Environment reporter Mark Schleifstein has worked at NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune since 1984. In 2011, the Press Club of New Orleans honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. His stories on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil spill were among The Times-Picayune work honored with the 2010 Edward J. Meeman Award for environmental reporting from the Scripps-Howard Foundation National Journalism Awards program, and with a second place award in the 2011 John B. Oakes Awards program. His reporting during and after Hurricane Katrina was among the newspaper's stories honored with 2006 Pulitzer Prizes for Public Service and Breaking News Reporting and the George Polk Award for Metropolitan Reporting. He is the co-author with John McQuaid of Path of Destruction: The Devastation of New Orleans and the Coming Age of Superstorms, published by Little, Brown & Co., in August 2006. Stories written with McQuaid prior to Katrina on coastal science issues were honored in 2006 with a special award from the American Geophysical Union.

The 2002 series he co-authored, "Washing Away: How south Louisiana is growing more vulnerable to a catastrophic hurricane," won the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2003 Excellence in Media award and the 2003 National Hurricane Conference media award. He also was co-author of the 1996 series, "Oceans of Trouble: Are the World's Fisheries Doomed?", which won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service from the Society of Professional Journalists. He co-authored the 1998 series, "Home Wreckers: How the Formosan termite is devastating New Orleans," which was a finalist for the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting and won awards from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

He also was the co-author of the 1991 series, "Louisiana in Peril," which was a finalist for the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism.