

Patrick J. Pendergast, Director of International Travel

The Fly Shop Inc.

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Recreation Administration, California State University, Chico. Graduated: 1991

Work Experience:

Alaska Fly Fishing Guide (1985 – 1988)

I started my professional fly fishing career working as a fly-out fly fishing guide in Southwest Alaska in the Katmai and Lake Iliamna regions. The subsequent three years I guided on Lake Creek in Southcentral Alaska for trout and salmon.

Fishing International (1991 – 1995)

After graduating college I was hired by Bob Nauheim of Fishing International as a fishing travel sales specialist. I worked under Bob's guidance (a pioneer in the industry of fishing travel) for approximately four years.

Camp Kiklukh: (1995 – 1996)

I resigned my position at Fishing International to get back in the field and back to Alaska, and went into business and partnership with a friend to market and operate Camp Kiklukh, a remote sport fishing camp on the Gulf Coast of Alaska. Our Alaska fly fishing lodge was wildly successful, being 100% subscribed just two years after we built it. However, my partner and I had different philosophies on how a lodge and business should be operated and where the business was going in the future, so we amenablely dissolved our partnership.

The Fly Shop, Inc.: (1996 – present)

In the fall of 1996, Mike Michalak made me an offer I couldn't refuse. Mike was in the beginning stages of a massive expansion and I was hired to take our travel department to the next level. At that time, our travel department was Mike, his wife Bertha, and I. Nowadays the department employs four destination sales specialists, along with two support personnel, and is arguably the most successful fly fishing travel business in the world. We facilitate international fly fishing travel for approximately 2,000 anglers annually and contribute substantially to the success of The Fly Shop.

I have traveled and fly fished extensively all over the world from Kamchatka, Russia, to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, fresh and saltwater, and have been instrumental in developing numerous new fly fishing operations in Alaska, Chile, Argentina, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, etc.

Why I am interested in Serving:

I feel I can offer a positive and fresh perspective to AFFTA if elected as a board of director. I have a thorough background in all facets of fly fishing, with a special emphasis on fly fishing travel and international business that gives me a broad understanding of that segment of the industry, and how it may benefit the American fly fishing industry. Part of my motivation to join the AFFTA team stems from my sincere wish to make fly fishing more readily available to a broader demographic as well as initiate grass roots efforts to organically grow fly fishers from our youth population. I have worked and been mentored by Mike Michalak, one of the most dynamic and successful fly fishing businessmen in the world, for 15 years. I have been, by any comparison, successful in my fly fishing career and feel now is the time to give back to the sport

that has afforded me such a wonderful and fulfilling personal and business life. I know that I can make a difference and want to share what I have learned and experienced for the betterment of the fly fishing industry.