Katrina F. Phillips

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy - Integrative and Conservation Biology 2022
University of Central Florida
Dissertation: *Mechanisms of juvenile dispersal and habitat connectivity in the sea turtle 'lost years'*

Master of Science - Marine Affairs and Policy/Marine Biology and Fisheries 2011
University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
Thesis: *Beyond the Beach: Population trends and foraging site selection of a Florida loggerhead nesting assemblage*

Bachelor of Science - Marine Science, Minor in Biological Sciences 2007
University of South Carolina Honors College
Honors Thesis: *The effects of cadmium on regeneration of the brittle star* Amphipholis gracillima

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor 2026-present
University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

Senior Marine Scientist I 2025-present
Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL

Postdoctoral Researcher 2023-2025
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

Graduate Teaching Assistant (BSC 2011, BSC 4927) 2019-2022
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Sea Turtle Field Research and Internship Manager 2014-2020
University of Central Florida, Melbourne Beach, FL

Communications Specialist 2012-2014
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration contract with Acentia/2020, Silver Spring, MD

Sea Grant Knauss Fellow 2011-2012
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, MD

STEM Tutor and Graduate Research Assistant 2008-2010
University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Virginia Key, FL

Sea Turtle Conservation Associate 2009
Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Naples, FL

Assistant Scientist 2007-2008
Sea Education Association SEA Semester, Woods Hole, MA

Sea Turtle Nesting Program Intern 2007
University of South Carolina-Beaufort, Pritchards Island, SC

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

10. Martin KR, JL Adkins, V Chea, CM Sarkis, **KF Phillips**, AM Forsman, EE Seney, LM Komoroske, KL Mansfield, AE Savage (2026) Major Histocompatibility Complex immunogenetic diversity differs substantially across sea turtle species and genomic regions. *Genome Biology and Evolution*: evag008
9. **Phillips KF**, NF Putman, KL Mansfield (2025) New insights on sea turtle behavior during the 'lost years'. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 292: 20242367
8. Ceriani SA, S Murasko, DS Addison, D Anderson, G Curry, NA Desjardin, SF Eastman, DR Evans, N Evou, MMPB Fuentes, MH Godfrey, KM Hart, P Hillbrand, SE Hirsch, CR Mott, KL Mansfield, KT Mazzarella,

SV Norris, SM Pate, **KF Phillips**, KW Rusenko, BM Shamblin, A Stevenson, KA Sloan, AD Tucker, RC Welsh, P Casale (2023) Monitoring population-level foraging distribution of a marine migratory species from land: strengths and weaknesses of the isotopic approach on the Northwest Atlantic loggerhead turtle aggregation. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 10: 1189661

7. **Phillips KF**, KR Martin, GD Stahelin, AE Savage, KL Mansfield (2022) Genetic variation among sea turtle life stages and species suggests connectivity among ocean basins. *Ecology and Evolution* 12: *e9426* [cover paper]
6. **Phillips KF**, GD Stahelin, RM Chabot, KL Mansfield (2021) Long-term trends in marine turtle size at maturity at an important Atlantic rookery. *Ecosphere* 12(7): e03631 [cover paper]
5. **Phillips KF**, DS Addison, CR Sasso, KL Mansfield (2021) Postnesting migration routes and fidelity to foraging sites among loggerhead turtles in the western North Atlantic. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 97(1): 1-18
4. Orfinger AB, TB Cogen, GR Irons, KV Kabilan, B Molligoda, AL Moody, JF Wisdo, **KF Phillips** (2017) Preliminary study of pan trapping in longleaf pine flatwoods in Central Florida, USA. *Midsouth Entomologist* 10: 24-27
3. Vander Zanden HB, AB Bolten, AD Tucker, KM Hart, MM Lamont, I Fujisaki, KJ Reich, DS Addison, KL Mansfield, **KF Phillips**, M Pajuelo, KA Bjorndal (2016) Biomarkers reveal sea turtles remained in oiled areas following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. *Ecological Applications* 26(7): 2145–2155
2. Vander Zanden HB, AD Tucker, KM Hart, MM Lamont, I Fujisaki, DS Addison, KL Mansfield, **KF Phillips**, MB Wunder, GJ Bowen, M Pajuelo, AB Bolten, KA Bjorndal (2015) Determining origin in a migratory marine vertebrate: a novel method to integrate stable isotopes and satellite tracking. *Ecological Applications* 25(2): 320-335
1. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield, DS Addison, DJ Die (2014) Survival and remigration probabilities for loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) nesting in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. *Marine Biology* 161: 863-870

