Joseph J. Torres
Professor
College of Marine Science
University of South Florida

Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography
University of California
at Santa Barbara

Dr. Torres completed his graduate studies in 1980 at the University of California.

His work focuses on the physiological adaptations of organisms to the pelagic environment. Dr. Torres and his students have approached the study of oceanic organisms from two different perspectives: the vertical and the latitudinal. In the first instance, they compare the adapted characteristics of species living in the deep sea with those living in surface waters. In the second, they compare suites of similar species from widely differing climatic regimes: the subtropics and the Antarctic. By melding the two perspectives they gain a broad-scale understanding of the basic physiological characteristics of oceanic species and the ecological factors that helped to shape them.

Current research projects include: (1) determination of metabolic rates, enzymatic activities and compositional attributes of Antarctic zooplankton and micronekton as a function of season, depth of occurrence, and relationship to the Antarctic ice pack; (2) in-situ measurement of metabolism in gelatinous zooplankton using the Sea Link submersible: (3) the role of air-breathing in the early life history of tarpon; (4) energy utilization in larval fish; and (5) adaptation to salinity and cold temperature in Arctic intertidal crustacea.

Chris Simoniello

Research Associate
College of Marine Science
University of South Florida

B.S. in Biological Sciences
Florida International University

Chris started her undergraduate program at Florida International University in Miami as a business law major. After taking a marine invertebrate zoology course, she switched to a biology major. During her undergraduate career she also completed a Certificate Program in Marine Science. She received her degree in 1988.

Following several field seasons with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, a stint as a veterinary technician and volunteer at the Miami Seaquarium, and a few years as an analytical chemist, Chris found a program where she could combine the best of all worlds. At the University of South Florida, she is working on her doctoral dissertation in physiological ecology.

Her research focuses on the physiological and biochemical adaptations that enable aquatic organisms to survive in diverse habitats. Chris is particularly interested in mid-water and deep-sea species, so she spends a lot of time at sea. Her longest voyage was 65 days!

When asked what advice she would share with students, Chris replied, “Do what you love!”