

John Hlavin, PhD

Email: hlavinjf@eckerd.edu | Phone: (727) 864-8358
ORCID: [0009-0005-4190-9354](https://orcid.org/0009-0005-4190-9354) | Website: dr.johnhlavin.com | Last updated: 7/30/2026

Education

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL
Ph.D., Environmental Science and Policy, with honors, 2026
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
B.S., Biological Sciences, *cum laude*, 2021

Academic Appointments

Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL
Assistant Professor, Marine Science

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants

Frost Institute of Data Science and Computing Student Grant – 20,000 service units (2025)
The Annual Mary Roche Fellowship - \$7000 (2024)
Save Our Seas Foundation Small Grant – \$5100 (2024)
Florida Sea Grant Guy Harvey Fellowship - \$5000 (2024)
Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy Fellowship – c. \$380,000 total value (2023 – 2026)
NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship - \$26,000 (2019)

Peer Reviewed Publications | * denotes undergraduate mentee

Hlavin, J. F., Saltzman, J. R., D'Alessandro, E. K., & Macdonald, C. C. (2026). A decision tree to guide precautionary and adaptive tiering in marine nursery identification and management. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 13, 1812999. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2026.1812999>
Saltzman, J., Yeager, E., **Hlavin, J.**, Fuentes, M., Krumholtz, M., Kynoch, C., Putillo, A., Schweizer, K., Ventura, R., & Macdonald, C. (2026). Charting the course for management: a global analysis of impacts of vessels on marine megafauna. *NPJ Ocean Sustainability*, 5, 11. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-026-00182-5>
Hlavin, J. F., Yeager, E. A., Martin, C. E., Will, C. J., Perni, N., Pankow, C., & Macdonald, C. C. (2026). Is the seagrass greener on the other side? Faster growth in Biscayne Bay, Florida's nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) compared to neighboring conspecifics of Bimini, The Bahamas. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, 109, 30. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10641-025-01784-7>
Saltzman, J. R., **Hlavin, J. F.**, Martin, C. E., Yeager, E. A., & Macdonald, C. C. (2026). Behavioral evidence of predator–predator commensalism: Cobia track and feed on prey disturbed by southern stingrays. *Ethology*, 132: 225–234. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eth.70044>
Hlavin, J. F., & Macdonald, C. C. (2025). Nursery resource-use dynamics in great hammerheads (*Sphyrna mokarran*) across ontogeny. *Ecology and Evolution*, 15(6), e71473. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71473>

In submission/review/revision:

Hlavin, J. F., & Macdonald, C. C. *In submission*. Coastal sharks reveal unexpected diversity in ontogenetic niche trajectories. *Science Advances*.
Hlavin, J. F., Coleman, R. R., D'Alessandro, E. K., Saltzman, J. R., Shiffman, D. S., Yeager, E. A., & Macdonald, C. C. *In review*. Multi-method insights into ontogenetic dietary shifts in tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*). *Ecology and Evolution*.
Hlavin, J. F., Martin, C. E., Yeager, E. A., Saltzman, J. R., Pankow, C., Perni, N., & Macdonald, C. C. *In revision*. From mangroves to mouths: Tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) consumption of an invasive green iguana (*Iguana iguana*). *Ecosphere*.

In prep:

McMullen, R. J.*, **Hlavin, J. F.**, Powers, K. A., Pate, J., & Macdonald, C. C. *In prep*. Characterizing the diet and trophic ecology of the Atlantic guitarfish (*Pseudobatos lentiginosus*).
Lubas, M. B.*, **Hlavin, J. F.**, & Macdonald, C. C. *In prep*. Dietary shifts during gestation in bonnethead sharks (*Sphyrna tiburo*) using stable isotope analysis.

