

## **R. J. David Wells, Ph.D.**

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**Associate Professor**  
**Texas A&M University at Galveston**  
**Department of Marine Biology**  
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### **Education:**

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Ph.D. Oceanography and Coastal Sciences (2007)  
Minor in Experimental Statistics

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**  
M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (2002)

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
B.S. Biology (1998)  
Minor in Chemistry

### **Experience:**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** (2017 – present)  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR** (2012 – 2017)  
*Texas A&M University at Galveston, Department of Marine Biology*, Galveston, TX  
*Texas A&M University, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences*, College Station, TX

**FISHERIES RESEARCH BIOLOGIST**  
*Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA/NMFS*, La Jolla, CA (2010-2012)

**TEXAS INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW**  
*Texas A&M University at Galveston*, Galveston, TX (2007 – 2010)

**BOARD OF REGENTS RESEARCH FELLOW**  
*Louisiana State University*, Baton Rouge, LA (2003 – 2007)

**RESEARCH TECHNICIAN – UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE LA SANTISIMA CONCEPCION**  
*Catholic University of Concepcion, Chile*, Concepcion, Chile (2003)

**JAPANESE ENGLISH TEACHER**  
Kobe, Japan (2002)

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT – DEPARTMENT OF MARINE BIOLOGY**  
*Texas A&M University*, College Station, TX (1999 – 2000)

**TEACHING ASSISTANT (Marine Ecology 425)**  
*Texas A&M University*, Galveston, TX (2000 – 2001)

**RESEARCH TECHNICIAN/INTERNSHIP – DARLING MARINE SCIENCE CENTER**  
*University of Maine*, Walpole, ME (1998)

**RESEARCH TECHNICIAN – DEPARTMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHY**  
**Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR (1994 – 1998)**

**Publications:**

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (\* graduate student/post-doc):**

**2018**

Plumlee JD\*, Dance KM\*, Matich P, Mohan JA\*, Richards TM\*, TinHan TC\*, Fisher MR, Wells RJD (In Press) Community structure of elasmobranchs in estuaries along the northwest Gulf of Mexico. *Estuarine, Coastal, and Shelf Science*

Bird C, et al.\* (2018) A global perspective on the trophic geography of sharks. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2: 299-305

**2017**

Drymon JM, Wells RJD (2017) Double tagging clarifies post-release fate of great hammerheads (*Sphyrna mokarran*). *Animal Biotelemetry* 5:28

Mohan JA\*, Tinhan T\*, Miller NR, Wells RJD (2017) Effects of sample cleaning and storage on the elemental composition of shark vertebrae. *Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry* 31: 2073-2080

Matich P, Mohan JA\*, Plumlee JD\*, Tinhan T\*, Wells RJD, Fisher M (2017) Factors shaping the co-occurrence of two juvenile shark species along the Texas Gulf Coast. *Marine Biology* 164: 141. doi:10.1007/s00227-017-3173-2

Wells RJD, Rooker JR, Quigg A, Wissel B (2017) Influence of mesoscale oceanographic features on pelagic food webs in the Gulf of Mexico. *Marine Biology* 164: 92. doi:10.1007/s00227-017-3122-0

Mohan JA\*, Sutton TT, Cook AB, Boswell KM, Wells RJD (2017) Influence of oceanographic conditions on abundance and distribution of post-larval and juvenile carangid fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Fisheries Oceanography* 26: 526-541

Churnside JH, Wells RJD, Boswell KM, Quinlan JA, Marchbanks RD, McCarty BJ, Sutton TT (2017) Surveying the distribution and abundance of flyingfishes and other epipelagics in the northern Gulf of Mexico using airborne lidar. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 93: 591-609

Wells RJD, Spear N\*, Kohin S (2017) Age validation of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in the eastern Pacific Ocean. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 68: 1130-1136

**2016**

Kinney MJ, Wells RJD, Kohin S (2016) Oxytetracycline age validation of an adult shortfin mako after six years at liberty. *Journal of Fish Biology* 89: 1828-1833

Harrington T\*, Plumlee JD\*, Drymon JM, Wells RJD (2016) Diets of Atlantic Sharpnose shark (*Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*) and Bonnethead (*Sphyrna tiburo*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Gulf and Caribbean Research* 27: 42-51

Fraile I, Arrizabalaga H, Santiago J, Goni N, Arregi I, Madinabeitia S, Wells RJD, Rooker JR (2016) Otolith chemistry as an indicator of movements of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the North Atlantic Ocean. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 67: 1002-1013

Plumlee JD\*, Wells RJD (2016) Feeding ecology of three coastal shark species in the northwest Gulf of Mexico. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 550: 163-174

Xu Y, Teo SLH, Piner KR, Chen KS, Wells RJD (2016) Using an approximate length-conditional approach to estimate von Bertalanffy growth parameters of North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). *Fisheries Research* 180: 138-146

Rooker JR, Wells RJD, Itano D, Thorrold S, Lee J (2016) Natal origin and population connectivity of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the Pacific Ocean. *Fisheries Oceanography* 25: 277-291

