

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

2398965055 Aaron Adams
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name

aaronjadams.64@gmail.com
Email Address

190 Ibis Drive
Home Address Suite or Apt

Melbourne Beach FL 32951
City State Postal Code

Home: (239) 896-5055 Home: (239) 896-5055
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

11 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

None Selected

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?

Yes No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: *

- Science
- Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy
- Lagoon Commerce

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.

The Indian river Lagoon is the central cultural and economic component of the east coast of Florida. However, the IRL can only continue to fill this essential role if it returns to a healthy state. Without a healthy IRL, the fisheries, tourism, recreational activities, and the region's identity will all fail. As a Brevard County resident and frequent user of the IRL (fishing, SUP), I have ample reason for investing in improving the IRL's health.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.

I am marine conservation biologist with extensive experience in research, education, and conservation related to estuarine and marine environments. I have worked throughout the state of Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea on conservation-related issues similar to the issues that challenge the Indian River Lagoon. My broad experience and familiarity with not only coastal ecosystems but the IRL, will be a benefit to the committee.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

As the Director of Science of a Florida-based, internationally-recognized, science-based, conservation non-profit, I have extensive experience creating and maintaining partnerships and collaborations with diverse groups. For example, I have excellent relationships with the recreational fishing community, academic researchers, and state agency natural resource managers as part of numerous programs to improve natural resource management. This collaborative way of doing is only successful with strong communication and integrity that enables the long-term relationships that make collaborations successful.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.

I am well-versed in separating personal and professional interests. As a career marine scientist, my daily professional activities require that I maintain an objective perspective. Even in instances where I might have a personal opinion, the data say what the data say, which is what should lead actions. This separation of personal and professional or other interests is essential to any successful collaboration, but especially the types of issues that the committee has to address (some may not be popular or are supported/opposed by special interests).

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.

Born in Maryland, I have lived, worked, and fished on both coasts of the US, and in the Caribbean, where I have been conducting fish and conservation research for more than 30 years. My focus on effective fish and habitat conservation are rooted in my years growing up near Chesapeake Bay, where I witnessed the decline of the Bay's habitats and fisheries. In addition to having a strong publication record in scientific peer-reviewed journals, I believe that translating marine science into layman's terms leads to a more educated fishing community that is more likely to advocate for improving conservation and resource management. I have written three books, contributed chapters to four books, and published countless magazine articles translating fish science into angler's terms as part of my education and communication approach. My appearance on many television and online shows and podcasts - from PBS to fishing shows - is a continuation of this effort. I have been an avid angler since the age of five, and was even known to skip school in pursuit of fish. My early fishing experiences also led to asking the why and how of fish and their habitats desire for understanding that led to my career as a marine conservation scientist. My personal background and professional experience also inform my collaborative approach to marine conservation, and I work hard to build bridges among stakeholders, research colleagues, resource managers and the general public.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. *

Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Recommendation_of_Dr_Aaron_J_Adams_signed.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

I am on the IRLNEP STEM SAC committee

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I am an avid recreational angler and outdoor recreation enthusiast with a marine biology background. I am well suited to serve on this important committee.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I have a bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and Ph.D., all focusing on marine and environmental science. I am an avid recreational angler and outdoor enthusiast (SUP paddling, surfing). I have lived and worked throughout the region, so I have a broad experience that helps innovate to address challenges. Most of the research I conduct focuses on fish and their habitats, and includes the fishing community and other stakeholders. I also make an effort to translate the scientific results into layman's terms so that people are able to make informed decisions. I also have a Coast Guard Captain's license, though I do not guide. The skills I have developed over the years will directly apply to the successful function of the committee as it helps to guide IRL restoration and management.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

None requested

[AAdams_CV_November_2024_short.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

Aaron J. Adams

190 Ibis Drive

Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Email: aaronjadams.64@gmail.com

Telephone: +1-239-896-5055

CAREER INTERESTS

Ecological research with conservation applications.

Habitat ecology, habitat connectivity, conservation biology.

Translating conservation science into layman's terms.

Integrating stakeholders into conservation research, planning, and implementation.

Design and conduct theoretically based research with direct application to conservation, management, and science-based planning.

Ontogenetic connectivity of marine and estuarine fishes.

Effects of natural and anthropogenic disturbances on coastal habitats and fishes.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2001. Environmental Biology. University of Massachusetts Boston.

M.A. 1993. Marine Science. College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

B.A. 1987. St. Mary's College of Maryland

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2015 – 2024 Director of Science and Conservation, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

2016 – 2023 Senior Scientist, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University

2006 – 2015 Director of Operations, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

2002 – 2013 Senior Scientist and Program Manager, Fisheries Habitat Ecology Program, Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mote Marine Laboratory, Charlotte Harbor Field Station.

2001 – 2002 Postdoctoral Associate. North Carolina State University and Mote Marine Laboratory. Habitat ecology of fishes in Charlotte Harbor, FL.

1997 – 2001 Dissertation Research. University of Massachusetts Boston. Ontogenetic habitat ecology of juvenile coral reef fishes, and connections to adult populations.

