



# Scott Jackson

County Extension Director Bay County

Florida Sea Grant Regional Specialized Agent

Northwest Extension District

## Profile

Based in Bay County, I joined UF/IFAS Extension on August 14, 2000. In my multifaceted role, I serve as the County Extension Director for Bay County and hold the position of Regional Specialized Agent for Florida Sea Grant in our Northwest District, focusing on artificial reefs and recreational fishing. Additionally, I contribute to various initiatives related to marine science, including coastal resiliency and derelict vessels.

My educational programs are designed to foster sustainable fishing and agricultural practices, as well as build resilient communities. These efforts lead to increased knowledge among our clients and the adoption of practices that enhance economic conditions while promoting natural resource stewardship.

My expertise spans across Aquaculture, Artificial Reefs, Marine Ecology, Water Quality, Coastal Resiliency, and Extension Leadership.

## Contact

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## Educational Programs

Northwest Florida's Panhandle is a special place because it's one of the world's most biodiverse spots. This means it has a lot of different plants and animals living in both the land and water, creating a unique environment. The challenge we face is how to balance growth in this area where people and wildlife meet.

Every year, Panama City Beach attracts 6-7 million visitors who come for activities like fishing, diving, and enjoying nature. All of these depend on having clean water and a healthy environment, according to the Bay County Tourist Development Council.

It's also important to make our businesses and communities strong. More people and money in coastal areas mean bigger damage when hurricanes hit. In 2017, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma cost over \$125 billion and Hurricane Michael caused another \$25 billion in damages when it made landfall in Bay County, October 2018. We expect more people to move to the coast, so we need to prepare for bigger hurricane costs and impacts in the future.

My goal is to teach people how to take care of our coastal areas and land while keeping businesses strong. We do this by learning about our environment and making choices that help both nature and the economy.

## Experience

UF/IFAS Extension and Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent.  
Okaloosa and Walton Counties (2000 – 2007),  
Wakulla County (2007 – 2011),  
Bay County (2011-2013), Leon County (2013 – 2014),  
Bay County (2014 – Present)

Previous Aquaculture Experience (1985 – 2000) Mississippi Catfish Farming, Mississippi State University, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Gold Kist Aquaculture

## Education & Certifications

Remote Pilot UAS Certification – FAA 2021 (Active)

Master of Science, Mariculture, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2000

Bachelor of Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University, 1985