

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Paul Anderson** is the director of Maine Sea Grant and the Aquaculture Research Institute. Before joining Sea Grant in 1999, Anderson spent 10 years at the Maine Department of Marine Resources, first as chief microbiologist and then as director of the Public Health Division, where he was involved in all aspects of seafood safety and environmental monitoring. In December 2013 he was named director of the Aquaculture Research Institute at the University of Maine. He is also serving as the Research Director for the five-year National Science Foundation-funded (\$20M) project “Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network - SEANET.” Anderson is involved in several statewide initiatives including alternative ocean energy and the Alliance for Maine’s Marine Economy. He lives in Winterport and enjoys organic gardening at “Spacious Skies Farm.” In his free time, he plays guitar and mandolin in various formats including the Maine-based band, Blue Northern.



**Elizabeth Andrews** is a Professor of the Practice and Director of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School, which is a partnership between the Law School, Virginia Sea Grant and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. In addition to educating future citizen lawyers, the Center provides science-based legal and policy analysis of ecological issues affecting coastal resources. Before joining the William & Mary Law School faculty, Andrews served as the Water Policy Manager for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, where she handled policy issues related to stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, wetlands, water discharge permits, and surface and groundwater withdrawal permitting. Prior to that, she served as Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Environmental Section of the Virginia Office of the Attorney General, where she oversaw a team of attorneys litigating cases in federal and state court and counseling the state natural resources agencies on environmental and administrative law matters. Andrews received her law degree summa cum laude from the Washington College of Law at American University and her undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary.



**Anupa Asokan** [uh-new-puh uh-soak-in] is a communications specialist with NOAA Research Communications and serves as the lead for NOAA Science Days, helping NOAA and partner scientists effectively communicate their cutting-edge work to a broader audience. She previously worked in non-profit marketing and creating content for introductory-level Earth science courses. She also taught marine science to 4th grade through college-aged students in southern California and in the Florida Keys. Asokan earned a bachelor of science from UCLA in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Environmental Sciences, and both a masters in oceanography and an MBA from the University of Rhode Island. She is a scuba divemaster and enjoys photography above and below water.



**Dale Baker** worked with Sea Grant for over 36 years and served as a Sea Grant Extension Program Leader for 34 years. His major programmatic responsibilities were in the areas of commercial fisheries, ports and harbors, aquaculture and coastal climate change. Baker retired from Cornell University in January of 2009, but continues to do work for Sea Grant and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.



**Nancy Balcom** is the Associate Director and Extension Program Leader for Connecticut Sea Grant and a Senior Extension Educator with UConn Extension. Her extension interests affirm Sea Grant's predilection for flexibility, ranging from seafood safety and marine spatial planning to seaweed aquaculture, disaster risk communication, and community resilience. She has been a member of the Sea Grant family for more than 31 years, starting in 1985 as a VIMS graduate student with the VA Sea Grant MAS program under the mentorship of Bill DuPaul and Jon Lucy. In 1990, Balcom returned to her native Nutmeg State to work for Connecticut Sea Grant and so far, no one has been able to push her back out the door. With her husband Prentiss, they admit (most of the time) to being parents of two sons, both college seniors (Yay!), and two 9-year old Labrador retrievers who approach life most enthusiastically.



**Robert Ballard** is a professor at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography and the director of the Center for Ocean Exploration and the Institute for Archaeological Oceanography. A native of Kansas, Ballard received his doctorate from GSO and after spending 30 years at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where he helped develop submersibles and remotely operated research vehicles, he came back to his alma mater and generated even more interest in GSO among a public that is fascinated by the mysteries of the deep.

Ballard came to instant fame in 1985, of course, as the discoverer of the final resting place of the ill-fated R.M.S *Titanic*. Since that time he has led expeditions to locate the sites of other shipwrecks including the German pocket-battleship *Bismarck*, the aircraft carrier *Yorktown* and numerous other vessels including ancient Phoenician ships off Israel. But his explorations (well over 100) also include research missions into such phenomena as hydrothermal vents in the sea floor and the exotic ecosystems that surround such vents.

While the discovery of the *Titanic* boosted him to fame (that discovery prompted others to undertake less-than-scientific expeditions to the ship and in many instances led to the plunder of some of the ship's remains, a development Ballard deplors) thousands of young students and innumerable land-based scientists have benefited from his pioneering work in developing real-time communication links between ships and instruments at sea and land-based classrooms and scientific institutions. The Inner Space Center, which is a hub that feeds video and audio links of explorations around the world, is a direct result of Ballard's early development of telepresence technology.



**Mona Behl** serves as Associate Director of the Georgia Sea Grant College Program, and Public Service Faculty at the University of Georgia's Marine Extension Service. She is a Physical Oceanographer by training with a decade of experience in various aspects of science, including research, education, communication, outreach, policy, and administration. Behl is responsible for leading Georgia Sea Grant's overall implementation, integration, and assessment. She coordinates all aspects of Sea Grant programming which includes visioning, strategic planning, grant administration, and development and oversight for inter-, cross- and trans-disciplinary efforts in research. Behl is dedicated to strengthening the bond between research and extension, building non-traditional partnerships, and maintaining the quality, integrity, and relevance of Georgia Sea Grant funded initiatives. Her research interests include large-scale ocean circulation, air-sea interaction, science policy, geoscience education, and diversity in STEM fields.



