

Scientist Spotlight



DR. SABRINA TAYLOR

<http://www.rnr.lsu.edu/people/taylor/>

Q1. What is your educational background?

BS in Biology at the University of Victoria,
Victoria, BC, Canada
MS in Biology at Dalhousie University, Halifax,
NS, Canada
PhD in Zoology at the University of Otago,
Dunedin, New Zealand

Q2. What inspired you to become a scientist?

Time spent outdoors with my Dad, a real
interest in science, great math teachers in high
school, and National Geographic.

Q3. What is your role as a scientist for CWC?

Together with co-PI Dr. Philip Stouffer, and Drs.
Stefan Woltmann and Christine Bergeon Burns, I
work on the effect of oil on Seaside Sparrows
and marsh rice rats. We are examining Seaside
Sparrow reproductive success, population size,
and dispersal; altered predator-prey interactions
in collaboration with Drs. Jill Olin and Linda
Hooper-Bui; incorporation of oil into food web;
stress hormone levels; and metabolism of PAHs
in Seaside Sparrows and marsh rice rats.

Q4. What do you like most about doing scientific research?

I like everything: formulating an idea,
collecting the data, analyzing the data, and
writing it up. I think that the inevitable
unforeseen challenges are always interesting,
and I love seeing what the results reveal.

Q5. Can you describe any surprising findings you have come across so far?

The most surprising thing has probably been
the lack of research examining the effect of
oil spills on terrestrial vertebrates. Most
studies have focused on marine organisms,
so I think our work is filling an important gap.



The Coastal Waters Consortium's mission to
assess the chemical evolution, biological
degradation, and environmental stresses of
petroleum and dispersant within Gulf of Mexico
coastal and shelf ecosystems.

