Ryan M. Tharp

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Education

Ph.D. Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Current
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
Advisor: Jeffrey Buckel
Dissertation: Applications of acoustic telemetry to fisheries management and assessment

M.S. Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. Minor: Statistics, 4.0 GPA 2023
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
Advisor: Jeffrey Buckel
Thesis: Fine-scale movements and artificial reef structure use by economically important reef fishes

B.S. Marine Science – Biology, Summa Cum Laude, Honor's Research Distinction, 4.0 GPA 2020
The University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida
Advisor: Mark McRae
Undergraduate Thesis: Stomach Content Analysis of the Invasive Mayan Cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*) in the Tampa Bay Watershed

Professional Experience

Graduate Research Assistant 2020 – Present
Department of Applied Ecology
North Carolina State University
Center for Marine Sciences and Technology, Morehead City, North Carolina

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Ecology 2020 – 2021
Department of Biological Sciences
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

Laboratory Mentor - General Biology, Marine Botany, Marine Ecology 2017 – 2020
Department of Biology
The University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida

Peer-reviewed Publications

Tharp, R.M., Hostetter, N.J., Paxton, A.B., Taylor, J.C., & Buckel, J.A. (2024). Artificial structure selection by economically important reef fishes at North Carolina artificial reefs. Front. Mar. Sci. 11:1373494. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2024.1373494

Gilliland, V. A., Fessler, A. E., Paxton, A. B., Ebert, E. F., **Tharp, R. M.,** Runde, B. J., Bacheler, N. M, Buckel, J. A., & Taylor, J. C. (2023). Spatial extent and isolation of marine artificial structures mediate fish density. Frontiers in Marine Science, 10:1240344. https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2023.1240344

Runde, B. J., Rudershausen, P. J., Bacheler, N. M., **Tharp, R. M**., & Buckel, J. A. (2022). Depredation of demersal reef fishes released with descender devices is uncommon off North Carolina, USA. North American Journal of Fisheries Management. https://doi.org/10.1002/nafm.10815

Runde, B. J., Buckel, J. A., Bacheler, N. M., **Tharp, R. M**., Rudershausen, P. J., Harms, C. A., & Ben-Horin, T. (2022). Evaluation of six methods for external attachment of electronic tags to fish: assessment of tag retention, growth, and fish welfare. Journal of Fish Biology. https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.14989.

Funded Grants

NC Sea Grant Core Research Funding, "Estimating natural mortality and recruitment for reef fish species in the southeast US." $140,540. Co-written with J. Buckel. FY 2024
NOAA Fisheries Marine Fisheries Initiative, "Using acoustic telemetry and fine scale positioning to estimate natural and release mortality of gag in the US southeast." $461,363. Co-written with J. Buckel, P. Rudershausen, and B. Sauls. FY2023

