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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. 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 **Research Director**, Wildlife Research Partnerships, LLC., Asheville, NC, USA

2019-Present **Associate 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

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Mintzer, VJ; Fazioli, K. Seasonal distribution of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in upper Galveston Bay, TX. IN PREP

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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2012.10.006)

Mintzer, VJ; Gannon, DP; Barros, NB; Read, AJ. 2008. Stomach contents of mass-stranded short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) from North Carolina. Marine Mammal Science 24(2): 290-302.

SAMPLE OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS

Mintzer, VJ; Fazioli, K. 2020. Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program - Quarterly Report October-December 2019. Available at [https://mailchi.mp/galvbay/dolphins-update_jan2020p?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/galvbay/dolphins-update_jan2020p?e=[UNIQID])

Mintzer, VJ; Fazioli, K. 2018. Dolphins after Hurricane Harvey: Evaluating the impacts of water quality changes. Texas Living Waters Project Blog. Available at <http://texaslivingwaters.org/dolphins-hurricane-harvey-impacts/>

Mintzer, VJ; Fazioli, K. 2018. Galveston Bay Dolphin Research Program - Quarterly Report July-September 2018. Available at [https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=\[UNIQID\]&u=4206cb94d54a76cf3f1dfe86b&id=92de6461bd](https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=[UNIQID]&u=4206cb94d54a76cf3f1dfe86b&id=92de6461bd)

Fazioli, K; Mintzer, VJ. 2017. Galveston Bay bottlenose dolphins. Nicks N Notches Newsletter-2017. Pp. 21-22. Available at <http://www.sarasotadolpin.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Nicks-n-Notches-Jan-2017.pdf>

Mintzer, VJ. 2013. Catfish fisheries pose threat to Amazon River dolphins. LakeLine 33:17-19. Available at <https://z0ku333mvy924cayk1kta4r1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/33-2-5.pdf>

SAMPLE LECTURES AND SEMINARS

- The use of dolphins as bait in global fisheries. Natural Resources Economics, University of North Carolina-Asheville, 2018.
- Research and conservation of dolphins in Galveston Bay, TX. Galveston Bay Foundation and Environmental Institute of Houston- University of Houston Clear Lake, 2018.
- An evaluation of the conservation of Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) in a Brazilian Protected Area. Tropical Conservation and Development Program, University of Florida, 2015.
- Attitudes and behaviors toward Amazon River dolphins. Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, 2013.
- Interdisciplinary research on illegally harvesting of Amazon River dolphins. Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program, University of Florida, 2013.
- Mamirauá: the first Brazilian sustainable use development reserve. Geography Department, University of Florida, 2011.
- Habitat restoration in Galveston Bay, TX. Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston at Clear Lake, 2007.
- Stomach contents analysis of mass-stranded whales. Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, 2006.
- The Environmental Consequences of Illicit Drug Production in Colombia. Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, 2005.

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Fazioli, K., Mintzer, V., and Guillen, G. 2020. Monitoring bottlenose dolphins in Galveston Bay, Texas. Galveston Bay Estuary Program, State of the Bay Symposium, Galveston, TX.
- Fazioli, K., Mintzer, V., and Guillen, G. 2019. In the path of floodwaters: short-term effects of Hurricane Harvey on bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in upper Galveston Bay, Texas. World Marine Mammal Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- Mintzer, V; Fazioli, K; Guillen, G. The short-term effects of Hurricane Harvey on dolphins in upper Galveston Bay, TX. 9th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management. Long Beach, CA. December 2018.
- Mintzer, VJ; Diniz, K. Frazer, T. El uso de delfines como carnada en las pesquerías de tiburones en Latinoamérica. XII Congreso de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Especialistas en Mamíferos Acuáticos RT 18. Lima, Peru. November 2018.
- Mintzer, V; Diniz, K; Frazer, T. The use of aquatic mammals for bait in global fisheries: 1970-2016. Society for Marine Mammalogy 22nd Biennial Conference. Halifax, Canada. October 2017.
- Fazioli, K; Mintzer, V; Guillen, G. Site fidelity of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in a highly-industrialized estuary. Society for Marine Mammalogy 22nd Biennial Conference. Halifax, Canada. October 2017.
- Fazioli, K; Mintzer, V; Guillen, G; Loe, S. Texas' estuarine bottlenose dolphins: addressing knowledge gaps in Galveston Bay. Restore America's Estuaries Summit. New Orleans, LA. December 2016.
- Fazioli, K; Mintzer, VJ; Guillen, G. Bottlenose dolphin activity in a highly industrialized region of Galveston Bay, TX. Society for Marine Mammalogy 21th Biennial Conference. San Francisco, CA. December 2015.

