

Erin E. Easton, Ph.D.

School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)
33363 Marine Lab Dr., South Padre Island, TX 78597
erin.easton@utrgv.edu

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4853-6026>

Website: <https://eastonbenthos.org>

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Erin-Easton-2>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=1quqmn8AAAAJ>

Education

2014 Ph.D., Oceanography, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.
2009 M.S., Oceanography, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.
2002 B.S., Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Professional appointments

2020– Assistant professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas.
2017–2022 Adjunct researcher, Ecology and Sustainable Management of Oceanic Islands (ESMOI), Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN), Coquimbo, Chile.
2017–2020 Assistant research scientist, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas. (Included 6-month tenure at NOAA Deep-Sea Coral Ecology Laboratory in Charleston, SC)
2014–2017 Postdoctoral fellow, ESMOI, UCN, Coquimbo, Chile.

Invited book chapters (refereed)

Easton, E. E., Gornoy, M., Mecho, A., Sellanes, J., Gaymer, C. F., Spalding, H. L., Aburto, J. 2019. Chile and the Salas y Gómez Ridge. In: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems, Coral Reefs of the World, vol 12, pp. 477-490. Loya, Y., Puglise, K. Bridge, T. (eds.) Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92735-0_27

Journal articles (refereed)

In prep (2 drafts currently being revised by co-authors)

Easton, E. E., Etnoyer, P., Greig, T., Hicks, D. In prep. *Hypnogorgia pendula* (Octocorallia) of the northern Gulf of Mexico is *Muricea pendula* based on morphological and genetic analyses.

Jordan, L., Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. In prep. Preliminary assessment of fish communities on mesophotic coral reefs of the western Gulf of Mexico.

In review (1)

Cañete, J. I., Romero, M. S., Easton, E. E., Mecho, A., Sellanes, J. (In press) *Chloeia rozbaczyloi*, a new species of polychaete (Archinominae: Amphinomidae) and first record of the family for the Nazca Ridge, southeastern Pacific Ocean. Deep-Sea Research Part 1. (Accepted July 2023) [2021 SJR 0.855 (Q1 in Oceanography and Aquatic Science) Q1]

In press (0)

Published (28)

- Bollinger, M., Macartney, K. J., Easton, E. E., & Hicks, D. W. (2022). Islands in the mud: The South Texas banks provide crucial mesophotic habitat for coral communities. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.1026407> (Submitted 23 August 2022, published 7 November 2022) [2021 SJR 1.355 (Q1 in Oceanography, Aquatic Science, and Environmental Science)] Q1
- Puccinelli*, E., Zeppilli, D., Stefanoudis, P. V., Wittische-Helou, A., Kermorgant, M., Fuchs, S., Sarrazin, J., Easton, E. E., Weber, A. A. 2022. Hybrid conferences: opportunities, challenges and ways forward. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 9:902772. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.902772> (Submitted on 23 Mar 2022, In revision June 2022, accepted 29 June 2022, published 22 July 2022) [2021 SJR 1.355 (Q1 in Oceanography, Aquatic Science, and Environmental Science)] Q1
- Morales, N., Coghlan, A. R., Easton, E. E., Friedlander, A. M., Herlan, J., Gaymer, C. F. 2022. Now you see me: recent sightings of *Seriola rivoliana* at Rapa Nui, the result of range expansion or increased scientific effort? *Journal of Fish Biology*, 100(3), 835–842. <http://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.14983> [2021 SJR 0.609 (Q2 in Aquatic Science and Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics)]
- Tapia-Guerra, J. M., Asorey, C., Easton, E. E., Wagner, D., Gorny, M, Sellanes, J. 2021. First ecological characterization of whip black coral assemblages (Hexacorallia: Antipatharia) in the Easter Island Ecoregion, southeastern Pacific. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8:755898. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.755898> [2021 SJR 1.355 (Q1 in Oceanography, Aquatic Science, and Environmental Science)]
- Stefanoudis, P.V., Biancani, L.M., Cambronero-Solano, S., Clark, M., Copley, J. T., Easton, E. E., Elmer, F., Haddock, S. H. D., Herrera, S., Iglesias, I. S., Quattrini, A. M., Sigwart, J., Yesson, C., Glover, A. G. 2021. Moving conferences online: lessons learned from an international virtual meeting. *Proceedings Royal Society B*, 288:20211769. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.1769> [2021 SJR 1.987 (Q1 in Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, and Environmental Science)]
- Asorey, C., Sellanes, J., Wagner, D., Easton, E. E. 2021. Complete mitogenome of two Antipathidae whip corals from Rapa Nui (Easter Island). *Mitochondrial DNA Part. B*, 6:11, 3226–3228. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23802359.2021.1990150> [2021 SJR 0.266 (Q4 in Genetics and Molecular Biology)]
- Friedlander, A. M., Goodell, W., Giddens, J., Easton, E. E., Wagner, D. 2021. Deep-sea biodiversity at the extremes of the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges with implications for conservation. *PLoS ONE* 16(6): e0253213. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0253213> [2021 SJR 0.852 (Q1 in Multidisciplinary)]
- Tapia-Guerra, J. M., Mecho, A., Easton, E. E., Gallardo, M., Sellanes, J. 2021. First description of deep benthic habitats and communities of oceanic islands and seamounts of the Nazca Desventuradas Marine Park, Chile. *Scientific Reports* 11:6209. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-85516-8> [2021 SJR 1.005 (Q1 in Multidisciplinary)]
- Wagner, D., van der Meer, L., Gorny, M., Sellanes, J., Gaymer, C.F., Soto, E. H., Easton, E. E., Friedlander, A. M., Lindsay, D.J. Molodtsova, T. N., Boteler, B., Durussel, C., Gjerde, K.

