To most Americans, Florida is Miami and Miami Vice, retired people and Disney World. *The Wilderness Coast* introduces the reader to another Florida, the West or Gulf Coast. Rudloe aptly describes this area when he writes “The eastern Gulf of Mexico which extends from the Florida Keys north and west to Mobile Bay, has some of the richest and most diverse wild coastline left in the continental United States” (p. 3).

Jack Rudloe is a biological-specimen collector and researcher. This book relates many of his memorable adventures while collecting and studying marine organisms. Although most of the stories deal with the Gulf Coast, one expedition strays to Surinam and another to Cape Canaveral. The interesting, informative and well-written vignettes introduce the reader to alligators, sea turtles, mullet, toad fish, sawfish, rays, sharks, horseshoe crabs, lobsters, octopi, worms, and giant sea roaches. Rudloe’s excitement about this wilderness coast and its relatively unknown biota are strongly conveyed in his writings.

*The Wilderness Coast* is richly illustrated by Julia Damon Hanway’s line drawings and map as well as nineteen black and white photographs of fair to good quality. Unfortunately, the map lettering is unclear in my copy. The photographs taken by Anne Rudloe were particularly good, but many of the photographs are from the public relations files or organizations. I would rather see more of the photos taken by Anne and Jack Rudloe. Photograph 15 is of an osprey, with a caption about the impact of DDT on osprey populations, but it is not relevant to the text.

I have two major complaints with the book. First, I believe that the book needs a list of significant references on the wilderness coast. Rudloe has whetted our interests in learning more about this area and its biota but what are some sources of information? Secondly, I think that Rudloe stopped too soon. The book needs a synthesis chapter telling the reader what all these adventures mean to this wild coast. What is the state of knowledge about the Gulf and its resources, how is resource management affected and what about threats from pollution, increasing population and economic development, particularly from oil, gas and chemical manufacturing and tourism. Surely Rudloe should make a plea for preservation of unique and critical habitats and species of the Gulf Coast. I am not sure from
reading the book whether Jack Rudloe is interested in environmental projection and restoration or he just assumes that environmental destruction is inevitable. From his interview on National Public Radio (July 1988), I know that the author does have strong environmental leanings.

*The Wilderness Coast* is an excellent chronicle of the trials and tribulations of field research, particularly when a researcher is forced to counterpoise limited time and money, environmental conditions, and physical discomfort and danger with gaining additional knowledge or that "last bit of data"—choices that all field workers are forced to make. It is very interesting and enjoyable reading and I would recommend the book to academics and the general public. This book would be useful as supplementary reading in a coastal geography, marine biology, or field methods class.

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