



OIL SPILL SCIENCE

SEA GRANT PROGRAMS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

IMPACTS OF OIL SPILLS ON ESTUARIES: SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. Brian Dzwonkowski is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Marine Sciences at the University of South Alabama where he has been a faculty member since 2014. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Delaware and his undergraduate studies at the College of New Jersey. His research interests lie in coastal physical oceanography (things related to the structure and flow of water, i.e., currents, tides, stratification) as well as how physical processes impact biogeochemical cycling and ecosystem function. Much of his work focuses on physical processes in coastal Alabama including the Mississippi Bight, Mobile Bay, and the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

Dr. James L. Pinckney is the Director of the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences and a faculty member of the Department of Biological Sciences and Marine Science Program at the University of South Carolina. General areas of interest include microbial ecology, microalgal ecophysiology, phytoplankton-nutrient interactions, harmful algal blooms, and ecosystem eutrophication in estuarine and coastal habitats. Specific interests are ecophysiological factors and processes that influence carbon partitioning, allocation (growth), and interspecific competition in multispecies assemblages. Most of Dr. Pinckney's work over the past 25 years has emphasized investigations of the ecophysiology of benthic and phytoplanktonic communities and their contribution to ecosystem function.



Dr. Charles Martin is a Research Assistant Professor stationed full time at the UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station. Dr. Martin received his BS in Biology and PhD from the University of South Alabama. He served as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Louisiana State University studying the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on coastal flora and fauna. Dr. Martin's research involves examining how biotic processes and anthropogenic activities influence the structure and function of estuarine ecosystems. His current research experimentally assesses how factors such as climate change, invasive species, oil spills, trophic interactions, loss of biodiversity, and hydrology affect Gulf of Mexico ecosystems. Dr. Martin currently serves as Associate Editor for *Aquatic Invasions and BioInvasions Records* and has written numerous peer-reviewed publications and funded proposals.



Chelsea Hess hails from North Carolina where she received her B.S. in Marine Biology from UNC Wilmington. While in NC, she worked as the sea turtle monitoring coordinator and aided in the marsh monitoring program for the North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve. Since 2015, she has attended Louisiana State University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the lab of Dr. Fernando Galvez. Chelsea's dissertation research focuses the multi-generational physiological and morphological effects of crude oil exposure in fish.



Dr. Jill Awkerman received her PhD in Biology from Wake Forest University, where she studied the foraging ecology and population demography of waved albatrosses in Galápagos. Since then she has worked for the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf Ecology Division, using population modeling to improve risk assessment methods in wildlife ecotoxicology. Some of her projects have included evaluating indirect effects of pesticides on songbird populations, translating toxicology data into ecologically relevant endpoints for amphibian populations, and simulating spatially explicit effects on estuarine fish populations following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.