 2017-2019** **Organizing Committee,** UL Lafayette Graduate Student Symposium
- 2018** **Workshop Organizer,** “Incorporating the spatial ecology of consumers into long-term research” at LTER Network All Scientists’ Meeting
- Reviewer,** Ecological Society of America Student Section Travel Award
- 2015** **Science Fair Judge,** Avondale Elementary School Science Fair
- Student mentor,** Avondale Elementary School Science Fair
- Participant,** UAB in Antarctica

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2021** **Advanced Ecological Niche Modeling Using R,** PR Statistics
- 2018** **Louisiana Sea Grant Coastal Immersion Program,** Louisiana Sea Grant
- 2017** **Small Boat Operations for Marine Scientists,** Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
- Use of Stable Isotopes & Fatty Acids in Aquatic Ecology: Theory & Practice,** Universidad de Antofagasta
- 2016** **Advanced Computing for Earth Sciences,** University of Virginia

### **SKILLS**

**Field:** Small boat operation; NAUI Open Water Certified Diver; Acoustic telemetry- tagging, deploying, data download; Specimen collection- Seine, gillnet, longline, crab pots, trawl, drop samplers, hook and line

**Computer Software:** R, ArcGIS, QGIS, Python, MATLAB, ImageJ, Jwatcher