**Katherine Bunting-Howarth** is the Associate Director of New York Sea Grant and Vice-Chair of the Sea Grant Extension Assembly. She serves on multiple boards and committees including the Executive Council of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, New York Water Resource Institute, Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council, Cornell Biological Field Station and the Chesapeake Bay Program Science and Technical Advisory Committee. She enjoys working with diverse groups of people to address wicked problems—from changing lake ecosystems to estuarine eutrophication to optimizing the transportation of crude oil. The former Director of Water Resources for the state of Delaware, Bunting-Howarth served in leadership roles for the two National Estuary Programs, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Delaware River Basin Program. Bunting-Howarth holds a Ph.D. in Marine Studies (concentration in Marine Policy) (University of Delaware, 2001) and a J.D. with a certificate in Environment and Natural Resource Law (University of Oregon, 1995).



**Brooke Carney** is the Communication Lead for the National Sea Grant Office and is currently focused on coordinating the 50th Anniversary of Sea Grant as well as overseeing the re-establishment of a NOAA facilitation initiative. Prior to joining NOAA, Carney worked with the National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program, Alaska Region as the science communication specialist for the region. She has also served as both coastal training program coordinator for Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Florida where she specialized in developing and delivering training programs for diverse audiences and facilitating management and policy development processes. She holds master's degrees in biology from the University of Alaska Anchorage and in public administration from Georgia Southern University.

**Sam Chan** is the National Extension Program Lead for the National Sea Grant Office. Chan comes to the NSGO on an Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA) with Oregon Sea Grant, where he serves as the Statewide Watershed Health and Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. There he focuses on the nexus of biophysical and social sciences to address complex issues of water sustainability, water quality, and bioinvasion pathways. He has a Ph.D. in physiological ecology, a master's in forest ecology, and a bachelor's in bioresource sciences from the University of California at Berkley and Oregon State University.



**Antoinette Clemetson**, Marine Fisheries Specialist for New York Sea Grant, assists commercial fishers, anglers, and trade groups that depend on marine fisheries to determine how they are being impacted by new regulations and other fisheries management decisions.



**Sylvain De Guise** is Director of the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program, Professor of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science at the University of Connecticut, and President of the Sea Grant Association. He currently serves as the Sea Grant representative on the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team, is past-chair of the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium, an entity consisting of the Sea Grant programs from Maine to New York, and is a member of both the Management and Science and Technical Advisory Committees of the EPA-funded Long Island Sound Study, one of the National Estuary Programs. He is one of three Science Directors of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. He has a degree in veterinary medicine (1988) and a residency in veterinary pathology (1993) at the Université de Montréal, as well as a Ph.D. in immunotoxicology at the Université du Québec à Montréal (1996). As the president of the Sea Grant Association, De Guise is an ex-officio member of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board.



**Laura Early** is the Coastal Specialist in the National Sea Grant Office. She is a recipient of the 2016 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. She earned her M.S. in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development at the University of Georgia, and received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Clemson University. In between degrees, Early contributed to field research, education, and outreach at Little St. Simons Island, Georgia. She also monitored sea turtle nesting with the Georgia Sea Turtle Cooperative and Cumberland Island National Seashore, as well as worked to inspire young ocean advocates at Sanibel Sea School. Her master's thesis work utilizes ecosystem services modeling to inform local decision-makers about potential impacts of land use change in coastal Georgia.



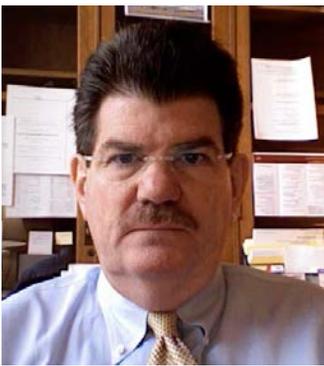
**Syma Ebbin** is Research Coordinator at Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) and Associate Professor-in-Residence of Agricultural and Resource Economics (University of Connecticut). She teaches marine and environmental science and policy, serves as EcoHusky Club faculty advisor, and coordinates CTSG's research program. Recent awards include an NEH Munson Institute Fellowship at Mystic Seaport (2016) and a UConn Service Learning Fellowship (2015). Appointed by the Governor, Syma served on the Eastern Long Island Sound Council (2008) and was elected co-chair of the Long Island Sound Assembly (2011). She serves the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Committee on Economics and Social Science (vice-chair), the Socioeconomics Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) (President-elect), and AFS's Southern New England Chapter (SNEC) Board of Directors. She is former President of AFS SNEC and the Estuaries Section. Syma received PhD, MEM, MS, and MPh degrees from Yale's Department of Forestry and Environmental Studies, an MS degree in fisheries science from the University of Alaska and a BA in Biology from Williams College. Past positions include a post-doctoral position at Dartmouth College and Executive Officer of the International Human Dimensions Programme's project on Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change. She also worked for the Squaxin Island Tribe, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and fished commercially for Alaskan salmon and halibut.

