



Rick O'Connor

Escambia County Extension Agent IV

Florida Sea Grant

Northwest Extension District

Profile

As a lifelong resident of Pensacola, I have spent my entire life on, and in, the waters of the Florida panhandle. This played a large role in my choice of a career in marine science.

Though interested in all branches of marine science, my primary interest are in estuarine fish and reptiles. I have spent many hours collecting, identifying, and mapping their distribution along the northern Gulf coast,

As the Sea Grant Agent in Escambia County, my focus is helping the community restore the health of the bay I grew up around. My area expertise in marine vertebrates has helped with the monitoring of coastal wildlife within the bay region.

Contact

850-475-5230 ext. 1111
roc1@ufl.edu
3740 Stefani Road
Cantonment, FL 32533



Educational Programs

Restoring a Healthy Estuary

Much of this program involves the training and support of citizen scientists who monitor the bay. We train volunteers to monitor water quality, habitat, and wildlife. The program also includes education on improving water quality, restoring habitat, conserving wildlife, and invasive species management.

Enhancing Marine Literacy and Workforce

This program focuses on providing marine science education to both the public and to those in the marine industry workforce. There is a particular focus on natural history and nature tourism.

Experience

Escambia County Sea Grant Extension Agent 2012 – present

Director of the Marine Science Academy at Washington High School.

Marine Science Instructor at Washington High School, Pensacola State College, and Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Professional Preparation

B.S. Marine Science; Troy University / Dauphin Island Sea Lab

M.S. Science Education; University of Southern Mississippi