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Jessie Kastler is the Marine Education Instructor at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, and has been since 2000. Prior to undertaking her role in Marine Education, she worked at LUMCON as a postdoctoral research associate, starting in 1999. She earned her Ph.D. in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences from Louisiana State University in 1999, her M.S in Environmental Sciences from University of Virginia in 1993 and her BS in Geology from LSU in 1987.

With interdisciplinary education in geology and environmental, coastal and ocean sciences, Dr. Kastler's research focused on the role sediments play in organic material cycling in estuarine and continental shelf environments, as well as biological affects on sediment deposition. Since shifting from research to education, Dr. Kastler has worked with LUMCON's audiences of all ages and diverse educational backgrounds, to enhance awareness of the magnitude of Louisiana's coastal land loss and eutrophication issues, and to help individuals understand their role in making responsible choices based on science. Dr. Kastler particularly enjoys working with science teachers (K-16). She has developed several workshops to help them incorporate active teaching methods and scientific inquiry into their classrooms, and very much enjoys working with COSEE:CGOM.

When not at work Dr. Kastler enjoys gardening and socializing with other La-Terre Master Gardeners; she is developing (by fits and starts) a new landscape at home that utilizes native plants. Even more important to her than gardening is walking her three foundling pooches: Ami, Sophie, and Biscuit.