



February 28, 2022

April Blakeslee, Ph.D.
Department of Biology, ECU

Subject: Protocol D346a, original approval date 2/17/2020

Dear Dr. Blakeslee:

The amendment#2 to your Animal Use Protocol entitled, "The ecological role of naked goby *Gobiosoma bosc* fish in host-parasite networks in the Pamlico-Neuse river estuaries." (AUP#D346a) was reviewed by this institution's Animal Care and Use Committee on 02/23/2022. The following action was taken by the Committee:

"Approved as submitted"

****Please contact Aaron Hinkle prior to any hazard use****

A copy of the protocols is enclosed for your laboratory files. Please be reminded that all animal procedures must be conducted as described in the approved Animal Use Protocol. Modifications of these procedures cannot be performed without prior approval of the ACUC. The Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Guidelines require the ACUC to suspend activities not in accordance with approved procedures and report such activities to the responsible University Official (Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences or Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) and appropriate federal Agencies. **Please ensure that all personnel associated with this protocol have access to this approved copy of the AUP/Amendment and are familiar with its contents.**

Sincerely yours,

Sue McRae, Ph.D.
Chair, Animal Care and Use Committee

SM/GD

enclosure

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
ANIMAL USE PROTOCOL (AUP) FORM
LATEST REVISION APRIL, 2017**

Project Title:

Host-parasite networks of benthic and reef-resident fish in coastal estuaries of the Pamlico and Back Sounds and their tributaries

	Principal Investigator	Secondary Contact
Name	Dr. April Blakeslee	Dr. Rachel Gittman
Dept.	Biology	Biology
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Cell Ph #	4433664555	25736520
Pager #	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Home Ph #	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Email	Blakesleeap14@ecu.edu	gittmanr17@ecu.edu

For IACUC Use Only

AUP #	D346a		
New/Renewal	Renewal		
Full Review/Date	DR/Date 02/11/2020		
Approval Date	02/17/2020		
Study Type	Diversity, habitat		
Pain/Distress Category	C		
Surgery	Survival	Multiple	
Prolonged Restraint			
Food/Fluid Regulation			
Other			
Hazard Approval/Dates	Rad	IBC	EHS 9/29/2020
OHP Enrollment			
Mandatory Training			
Amendments Approved	#1 10/01/2020	#2 2/23/2022	

I. Personnel

A. Principal Investigator(s):

Dr. April MH Blakeslee

B. Department(s):

Biology

C. List all personnel (PI's, co-investigators, technicians, students) that will be working with live animals and describe their qualifications and experience with these specific procedures. If people are to be trained, indicate by whom:

Name/Degree/Certification	Position/Role(s)/Responsibilities in this Project	Required Online IACUC Training (Yes/No)	Relevant Animal Experience/Training (include species, procedures, number of years, etc.)
Dr. April MH Blakeslee, PhD	PI/field collections/laboratory care	Yes	20 years of experience sampling, handling, and experimenting with live marine organisms, including multiple invertebrate species and in the last 6 years nearshore fish.
Dr. Rachel Gittman, PhD	coPI/field collections/laboratory care	Yes	12 years of experience sampling, handling, and experimenting with live marine organisms, including multiple invertebrate species and nearshore fish
Christopher Moore, BS	Graduate student/co-investigator/field collections/laboratory care/dissections	Yes	Extensive personal and professional experience collecting and maintaining fishes; IACUC approved project over the past 3 years.
Megan Geesin, BS	Graduate student/co-investigator/field collections/laboratory care/dissections	Yes	Megan has field experience in estuarine ecosystems, including sampling marsh plants and multiple invertebrate species, such as oysters and crabs .
Stacy Trackenberg, BS	Graduate student/ field collections	Yes	5 years of experience sampling, handling, and experimenting with live marine organisms, including multiple invertebrate species and with nearshore fish
Georgette Tso, MS	Graduate student field collections	Yes	Georgette has field experience in estuarine ecosystems, including sampling marsh plants



June 24, 2022

Rachel Gittman, Ph.D.
Department of Biology, ECU

Dear Dr. Rachel:

Your Animal Use Protocol entitled, "Evaluating How Foundation Species Diversity Affects Community Composition" (AUP#D358a) was reviewed by this institution's Animal Care and Use Committee on 06/24/2022. The following action was taken by the Committee:

"Approved as submitted"

****Please contact Aaron Hinkle prior to any hazard use****

A copy of the protocols is enclosed for your laboratory files. Please be reminded that all animal procedures must be conducted as described in the approved Animal Use Protocol. Modifications of these procedures cannot be performed without prior approval of the ACUC. The Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Guidelines require the ACUC to suspend activities not in accordance with approved procedures and report such activities to the responsible University Official (Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences or Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) and appropriate federal Agencies. **Please ensure that all personnel associated with this protocol have access to this approved copy of the AUP/Amendment and are familiar with its contents.**

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamie DeWitt", is written over a horizontal line.

