



**Gerard F. Pinto, Ph.D.** is an associate research scientist at the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University. In addition to managing of the project, Dr. Pinto gathered and evaluated data, as well as authored the sections on biological impacts of salinity, fisheries, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), and federally endangered and threatened species (manatees, bald eagles, wood storks, shortnose sturgeon) for the *State of the St. Johns River Report*. Dr. Pinto assists efforts to increasing the use of local data, from the SJR Report, in STEM education in the Duval County School District. Over the last 23 years, he has helped to develop and implement approved state and federal manatee protection plans for Duval and Clay Counties. He is a consultant to the City of Jacksonville Waterways Commission and conducts research to monitor manatee populations in northeast Florida. Dr. Pinto conducts aerial surveys and manages a manatee and dolphin geographic information system (GIS) database of aerial sightings. In addition, Dr. Pinto has a background in fisheries and aquaculture and has conducted research, teaching, and worked on commercial fish production systems and marketing in the Caribbean, Kenya and the U.S. His research interests include fisheries sampling and the impact of freshwater withdrawals, sea level rise and harbor deepening activities on the flora and fauna of the Lower St. Johns River Basin.

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