

**Tom Matthews** is an Associate Research Scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Adjunct Professor at Florida Keys Community College, and Consultant with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. He received a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from Auburn University in 1986 and a M.S degree in Marine Science from the University of Alabama in 1988.

For the past 22 years at FWC, he has conducted research on fisheries and marine ecology. His principal area of research was on the Caribbean spiny lobster fishery. Since 1991 at FKCC, he has taught undergraduate classes in marine biology, oceanography, and environmental science. Since 2008 with GCFI, his research and program implementation work focused on identification of the sources and reduction of marine litter. He has 17 publications and was principal investigator on 18 grants.