

LIBERTY LEE BOYD

Director of Research and Development, National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation

LIBERTY@SAVETHESEATURTLE.ORG

EDUCATION

2024	Ph.D.	Biology, Dept. of Biology, Marine Biology Program	Florida International University
2018	B.Sc.	Liberal Arts & Sciences, Marine Bio. & Enviro. Sci.	Florida Atlantic University Wilkes Honors College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sept. 2026	Director of Research & Development , National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation, North Palm Beach, FL
2024-Present	Jumpstart Postdoctoral Research Fellow , Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
2022-2024	Head Teaching Assistant Biology Labs , Florida International University, Miami, FL
2020-2022	Research Scientist , Cape Eleuthera Institute, Eleuthera, Bahamas
2018-2020	Teaching Assistant , Florida International University, Miami, FL

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026-Present	Director of Research & Development – National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation Hawksbill sea turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) conservation research in South Florida and the US Virgin Islands including mark-recapture, satellite telemetry, health assessments, stable isotopes, genetics, and anthropogenic threats.
2024- 2026	Jumpstart Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Florida Atlantic University, Department of Biology/ Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) foraging ecology research in the Indian River Lagoon and the Florida Keys. Measuring harmful algal bloom (HAB) toxin accumulation in loggerheads in south Florida. Movement ecology of elasmobranchs (whitespotted eagle rays and smalltooth sawfish) in the Indian River Lagoon.
2017-2026	National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation Research Assistant – PI: Dr. Lawrence Wood- Assists with sea turtle research projects to assess distribution and ecology of hawksbills in southeast Florida. Participates in field work, data analysis, fundraising, and manuscript writing.
2018-2024	Doctoral Student Dissertation Research – Florida International University, Advisor: Dr. Michael Heithaus- Green sea turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) movement ecology research relative to the impacts of environmental and anthropogenic influences to changes in foraging and space-use behaviors. Used integrated biologging tags including passive acoustic tracking, Fastloc GPS, accelerometry, time depth records, and animal-borne cameras to measure vertical and horizontal movements, activity, and foraging behaviors.
2020-2022	Cape Eleuthera Institute Research Scientist – Eleuthera, The Bahamas Sea Turtle Research Program Lead Scientist studying marine sea turtle ecology and population status in The Bahamas. Leads seagrass habitat assessments and monitoring. Assists with other projects including coral restoration and commercial sustainable fisheries. Leads educational and outreach programs for visiting groups, semester high school program, and local primary and middle schools.
2020-2022	Earthwatch Field Scientist – PI: Annabelle Brooks & Dr. Elizabeth Whitman Led Earthwatch Expeditions in Abaco and Eleuthera, Bahamas to monitor sea turtle population status and health.

- Summer 2019 **NSF IRES Madagascar Program Internship– PI: Dr. Michael Heithaus**
Seven-week Internship in Nosy Be, Madagascar to conduct terrestrial and marine conservation research. Assisted with hawksbill turtle surveys and animal-borne camera deployments, humpback dolphin surveys, and green turtle foraging data collection.
- Summer 2018 **NOAA Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program Intern– PI: Dr. T. Todd Jones & Dr. Camryn Allen** - Pacific Island Fisheries & Science Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. Participated in sea turtle necropsies, assisted in hormone assay and analysis, DNA sampling of hatchlings, data entry, and outreach.
- Summer 2017 **WildPine Ecological Laboratory Research Intern - Loxahatchee River District, Jupiter, FL**
Assisted with field research including seagrass and oyster reef sampling and surveying, laboratory analyses for nutrient and bacteriological processing, and educational outreach activities.
- Spring 2017 **Ocean Discovery Cruise, Gulf of Mexico – Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute**
Semester by the Sea Program, three-day research cruise to collect data on near shore and pelagic food webs and water quality. Deployed CTD, trawls, dredges, and plankton nets. Individual project studying echinoderm diversity and abundance in the Gulf of Mexico
- Summer 2016 **The Science Exchange Sea Turtle Research Internship – PI: Dr. Elizabeth Whitman**
Friends of The Environment, Abaco, Bahamas. Collected and analyzed field data on the foraging preferences of green sea turtles in the seagrass beds. Deployed Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV), conducted seagrass surveys and collected samples, hand-captured green sea turtles, and conducted drone aerial turtle abundance surveys.
- 2015 – 2016 **Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Marine Mammal Volunteer– Tequesta, FL**
Assisted with manatee strandings, manatee necropsies, gear maintenance, and outreach.

