

GTM RESEARCH RESERVE APPOINTS NEW RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Dr. Michael Shirley, Environmental Administrator of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, recently announced the appointment of Dr. Matthew E. Kimball to the position of Research Coordinator, replacing Dr. Richard Gleeson who retired in 2010. Dr. Kimball has moved to the area from Louisiana where he was a postdoctoral researcher at Louisiana State University.

In his new position, Dr. Kimball will coordinate the scientific projects and studies carried out by Reserve staff scientists and Graduate Research Fellowship students within the GTM Research Reserve's 73,000+ acres of coastal estuary and surrounding uplands. In a partnership with the University of North Florida and the GTM Research Reserve, he will simultaneously serve as an Assistant Research Professor in the Biology Department, where he will also continue to carry out his own grant-funded research projects.

Dr. Kimball's research interests are in the biology and ecology of estuarine and coastal fishes, particularly in the influences of biological and physical factors on the distribution and movement of juvenile and adult stages, as well as the effects of habitat on fish survival and growth.

Dr. Kimball previously served as graduate assistant and teaching assistant at laboratories and universities, published peer reviewed scientific papers, had been awarded research grants and scholarships, served as associate editor and manuscript reviewer for scientific journals, received numerous awards, and is a Certified Fisheries Professional with the American Fisheries Society. He earned his PhD in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University, received his MS in Zoology from North Carolina State University and his BS in Biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Shirley states that Dr. Kimball's extensive background knowledge and experience will make him a valuable addition to the GTM Research Reserve team's dedication to the protection and conservation of the natural resources within its boundaries.

