

CHRISTOPHER JAMES SWEETMAN

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management
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EDUCATION

B.S. | University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
Graduated: 2006 – Marine and Freshwater Biology

M.S. | Virginia Institute of Marine Science - College of William & Mary, Gloucester Point, VA; Graduated: 2012 – Marine Science

Ph.D. | Virginia Institute of Marine Science - College of William & Mary, Gloucester Point, VA; Graduated: 2018 – Marine Science

EXPERIENCE

Federal Fisheries Section Leader | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Marine Fisheries Management (DMFM), 2022 – present

- Coordinates federal fisheries management in Florida and develops rulemaking in state waters
- Provide guidance and input on multiple federal issues, including Gulf and Atlantic fisheries management, Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization, coral restoration management, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and Endangered Species listings.
- FWC designee on Gulf Fishery Management Council
 - Sustainable Fisheries Committee Chair: 2023-2024
 - Spiny Lobster Committee Chair: 2023-present
 - Coral Committee Chair: 2023-present
 - Reef Fish Committee Chair: 2025-present
- FWC designee on Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team under the Southeast Florida Ecosystem Task Force
- Represents FWC to interagency teams and projects relevant to the Florida Keys
 - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
 - United States Coral Reef Task Force (P.O.C.)
 - United States Coral Reef Task Force Fisheries Working Group

Fisheries and Wildlife Biological Scientist IV | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, DMFM – Federal Fisheries Section, 2019 – 2022

Associate Research Scientist | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 2018 – 2019

Graduate Research Assistant | Virginia Institute of Marine Science, 2012 – 2018

Graduate Research Assistant | Virginia Institute of Marine Science, 2008 – 2012

Molecular Genetics Research Specialist | University of Connecticut – Avery Point, 2006 – 2007

ACTIVE GRANTS

- Sweetman, C.J.**, Foss, K., McCawley, J., Ramsay, C., McClair, G., Crandall, C., Bunting, M., Rodgers, P., and Barbieri, L., 2024-2026. Testing innovative management strategies through a FWC Southeast Florida Snapper Grouper Fleet to reduce red snapper/other snapper grouper discards and improve angler satisfaction. \$195,113.60 funded by NOAA Fisheries.
- McCawley, J., **Sweetman, C.J.**, Foss, K., Crandall, C., Ramsay, C., McClair, G., Bunting, M., Rodgers, P., and Barbieri, L., 2024-2026. Testing management strategies through a FWC Red Snapper Full-Retention Study Fleet off NE Florida to reduce red snapper/other snapper grouper discards and improve angler satisfaction. \$192,142.40 funded by NOAA Fisheries.
- Foss, K., McCawley, J., **Sweetman, C.J.**, Ramsay, C., McClair, G., Crandall, C., Bunting, M., Rodgers, P., and Barbieri, L., 2024-2026. Testing innovative management strategies through a FWC Experimental Hot Spot Fleet off NE Florida to reduce red snapper/snapper grouper discards and improve angler satisfaction. \$329,096.00 funded by NOAA Fisheries.
- Eguia, L., McClair, G., Corbett, E., Ramsay, C., Wilms, S., Hyman, A.C., Huber, J., Griffin, A., **Sweetman, C.J.**, and Barbieri, L., 2026-2027. A Comparative Analysis of For-Hire and Private Recreational Fishing in the Gulf Region: Estimating Reef Fish Discards Using Camera-Based Monitoring. \$756,255.83 funded by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

PUBLICATIONS

- Klizentyte, K., M. Cleary, D. Cox, C. Crandall, K. Foss, H. Hart, R. Paudyal, **Sweetman, C. J.**, 2023. De-hooking depredation: Exploring multiple fisher perceptions about marine depredation in Florida. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 241. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2023.106677>).
- Woodland, R. J., A. Buchheister, R. J. Latour, C. Lozano, E. Houde, **C. J. Sweetman**, M. C. Fabrizio, T. D. Tuckey, 2020. Environmental drivers of forage fishes and benthic invertebrates at multiple spatial scales in a large temperate estuary. *Estuaries and Coasts* (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-020-00835-9>).
- Sweetman, C. J.**, T. T. Sutton, M. Vecchione, R. J. Latour, 2014. Diet composition of *Bathylagus euryops* (Osmeriformes: Bathylagidae), along the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. *Deep-Sea Research I* 92:107-144.
- Sweetman, C. J.**, T. T. Sutton, M. Vecchione, R. J. Latour, 2013. Distribution of the biomass-dominant pelagic fish, *Bathylagus euryops* (Argentiniformes: Microstomatidae), along the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. *Deep-Sea Research I* 78:16-23.
- Bucklin, A., R. R. Hopcroft, K. N. Kosobokova, L. M. Nigro, B. D. Ortman, R. M. Jennings, **C. J. Sweetman**, 2010. DNA barcoding of Arctic Ocean holozooplankton for species identification and recognition. *Deep-Sea Research II* 57:40-48.
- Bucklin, A., B. D. Ortman, R. M. Jennings, L. M. Nigro, **C. J. Sweetman**, N. J. Copley, T. Sutton, P. H. Wiebe, 2010. A “Rosetta Stone” for metazoan zooplankton: DNA barcode analysis of species diversity of the Sargasso Sea (Northwest Atlantic Ocean). *Deep-Sea Research II* 57: 2234-2247.