PUBLICATIONS

- Torre, S. F., Ajemian, M. A., Wooley, A. K., Heath, L. B., Yakich, D. M., **Boyd, L. L.**, McCallister, M. P., and Poulakis, G. R. (2026). Re-emergence of the endangered smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in a historic southeast Florida nursery. *Fishery Bulletin*. (124), 14-26.
- Boyd, L.L.**, and Wood, L.D. (2025). Release success of captive-reared juvenile hawksbills to coral reef habitats in the Florida Keys. *Marine Turtle Newsletter*. (169), 4-8.
- Boyd, L.L.**, Zardus, J.D., Knauer, C.M., and Wood, L.D. (2021). Evidence for Host Selectivity and Specialization by Epizoic Chelonibia Barnacles Between Hawksbill and Green Sea Turtles. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. 9:807237. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2021.807237
- St. Andrews, L., Hoefer, S., **Boyd, L.**, Paladino, F. V., and Robinson., N. J. (2021). Healing of Skin Biopsies in Wild Juvenile Green Turtles, *Chelonia mydas*. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*. 20(2), 300-303

PUBLICATIONS IN REVIEW

- Brooks, A. M. L., Bjorndal, K. A., Bolten, A. B., **Boyd, L. L.**, Connett, S., Van Sciver Crouchley, B., Dawson, M., Esch, M. M., Fuentes, M. P. B., Gary, M. P., Mayoras, R., Miller, R. L., Rudd, J. L., Whitman, E. R., Witt, M. J., and Hawkes, L. A. (in review). Mapping marine disease risk: environmental predictors of fibropapillomatosis in juvenile green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) across The Bahamas. *Diversity and Distributions*.

Wood, L.D., **Boyd, L.L.**, Nolte, C.R., Skinner, E., Fanelli, G., and Duffy, D. J. (in review). Abundance, Distribution, and Origins of Hawksbill Sea Turtles on the Nearshore Atlantic Reefs of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. *Frontiers of Marine Science*

Brooks, A.M.L., Bjorndal, K.A., Bolten, A.B., **Boyd, L.L.**, Connett, S., Crouchley, B.V.S., Dawson, M., Esch, M.M., Fuentes, M.M.P.B., Gary, M.P., Mayoras, R., Miller, R.L., Rudd, J.L., Whitman, E.R., Witt, M.J., and Hawkes, L.A. (in review). Juvenile green turtle habitat use, growth dynamics, and body condition across The Bahamas: a 36-year mark-recapture and ecological niche modelling study. *Endangered Species Research*.

PUBLICATIONS IN ADVANCE PREP

Boyd, L.L., Perrault, J.R., Hirsch, S.E., Baldwin, J.D., and Ajemian, M.J. (in preparation). Baselines of harmful algae bloom associated biotoxin exposure in wild loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in coastal waters of southeast and central Florida. Target: *Aquatic Toxicology*

Boyd, L. L., Manuel, S. A., Kenworthy, W. J., Rodemann, J., Dedman, S., Fourqurean, J. W., & Heithaus, M. R. (in preparation). Juvenile green turtle fine-scale space use and habitat selection relative to seagrass abundance and human disturbance. Target: *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*

Boyd, L. L., Burkholder, D. A., Thomson, J. A., & Heithaus, M. R. (in preparation). Foraging search tactics and movement behaviors of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) based on a generalist or specialist diet. Target: *Marine Ecology Progress Series*

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS- ORAL

Ajemian M., P. Souza, **L. Boyd**, C. Souza, A. Rojas Corzo, C. Hampton, K. Bassos-Hull, L. Cherubin, and A. Kough (2025). Novel Methods for Tracking Shell-crushing Predation. Florida Keys Marine Science Conference & Workshop. Coral Springs, FL.

Boyd, L. and L. Wood. (2025). A second chance: Evidence for the successful transition of captive-reared hawksbill turtles to coral reef habitats in the Florida Keys. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting. Hilton Head, SC.

Boyd, L. and L. Wood. (2018). Epibiota of Hawksbill Sea Turtles in Southeast Florida. *Exemplary Student Spotlight Session. South Regional Sea Turtle Meeting. Myrtle Beach, SC.

Boyd, L., E. Stoner, S. Archer, P. Murata, K. Comer-Santos, M. Heithaus, and E. R. Whitman. (2017). Effect of *Holothuria areicola* on seagrass beds in Abaco, Bahamas. North American Echinoderm Conference. Worcester, MA.

Boyd, L., T. Ali, S. Fhanestock, F. Gabriel. (2016). Forging Your Inner Diamond: Shine Bright! 9th annual iLead Student Leadership Conference of Florida Atlantic University. Boca Raton, FL.