- M., Currie, D., Gianni, M., Brooks, C. M., Shipley, M., Wilhelm, T. A., Quesada, M., Thomas, T., Dunstan, P. K., Clark, N. A., Villanueva, L., Pyle, R. L., Clark, M., Georgian, S. E., Morgan, L. E. 2021. The Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges: A review of the importance, opportunities and challenges for protecting a global diversity hotspot on the high seas. *Marine Policy* 126:104377. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104377> [2021 SJR 1.166 (Q1 in Aquatic Science, Environmental Science, and Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law)]
- Mecho, A., Dewitte, B., Sellanes, J., van Gennip, S., Easton, E. E., Gusmao, J. B. 2021. Environmental drivers of mesophotic echinoderm assemblages of the southeastern Pacific Ocean. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 8:574780. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.574780> [2021 SJR 1.355 (Q1 in Oceanography, Aquatic Science, and Environmental Science)]
- Asorey, C., Sellanes, J., Easton, E. E., Bieler, R., Mecho, A. 2020. *Architectonica karsteni* Rutsch, 1934 (Gastropoda: Architectonicidae) in seamounts of the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park: First evidence of an extant population in Chilean waters since the Miocene. *Nautilus*. 134(2):1-10.
- Shepherd, B., Pinheiro, H., Phelps, T., Easton, E. E., Pérez-Matus, A., Rocha, L. 2020. A New Species of *Chromis* (Teleostei: Pomacentridae) from mesophotic coral ecosystems of Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and Salas y Gómez, Chile. *Copeia*. 108 (2), 326-332. <https://doi.org/10.1643/CI-19-294>
- Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. 2020. Complete mitogenome of *Carijoa riisei* (Octocorallia: Alcyonacea: Stolonifera: Clavulariidae). *Mitochondrial DNA Part. B*. 5, 1826–1827. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23802359.2020.1750998>
- Morales, N., Easton, E. E., Friedlander, A. M., Harvey, E. S., Garcia, R., Gaymer, C.F. 2019. Spatial and seasonal differences in the top predators of Easter Island: essential data for implementing the new Rapa Nui multiple-uses marine protected area. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*. 29 (S2), 118–129. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.3068>
- Mecho, A., Sellanes, J., Easton, E. E., Gorny, M., Mah, C. 2019. Unexplored diversity of the mesophotic echinoderm fauna of the Easter Island ecoregion. *Marine Biology*, 166, 91. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-019-3537-x>
- Easton, E.E., Hicks, D. 2019. Complete mitochondrial genome of *Callogorgia* cf. *gracilis* (Octocorallia: Calcaxonia: Primnoidae). *Mitochondrial DNA Part. B*. 4, 361–362. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23802359.2018.1544042>
- Hoeksema, B.M., Sellanes, J., Easton, E.E. 2019. A high-latitude, mesophotic *Cycloseris* field at 85 m depth off Rapa Nui (Easter Island). *Bulletin of Marine Science*. 95(1), 101–102. <https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.2018.0053>
- Rodriguez, R., Easton, E. E., Shirley, T. C., Tunnell, J. W. Jr., Hicks, D. 2018. Preliminary multivariate comparison of coral assemblages on carbonate banks in the western Gulf of Mexico. *Gulf and Caribbean Research*. 29(1), 23–33. <https://doi.org/10.18785/gcr.2901.11>
- Gorny, M., Easton, E. E., Sellanes, J. 2018. First record of black corals (Antipatharia) in shallow coastal waters of northern Chile by means of underwater video. *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Research*. 46, 457–460. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3856/vol46-issue2-fulltext-20>
- Easton, E. E., Gaymer, C. F., Friedlander, A.M., Herlan, J. J. 2018. Effects of herbivore abundance, wave exposure, and depth on benthic coral communities of the Easter Island