**Chris Ellis** is a social scientist with NOAA's National Ocean Service in Charleston, SC. His training is in environmental sociology, survey design and implementation, recreation and tourism choice behavior, organizational behavioral networks, and social-psychological interaction with the coast. He has worked with state and local municipalities to build capacity in coastal conservation, and community resilience. He also has a portfolio of projects that lend technical assistance to the National Weather Service to enhance its social science capacity. Working currently for NOAA, and formerly for both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, he has gained unique perspectives of how the public and institutions understand, perceive, and use natural resources, particularly

in coastal areas. He is an adjunct faculty member at the College of Charleston, where he works with students on an array of human dimensions-based research topics. Chris has a Ph.D. in Coastal Resources Management from East Carolina University.



**Jim Falk** has been with Delaware Sea Grant for 38 years since graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in recreation and resources development in 1978. He served as a marine recreation and tourism specialist with the program for 21 years and in 1999 was appointed director of the Marine Advisory Service (MAS) program. In his capacity as an extension specialist, he conducted numerous applied research projects directed at understanding peoples' attitudes, behaviors, and opinions about outdoor recreation, tourism, and natural resource issues. His research has assisted natural resource agency personnel, tourism officials, and other groups to better understand their targeted clientele to aid in decision-making. In 2009, he was appointed Associate Director of Delaware Sea Grant and assists in all aspects of program planning, review, and evaluation. In April 2015, he became Acting Sea Grant Director, as the previous director was appointed interim President of the University of Delaware. He continues in this role until a new Delaware Sea Grant director is hired and he can return to his position of MAS director.



**James A. Fawcett** is a researcher and faculty member in the fields of marine and urban policy at the University of Southern California. He serves as the Director of Marine Science and Policy Outreach for the Sea Grant Program, a unit of USC's Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies and holds concurrent appointments as an adjunct associate professor in USC's Price School of Public Policy and the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences where he teaches in the undergraduate Environmental Studies Program. His research interests over the past 35 years have been in intergovernmental relations, especially the intersection of economic and environmental interests in the areas of land use, coastal management and marine policy. He currently publishes on seaport policy and marine transportation as the industry confronts issues of infrastructure concentration, economic development and environmental externalities in an era of rapid change. Dr. Fawcett holds both Ph.D. and master's degrees in urban planning from USC and an undergraduate degree in political science from California State University, Northridge.



**Paul Focazio**, New York Sea Grant's web content manager, oversees the development and production of New York Sea Grant's Web site, e-newsletter (NY Coastlines / Currents) and all social media platforms (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, RSS news feeds). The program's "virtual presence" not only includes downloads of NYSG's NY Coastlines / Currents e-newsletter, for which Focazio writes, but also features many resource sites for NYSG extension staff and a number of special research and education initiatives.



**Jeffrey Grybowski** is the chief executive officer of Deepwater Wind, where he manages the company's portfolio of offshore wind and transmission projects. He has been intimately involved since its inception in the development and execution of the first offshore wind farm in the United States, Deepwater Wind's Block Island Wind Farm. Grybowski has been involved in shaping the federal and state policies supporting offshore wind in the United States, including the development of federal rules governing the leasing and permitting of offshore wind projects, federal tax policies supporting renewables, and policies at the state level throughout the Northeast for offshore wind, transmission, and renewables. Grybowski is a member of the board of directors of the American Wind Energy Association. Grybowski previously served as Chief of Staff to the Governor of Rhode Island. He previously practiced corporate law at Hinckley, Allen & Snyder in Providence,

Rhode Island, and at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York. Grybowski earned an A.B. in public policy from Brown University and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law.



**Dave Hansen** is the Outreach and Engagement Leader at Oregon Sea Grant. He is a veteran of Extension outreach and engagement work. He was an associate professor of soil and environmental quality and Extension Program Leader for the Agriculture and Natural Resources program at the University of Delaware before coming to OSU in 2010. He is the Outreach and Engagement Leader at Oregon Sea Grant and oversees a large and diverse outreach and public engagement team, including Sea Grant Extension faculty on the coast and on campus with expertise in a wide range of matters related to Oregon's ocean and coastal resources, natural and human. In addition, he manages Sea Grant's small team of professional science communicators who serve the program's needs for print, web, video and other media to inform and educate the public. He attended the Sea Grant Academy in 2011, was also the co-organizer of the 2013 Sea Grant Academy, and coordinated the 2015 Sea Grant Academy. Yes, he is also coordinating the 2017 Academy!

