

Erin E. Easton, Ph.D.

Contact information

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

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.
2017–2020 Assistant research scientist, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine
Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas.
2014–2017 Postdoctoral fellow, Ecology and Sustainable Management of Oceanic Islands
(ESMOI), Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN), Coquimbo, Chile.

Invited book chapters (refereed)

Easton, E. E., Gorny, 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)

Morelos, N., Herlan, J., Friedlander, Easton, E.E., Gaymer, C.F. In prep. First record of *Seriola rivoliana* (Perciformes: Carangidae) from Easter Island, Chile.
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.
Mecho, A., Dewitte, B., Sellanes, J., van Gennip, S., Easton, E.E., Gusmao, J.B. In review. Limiting factors of echinoderm assemblages of euphotic systems of the southeastern Pacific Ocean.
Tapia-Guerra, E.E., Mecho, A., Easton, E.E., Gallardo, M., Sellanes, J. In review. First characterization of deep benthic habitats and communities of the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park seamounts and oceanic islands. Scientific Reports.
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>
- Morelos, 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.
- 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. DOI: 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Rohal, M., Thistle, D., Easton, E. E. 2014. Meiofaunal abundances on the continental rise off the coast of California, including some unexpected results. *Deep-sea Research Part I* 93, 131–144.
- 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.

Publications (non-refereed)

- 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

- 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. Valparaiso, 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.

Current Research Projects

Center for Coastal Marine Ecosystems. NOAA award number NA16SEC481009 (FAMU – lead institution), 2017-2022. Assistant research scientist (postdoctoral fellow).

Grants and research support

Awarded

- 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.
- 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).
- 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).
- 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

- Influence of SE Pacific OMZ and anthropogenic activities on Nazca Ridge seamounts communities. REV Ocean. Ship-time award (estimated value \$1,400,000) for 2023. PI Javier Sellanes, Co-PIs Ariadna Mecho, Boris Dewitte, Erin Easton, Lisa Levin, Tina Molodtsova, and Daniel Wagner.

Exploration of Gulf of Mexico Deep Coral-dominated Ecosystems using eDNA and Quantitative Visual Surveys. NOAA OER, 2021-20211. ~\$740,000. PI Erin E. Easton, Co-PIs Mercer Brugler, Meredith Everett, and David Hicks.

Certifications

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)

Languages

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

Community service

Public lecturer. World Ocean's Day at Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, TX. (2018)
Science Fair Judge. Regional Science and Engineering Fair, 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

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