1993 – 1997 Fish and Wildlife Biologist II and III. U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife, St. Croix. Reef fish census, recreational and commercial fisheries sampling, artificial reef monitoring, staff supervision and oversight.

1990-1993 Master's Degree Research. College of William and Mary, Virginia
Institute of Marine Science.
Temporal patterns of fish assemblages associated with an offshore
artificial reef.

1989 – 1990 Fisheries Technician. California Department of Fish and Game.
Monterey, CA.
Commercial (primarily trawl) port sampling of the *Sebastes*-complex
fishery

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2017 – present Graduate Faculty, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Atlantic
University

2024 – present Affiliate faculty, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch
Oceanographic Institute

2013 – 2016 Research Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of
Technology, Vero Beach Marine Lab

2008 – 2012 Courtesy Faculty, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences,
University of Florida

2005 – 2013 Courtesy Faculty, Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences, Florida
Gulf Coast University

2008 – 2013 Affiliate Member, Coastal Watershed Institute, Florida Gulf Coast
University

2008 – 2013 Adjunct Graduate Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Florida Gulf
Coast University

SERVICE

Associate Editor, Gulf and Caribbean Research. 2007 – 2014.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel 2018

Guest Editor, Environmental Biology of Fishes. 2015, 2018, 2022

Science and Policy Committee, American Fly Fishing Trade Association 2020 – 2024

Steering Committee, Fisheries and Climate Coalition, American Fly Fishing Trade Association,
2020 – 2024

Biscayne Bay Operational Hydrodynamic Model Advisory Board. 2020

Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program STEM Scientific Advisory Committee 2022 –
present

Seagrass conservation through actionable research: Management areas for prevention of scarring
(SCAR MAPS). Stakeholder Advisory Council. 2023 – present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Fisheries Society
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

CERTIFICATES

United States Coast Guard OUPV (Captain's License)

AWARDS

Fly Fishers International Aldo Leopold Conservation Award – 2018

RESEARCH CRUISE

Chief Scientist, M/Y Albula bonefish spawning research cruises in The Bahamas: 6 cruises total, each approximately one week duration, 2018-2020

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS – 114 TOTAL

NON-PEER REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Adams, A.J. 2017. Tracking fish movements to inform conservation. *Fisheries*, 42(8):416-420.

TRANSLATING SCIENCE TO LAYMAN'S TERMS

Books

Adams, A.J. Chapters 1 – 4 *In*: Fernandez, Chico. 2015. Fly Fishing for Redfish. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA.

Adams, A.J. Chapter 3 *In*: Klug, Jim. 2014. Fly Fishing Belize. Published by Jim Klug. Bozeman, MT. 268pp.

Adams, A.J. Chapter *In*: Burkhardt, Dan, *Editor*. 2013. Florida Bay Forever. Acclaim Press. Morley, MO. 192pp.

Adams, A.J. 2012. The Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing for Coastal Gamefish. Lyons Press. New York.

Adams, A.J. Chapter and Afterword *In*: White, R.W. and C.F. Brennen (eds). 2010. Randy Wayne White's Ultimate Tarpon Book. University Press of Florida. Gainesville, FL. 436pp.

Adams, A.J. 2008. Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA. 206pp.

Adams, A.J. 2004. Fisherman's coast: angler's guide to marine warm-water gamefish and their habitats. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburgh, PA. 210 pp.

Adams, A.J. Chapters 1 – 4 *In*: Fernandez, Chico. 2004. Fly Fishing for Bonefish. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburgh, PA. 192pp.

Magazine Articles – 30 prior to 2013, when I stopped tracking

Public Presentations – 36 total

RESEARCH FUNDING

Funds from numerous grants, foundation donations, and individual donors as Director of Operations (2006-2015) and Director of Science and Conservation (2015 – present) for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust. As Director of Science and Conservation, I oversee an annual research budget ~\$2.5 million.

Other grants – 31 total

SERVICE ON GRADUATE COMMITTEES – 7 Ph.D, 11 Masters

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNS 2003-2012 – 17. 7 co-authored peer- reviewed publications

INVITED SPEAKER, CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, PANELS - 43

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS – 55 TOTAL

JOURNALS FOR WHICH I WAS A PEER REVIEWER – 45 JOURNALS TOTAL

OTHER PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Marine Science Seminar Series – 7 presentations from 2017-2024.

Florida Oceanographic Society, Ocean Science Lecture Series. January 2022

Presentation Title – Conservation of a Prehistoric Fish: Tarpon in the Anthropocene

The Science of Backwater Fishing. A two-hour seminar based on my book *Fisherman's Coast*.