Churnside JH, Marchbanks RD, Donaghay PL, Sullivan JM, Graham WM, Wells RJD (2016) Hollow aggregations of moon jellyfish (*Aurelia spp.*). *Journal of Plankton Research* 38: 122-130

### **2015**

Wells RJD, Kinney MJ, Kohin S, Dewar H, Rooker JR, Snodgrass OE (2015) Natural tracers reveal population structure of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 72: 2118-2127

Lyons K, Preti A, Madigan DJ, Wells RJD, Blasius ME, Snodgrass OE, Kacev D, Harris JD, Dewar H, Kohin S, MacKenzie K, Lowe CG (2015) Insights into the life history and ecology of a large shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) captured in southern California. *Journal of Fish Biology* 87: 200-211

Baumann H, Wells RJD, Rooker JR, Saijin Z, Baumann ZA, Madigan DJ, Dewar H, Snodgrass OE, Fisher NS (2015) Combining otolith microstructure and trace elemental analyses to infer the arrival of juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna in the California Current Ecosystem. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 72: 2128-2138

### **2014**

Hoolihan JP, Wells RJD, Luo J, Falterman B, Prince ED, Rooker JR (2014) Vertical and horizontal movements of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in the Gulf of Mexico. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries: Dynamics, Management, and Ecosystem Science* 6: 211-222

Timm LL, Carter JE, Frey J, Prappas J, Wells RJD (2014) Birth of common shovelnose rays (*Glaucoctegus typus*) under captive conditions. *Zoo Biology* 33: 357-359

Renck CL\*, Wells RJD, Dewar H, Talley DM (2014) Regional growth patterns of juvenile albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the eastern North Pacific. *California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations Reports* 55: 135-143

### **2013**

Rooker JR, Kitchens LL, Dance MA, Wells RJD, Falterman B, Cornic M (2013) Spatial, temporal, and habitat-related variation in abundance of pelagic fishes in the Gulf of Mexico: potential implications of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. *PLoS ONE* 8(10): e76080. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0076080

Wells RJD, Kohin S, Teo SLH, Snodgrass OE, Uosaki K (2013). Age and growth of North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*): implications for stock assessment. *Fisheries Research* 147: 55-62

Wells RJD, Smith SE, Kohin S, Freund E, Spear N\*, Ramon DA (2013) Age validation of juvenile shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) tagged and marked with oxytetracycline off southern California. *Fishery Bulletin* 111: 147-160

Sluis-Zapp M, Boswell KM, Chumchal MM, Wells RJD, Soulen BL, Cowan JH Jr (2013) Regional variation in mercury and stable isotopes of red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico, USA. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 32: 434-441

### **2012**

Grabowski TB, Boswell KM, McAdam BJ, Wells RJD, Marteinsdottir G (2012) Characterization of Atlantic cod spawning habitat and behavior in Icelandic coastal waters. *PLoS ONE* 7(12): e51321. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0051321

Wells RJD, Rooker JR, Itano D (2012) Nursery origin of yellowfin tuna in the Hawaiian Islands. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 461: 187-196

Rooker JR, Simms JR, Wells RJD, Holt SA, Holt GJ, Graves JE, Furey NB (2012) Distribution and habitat associations of billfish and swordfish larvae across mesoscale features in the Gulf of Mexico. PLoS ONE 7(4): e34180. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0034180

Preti A, Soykan CU, Dewar H, Wells RJD, Spear N, Kohin S (2012) Comparative feeding ecology of shortfin mako, blue and common thresher sharks in the California Current. Environmental Biology of Fishes 95: 127-146

**2011**

Kraus RT, Wells RJD, Rooker JR (2011) Horizontal movements of Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) in the Gulf of Mexico. Marine Biology 158: 699-713

**2010**

Wells RJD, Rooker JR, Prince ED (2010) Regional variation in the otolith chemistry of blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) from the western North Atlantic Ocean. Fisheries Research 106: 430-435

Wells RJD, Steneck RS, Palma AT (2010) Three-dimensional resource partitioning between American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) and rock crab (*Cancer irroratus*) in a subtidal kelp forest. Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 384: 1-6

Boswell KM, Wells RJD, Cowan JH Jr., Wilson CA (2010) Biomass, density, and size distributions of fishes associated with a large-scale artificial reef complex in the Gulf of Mexico. Bulletin of Marine Science 86: 879-889

**2009**

Wells RJD, Rooker JR (2009) Feeding ecology of pelagic fish larvae and juveniles in slope waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Journal of Fish Biology 75: 1719-1732

Wells RJD, Harper JO, Rooker JR, Landry AM Jr., Dellapenna TM (2009) Fish assemblage structure on a drowned barrier island in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Hydrobiologia 625: 207-221

**2008**

Wells RJD, Cowan JH Jr., Patterson WF, Walters CJ (2008) Effect of trawling on juvenile red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) habitat selection and life history parameters. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 65: 2399-2411

Wells RJD, Cowan JH Jr., Fry B (2008) Feeding ecology of red snapper *Lutjanus campechanus* in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Marine Ecology Progress Series 361: 213-225

