

TROPILUNCH



From TCD to FWC - Social science for tropical marine resource management in the Florida Keys

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BIO

May Lehmensiek works as a conservation social scientist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) where she focuses on the human dimensions of marine resource topics in the Florida Keys. May has a PhD in interdisciplinary ecology from the University of Florida with a certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development. Her dissertation explored occupational displacement of people who fish commercially by conducting interview studies in Brazil and Florida with people who had been occupationally displaced by a hydroelectric dam and legislation respectively. Prior to pursuing a PhD, May had worked as an environmental scientist in the public and private sector in Florida. May is curious about the world and would like to make it a better place.

SUMMARY



The management of natural resources, be they fish, wildlife, or forests, often boils down to the management of human behavior. As this realization became more widespread, natural resource management agencies have started to employ conservation social scientists (or similar professionals) to better understand the human dimensions of fish and wildlife management. This talk will explore how one TCD alumna is applying the things she learned in TCD and SNRE at a US state wildlife management agency. The presentation will start with a brief introduction to FWC and the role conservation social science plays at the agency. Three examples of social science research in the Florida Keys will illustrate the efforts to integrate social science in a setting that is dominated by biological research. Examples will include an interview study to understand perceptions and opinions around a seasonal fishing closure, a survey of participants in the recreational lobster fishery, and an internal interview study about social science integration.



Tuesday - March 11, 2025

12:45 - 1:45 pm



Grinter Hall 376 or

[Zoom link](#)

Tropilunch is a seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars, and practitioners also participate. It happens weekly around lunchtime.



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