

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Leslie E. Straker (PhD)**

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Education:

***Ph.D.*** (2012), *Marine Affairs*, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.  
Thesis: "Measuring coastal organizations' effectiveness: A small developing state example."

***Master of Science*** (2002), *Fisheries Science*, University of Hull, Hull, United Kingdom. Thesis: "The assessment of the Reef Fishery of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, using red hind (*Epinephelus guttatus* L.) and coney (*Cephalopholis fulva* L.) as indicator species."

***Bachelor of Science*** (1996), Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada. Biology and statistics major.

Teaching Experience:

***Senior Lecturer*** (2019 – Present): Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Longwood University, Farmville Virginia. Teach undergraduate courses in ***Introduction to Environmental Science; Environmental Law and Policy; Environmental Decision-Making (capstone); Coastal Management and; Marine Fisheries Management.***

**Lecturer (2013 – 2019):** Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Longwood University, Farmville Virginia. Taught undergraduate courses in **Introduction to Environmental Science; Environmental Law and Policy; Environmental Decision-Making (capstone)**.

**Lecturer (Jan 2013 – May 2013):** Department of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island. Taught undergraduate course in **World Geography** - an examination of major world regions.

**Ph.D. Research/Teaching Assistant (2006 – 2009):** University of Rhode Island. Introduction to Marine Affairs, undergraduate course. Assisted with teaching and grading assignments and exams.

Other Related Employment (selected):

**Fisheries Data Biologist (1997 – 2006 and 2009 – 2012):** Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Kingstown, St. Vincent. Responsible for the management of the fisheries data unit. I helped transform the data unit from a fledgling unit to one of the most vibrant fisheries data collection units within the Eastern Caribbean region. A comprehensive data collection program was established for the entire state. Specialized fisheries databases for fish catch and effort, and biological information, and licensing and registration of fishers and vessels were implemented.

**Fisheries Consultant (1999):** Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). Analyzed and prepared technical report for one of the first comprehensive baseline socio-economic fisheries survey in Grenada. Report has been cited by many fisheries professionals and students since.

Publications:

**Straker E. L., (2009).** ICCAT: Managing or Documenting? Marine Technology Society, Vol 43(1): 117-127.

Mohammed, E., **Straker, L.,** and Jardine, C. (2003). St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Reconstructed Fisheries Catches and Fishing Effort, 1942 - 2001. The University of British Columbia, Fisheries Centre Research Reports 2003, Vol 11 (6): 95-117.

Technical Reports (selected):

Haughton, M., Simmonds, J., **Straker, L.** and Bethel, G. (2004). Comparative study on the use of demographic and socio-economic information in coastal and fisheries management, planning and conservation in Malaysia and the Philippines teaching experience, In: FAO Fisheries Technical Report No. 491.

Murray, P., Phillips, T., Singh-Renton, S., and **Straker, L.** (2004). Discussion Paper: Implementing Mechanism for the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime, CRFM report.

Constantine, S., Singh-Renton, S., and **Straker, L.** (2002). The Red Hind Fishery of St. Vincent and the Grenadines – An Interview Study. CRFM Report of the Joint Meeting of the CRFM Pelagics and Reef Fisheries Working Groups, 2002, Report No. 10.

**Straker, L.**, Singh-Renton, S., and Lauckner, F. B. (2000). Assessment of red hind (*Epinephelus guttatus*) fishery using Eastern Caribbean Data. Report of the 2000 Caribbean Pelagic and Reef Fisheries Assessment and Management Workshop. CARICOM Fishery Report No.9

Manuscripts in Preparation:

**Straker, L.** Measuring coastal zone management effectiveness in a small developing state.

**Straker, L.** The linkage between environmental knowledge, behavior and perceptions in a small university town, Farmville, Virginia.

Research:

**Co-researcher** (2020 – Present). Extending the life of disaster stories to save lives: Investigating the staying power and influence of personal and vicarious experience narratives on disaster preparedness attitudes and behavior in three North Carolina counties. Natural Hazards Center—with support from the National Science Foundation and the NOAA Weather

Program Office, in partnership with the National Severe Storms Laboratory and the National Weather Service.

**Researcher (2015 – Present).** The linkage between environmental knowledge, behavior and perceptions in a small university town, Farmville, Virginia.

