

July 15, 2025

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Research Assistant Professor

UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station

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DOB: May 10, 1986

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Brown University, Providence, RI, USA. 2019.

M.Sc., Tropical Ecology. Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. 2011.

B.Sc. with honors, Biology, and B.A. with honors, International Studies. Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA. 2008.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Facultad de Ciencias Biologicas, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. 2024 - Present

Adjunct Professor, College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University. 2024 - Present

Affiliate Professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Florida. 2024 - Present

Affiliate Professor, School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida. 2023 - Present

Research Assistant Professor, Nature Coast Biological Station, University of Florida. 2022 - Present

Post-doctoral Investigator, Brown University. July 2021 - July 2022

Weston Howland, Jr. Post-Doctoral Scholar, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. June 2019 – June 2021

Adjunct Professor, Rhode Island College. September - December 2018

Research Associate, Universidad San Francisco de Quito. 2011-2013

US Fulbright Fellow to Ecuador. 2008-2009

PUBLICATIONS

Lamb, RW, A Pérez-Matus, V Garmendia, J Suarez-Moncada, MT Ortega, S Banks, NT Sanchez, A Dubey, and JD Witman. 2025. Discovery of populations of the critically endangered coral *Rhizopsammia wellingtoni* in the Galápagos mesophotic zone. Conservation Science and Practice, e70103. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.70103>

- Agarwal, M, **RW Lamb**, F Smith, and JD Witman. 2024. Distribution and ecology of shallow-water black corals across a depth gradient on Galápagos rocky reefs. *Coral Reefs*, 1-13.
- Castello y Tickell, S, N Low, **RW Lamb**, M Brandt, and JD Witman. 2022. Distribution and feeding ecology of sea stars in the Galapagos rocky subtidal zone. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 553: 151754.
- Preston, DL and **RW Lamb**. 2021. Effects of trout aquaculture on water chemistry of tropical montane streams in Ecuador. *River Research and Applications*: 1– 5.
- Fernández-Cisternas, I, J Majlis, MI Ávila-Thieme, **RW Lamb**, and A Pérez-Matus. 2021. Endemic species dominate reef fish interaction networks on two isolated oceanic islands. *Coral Reefs*: 1-15.
- Tuttle, L, **RW Lamb**, and A Springer. Differential learning by native versus invasive predators to avoid distasteful cleaning mutualists. 2021. *Functional Ecology*, 35: 1481-1490.
- Lang, AE, A Yakhkind, **RW Lamb**, and KM Stack. Effect of a Basic Training Nicotine-Free Policy on Soldiers in the United States Army. 2021. *Chest*, 160: 1137-1139.
- Lamb, RW**, F Smith, and JD Witman. 2020. Consumer mobility predicts impacts of herbivory across an environmental stress gradient. *Ecology*: e02910.
- Beltram, FL, **RW Lamb**, F Smith, and JD Witman. 2019. Rapid proliferation and impacts of cyanobacterial mats on Galapagos rocky reefs during the 2014–2017 El Niño Southern Oscillation. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 514: 18-26.
- Lamb, RW**, AW Aued, F Smith, P Salinas de Leon, J Suarez, M Gomez-Chiarri, R Smolowitz, C Giray, and JD Witman. 2018. El Niño drives a widespread ulcerative skin disease outbreak in Galapagos marine fishes. *Scientific Reports*, 8:16602.
- Press coverage by the *New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, and *National Geographic*
- Quimbayo, JP, MS Dias, M Kulbicki, TC Mendes, **RW Lamb**, AF Johnson, O Aburto-Oropeza, JJ Alvarado, AA Bocos, CE Ferreira, E Garcia, OJ Luiz, I Mascareñas-Osorio, HT Pinheiro, E Salas, FA Zapata, and SR Floeter. 2018. Determinants of reef fish assemblages in tropical oceanic islands. *Ecography*, DOI: 10.1111/ecog.03506.
- Witman, JD and **RW Lamb**. 2018. Persistent differences between coastal and offshore kelp forest communities in a warming Gulf of Maine. *PLOS One*, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0189388.
- Press coverage by *National Geographic* and *Divers Alert Network*
- Winkler, NS, MP Goicoechea, **RW Lamb**, and A Perez-Matus. 2017. Diet reveals links between morphology and foraging in a cryptic temperate reef fish. *Ecology and Evolution*, DOI: 10.1002/ece3.3604.
- Perez-Matus, A, F Sánchez, JC González-But, and **RW Lamb**. 2016. Understory algae associations and predation risk influence broad-scale kelp habitat use in a temperate reef fish. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 559: 147–158.
- Witman, JD, **RW Lamb**, and JEK Byrnes. 2015. Towards an integration of scale and complexity in marine ecology. *Ecological Monographs*, 85(4): 475-504.
- Lamb, RW** and DW Johnson. 2010. Trophic restructuring of coral reef fish communities in a large marine reserve. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 408: 169-180.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025-2026 Re:Wild, “Surveying the Lost Coral Species *Rhizopsammia wellingtoni* in the Galapagos Islands.” A Pilnick, R Yanong, J Patterson, and RW Lamb. \$10,000.