**Sandra Honda** recently returned to NOAA Research after six years as a speechwriter for the NOAA Administrator and NOAA leadership. Prior to joining NOAA, she worked as a scientific writer in academia six years, advising and helping individual scientists and consortia, postdocs and graduate students craft successful grant proposals, manuscripts, and resumes. Earlier in her career, she conducted research and training at the interface of bioinformatics and medical education. Sandy received her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in botany and plant pathology from the University of Washington and Oregon State University, respectively. Her B.S. is in Biological Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Laura Kammin** is the outreach program leader for Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. Prior to taking this role, she served as the Pollution Prevention Extension Specialist and led the Sea Grant PPCP Community of Practice. Before joining IISG, Laura worked for Prairie Rivers Network, a nonprofit that works to protect rivers and streams in Illinois. She has also held positions at the University of Illinois Office of Sustainability, University of Illinois Extension, and Illinois Natural History Survey. Laura received a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Illinois.



**Sarah Kolesar** serves as Research and Scholars Program Leader for Oregon Sea Grant (ORSG) and as a member of the ORSG Operations and Strategy Teams. Sarah's favorite part of her job is convening groups over shared ideas and facilitating excellent science that addresses Oregon's coastal issues. She also enjoys mentoring graduate and undergraduate students and expanding their ideas about marine science opportunities in the 21st century. Sarah earned her PhD in Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences from University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, and her scientific training includes field, laboratory, and modeling studies addressing food-web dynamics in the Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, and the Black Sea. Her program management skills were honed while working as a Program Associate for the Office of Naval Research's Biological Oceanography and Ocean Optics program, and she has also held a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Sarah is a recent graduate of Oregon State University's Leadership Collaborative, and currently mentors other emerging leaders. She is the Chair of the Sea Grant Research Coordinator's Network and a member of the Data Management Subcommittee.



**Alison Krepp** recently joined the National Sea Grant Office. Prior to joining Sea Grant, Alison worked in NOAA's Office for Coastal Management with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. During that time, her roles included national strategic planning lead, social scientist, and regional coordinator to the 4 research reserves in New England. Early in her career Alison worked with the state of South Carolina as a planner in the Department of Natural Resources. Her work in the state focused on river corridor conservation with landowners and community groups. Alison became interested in state-federal partnership programs following her graduate research looking at organizational relationships in environmental contexts. She holds a Bachelor of Science in natural resource management from the University of Maine and a Master's degree in environmental policy and behavior from the University of Michigan. She is originally from New England and still has deep roots here. She now lives in central Maryland with her husband, their three sons, and a loveable yellow lab.



**Ed Lewandowski** is a Coastal Communities Development Specialist and the Acting Director of the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service. He also coordinates the University of Delaware's Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative, a position he has held since October 2011. Ed is responsible for providing oversight and management for a variety of initiatives, including community-level land use planning, working waterfronts preservation and enhancement, economic development, open space protection, and marine recreation and tourism projects. Prior to joining the University, Ed spent 13 years with the non-profit Delaware Inland Bays National Estuary Program (Center for the Inland Bays), serving his final seven years with the organization as its Executive Director. He holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership and obtained his undergraduate degree in Marine Biology. Ed has been appointed to a number of public commissions and councils including the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission, the Delaware Natural Areas Advisory Council, the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers, the Town of Bridgeville Planning Commission, and most recently, the board of directors of Sussex Habitat for Humanity.

**Marti Martz**, Senior Coastal Outreach Specialist for Pennsylvania Sea Grant, provides science-based information on a multitude of topics to a wide variety of audiences including legislators, community stakeholders, federal, state and local agency staff, educators, students of all ages, and the public. Areas of expertise include the impacts of emerging contaminants such as PPCPs and marine debris on water quality and aquatic life; Great Lakes Literacy; shoreline erosion; invasive species control and rare plant propagation.

**Maia McGuire** is an extension agent with Florida Sea Grant. Her program areas include marine debris, invasive species and climate change. She is completing her term as chair of the Sea Grant Education Network, and coordinates the Florida Microplastic Awareness Project. Maia has a PhD in marine biology from the University of Miami. She has worked for Florida Sea Grant since 2001.



**Jennifer McCann** is the Director of Rhode Island Sea Grant's Extension Program. Serving also as the Director of U.S. Coastal Programs at the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center at the Graduate School of Oceanography, McCann has lead research and provided trainings and workshops for an international effort to build the capacity of coastal management practitioners. McCann currently serves on Duke University's Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Advancement Training Steering Committee, is a state-appointed advisory committee member for the multi-state offshore wind roadmap initiative, and is a task force member for the federally appointed BOEM Rhode Island Renewable

Energy Task Force. From 2007–2010, McCann served as a principal lead for the development and implementation of the R.I. Ocean Special Area Management Plan, which led to the siting of the nation’s first offshore windfarm.



**Sharon Moen** has been supporting the Sea Grant mission for almost two decades. Though she flies under the title “science writer” for the Minnesota program, she thrives on translating science for the public and special projects that require creative problem solving. Her University of Minnesota master’s degree in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior focused on genetic variation among Atlantic Puffin colonies and instilled a love of the sea and birds within her.



**Betsy Nicholson**, North Regional Director for NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management, works with a team extending from the Great Lakes through the North Atlantic to provide municipal, state and regional partners with technology, information, and management strategies to address complex issues, such as community resilience and ocean planning. Nicholson serves as the Federal Co-Lead of the Northeast Regional Planning Body, charged with developing a regional ocean plan for NE waters along with federal, tribal, state and Fishery Management Council colleagues. She has also served as the NOAA representative to the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) since its inception in 2005. Nicholson started with NOAA in 2000 and during her tenure in Washington, served as the National Ocean Service liaison to the NOAA Administrator, and as the NOAA Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce. Nicholson received a Masters in Coastal Environmental Management from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College.



