

Lyles-Simpson Award
Recipient
2018



Christopher M. Blankenship

CHRISTOPHER M. BLANKENSHIP

It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's Lyles-Simpson Award to Christopher M. Blankenship. This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual, agency, or organization which has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities. Chris and his wife, Allyson, have been married for 27 years and have three children.

Chris has been involved in the marine fisheries world for over 24 years and is currently the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Over his notable career, he has worked for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in various capacities including Conservation Enforcement Officer, Director of Marine Resources Division and Deputy Commissioner. Chris was integrally involved in the immediate response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and advised and assisted key personnel on recovery and restoration activities.

During his tenure, Chris has served on numerous boards, councils and commissions. He has been and still is a Commissioner for the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission including several times as Chairman; a member of the Board of Control of the Employees Retirement System of Alabama; Co-Chair of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Executive Committee; a member of the Alabama Coastal Resources Advisory Committee; a member of Ocean Policy Committee for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and Chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Law

Enforcement Advisory Panel and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee.

Currently, Chris is the Governor's designee to the Gulf

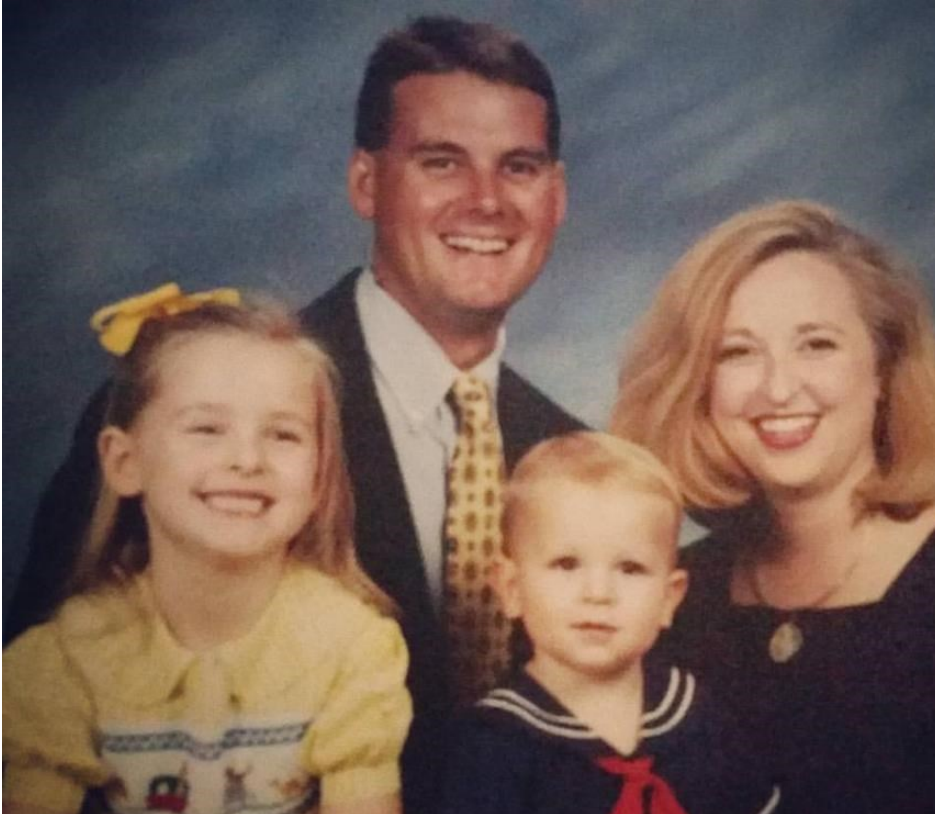
Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council established by the RESTORE Act and coordinates the Department's role as Administrator for the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council, which oversees certain funds allocated directly to the State of Alabama. He is the Lead Trustee for the State of Alabama overseeing administrative and technical aspects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and assists with efforts to implement coastal restoration projects funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. He is also the program administrator of the Alabama Seafood Marketing and Testing Commissions and is Alabama's representative on the Gulf of Mexico Regional Seafood Marketing Coalition.

Chris' commitment to the effective management of the marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico has led to an overall improvement of those resources. His leadership has helped guide us into the future, ensuring that the marine resources will be there for generations to come. It is with great pride that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's Lyles-Simpson Award to such a worthy recipient.











Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Past Lyles-Simpson Award Recipients

<i>Charles H. Lyles</i>	1984
<i>Theodore B. Ford</i>	1985
<i>J.Y. Christmas</i>	1986
<i>John Breaux</i>	1987
<i>John Ray Nelson</i>	1988
<i>I.B. "Buck" Byrd</i>	1989
<i>Hugh A. Swingle</i>	1990
<i>John A. Mehos</i>	1991
<i>J. Burton Angelle</i>	1992
<i>Louis A. Villanova</i>	1993
<i>Theodore H. Shepard</i>	1994
<i>Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.</i>	1995
<i>Tommy D. Candies</i>	1996
<i>Walter M. Tatum</i>	1997
<i>Thomas L. Heffernan</i>	1998
<i>Trent Lott</i>	1999
<i>James M. Barkuloo</i>	2000
<i>Walter W. Fondren, III</i>	2001
<i>Jerald K. Waller</i>	2002
<i>Andrew J. Kemmerer</i>	2003
<i>Hal R. Osborn</i>	2004
<i>Leroy Kiffe</i>	2005
<i>Robert P. Jones</i>	2006
<i>Wayne E. Swingle</i>	2007
<i>Ralph Rayburn</i>	2008
<i>William S. "Corky" Perret</i>	2009
<i>Albert L. King</i>	2010
<i>Virginia A. Vail</i>	2011
<i>R. Vernon Minton</i>	2012
<i>Larry B. Simpson</i>	2013
<i>Michael C. Voisin</i>	2014
<i>Ellie Francisco Roche</i>	2015
<i>Michael S. Ray</i>	2016
<i>Joseph I. Gill, Jr.</i>	2017
