

The Coastal Waters Consortium Presents:

Scientist Spotlight

Kendall Valentine



What is your educational background?

I am an Oceanography PhD student with Dr. Mariotti at LSU. Prior to coming to Louisiana, I received my Bachelors at Boston University in Marine Science and my Masters at Boston College in Geophysics.

What inspired you to become a scientist?

As a child, my parents took me on many vacations around the country and explored the natural world around us. From the lakes in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, to the salt marshes and sand spits of Cape Cod, MA, to the picturesque vistas and elk in Rocky Mountain National Park, we were always exploring. I credit this early education about science and the environment, along with visits to National Parks, with leading me on my career path.

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

My favorite part about my specific scientific research is being out in the field. I always enjoy getting covered in mud and remembering what the real purpose is behind the research. Overall though, science is very exciting. It is extremely rewarding to be researching something that no one has ever looked at before and every bit of new knowledge reinvigorates my interest in scientific research.



What is your role as a scientist for CWC?

I am a PhD student in Oceanography at Louisiana State University doing my research on sediment transport in coastal Louisiana.

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

I am in the preliminary stages of my research and have no findings at this point related to the oil spill. I am working in Barataria bay looking at suspended sediment transport and ground-truthing a model that Dr. Giulio Mariotti is working on for the CWC.

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.