Conference Presentations | * denotes undergraduate mentee, # denotes speaker

- Hlavin, J. F.#**, & Macdonald, C. C. Niche-shift reconstruction reveals divergent ontogenetic strategies in coastal sharks. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (American Elasmobranch Society)*, New Orleans, LA. July 9, 2026 – Oral
- McMullen, R. J.#*, **Hlavin, J. F.**, Powers, K. A., Pate, J., Swart, P. K., & Macdonald, C. C. Characterizing the diet and trophic ecology of the Atlantic guitarfish. *Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD. August 13, 2025 – Oral
- Hlavin, J. F.#**, Yeager, E. A., Martin, C. C., Will, C. J., Perni, N., Pankow, C., & Macdonald, C. C. Is the seagrass greener on the other side? Faster growth in Biscayne Bay, Florida's nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) compared to neighboring conspecifics of Bimini, The Bahamas. *Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, MD. August 12, 2025 – Oral
- McMullen, R. J.#*, **Hlavin, J. F.**, Powers, K. A., Pate, J., Swart, P. K., & Macdonald, C. C. Characterizing the diet and trophic ecology of the Atlantic guitarfish. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (American Elasmobranch Society)*, St. Paul, MN. July 13, 2025 – Oral
- Hlavin, J. F.#**, Yeager, E. A., Coleman, R. R., & Macdonald, C. C. Reconstructing diets of tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) in South Florida. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (American Elasmobranch Society)*, St. Paul, MN. July 10, 2025 – Oral
- Hlavin, J. F.#**, & Macdonald, C. C. Nursery resource-use dynamics in great hammerheads (*Sphyrna mokarran*) across ontogeny. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (American Elasmobranch Society)*, Pittsburgh, PA. July 14, 2024 – Oral
- Hlavin, J. F.#**, & Macdonald, C. C. Great hammerhead seasonal resource-use in an identified nursery. *Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit*, Miami Beach, FL. May 20, 2024 – Oral
- Hlavin, J. F.#**, & Laetz, C. Investigating the sublethal effects of bunker oil phototoxicity on Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) embryos. *NWSFC Hollings Scholar Symposium*, Seattle, WA. August 7, 2020 – Oral
- Hlavin, J. F.#**, Bertolet, B., & Jones, S. Modelando la composición de la comunidad de bacterioplancton en los lagos del norte. *Galapagos Science Center Public Outreach Colloquium*, San Cristóbal, Ecuador. August 23, 2019 – Oral

Teaching and Mentorship

Assistant Professor | Eckerd College, Marine Science Discipline (2026 – present)

BI 301: Principles of Ecology
MS 315: Elasmobranch Biology and Management

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Miami (2022 – 2025)

ECS 112: Field Problems in Ecosystem Science and Policy
ECS 301: Quantitative Methods for Environmental Decision-making
EVR 634: Shark Behavioral Ecology and Conservation
RSM 630: Elasmobranch Field Research Skills

Invited Lectures

Spring 2026	University of Miami ECS 202: Seminar Series in Contemporary Environmental Issues <i>Methods to Explore Trophodynamics of Sharks and Rays</i>
Fall 2025	Eckerd College Marine Science Seminar <i>Trophic Ecology of Biscayne Bay's Sharks and Rays</i>
Fall 2025	University of Miami ECS 201: Seminar Series in Contemporary Environmental Issues <i>Fish Are What Fish Eat: Using Isotopes to Study Shark and Ray Trophic Ecology</i>
Spring 2025	University of Miami MGS 750: Stable Isotopes in Biogeochemical Processes <i>Using Stable Isotopes to Explore Trophodynamics in Sharks</i>

Student Mentorship | * denotes pursuing master's degree, # denotes pursuing doctorate degree

Miles Lubas*, University of Miami | Bachelor's Honors Thesis (2025 – 2026)
Dietary Shifts During Gestation in Bonnethead Sharks (Sphyrna tiburo) Using Stable Isotope Analysis

Ryan McMullen#, University of Miami | Bachelor's Honors Thesis (2024 – 2025)
Characterizing the Diet and Trophic Ecology of the Atlantic Guitarfish

Selected Media and Public Engagement

Social media outreach:

Since August 2022, I have built a social media presence (reach of over 200,000 followers) as a science communicator whose content primarily focuses on shark biology and ecology, STEM education and career guidance, and commentary on human-wildlife interactions. From my work in science communication I have established collaborations with leading marine science organizations and have been named a Guy Harvey Ambassador and an inaugural Monterey Bay Aquarium Ambassador.

Television:

My social media content has been featured on CNN and I have been interviewed by NBC6 Miami.

Press coverage:

My research has been covered by Forbes, BBC, Popular Science, Scienmag, Greater Good, Science&Vie, and Mirage, leading to research outputs with impact scores in the top 5% on Altmetric.

Professional Service

Peer review:

Since 2025, have served as a referee for *Journal of Nature Conservation*, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, and *Marine Biology*.

Internal service:

In 2024, I served on faculty search committee for Robert K. Johnson Center for Marine Conservation.

External service:

I was a member of the review committee for the 2026 selection of Florida Sea Grant Guy Harvey Fellows.

Honors and Awards

National Eagle Scout Association Galapagos World Explorer (2019)
University of Notre Dame Dean's List (2017 – 2021)

Certifications

MOCC Small Boat Operator
AAUS 30ft Scientific Diver
DAN Diving First Aid for Professionals
PADI Advanced Open Water and Enriched Air Nitrox Diver