

## **Brandon Ballengée: Scientist, Researcher, and Conservationist**

Dr. Brandon Ballengée is an esteemed biologist, environmental researcher, and educator whose work bridges the intersection of ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation. His extensive research focuses on amphibians and fishes, particularly the developmental anomalies in ectothermic vertebrates and the long-term impacts of environmental disruptions, such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, on marine biodiversity.

Dr. Ballengée holds a Ph.D. in Transdisciplinary Art and Science from the University of Plymouth, England, in collaboration with Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland. Currently, he serves as an Adjunct Faculty member in the School of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana (2021-2026). Prior to this, he completed postdoctoral research at the Louisiana State University Ichthyology Department (2016-2019), where he conducted studies on endemic Gulf of Mexico fish populations.

Dr. Ballengée's research revolves around amphibian deformities, fish biodiversity, and conservation science. His work investigates the causes of developmental abnormalities in amphibians, including the roles of parasitism, predation, and environmental pollutants. He has conducted field surveys across North America and Europe, assessing population health and environmental stressors affecting these species.

Following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Dr. Ballengée spearheaded studies assessing the ecological consequences on endemic Gulf of Mexico fish species. His research examined biodiversity recovery, providing valuable insights into the resilience of aquatic ecosystems after environmental catastrophes.

Dr. Ballengée is a strong advocate for citizen science and integrating public participation into biodiversity monitoring efforts. He has developed numerous educational initiatives, including community-based fish surveys along the Gulf Coast and amphibian conservation programs in North America and Europe. His role at Tulane University includes the development of research and educational programs focusing on the natural history and biodiversity of Louisiana's marine species.

His past research appointments include serving as a Visiting Scientist at McGill University's Redpath Museum (2009-2015), where he conducted amphibian surveys in Southern Quebec and developed experimental studies on predator-induced limb deformities in tadpoles. He has also collaborated with institutions in Italy, Ireland, France, Slovenia, and the Netherlands to assess amphibian population health and developmental deformities.

Dr. Ballengée has received multiple prestigious awards for his contributions to environmental research and conservation. Notably, he was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship (2021) and was named a Grist 50 Emerging Environmental Leader (2020). He has also been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution as an Artist Research Fellow (2017) and has received multiple grants from the National Academies Keck Futures Initiative. In 2011 he was granted a Conservation Leadership Award & Fellowship with the National Audubon Society & Toyota TogetherGreen Program.

Beyond his research, Dr. Ballengée is actively engaged in interdisciplinary collaborations that blend science, art, and environmental advocacy. He co-founded the Creative Gulf Network in partnership with the Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences and the Gulf

Research Program. He has been a member of the American Society for Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the International Association of Bioethics, and Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society.

Dr. Ballengée has authored numerous scientific papers, including studies on Gulf of Mexico fish populations, amphibian limb deformities, and the role of environmental factors in shaping biodiversity. His research has been published in journals such as *Biodiversity Data Journal*, *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, and *Cultural Politics*.

With a career dedicated to understanding and mitigating human impacts on aquatic and amphibian ecosystems, Dr. Ballengée remains a leading figure in conservation science, inspiring new generations of researchers and citizen scientists to engage in ecological stewardship and environmental restoration.