

Dr. Holly Sweat is a marine ecologist leading the Smithsonian Marine Station's Benthic Ecology Program & curating the Indian River Lagoon Species Inventory, the most comprehensive and publicly accessible resource on the species and habitats of Florida's Indian River Lagoon (IRL) estuary. Dr. Sweat has been working in the IRL for the past 22 years with a passion for biodiversity and for researching tiny organisms that engineer ecosystems and could be key for restoration. She manages long-term infaunal invertebrate monitoring for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and also studies microbiomes, larval recruitment, and benthic community succession. Dr. Sweat received a B.S. in Marine Biology from Eckerd College and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography from Florida Institute of Technology.