2025-2026 Conservation, Food and Health Foundation, “Using eDNA for marine conservation in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.” RW Lamb, D Pazmiño, and D Duffy. \$43,575.

2024-2025 Florida Sea Grant, “Blue crab habitat affinities across the salt marsh-mangrove ecotone.” R.W. Lamb. \$10,000.

2023-2024 The National Science Foundation, “RAPID: Effects of the 2023-24 El Niño on fish disease and population dynamics in the Galapagos Islands.” R.W. Lamb, D. Behringer, R. Yanong, and K. Subramaniam. \$200,000.

2019-2020 The Rufford Foundation, “Building resilience of Galapagos marine food webs to climate change.” R.W. Lamb and S. Thorrold. \$12,000.

2019-2020 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Post-Doctoral Fellowship, “Trophic ecology of Galapagos marine fishes.” R.W. Lamb. \$97,000.

2018-2019 The Rufford Foundation, Regional Conference Organizer Award, “Conservation ecology of the Tropical Eastern Pacific.” R.W. Lamb. \$12,000.

2017-2018 Brown University – Institute at Brown for the Environment and Society (IBES) Graduate Research Grant, “Population dynamics of Galapagos reef fishes.” R.W. Lamb. \$5,000.

2016-2017 The Bushnell Research and Education Fund, Dissertation Development and Improvement Grant, “Experimental manipulation of herbivory across a wave exposure gradient: a test of the stress-mobility hypothesis.” R.W. Lamb. \$13,000.

2016-2017 The Rufford Foundation, “Assessment and mitigation of the effects of the 2015-16 El Niño event on reef fishes of the Galapagos Islands.” R.W. Lamb. \$12,000.

2016 The Brazil Initiative Green Fund, “Placing Brazil’s Reef Fish Communities in a Global Context.” R.W. Lamb. \$2,000.

2016-2017 Brown University – IBES Graduate Research Fellowship, “Effects of El Niño-associated ocean warming on Galapagos reef fish communities.” R.W. Lamb. \$86,000.

2015 Brown University – IBES Graduate Research Grant, “Effects of wave turbulence on marine herbivory.” R.W. Lamb. \$5,000.

2015 Global Mobility Graduate Research Fellowship, “Effects of reef fish diversity and environmental stressors on benthic ecosystem functioning in the Galapagos Islands.” R.W. Lamb. \$9,000.

2014-2015 The Rufford Foundation, “Fish diversity in the Galapagos Islands: implications for marine reserve management and ecosystem functioning.” R.W. Lamb. \$12,000.

2014-2015 American Museum of Natural History – Lerner-Gray Fund, “Effects of reef fish diversity and environmental stressors on benthic ecosystem functioning.” R.W. Lamb. \$2,000.

2014 Watson Institute International Research Award, “Integrating fisheries knowledge and values into living marine resource stewardship plans: collaborative management for a sustainable future.” R.W. Lamb. \$2,500

2014 Sidney Frank Graduate Fellowship Award, R.W. Lamb. \$3,800.

2011-2012 The Rufford Foundation, "Biogeography and conservation of rocky intertidal communities of coastal Ecuador." R.W. Lamb. \$10,000.

