

## **Kenneth L. Heck, Jr.**



Kenneth L. Heck, Jr. is a marine ecologist whose research has focused on plant-animal interactions in coastal waters, and on elucidating the role of seagrass meadows and salt marshes in the production of finfish and shellfish. From 1976-1986 he was Assistant, and then Associate Curator, and also Director of the Patrick Center for Environmental Research at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Since 1986 he has been a Senior Scientist at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) and an Associate and Full Professor at the University of South Alabama (USA). He served as Research Director and Chair of University Programs at DISL and as Associate Director of the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies at USA. Most recently he has served as Director of the Shelby Center for Ecosystem-Based Fisheries

Management and is currently the Chief Scientist at DISL. Dr. Heck has edited two volumes of scholarly works and published more than 130 peer-reviewed articles. He has been appointed to editorial positions at the journals *Systematic Zoology*, *Estuaries and Coasts* and is a long-standing Contributing Editor for the international journal *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. In addition, he regularly serves on review panels for a wide variety of federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA Sea Grant. Dr. Heck received his B.S. in Biology from the University of West Florida (1970), and after serving in the U.S. Army obtained his M.S. (1973) and PhD (1976) in Biology from Florida State University.