**Dennis Nixon**, University of Rhode Island Professor of Marine Affairs, has served as the Director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant Program since July 2013. In that role, he leads a multi-million dollar research and education program devoted to using scientific knowledge to improve the management of Rhode Island’s coastal waters. Prior to that, he served for four years as the Associate Dean for Research and Administration at the Graduate School of Oceanography at URI, where he was responsible for the administration of the 200+ acre campus, pier, and the 185-foot Research Vessel *Endeavor*. He served the previous eight years as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, also at URI. He has been a faculty member at the University of Rhode Island for the past 40 years, teaching courses in the area of marine and coastal law. A marine lawyer by training, he is a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and the Rhode Island Bar. Under a grant from the National Science Foundation, he is also the legal advisor and risk manager for the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System, and has been providing advice to all of the U.S. academic research vessel fleet for three decades.



**Darren Okimoto** is the associate director and extension leader for the University of Hawai’i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai’i Sea Grant), one of 33 university-based programs administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that work with coastal communities throughout the nation. Dr. Okimoto brings a background in science, instruction and academic administration to his Hawai’i Sea Grant position. Aspiring to become a marine biologist, he majored in zoology at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, taking courses that emphasized marine sciences. He holds a M.S. in Zoology from the University of Hawai’i and a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Delaware.

Dr. Okimoto was hired by Hawai'i Sea Grant in 2002 and stationed full time in American Samoa for three years at the American Samoa Community College. As a Sea Grant extension agent, he promoted aquaculture industry development and marine science education. In 2005, he was hired as the Extension Leader for Hawai'i Sea Grant and oversees outreach and education activities associated with the program as well as directly supervises 36 extension faculty and staff. In January 2016 he became the associate director and provides support to the director in the implementation of all aspects of the program.



**Tara Owens** is a Coastal Hazards Specialist with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, and a liaison to Maui County. Partnered with Maui County's Planning Department, Tara's role is to bring science to planning and permitting by providing technical guidance, consultations, site visits, and public outreach with respect to coastal hazards. Tara also interfaces with State and Federal agencies on collaborative projects pertaining to climate, shoreline change, and coastal hazards. Tara holds a Bachelor of Science degree in marine science from Coastal Carolina University, and a Master of Science degree in coastal geology from the University of Hawaii.



**Jonathan Pennock** is the director of the National Sea Grant College Program. Prior to joining NOAA, Jon was the director of the New Hampshire Sea Grant Program and the deputy director of the School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. Jon is a nationally-known coastal scientist with expertise in oceanography and estuarine sciences. His research has focused on understanding human impacts on coastal marine food webs. Jon has a PhD in oceanography and master's in marine studies from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's in biology from Earlham College.

**Julia Peterson** has served as an Extension Specialist with New Hampshire Sea Grant and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension for over 20 years. She added the position of NH Sea Grant Extension Leader to her role in 2013. Her work as a specialist currently focuses on helping coastal community leaders in New Hampshire reduce nonpoint source pollution and their vulnerability to climate effects. Peterson has a special interest in project design and evaluation as well as cross-disciplinary projects aimed at improving knowledge, motivation, capacity and practices for protecting coastal resources and building climate resiliency. As program leader, Peterson helps connect the university's land and sea grant efforts and New Hampshire Sea Grant extension with its national network. Peterson's academic background is in education and human development and her experience spans teaching from early childhood to adult education in both formal and non-formal settings. Her Master's degree from Antioch New England Graduate School concentrated on Biology and Environmental Science teaching.



**Iman Rastegari** is a multimedia producer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he creates the school's news and marketing video content. Bringing innovative production and animation techniques to HGSE's video projects, he has standardized the institution's video style and branding identity, increased the school's multimedia reach, and received multiple digital video and marketing awards for his work. He teaches popular seminars on video storytelling and personal branding, and is a teaching fellow for HGSE's new VOICE communications program. In his free time, he volunteers with the Student Leadership Training Program, stays up to date on Apple rumors, and impatiently waits for new Star Wars movies to be released.



**Elizabeth Rohring** is the Engagement Lead for the National Sea Grant Program Office. She is also the coordinator for the Sea Grant Social Science Community of Practice, and the Program Officer for Lake Champlain, Sea Grant Program. Elizabeth joined Sea Grant from the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History Sant Ocean Hall, where she was the Senior Ocean Science Education Specialist. She has worked with the NOAA Ocean Service International Programs Office on socioeconomic issues relating to Caribbean MPAs and also as a Sea Grant Extension Agent in the U.S. Virgin Islands, focusing on engagement with the local fishermen. Elizabeth has a Master's degree from Yale University in conservation biology and social ecology, and a B.A. in philosophy from William Smith College. She is currently working on her Ph.D. at George Mason University in climate change outreach and engagement.



