

# KASEN WALLY

107 Short St. Beaufort, NC 28516

kasen.wally@deq.nc.gov | (919) 397-4438

<https://www.kasenwally.com>

## PROFILE

Social scientist, natural resource manager, and science communicator seeking to improve coastal and marine resource management through research, restoration, stakeholder engagement, and policy implementation. Professional background includes extensive hands-on experience in coral reef restoration, coastal management, project coordination, and qualitative research methods. Maintains an excellent work ethic focused on professionalism, integrity, ingenuity, and cooperation.

## EDUCATION

**M.Sc. Natural Resource Management (GPA: 4.0)**

*Auburn University, College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Environment*

**Auburn, Alabama**

[August, 2020 — May, 2022]

**Thesis:** *Coral Reefs and Climate Change - Examining Two Institutional Approaches to Managing a Novel Marine Ecosystem*

**Volunteer Experience:** *Vice President, Graduate Student Association; Co-editor, Conservation Governance Lab*

**B.Sc. Environmental Science (GPA: 3.7)**

*Western Carolina University*

**Cullowhee, North Carolina**

[August, 2011 — May, 2015]

## SKILLS

- Research methods, scientific communications, public speaking, technical writing, graphic design
- Project coordination, team management, structured decision-making, data collection and analysis

## SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

- ArcGIS, Google Earth, Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator), Microsoft Office, Slack, Zoom

## EXPERIENCE

**Coastal Resiliency Specialist**

*North Carolina Division of Coastal Management*

**Morehead City, North Carolina**

[October 2022 — Present]

- Jointly administers a competitive grants program that offers technical assistance for communities to increase their adaptive capacity and resilience to coastal hazards.
- Drafts and issues Requests for Applications, communicates with potential applicants and coordinates the review and selection of applications.
- Administers grant contracts with service providers (i.e., environmental contracting firms), including contract execution, invoicing and payments, budgeting, progress tracking, reporting, and amendments.
- Coordinates technical assistance for vulnerability assessments and mitigation planning, public outreach and engagement, and supports local coastal communities' information and service needs.
- Coordinates training workshops and orientations for service providers and participating communities.
- Supports program partners, such as environmental agencies, local governments, NGOs, academia, and private sector entities, on efforts and funding to advance coastal hazard resilience.

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## EXPERIENCE CONT'D

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### Research Assistant

*Auburn University*

Auburn, Alabama

[August, 2020 — May 2022]

- Studied human dimensions and the effects of coastal management strategies used to combat climate change and other anthropogenic threats to coastal ecosystems and natural resources.
- Applied marine and coastal resources management concepts on a daily basis to develop policy recommendations for coastal managers.
- Often engaged with stakeholders, coastal managers, and policy-makers at the local, federal, and state levels for interviews, meetings, and other research purposes.
- Prepared multiple high-quality publications, including a 140-page thesis, two book chapters, and two peer-reviewed journal submissions; all clearly written, appropriately cited, and aimed at increasing the credibility of Auburn University and the Conservation Governance Lab.
- Prepared and reviewed environmental documents including conservation management plans, such as the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan.
- Created and curated a database derived from semi-structured interviews and extensive document analysis.
- Designated as the Co-Editor and Graphic Designer for the Conservation Governance Lab to uphold excellent standards of communication and to increase lab visibility and reputation.

### Conservation Projects Manager

*Haiti Ocean Conservancy*

Cap-Haitian, Haiti

[June, 2019 — October, 2019]

- Reported directly to the Chief of Operations, detailing the completion of action items such as written reports and documents detailing data collection and research management.
- Reviewed scientific literature to develop and implement a new protocol for restoration monitoring which ensured accurate and reliable data collection.
- Directed staff in planning and implementing field research and conservation activities using marine and coastal resource management concepts, including coral reef restoration, Environmental Services, and adaptive governance.
- Liaised with multiple local stakeholders to build conservation partnerships that addressed the protection of endangered habitats and species.
- Facilitated partnerships with visiting non-profits, such as the Grupo Puntacana Foundation, to discuss the interests of the Conservancy and develop new cooperative initiatives.
- Scheduled, coordinated, and carried out a wide variety of field activities, including coral reef restoration, data collections, endangered species monitoring, and coastal resource management.
- Oversaw all administrative duties on-site, including maintenance, financial accounting, and scientific data management.
- Taught educational lessons to visiting volunteers and the general public about the ongoing mission and scientific projects of the Haiti Ocean Conservancy.

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## EXPERIENCE CONT'D

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### Communications & Conservation Program Intern *Coral Restoration Foundation*

Key Largo, Florida  
[May, 2018 — May, 2019]

- Organized public and private outreach events with collaborators, universities, and stakeholders to communicate technical and scientific information to decision-makers, environmental groups, and the general public.
- Completed many graphic design, marketing, and digital communications projects which maximized organizational influence and credibility while addressing natural resource management issues using ecological concepts and restoration techniques pertaining to coral reefs and marine ecosystem conservation.
- Acted as an instructor for scientific survey and monitoring dives which assessed the health and recovery of sensitive marine ecosystems and endangered species.
- Designed webpage templates, event banners, promotional content, and monthly newsletters which promoted clear communications and provided excellent professional service to donors, stakeholders, and partners.
- Coordinated with the Communications and Marketing Program Managers to develop a monthly giving campaign to encourage recurring monthly donations.
- Conducted educational presentations with universities and visiting organizations while interacting with volunteers and the public on a daily basis.

### Coral Restoration & Divemaster Intern *Reef Doctor*

Ifaty, Madagascar  
[January, 2017 — July, 2017]

- Assisted in the design, construction, and implementation of new projects, including the development of artificial reef structures used to promote the growth of endangered corals.
- Supervised dives to conduct fish counts, coral reef monitoring, and benthic mapping.
- Taught public classes and planned activities with the local community to promote environmental stewardship.
- Researched the health and sustainability of local marine habitats and fisheries using the best available scientific literature and hands-on data collection in the field.
- Organized and assisted in mangrove reforestation and aquaculture projects.

## CERTIFICATIONS

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- CITI Research, Ethics, Compliance, and Safety Training
- PADI Divemaster (500+ Dives)
- Emergency First Responder (EFR/CPR)
- NAUI Coral Restoration Scientific Diver (AAUS Compliant, NOAA Reciprocity)
- PADI O2 Provider, PADI Enriched Air Nitrox (EANx)

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## WORKING PAPERS

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- Wally, K.L. & Dunning., K.H. (2022) Coral Reefs and Climate Change: Examining Two Institutional Approaches to Managing a Novel Marine Ecosystem. *Marine Policy* (**Under Review**)

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Wally, K.L., (2023). Chapter 3: The climate change challenge and other emerging pressures on coral reefs requiring the theory and practice of participatory management to evolve. In Dunning, K.H. *Democratic Management of an Ecosystem Under Threat: The People's Reefs*. Anthem Press
- Wally, K.L., (2022). Chapter 11: Call to Action: Participation and Managing Reefs Under Global Change. In Dunning, K.H. *Democratic Management of an Ecosystem Under Threat: The People's Reefs*. Anthem Press
- Johnson, G., Wally, K., Willoughby, J. R., Williamson, R., Corvey, K., Becker, M., ... & Dunning, K. (2022). Application of the Policy Regime Framework to understand COVID-19 policy response in the Southeast US: How RAPID research can provide lessons learned after a public health crisis. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 7, 959553.

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## REFERENCES

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- **Dr. Graeme Lockaby (Professional)**  
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- **Stephan Gaetjens (Supervisor)**  
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*Thank you for your time and consideration*