

October 5, 2020

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
c/o Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
2796 Overseas Highway, Ste. 119
Marathon, FL 33050 USA

Dear GCFI Board of Directors,

I am honored to be considered to serve on the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Board of Directors. I first attended GCFI in 2013 while in graduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi. GCFI was my first large scientific meeting and I attended to present some of my preliminary work involving invasive Lionfish life history in the northern Gulf of Mexico. It didn't take long for me to realize that GCFI was extremely welcoming and a one of a kind organization. Since 2013, I have attended and presented at every GCFI meeting and is an event that I look forward to every year. Throughout my years of attendance, I have been honored to receive a number of GCFI awards and scholarships including the GCFI Ron Schmied scholarship (2013), GCFI travel award (2014) and the most outstanding student presentation (2017). I was also selected to host the 2020 GCFI meeting in Destin - Fort Walton Beach but due to COVID-19, the in-person meeting has been rescheduled for November 2021.

If selected to serve on the GCFI Board of Directors, I will continue to contribute to the community through existing programs and initiatives that have proved successful in recent years and I will take an active role in the annual meeting planning committee. I will also work to connect with organizations and stakeholders that have not been involved with GCFI in years past. These new contributors will provide new prospective and potential that will continue to develop GCFI into the community that it is known for. In recent years, the GCFI social media presence has grown with the times and has proved to be a successful means of engaging with the community. While presenting scientific research from around the greater

Caribbean is important, it is also important to ensure that information is disseminated to stakeholders in a way that they can understand. I will work closely with GCFI and other key community members to create informative and meaningful media highlighting GCFI contributions. Making the connection or bridging the gap between managers, scientists and stakeholders will be my goal if selected to serve on the GCFI Board of Directors.

GCFI has contributed a great deal to my career and even connected me with my first employer following graduate school. With everything GCFI has done for me and my career, I would be honored to be selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the next four years so I may contribute to the organization and carry on its legacy.

Respectfully,



Alexander Q. Fogg
Coastal Resource Manager
Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
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