Michael L. Parsons, Ph.D.

Expert in coastal water health at Florida Gulf Coast University

Fort Myers, FL, US

Michael Parsons studies the causes of harmful algal blooms and how their toxins can impact marine and human lives.

Biography

Michael Parsons is a Professor of Marine Science in the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University and Director of FGCU's Vester Field Station. In addition to his teaching duties focused on marine ecology, Parsons has built a successful research career, receiving over $20 million of extramural funding to study harmful algal blooms and ecosystem health. His work has been cited over 4,000 times in the scientific literature, demonstrating the quality of his work. In addition to working with other researchers around the state to find solutions to our algal bloom problems, he was appointed to the Blue-Green Algae Task Force by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in 2019 to work to reduce the impacts of harmful algae in our region.

Areas of Expertise

Coral Reef Ecology, Ciguatera Outbreaks, Coastal Water Health, Plankton Ecosystems, Harmful Algal Blooms, Phytoplankton Ecology

Affiliations

Harmful Algae : Editorial Board, Ft. Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce : Board of Directors, National Harmful Algal Bloom Committee : Past Member, US Harmful Algal Bloom Taxonomy Workshop : Instructor

Selected Event Appearances

Invited plenary, ?Ciguatera: Will Poisoning Events Increase in the Future??
15th Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas

CIGUAHAB: a regional study of ciguatera in the greater Caribbean
GEOHAB Open Science Meeting

A simple model capable of simulating the population dynamics of Gambierdiscus, the benthic dinoflagellate responsible for ciguatera fish poisoning
GEOHAB Benthic HABs Open Meeting

Education

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Post-doctoral Fellow, 1996 - 1999

Louisiana State University
Ph.D. Oceanography and Coastal Sciences

University of Rochester
B.S. Biology - Geology
