

Vanessa J. Mintzer, Ph.D.

Wildlife Research Partnerships, LLC., Asheville, NC, USA 28813

Mobile: +001 352-359-5633

vanessamintzer.com

galvestonbaydolphin.org

vjs@ufl.edu, vmintzer@galvbay.org

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, FL, USA. *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, NC, USA. *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, FL, USA
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. (2022) Site fidelity of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in a highly industrialized region of Galveston Bay, TX. *Marine Mammal Science*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/mms.12984>
- Campbell E, Alfaro-Shigueto J, Aliaga-Rossel E, Beasley I, et al. (2022) Challenges and priorities for river cetacean conservation. *Endangered Species Research* 49:13-42. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01201>
- 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](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)

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 (Beginner)

Technical skills:

- Wildlife population and spatial modeling using Program MARK; ArcGIS, R and RStudio, Stochastic SRA, FISHMOD, Ecopath with Ecosim 6, 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, 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)