

The Coastal Waters Consortium Presents:

# Scientist Spotlight



## Dr. Anthony Rietl

### What is your role as a scientist for CWC?

I am a postdoctoral researcher in an Ecosystems Ecology and Wetland Biogeochemistry lab

### Can you summarize your oil spill research and describe any surprising findings you have come across?

The research I am involved with is still ongoing. I am looking at how oiling affects plant communities by comparing plant production of four salt marsh species in oiled and unoled sites. I also have many upcoming projects in the summer of 2017 examining ecosystem responses to oiling in our mesocosm facility currently under construction.

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

### What is your educational background?

I received my B.S. from the University of Louisville, my M.S. from the University Of Mississippi, and my PhD from Louisiana State University

### What inspired you to become a scientist?

I've always been fascinated with nature and spent most of my time as a child playing in the woods. As I got older it was the books I read and the teachers I had along the way that inspired me to go into Ecology as a career. Some of the books that had a big impact on me in high school and college were John Muir's *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, also Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, and Lynn Margulis's *Microcosmos*

### Can you describe what you enjoy the most about conducting scientific research?

Finding answers to interesting questions about nature and being outdoors. I really enjoy coming up with my own research questions and having the freedom to follow those interests.

