Vanessa J. Mintzer, Ph.D.

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I am a conservation ecologist working with diverse partners to study interactions between humans and aquatic mammals. By integrating population and spatial ecology with human dimensions, I aim to better understand these conflicts and inform conservation and management. My core knowledge and skills include wildlife population ecology, marine mammal biology and conservation, mark-recapture and spatial modeling, participatory research, and environmental education. Concurrent with my research, I develop and establish public outreach initiatives and citizen-science programs.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Ecology (2013) School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), University of Florida. *Concentration*: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, *Certificate*: Tropical Conservation & Development. *Dissertation*: An evaluation of the conservation of Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) in a Brazilian protected area.

Master of Environmental Management (2006) Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University. *Concentrations*: Coastal Environmental Management, Environmental Education. *Thesis*: Stomach contents analysis of mass-stranded whales from North Carolina

Bachelor of Science (2004) SNRE, University of Florida.
Major: Environmental Science, *Minor*: Zoology.

CAREER PROFILE

2020-Present	**Courtesy Assistant Professor**, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, FL, USA
2019-Present	**Founder and Research Director**, Wildlife Research Partnerships, LLC., Asheville, NC, USA
2019-Present	**Research Scientist**, Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program, Galveston Bay Foundation, Houston, TX USA.
2015-2018	**Postdoctoral Research Scholar**, SNRE, University of Florida, FL, USA.
2014-2019	**Research and Conservation Fellow**, Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program, Galveston Bay Foundation, Houston, TX USA.
2009-2013	**Doctoral Researcher and Teaching Assistant**, SNRE, University of Florida, FL, USA
2009-2013	**Field Researcher**, Projeto Boto, Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve, Brazil
2010	**Field Supervisor**, Stratus Consulting, LA and FL, USA
2007-2009	**Director of Community Programs**, Galveston Bay Foundation, Houston, TX, USA
2006-2007	**Outreach and Membership Coordinator**, Galveston Bay Foundation, Houston, TX, USA
2005-2006	**K-12 Program Coordinator and Teaching Assistant**, Duke Environmental Leadership Program, Duke University, NC, USA
2005-2006	**Graduate Researcher**, Duke University Marine Laboratory, NC, and Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, FL, USA

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Da Silva, VMF; Brum, SM; Magalhães Drummond de Mello, D.; de Souza Amaral,R; Campbell, E; and Mintzer, VJ. The Amazon river dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*: What have we learned in the last two decades of research? IN REVIEW

Mintzer, VJ, Quackenbush, A, and Fazioli, K. Site fidelity of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in a highly industrialized region of Galveston Bay, TX. IN REVIEW

Campbell et al. Challenges and priorities for river cetacean conservation. IN PRESS

Mintzer, VJ; Fazioli, K. 2021. Salinity and water temperature as predictors of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops Truncatus*) encounter rates in Upper Galveston Bay TX. Frontiers in Marine Science. https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.754686

Mintzer, VJ; da Silva, VMF; Martin, AR; Frazer, TK; Lorenzen, K. 2020. Protected area evaluation for endangered Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*). Biological Conservation. 252. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2020.108851

Fazioli, K; Mintzer, VJ. 2020. Short-term effects of Hurricane Harvey on bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in upper Galveston Bay, TX. Estuaries and Coasts. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-020-00751-y

Mintzer, VJ; Diniz, K; Frazer, TK. 2018. The use of aquatic mammals as bait in global fisheries. Frontiers in Marine Science 5: 191. DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00191

Mintzer, VJ; Martin, AR; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK; da Silva, VMF. 2016. Seasonal movement of Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) in a protected floodplain. Marine Mammal Science 32(2): 664-681. DOI: 10.1111/mms.12298

Mintzer, VJ; Schmink, M; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK; Martin, AR; da Silva, VMF. 2014. Attitudes and behaviors toward Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) in a sustainable use protected area. Biodiversity and Conservation 24(2): 247-269. DOI: 10.1007/s10531-014-0805-4

Mintzer, VJ; Martin, AR; da Silva, VMF; Barbour, AB; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK. 2013. Effect of illegal harvest on apparent survival of Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*). Biological Conservation 158: 280-286. DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2012.10.006

SAMPLE OUTREACH PUBLICATION:
Mintzer, VJ; Fazioli, K. 2022. Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program - Quarterly Report April-June 2022. Available at https://galvestonbaydolphin.org/july-2022-quarterly-newsletter/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Spanish (Native)**,** English (Native-like)**,** Portuguese (Intermediate)

Technical skills:
- Wildlife population and spatial modeling using Program MARK; ArcGIS, R and RStudio, Stochastic SRA, FISHMOD, Ecopath with Ecosim 6, and vortex
- Qualitative analyses using NVivo

Training and/or experience with:
cetacean necropsies, mammal stranding response, oceanographic research cruise, open water SCUBA diving (PADI certified), public speaking training, and conflict management training.

Media coverage of research projects: Newsweek (US), Houston Public Media (US), Houston Chronicle (US), National Geographic (Italy), Le Monde (France), The Independent (UK), BBC-Earth (UK), Public Radio International (Austria), El País (Spain)