SENIOR PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Who:
Florida 4-H Seniors (ages 14-18 as of September 1, 2025) participating in the Aquatic & Marine Ecosystems Contest.

Due Dates:
Florida Friendly Angler Certificate – November 7, 2025 (turned in online)
Written Report – November 7, 2025 (turned in online)
Poster – November 22, 2025 (turned in at check-in for the contest)

Project Overview:
For your senior project, you will explore the 2025 contest theme of responsible angling, which includes the practice of fishing with environmental ethics, proper catch and release methods, and an understanding of how Florida fisheries are managed. This is a free-form project, meaning you can choose any format or topic that interests you, as long as it connects to responsible angling. You should plan to complete your project in the months leading up to the contest, then create the following three components to be judged.

1. You will complete the free online course "Florida Friendly Angler" through Florida Sea Grant.
2. Leading up to the contest you will submit a written report explaining your project.
3. You will create a physical poster (e.g., a tri-fold poster) that explains your project for contest attendees to learn about your work.

Details of all three components can be found below and in the rubric. The written report and the poster will be judged by professionals from Florida Sea Grant. You are encouraged to explore any aspect of responsible angling that interests you. This could include art, science, policy, community outreach, or personal experience.

Project Requirements:

1. *Florida Friendly Angler Certification*
    - All seniors participating in the contest must complete the free online course from Florida Sea Grant: Florida Friendly Angler Certification Program
    - Course registration & information : https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/florida-friendly-angler-certification-program/
    - A digital copy of your certificate (PDF file) must be turned in online by November 7, 2025. Use this link: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_88sbdNJorBgqLD8
2. *Written Report*
    - Use correct formatting:
        a. Must be computer-generated and formatted using double-spaced type and 12pt font in legible font face.
        b. All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography" list.
        c. Submitted as a PDF file.
    - Includes all required information:
        a. Explain what your project is and why it matters
        b. Describe why you chose this project
        c. Reflect on what you learned
        d. Proposal for the future of the project
    - Turned in online two weeks by November 7, 2025. Use this link: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79Dgn0OOzt82jzM
3. *Poster*
    - Visually engaging and well-organized. Including visuals with captions, titles, & descriptions of your project.

- Minimum poster size 24" X 36"
- Includes the following required information:
    a. What is your project? Why is it important?
    b. Why did you choose to do your project?
    c. Your findings/results/experience gained
    d. What are the next steps?
    e. All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography" list.
- Will be turned in at check-in for the contest. Your poster will be displayed during the contest for attendees to browse and learn about your project. During this time, you will be standing by your poster to answer questions about your project to event attendees.

Project Ideas:

Creative & Artistic Projects

- Infographic Series: Design a set of infographics about catch-and-release techniques, invasive species, or local fishing regulations.
- Wildlife Art Exhibit: Create detailed illustrations or paintings of local fish species and their habitats, with educational captions.
- Short Film or Documentary: Produce a video exploring the impact of overfishing or pollution on a local waterway.

Scientific & Research-Based Projects

- Water Quality Testing: Collect and analyze water samples from local fishing spots to assess habitat health.
- Fish Population Study: Research the population trends of a specific species in your area and how angling affects it.
- Gear Impact Comparison: Compare the environmental impact of different types of fishing gear (e.g., barbed vs. barbless hooks).

Educational & Advocacy Projects

- Angler's Guidebook: Create a beginner's guide to responsible angling, including ethics, safety, and conservation tips for your community.
- Lesson Plan: Design and present a lesson for younger 4-Hers about sustainable fishing.
- Public Awareness Campaign: Develop posters, social media content, or a website to promote responsible angling in your community.

Hands-On & Engineering Projects

- DIY Eco-Friendly Tackle Box: Build a tackle box using sustainable or recycled materials and explain your design choices.
- Habitat Restoration Model: Create a scale model of a restored fish habitat and explain the ecological benefits.
- Fishing Line Recycling Station: Design and prototype a station for collecting and recycling used fishing line.

Personal & Reflective Projects

- Fishing Journal & Reflection: Keep a journal of your fishing experiences, focusing on how you applied responsible angling practices.
- Family Fishing History: Interview family members about their fishing traditions and how practices have changed over time.
- Ethics Essay: Write a thoughtful & persuasive essay on the moral responsibilities of anglers in the modern world published in a local media outlet.

Rubric:

Category	5	4	3	2	1	0
Content Knowledge*	Demonstrates understanding of responsible angling practices. Shows depth of research & accuracy.		Some understanding of responsible angling practices shown. Shows some research & accuracy.		Minimal understanding of responsible angling practices shown. Research & accuracy lacking.	No senior project turned in.
Florida Friendly Anglers Certificate	Certificate earned.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Certificate not earned.
Creativity & Originality*	Project reflects student's unique interests & presents information in an engaging, innovative way.		Project reflects some of student's unique interests & presents information in a standard way.		Project does not reflect student's unique interests & presents information poorly, as if from a script.	No senior project turned in.
Tri-Fold Poster Presentation*	Poster is visually appealing, & well-organized. Includes all required information. Uses visuals, titles, captions, & concise text.		Poster organization could improve. Includes some of the required information. Missing some visuals, titles, captions & concise text.		Poster is visually un-appealing & lacks organization. Missing most of the required information. Missing visuals, titles, & concise text.	No tri-fold poster turned in.
Written Report	Includes all required information. Well-written, organized, formatted correctly, & free of major grammar/spelling errors. Sources cited for factual information.		Includes some of the required information. Some organization, formatting, & grammar/spelling errors. Sources cited for factual information.		Missing most of the required information. No organization, formatted incorrectly, & many grammar/spelling errors. No sources present.	No written report turned in.
Effort & Completeness*	Project is thorough and reflects significant time & effort. All components (poster + report) are submitted on time.		Project reflects some time & effort. One component (poster or report) not turned in on time.		Project reflects minimal time & effort. One or both components (poster or report) not turned in on time.	No senior project turned in.

*Points awarded on the contest day.

Total: _____/30