

**Ludovic Tenorio-Hallé**

Postdoctoral Associate

**Field of Study***Marine & Atmospheric Sciences***What impact do you want your research to have?**

The first impact I want my research to have relates to my current project on the study of an endangered species in the Gulf of Mexico, the Rice's whale. Specifically, I would like my work to provide valuable insights to both policy makers and stakeholders, and support the development of effective conservation actions, with the ultimate goals of allowing the species to recover and improving the overall health of the Gulf of Mexico and its ecosystem.

Having contributed to the development of various scientific methods in the field of ocean acoustics, I hope these find practical applications in other projects, both within and beyond the field of ocean sciences, to advance our understanding of the world and our ability to inhabit it sustainably.

Finally, I hope my research inspires people of all ages and backgrounds to become interested in nature, science, technology, and their role in society.

**What inspired you to pursue your area of research?**

As an engineering major in college, I never really set out to do research in marine mammal acoustics. But by choosing to work on projects that naturally sparked my interest, I progressively found my way into a field that suited me. I also want to acknowledge that I have been fortunate to have numerous role models, mentors, friends and family members, who in one way or another have inspired me to pursue this area of research.

**What is most exciting about your research?**

The most exciting aspect of my research also tends to be one of the most challenging: fieldwork. While it often requires long hours, diligence and a lot of patience, it also provides experiences with value beyond science. Traveling to beautiful remote regions, witnessing unique wildlife, and interacting with fellow scientists, crew members, and local communities has always been a very rewarding component of fieldwork. Also, what's more exciting than throwing instruments in the ocean and not knowing if you'll get them back or not?

**What makes your research unique?**

While the field is rapidly expanding, marine mammal acoustics is still a relatively small field with a tight-knit and passionate community. This makes our field unique and fun to share with people who may not be familiar with it. Additionally, the Rice's whale, which is the species I am currently studying, is unique as it is endemic to the Gulf of Mexico and was only officially identified as a new species in 2021. Despite living in one of the busiest regions of the ocean, its ecology remains largely unknown.

**What are your plans after finishing your postdoc at the University?**

I've come to love marine mammal acoustics and its community, so I would consider myself lucky to find a position in this field with a healthy balance between fieldwork, data analysis and writing. That being said, rarely have I been driven by a precise vision for what comes next, outside of a desire for staying engaged and excited about my work. Being adaptable and open-minded to opportunities that present themselves along the way is what has allowed me to thrive so far and I intend to keep the same approach.