- Ecoregion. *Marine and Freshwater Research*. 69(6), 997–1006.
<https://doi.org/10.1071/MF17064>
- Rohal, M., Thistle, D. Easton E. E. 2018. Extraction of metazoan meiofauna from muddy deep-sea samples: operator and taxon effects on efficiency. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 502, 105–110. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2017.01.006>
- Easton, E. E., Sellanes, J. 2018. First record of the yellowfin soldierfish, *Myripristis chryseres* Jordan and Evermann 1903 (Beryciformes: Holocentridae), in the Easter Island Ecoregion. *Pacific Science* 72, 143–148. <https://doi.org/10.2984/72.1.9>
- Easton, E. E., Gaymer, C. F., Sellanes, J., Morales, N., Berkenpas, E., Gorny, M. 2016. Diversity of deep-sea fishes of the Easter Island Ecoregion. *Deep-sea Research Part II* 137, 78–88. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2016.12.006>
- Easton, E. E., Thistle, D. 2016. Do some deep-sea, sediment-dwelling species of harpacticoid copepods have 1,000-km-scale range sizes? *Molecular Ecology* 25, 4301–4318. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.13744>
- Easton, E. E., Darrow E. M., Spears T., Thistle D. 2014. The mitochondrial genomes of *Amphiascoides atopus* and *Schizopera knabeni* (Harpacticoida: Miraciidae) reveal similarities between the copepod orders Harpacticoida and Poecilostomatoida. *Gene* 538, 123–137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gene.2013.12.053>
- Easton, E. E., Thistle, D. 2014. An effective procedure for DNA isolation and voucher recovery from millimeter-scale copepods and new primers for the *18S* rRNA and *cytb* genes. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 465, 135–143. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2014.06.016>
- Rohal, M., Thistle, D., Easton, E. E. 2014. Meiofaunal abundances on the continental rise off the coast of California. *Deep-sea Research Part I* 93, 131–144. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2014.07.004>
- Easton, E. E., D. Thistle, and T. Spears. 2010. Species boundaries in *Zausodes*-complex species (Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Harpacticidae) from the north-eastern Gulf of Mexico. *Invertebrate Systematics* 24, 258–270. <https://doi.org/10.1071/IS09038>

Other publications (6 non-refereed)

- Gaymer, C.F., Wagner, D., Álvarez, R., Bravo, L., Dewitte, B., Easton, E. E., Hormazábal, S., Hucke-Gaete, R., Friedlander, A.M., Gorny, M., Luna-Jorquera, G., Ramos, M., Rodrigo, C., Sellanes, J., Soto, E., Thiel, M., Véliz, D. Importance of the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges. 10th meeting of the scientific committee, South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. 26-30 September 2022, Seoul, Korea. SC10-Doc30. <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/SC/10th-SC-2022/SC10-Doc30-Importance-of-the-Salas-y-Gomez-and-Nazca-ridges-a-CL.pdf>
- Wagner, D., Friedlander, A. M., Pyle, R. L., Gjerde, K. M., Wilhelm, T. A., Easton, E. E., Gaymer, C. F., Brooks, C. M., van der Meer, L., Morgan, L. E., Georgian, S. E. Conserving the Last Ocean Frontiers. 2021. GIS for Science: Maps for Saving the Planet, Volume 3. Wright, D.J, Harder, C (eds). ESRI Press. <https://www.esri.com/en-us/esri-press/browse/gis-for-science-maps-for-saving-the-planet-volume-3>; online companion at <https://doi.org/10.17128/9781589485877>.
- Easton, E. E., Sellanes, J. 2016. Hidden Diversity of the Fishes of Rapa Nui (La Diversidad Oculta de Peces en Rapa Nui). In: Exploring the Secrets of the Sea of Rapa Nui

- (Explorando los Secretos del Mar de Rapa Nui). Thiel, M., Narváez, S., Thieme, H. A. Impresores S.A., Chile: 44–48.
- Easton, E. E., Sellanes, J. 2015. Hidden diversity of fishes of Rapa Nui (Diversidad oculta de peces en Rapa Nui). Moe Varua, Rap Nuí. Quad Graphics Chile S.A., Chile. October 2015, 8 (92): 1–4.
- Easton, E. E. 2014. Deep-sea faunal investigations from macrofaunal abundance to Harpacticoid (Crustacea: Copepoda) species' ranges, including molecular analyses of harpacticoids. Doctoral dissertation, Florida State University.
<http://gradworks.umi.com/36/37/3637975.html>
- Easton, E. E. 2009. On species' boundaries in *Zausodes*-complex species. Masters thesis, Florida State University.
<http://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:253865/datastream/PDF/view>

Presentations (44)