Select Presentations

Tharp, R. M., Hostetter, N.J., Paxton, A.B., Taylor, J.C., & Buckel, J.A. Selection of physical characteristics of artificial structures by recreationally important reef fishes at North Carolina artificial reefs. *37th Annual Chapter Meeting of Tidewater AFS.* Newport News, VA. 2024. (Poster)
Tharp, R. M., Paxton, A. B., Taylor, J. C., Hostetter, N. M., Rudershausen, P. J., & Buckel, J. A. Fine-scale movements and habitat use of recreationally important reef fishes at North Carolina artificial reefs. *36th Annual Chapter Meeting of Tidewater AFS.* Solomons, MD. 2023. *Best Student Presentation
Tharp, R. M., Paxton, A. B., Taylor, J. C., Hostetter, N. M., Rudershausen, P. J., & Buckel, J. A. Fine-scale movements and habitat use of recreationally important reef fishes at North Carolina artificial reefs. *Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.* Norfolk, VA. 2023. *Runner-up – Best Student Presentation
Tharp, R. M., Paxton, A. B., Taylor, J. C., Hostetter, N. J., Bacheler, N. M., Rudershausen, P. J., & Buckel, J. A. Fine-scale movement and habitat selection of artificial reef materials by reef fishes: implications for offshore wind studies. *ICES Annual Science Conference.* Dublin, Ireland. 2022.
Tharp, R. M., Paxton, A. B., Taylor, J. C., Hostetter, N. J., Bacheler, N. M., Rudershausen, P. J., & Buckel, J. A. Fine-scale movements of recreationally important reef fishes over two North Carolina artificial reefs. *152nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.* Spokane, WA. 2022.
Tharp, R. M., Buckel, J. A., Paxton, A. B., Taylor, J. C., Bacheler, N. M., & Rudershausen, P. J. Fine-scale movements of recreationally important reef fishes over two North Carolina artificial reefs. *35th Annual Chapter Meeting of Tidewater AFS.* Nags Head, NC. 2022.
Runde, B. J., Buckel, J. A., Bacheler, N. M., **Tharp, R. M**., Rudershausen, P. J., Harms, C. A., & Ben-Horin, T. Evaluation of six methods for external attachment of electronic tags to fish: assessment of tag retention, growth, and fish welfare. *151st Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.* Baltimore, MD. 2021.
Tharp, R. M. and McRae M. G. Stomach Content Analysis of the Invasive Mayan Cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*) in the Tampa Bay Watershed. *149th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.* Reno, NV. 2019.
Tharp, R. M. and McRae M. G. Stomach Content Analysis of the Invasive Mayan Cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*) in the Tampa Bay Watershed. *Annual Meeting of the Florida Association of Aquatic Biologists.* Eastpoint, FL. 2019. (Poster) *Best Student Poster Award

Peer-reviewer

Fish and Fisheries (x1)
Hydrobiolgia (x1)
Marine Ecology Progress Series (x1)

Service and Outreach

Symposium Co-Organizer at 154th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society - Electronic Tagging and Telemetry: Analyses, Field Methods, and Applications to Management	2024
Guest Lecturer – Undergraduate Marine Fisheries Ecology at NCSU	2024
Application Reviewer - American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program	2023
Guest Speaker, North Carolina State University Leopold Wildlife Club	2022
Discussion Leader, Methods to assess the impact of offshore wind development on fishery data, ICES Annual Science Conference, Dublin, Ireland	2022
Co-President, North Carolina State University Student Fisheries Society	2022-2023
Director of Blue Marlin Sampling, Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament. Morehead City, NC.	2021 – Present
Secretary and Treasurer, North Carolina State University Student Fisheries Society	2021

Students Mentored

Hailey Matthews, North Caroline State University Dr. Patricia McClellan-Green Summer Fellows Program	2024
Reese Dorroh, North Caroline State University Dr. Patricia McClellan-Green Summer Fellows Program	2022
Taliana Tudryn, North Carolina State University Semester at CMAST Program	2022
Caitlin Mahnke, American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program	2021

Honors & Awards

American Fisheries Society Marine Fisheries Section Travel Award ($527)	July 2022
American Fisheries Society John E. Skinner Memorial Award ($800)	June 2022
North Carolina State University Harkema Graduate Student Award ($850)	April 2022
David and Ann Speaks Memorial CCA NC Scholarship Fund ($2,000)	December 2021
North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Student Travel Award ($400)	September 2021
American Fisheries Society William R. Mote Fisheries Fellowship Award ($1,500)	August 2021
The University of Tampa Outstanding Academics in Marine Science – Biology	May 2019
The University of Tampa Biology Department Summer Research Fellowship ($3,000)	May 2019
The University of Tampa Evan Chipouras Biology Student Award ($1,700)	April 2019

The University of Tampa Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry ($550)	April 2019
The University of Tampa College of Natural and Health Sciences Dean's Funding ($1600)	April 2019
The University of Tampa Presidential Scholarship ($14,000/year)	2016 - 2020