



Thomas Derbes II

UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Extension

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Educational Program Focus:

- **Restoring Estuarine Health Through Collaborative Efforts**
 - Providing education and training to businesses, non-profits, and citizens on being faithful stewards of the Pensacola-Perdido Bay Systems. This includes Citizen Scientists, collaborations with local institutions, living shorelines, and constant publications and updates on the state of our local estuaries and how citizens can assist.
- **Seafood Integrity, Proper Handling, and Suggested Cooking Techniques**
 - Providing education on how to ensure you are eating the advertised seafood, how to properly handle it, and tips on how to prepare and present your seafood.
- **Marine Industry Workforce Development**
 - Provide professional development programs for the aquaculture, boating, tourism, and seafood industries.
- **Local Seafood Education**
 - Providing education and resources for local fishermen and women, aquaculturists, and other seafood providers, and opportunities for citizens to connect with them to discuss the benefits of eating local seafood.

Work Experience:

- 2023 – Present: Sea Grant Extension Agent for Santa Rosa County, Florida
- 2021 – 2023: Owner, Emerald Coast Oyster Company
- 2019 – 2021: Farm Manager, Pensacola Bay Oyster Company
- 2018 – 2019: Stock Assessment Specialist, Alabama Marine Resources Division

Education:

- 2017: Master of Science Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture Auburn University
- 2015: Bachelor of Science Marine Biology University of West Florida