

# Biographies

## 2008 Council Training

### Session Presenters & Training Staff

**Karen Abrams**  
**Marine Resources Management Specialist**  
**Office of Habitat Conservation**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

As National Coordinator for the essential fish habitat (EFH) program at NOAA Fisheries, Karen works from Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD on the oversight and implementation of the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. Prior to working at NOAA Fisheries, Karen served as the Assistant Director for Marine and Coastal Programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Karen is a graduate of the University of Virginia and has a Masters degree from Duke's Environmental Management Program.

**James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (Acting)**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Dr. James W. Balsiger was appointed the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in February 2008. He oversees the management and conservation of marine fisheries and the protection of marine mammals, sea turtles and coastal fisheries habitat within the United States exclusive economic zone. The National Marine Fisheries Service protects and preserves the Nation's living marine resources through scientific research, fisheries management, law enforcement, and habitat conservation. His focus is on rebuilding and sustaining fisheries and protected species to their long-term potential and maintaining a delicate balance of achieving multiple objectives that produce the greatest benefits to the nation. Dr. Balsiger's background and experience has focused on a wide range of environmental, scientific, and marine policy issues.

Dr. Balsiger began his career with NOAA in 1977 and has held other leadership roles in the National Marine Fisheries Service during his tenure. Since May 2000, he has served as the Alaska Regional Administrator in Juneau, Alaska, was the Regional Science and Research Director at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA, where he also served as Deputy Science Director from 1991-1995. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan; a Master of Science degree in Forest Silviculture from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana; and a Ph.D. in Quantitative Ecology and Natural Resource Management from the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Christopher M. Barrows, LCDR, USCG**  
**Chief, Fisheries and Marine Protected Species Law Enforcement**  
**Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Law Enforcement, Washington, DC**

LCDR Chris Barrows is a 1993 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Upon commissioning, he served on several Coast Guard cutters ranging from frigates to patrol boats patrolling the North Atlantic, Caribbean, Eastern Pacific, Alaska and Bering Sea and enforced the nation's maritime laws. His service training included graduation from the US Navy's Department Head School in Newport, Rhode Island studying tactical naval warfare. In 1997, he returned to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy as a Nautical Science Instructor teaching navigation, seamanship and vessel handling. In August of 2001, LCDR Barrows' took command of USCGC WRANGELL a patrol boat in Portland, Maine. In addition to fisheries enforcement operations in the Northeast, WRANGELL participated operations following the attack on the World Trade Center in New York. In late 2002, WRANGELL was one of four Coast Guard patrol boats forward deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to the Northern Arabian Gulf. This was the first combat deployment of Coast Guard cutters since the Vietnam War 35 years earlier. Following WRANGELL, LCDR Barrows attended postgraduate studies in Marine Affairs/Living Marine Resources and attained a Masters in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI. He now serves as the Chief of Fisheries and Marine Protected Species Enforcement and Policy at Coast Guard Headquarters managing the Coast Guard's living marine resource law enforcement program and coordinating US fisheries enforcement policy with NOAA/NMFS and State Department.

**William (Bill) Chappell**  
**Chief, Regulatory Services Division (F/SF5)**  
**Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Bill Chappell is Chief, Regulatory Services Division in the Office of Sustainable Fisheries. The Regulatory Services Division is charged with Council liaison and training, guidance for clearance of fisheries regulatory actions through Headquarters and tracking of those actions, and liaison to and submission of documents to the Office of the Federal Register. He has been working for NMFS for 13 years in fisheries management plan review and regulatory process. Mr. Chappell is a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer, having served in cutters doing fisheries patrols on the West Coast and Alaska and in positions dealing with fisheries law enforcement on the East Coast. He is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Naval War College Off-Campus Seminar Program.

**David Cottingham**  
**Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division**  
**Office of Protected Resources**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

David Cottingham studied biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, from which he graduated in 1972. After working as an aquatic biologist for Duke Power Company Environmental Laboratories, he obtained a Masters of Environmental Management from the Duke University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (now the Nicholas School for the Environment). Mr. Cottingham moved to Washington, DC, in 1979 and began work at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

where he was the senior staff representative advising the NOAA Administrator on marine mammal and endangered species policies. After serving a detail to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), where he coordinated President Clinton's Northwest Forest Conference and Plan, he transferred to the Department of the Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service where he coordinated efforts to resolve long-standing conflicts over use of water in western states that imperiled fish species, particularly salmon. He moved to NOAA's Fisheries Service in 2001 where he served as the lead of the marine resources group of the delegation to CITES and worked on fishery-marine mammal interactions. In 2002, Mr. Cottingham accepted the position as Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission, an independent federal agency. In 2006, Mr. Cottingham returned to NOAA Fisheries Service to continue work on marine mammal and sea turtle conservation.

**Rita Curtis, Ph.D.**  
**Economist and Chief, Economic & Social Analysis Division**  
**Office of Science and Technology**  
**NOAA Fisheries Services**

Dr. Rita Curtis is the Chief of NMFS Office of Science & Technology Economic & Social Analysis Division. She has worked for NMFS since receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1999. Prior to this, she worked at the Honolulu Lab conducting data collections and economic analyses of the Hawaii-based longline fleet.

