

Dr. James Tolan
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Dr. James Tolan is a Fisheries Ecologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in the Coastal Fisheries Division. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the College of Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He currently serves on the Standing Science and Statistical Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. His academic background includes degrees from Corpus Christi State University (BA in Biology); Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (MS in Marine Science); and a PhD from the Oceanography and Coastal Sciences Department at Louisiana State University. Prior to joining TPWD in 1998, Dr. Tolan’s research interests focused primarily on the early-life history of marine fish larvae, fisheries

reproduction, fisheries oceanography, and understanding the relationships between early survival of fishes and their planktonic environment. His current research seeks to integrate fisheries-dependent harvest information and fisheries-independent monitoring data with long-term hydrologic data sets in order to determine the amounts of freshwater inflow necessary to support “ecologically sound environments” within each of the 8 major estuaries along the Texas coast. Dr. Tolan currently serves on numerous boards and oversight panels tasked with quantifying the effects of freshwater inflow into coastal environments, and the biological implications of human-induced modifications to freshwater inflows.