



Gerard F. Pinto, Ph.D. is an associate research scientist at the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University. In addition to managing of the project, Dr. Pinto gathered and evaluate data, and author the sections on biological impacts of salinity, fisheries, submerged aquatic vegetation and federally endangered & threatened species (manatees, bald eagles, wood storks, shortnose sturgeon).

Dr. Pinto assists efforts to increasing the use of local data, from the SJR Report, in STEM education in the Duval County School System. In addition, he is responsible for project administration and managed the grant also; with his co-PI Dr. Pyati (formally Chair of the Department of Chemistry at UNF) since 2016. Over the last 23 years he helped to develop and implement approved State and Federal Manatee Protection Plans for Duval and Clay Counties. He is a consultant to the City of Jacksonville Waterways Commission and conducts research to monitor manatee populations in northeast Florida.

In addition, Dr. Pinto has a background in fisheries and aquaculture and has conducted research, teaching, and worked on commercial fish production systems and marketing in the Caribbean, Kenya and the U.S. His research interests include fisheries sampling and the impact of freshwater withdrawals, sea level rise and harbor deepening activities on the flora and fauna of the Lower St. Johns River Basin.