Jamie DeWitt, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair Animal Care and Use Committee

JD/GD

enclosure

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
ANIMAL USE PROTOCOL (AUP) FORM
LATEST REVISION APRIL, 2017**

Project Title:

Evaluating How Foundation Species Diversity Affects Community Composition

	Principal Investigator	Secondary Contact
Name	Dr. Rachel Gittman	Stacy Trackenberg
Dept.	Biology	Biology
Office Ph #	252-328-9986	Click here to enter text.
Cell Ph #	252-732-6520	973-886-1242
Pager #	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Home Ph #	252-732-6520	Click here to enter text.
Email	Gittmanr17@ecu.edu	Trackenbergs18@students.ecu.edu

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AUP #	D358a		
New/Renewal	Renewal		
Full Review/Date 6/20/2022	DR/Date		
Approval Date	6/24/2022		
Study Type	Population/ecosystem		
Pain/Distress Category	D		
Surgery	Survival	Multiple	
Prolonged Restraint			
Food/Fluid Regulation			
Other			
Hazard Approval/Dates	Rad	IBC	EHS
OHP Enrollment			
Mandatory Training			
Amendments Approved			

I. Personnel

A. Principal Investigator(s):

Dr. Rachel Gittman

B. Department(s):

Biology

C. List all personnel (PI's, co-investigators, technicians, students) that will be working with live animals and describe their qualifications and experience with these specific procedures. If people are to be trained, indicate by whom:

Name/Degree/Certification	Position/Role(s)/Responsibilities in this Project	Required Online IACUC Training (Yes/No)	Relevant Animal Experience/Training (include species, procedures, number of years, etc.)
Dr. Rachel Gittman, PhD	PI/field collections	Yes	10 years of experience sampling, handling, and tagging live marine organisms, including fish, previously trained by UNC-CH IACUC
Dr. April Blakeslee, PhD	Co-PI/field collections	Yes	20 years of experience sampling, handling, and experimenting with live marine organisms, including multiple invertebrate species and in the last 6 years nearshore fish
Stacy Trackenberg, BS	Graduate student/co-investigator/field collections	Yes	Personal and professional experience collecting, handling, and experimenting with marine invertebrates and fish
Anna Albright, BS	Graduate student/assistance with field collections	Yes	Personal and professional experience collecting, handling, and experimenting with marine invertebrates and fish
Nina Woodard, BS	Graduate student/assistance with field collections	Yes	Personal and professional experience collecting, handling, and experimenting with marine invertebrates and fish
Megan Geesin, BS	Graduate student/assistance with field collections	Yes	Megan has field experience in estuarine ecosystems, including sampling marsh plants and multiple invertebrate species, such as oysters and crabs
Georgette Tso, MS	Graduate student/assistance with field collections	Yes	Georgette has field experience in estuarine ecosystems,



EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
University & Medical Center Institutional Review Board
Willis Building · Mail Stop 682
600 Moye Boulevard · Greenville, NC 27834
Office **252-744-2914** · Fax **252-744-2284** ·
rede.ecu.edu/umcirb/

Notification of Exempt Certification

From: Social/Behavioral IRB
To: [Megan Geesin](#)
CC: [Rachel Gittman](#)
Date: 4/29/2025
Re: [UMCIRB 25-000465](#)
North Carolina Shoreline Change Survey

I am pleased to inform you that your research submission has been certified as exempt on 4/27/2025. This study is eligible for Exempt Certification under category # 2b.

It is your responsibility to ensure that this research is conducted in the manner reported in your application and/or protocol, as well as being consistent with the ethical principles of the Belmont Report and your profession.

This research study does not require any additional interaction with the UMCIRB unless there are proposed changes to this study. Any change, prior to implementing that change, must be submitted to the UMCIRB for review and approval. The UMCIRB will determine if the change impacts the eligibility of the research for exempt status. If more substantive review is required, you will be notified within five business days.

Document	Description
Survey Postcard 20250407.docx(0.01)	Recruitment Documents/Scripts
Survey-Consent-Paragraph.doc(0.02)	Consent Forms
Waterfront_property_owner_survey_2025.docx(0.01)	Surveys and Questionnaires
Waterfrontpropertiesurveys_proposal.docx(0.01)	Study Protocol or Grant Application

For research studies where a waiver or alteration of HIPAA Authorization has been approved, the IRB states that each of the waiver criteria in 45 CFR 164.512(i)(1)(i)(A) and (2)(i) through (v) have been met. Additionally, the elements of PHI to be collected as described in items 1 and 2 of the Application for Waiver of Authorization have been determined to be the minimal necessary for the specified research.

The Chairperson (or designee) does not have a potential for conflict of interest on this study.