Read Hendon is currently the Assistant Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). He is a Certified Fisheries Professional (FP-C) through the American Fisheries Society and a Certified Oyster Biologist through Louisiana's Department of Natural Resources. Most recently, Read has served as project manager for GCRL's involvement in the Port of Gulfport Restoration Program's Environmental Services contract and undertaken numerous duties relative to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, including serving as: Inter-Agency Coordinator for the University of Southern Mississippi Oil Spill Response Team; Mississippi Trustee Representative for the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Fish Technical Working Group; and, GCRL Project Manager for the Mississippi Resource Restoration Group (the State of Mississippi's NRDA assessment team). He also serves as Principal Investigator on numerous state and federal research projects, ranging from finfish population assessments to angler-cooperative tag/release studies.

In 2009, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council appointed Read to two-year terms on its Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee, Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Advisory Panel and Red Drum Advisory Panel, each of which he was re-appointed to in 2011. He also acts as Field Party Chief for Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) offshore trawl surveys and currently serves as the Chairman of and Mississippi Representative for the SEAMAP Gulf Sub-Committee. Other committees include: SEAMAP Shrimp and Groundfish Work Group, SEAMAP Reef Fish Work Group Leader, GCRL's Boat Operations Committee, and USFWS/NOAA Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Expert, Tier 2. In February 2010, Read was recognized as the 2009 Fisheries Conservationist of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in USM's Department of Coastal Sciences, conducting his dissertation research on juvenile spotted seatrout.