

## **THOMAS GEORGE MINTER**

Marine Ecologist and Geospatial Analyst

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Mr. Minter joined Research Planning Inc. (RPI) in January, 2010. He has worked as an ecologist and GIS analyst on a variety of domestic and international environmental projects. Mr. Minter has extensive experience in disaster response, most notably oil spill response, responding to three spills since 2010, including MC-252/Deepwater Horizon, as a Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team (SCAT) federal representative for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Currently, Mr. Minter is providing scientific and technical support in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi as the NOAA SCAT Technical Advisor for the Deepwater Horizon response. Internationally, Mr. Minter works as an ecologist and contracts manager on a United Nation Compensation Commission (UNCC) coastal remediation project for the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aimed at remediating shoreline damages from the Gulf War oil spill in 1991.

After the earthquake in Haiti, Mr. Minter responded in-country for one and a half months as the replacement geospatial data manager for the USAID WINNER project. He worked directly with the WINNER GIS specialists and staff by conducting trainings, producing maps and developing watershed management plans. Trainings consisted of watershed analysis/sub basin development and cartographic techniques. The watershed management plan aimed to reduce erosion and flooding by converting annual agriculture on steep mountain sides to perennial agriculture. After the earthquake, much of effort was put into identifying flood zones and relocating IDP camps. Mr. Minter helped develop and manage a post-quake response assessment, the Private Sector Damage Assessment aimed at quantifying fiscal damages to the small scale private sector, which made up a significant portion of the country's GDP. After returning to the home office, he continued to support WINNERs GIS staff and project needs remotely. Since, RPI conducted a land use land cover (LULC) analysis using high resolution satellite imagery and produced a LULC classification to further support the watershed management plan. In 2011, Mr. Minter supported the WINNER project once again in Haiti by providing LULC development, editing and application trainings to the WINNER GIS staff, Mayor of Kenscoff, CIAT and CNIGS.

Prior to joining RPI, Mr. Minter worked extensively with landuse/land cover data for his Masters project entitled, Tributary creek water quality influenced by land use characteristics at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC. He developed a tool to spatially predict water quality changes in creeks based on land use change. He earned a certificate in geospatial analysis and is proficient using ArcGIS, R, Python, and GPS field equipment. He is native to California and has worked as a professional and research SCUBA diver worldwide.

## **EDUCATION**

**Master of Environmental Management**, Duke University, Durham, NC (2009)

**Certificate of Geospatial Analysis**, December 2009

*Master's project:* Tributary creek water quality influenced by land use characteristics at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

*Concentration:* Ecosystem science and conservation.

**Bachelor of Arts, honors**, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA (2007)

*Major:* Environmental studies. *Concentration:* Marine ecology. GPA 3.65 of 4.0.

*Study abroad:* University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia: Marine biology.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Marine Ecologist/GIS Analyst**, Research Planning Inc., Columbia, SC. January 2010-Present.

**NOAA SCAT Technical Advisor, Deepwater Horizon-FL, AL, MS** (May-August 2011)

Manage and scientifically support the federal representatives on SCAT teams in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. The position requires in-field oversight of USCG federal reps and communication with federal, state and private stakeholders in branch meetings. In-field oversight involves shoreline clean-up technique guidance as well as ecological training. Works with USCG to staff federal reps on SCAT teams.

**Ecologist, UNCC Coastal Remediation-** Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia.

December 2010-January 2011; April-May 2011.

Ecologist and contracts manager on a United Nation Compensation Commission (UNCC) coastal remediation project for Presidency of Meteorology and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aimed at remediating shoreline damages from the Gulf War oil spill in 1991. This position included in-field data collection, lab work and remediation design and contract development.

**NOAA Federal SCAT Representative, Deepwater Horizon, MS**, May 2010-March 2011.

Federal representative on Mississippi SCAT team. In-field shoreline oiling quantification and shoreline treatment recommendation preparation for the Mississippi Canyon-252/Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.