2009-2011 Universidad San Francisco de Quito – Graduate Research Grant, "Biogeografía de comunidades intermareales del Ecuador." R.W. Lamb. \$2,500.

2009-2011 Universidad San Francisco de Quito – Graduate Research Fellowship. R.W. Lamb. \$8,500.

2008 - 2009 U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to Ecuador. R.W. Lamb. \$14,000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record. Marine Ecological Processes. University of Florida. Fall 2024.

Instructor of Record. Field Ecology of Aquatic Organisms. University of Florida. Summer 2024.

Adjunct Professor. Invertebrate Zoology (lecture and lab). Rhode Island College. Fall 2018.

Teaching Assistant. Environmental Science in a Changing World. Brown University. Fall 2017.

Teaching Assistant. Principles of Ecology. Brown University. Spring 2014, 2015, 2016.

Teaching Assistant. Experimental Design. Brown University. Spring 2017.

Teaching Assistant. Marine Ecology. Universidad San Francisco de Quito. 2009, 2010, 2012.

MENTORING

Graduate Advisor

Carter Oleckna, "Climate Change Impacts on Seagrass Secondary Metabolites: Implications for Medicinal Uses and Ecosystem Resilience". University of Florida. 2024 - Present.

Katherine Henning, "Too hot, too cold, or just right? Assessing estuarine artesian springs and aquifer seeps as thermal refugia for fishes along the Nature Coast, FL". University of Florida. 2024 - Present.

Carlos Almeida, "Effect of Ecotone Dynamics: Saltmarsh and Mangrove Interaction and Impact on Post-Larval Stage of Blue Crab Settlement in Cedar Key, Florida." University of Florida. 2022 - Present

Undergraduate Advisor

Kamila Koralasbayev, "Effects of the reduction in dive tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic on cleaning behavior in Galapagos reef fishes." University of Florida. 2022 - Present

Melanie Gomez, "Testing Koch's Postulates to Investigate the Environmental and Biological Drivers of Ulcerative Skin Disease in Galapagos Reef Fishes." University of Florida. 2023 - Present

Marisa Agarwal, "Distribution and ecology of shallow-water black corals across a depth gradient on Galápagos rocky reefs" (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2017-2021

Published in *Coral Reefs*, 2024

Bria Metzger, "Phylogenetic relationships of Galapagos reef fishes" (co-advised with Tyler Kartzinel, Brown University). 2017-2020

Maya Greenhill, "Niche complementarity of Galapagos damselfishes" (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2016-2020

Calvin Munson, “Influence of upwelling and herbivory on benthic community dynamics” (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2015-2019

Camila Lupi, “Factors affecting feeding behavior of reef fishes in the Galapagos Islands” (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2015-2019

Fiona Beltram, “Rapid proliferation and impacts of cyanobacterial mats on Galapagos rocky reefs during the 2014-2017 El Niño Southern Oscillation” (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2014-2018

Published in *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 2019

Jonathan Ang, “Behavioral effects of top marine predators in Galapagos food webs” (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2013-2017

Sofia Castello y Tickell, “Trophic ecology of sea stars in the Galapagos rocky subtidal zone” (co-advised with Jon Witman, Brown University). 2013-2014

Published in *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 2022

Juan de Dios Morales, “Efectos de variación térmica y productividad en patrones de sucesión de organismos en intermareales rocosos en Ecuador” (co-advised with Luis Vinueza, Universidad San Francisco de Quito). 2012-2013

PRESENTATIONS

Lamb RW. Effects of ocean warming on fish community composition and species-specific dietary shifts. Oral Presentation - Western Society of Naturalists, Portland, OR November 2024.

Lamb RW. Fish Ecology in a Rapidly Changing World. Invited Seminar - Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, St. Augustine, FL March 2024.

Lamb RW. Ecología de peces de Galápagos: retos y oportunidades para la investigación y conservación. Invited Public Seminar - Consejo de Gobierno de Santa Cruz, Puerto Ayora, Ecuador February 2024.