A seminar given for Ultimate Backwater Fishing Schools, a three-day classroom and on-water school on fishing shallow coastal habitats. 2003 – 2007.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos published in:

Fly Fishing in Salt Waters magazine

American Angler magazine

Saltwater Fly Fishing magazine

This Is Fly online magazine

Shallow Water Angler magazine

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program calendars

Bonefish & Tarpon Journal

Florida Fly Fishing magazine

EPA web sites

Southern Culture On The Fly online magazine

Florida Oceanographic Society

Orvis Catalogue 2017

CONSERVATION FOCUSED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Television

Dollar-wise Fly (Versus network: one episode)

Pirates of the Flats (ESPN2: 6 episodes)

Buccaneers and Bones (Outdoor Channel: 13 episodes)

Reel Road Trip (World Fishing Network: one episode)

Silver King (WGCU, PBS Documentary)

Florida Insider Fishing Report (Sun Network: 4 episodes)

Changing Seas (WPBT, PBS series: 2 episodes)

- Season 10, Episode 4: Fishing the Flats for Science <https://www.pbs.org/video/fishing-the-flats-for-science-a4t1uu/>
- Season 13, Episode 4: Habitats: The Key to Florida's Fisheries. <https://www.pbs.org/video/1304-yo1gs/>

Silver Kings (Discovery Channel: multiple episodes)

Florida Sportsman: Watermen (World Fishing Network, Sportsman Channel and Fox Sports: 2 episodes)

Guiding Flow (Waypoint TV: 2 episodes)

Podcasts

Tom Rowland Podcast (Waypoint TV; 1 episode) <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/live-from-icast-florida-water-issues-captains-for-clean/id1353574678?i=1000530962532>

Higher Calling Podcast: <https://thehighercalling.podbean.com/e/the-majestic-and-frustrating-permit-flats-slam-series-pt-2/>

Captain's Collective Podcast, episode #076, <http://captainscollective.com>

Anchored Podcast, episode #62, <https://anchoredoutdoors.com/anchored-podcast/>

The Orvis Fly-Fishing Podcast, December 18, 2023 <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-how-water-temperature-affects-saltwater-flats-fish-with-dr-aaron-adams>

Angler's Journal Podcast, July 30, 2024 <https://www.anglersjournal.com/podcast/why-are-bonefish-on-drugs>

Save What You Love with Mark Titus Podcast, episode #50

<https://savewhatyoulove.evaswild.com/episodes/50-dr-aaron-adams-bonefish-tarpon-trust>

Miscellaneous

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/full-circle/red-tide-and-algae-blooms-florida-waters-in-crisis>

<https://anchorfly.com/interview-aaron-adams-bonefish-tarpon-trust/>

<https://news.orvis.com/conservation/aaron-adams-profile>

<https://vimeo.com/bonefishtarpontrust>

Recommendation of Dr. Aaron J. Adams for membership on the Brevard County Indian River Lagoon
Citizens Oversight Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a recommendation that Dr. Aaron J. Adams (PhD.) be considered for inclusion on the Brevard County Indian River Lagoon Citizens Oversight Committee. I have known Dr. Adams for many years and believe that he is extremely qualified to be selected for and would provide a high level of scientific expertise and insight to that committee.

Dr. Adams is currently employed as the Director of Science and Conservation for the Tarpon and Bonefish Trust, and he is also an adjunct faculty member at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Adams received his Doctorate Degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Massachusetts (Boston) in 2001 and has been with the Tarpon and Bonefish Trust since 2015. He frequently travels to the Bahamas and Central America where he consults with local entities regarding efforts to improve their own marine habitats and to institute science-based conservation programs.

As the author, coauthor, or contributor to over one hundred scientific publications in the field of environmental biology Dr. Adams is obviously well-versed in the disciplines of scientific sampling and data interpretation. As such he is able to provide fact-based conclusions regarding his own research and has the training and ability to scrutinize the research and conclusions of others. His abilities are essential for a committee comprised of members from various walks of life who may not be science-oriented or who may not be able to understand the relevance of data relating to issues faced by our lagoon. Such issues as water quality, habitat degradation, fishing pressure, survival of both adult and juvenile species, and the complexity/contribution of the numerous Mangrove habitats along the Indian River are just a few that need to be thoroughly considered when the committee makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Adams' knowledge and ability to discuss such topics, and to help others understand the scientific concepts involved, would make him a valuable committee member.

In conclusion I highly recommend that Dr. Aaron Adams be selected for membership on the Brevard County Indian River Citizens Oversight Committee (for which he is submitting an application.) Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and I thank you, in advance, for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



C. Roger Hardin
290 Heron Dr.
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951
321-431-6779

Watkins, Jaculin

From: Barker, Virginia H
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 12:21 PM
To: Watkins, Jaculin
Subject: FW: Lagoon committee application

Jackie,
What do we need to do to make this requested adjustment?
Thank you,
Virginia

From: Aaron Adams <aaronjadams.64@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 12:16 PM
To: Barker, Virginia H <Virginia.Barker@brevardfl.gov>
Subject: Lagoon committee application

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Virginia,

I am emailing to revise the category for my application for the committee. Please add me as an applicant for the Lagoon Commerce seat. I have extensive on-water experience, have good relationships with the fishing community (which is important, since outreach to this community will be an essential part of the position), and already work in the space that integrates fishing/on the water, research, conservation, education, management.

Aaron