Boyd, L. (2016). Burrowing Sea Cucumber, *Holothuria arenicola*. Friends of The Environment Research Center Field Course, Marsh Harbor, Abaco, Bahamas.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS- POSTER

Boyd, L., C. Hampton, T. Ostendorf, A. Rojas Corzo, M. McCallister, C. Mott, A. Kough, and M. Ajemian (2026). Picking Up the Pieces: Forensic Methods to Reveal Durophagous Predator

- Interactions with Molluscan Shellfish in Florida. International Sea Turtle Symposium. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.
- Wood, L. and **L. Boyd** (2025). The Elusive Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) of The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Florida Keys Marine Science Conference & Workshop. Coral Springs, FL.
- Boyd, L.** (2025). Harmful Algal Bloom Biotxin Effects on Marine Turtle Populations in Florida. Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting. Hilton Head, SC.
- Boyd, L.** and L. Wood (2023). Evidence for Host Selectivity and Specialization by Epizoic *Chelonibia* Barnacles Between Hawksbill and Green Sea Turtles. International Sea Turtle Symposium. Cartagena, Colombia.
- Boyd, L.** and L. Wood (2019). Epibiota of Hawksbill Sea Turtles in Southeast Florida. International Sea Turtle Symposium. Charleston, SC.
- Boyd, L.,** E. Stoner, S. Archer, P. Murata, K. Comer-Santos, M. Heithaus, and E. R. Whitman. (2018). Effect of *Holothuria areicola* on seagrass beds in Abaco, Bahamas. Abaco Science Alliance Conferences. Marsh Harbor, Abaco, Bahamas.
- Boyd, L.,** E. Stoner, S. Archer, P. Murata, K. Comer-Santos, M. Heithaus, and E. R. Whitman. (2017). Effect of *Holothuria areicola* on seagrass beds in Abaco, Bahamas. International Sea Turtle Symposium. Las Vegas, NV.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

2026-Present	Fellow, The Explorers Club, New York, NY
2025-Present	Board of Directors, Treasurer, The Science Exchange, Encinitas, CA
2025-Present	Ocean Creator Coalition Member, FutureSwell, Oahu, HI
2024-2026	Postdoctoral Association Officer, Campus Rep/VP, Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL
2018-2019	Graduate Advisory Board, Florida International University, Miami, FL
2015-2018	Marine Biology Club President/Secretary, Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL
2015-2018	Leadership Ambassador, Elite Owls, Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL
2014-2015	Education Docent, Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Juno Beach, FL
2013-2015	Instructor/ Group Leader, Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, West Palm Beach, FL

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation Grant: Co-PI (\$156,529)
- 2026 FWC Artificial Reef Monitoring Grant: Co-PI (\$60,000)
- 2026 PADI Foundation Research Grant: PI (\$5,598)
- 2025 FDEP-FSG-FBSRC Bivalve-Seagrass Restoration Research Competition: Co-PI (\$174,904)
- 2024 Florida Atlantic University Jumpstart Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$123,000)
- 2024 Florida Atlantic University ECOS Faculty Travel Grant (\$1,500)
- 2024 Delores Auzenne Fellowship Florida International University (\$5,000)
- 2023 Delores Auzenne Fellowship Florida International University (\$5,000)
- 2022 Judith Evens Parker Travel Grant (\$1,000)
- 2022 Delores Auzenne Fellowship Florida International University (\$5,000)
- 2020 Earthwatch Emerging Scientist Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2019 National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation Grant, FIU (\$45,000)
- 2019 Florida International University Tropics Research Grant (\$3,000)
- 2019 Judith Evens Parker Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2019 Florida International University GPSC & CASE Travel Grant (\$690)

2017 O'Hagan Mentoring Young Lives Scholarship (\$2,000)
 2017 Florida Atlantic University Alumni Association Scholarship (\$1,500)
 2016 Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Society Scholarship (\$1,000)
 2016 Honors College Foundation Research Scholarship (\$2,000)
 2014 George Snow Foundation Scholarship (\$16,000)

AWARDS & HONORS

2026 Florida Atlantic University Northern Campuses Awards Staff of the Year Nominee
 2025 Go Blue Awards - Blue Ambassador of the Year Nominee
 2020 Earthwatch Emerging Scientist Award Recipient
 2018 Florida Atlantic University Honors College Scholar Award Recipient
 2018 Florida Atlantic University Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Award Nominee
 2018 FAU Jupiter Organization Presidential Excellence Award Recipient
 2018 Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Meeting Exemplary Student Research Spotlight Session

