

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee
2025 Research Symposium

October 9, 2025
9:00 AM – 4:15 PM

Marathon City Hall, 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050

The presentations will also be broadcast in real time for listening only:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2545329186426815065>; Webinar ID 877-901-443

Meeting Purpose: Share outcomes and management recommendations from research projects and special studies of relevance to Florida Keys and south Florida water quality and marine resources.

Agenda

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| 9:00 AM | I. Welcome and Introduction (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Call to Order, <i>Wade Lehmann, EPA / Lawrence Glenn, DEP</i>▪ Housekeeping |
| 9:10 AM | II. Impacts of Submarine Groundwater Discharge on Seagrass in Florida Bay (30 min),
<i>Dr. John Carroll, Georgia Southern University</i> |
| 9:40 AM | III. A Land-based Sponge Nursery to Restore Habitats and Improve Water Quality in Florida Bay (30 min),
<i>Dr. Andia Chaves Fonnegra, Florida Atlantic University</i> |
| 10:10 AM | IV. Florida Keys Water Watch Sponge Restoration Aquaculture (30 min),
<i>Shelly Krueger, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Monroe County</i> |
| 10:40 AM | Break (15 min) |
| 10:55 AM | V. Modeling Water Quality and Phytoplankton Blooms in Florida Bay and the Florida Keys (30 min),
<i>Dr. Mingshun Jiang, Florida Atlantic University</i> |
| 11:25 AM | VI. Impacts of Caloosahatchee Discharge and Hurricane Ian on Southwest Florida Shelf Water Quality, Epibenthic Life, and Microbial Communities (30 min),
<i>Dr. James Douglass, Florida Gulf Coast University</i> |
| 11:55 AM | Lunch (90 min) |
| 1:25 PM | VII. Understanding Enterococci Sources in Biscayne Bay: Management Implications (30 min),
<i>Dr. Adriana González Fernández, Miami Waterkeeper</i> |

- 1:55 PM** **VIII. Modeling Biscayne Bay Circulation and Microplastic Fate and Transport: Applications for Improving Canal Conditions (30 min),** *Dr. Reinaldo Garcia, Hydronia LLC*
- 2:25 PM** **Break (15 min)**
- 2:40 PM** **IX. Linking Environmental, Ecological, Anthropogenic, and Host-Specific Drivers to Stony Coral Condition on Florida's Coral Reef (45 min),** *Dr. Brian Walker, Nova Southeastern University*
- 3:25 PM** **XI. Science of the Shallows: A Bonefish & Tarpon Trust Research Update (45 min),** *Dr. Ross Boucek, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust*
- 4:10 PM** **Closing Remarks**
- 4:15 PM** **Adjourn**