**Bradley Romine** is a Coastal Management Specialist with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program's Center for Coastal and Climate Science and Resilience and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. Brad's role as Sea Grant Extension Faculty is to "bridge the gap" between science and policy to improve coastal resource management and coastal hazards resilience in Hawaii. He provides technical guidance, consultations, site visits, and public outreach on behalf of the DLNR and Sea Grant, and interfaces with other government agencies and the public on collaborative projects related to coastal hazards including beach erosion and sea-level rise impacts. Brad is advising the DLNR on the development of a statewide Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report and leading a NOAA-funded project titled "Building Resilience to Coastal Hazards and Climate Change in Hawaii." Brad completed his PhD in Geology and Geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in 2013 with a focus on coastal geology and coastal processes.



**Thomas Ruppert**, coastal planning specialist at the Florida Sea Grant College Program, is a licensed attorney developing legal and policy analysis for local governments on aspects of adaptive planning for sea-level rise, community resilience, and associated long-term challenges and opportunities for Florida's coastal communities. Areas of expertise include federal and state property rights law, beach and coastal policy in Florida, flood insurance, Florida's Coastal Construction Control Line program, planning law, and coastal and marine permitting programs. He has worked with over a dozen partners to organize and host legal workshops on coastal issues and flood insurance around the state. Mr. Ruppert is currently involved with several initiatives within Florida communities planning for sea-level rise and maintains a website of original resources at [www.flseagrant.org/climate-change/coastalplanning/](http://www.flseagrant.org/climate-change/coastalplanning/).



**Lisa Schiavinato** is extension director for California Sea Grant, where she builds and maintains ongoing partnerships and collaborative opportunities within the state of California and nationally. Until recently, she was the co-director of the North Carolina Coastal Resources Law, Planning, and Policy Center, an inter-institutional organization that coordinates and applies the legal, planning, and policy expertise of North Carolina Sea Grant and the University of North Carolina System to the state's coastal and marine resource and development issues. Her main roles were developing public-private partnerships and conducting legal and policy research and outreach issues critical to coastal communities and economies in the Carolinas. Lisa received her Juris Doctorate and certificate in environmental and land use law from the University of Florida. Her areas of expertise include ocean and coastal law, land use law, property law, energy regulation, and climate adaptation planning. Lisa is a past-president of The Coastal Society.



**Steve Sempier** serves as the Deputy Director for Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and Oil Spill Science Outreach Manager for the four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant programs. Since 2007 Steve has worked with the four Sea Grant programs on regional activities. He coordinated the development of a regional Gulf of Mexico Research Plan. He managed a NOAA Restoration Center/Sea Grant partnership, which identified more than 80 restoration sites and restored 3,000 coastal acres across the Gulf. Now, Steve works with a multidisciplinary team of Sea Grant outreach professionals based across the region to address oil spill science-related concerns important to coastal communities and businesses. Sea Grant is part of Steve's family with his wife, Tracie, serving as a Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium coastal resilience specialist. They have three children and believe that they are raising future Sea Grant professionals who will serve coastal communities during the next 50 years.



**Jon A. Souder** is Assistant Professor and Specialist in Forest Watershed Extension, with a joint appointment in the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources, and Management and the Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Service at Oregon State University. He is also the Director of the Watershed Research Cooperative that consists of three long-term paired watershed studies at Hinkle Creek, Alesa Revisited, and Trask. Prior to joining O.S.U. in October, 2015, Dr. Souder was the Executive Director of the Coos Watershed Association in Charleston, OR for fifteen years. In that role, he was responsible for a \$1.5 million annual budget, 10 full-time employees, and the implementation of hundreds of restoration projects. Coos Watershed was instrumental in developing and implementing a science-based watershed assessment and prioritization process for seven major assessments and restoration action plans for the lower Coos Bay watershed. As an outgrowth from this work, he was invited to write a chapter entitled, "The Human Dimensions of Stream Restoration: Working with Diverse Partners to Develop and Implement Restoration" for the book, *Stream and Watershed Restoration* (2013). He has a B.S. in Biology from Marlboro College (VT), and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildland Resources Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Richard W. Spinrad** was named by the Obama Administration as NOAA's chief scientist on May 9, 2014. An internationally recognized scientist and executive with more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Spinrad is the senior scientist for the agency, driving policy and program direction for science and technology priorities. Until this appointment, Dr. Spinrad served as vice president for research at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis, Oregon, and from 2003 until 2010 was the head of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the head of the National Ocean Service. As assistant administrator for research for NOAA, Dr. Spinrad directed the agency's programs in oceanography, atmospheric science, and climate. He directly supervised several of NOAA's high-profile research efforts, including ocean exploration, the National Sea Grant College Program, and the Climate Program Office, as well as seven NOAA laboratories around the United States.

Among his accomplishments, Dr. Spinrad was a co-lead of the White House Committee that developed the nation's first set of ocean research priorities and oversaw the revamping of NOAA's research enterprise. He also served as the Department of Commerce representative to the Office of Science and Technology Policy committee addressing scientific integrity.

