

**Dr. Theresa Bert** has been a Research Scientist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) for 25 years. She obtained her B.S. degree in biology and mathematics from Southeast Missouri State University; M.S. degree in marine science from the University of South Florida, Department of Marine Science; and Ph.D. in evolutionary biology and ecology from Yale University. At FWRI, she developed and instituted the Molecular Genetics and Crustacean Research programs. She has conducted research on the population genetics, aquaculture genetics, and phylogenetics of numerous species of commercially and recreationally valuable fish, crustaceans, and mollusks and on the biology, ecology, evolution, and fisheries of commercially or recreationally valuable shrimps, sponges, and crabs; particularly on stone crab species (genus *Menippe*). She has also worked with colleagues from USA and South American museums and universities on conservation genetics for various conservation programs and initiatives in South America and with aquaculture biologists and geneticists throughout the world on the impacts of aquaculture on biodiversity and ecosystems. She has published 65 papers in scientific journals and given more than 150 presentations on her research, including 25 invited presentations (two as a keynote speaker) in countries throughout the world. She served as vice-chair and chair of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences National Committee for the International Union of the Biological Sciences and as a member of the U.S. National Committee for the international DIVERSITAS program. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Fishery Research biologists and has received two Merit/Achievement awards for lifetime career distinction.