



**Exponent®**  
Engineering & Scientific Consulting

**Zoi Thanopoulou, Ph.D.**

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## Professional Profile

Dr. Thanopoulou is a quantitative coastal ecologist with a broad background in environmental sciences, including experimental design, field sampling, and analysis and visualization of complex datasets. Most of her work has been focused on the effects of anthropogenic stressors and climate change on aquatic faunal communities. Her doctoral research specifically investigated the relationship between water quality and benthic communities in nearshore coastal areas characterized by high anthropogenic inputs. In addition, Dr. Thanopoulou has analyzed the responses of nearshore coral populations to high nutrient loads in the water column.

Through her doctoral work, Dr. Thanopoulou has collaborated with professionals from various disciplines and backgrounds on both regulatory compliance and risk assessment projects. She evaluated certain nutrient threshold limits posed by management agencies and highlighted the importance of imposing ecologically meaningful water quality and nutrient criteria for coastal areas. Further work on analysis of historic data sets of marine benthos allowed for comparisons to current ecosystem conditions. This may be particularly helpful for clients seeking to establish baseline conditions for various coastal case studies.

## Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

Ph.D., Biology, University of Miami, 2022

M.S., Environmental Sciences, University of Aegean, Greece, 2017

B.S., Environmental Sciences, University of Aegean, Greece, 2015

## Prior Experience

Research Assistant, University of Miami, 2018-2022

Teaching Assistant, University of Miami, 2017-2018

Research Assistant, University of the Aegean, 2016

## Professional Affiliations

Women's Council on Energy and the Environment

## Publications

Thanopoulou Z, Patus J, Sealey KS. Water quality negatively impacts coral occurrence in eutrophic nearshore environments of the Florida Keys. *Frontiers in Marine Sciences*, 2022, 9, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.1005036>

Sini M, Vatikiotis K, Thanopoulou Z, Katsoupis C, Maina I, Kavadas S, Karachle PK, Katsanevakis S. Small-Scale Coastal Fishing Shapes the Structure of Shallow Rocky Reef Fish in the Aegean Sea. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2019.00599>

Thanopoulou Z, Sini M, Katsoupis C, Vatikiotis K, Dimitrakopoulos P, Katsanevakis S. How many fish? Comparison of two underwater visual sampling methods for monitoring fish communities. *PeerJ*, 2018, 6: e5066 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.5066>

Arismendi-Mejia R, Ledoux JB, Civit S, Antunes A, Thanopoulou Z, Garrabou J, Linares C. Demographic responses to warming: reproductive maturity and sex influence vulnerability in an octocoral. *Coral reefs*, 2015, 15:1332-9

## Presentations

Thanopoulou Z, Patus J, Sealey KS. Field assessments of novel benthic communities emerging with changing coastal water quality in the Florida Keys. Poster presentation, Ocean Sciences Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2020

## Project Experience

Conducted assessments of population trends of marine mammals and fish in various marine environments.

Assessed the literature for the low and high ionic strength freshwaters from headwaters in mountain regions and the potential impacts of presence and absent of specific anions and cations to aquatic organisms.

Reviewed the literature for the effects of physical and chemical water quality parameters on endangered lake fish populations.

Conducted data reliability assessments for ecotoxicity studies.

Assessed fisheries related datasets for QA/QC purposes.