

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Management Profile
Tabitha Whalen Stadler
Coastal Training Program Coordinator



Tabitha Whalen Stadler is the Coastal Training Program Coordinator at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Coastal Training Program serves as a forum for professional training, field education and networking for Southwest Florida professionals working to resolve coastal and environmental issues. In her position as Program Coordinator, Stadler is responsible for identifying groups of professionals who routinely make decisions affecting coastal resources and developing training programs that equip them with the skills, science-based information, and access to technology they need to make the most informed decisions.

Stadler began her undergraduate studies in Marine Science at the University of the Virgin Islands on St. Thomas, and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Maritime Studies at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg in 1993. In 2001, she pursued her Master's degree in Science Journalism at the University of South Florida where she was awarded a fellowship with the Science Journalism Center. She then coordinated the Tampa Bay Manatee Watch program, where she recruited, trained and managed over 100 community volunteers, coordinated the education of boaters, and facilitated a research project designed to protect the Florida manatee. In 2000 she received the Facilitating Cooperative Science Award from the Florida Marine Research Institute.

Before joining the staff at Rookery Bay, Stadler served as the Director of Academic Development for Pathfinder Outdoor Education and successfully supervised five remote field sites. She is a USCG licensed Captain, a trained high and low ropes course facilitator, and instructs both American Red Cross safety courses and USCG Auxiliary safe boating courses.

Areas of Interest/Experience

Meeting and Workshop Facilitation
Evaluation and Needs Assessment
Technical Writing
Grants Management
Boater Education

***"Providing a basis for informed coastal decisions by communities
in Southwest Florida through research , stewardship, and education"***



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