

# Mary Kate Brown

Affiliated Research Faculty  
Marine Sciences

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## Bio

- Assistant Coastal Programs Director, The Nature Conservancy (Mobile, AL)
- Project Ecologist III, Ecological Resources Consultants, Inc. (Panama City Beach, FL)
- NOAA/CSO Marine Managed Areas Inventory Intern (Alabama & US Virgin Islands)
- M.A. 2006, University of Rhode Island

**Emphasis:** coastal restoration, coastal ecology, stormwater management, regional conservation efforts, community and ecological resilience

## Research Interests

My background consists of extensive experience working with a range of Federal, State and private entities across the Northern Gulf of Mexico (AL, FL, MS) to help implement coastal restoration projects and to leverage additional watershed activities to promote estuarine health across the landscape. Through my projects and collaboration efforts, I have curated strong and healthy partnerships among municipalities, academia, firms and community organizations to promote innovative strategies using applied research to support successful restoration efforts, as well as long term monitoring to inform adaptive management. The most recent endeavors include the award-winning Lightning Point Restoration Project in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, where we worked with more than 20 diverse partners to implement one of the largest coastal restoration projects along the Gulf of Mexico.

I am an efficient project manager and coordinator implementing multiple contracts amounting over \$20M across various coastal planning, restoration and stewardship projects with on-the-ground actions and community and ecosystem resilience.

## Selected Current Research Grants

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - Implementing Nature-Based Solutions for Habitat, Community, and Coastal Resilience in Mississippi Sound, AL

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - Perdido Watershed Habitat and Community Resilience Initiative: Incorporating Nature Based and Hybrid Solutions Across Alabama and Florida
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Gulf of Mexico Program – Building the Northern Gulf’s Transportation Hub Resilience
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Gulf of Mexico Program – Mapping Bayou la Batre Stormwater for Community Resilience
- National Fish and Wildlife Federation, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund - Lightning Point Restoration Project (AL), Phase II Construction