**Ph.D. Research Assistant (2006 – 2009),** University of Rhode Island: Worked as field researcher on project looking at Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Governance in more than 30 MPAs in 15 countries in the Wider-Caribbean. Conducted general community surveys, key stakeholder surveys and GIS mapping. Also, responsible for communication with MPA managers, data entry, and planning logistics of field activities. Project was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

**Fisheries Expert Consultant (2004),** FAO/Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM): Member of a Caribbean team of four fisheries experts conducting a one-month comparative case study research of coastal zone management in the Philippines and Malaysia, 2004. The team visited more than 20 coastal community-based projects in the two countries and participated in more than 20 stakeholder meetings. The results of this study were captured in, *FAO, Fisheries Technical Report, 491* (<https://www.fao.org/3/a0690e/a0690e01.pdf>)

**Cetacean Survey Researcher (2004),** Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Survey researcher in cetacean sighting survey conducted in the Eastern Caribbean (April-May, 2004). Responsible for planning logistics of trip to various Caribbean countries, data collection, and conducting surveys. Project was to determine cetacean abundance and density, and was funded by FAO and JICA.

**Fisheries Biologist and Researcher (1999)** Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Investigation of one of the most severe fish kill episode on record, in the Eastern Caribbean. Collection and analysis of specimens and preparing technical reports. Research team was trying to determine the cause of the event and the ecological and socio-economic impacts.

Research Interests:

***Assessing the effectiveness of organizations that are responsible for coastal and marine management.*** Devising empirical measures for determining the effectiveness of coastal organizations/agencies.

***Perceptions on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability.*** Examining the linkages between environmental knowledge, behavior and perceptions.

***Marine Protected Area (MPA) Governance:*** Looking at how “conflict,” often thought of as a situation to be controlled, could be the driving force that encourages sustainable management arrangements of coastal resources.

***The Management of International and Regional Natural Resource Organizations:*** How effective are these organizations in bringing about the desired change for sustainable management of these resources? Are they managing or documenting?

Grants:

***\$7,500.00 – (Co-investigator) 2020.*** Extending the life of disaster stories to save lives: Investigating the staying power and influence of personal and vicarious experience narratives on disaster preparedness attitudes and behavior in three North Carolina counties. Natural Hazards Center—with support from the National Science Foundation and the NOAA Weather Program Office, in partnership with the National Severe Storms Laboratory and the National Weather Service.

***\$500.00 – Longwood University Parent Grant, (2014).*** Awarded for projects that benefit and enhance student life and learning, Longwood University.

Academic Awards:

***University of Rhode Island, PhD Assistantship, 2006 – 2009.***

***Kenelm W. Koon Award (2007).*** Annual award for a non-traditional graduate student returning mid-career to the University of Rhode Island-Kingston to pursue a graduate degree in Marine Affairs.

***Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, Graduate Scholarship, 2000 – 2001.***

**Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, Undergraduate Scholarship  
1992 – 1996.**

Expert Activities (selected):

**Caribbean Region Representative on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),** Scientific Standing Committee (2004 – 2006). Responsible for representing the region at the Standing Committee meetings in Geneva, Switzerland during this period and coordinating and reporting on inter-sessional activities to the Secretariat. My tenure helped to encourage the Dominican Republic to improve its compliance with this organization.

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines Representative on the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW Protocol)** Scientific Standing Committee (2003 – 2006). Responsible for representing St. Vincent at Standing Committee meetings in the Wider-Caribbean during this period, and coordinating and reporting on inter-sessional activities to the Secretariat.

**Chair Person for several sessions of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)** annual scientific meetings between 2003 and 2010. Annual two-week working session meeting that brings together regional and international fisheries experts to conduct biological and socio-economic assessments on the status of various fisheries in the Caribbean sub-region. Presented several fisheries technical papers at this forum.

**Disaster Management Trainer of Trainers (2004 – 2006).** Train disaster assessment personnel and trainers in conducting rapid damage assessments post natural disasters (National Emergency Management Office, St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

Guest Lecturer/Speaker:

**Panelist (2021):** Environmental Justice, Epsilon Eta, Longwood University.

**Environmental Guest Lecturer (2020):** Environmental Policy in the Caribbean. Dr. April Baptiste, Caribbean Ecology class, Colgate University, New York (November, 2020)

Dr. Leslie E. Straker

**Environmental Guest Lecturer (2020):** Environmental Communication: Risk and Crisis Contexts. Dr. Rowena Kirby, Environmental Communication class, Wake Forest University, North Carolina (November, 2020)

**Panelist (2019):** The unique Challenges of Plastics, Sustainability Office, Longwood, University.

**Environmental Guest Lecturer (2018):** Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Summer Institute Program, Wake Forest University.