- Easton, E. E. (2023) Molecular Genetics of Octocorals on MCEs: Integrative Approaches. Mesophotic Coral Reef Ecosystems Gordon Research Conference (Connectivity and Resilience Relative to Shallow Reefs). 19-14 February 2023. Ventura, California. Invited Speaker.
- Kornblum, E., Easton E. E. (December 2022) Meiofauna as indicators of ecological health of the Bahia Grande, Texas. 18th International Meiofauna Conference, Virtual. Poster.
- Sellanes J, Tapia-Guerra J, Easton E. E., Mecho A, Gallardo MA, Gorny M, Asorey CM, Zapata-Hernández G, Valdés F (May 2022) Biodiversidad bentónica de la zona subfótica en los montes submarinos e islas oceánicas de las dorsales de Nazca y Salas & Gómez. XLI Congreso de Ciencias del Mar. Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción. Concepción, Chile. Oral.
- Gallardo MA, Tapia-Guerra JM, Asorey C, Easton E. E., Mecho A, Gorny M, Macpherson E, Sellanes J (May 2022) Biogeografía de Munididae (Anomura: Crustacea) en montes submarinos de las Dorsales de Salas & Gómez y Nazca, Pacífico Sureste. XLI Congreso de Ciencias del Mar. Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción. Concepción, Chile. Oral.
- Easton, E. E. (6-8 April 2022) Improving scientific understanding of Gulf of Mexico mesophotic octocorals to maintain healthy oceans. NOAA EPP/MSI Forum, Tallahassee, FL. Invited talk.
- Gniffke, E., Macartney, K., Rivera, Z., Hicks, D., Easton, E. E. (6-8 April 2022) Preliminary assessment of Mesophotic Octocoral Microbiomes in the western Gulf of Mexico south Texas Banks. NOAA EPP/MSI Forum, Tallahassee, FL. Poster.
- Salinas, V., Hicks, D., Macartney, K., Easton, E. E. (6-8 April 2022) Growth rates of *Antipathes atlantica* and *Stichopathes luetkeni* at the Texas Clipper and in a coral aquaculture system, NOAA EPP/MSI Forum, Tallahassee, FL. Oral.
- Macartney, K., Rivera, Z., Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. (6-8 April 2022) Establishing baselines for the microbiomes of mesophotic black corals. NOAA EPP/MSI Forum, Tallahassee, FL. Oral.
- Torres-Roman, J., Hicks, D., Easton, E. E. (6-8 April 2022) Octocorals of the Gulf of Mexico Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems: A Species Photo-Identification Guide. NOAA EPP/MSI Forum, Tallahassee, FL. Poster.

- Gniffke, E., Macartney, K., Rivera, Z., Hicks, D., Easton, E. E. (March 29-April 2, 2022) Preliminary assessment of Mesophotic Octocoral Microbiomes in the western Gulf of Mexico south Texas Banks. Benthic Ecology Meeting 2022. Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Poster.
- Easton, E. E., Torres-Roman, J., Hicks, D. (March 29-April 2, 2022) Building the field guide of the future: new approaches to identification of deep-sea corals in the Gulf of Mexico. Benthic Ecology Meeting 2022. Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Poster.
- Macartney, K., Rivera, Z., Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. (March 29-April 2, 2022) Exploring the community structure and function of mesophotic black corals. Benthic Ecology Meeting 2022. Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Oral.
- Gniffke, E., Macartney, K., Rivera, Z., Hicks, D., Easton, E. E. (February 24-March 4, 2022, Online) Preliminary assessment of Mesophotic Octocoral Microbiomes in the western Gulf of Mexico south Texas Banks. Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022. Poster.
- Salinas, V., Hicks, D., Macartney, K., Easton, E. E. (February 24-March 4, 2022, Online) Growth rates of *Antipathes atlantica* and *Stichopathes luetkeni* at the Texas Clipper and in a coral aquaculture system, Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022. Poster.
- Macartney, K., Rivera, Z., Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. (February 24-March 4, 2022, Online) Establishing baselines for the microbiomes of mesophotic black corals. Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022. Poster.
- Easton, E. E., Torres-Roman, J., Hicks, D. (February 24-March 4, 2022, Online) Building the field guide of the future: new approaches to identification of deep-sea corals in the Gulf of Mexico. Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022. Oral.
- Wagner, D., van der Meer, L., Gorny, M., Sellanes, J., Gaymer, C.F., Soto, E.H., Easton, E.E., Friedlander, A.M., Lindsay, D.J. Molodtsova, T.N., Boteler, B., Durussel, C., Gjerde, K.M., Currie, D., Gianni, M., Brooks, C.M., Shiple, M., Wilhelm, T.A., Quesada, M., Thomas, T., Dunstan, P.K, Clark, N.A., Villanueva, L., Pyle, R.L., Clark, M., Georgian, S.E., Morgan, L.E. (Oct. 3-8, 2020). The Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges: challenges and opportunities for protecting a global diversity hotspot on the high seas. Oral presentation, 8th South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization (SPMFO) Science Committee Meeting. <https://www.sprfmo.int/meetings/scientific-committee/8th-sc-2020/>
- Easton, E. E., Pavliska, C., Hicks, D. 2020 (9 April). Revelations from mitogenome studies of western Gulf of Mexico octocorals. Oral presentation, NOAA Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program webinar series, archived at <https://deepseacoraldata.noaa.gov/library/deep-sea-coral-seminars>.
- Easton, E. E., Shuler, A., Etnoyer, P., Greig, T., Hicks, D. 2019. Building the field guide of the future: new approaches to identification of deep-sea corals in the Gulf of Mexico. Oral presentation (webinar), OneNOAA Science Seminars, <https://www.nodc.noaa.gov/seminars/>.
- Easton, E. E., Pavliska, C., Hicks, D. 2019. Revelations from mitogenome studies of western Gulf of Mexico octocorals. Oral presentation, International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals, Cartagena, Colombia.
- Easton, E. E., Sellanes, J. 2019. First images of the deep-sea corals of the Salas y Gómez Ridge. Poster presentation, International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals, Cartagena, Colombia.

