

Sugandha Shankar

Sugandha Shankar was brought up in Roorkee – a small town nestled in the Himalayan foothills and known for IIT Roorkee. Being surrounded by mountains, Sugandha was always fascinated by seas. After finishing her degree in Botany (Honors) from University of Delhi in 2008, she moved to Tamil Nadu for 2 years to study Marine Ecology at Madurai Kamaraj University. After receiving M.Sc Marine Ecology degree in 2010, she moved to the United States to get her PhD in Marine Biology from the University of Maine. Her doctoral work was focused on understanding nutrient requirements of harmful algal blooms in the Gulf of Maine and she received her degree in 2014. Currently Sugandha is a scientist at Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, FL. Her research projects aim at understanding various aspects of the toxic blooms – nutrient requirements, toxicity levels, and their growth rates and ways of mitigating such blooms.

Sugandha has an interest in making the younger generation aware of the fragile state of some marine habitats. She participates in various science outreach programs that aim to educate elementary and middle school students about marine ecosystems. Besides her passion for science and education, Sugandha also enjoys gardening, reading, and dancing.