Lamb RW, S Thorrold, A Perez-Matus, C Munson, M Zeff, F Smith, and JD Witman. Effects of ocean warming on fish community composition and species-specific dietary shifts. Oral Presentation - Indopacific Fish Conference, Auckland, NZ November 2023.

Lamb RW. Population dynamics and feeding ecology of Galapagos reef fishes. Invited Research Seminar - University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL October 2023.

Lamb RW, JD Witman, and S Thorrold. Fish Ecology in a Rapidly Changing World. Oral Presentation - University of Florida SFFGS Invited Seminar, Gainesville, FL. September 2023.

Lamb RW, S Thorrold, A Perez-Matus, C Munson, M Zeff, F Smith, and JD Witman. A multi-species test of the temperature constraint hypothesis across a regional upwelling gradient. Oral Presentation - Benthic Ecology Meeting, Miami, FL April 2023.

Lamb RW, JD Witman, and S Thorrold. Population dynamics and feeding ecology of Galapagos reef fishes. Oral Presentation - University of Florida Nature Coast Biological Station Seminar, Cedar Key, FL. October 2022.

Lamb RW, M Greenhill, C Munson, JD Witman, and S Thorrold. Trophic category predicts decline and recovery of Galapagos reef fishes across 6 years of ENSO variation. Oral Presentation – Brown University Department Seminar, Providence, RI. April 2021.

Lamb RW, JD Witman, and S Thorrold. Population dynamics and feeding ecology of Galapagos reef fishes. Oral Presentation. WHOI Biology Department Seminar, Woods Hole, MA. April 2020.

Lamb RW, F Smith, JD Witman, and S. Thorrold. Ecologia de peces de arrecife de la Reserva Marina de Galapagos. Invited Seminar, Biblioteca Para el Mundo, January 2020, Puerto Ayora, Galapagos, Ecuador.

Lamb RW, F Smith, and JD Witman. Environmental stress predicts impacts of herbivory across an environmental stress gradient. Oral Presentation. Benthic Ecology Meeting, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. April 2019.

Lamb RW. Tropical reef fish ecology. Invited Talk. Rhode Island College. February 2019.

Lamb RW, F Smith, and JD Witman. Impactos ecológicos y filtros ambientales de la herbivoría en arrecifes de Galápagos. Oral Presentation. Galapagos Research Symposium, Galapagos Science Center – San Cristobal, and Simposio Ciencias de la Sostenibilidad para Galapagos, Galapagos National Park – Santa Cruz, Ecuador. July 2018.

Lamb RW, AW Aued, F Smith, P Salinas de Leon, J Suarez, M Gomez-Chiarri, R Smolowitz, C Giray, and JD Witman. El Niño causes habitat filtering and widespread disease in the Galapagos reef fish assemblage. Oral Presentation. Indopacific Fish Conference, Tahiti. October 2017.

Lamb RW, F Smith, and JD Witman. Mobility predicts top-down control in a periodically stressful environment. Oral Presentation. Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon. August 2017.

Lamb RW, AW Aued, F Smith, P Salinas de Leon, J Suarez, and JD Witman. Efectos de El Niño 2015-16 sobre peces de arrecife de Galápagos. Oral Presentation. Galapagos Research Symposium, Galapagos Science Center, San Cristobal Island, Ecuador. July 2017

Lamb RW, AW Aued, F Smith, P Salinas de Leon, J Suarez, M Gomez-Chiarri, R Smolowitz, C Giray, and JD Witman. El Niño causes habitat filtering and widespread disease in a tropical reef fish assemblage. Invited Talk. Association for the Study of Limnology and Oceanography, Honolulu, Hawaii. March 2017.

Lamb RW, AW Aued, F Smith, P Salinas de Leon, J Suarez, M Gomez-Chiarri, R Smolowitz, C Giray, and JD Witman. Damsels in distress: widespread disease in Galapagos reef fishes. Oral Presentation. International Coral Reef Symposium, Honolulu, Hawaii. June 2016.

Lamb RW and JD Witman. Cashes Ledge as a Marine National Monument: a scientist's perspective. Invited Talk. Seacoast Science Center, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. April 2016.

