

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Staff Profile**

Octavia Williams
Coastal Training Specialist

Octavia Williams serves as a Coastal Training Specialist for the Coastal Training Program at Rookery Bay Reserve. She provides support in the planning, development, facilitation and execution of training programs offered by the Coastal Training Program for professionals. Octavia also assists the program coordinator in the daily oversight of the Coastal Training department.

Octavia earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Sociology from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Upon the conclusion of her undergraduate studies she accepted a position with the National Marine Fisheries Services at the Northeast Regional Office in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She served as the Highly Migratory Species and Protected Resources Intern. Her interest in marine mammal research and population sustainability led her to Florida, where she received a Master of Science degree in Marine Biology from Nova Southeastern University. While in graduate school Octavia also served as a Program Director for one of the Teen Prevention Programs in the City of Ft. Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Department.

Octavia is a NAUI certified SCUBA diver and intends to train to be an Advanced and Nitrox certified diver in the future.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Octavia joined the Rookery Bay team in August 2007.