JOURNAL REVIEWER

Global Ecology and Conservation (2), *Ecological Applications*, *Ecosphere*

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAININGS

2026 DAN O2, CPR & First Aid
 2025 AAUS Scientific Diving Certification Florida Atlantic University
 2024 Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC)
 2022 PADI Rescue Diver
 2021 Royal Yachting Association Level 2 Powerboat Handling
 2020 Wilderness First Responder
 2020 NASBLA Advanced Powerboat Handling Certification
 2014 ACA Canoe and Kayak Instructor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2026	Co-Instructor – Graduate Level - Marine Trophic Ecology – FAU
Fall 2025	Co-Instructor – Graduate Level - Introduction to Biologging & Biotelemetry – FAU
2022- 2024	Head Teaching Assistant Biology Labs – FIU
2021- 2022	Island School Research Class – Instructor – Cape Eleuthera Island School
2020	General Biology 2 Lab – Teaching Assistant – FIU
2019-2020	Human Biology Lab – Teaching Assistant – FIU
2018-2019	General Biology 1 Lab – Teaching Assistant – FIU
2017	Marine Biology & Oceanography Lab – Teaching Assistant – FAU

TEACHING TRAINING COURSES

2025	<i>Creating a Productive Learning Environment-</i> Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) pathway Course
2025	<i>Promoting Active Learning -</i> Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) pathway Course

STUDENTS MENTORED

Committee Member:

(FAU) Adam Steinfeld, M.Sc. Biology – Thesis title: “Guarding the grow-out: Monitoring predator interactions and novel deterrent testing in clam aquaculture”. Graduated Summer 2026.

(FAU) Valerie Tovar, M.Sc. Biology – Thesis title: “Loggerhead Sea Turtles Spatial Ecology and Coral Reef Habitat Usage Along the Northernmost Area of Florida's Coral Reef”. Current Student.

Undergraduate Mentees:

(FAU) Mia Gomez, B.Sc. Marine Biology, Wilkes Honors College

(UMaine) Madie DeBest, HBOI Summer Research Intern

Graduate Mentees:

(FAU) Anna Kreiger, M.Sc. Biology

Kathryn Marshall, M.Sc. Biology

Allison Centeno Chaves, M.Sc. Marine Science & Oceanography

Nicolas Castro, M.Sc. Biology

Sarah Torre, Ph.D. Biology

Cecilia Hampton, Ph.D. Biology

Ariadna Rojas Corzo, Ph.D. Biology

Jordan Waldron, Ph.D. Biology

Brent McKenna, Ph.D. Biology

Benjamin Gowell, Ph.D. Biology

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- The Explorers Club - Fellow
- Society of Conservation Biology
- International Sea Turtle Society
- Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network
- Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honors Society
- Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society
- Association for Women in Science

INVITED EVENT SPEAKER

Youth Environmental Summit (2026). “Wild Futures: Youth Leadership and Action for Wildlife Conservation”. Brevard Zoo. Melbourne, FL.

Youth Ocean Conservation Summit (2025). “As Above, So Below” Marine Ecology Workshop. Mote Science Education Aquarium (SEA). Sarasota, FL.

NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) Youth Summit (2024). “Finding your ‘Why’ as a young adult in the marine career field.” Charleston, SC.

SEMINAR SPEAKER

By The Sea Lecture Series (2026). “Emerging Techniques and Tools for Tracking Sea Turtle Movements and Foraging Behaviors”. Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Juno Beach, Florida. *In-Person*.

Florida Atlantic University Marine Science Seminar Course (2026). “Tracking Turtles: emerging technologies for tracking sea turtle movements and foraging behaviors.” Boca Raton, Florida. *Virtual*.

Research Roundtable Webinar Series (2025). “Mentorship.” Division of Research, Florida Atlantic University. Boca Raton, Florida. *Virtual*.

Zoom a Scientist in the Classroom (2025). “Conservation of Endangered Species: Hawksbill sea turtle long-term mark-recapture research.” Grade 10 Biology, Peak Centre Academy, Ontario, Canada. *Virtual*.

University of Central Florida Marine Biology Club (2025). “Careers in Marine Biology and Sea Turtle Research.” Orlando, Florida. *Virtual*.

Florida Atlantic University Marine Science Seminar Course (2024). “Tracking Turtles: Green Sea Turtle Movement Ecology.” Boca Raton, Florida. *Virtual*.

MEDIA COVERAGE

2026 **This is Marine Conservation Podcast** “How to Track a Sea Turtle: 3 Technologies and What They Reveal with Dr. Liberty Boyd”

2025 **#ItsWildLife Podcast** “Working in sea turtle research with Dr. Liberty Boyd”

2024 **Shellphone Podcast** Ep. 13 “On the Right (Turtle) Track with Liberty Boyd”

2021 **Good Morning Britain** “COP26 Climate Summit: On the Climate Change Frontline”, Nov. 5