- Easton, E. E., Pavliska, C., Hicks, D. 2019. What do mitogenome studies reveal about octocoral diversity of the western Gulf of Mexico? Oral presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.
- Easton, E. E., Hicks, D., Sellanes, J., Mecho, A. 2018. Overlooked diversity of mesophotic (coral) ecosystems. Poster presentation and lightening talk, Deep-sea Biology Symposium, Monterey, CA
- Easton, E. E., Rodriguez, R., Cooksey, M. Hicks, D. 2018. Assessing coral assemblages inhabiting relict coral banks off the south Texas coast. Oral presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Corpus Christi, TX.
- Easton, E. E., Rodriguez, R., Cooksey, M. Hicks, D. 2018. Assessing coral assemblages inhabiting relict coral banks off the south Texas coast. Oral presentation, NOAA Educational Partnership Program Forum. Washington, D.C.
- Easton, E. E., Mecho, A., Sellanes, J., Gorny, M. 2017. Deep fish communities of the Easter Island Ecoregion, Desventuradas Islands, and Juan Fernández Archipelago. Oral presentation, Congreso de Ciencias del Mar. Valparaíso, Chile.
- Easton, E. E., Morales, N., Gaymer, C. F., Sellanes, J. 2015. Diversity of deep-sea fishes of the Easter Island Ecoregion. Oral presentation, Deep-sea Biology Symposium, Aveiro, Portugal.
- Easton, E. E., Coker, R., and D. Thistle. 2014. Patterns of macrofaunal abundances on the continental rise off the coast of California. Poster presentation, Ocean Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI.
- Easton, E. E., Thistle, D., and T. Spears. 2014. Minimum range sizes of sediment-dwelling species in the deep sea: insights from harpacticoid copepods. Oral presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Jacksonville, FL.
- Easton, E. E., Thistle, D., and T. Spears. 2013. Deep-sea harpacticoids: are cryptic species a problem? Oral presentation, Aquatic Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Easton, E. E., Spears, T., and D. Thistle. 2013. Deep-sea harpacticoids: are cryptic species a problem? Oral presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Savannah, GA.
- Easton, E. E., and D. Thistle. 2012. Rocky Shores. Guest lectured three days for 4000/5000-level Marine Benthic Ecology course at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- Easton, E. E. 2012. The Deep-sea. Guest lecture, OCE4008 Principles of Oceanography, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- Easton, E. E., and D. Thistle. 2012. The novel gene order of the mitochondrial genome of *Amphiascoides atopus* (Copepoda: Harpacticoida). Oral presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Norfolk, VA.
- Easton, E. E., and D. Thistle. 2012. The novel gene order of the mitochondrial genome of *Amphiascoides atopus* (Copepoda: Harpacticoida). Oral presentation, Evolution Meeting, Ontario, Canada.
- Easton, E. E., Spears, T., and D. Thistle. 2012. Deep-sea harpacticoids: are cryptic species a problem? Oral presentation, Deep-Sea Biology Symposium, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Easton, E. E., T. Spears, and D. Thistle. 2011. 18S ribosomal DNA diversity of deep-sea harpacticoid copepods from the northeast Pacific. Poster presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Mobile, AL.
- Easton, E. E., D. Thistle, and M. Rohal. 2010. North Pacific deep-sea sediments: environmental variables. Poster presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Wilmington, NC.

