

Dr. Elin C. Torell
University of Rhode Island

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Summary of Qualifications: Over twenty years of experience leading interdisciplinary coastal and fisheries-oriented applied research and extension projects in an academic setting. **Research areas of interest:** human dimensions of coastal and marine management; strengthening gender equity in coastal communities and the fisheries sector; increasing food security by diversifying livelihoods and enhancing aquatic food value chains; and fostering learning and adaptive management for resilient coastal communities. **Management skills:** strategic planning; ability to execute, manage and run complex projects; development and execution of research grant competitions; donor coordination; budgeting, staffing and supervision, and ability to complete projects in time.

Education

- Ph.D. Antioch University, Department of Environmental Studies, graduated in 2003.
- M Sc. University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Department of Human and Economic Geography, graduated in 1996.
- B.S. University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Social Science, graduated in 1995.

Current and previous positions

2023 *Director, [North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit](#) (NAC CESU), University of Rhode Island*

2022 - *Director, [University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute](#) (CI).*

2014 - *Director of International Programs, [University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center](#) (CRC).*

2018-2022 *Deputy Director, [USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab on Fish](#)*

2015 - *Adjunct Professor and Graduate Faculty within the University of Rhode Island's Department of Marine Affairs.*

2002-2014 *Associate Coastal Manager/Research Associate, University of Rhode Island, Coastal Resources Center.*

1997-2002 *Research Assistant - University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center.*

1996-1997 *Consultant – Swedegroup International Consultants, Sweden.*

Select honors, committees, and service:

- 2023-2028: Internal Advisory Committee member, [URI Plastics Co-lab](#)
- 2022-2027: Internal Advisory Committee member, [STEEP program](#).
- 2021-2022: [Feed the Future Innovation Lab](#) Council Vice Chair
- 2018 – (ongoing): Member of the URI Provost's committee for global engagement
- 2018-2022: Program Committee member: Swedish funded [Cities and Coasts](#) competitive grants program implemented by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Organization.
- 2018-2020: Advisory Group member: [USAID learning initiative on gender, fisheries, and microfinance](#).

Recent research awards and funding agencies

Year of award	Project Name and Goal	Role	Funder	Total Value
2021	OurFish OurFuture: Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management in the Pacific Region	Co-PI	USAID	\$15,000,000

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2021	Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM)	PI	DAI	\$677,319
2019	Restoring Fisheries for Sustainable Livelihoods in Lake Malawi	PI;	Pact	\$1,624,293
2018 + 2021	USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab on Fish	PI; Deputy Director	Mississippi State University	\$1,802,595 + \$176,000
2018	USAID Philippines Fish Right	PI	USAID	\$32,948,716
2018	USAID Madagascar Hay Tao	Co-PI	Pact	\$2,900,000
2017	Assessing the Water Quality and Underlying Factors at the Playa Linda Resort, Aruba	Co-PI	Playa Linda Beach Resort	\$28,980
2017	Evaluating strategies used to combat child labor and trafficking in Ghana.	PI	Seafood Industry Research Fund	\$8,359
2016	It's (sc)up to us – identifying pathways for increasing the access and consumption of underutilized local seafood in Rhode Island.	PI, Project Manager	Rhode Island Sea Grant	\$79,280

Recent Publications 2017-2023

- Jamu, D., **Torell, E.**, and Chisale, E. (2023). Community-managed fish sanctuaries for freshwater fisheries bio-diversity conservation and productivity in Malawi. *Sustainability* 2023, 15(5), 4414; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15054414>
- Kotowicz, D.M., **Torell, E.**, Castro, J., Oracion, E.G., Pollnac, R., and Ricci, G. (2022) Exploring influences on environmental stewardship of small-scale fishers in fisheries management in the Philippines. *Environmental Management* (2022) 69:1102–1117 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-022-01645-4>
- Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Marinda, P., Pincus, L., **Torell, E.**, Kolbila, R. (2022) Adapting the WEAI to Explore Gender Equity among Fishers, Processors, and Sellers/Traders at Zambia's Lake Bangweulu. *World Development*. Volume 152, 2022, 105821, ISSN 0305-750X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105821>.
- Torell, E.**, Manyungwa-Pasani, C., Bilecki, D., Gumulira, I., and Yiwombe, G. (2021) Assessing and advancing gender equity in Lake Malawi's small-scale fisheries sector. *Sustainability* 2021, 13(23), 13001; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132313001> - 24 Nov 2021
- Torell, E.**, Castro, J., Lazarte, A., and Bilecki, D. (2021) Analysis of gender roles in Philippine fishing communities. *Journal of International Development*. Vol 33, Issue 1: 233-255. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3520>
- Torell, E.**, Jamu, D., Kanyerere, G., Chiwaula, L., Nagoli, J. Kambewa, P, Brooks, A, and Freeman, P. (2020) Assessing the economic impacts of post-harvest fisheries losses in Malawi. *World Development Perspectives* 19 (2020) 100224 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wdp.2020.100224>
- Torell, E.** Bileki, D., Owusu, A., Crawford, B., Beran, K., and Kent, K. (2019). Assessing the Impacts of Gender Integration in Ghana's Fisheries Sector. *Coastal Management Journal* Vol 47: 6, 507-526
- Torell, E.**, McNally, C., Crawford B, and Majubwa G. (2017) Coastal livelihood diversification as a pathway out of poverty and vulnerability: Experiences from Tanzania. *Coastal Management Journal*, Vol 45: 199-218
- Selig, E, Kleisner, K, Ahoobim, O., Arocha F., Cruz-Trinidad A., Fujita R., Grasso T., Hara M., Katz L., McConney P., Ratner B., Saavedra-Díaz L.M., Schwarz, A.M., Thiao D., **Torell E.**, Troëng S., Villasante S. (2017). A typology of small-scale fisheries management tools: using experience to catalyze greater success. *Fish and Fisheries* Vol 18: 543-570