

D&I Leadership Council

Eric J. Hilton - School of Marine Science,
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Dr. Eric J. Hilton is a broadly trained vertebrate zoologist, with a primary research interest in the anatomy, evolution, and diversification of fishes, with additional interests in the biology of larval fishes and the biology and conservation of local anadromous fishes. Eric received his Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1996, and his Ph.D. in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, also from UMass Amherst, in 2002. Before coming to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), William & Mary in 2007, he conducted post-doctoral research in the Geology Department at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and the Division of Fishes of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) in Washington, D.C.

Eric has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed papers, including several book-length monographs, and frequently with students as co-authors. He also leads extensive field experiences for students. Eric has been integral in revitalizing the VIMS Nunnally Ichthyology Collection, an internationally recognized resource that is used by scientists from around the world.

Eric has held several editorial positions, and is currently an Associate Editor for the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society of London*. He is active in the governance of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, having served two terms on the Board of Governors, as well as a member or chair of several operational committees. Eric advises the Virginia Marine Resources Commission on aspects of fisheries biology, and serves as the Virginia representative for the Atlantic Sturgeon and the American Shad and River Herring technical committees for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Eric serves on a number of institutional committees at VIMS and William & Mary, including as the secretary for the VIMS Diversity and Inclusion Committee and other DEI committees. He also has served as the co-chair for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Matthew Whaley Elementary Parent-Teacher Association (MWES PTA), and is currently the First Vice President of the MWES PTA.