- Easton, E. E. 2009. Graduate student opportunities in oceanography. Invited speaker, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Easton, E. E., and D. Thistle. 2009. Gene-sequence analysis reveals at least three species hidden in *Zausodes arenicolus* (Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Harpacticidae). Oral presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Corpus Christi, TX.
- Easton, E. E., D. Thistle, and T. Spears. 2008. Gene-sequence analysis reveals five species hidden in *Zausodes arenicolus*. Poster presentation, Ocean Sciences Meeting, Orlando, FL.
- Easton, E. E., T. Spears, and D. Thistle. 2007. Use of mitochondrial cytochrome *b* for deep-sea species discrimination. Poster presentation, Benthic Ecology Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Easton, E. E., D. Thistle, F. Coleman, and C. Koenig. 2007. The success of postlarval gag grouper as influenced by climate-induced variability in their prey and habitat. Poster presentation, Northern Gulf Institute Conference, Biloxi, MS.
- Easton, E. E. 2007. The Commons. Guest lecture, OCE4017/OCE5017 Issues in Environmental Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.

Archived datasets and repository submissions (10)

1. Easton, Erin E; Hicks, David (2022): 161 primers for PCR-amplification of Octocorallia mitochondrial genome fragments. figshare. Dataset.
<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.19617519>
2. Asorey, C. M., Sellanes, J., Wagner, D., Easton, E. E. Data from: Complete mitochondrial genomes of two species of *Stichopathes* Brook, 1889 (Hexacorallia: Antipatharia: Antipathidae) from Rapa Nui (Easter Island). DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accession MZ157399 and MZ157400. Specimens are available at Sala de Colecciones Biológicas at the Universidad Católica del Norte (SCBUCN), SCBUCN-8849 and SCBUCN-8850.
3. Tapia-Guerra, J. M., Asorey, C. M., Easton, E. E., Wagner, D., Gorny, M., Sellanes, J. Data from First ecological characterization of whip black coral assemblages (Hexacorallia: Antipatharia) in the Easter Island Ecoregion, southeastern Pacific. DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accession MZ450123 and MZ450124. Specimens are available at Sala de Colecciones Biológicas at the Universidad Católica del Norte (SCBUCN), SCBUCN-8849 and SCBUCN-8850.
4. Friedlander, A.M., Goodell, W., Giddens, J., Easton, E. E., Wagner, D. (2021), Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges dropcam data, Dryad, Dataset,
<https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.c866t1g6j>
5. Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. 2020. Data from: Complete mitogenome of *Carijoa riisei* (Octocorallia: Alcyonacea: Stolonifera: Clavulariidae). DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accession MT161608. Code and analysis scripts available at figshare (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12117675.v1>). Specimen voucher is deposited at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (USNM1616994).
6. Easton, E. E., Hicks, D. 2018. Data from: Complete mitochondrial genome of *Callogorgia* cf. *gracilis* (Octocorallia: Calcaxonia: Primnoidae). DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accession MH719202. Code and analysis scripts available at figshare (<https://figshare.com/s/f81fd4d3c23c2b4a9fc2>; DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.6998459). Specimen voucher is deposited at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (USNM1507967).

7. Easton, E. E., Sellanes, J. 2018. Data from: First record of the yellowfin soldierfish, *Myripristis chryseres* Jordan and Evermann 1903 (Beryciformes: Holocentridae), in the Easter Island Ecoregion. Video deposited on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/yJBL7ahAheA>).
8. Easton, E. E., Thistle, D. 2016. Data from: Do some deep-sea, sediment-dwelling species of harpacticoid copepods have 1,000-km-scale range sizes? DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accessions KT899098–KT899301 and KX069830–KX070241. Specimen vouchers are deposited at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (USNM1405681-1405781).
9. Easton, E. E., Darrow E. M., Spears T., Thistle D. 2014. The mitochondrial genomes of *Amphiascoides atopus* and *Schizopera knabeni* (Harpacticoida: Miraciidae) reveal similarities between the copepod orders Harpacticoida and Poecilostomatoida. DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accessions KF667526 and KF667527.
10. Easton, E. E., D. Thistle, and T. Spears. 2010. Species boundaries in *Zausodes*-complex species (Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Harpacticidae) from the north-eastern Gulf of Mexico. DNA sequences are available at NCBI GenBank, accessions FJ668333–FJ668367.

