

**Thomas B. Sevick**  
New Orleans, LA 70122  
504-952-2698  
[tsevick@thewaterinstitute.org](mailto:tsevick@thewaterinstitute.org)

Driven Conservation Biologist, passionate about preserving aquatic ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit them. 10+ years of diverse experience with M.S. studies focused on the interaction between humans, nekton and aquatic vegetation in coastal environments. Innovative thinker, driven to find ways to advance and to further develop creative answers to the dynamic and complex environmental issues facing aquatic ecosystems.

## **Education**

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**2016– M.S. in Biology - University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Biology**  
GPA: 4.00 Advisor: Jacob F. Schaefer

**2013– B.S. in Environmental Sciences with a Concentration in Biology and Minor in Sociology – Loyola University; Graduated with departmental honors**

## **Professional Experience**

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**The Water Institute of The Gulf**  
*Ecosystem Management Associate*

*June 2022-Present*

Provides direct technical support to the Coastal Ecology Department. Works within a dynamic team of staff supporting a variety of coastal restoration project implementation, facilitation, and research projects. Supports the Chief Scientist with project management, science and organizational support.

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

**Marine Fisheries Biologist III** *August 2016-June 2022*  
Responsible for the collection of both fisheries dependent and independent data. Assessing coastal habitats using seines, trawls, gill nets, and dredges. Took the initiative to utilize and train others on the use of multivariate statistics to analyze trends in fish population changes. Safely operating medium to large size boats. Effectively analyze habitat and abundance data. Taken the lead on synthesizing and presenting technical reports. Assist with out-reach events which educate public stakeholders on the importance of coastal conservation.

**Loyola University of New Orleans**

**Adjunct instructor** *August -December 2021*  
Taught a section of Biological Inquiry lecture – a hybrid lecture course built on introducing students to the science process through hands-on activities. Responsible for the weekly creation and evaluation of lessons, quizzes, and exams. Helped students develop experimental design, execute, collect, and analyze data along with a final poster presentation at the end of the semester.

**University of Southern Mississippi**

**Teaching Assistant** *January 2015-May 2016*  
Served as lab instructor for two sections of over 20 students each at The University of Southern

Mississippi. Responsible for the weekly creation and evaluation of lessons, quizzes and lab assignments.

### **University of Southern Mississippi Ichthyology**

#### **Lab Research Assistant**

*January 2014-January 2015*

Responsible for the collection and analysis of both biotic and abiotic data. Designed project which assessed the impact of human presence on coastal habitats and wetlands. Analysis of large historic multivariate datasets. Assisted with and led sampling trips which assessed stream fishes on the population and community levels in Mississippi. As well as the safe operation of sampling equipment such as small to medium boats.

### **Loyola New Orleans**

#### **Lab Manager Marine and Fresh Water Ecology**

*May 2013-December 2014*

Responsible for supervising and directing undergraduate workers in lab activities. Organized and assisted with research studies which assessed coastal wetlands and riparian habitat restoration projects in Louisiana and Florida. Collected both abiotic and biotic data on from fresh and marine habitats. Safely operate field equipment such as airboats and backpack electro shockers.

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## **Research and Collaboration**

**2015 to 2016– Effect of Vegetation Type and Patch Geometry on Marsh Nekton in Coastal Mississippi** (Master's thesis). Responsibilities: designed project, operation of small to medium boats and trailers, collected and identified nekton (crabs, shrimp and aquatic insects), identified marsh plants, collected basic water chemistry data, multivariate analysis of nekton community and environmental data, designed novel method of quantifying patch geometry in marshes.

**2014 to 2015– Assisted Dr. Jacob Schaefer with assessment of coastal fish assemblages before and after the Deep Horizon oil spill.** Responsibilities: operation of small to medium size boats and trailers, data collection using seines and trawls, identified specimens and data entry.

**2012– Collaborated with Dr. Frank Jordan of Loyola University New Orleans on study of habitat use and effects of Deep Horizon oil spill on marsh fishes in the Mississippi River Delta of coastal Louisiana.** Responsibilities: assisting with study design, collected and identified fishes and other nekton (crabs, shrimp and aquatic insects), data entry and data analysis and interpretation.

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## **Presentations**

**2018– Changes in Blue crab populations in Breton Sound Louisiana over 30 years.** Poster presentation at the Louisiana American fisheries society. (Louisiana department of Wildlife and fisheries presentation).

**2017– Changes in fish assemblages in Breton Sound Louisiana.** Poster presentation at the Louisiana American fisheries society. (Louisiana department of Wildlife and fisheries presentation).

**2016– Effect of Vegetation Type and Patch Geometry on Marsh Nekton in Coastal Mississippi.** Oral presentation at The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

2014– Post-disturbance Abundance and Diversity of Marsh Nekton in the Mississippi River Delta. Poster presentation at The University of Southern Mississippi Biological Graduate Student Forum symposium.

## **Publications and Technical Reports**

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Beck, S. et al. The effects of the Mississippi River levee breach at the Bohemia salinity control structure on hydrology. (Louisiana department of Wildlife and fisheries technical report).

Sevick, T.B and F. Jordan. Effect of multiple natural and anthropogenic disturbance on nekton in the Mississippi River Delta. (In preparation)

Sevick, T.B and J.F. Schaefer. Effects of vegetation type and patch geometry on the abundance and diversity of marsh nekton in coastal Mississippi. (In preparation)

## **Grants, Awards, and Honors**

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2017-Selected as one of four Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biologists to participate in a departmental shadowing program which allowed for staff to shadow and train with high ranking officials in the department.

2014– First place graduate research poster presentation at University of Southern Mississippi Biological Graduate Student Forum symposium for poster entitled “Post-disturbance Abundance and Diversity of Marsh Nekton in the Mississippi River Delta.”

2013–The Environment Major Program Award for Scholarship. Awarded to top graduating environmental studies or science honors student (based on overall academics, research and involvement in the program).

2012 – Best undergraduate poster presentation at GERS (Gulf Estuarine Research Society), for poster entitled “Post-disturbance Abundance and Diversity of Marsh Nekton in the Mississippi River Delta.”

2012– Effects of the Deep Horizon oil spill on marsh fishes in the Mississippi River Delta. \$2500 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant from Louisiana Sea Grant.

## **Certifications and Additional Skills**

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- Proficient with R statistical software and multivariate analysis
- Proficient with SAS statistical analysis software
- Experienced with Arc GIS
- Operation of airboats and trailers (Up to 30 Feet)
- Open-water SCUBA Certified
- NOAA shark identification Certified
- Red Cross CPR, AED, and First Aid Certified