**GIS Data Manager. USAID WINNER-Haiti.** February-March 2010; March 2011.

Performed geospatial analysis and conducted trainings as the geospatial data manager post earthquake. Worked directly with the WINNER GIS specialists and staff by conducting trainings, producing maps and developing watershed management plans. Trainings consisted of watershed analysis/sub basin development and cartographic techniques. Assisted in developing and managing a post-quake response assessment, the Private Sector Damage Assessment aimed at quantifying fiscal damages to the small scale private sector, which made up a significant portion of the country's GDP. In 2011, support of the WINNER project consisted of LULC development, editing and application trainings to the WINNER GIS staff, Mayor of Kenscoff, CIAT and CNIGS.

**Reference Database Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE)**, March 2010-July 2011.

Assisted in reference database management for Physical, geological, and chemical oceanography chapters of the South Atlantic Literature Synthesis for BOEMRE. Work included abstract and keyword development for all literature pertaining to the south Atlantic study area. The work also included a spatial component by identifying geographic locations for each piece of literature.

**Shoreline Classification and Over Flight Photographer, Panhandle and South Florida ESI**, April-May, 2010; October 2010.

Conducted over flights of the Florida Panhandle in support of West Florida Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Atlas. Using obtained aerial photographs, shoreline type was classified into a geodatabase which was delivered to the State of Florida in June 2010. In October 2010, over flights of the South Florida coastline were conducted in preparation for the South Florida ESI.

**Environmental Unit Lead (SCAT), T/V Pere Ana C Spill, Barataria Bay, LA.**  
August 2010.

Acted as the NOAA Environmental Unit Leader for the T/V Pere Ana C (Mud Lake) oil spill response in Barataria Bay, Louisiana. Communicated with Coast Guard operations and identified oiling conditions in field. Data provided insight as to where to direct operational clean up with respect to the marsh ecosystem.

**NOAA Federal SCAT Representative, T/V Eagle Otome, Port Arthur, TX.** February 2010.

Participated in the oil spill response as a NOAA federal representative on a SCAT team. Identified oiling conditions developed shoreline clean up recommendations.

**Marine Geospatial Analyst, Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC,** 2009.

Combined GPS field work with geospatial analysis to accurately build small scale watersheds at Marine Corp Base Camp Lejeune. Compared multiple DEM resolutions and their accuracy when developing watersheds in the flat coastal plains of North Carolina. Processed water quality data and used regression analysis to identify important land use characteristics impacting water quality.

**Saltmarsh and River Herring Habitat Restoration Specialist, Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fisherman's Association, Chatham, MA.** Summer 2008.

Conducted monitoring activities and developed a restoration plan for Rock Harbor Salt Marsh in Orleans, MA. Researched river herring habitat requirements and population history in Cape Cod, MA. Gathered community support and effectively supervised stakeholder communication.

**Research Assistant, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, Moorea, French Polynesia.** Summer 2007

Researched *Tridacna maxima* populations and recreational fishing pressures in the lagoons of Moorea. Established underwater transects on the coral reefs, identified and tagged clams on SCUBA.

**Naturalist and Aquarist, Research Experience and Educational Facility, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA.** 2004-2006.

Guided ecological excursions of the Santa Barbara Channel and led aquarium tours at the campus touch tanks for students K-12. Assisted in aquarist duties such as cleaning, feeding and water quality management.

## PUBLICATIONS

Minter, T.G. 2009. Tributary creek water quality influenced by land use characteristics at MarineCorps Base Camp Lejeune, NC[Masters Project]. Nicholas School of the Environment, DukeUniversity: Durham (NC). 60pp. Available from: Duke University Library, Durham NC

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- PADI SCUBA Instructor; Emergency First Responder Instructor.
- AAUS research dive trained. Commercial fishing experience.
- 24-hour OSHA HAZWOPER training.
- Incident Command System (ICS) 100, 200, 700 training
- Unexploded Ordnance Safety Training Program
- Proficient using ArcGIS 9.x, R, Marxan, Microsoft Office suite.