



Rick O'Connor

Florida Sea Grant Agent

850-475-5230

roc1@ufl.edu

3740 Stefani Road

Cantonment, FL 32533

Educational Program Focus

- **Coastal wildlife conservation**
Provide educational programs designed to make Escambia County more sea turtle friendly, reduce by-catch in crab traps, reduce mortality in released fish captured on deep water reefs, and prepare for the impacts of coastal erosion, tropical storms, and sea-level rise.
- **Improving water quality**
Provide educational programs to reduce nutrient runoff, reduce high bacteria counts, increase the number of marinas certified as Clean Marinas, and increase the diversity and abundance of marine life in our local waters.
- **Aquaculture and aquaponics**
Provide educational programs that will introduce citizens to the processes and regulations of aquaculture and aquaponics.
- **Improve STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education**
Work with the local school district to develop time-extended labs that will improve scores on science testing and promote careers in science.



Work Experience

- 2012 – present Escambia County Sea Grant / Marine Extension Agent II
- 1984 – 2012 Escambia County Teacher and Adjunct – Marine & Environmental Science

Education

- 1991 Master of Science Education University of Southern Mississippi
- 1983 Bachelor of Science Biology Troy University