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

8. Osipova E, PH Dutton, BP Bentley, S Alvarez-Costes, **KF Phillips,** J Adkins, A Agyekumhene, et al. (2026) Genomic indicators of risk and resilience in global leatherback turtle populations. *bioRxiv*, pp.2026-05
7. Lettrich MD, **KF Phillips**, C Clyde-Brockway, BP Bentley (eds.) (2024) Report of a Workshop to Assess Impacts of Climate Change on Sea Turtle Threats. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-F/SPO-249, 33 p
6. **Phillips KF** (2023) Are sea turtles getting smaller? *State of the World's Sea Turtles Report* 18: 16-17
5. **Phillips KF** (2022) Juvenile dispersal and genetic connectivity in the sea turtle 'lost years'. *Electronic Theses and Dissertations, 2020-*. Paper 1428
4. **Phillips KF** (2018) Sea turtle dispersal in marine habitats. *Tracker News* 19(1): 3,6
3. **Phillips KF** (2017) Juvenile sea turtles and marine protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico. *ArgosForum* 84: 4-5
2. **Phillips KF** (2011) Beyond the Beach: Population trends and foraging site selection of a Florida loggerhead nesting assemblage. *Open Access Theses*. Paper 245
1. **Phillips KF** (2011) NOAA Research Innovation: Improving the accuracy of ocean temp probes for climate research. *Marine Technology Reporter* 54(7): 34-35

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology ($138,000)	2023-2024
University of Central Florida Graduate Studies Open Access Publishing ($3,000)	2021, 2022
P.E.O. Scholar Award ($15,000)	2019
University of Central Florida Order of Pegasus ($750)	2019
University of Central Florida Graduate Presentation Fellowship ($3,200)	2015, 2016, 2018, 2020
NSF Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide ($5,000 & 27,000 DKK)	2018
Gumbo Limbo Gordon Gilbert Grant ($2,500)	2017
Microwave Telemetry Christiane Howey Rising Scholar Award ($16,000 in hardware)	2016
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship ($138,000)	2015-2020
University of Central Florida Boyd Lyon Memorial Fellowship ($36,000)	2014-2016
NOAA Sea Grant John A Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship ($46,000)	2011

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

27. **Phillips KF**, NF Putman, KL Mansfield (2026) Juvenile sea turtle dispersal and recruitment in the Gulf. Gulf Conference 2026, Mobile, AL
26. **Phillips KF** (2026) Regional connectivity among dispersal-stage sea turtles in the Gulf. Workshop: Examining Gulf species declines through the lens of connectivity and convergence, Gulf Conference 2026, Mobile, AL
25. **Phillips KF**, SA Ceriani, J Adkins, KL Mansfield, DS Addison, BM Shamblin, LM Komoroske (2026) Is foraging site heritable? Investigating loggerhead foraging site selection through whole genome analyses. 44th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Kailua-Kona, HI
24. **Phillips KF**, NF Putman, KL Mansfield (2025) New insights on sea turtle behaviour during the 'lost years'. Invited seminar speaker: Royal Society Publishing Ecology and Evolution seminar series. https://doi.org/10.52843/cassyni.23zwhd
23. **Phillips, KF** (2025) Ocean Odysseys: Integrating spatial and molecular approaches to guide sea turtle conservation. Invited seminar speaker: Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL
22. **Phillips KF**, NF Putman, KL Mansfield (2025) New insights on 'lost years' sea turtle dispersal in the Gulf of Mexico. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, Hilton Head, SC
21. **Phillips KF** (2024) Ocean Odysseys: Understanding long-distance migration through a sea turtle study system. Invited seminar speaker: Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
20. **Phillips KF** (2024) Marine turtle migratory ecology and conservation. Invited seminar speaker: Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
19. **Phillips KF** (2024) Juvenile dispersal & genetic connectivity in the sea turtle 'lost years'. Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program All Hands Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL
18. **Phillips KF**, NF Putman, KL Mansfield (2023) 'Lost years' sea turtle dispersal in the Gulf of Mexico. 41st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia [Best student oral presentation, Biology category]
17. **Phillips KF**, KR Martin, GD Stahelin, AE Savage, KL Mansfield (2022) Exploring the genetics of 'lost years' sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. 40th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Perth, Australia [held virtually]
16. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (*2022, abstract accepted but conference postponed*) Oceanic juvenile sea turtles in the Northeastern Gulf of Mexico. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, Orange Beach, FL
15. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (*2020, abstract accepted but conference canceled*) Juvenile dispersal and habitat connectivity in the sea turtle 'lost years'. 40th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia
14. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2020) Space-use patterns among surface-pelagic juvenile sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference, Tampa, FL
13. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2019) Juvenile sea turtle dispersal in the northwestern Atlantic. Gulf Stream Ecology and Environment Workshop, Wanchese, NC
12. **Phillips KF**, DS Addison, CR Sasso, KL Mansfield (2019) Loggerhead inter-nesting movements, migratory routes, and foraging sites in the Gulf of Mexico. 39th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Charleston, SC
11. **Phillips KF** (2018) Juvenile dispersal and habitat connectivity in the sea turtle 'lost years'. Invited seminar speaker: Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, England
10. **Phillips KF** (2018) Juvenile dispersal and habitat connectivity in the sea turtle 'lost years'. Invited seminar speaker: Center for Macroecology, Evolution, and Climate, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
9. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2017) Assessing oceanic juvenile sea turtle movements in the context of Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Mexico. 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Las Vegas, NV
8. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield, DS Addison (2015) A comparative analysis of loggerhead foraging habitats and individual reproductive history. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, Jekyll Island, GA
7. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield, DS Addison (2014) Long-term reproductive histories and satellite telemetry provide insight into foraging site selection among loggerheads nesting in the Gulf of Mexico. 34th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, New Orleans, LA

