

NOMINATION FOR THE RICH CAILTEUX AWARD 2010

Ronald G. Taylor – FWC, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Ron's achievements and contributions to the conservation of Florida's fisheries span 33 years and counting. During his career, Ron has worked on evaluating the shrimp bycatch in the trawl fishery, evaluating the fish trap fishery in the Florida Keys, and assisted with numerous fish life history studies including red drum, black drum, spotted seatrout, and common snook. During the last 20+ years, Ron has led the snook research program and devoted himself to enhancing our understanding of the biology and management of this species. Through exploitation studies, angler intercepts, telemetry studies, fish collections (aka fishing trips), genetic studies, and countless hours in the lab, Ron and his colleagues collected the population dynamics information needed for the management of common snook. One of his most notable findings along with his collaborators was the discovery that snook are protandric hermaphrodites, a finding that played an integral role in the stock assessment and current management of this species. Ron has authored and co-authored many journal articles documenting his findings to advance our knowledge of common snook.

In addition to his accomplishments as a researcher, Ron also spends considerable time with outreach activities to outdoor writers, conservation organizations, and fishing guides to keep the public informed about snook issues and concerns. He has been the recipient of several awards for his achievements, and was most recently honored by the Snook Foundation and Florida Guides Association in 2008. Ron has been an active member and leader of the FL chapter AFS, and was the Chapter president in 1992. Ron continues to advance the knowledge of common snook, and is currently investigating their habitat use in coastal rivers of southeast FL and near-shore coastal reefs.

In recognition of his long-term commitment to the scientific understanding of the life history and population dynamics of Florida's marine fish populations and his dedication to the management and conservation Florida's marine fisheries, it is my pleasure to nominate Ron Taylor for the Rich Cailteux Award.