

Greetings FL AFS Members,

Biographical sketches of two outstanding candidates for the position of FL AFS President-Elect are included on the following pages. Dennis Renfro and Dave Kerstetter have both been active members of the chapter on many levels for several years. There may be other candidates nominated at or before the 2010 meeting to be held in a couple weeks, but the EXCOM wanted to send this out to the membership now so you have a chance to consider the current candidates ahead of this year's meeting.

Best Regards,

Will Patterson,
Past President

Dennis J. Renfro Bio

I have been affiliated with the Florida Chapter of American Fisheries Society since 1983 and I frequently chaired or co-chaired the raffle committee to support student travel. In 1995, I served on the Steering Committee when the chapter hosted the Annual International AFS meeting (Tampa). Currently, I serve on the Florida Chapter's AFS Southern Division Planning Committee.

After receiving a Master's degree at Tennessee Tech University, I began my career with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) looking at the impacts of freshwater commercial fishing on Florida's sport fisheries. My early work was spent developing a mathematical model to estimate the annual sportfish by-catch mortality from commercial gear.

My next 10 years were spent on largemouth bass research. I authored or coauthored numerous publications on exploitation, dart tagging and coded micro wire tagging. I served on Steering Committees to plan the Largemouth Bass Symposium in 1992 and the Largemouth Bass Stocking Symposium in 2005. My current position as Statewide Special Projects Field Coordinator for the Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management, has allowed me to make presentations at recent AFS Annual meetings in Anchorage, Alaska and Ottawa, Canada. I recently coordinated six Freshwater Fishing Summits and two Freshwater Fisheries Roundtables to improve relationships with stakeholders. Other goals of these efforts were to generate public input and commitment to freshwater fisheries management. The program was considered a success in 2009 when stakeholders united to form the Florida Freshwater Fisheries Coalition (<http://www.flffc.org/>).

If elected President-Elect of the Florida Chapter, I will bring a desire and ability of working with stakeholders to encourage more fresh and saltwater fisheries partnerships in Florida. By teaming state and federal agencies, sportsmen, industries and academia we can forge partnerships to enhance the fisheries in Florida. If elected, I will help lead the Florida Chapter AFS to take a proactive role in making a positive difference in the future of Florida's resources.

Dave Kerstetter Bio

I'm honored to be nominated for President of the Florida Chapter. Since 2007, I've been a research scientist with the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach. I currently teach courses in fisheries science and biology, serve on several student thesis committees, and head up a lab of my own eleven graduate students working in various aspects of marine fisheries biology and ecology. Many of these students are presenting their work here at the Florida chapter's annual meeting.

At the College of William & Mary, I completed a joint degree program of a Master of Public Policy (main campus) and M.S. in Fisheries Science (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, VIMS). Conducting collaborative research with the south Florida-based pelagic longline fishery, I finished my Ph.D. at VIMS in 2005, and then served in two post-docs at VIMS and RSMAS at the University of Miami. I'm a member of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists and an AFS Certified Fisheries Professional. I've been a member of AFS since 1999.

In addition to fisheries science, I remain an active participant in various NOAA Fisheries management processes, such as being an appointed member of the Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team for Pilot Whales and the U.S. Advisory Committee for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). I've recently been serving on the Florida Chapter site selection committee for the 2011 AFS Southern Division meeting, during which I've enjoyed working with some of the past and present Florida Chapter Ex-Com members. If elected as the Chapter president, one of my priorities would be encouraging participation within the chapter by all colleges and agencies throughout the state, particularly in southern and eastern Florida, and especially regarding annual meeting attendance by students. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.