6. **Phillips KF** (2014) Monitoring Sea Turtles Beyond the Beach. Invited seminar speaker, Savannah State University, Savannah, GA
5. **Phillips KF**, DS Addison (2012) Three years of telemetry data reveal common loggerhead foraging areas. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, Jekyll Island, GA
4. **Phillips KF** (2011) Presentation of Master's thesis research. Knauss Brown Bag Seminar Series, NOAA Central Library, Silver Spring, MD
3. **Phillips KF** (2011) Beyond the Beach: Population trends and foraging site selection of a loggerhead nesting assemblage. 31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, San Diego, CA
2. **Phillips KF** (2010) Presentation of Master's research. NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Miami, FL
1. **Phillips KF** (2010) Protecting loggerhead turtle habitats: An inconvenient truth. Student Conference on Conservation Science, Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

Poster Presentations

11. **Phillips KF**, SA Ceriani, J Adkins, KL Mansfield, DS Addison, BM Shamblin, LM Komoroske (2024) Identifying molecular mechanisms of marine turtle migratory phenotypes. 3rd Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology, Montréal, Canada
10. **Phillips KF**, LM Komoroske (2023) Investigating the molecular mechanisms of marine turtle migration. Ecological and Evolutionary Genomics Gordon Research Conference and Seminar, Smithfield, RI
9. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2018) Genetic composition and tracked movements of oceanic-stage green turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Kobe, Japan
8. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2017) Combining satellite tracking and genetics to characterize oceanic juvenile sea turtle habitat use. 6th International Bio-logging Science Symposium, Lake Constance, Germany
7. **Phillips KF**, RM Chabot, KL Mansfield (2016) Ontogenetic shifts in sea turtle habitat use and foraging ecology: preliminary stable isotope and satellite telemetry results. Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program All Hands Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL [Awarded fourth place among student posters]
6. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2016) Estimating survival and encounter rates at a high density loggerhead nesting beach. 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Lima, Peru
5. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2016) Good news or bad news? A shift in nesting female size among loggerheads in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, Mobile, AL
4. **Phillips KF**, KL Mansfield (2015) Has the size at maturity changed over time among Atlantic loggerheads? 35th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Dalaman, Turkey
3. **Phillips KF**, DS Addison (2010) Loggerhead remigration analysis: Implications for foraging ground management. 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Goa, India
2. **Phillips KF** (2007) The effects of cadmium on regeneration of the brittle star *Amphipholis gracillima.* University of South Carolina Discovery Day, Columbia, SC [Awarded first place in Biological Sciences]
1. **Phillips KF**, CR Benitez-Nelson, M Henry (2006) ScienceQuest – A science experience for at-risk middle school children. South Carolina Marine Educators Association Conference, Seabrook Island, SC

Contributing Author (* denotes mentored undergraduate student)

16. E Osipova, PH Dutton, B Wallace, BP Bentley, S Alvarez-Costes, **KF Phillips**, A Alexander, S Martin, K Stewart, ARB Rocha, ALS Martínez, J Adkins, J Horne, E LaCasella, A Frey, F Pakiding, AP Prasetyo, D Lontoh, D Duffy, R Nel, L Komoroske (2026) Genomic indicators of risk and resilience in global leatherback turtle populations. 44th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Kailua-Kona, HI (oral presentation)
15. Larsen M, **K Phillips**, Z Siders, K Mansfield (2026) Dispersal and habitat use of juvenile Kemp's ridley turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. 44th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Kailua-Kona, HI (oral presentation)
14. Larsen M, **K Phillips**, Z Siders, K Mansfield (2026) Juvenile green turtle distributions in the Gulf of Mexico during the elusive "lost years". 44th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Kailua-Kona, HI (poster)
13. Larsen M, K Mansfield, **K Phillips** (2024) Decoding the mysterious distribution patterns of juvenile green turtles during their "lost years" through the application of species distribution modeling. 42nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Pattaya, Thailand (oral presentation)

