



## **Dr. Mike Parsons**

Professor of Marine Science

Director of the Coastal Watershed Institute and the Vester Marine & Environmental Science Research Field Station

Parsons was a State of Louisiana Board of Regents Fellow and received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1996 in biological oceanography. He received an Outstanding Mentor award in 2001 and the Senior Faculty Scholarship Excellence Award in 2013. Parsons has built a successful research career, receiving over \$20 million of extramural funding to study ciguatera fish poisoning, harmful algal blooms, coral reef ecology and phytoplankton ecology, including the recently funded Greater Caribbean Center for Ciguatera Research.

He is also a collaborator in three Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Consortia studying the impacts of the Macondo oil spill on coastal ecosystems in multi-year projects worth over \$30 million. His 40+ peer-reviewed publications have been cited over 2,000 times in the scientific literature. Parsons uses his research program to mentor undergraduate and graduate students in aspects of coastal ecosystem health. He also teaches several courses in marine ecology and data collection and analysis. As director of the Coastal Watershed Institute and the Vester field station, Parsons continually pursues new avenues for student involvement and community outreach in both research and educational activities.

*'My ultimate goal is to educate students and the public in the field of coastal ecology, particularly in terms of how human activities impact ecosystem health, as well as how these impacts in turn influence human health and well-being.'*

— Dr. Mike Parsons