Grants and research support

Awarded

- (PI) Optimizing aquaculture of black corals for restoration of damaged habitats in Gulf of Mexico. Texas Sea Grant 2024-2026 Research Proposal Funding Opportunity. Total requested \$399,439. (Submitted 14 April 2023) Erin E. Easton, David Hicks.
- (co-PI) UTRGV - Observations of Deep-water Corals in the Gulf of Mexico. Co-PIs David Hicks, Erin E. Easton, Keir J. Macartney. Collaborator: Randy Clark. NOAA Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities. \$76,118, May 2022 – June 2023.
- (I) NOAA Cooperative Science Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems. (UTRGV PI-David Hicks, (UTRGV Co-Is) Carlos Cintra, Owen Temby, Alejandro Fierro-Cabo, John Breier, and Erin E. Easton (FAMU – lead institution), \$4,379,639, September 2021 - August 2026.
- (co-PI) Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems – COVID funding supplement for 2021-2022 to NA16SEC481009, NOAA, (UTRGV PI-David Hicks, (UTRGV Co-PIs) Erin E. Easton, and Dongkyu Kim, FAMU – lead institution), \$198,632, August 2020 – August 2022.
- (PI) University of Texas (UT) Rising STARS Program. Funding to further develop my Benthic Ecology and Evolution Laboratory and research program at UTRGV by funding the purchase of additional equipment and renovations. (\$300,000). 2020-2023
- (co-PI) The Last Outpost: biogeographic borders in the deep South-east Pacific Ocean. Schmidt Ocean Institute: Ocean Research Line. Request for 35 days ship time. Co-PI with lead PI T. Molodtsova, T. (IORAS) and co-PIs Clark, M. (National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research, NIWA), France, S. (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), Jamieson, A. (Newcastle University), Visentini Kitahara, M. (Universidade Federal de São Paulo), Sellanes, J. (ESMOI), Soto, E. (Universidad de Valparaiso), and Watling, L. (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, UH). Approved 25 October 2019; cruise scheduled for Jan-Feb 2022 (postponed until 2023).
- (Co-proponent) East/Central Pacific International Campaign EPIC-II: KONTIKI Connectivity - Uniting Oceanography Fields. Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology

- (JAMSTEC), 2019. Value ~\$1,500,000 for awarded ship time – 22 January to 2 March 2019. Co-proponent with Dhugal, L. (Co-PI, JAMSTEC).
- (co-PI) CIMAR 22, Proyecto 14, “Aspectos ecológicos y trofodinámicos de la comunidad bentónica de las islas y montes submarinos de la ecorregión de Juan Fernández y Desventuradas.” Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada de Chile (SHOA), 8,878,000CLP (~\$15,000). 2016-2018. Co-PI with Sellanes, J. and Mecho, A. (ESMOI).
- (Student co-advisor) Lost fishes of Easter Island. Save Our Seas Small Grant 361, 2016-2018. \$8,164. Co-advisor with C. F. Gamer and A. M. Friedlander to award recipient Naiti Morales (UCN doctoral candidate).

Submitted – in review

- (Institutional PI) RaMP: Biodiversity Learning for Equity, Achievement, and Diversity (BioLEAD), a Post-Baccalaureate Research and Mentoring Program in Biodiversity on a Changing Earth. NSF 2023 RaMP Funding Opportunity. Institutional award amount \$76,007. (Submitted February 2023) Erin E. Easton, Rafael Almacida.
- (co-PI) Influence of SE Pacific OMZ and anthropogenic activities on Nazca Ridge seamount communities. REV Ocean. Ship-time award (estimated value \$1,400,000) for 2023. PI Javier Sellanes, Co-PIs Ariadna Mecho, Boris Dewitte, Erin E. Easton, Lisa Levin, Tina Molodtsova, and Daniel Wagner.

Not funded

- (PI) 2023 Early-Career Research Fellowship: Environmental Protection and Stewardship (Track Two). National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program Funding Opportunity. Total Requested \$76,000. (Submitted 28 April 2023) Erin E Easton (mentor Carlos Cintra).
- (co-PI) Knowledge coproduction in Bahia Grande: Using Hydraulic and Ecological Modeling for restoration management. NOAA RESTORE Science Program 2023 Actionable Science Funding Opportunity. Total award amount \$1,685,612. (Submitted 30 November 2022) Co-PIs David Hicks, Erin Easton, Owen Temby.
- (co-I) Aquatic habitat quality, use, and productivity of the restoring Bahia Grande system: assessing the need for further interventions in linked basins (2023-2028). Cintra Buenrostro, CE (PI), Fierro Cabo, A (co-PI), Beneveides, J (co-I), Easton, EE (co-I). SHOA CIMAR 26 Islas Oceánicas. \$1,814,916. (Submitted 30 November 2022)
- (PI) MRI: Acquisition of a nano-scale 3D X-ray microscope for evolutionary, functional, and structural analyses of materials and organisms at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). PI Easton, EE, and co-PIs Cheng, C, Li, J, Vanegas, J, Alcoutlabi, M. Senior personnel: Gonzalez, J, Dirrigl, F. NSF MRI preproposal. \$956,473. (Preproposal submitted to internal competition 6 October 2022, not selected 28 October 2022)
- (co-PI) South Texas fishery-independent monitoring for ecosystem-based fishery management. NOAA RESTORE Science Program 2021 Funding Opportunity NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2021-2006590. NOAA. Total award amount \$124,996. (Submitted 15 December 2020)
- (Senior personnel) How will coral populations from the wider Gulf of Mexico influence mesophotic and deep benthic restoration? NOAA RESTORE Science Program 2021 Funding Opportunity NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2021-2006590. (Submitted 15 December 2020)

