



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER M. BLANKENSHIP
COMMISSIONER

EDWARD F. POOLOS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



Biography of Chris Blankenship

Chris Blankenship is the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), appointed by Governor Kay Ivey in May of 2017. He has been with DCNR since 1994, when he joined the Department as a Conservation Enforcement Officer in the Marine Resources Division.

Chris is Chairman of the Forever Wild Land Trust Board, Chair of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Executive Committee, past Chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Program Administrator of the Alabama Seafood Marketing and Testing Commission. Chris also served as a member of the Board of

Control of the Employees Retirement System of Alabama.

Having been integrally involved in the State's response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill from the beginning, Chris has a solid background for the oil spill recovery and restoration work he handles as Governor Ivey's appointed designee to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. Chris also coordinates the Department's role as Administrator for the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council, which was established to oversee certain funds allocated directly to the State of Alabama.

Chris further serves as Lead Trustee for the State of Alabama in overseeing administrative and technical aspects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), and he assists on behalf of the Governor's Office with implementing coastal restoration projects funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

He has been happily married to Allyson Blankenship for 32 years and has three adult children. He is a native of Dauphin Island, Alabama, and currently resides in Montgomery, Alabama.