



Jessie Kastler came to marine education from research training in coastal sedimentary habitats and ecology, with a Ph.D. in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences from Louisiana State University, an M.S. in Environmental Science from University of Virginia and a B.S. in Geology from Louisiana State University. After 7 years directing education programs for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, she moved to Ocean Springs, Mississippi where she currently works as a Research Associate and Educator for the Marine Education Center (MEC) of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Like most informal educators, Jessie facilitates learning of diverse audiences regarding a wide range of topics. She takes K-12 students into marsh, beach and island communities to observe interactions of physical and biological processes. She also develops and implements effective and enjoyable professional experiences for teachers and scientists. This summer she will be implementing her fifth weeklong Face-to-Face Teacher Scientist Institute for the Central Gulf of Mexico Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE:CGOM). Through this program she brings together research scientists and teachers for a week in coastal Louisiana environments to share their expertise. As a scientist-turned-educator she empathizes with the struggles of both teachers learning unfamiliar content to share with their students, and scientists learning how their sometimes esoteric research content can be disseminated to a broad audience.

In addition to COSEE:CGOM, Jessie has worked with other educators and scientists to implement or produce professional development opportunities around wetland loss (Wetland Education Through Maps and Aerial Photographs (WETMAAP-Cocodrie) with the WETMAAP Development Team) and water quality (BayouSide Classroom). She is leading a new project, The Shifting Baselines Bay Watershed Education Training Program (B-WET), which will develop a learning community around meaningful watershed educational experiences.

During her time in marine education, Jessie has relied on excellent educational materials produced by others, for example, the WETMAAP materials for Louisiana sites. In addition, she uses modules she developed and continues to modify, including *Size It Up* (a sediment size analysis protocol; developed with COSEE:CGOM participant teachers and several student interns), *Recipe for Hypoxia* (a kinesthetic game describing processes required for the depletion of oxygen in aquatic systems, in press at *Science Activities Magazine*), and *Recognizing Runoff Through the Watershed* (an educational geographic information system funded by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and housed at <http://water.btneq.org> linking documented water quality standards to watershed characteristics).

Jessie is the Past-Chair of the Education and Outreach Council of the Gulf of Mexico Ocean Observing System, a member of 1) the Board of Directors of the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center, 2) the Awards Committee of the Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME), and 3) the Conference Committee of NMEA. She maintains memberships with several professional organizations including NMEA, SAME, National Science Teachers Association, Estuarine Research Federation, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and Phi Beta Kappa. In her free time, Jessie reads, walks her three dogs, gardens and practices yoga.