Dr. Spinrad spent two years as NOAA's assistant administrator for oceanic services and coastal zone management, directing the agency's navigation and coastal services, including the National Geodetic Survey, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the

Office of Coastal Resource Management. As part of his duties, he represented U.S. interests in the establishment of a global tsunami warning system. Prior to joining NOAA, Dr. Spinrad served as a research director with the U.S. Navy (Office of Naval Research and Oceanographer of the Navy), where he was awarded the U.S. Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award (highest award given by the U.S. Navy to a civilian). He has held faculty appointments at three universities, directed a major national non-profit organization, presided over a private company, and worked as a research scientist. He also developed the National Ocean Sciences Bowl for high school students.

Dr. Spinrad served as the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. He is the recipient of Presidential Rank Awards from Presidents George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama. Dr. Spinrad is past president of the Oceanography Society and was president-elect of the Marine Technology Society. He is also a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, the Marine Technology Society, and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

Dr. Spinrad received his bachelor of arts degree in earth and planetary sciences from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He received his master of science and doctoral degrees in oceanography from Oregon State University.



**Chris Winslow** received his B.S. from Ohio University and both his M.S. and Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. For the past 12 years Chris has been a fixture at Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory, first as researcher, instructor, and research supervisor, but now as the Interim Director of both the Lab and the Ohio Sea Grant College Program. Prior to joining OSU and Ohio Sea Grant, Chris was an Instructor at BGSU (2002-09; concurrent with Ph.D.) and an Assistant Professor at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (2009-11). His research training has roots in fish ecology with an emphasis on the impact of invasive species. Chris continues to address invasive species impacts but his research and outreach efforts now include other issues critically important to Lake Erie. These issues include nutrient loading, harmful algal bloom causes and impacts, dredging activity, coastal community resilience and growth, and the impacts of climate change.



**Julia Wyman** is the director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program and the director of the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University (RWU) School of Law. Wyman has extensive state and national ocean and coastal law and policy experience. She most recently served as Ocean and Environmental Counsel for Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Prior to that, Wyman served as the staff attorney at the Marine Affairs Institute, and the policy analyst for the Coastal States Organization in Washington, D.C., an organization that represents the interests of the governors of the thirty-five coastal states, commonwealths, and territories. Much of Wyman's work has focused on coastal adaptation to climate change. She serves as an adjunct faculty member at RWU School of Law, where she teaches courses related to ocean and coastal law and policy. She is the chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Marine Resources Section, and is an active member of The Coastal Society. Wyman received her J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law and her B.A. from Trinity College. She is also an alumna of the Williams-Mystic maritime studies program.

**Sarah Zack** is the Pollution Prevention Extension Specialist with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) and University of Illinois Extension. She develops and conducts extension and outreach activities related to the prevention of aquatic pollution, raising awareness of the impacts of pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs), coal tar sealcoat,

microplastics, and other emerging contaminants on water quality, human health, and aquatic habitats. She also assists communities in developing unwanted medicine take-back programs and leads the Sea Grant PPCP Community of Practice. Sarah has a dual B.S. in zoology and biological conservation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.S. in biology from Loyola University Chicago. Previously, Sarah held positions as an invasive species specialist with IISG, ecology instructor at Loyola University Chicago, and an ecologist at an environmental consulting firm and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



**Kathy de Zengotita** is MIT Sea Grant's Program Coordinator. She was first hired in 1989 as part-time librarian in the Communications Department. She initiated and oversaw the development of the program's first website and then trained other Sea Grant staff around the country in HTML coding and web page creation. After moving into private industry for five years as an Information Analyst, first with the Cabot Corporation and then with Internet start-up MeansBusiness, she returned to MIT to work for several years as the Academic Administrator for the Ocean Engineering Department before migrating back to MIT Sea Grant in 2004. As Program Coordinator she now oversees the project proposal and reporting process, and helps guide the development of eSG, an online system for project tracking and web content management. She has an M.L.S. from Simmons School of Library and Information Science, a B.A. from Tufts University, and a Project Manager Certificate from Boston University.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES - ADDENDUM



**Margaret M. (Peg) Brady** is currently on a 12-month detail with Sea Grant as a senior program manager focusing on planning, implementation, and evaluation (PIE), and is the program officer for Maine, MIT, New Hampshire, and Woods Hole Sea Grant Programs.

Since 2008, Brady served as the NOAA senior policy liaison to the National Invasive Species Council and Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and concurrently served as NOAA Fisheries Division Chief for planning and program evaluation. She continues to chair the Interagency National Ocean Policy Ecosystem-based Management Interagency Work Group. Brady joined NOAA in 2003 as the NOAA Habitat Program Coordinator. Prior to joining NOAA, Peg served as the Assistant Secretary within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Director of the Commonwealth's Coastal Zone Management Program, and as a marine research scientist and instructor at a variety of labs and institutions in the Northeast.

Brady holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the University of Rhode Island and participated in M.I.T.'s Environmental Policy Group, the U.S. Federal Executive Institute, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Senior Management Program.

