

# JOINT MEETING SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

## SPEAKER BIOS

### ***Katherine O'Fallon, Executive Director, Marine Research Hub***



Ms. O'Fallon has served as the executive director of the Marine Research Hub since October of 2022. Most recently, Katherine served as Marine Science & iCAN (Integrated Career & Academic Networks) Magnet Coordinator at New River Middle School where she successfully oversaw the implementation of curriculum in the classrooms, developed marketing strategies, and built partnerships within the community to create field experiences for her students that expanded their marine science education.

Katherine grew up in Minnesota before receiving her degree in Marine Biology from Long Island University (LIU) Southampton in New York. In her undergraduate work, she focused on coral reef ecology with summer research in Hawaii. She then began her career working as a marine biologist and educator in Curaçao which solidified her love for marine science and became a PADI Open Water Instructor. In 2002, she moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and pursued her Master's in Marine Science and Education at Nova Southeastern University. In 2006, she also began teaching marine science at New River Middle School (NRMS). From there she transitioned to become the Marine Magnet Coordinator and played a pivotal role as NRMS became a National Certified Magnet School in 2018 and was recognized for 7 years in a row as a Magnet School of Distinction.

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