12. Dawson TM, SP Bornheim, **KF Phillips**, KL Mansfield (2023) Inferring habitat use and foraging ecology during sea turtle "lost years" using stable isotope analysis. 41st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia (oral presentation)
11. *Provenzano JP, **KF Phillips**, EE Seney, KL Mansfield (*2020, abstract accepted but conference canceled*) Sea turtle nesting behavior and incubation duration in response to increasing storm severity. 40th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia (poster)
10. Martin KR, AL Trujillo, **KF Phillips**, KL Mansfield, AE Savage (*2020, abstract accepted but conference canceled*) Gene expression in Gulf of Mexico *Chelonia mydas* oceanic stage juveniles. 40th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia (poster)
9. Dawson T, S Ceriani, R Chabot, J Kelley, **K Phillips**, K Mansfield (2019) Examining the green and Kemp's ridley sea turtle "lost years" using stable isotope analysis. 39th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Charleston, SC (oral presentation)
8. *Carmichael A, **K Phillips**, C Long, E Seney, K Mansfield (2018) Impact of sympatric green sea turtle and loggerhead nesting on a high density beach. 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Kobe, Japan (poster)
7. Stahelin GD, **KF Phillips**, RM Chabot, KL Mansfield (2017) Variation in loggerhead and green turtle size at maturity on the central Florida east coast. 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Las Vegas, NV (poster)
6. *Tackett M, **K Phillips**, G Stahelin, K Mansfield (2017) Prime Real Estate: Nest placement and its effects on hatching success in loggerhead and green sea turtles. 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Las Vegas, NV (poster)
5. *Burandt K, G Stahelin, **K Phillips**, J Kelley, K Mansfield (2017) How does nourished sand affect reproductive success of loggerhead sea turtles? 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Las Vegas, NV (poster)
4. Addison DS, KL Mansfield, **KF Phillips** (2017) Frequency of occurrence, foraging areas, and reproductive histories of loggerhead turtles that nested on successive years on Keewaydin Island, Florida, USA. 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Las Vegas, NV (oral presentation)
3. Addison DS, **KF Phillips**, KL Mansfield, M Doolin (2016) Reproductive histories and satellite tracks of loggerhead turtles that nested in consecutive years on Keewaydin Island, FL. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting, Mobile, AL (oral presentation)
2. Stahelin GD, **KF Phillips**, KL Mansfield (2016) Juvenile green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) survival rates at Trident Basin, FL, USA. 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Lima, Peru (poster)
1. Vander Zanden HB, AD Tucker, KM Hart, MM Lamont, I Fujisaki, DS Addison, KL Mansfield, **KF Phillips**, M Pajuelo, MB Wunder, GJ Bowen, AB Bolten, KA Bjorndal (2014) Determining foraging area origin with stable isotope analysis and satellite tracking for loggerheads nesting in the Gulf of Mexico. 34th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, New Orleans, LA (oral presentation)

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

University of Massachusetts Amherst 2023-2025
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee; Organismic and Evolutionary Biology program

International Sea Turtle Society 2023-2025
Co-Program Chair for the 42nd Annual Meeting held in Pattaya, Thailand (March 2024) and 43rd Annual Meeting held in Accra, Ghana (March 2025)

University of Central Florida Biology Graduate Student Association 2014-2022
President (2015-2016), Faculty Liaison (2017-2018)

Biology Integrated Orlando Training and Enrichment Camp (BIOTEC) 2016- 2018
Instructor: Ecology and Animal Behavior

DC EcoWomen Executive Board 2011-2014
Vice President of Membership (2012-2014), Programs Committee (2011-2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Graduate Committee Member: Kayla Evans, MS student in Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Ripley Kindervater, MS student in Biology, University of South Alabama; Kelly Lesnik, PhD student in Environment and Society, University of South Alabama
Journal Reviews: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Marine Biology, Endangered Species Research, Herpetological Conservation & Biology
Review Panels: Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship
Workshop Facilitation: "Emerging genomic tools for sea turtle biology and conservation"; "Applications of sea turtle reference genomes for research and conservation management"; **"**The Climate-Threats Matrix: Understanding and quantifying the interactions of cumulative stressors with climate change and the resulting impacts on sea turtles"
Society Memberships: Society for the Study of Evolution, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, International Bio-logging Society, International Sea Turtle Society