



North Carolina Marine Debris Symposium 2023

Preliminary Agenda

Networking Cafe - Bring a Mug and Collaborative Conversation

Keynote Speaker - **Dr. Imari Walker-Franklin**



Dr. Imari Walker-Franklin is a research scientist at [Research Triangle Institute International](#).

In 2021, Imari completed her PhD at Duke University investigating the release, transformation, and effects of polymer-associated chemicals within aquatic environments. In particular, her [dissertation](#) work in the Ferguson Lab Group focused on endocrine-disrupting chemicals like Bisphenol A (BPA) that are of concern to human health and the environment.

Before Duke, Imari completed her Bachelor in Marine Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Alongside her work, Dr. Walker-Franklin uses her science communication-based [YouTube channel](#) to share information about plastic pollution, microplastics, and chemicals associated with these consumer products.

Dr. Walker-Franklin began a Youtube channel with the goal of introducing new concepts of environmental science and chemistry to the public as a way to improve scientific communication and outreach.

Dr. Walker-Franklin is a co-author of [Plastics](#), from the MIT Press essential knowledge book series. This [book](#) is a comprehensive introduction to the plastics life cycle—the impacts on our lives, our future, and our planet—and the actions we can take. Dr. Walker-Franklin also serves on the advisory board for [Beyond Plastics](#).

Facilitated Q&A - Learn from Experts in the Field of Plastics



Ocean Fest: An Ocean Friendly Event

- Learn how to plan for waste reduction at large-scale outdoor events.
- Learn about vendor contracts, companies to partner with for resources, and working with municipal governments and nonprofits to sustain waste reduction efforts for large-scale events.
- Learn about scholarship opportunities for students in coastal NC communities.

Jan Farmer, Ocean Friendly Director Ocean Fest, Surf City, NC

Board Vice-President, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch

Facility Energy, Materials, and Water Waste Audit Workshop

- Learn how to use waste audits to strategically plan for and justify sustainable waste reduction efforts that prevent plastic pollution and reduce water and energy use.

Dick Sloane and Lynn Bestul, Waste Reduction Partners

Poster Sessions and Project Presentations from Plastic Pollution Prevention

Stay tuned for more details

Special Event Honoring Dr. Imari Walker-Franklin's Book Launch

Ban of Balloon Releases in the Topsail Island Area

Debbie Wilson, Environmental Conservancy of Topsail

Poly Lactic Acid from 3D printers Meet Anemones and Barnacle Larva

Emmie Rose, NCSSM / **Dr. Daniel Rittschof**, Nicholas School Duke University

New protocol for investigating presence and composition of microplastics in the stomach contents of North Carolina marine predators

Sarah Smith and Zofia Cavalli, NC State's Center for Marine Science and Technology

Fractionation of Anthropogenic Particles (microplastics and microfibers) Along A 2,200-KM Transect of Canadian Sediments - Contamination Discharge from Domestic Laundering

Sam Athey, PhD, Plastic Ocean Project

Facilitated Collaborative Strategic Planning and Scheduling Workshop

Additional Workshops, and outdoor activity options on Friday.

Check back for more details to be added soon.