Wells RJD, Chumchal MM, Cowan JH Jr. (2008) Effect of trawling and habitat on mercury concentration in juvenile red snapper from the northern Gulf of Mexico. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 137: 1839-1850

Wells RJD, Cowan JH Jr., Patterson WF (2008) Habitat use and the effect of shrimp trawling on fish and invertebrate communities over the northern Gulf of Mexico continental shelf. ICES Journal of Marine Science 65: 1610-1619

Manríquez KC, Pardo LM, Wells RJD, Palma AT (2008) Crypsis in *Paraxanthus barbiger* (Decapoda: Brachyura): mechanisms against visual predators. Journal of Crustacean Biology 28: 473-479

Wells RJD, Boswell KM, Cowan JH Jr., Patterson WF (2008) Size selectivity of sampling gears targeting red snapper in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Fisheries Research 89: 294-299

**2004**

Wells RJD, Rooker JR (2004) Distribution, age, and growth of young-of-the-year greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*) associated with pelagic *Sargassum*. *Fishery Bulletin* 102: 545-554

Wells RJD, Rooker JR (2004) Spatial and temporal patterns of habitat use by fishes associated with *Sargassum* mats in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 74: 81-99

**Book Chapters:**

Shimose T, Wells RJD (2015) Feeding Ecology of Bluefin Tunas. Pages 78-97 *In* T. Kitagawa, S. Kumura, editors. *Biology and Ecology of Bluefin Tuna*. CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.

Wells RJD, Cowan JH Jr. (2007) Video estimates of red snapper and associated fish assemblages on sand, shell, and natural reef habitats in the north-central Gulf of Mexico. Pages 39-57 *In* W. F. Patterson, III, J. H. Cowan, Jr., G. R. Fitzhugh, and D. L. Nieland, editors. *Red Snapper Ecology and Fisheries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico*. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 60, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Peer-Reviewed Proceedings:**

Cullen JA, Plumlee JD\*, Tinhan T\*, Wells RJD, Marshall CD (2016) Impact of allometry and feeding biomechanics on ontogenetic dietary shifts in three coastal sharks. *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 56:E46

**Non Peer-Reviewed:**

Dance K\*, Rooker JR, Shipley B, Wells RJD (2016) Feeding ecology of fishes at artificial reefs in the northwest Gulf of Mexico. *Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute* 69: 309-310

Kinney MJ, Wells RJD, Kohin S (2014) Oxytetracycline age validation of an adult shortfin mako shark after six years at liberty. *ISC Shark Working Group Workshop, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, ISC/14/SHARKWG-3*

Xu Y, Sippel T, Teo SLH, Piner K, Chen KS, Wells RJD (2014) A comparison study of North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) age and growth among various sources. *ISC Albacore Working Group, La Jolla, CA, ISC/14/ALBWG*

Wells RJD, Kohin S, Dewar H, Spear N (2013) Application of chemical tags to obtain life history information of sharks. *Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute* 65: 140-141

Hoolihan JP, Wells RJD, Luo J, Rooker JR, Prince ED (2012) Preliminary analysis of time spent at temperature relative to the surface temperature for yellowfin tuna monitored with pop-up satellite archival tags in the Gulf of Mexico. *Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT* 68(3): 979-983

Spear N\*, Wells RJD, Kohin S (2012) Preliminary age validation of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in the eastern Pacific Ocean. *ISC Shark Working Group Stock Assessment Workshop, Shimizu, Japan, ISC/12/SHARKWG-1/01*

Teo SLH, Sippel T, Wells RJD, Kohin S (2012) Preliminary time series for North Pacific blue and shortfin mako sharks from the U.S. West Coast drift gillnet fishery. *ISC Shark Working Group Stock Assessment Workshop, Shimizu, Japan, ISC/12/SHARKWG-1/03*

Wells RJD, Smith SE, Kohin S, Freund E, Spear N, Ramon DA (2011) Age validation of juvenile shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) tagged off southern California, USA. *ISC Shark Working Group Stock Assessment Workshop, La Jolla, CA, ISC/11/SHARKWG-1/06*

- Wells RJD, Kohin S (2011) Length frequencies of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in the eastern Pacific Ocean. ISC Shark Working Group Stock Assessment Workshop, La Jolla, CA, ISC/11/SHARKWG-1/08
- Wells RJD, Kohin S, Teo SLH, Snodgrass OE, Uosaki K (2011) Age and growth of North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). ISC Albacore Working Group Stock Assessment Workshop, Shimizu, Japan, ISC/11/ALBWG/02
- Wells RJD, Boswell KM, Cowan JH, Jr., Patterson WF (2007) A comparison of multiple gear types in sampling red snapper on natural low-relief reefs. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute 59: 215-222
- Rooker JR, Holt SA, Wells RJD, Turner J, Pratt C (2004) Retrospective determinations of trophic relationships among pelagic fishes associated with *Sargassum* mats in the Gulf of Mexico. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute 55: 257-266
- Wells RJD, Rooker JR (2003) Distribution and abundance of fishes associated with *Sargassum* mats in the NW Gulf of Mexico. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute 54: 609-621