

# Scientist Spotlight



## Samuel Kelsey

### What is your educational background?

I have a BS in Biology from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.

### What inspired you to become a scientist?

Growing up in Maine, I was always surrounded by nature. A summer job working as a commercial lobsterman gave me an appreciation for fisheries and their importance to the coastal economy. Studying marine biology seemed like a natural continuation of how I grew up.

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

The best part of this job is the mix of work. I get to spend time collecting samples in the field, analyzing them in the laboratory and then seeing the final results in the office.

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

I am a Research Assistant for the Ecosystems Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory. I primarily work with nutrient chemistry in salt marshes.

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

I am mostly involved in marsh nutrient measurements and we have been examining related marsh processes. So far we have not found much difference between previously oiled and un-oiled sites, however, our first data was collected two or more years after the spill. I look forward to analyzing samples from the mesocosms where we will have a complete time series starting immediately without a sampling lag.



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.