

Dr. Thomas L. Linton  
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Shaun Payne  
EAHCP Coordinator  
[spayne@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:spayne@edwardsaquifer.org)

Dear Mr. Payne,

I am writing to submit my nomination for the position of Ecological Modeling Expert for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan Adaptive Management Science Committee. I would be very interested in contributing my experience in developing and establishing large-scale integrated resource management systems to the work of the committee and to carrying out the responsibilities of the position.

Among the systems I have helped to develop throughout my career as a policy maker, public servant, and academician includes: the Sargassum Early Advisory System (SEAS: <http://seas-forecast.com/>), which uses NASA satellite imagery to predict the landfall of sargassum (brown algae or 'seaweed') along the Texas Coast; the state of Georgia's oyster management system; and the North Carolina's coastal zone management program. I also devised and implemented the resource management database for the three major river basins in the state of Victoria, Australia.

In almost every position in my career, I have managed modeling enterprises and therefore have considerable experience establishing effective goals and targets, monitoring their development, and to ensure an optimal final product that achieves the intended aims in a timely and efficient manner.

Additionally, as demonstrated in my writings in the *Galveston Daily News*, I have a deep interest in the matters related to water in the state of Texas. As the Edward Aquifer is the leading water resource management activity in the state of Texas, it would be an honor to serve with this group of experts on such an important project to which I could provide a unique contribution and perspective.

Regarding my affiliation with current team member, Dr. Timothy Bonner was a co-op student of my when I was at Texas A&M University College Station. Also, while at Texas A&M, I collaborated with Dr. Bill Grant on distance education modeling courses that he taught in Nuevo Leon, as well as in various other activities in Mexico

I would be very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the position and my qualifications further. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Linton

# Dr. THOMAS L. LINTON

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<http://www.tamug.edu/linton/index.html>

## WORK HISTORY

- 2002 – Present**    **Instructional Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Science, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, Texas**
- Initiated and obtained funding for the development of the *Sargassum Early Advisory System* (SEAS), predictive model, using NASA satellite imagery, for determining the movement of Sargassum (brown algae or “seaweed”) from its origin in the Sargasso Sea to the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic, allowing an early warning advisory to be produced with a 98% accuracy up to two weeks prior to landfall of Sargassum on coastal beaches.
  - Serves as Caucus Leader of the Galveston Delegation to the Texas A&M University Faculty Senate.
  - Teaches core curriculum courses on Coastal Zone Management, Water Resource Management and Wetlands Management, as well as chairs graduate committees.
- 1981 – Present**    **Senior Lecturer Emeritus, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas**
- Involved in the early research and development that led to the commercial production of redfish and hybrid striped bass in Texas
  - Served as the chairman and major advisor of the graduate committee for sixty Masters Students and ten PhDs.
  - Represented the College of Agriculture in the Texas A&M Faculty Senate in the first two years of its existence.
- 1979 - 1981**        **Director of Environmental Programs, Gulf Universities Research Consortium, Houston, Texas**
- Conducted research including field testing of the environmental impact of a newly-developed oil dispersant for use on the largest oil spill in North America, which occurred in the Gulf of Campeche, Mexico (IXTOC1). Based on this research, the dispersant was given approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is still in use today, most recently at the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 1974 - 1979**        **Director of Research/Director of Environmental Studies, Ministry for Conservation, Victoria, Australia**
- Responsible for the development of statements of planning policies for the three major catchments basins in the state of

Victoria (Port Phillip Bay, Western Port Bay, and Gippslands Lakes). Each had a modeling component.

- Directly supervised 25 staff, as well as directed research projects at academic institutions (Melbourne University and Monash University) that served as components of the overall research mission.

**1972 - 1974**

**Director, Office of Marine Affairs, Executive Secretary, North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission, North Carolina Department of Administration, Raleigh, North Carolina**

- Served as the first Director of the Office of Marine Affairs.
- Responsible for development of management strategies and enforcement of associated regulations.
- Developed the draft legislation which became the State of North Carolina's coastal zone management program.

**1968 - 1972**

**Commissioner, Division of Commercial and Sports Fisheries, North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina**

- Responsible for developing and enforcing regulations for the management commercial and sports fisheries for the State of North Carolina.
- Supervised 25 biological research staff, 5 clerical and 35 law enforcement officers.
- Charter member of the Coastal States Organization.
- Served on the 15-member committee of the Council of State Governments that drafted model legislation establishing the framework for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the primary law governing marine fisheries management in the United States today.

**1966 - 1968**

**Assistant Professor of Zoology and Forestry, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia**

- Taught fisheries management
- Founding member of the University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology

**1964 - 1968**

**Research Associate, University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia**

- Developed the oyster management plan for the State of Georgia's Game and Fish Commission, which is still in use today.
- Adapted the Japanese raft method of culturing oysters for use in Georgia.

**1961 - 1963**

**Teaching Fellow, University of Michigan, Department of Fisheries**

**1959 - 1961**

**Fellowship, Oklahoma Conservation Department**

**Summer 1960**

**Project Leader (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa, Oklahoma District), River Fisheries Survey**

## **EDUCATION:**

Doctor of Philosophy, Resource Management, 1965, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Master of Science, Zoology, 1961, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Bachelor of Science, Biology, 1959, Lamar University Beaumont, Texas

## **WRITINGS**

Frequent columnist for the Galveston Daily News highlighting emerging ecological issues related to water, wet lands, coastal zone management (see <http://www.tamug.edu/linton/index.html>). Most recent series includes:

- *A Layman's Guide to the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program* (10 articles, forthcoming, starting in August 2014)
- *Water Management Issues* (12 articles, 2013)
- *The Future of Water in Texas* (18 articles, 2012)
- *New Management Paradigm for Texas Beaches* (18 articles, co-authored with Chris O'Shea Roper)

Also authored the following books:

- *How the Parks of Galveston County Got Their Name* (2012, Kemp & Company, Houston)
- *Parking with Brigid in the Parks in Texas Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps* (forthcoming)
- *The Cowboys and Cowmen of the Wild, Wild East: The First Wetlands Managers* (forthcoming)

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Central Texas Coastal Area Oil Spill Response Committee

(<http://www.ctcac.us/go/doc/4703/1503963/>)

Legislative Affairs Committee – TAMU Faculty Senate

Texas Outdoor Writers Association – Member of Board, Chair, Youth Writing Competition Program

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

President of Friends of Galveston Island State Parks, 2002-2008

Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee, Galveston Parks Board, 2008 – present

President of the Board for the Sunshine Center (Dayhab facility for people with learning disabilities), Galveston, Texas, 2005-2011

## **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES & AWARDS:**

- Teaching Excellence Award, Texas A&M University, 2012
- Wildlife Biology Society's Outstanding Professor, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1984-1985
- Who's Who in Australia, 1978
- American Fisheries Society Certified Fisheries Biologist (#167), 1969