

Dr. Nancy Knowlton holds the **Sant Chair in Marine Science at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History** in Washington DC and is senior scientist emeritus at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. Her research centers on the diversity and conservation of life in the ocean. She is the author of National Geographic's best-selling *Citizens of the Sea*, was the founding director of the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Smithsonian's Ocean Portal website, and contributes regularly to the global ocean conversation via @seacitizens. Her current research uses state of the art molecular methods to find out what really lives in the sea, and she is actively engaged in spreading messages of conservation hope through the #OceanOptimism initiative that she helped launch in 2014. She is a past member of the AAAS Board, is a winner of the Peter Benchley Prize and the Heinz Award, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2013.