

*Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*

*Staff Profile*

*Patrick O'Donnell  
Fisheries Biologist*



**Patrick O'Donnell joined the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in 1998 as an Environmental Specialist with expertise in fisheries research. In his position, he heads up two fisheries monitoring programs in the Ten Thousand Islands to collect baseline data on fish, sharks and commercially-important shellfish species prior to a large-scale restoration project slated for the southwestern Everglades in the coming decade. His projects utilize VOLUNTEERS to help to collect fisheries data relevant to restoration activities.**

**O'Donnell received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from Hiram College in Ohio. Since then he has completed a Sea Semester program through the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, MA, while sailing for 6 weeks on a 125 ft schooner in the north Atlantic.**

**After that time, O'Donnell taught freshwater biology to elementary through high school students at Ohio State's Stone Laboratory in Put-in-Bay, OH (South Bass Island) on western Lake Erie, worked as a microbial biology technician at UNC's Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City, NC (outer banks) working with phytoplankton, and worked for DEP's Florida Marine Research Institute in their Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program in Florida Bay collecting fisheries data for three and a half years.**