

**MATTHEW P. STEFANAK**

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146 Williams St.  
Solomons, MD 20688

**EDUCATION**

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- University of Maryland**, College Park, MD 2021-current
- *Ph.D.* (in-progress), Marine, Estuarine, & Environmental Science  
Focus: Ecological Systems
  - Advisor: Dr. Ryan Woodland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute**, Woods Hole, MA (*coursework*) 2018
- Fall 2018 Semester at Woods Hole (SAW) Program  
Focus: Biological Oceanography
- Middlebury College**, Middlebury, VT 2016-2019
- *B.A.*, Biology & Environmental Studies (*magna cum laude*)

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- Chesapeake Biological Laboratory**, Solomons, MD Aug. 2021-current  
*Graduate Research Assistant*, Woodland Lab
- Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology**, Kāneʻohe, HI Dec. 2019-Jul. 2021  
*Technician*, Coral Reef Ecology Lab
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute**, Woods Hole, MA Sep. 2018-Jul. 2019  
*Student Researcher*, Larval Fish Ecology Lab
- Middlebury College**, Middlebury, VT Feb.-May 2018  
*Student Researcher*, Eggleston Lab
- Dartmouth College**, Hanover, NH Jun.-Aug. 2017  
*Research Intern*, Lutz Lab
- Towson University**, Towson, MD May-Aug. 2016  
*Research Intern*, Salice Lab

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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- Stefanak MP**, Santos NR, Reyes-Delgado A, O'Brien M, Woodland RJ,. (2022). Seascape connectivity of juvenile fishes between Mid-Atlantic coastal lagoons and the inner continental shelf (working title). *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, in-preparation.

- Han JJ, **Stefanak MP**, Hunter CS, Coles SL, and Rodgers KS. (2022). Evidence of thermal tolerance augmentation by three Hawaiian reef corals in Kāneʻohe Bay, Oʻahu by comparison with historical data (working title). *Coral Reefs*, in-preparation.
- Han JJ, **Stefanak MP**, and Rodgers KS. (2022). Low-level nutrient enrichment during thermal stress delays bleaching and ameliorates calcification in three Hawaiian reef coral species. *PeerJ* 10(1): e13707. doi: 10.7717/peerj.13707.
- Bates AE, et al. (**Stefanak MP** one of 345 co-authors). (2021). Global COVID-19 lockdown highlights humans as both threats and custodians of the environment. *Biological Conservation* 263: 109175. doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109175.
- Rodgers KS, **Stefanak MP**, Tsang AO, Han JJ, Graham A, and Stender YO. (2021). Impact to the coral reef community at Hāʻena and Pilaʻa, Kauaʻi following a record 2018 freshwater flood event. *Diversity* 13(2), 66. doi: 10.3390/d13020066.
- Alkhouri NB, Mutka MC, **Stefanak MP**, and Bearer CF. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on manuscript submissions to Pediatric Research. *Pediatric Research* 90: 6-7. doi: 10.1038/s41390-020-01220-9.
- Stefanak MP**, Al-Mudares F, El-Metwally D, Jones J, Kane M and Bearer CF. (2020). High concentrations of urinary ethanol metabolites in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit infants. *Pediatric Research* 88: 865-870. doi: 10.1038/s41390-020-1020-5.
- El-Metwally D, Chain K, Mallya K, **Stefanak MP**, Alwis U, Blount B, LaKind J and Bearer CF. (2018). Infant exposure to volatile organic compounds in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. *Pediatric Research* 83(6): 1158-1164. doi: 10.1038/pr.2018.52.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

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- Rodgers KS, Graham A, Han JH, Stender Y, Tsang A, and **Stefanak MP**. (2022). 2016-2020 five-year recovery assessment and long-term monitoring of reef coral communities at Pilaʻa Reef, Kauaʻi. Prepared for State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. pp 149.
- Severino S, Rodgers KS, Graham A, Tsang A, Stender Y, and **Stefanak MP**. (2021). Hanauma Bay biological carrying capacity survey 2020/21 annual report. Prepared for City and County of Honolulu: Parks and Recreation, Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources. pp 340.  
[https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/dpr/hanaumabay\\_docs/Hanauma\\_Bay\\_Carrying\\_Capacity\\_Study\\_Year\\_3\\_2020\\_to\\_2021-compressed.pdf](https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/dpr/hanaumabay_docs/Hanauma_Bay_Carrying_Capacity_Study_Year_3_2020_to_2021-compressed.pdf).
- Rodgers KS, Graham A, Han JH, **Stefanak MP**, Stender Y, Tsang A, Weible R, and Stamoulis K. (2021). 2016-2020 five year efficacy study of the management regulations within the Community Based Subsistence Fishing area of Hāʻena, Kauaʻi. Prepared for State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. pp 81.