**Panelist (2018):** Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context. Sustainability Office, Longwood, University.

**Environmental Guest Lecturer (2017):** Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Summer Institute Program, Wake Forest University.

Academic Service and other activities at Longwood University:

**Environmental Committee Member (2020 – Present).** Sustainability Office, Longwood University.

**Online Course Peer Reviewer (2019 – Present):** Quality Matters Association.

**Online Course Peer Reviewer (2019 – Present):** Digital Education Collaborative, Longwood University.

**LIFE STEM Faculty Mentor (2019 – Present).** Program provides financial and academic support, focused career preparation, early research experiences, and high-quality faculty mentoring for scholars majoring in biology, chemistry, environmental science, and physics (or dual-degree engineering).

**Academic Advising 2018 – Present).** Undergraduate academic advising, Longwood University.

**Member (2019 – Present):** Outreach Committee, Biology and Environmental Sciences Department, Longwood University.

**Member (2018 – Present):** Environmental Sciences Program Review Committee, Biology and Environmental Sciences Department, Longwood University.

**Goal 6 Academic Planning Committee Member (2014 – Present):** Biology and Environmental Sciences Department, Longwood University. Assist with the development of methods to improve scientific reasoning skills of students taking biology and environmental courses at Longwood University

**Planning Committee Member (2021):** Virginia Junior Sciences and Humanities Symposium (Longwood University hosted)

**Planning Committee Member (2020):** Virginia Junior Sciences and Humanities Symposium (Longwood University hosted)

**Colloquium Committee Member (2013 – 2014):** Biology and Environmental Sciences Department, Longwood University. Assisting in organizing scientific colloquiums within the department.

Other Professional Activities and Associations:

**Junior Science Judge (2016 – Present):** Virginia Junior Academy of Science.

**Member (2016 – Present):** Virginia Academy of Science.

**Member (2016 – Present):** National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP).

Academic Training and Workshops:

**Online QM Peer Review Certificate (2019).** Quality Matters Association (QM) Peer Reviewer Course. Three-week, fully online course where participants apply knowledge and skills learned in APPQMR to strengthen their abilities to verify alignment of the QM rubric in a course and write valuable, substantial recommendations to faculty instructors.

**Online QM Application Training (2019).** Applying the QM Rubric Workshop (APPQMR). Two-week, fully online course where participants learn about the QM rubric and its use in reviewing online courses.

**Case Study Teaching in Science (2019).** The Annual Conference on Case Study Teaching in Science, September 27-28, 2019, in Buffalo, NY, National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science,

**Honors Workshop (2019).** The 4th Annual Honors International Faculty Institute (HIFI) Workshop, June 3-5, 2019, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.

**Online Teaching Certificate (2015).** Longwood University, Online Teaching Institute.

Special Skills and Knowledge (selected):

Very proficient in **lecture preparation** and **course material development** in Environmental Science, at the undergraduate level.

Familiar with **various teaching pedagogies** and **technologies** used in the modern classroom environment.

**Online teaching certified.**

Experienced in **managing large classrooms** of more than 120 students.

Experience in **organizational management and supervision** of other workers.

Experience in **project development, management and implementation.**

Formal training in the **GIS package ArcView** and familiar with using this tool to represent and interpret environmental information.

Short-term training in **coastal habitat management** and the collection, compilation and analyses of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

Good **knowledge of environmental laws within the US** (e.g., Clean Water; Clean Air, Fisheries, Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts, among others).

Significant experience with **preparing technical reports** and presenting findings at conferences, seminars and workshops.

Very proficient with several statistical packages, in particular, **SPSS**, **Minitab** and **R**. Also completed several short-term training programs in statistical analyses of natural resource data.

Experienced with designing, implementing and analyzing various types of **scientific, economic and social surveys**.

Very proficient with **Microsoft Office packages** (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.).