- Fazioli, K; Mintzer, VJ; Guillen, G. An apparent increase in bottlenose dolphins in upper Galveston Bay: city slickers or tourists? Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal Research and Monitoring Meeting. New Orleans, LA. April 2015.
- Mintzer, VJ; Schimnk, M; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK; Martin, AR; da Silva, VMF. Interdisciplinary research on illegal harvesting of Amazon River dolphins. Society for Marine Mammalogy 20th Biennial Conference. Dunedin, New Zealand. December 2013.
- Mintzer, VJ; Martin, AR.; da Silva, VMF; Schimnk, M; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK. Interdisciplinary research on illegal harvesting of river dolphins: insights and opportunities for conservation. 26th International Congress for Conservation Biology. Baltimore, MD. July 2013.
- Mintzer, VJ; Martin, AR; da Silva, VMF; Barbour, AB; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK. Efecto de la caza ilegal en la supervivencia aparente de los delfines de río (*Inia geoffrensis*). 15^a Reunión de Expertos de Mamíferos Acuáticos de América del Sur, Congreso SOLAMAC. Puerto Madryn, Argentina. September 2012.
- Mintzer, VJ; Martin, AR.; da Silva, VMF; Pine, WE.; Barbour, AB.; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK. Apparent survival estimates of Amazon River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) subject to illegal harvest. Second Annual Symposium of the Florida Student Chapter of the Society for Marine Mammalogy. Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL. April 2012.
- Mintzer, VJ; Martin, AR; da Silva, VMF; Pine, WE; Lorenzen, K; Frazer, TK. Apparent survival and population growth rate of Amazon River dolphins in an Amazonian floodplain. Society for Marine Mammalogy 19th Biennial Conference. Tampa, FL. December 2011.
- Mintzer, VJ; Gannon, DP; Barros, NB; Read, AJ. Stomach contents of mass-stranded short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) from North Carolina. Society for Marine Mammalogy 16th Biennial Conference. San Diego, CA. December 2005.
- Mintzer, VJ. The environmental consequences of illicit drug production in Colombia. North American Association for Environmental Educators 34th Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM, October 2005.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017, Gulf of Mexico Alliance Grant
- 2017, SeaWorld Busch Gardens Emergency Fund Grant
- 2015, 2017 SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund Grant
- 2016, Trull Foundation Conservation Grant
- 2015, Marianne Schmink Best Dissertation Award in Tropical Conservation and Development
- 2014, Best Doctoral Dissertation Award, School of Natural Resources and Environment
- 2013, Delores A. Auzenne Dissertation Award
- 2013, William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship
- 2011-2012, Tropical Conservation and Development Program Field Research Grant
- 2011-2012, Society for Marine Mammalogy Grants in Aid of Research
- 2009-2013, University of Florida Graduate School Fellowship
- 2008, 2009, Texas Coastal Management Program Grant
- 2008, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Grant
- 2007, 2008, 2009, Texas Coastal Management Program Grant
- 2004-2006, Duke University Alumni Association Minority Fellowship
- 2004-2006, Nicholas School of the Environment Research Assistantship
- 2005, Edna Bailey Sussman Fund Award

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2019-Present, Review Editor: Frontiers in Marine Science

2009-Present, Reviewer: Aquatic Biosystems, Biological Conservation, Biotropica, Endangered Species Research, Journal for Nature Conservation, Marine Mammal Science

2012-Present, Member, Sociedad Latinoamericana de Especialistas en Mamíferos Acuáticos

2010-Present, Member, Society for Conservation Biology

2005-Present, Member, Society for Marine Mammalogy

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Computer skills:

- Wildlife population and spatial modeling using Program MARK; ArcGIS, R and RStudio, Stochastic SRA, FISHMOD, Ecopath with Ecosim 6, and Vortex9.99
- Qualitative analyses using NVivo

Other training and/or experience: cetacean necropsies, marine mammal stranding response, oceanographic research cruise, open water SCUBA certified (PADI), 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)