Severino S, Rodgers KS, **Stefanak MP**, and Stender Y. (2020). Hanauma bay biological carrying capacity survey 2019-20 2nd annual report. Prepared for City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation, Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources. pp 59. [http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/dpr/hanaumabay\\_docs/Hanauma\\_Bay\\_Carrying\\_Capacity\\_Report\\_August\\_2020.pdf](http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/dpr/hanaumabay_docs/Hanauma_Bay_Carrying_Capacity_Report_August_2020.pdf).

Rodgers KS, Graham A, Han JH, **Stefanak MP**, Stender YO, and Tsang AO. (2020). 2019 long-term monitoring and assessment of the Hā'ena, Kaua'i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area year 4 CBSFA efficacy study. Prepared for State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. pp 63. [https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/files/2020/07/2019\\_Final\\_Haena\\_report.pdf](https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/files/2020/07/2019_Final_Haena_report.pdf).

## POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

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**Stefanak, M.** The effects of biophysical and hydrodynamic factors on larval reef fish settlement on the southern coast of St. John, USVI. Middlebury College Ecology & Evolution Subgroup. Middlebury, VT. February, 2019.

**Stefanak, M.** A pilot analysis of *C. sphaerospermum* and *T. versicolor* in terrestrial degradation of pure polystyrene (#6 plastic). Middlebury College Ecology & Evolution Subgroup. Middlebury, VT. February, 2018.

**Stefanak, M,** El-Metwally D, Al-Mudares F, Jones J, Kane M, and Bearer C. Ethanol metabolites of infants exposed to postnatal ethanol-containing medications in the neonatal intensive care unit (Abstract). Research Society on Alcoholism Poster Presentation. Denver, CO. June, 2017.

**Stefanak, M.** Dietary preferences of *I. pustularia* and *M. canadaria* mediate size in absence of predation. Wesleyan University Public Poster Session. Middletown, CT. May, 2016.

## FUNDING & FELLOWSHIPS

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**Debbie Morrin-Nordlund Memorial Travel Award** 2023  
Conference Travel Award (\$1,615.85)

**Washington Biologists' Field Club Research Award** 2023-2024  
*The Chesapeake Bay plume as a trophic subsidizer of coastal juvenile fish production* (\$3,300.00)

**MD Sea Grant Competitive Graduate Research Fellowship** 2022-2023  
*Elucidating dietary source and structure of three important juvenile fishery species across the Chesapeake Bay mouth plume using bulk stable isotope analyses* (approx. \$45,000.00)

**University of Maryland Flagship Fellowship** 2021-2026  
Graduate Enhancement Funding (\$60,000.00)

Curriculum Vitae 8/15/23

**Middlebury College Department of Biology** 2019  
*Small-scale variation in larval reef fish settlement in St. John, USVI (\$390.01)*

**Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute** 2018  
Semester at Woods (SAW) Academic Scholarship, (\$7,500.00)

**Middlebury College Department of Biology** 2018  
*Use of C. sphaerospermum & T. versicolor in degradation of polystyrene (#6 plastic) (\$609.04)*

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#### AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

**Middlebury College Graduation Honors** 2019  
Magna Cum Laude

**Dean's List** 2015-2019  
Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019

**First Aid/CPR/AED** 2019  
Adult & Pediatric, American Red Cross Certified, June 2019-2021

**PADI Divemaster** 2019  
EFR & EOA certified, Pro #446107

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#### PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Fisheries Society (2021-present)  
Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (2022-present)  
Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (2023-present)

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#### GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & VOLUNTEERING

American Fisheries Society: UMCES Chapter  
2021-2022: Treasurer  
2022-2023: President  
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory: DEIC Committee  
2022-2023: Student Representative  
2023-2024: Student Representative  
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory: New Student Welcome Committee  
2022-2023: Student Representative

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#### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Dive Oahu, Honolulu, HI** July 2019 – Mar. 2020  
*Boat Crew & Dive Shop Staff*

**Phillips & Paolicelli LLP**, New York, NY  
*Medical & Environmental Law Intern*

May-Aug. 2016

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**COMPUTER SKILLS**

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**R**

Advanced biometry techniques and data management

**ArcGIS**

Experience through coursework with raster and vector data, novice cartographic skills

**Google Earth Engine**

Moderate applied experience using remote sensing imagery

**Microsoft Excel**

Data management and manipulation, simple parametric statistics

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**ONLINE MEDIA**

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**Stefanak, M.** Failure is an Option: The Rewards and Challenges of Fieldwork. (2023). Blog Post *in* Maryland Sea Grant “Fellowship Experiences”.

<https://www.mdsg.umd.edu/fellowship-experiences/failure-option-rewards-and-challenges-fieldwork>

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**NEWS**

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**2022**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/16/science/pandemic-nature-anthropause.html>

**2020**

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/29/hawaii-news/silver-linings-at-hanauma-bay/>

**2019**

<https://www.whoi.edu/multimedia/holed-up/>