**Jane Harrison**, North Carolina Sea Grant coastal economist, applies economic analysis and other social science methods to meet the needs of coastal residents and other stakeholders. Her work informs coastal decision makers about the intersections between sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources and economic development.

Her recent research has focused on the economic impacts of beach closures and fisheries regulations. Additionally she has conducted market research on demand for local seafood products. Harrison uses survey research and other qualitative methods to explain stakeholder decision making and inform outreach.

Harrison earned her doctorate in forest social science from Oregon State University. She holds a master of science degree in agricultural, environmental and development economics from The Ohio State University. Previously she worked in the Great Lakes region for Wisconsin Sea Grant as a social science outreach specialist.



**William H. Hooke** has been a senior policy fellow at the American Meteorological Society since June, 2000. He directed the Policy Program from July, 2001-April 2013. He now also serves as AMS associate executive director.

His policy research interests include: natural disaster reduction; historical precedents as they illuminate present-day policy; and the nature and implications of changing national requirements for weather and climate science and services. He continues to direct the AMS Summer Policy Colloquium. He has blogged at Living on the Real World since 2010 and has just completed a book: *Living on the Real World: How Thinking and Acting Like Meteorologists Will Help Save the Planet*.

Biographical data: From 1967 to 2000, he worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and antecedent agencies. After six years of research in fundamental geophysical fluid dynamics and its application to the ionosphere, the boundary layer, air quality, aviation, and wind engineering, he moved into a series of management positions of increasing scope and responsibility. From 1973 to 1980, he was

Chief of the Wave Propagation Laboratory Atmospheric Studies Branch. From 1980 to 1983 he rotated through a series of management development assignments. From 1984 to 1987 he directed NOAA's Environmental Sciences Group, responsible for much of the systems R&D for the NWS Modernization, as well as a range of other weather and climate research activities.

From 1987 to 1993 he served as the Deputy Chief Scientist and Acting Chief Scientist of NOAA, setting policy and direction for \$300M/year of NOAA R&D in oceanography, atmospheric science, hydrology, climate, marine biology, and associated technologies.

Between 1993 and 2000, he held two national responsibilities: Director of the U.S. Weather Research Program Office, and Chair of the interagency Subcommittee for Natural Disaster Reduction of the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. During this period he also served eighteen months as Senior Scientist in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce.

Dr. Hooke was an ad joint faculty member at the University of Colorado from 1969 to 1987, and served as a fellow of two NOAA Joint Institutes (CIRES, 1971-1977; CIRA 1987-2000). He holds a B.S. (Physics Honors) from Swarthmore College (1964), and S.M. (1966) and Ph.D. (1967) degrees from the University of Chicago. He is a Fellow of the AMS and was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society in 2006.



**Jason Link**, Ph.D., is NOAA's first-ever Senior Scientist for Ecosystem Management. In this role, Link is the agency's senior-most authority on ecosystem science, conducting research and coordinating activities of NOAA Fisheries' science support for effective ecosystem-based management. His priorities are to lead approaches and models to support development of ecosystem-based management plans throughout the agency. A key element of Link's work is the development of the tools and approaches for addressing the impacts of climate change on NOAA's marine trust species. Previously, Link served as Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Woods Hole Lab (1997-2012), where he analyzed, modeled, and reported on the diet composition, selection, and consumption of the northwest Atlantic food web with an emphasis on the fish community. In that position, from 2008 on, he was Senior Scientist for Ecosystem Assessment Program.

**David Vallee** is the Hydrologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service's Northeast River Forecast Center. The center provides detailed water resource and life-saving flood forecasting services to National Weather Service Forecast Offices and the hundreds of federal, state and local water resource entities throughout the Northeast and New York. David has worked for the National Weather Service for 28 years, serving in a variety of positions including Senior Service Hydrologist at the Taunton Weather Forecast Office from 1993-2000 and as Science and Operations Officer from 2001-2006. David has extensive experience leading hydrometeorological forecast and warning operations and directing weather research and training programs. David has served as the NWS lead investigator with the State University of New York, at Albany, on a multi-year project addressing Land Falling Tropical Cyclones in the Northeastern United States. This has improved the forecasting of heavy precipitation associated with these land falling tropical cyclones as well as developing a better understanding the mechanisms which lead to the recurvature and rapid acceleration of tropical cyclones as they approach the Northeast. David led the initiative to develop a short-range ensemble river forecast system which leverages short range numerical weather prediction guidance to drive a suite of probabilistic river forecasts for the region. Recently, David has been leading an effort at the Northeast River Forecast Center to examine changes in precipitation and temperature patterns across New England and its impact on flood behavior.

David is most known locally for his outreach and education work on the behavior of New England Hurricanes, including many appearances on local radio and T.V. networks as well as the Weather Channel, the History Channel and the Discovery Channel. David has been the recipient of numerous regional and national awards including the prestigious National Isaac Cline Award for Leadership.

David is a graduate of Lyndon State College. He is a life-long resident of the Rhode Island, living in the northeast part of Cumberland, with his wife and two sets of teenage twins! He considers it a tremendous privilege to be serving the people of the very region he calls home.