



# Thomas Derbes II

Santa Rosa County Extension Agent I, Florida  
Sea Grant

Northwest Extension District

## Profile

As the Florida Sea Grant agent for Santa Rosa County, I educate local citizens on issues affecting our local waterways including water quality, aquaculture, and fisheries. I also assist commercial aquaculturists with any problems they are facing.

The Santa Rosa County Sea Grant Program conducts educational events and activities designed for commercial fishermen & women, aquaculturists, and citizens interested in our local waterways.

My specializations include commercial & residential aquaculture, fisheries management, and water quality.

## Contact

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## Educational Programs

### Restoring a Healthy Estuary:

The health of our local waterways and estuary has been a hot topic of conversation, from eutrophication to swimming area closures. This program focuses on educating the local citizens on how to help restore our healthy estuary by understanding proper watershed practices and employing citizen scientists to monitor the health of the bays and estuary.

### Enhancing Aquaculture and Fisheries:

Commercial aquaculture in our area is fairly new and has faced many obstacles. Along with commercial fisheries, this program focuses on educating citizens on what types of aquaculture and fisheries are done in our local waters, as well as how to support these operations and the benefits from commercial aquaculture. This program also educates citizens on at-home aquaponics and hydroponics operations.

## Experience

Florida Sea Grant Agent  
UF/IFAS Extension – Santa Rosa County  
2023-present

Oyster Farm Manager  
Grayson Bay Oyster Co  
2022 – 2023

Oyster Farm and Seed Manager  
Pensacola Bay Oyster Co  
2018 - 2020

Fisheries Stock Assessment Specialist  
Alabama Marine Resources Division  
2017 - 2018

## Education & Certifications

Master of Science in Aquaculture, Auburn University, 2017

Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, University of West Florida, 2015