

MPA Enforcement International

Aaron Smith

BIOGRAPHY

Aaron Smith has more than 15 years working in the fields of Zoology and Environmental Law Enforcement. He has held positions in a wide range of resource regulation and wildlife management groups. He has an AA in Zoology and in Criminal Law, a BS in Environmental Science with a concentration in Wildlife Management from Palm Beach Atlantic University, and is presently working toward his MA in Wildlife Biology from University of Florida.

Aaron began work for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2009 and served three years as a Marine Patrol Unit in Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary. He was quickly identified as an expert at documenting and prosecuting marine resource violations, and worked hand in hand with agents and staff from the FKNMS, NOAA, and US Fish and Wildlife to prosecute several major cases in 2011 and 2012. Aaron was recognized by the Florida State Attorney's office and the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association for outstanding service in the preservation of their industries.

In 2012 Aaron was promoted by Florida Fish and Wildlife to the position of Captive Wildlife Investigator for Florida's Southern region. He left the water to focus on the preservation of Florida's land based wildlife and natural resources by enforcing rules and prosecuting violations relating to the capture, possession, and sale of indigenous and exotic wildlife.

Aaron has been recognized by the Commission and US Fish and Wildlife as a subject matter expert on the regulation of the marine reef and aquarium industries and its impact on natural resources. He is also certified as a Law Enforcement Instructor and holds certifications in Interview and Interrogation, Covert Operations, Field Training Agent, Boating Accident Investigation, Basic Firefighting and Prescribed Burns, Marine Mammal Rescue, Safe Capture with the use of Chemical Immobilization, and commercial environmental threat assessment.