Lamb RW, F Smith, and JD Witman. El Niño related changes in fish communities of the Galapagos Islands. Oral Presentation. Benthic Ecology Meeting, Portland, Maine. March 2016

Lamb RW and JD Witman. Fish diversity and ecosystem function in the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Invited Talk. Rufford Grants Regional Conservation Conference, Valparaiso, Chile. May 2015

Lamb RW, F Smith, and JD Witman. Flow-driven shifts in herbivore guild dominance and subtidal ecosystem function. Oral Presentation. Benthic Ecology Meeting, Quebec City, Canada. March 2015

Lamb RW. Diversidad y funcionamiento de ecosistemas submareales de Galapagos. Invited Talk. Fundación Charles Darwin, Puerto Ayora, Galapagos. August 2014

Lamb RW, A Franco, F Smith, and LR Vinueza. Drivers of marine community structure in dynamic oceanographic systems. Oral Presentation. Benthic Ecology Meeting, Jacksonville, FL. March 2014

Lamb RW, S. Luna, and D Riebenschahm. Artisanal fisheries on the Ecuadorian coast: analysis of current efforts and issues to be resolved. Invited Talk. U.S. Fulbright Commission South American Regional Conference, Lima, Peru. April 2009

Lamb RW and D Johnson. Effects of a marine reserve on coral reef fish community structure. Oral Presentation. North American Fisheries Society Western Regional Conference. Portland, OR. April 2008.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Reviewer: Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology; Scientific Reports; Plos One; Marine Environmental Research, Diversity, Fishes, Current Biology, Ecography, Journal of Biogeography, PeerJ, Frontiers in Marine Science.

2023-Present Faculty representative, NCBS Center for All Committee

2020 Founding member, Brown University Diversity Inclusion and Action Plan Committee

2019 Convening organizer and host, Rufford South America Regional Conservation Conference, "Science for the conservation of the Tropical Eastern Pacific".

2017-2018 Vice-president, Graduate Student Association of Brown University.

2018-2020 Mentor to Abdullah Alobaidi - Iraqi refugee to the US, Brown Refugee Youth Tutoring and Enrichment (BRYTE).

2016 Kraus, S. D., P. J. Auster, J. D. Witman, B. Wikgren, M. P. McKee, and R. W. Lamb. Scientific Assessment of a Proposed Marine National Monument off the Northeast United States. Science briefing for press and interested parties.

2017-Present Member. Indopacific Reef Fish Society

2016-Present Member. Ecological Society of America.

2016-Present Member. International Coral Reef Society

2014-Present Member. Benthic Ecology Society

POPULAR MEDIA

2020 <https://www.whoi.edu/multimedia/open-ocean-diving-observations/>

- 2020 <https://www.browndailyherald.com/2019/11/17/galapagos-islands-illustrate-power-biodiversity-changing-climate/>
- 2018 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/18/climate/galapagos-islands-ocean-warming.html>
- 2017 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/06/galapagos-climate-change-impacts-iconic-creatures/>
- 2017 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/02/saving-our-seas-president-obama-oceans-conservation/>
- 2016 http://www.alertdiver.com/Cashes_Ledge
- 2016 Official selection of the 7th annual Beneath the Waves Film Festival for the short documentary “Cashes Ledge: Jewel of the Gulf of Maine” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SRU96HZ5Sc>
- 2015 Viewer’s choice runner-up at the 6th annual Beneath the Waves Film Festival for best short film “Marine Ecology in Easter Island.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDkOOrohkJ8>
- 2014 <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/brink>
- 2014 “Best submission” – 5th annual Beneath the Waves Film Festival, and publication on the NY Times Science section for the stop-animation film “A Tale of Two Urchins”.
<http://www.nytimes.com/video/science/100000002735051/creaturecast-a-tale-of-two-urchins.html>

REFERENCES

Jon Witman, PhD

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Simon Thorrold, PhD

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Senior Scientist)

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Mike Allen, PhD

University of Florida (Professor, Director of the Nature Coast Biological Station)

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