Areas of research experience and competence

Benthic ecology

Deep-sea ecology
Molecular ecology
Mesophotic ecosystems
Marine ecology, biodiversity, and biogeography
Benthic infaunal (meio- and macrofaunal) communities.
Benthic and demersal seamount and soft-bottom communities
Coral communities, fishes and trophic interactions
Conservation and management
Experimental design and applied biostatistics.
Geographic information systems (GIS)
Taxonomy and genetics of harpacticoid copepods and other fauna
Cruise experience: deep-sea cruises of 15-33 d that included sample collection with ROV, HOV, multicore, trawl, and CTD and sample processing for morphological, stable isotope, and genetic analyses

Courses taught

Benthic Ecology (MARS5370)
Principles in Marine Science (MARS2101)
Marine Science Communication (MARS4301)
Oceanography (MARS5370)
Ecología y conservación de islas oceánicas y montes submarinos (Ecology and conservation of oceanic islands and seamounts; Instructor of record)
Elementary Oceanography (Instructor of record)
Honors Elementary Oceanography (Instructor of record)

Courses tutored

Astronomy
Biology I
Biology II
Dynamic Earth
Elementary Oceanography
Evolution
General Biology
Genetics
Principles of Oceanography

Master's student advisor (4 current students)

Eckley, Kara
Gniffke, Edward
Kornblum, Emily
Garcia, Katherine

Master's committee member (10 students; 5 graduated, 5 current)

Brown, M., student
Orive, G., student
Gonzales, J., student.

Moore, N., graduate. (2022)
Angerer, K., graduate. (2022)
Collins, S., graduate. (2022)
Salinas, V., graduate. (2022)
Hernandez, R., graduate. (2021)
Pavlska, C., graduate. (2019)
Faircloth, B. D., graduate. (2019)
Otte, H., graduate. (2018)
Figueroa, N., graduate. (2017)

Undergraduate supervisor

Solis, Pedro (2022-)
Franklin, Mac (2022-)
Ramirez, Carlo (2021-2022)
Torres-Roman, Jazmin (2021-2022)
Garza, Victoria (2021)

Undergraduate thesis mentor or committee member (3 graduated students, 2 with Honors)

Almendras Garcia, D. E., Thesis (Biología Marina), graduate. (2017)
Coker, R., Honor in the Major (Biology), graduate. (2012)
Darrow, E., Honor in the Major (Biology), graduate. (2012)

High school Mentor

Salazar, Mike (2021)

Languages

English — Native
Spanish— Oral and written proficiency, including functional fluency in field and laboratory settings.

Certifications

Essentials of Research Administration (1-Basic Course), CITI PROGRAM. Valid 15 Oct 2021 – 14 Oct 2024. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative website (www.citiprogram.org) (2021)
Essentials of Grant Proposal Development (1-Basic Course), CITI PROGRAM. Valid 14 Oct 2021 – 13 Oct 2024. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative website (www.citiprogram.org) (2021)
Independent Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR), Quality Matters, <https://www.qualitymatters.org/>. Provides Teaching Online Certification as required by University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT). (2020)
College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) certification, Online CRLA training, <https://www.crla.net/>. (2011)
HAZWOPER24 certification, Online OSHA training, <https://www.osha.com/courses/hazwoper-24-hour.html>. (2011)

Community service

Beach Cleanup (2022)

Science Fair Judge. Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Brownsville, TX. (2018, 2021)

Conference organizer and host. Co-organized and co-hosted the first remote conference (eDSBS) for the Deep-Sea Biology Society members. eDSBS online. (19-21 August 2020)

Public lecturer. World Ocean's Day at Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, TX. (2018)

Public lecturer. Presentation series at local schools on Easter Island. (2015-2017)

Science Fair Judge. Capital Regional Science Fair, Tallahassee, FL. (2007-2008, 2011-2012)

Regional Science Fair, Brownsville, TX. (2018)

President. Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science (formerly Oceanography) graduate student organization, Florida State University. (2009-2011)

Student representative. Department of Oceanography student representative for department merger retreats and meetings, Florida State University. (2010) President's Retreat for Student Organization leaders, Florida State University. (2009)

Volunteer. The Florida Symposium on Offshore Energy Part I-II. (2009-2010)

Organizer. Fun-run fundraiser for Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science (formerly Oceanography), Florida State University. (2009-2010) Graduate Student Symposium for Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science (formerly Oceanography), Florida State University. (2009-2010)

Committee service

Committee member. Search Committee. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. (AY20-21, AY21-22, 3 in AY 22-23)

Committee member. PhD Committee. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. (2021-)

Chair. Website Committee. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. (2021-)

Membership Trustee (Officer). Deep-Sea Biology Society. (2021-)

Secretary. Deep-Sea Biology Society. (2018-2021)

Member. Hurricane Preparedness Planning Committee. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. (2017-)

Trustee. Deep-Sea Biology Society. (2015-2018)