

# Vanessa Tropiano

Senior Research Specialist  
Rutgers University  
33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
609-668-4397 | tropiano@ejb.rutgers.edu

## EDUCATION

### **Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Ecology** **May 2015**

Concentration: Forest Resources and Conservation  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Thesis: "Florida Beach Users' Perceptions of Beach Ownership, Erosion Management, and Sea Level Rise"

### **Bachelors of Arts in Geography; Environmental Studies** **May 2010**

Concentration: Planning

Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

Theses: "Sustainable Management of Coastal Erosion: A Case Study of Beach Replenishment at Long Beach Island, NJ" and "The Influence of Buffer Type and Surrounding Land Use on Macroinvertebrate Communities in Streams"

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2022 - present | Senior Research Specialist, Environmental Analysis & Communications Group, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ |
| 2020 - 2022    | Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Tuckerton, NJ  |
| 2018 - 2020    | Environmental Specialist, Project Manager, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Coastal Engineering, Toms River, NJ                            |
| 2017 - 2018    | Resilience Coordinator, Outreach & Communications, Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience, Miami, FL   |
| 2015 - 2017    | Environmental Specialist, Field Inspector, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Coastal Construction Control Line Program, West Palm Beach, FL                |
| 2013 - 2015    | Graduate Research Assistant, Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL   |
| 2012 - 2013    | Natural Science Education Program Intern, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, North Palm Beach, FL   |
| 2011 - 2012    | Environmental Scientist, ATC Associates, Inc., Burlington, NJ  |

2009 - 2011            Research Assistant, Department of Geography & Anthropology, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Auermuller, L., Lathrop, R., **Tropiano, V.**, Sacatelli, R., Habeck, A., Menke, C., Plantarich, A. 2022. Flood Risk and Coastal Public Access in New Jersey: A Story Map. ResearchGate, DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.17405.84962. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b36838838ad94bbcad8272a82ca55fcb>.

**Dornisch, V.**, Ankersen, T.T., and Swett, R.A. 2015. Florida Beach Users' Perceptions of Beach Ownership, Erosion Management, and Sea Level Rise. Florida Sea Grant. [https://www.flseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/Beach-Perception-Report\\_web.pdf](https://www.flseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/Beach-Perception-Report_web.pdf).

**Dornisch, V.** 2015. *Florida Beach Users' Perceptions of Beach Ownership, Erosion Management, and Sea Level Rise*. Paper Presentation. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Social Sciences. March 21, 2015. Gainesville, FL.

Hasse, J.E. and **Dornisch, V.** 2009. Integrating Impervious Surface Management and Smart Growth Development in New Jersey. *Middle States Geographer*, Vol 49. [http://msaag.aag.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2\\_HASSE\\_DORNISCH.pdf](http://msaag.aag.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2_HASSE_DORNISCH.pdf).

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2020 - present | Affiliate, New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center  |
| 2020 - 2022    | Member, Resilient NJ - Long Beach Island Advisory Committee                                   |
| 2020 - 2022    | Member, Brick Township Floodplain Management Planning Committee                               |
| 2020 - present | Member, Barnegat Bay Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee |
| 2020 - 2021    | Member, Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Steering Committee                      |
| 2019 - 2022    | Member, New Jersey Coastal Coalition  |
| 2015 - 2016    | Member, Florida Forestry Association  |
| 2015 - 2016    | General Board Member, University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy                  |