**Ned Cyr, Ph.D.**  
**Chief, Marine Ecosystems Division,**  
**Office of Science and Technology**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Dr. Ned Cyr received his Ph.D. in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina 1991 and joined NOAA in 1992. He has served as an International Affairs Specialist with the NOAA's Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Interests, a Fisheries Biologist with the NMFS Office of Protected Resources, and Head of the Ocean Science and Living Resources Program of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. Areas of interest include fisheries oceanography, effects of climate change on marine fisheries, ecosystem approaches to fisheries research and management, and development and implementation of large-scale ecosystem monitoring and assessment programs. Dr. Cyr has served as manager of NOAA's Ecosystem Observations Program, Climate and Ecosystems Program, and Fisheries and the Environment Program, and was the Executive Secretary of the NMFS Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel.

**Jane DiCosimo**  
**Senior Plan Coordinator**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

Jane DiCosimo began her career with the Regional Fishery Management Councils in 1987, as a fishery management plan coordinator for seven years with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the last fourteen years with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. For the SAFMC, she assisted in preparing numerous amendments to the (then) five Council Billfish FMP and Swordfish FMP, joint South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico FMP for King and Spanish Mackerel and Snapper/Grouper FMP. For the NPFMC,

her primary responsibilities are to provide Environmental Assessments/Regulatory Impact Reviews/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Assessments in support of FMP and regulatory amendments to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP and regulatory amendments to manage Pacific halibut. She also worked for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for two years. She has a B.A. in zoology from Rutgers University and a M.A. in marine science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

**Peter Fricke, Ph.D.**  
**Social Anthropologist**  
**Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Peter Fricke has served as the Social Anthropologist, NOAA Fisheries Service, since 1981. In this role, he provides advice on and analysis of social issues related to fishery and other living marine resource conservation and management to the NOAA directorate. He also reviews all fishery management planning proposals for adequacy of social impact assessment and consistency with agency mandates.

Born in England, Dr. Fricke left the family farm to serve in the British Merchant Navy from 1956-1970. He earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Durham, England, and taught in British and American universities from 1970-1984. During this academic period, Dr. Fricke also served as consultant and technical advisor to United Nations agencies, to United Nations' delegations, to the Federal government, and to maritime businesses. Currently he resides in West Virginia with his family; is active in church, civic and local government organizations; and restores old houses as a hobby.

**Dale Jones**  
**Director, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Dale Jones was hired by the U.S. Department of Commerce to serve as the Office Director of the NOAA OLE in May of 1999. The OLE assures compliance with the laws and regulations enacted to conserve and protect our nation's marine resources. It has 228 employees which include 150 agents, 17 enforcement officers and a number of technicians dispersed nationwide among 6 operational field Divisions and HQ. The OLE investigates over 3,000 cases annually. Investigations range in scope from very complex and in depth domestic or international cases to somewhat less complex domestic incidents. In addition to assuring compliance through investigations, the OLE conducts surveillance work through the use of a sophisticated vessel monitoring system (VMS), a program which currently monitors in excess of 5,000 vessels.

Mr. Jones' previous professional experience includes five years as a municipal Police Chief in Hagerstown, Maryland; four years as the Director of Police and Fire Services with the City of Warren Pennsylvania; and 12 years as a police officer, supervisor, and member of the command staff of the Arvada Colorado Police Department. He holds a Masters Degree in Foundations of Bilingual and Multicultural Education with a minor in Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver and a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Criminology and Sociology from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Steve Leathery**  
**National NEPA Coordinator**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Steve Leathery recently assumed the position of NOAA Fisheries Service National NEPA Coordinator. He replaced John Hansel, who retired from that position almost a year ago. Steve will be engaged in a number of important issues, including working with NOAA Fisheries Service staff and the fishery management councils to revise and update agency NEPA procedures under the new Magnuson Stevens Act and working to update the NOAA NEPA Administrative Order. Mr. Leathery has worked in a number of positions for NOAA Fisheries Service for the past decade on a wide range of habitat, fisheries management, and protected resources issues. He was formerly an executive assistant working for the NMFS Directorate and also he ran the Protected Resources Permitting Division that issues scientific research permits under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, and incidental take authorizations under the MMPA.

**Heidi Lovett**  
**Policy Analyst**  
**Office of Policy**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Heidi Lovett recently became a Policy Analyst in the Office of Policy. In January 2007, she worked for the Regulatory Services Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries and was responsible for coordinating the annual Council member training. She also assisted with other liaison work between headquarters and the Fishery Management Councils and helped to plan and coordinate Council Coordination Committee Meetings. Prior to coming to NOAA, Ms. Lovett spent nearly nine years as a Senior Projects Manager at MRAG Americas managing multi-disciplinary fisheries science, technical, and policy projects for a variety of clients including NOAA Fisheries, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Fishery Management Councils, World Bank/GEF, USAID, consulting companies, and NGOs. She brings more than 20 years experience to NOAA, and previously worked in marine and ocean policy and management arenas for state and local government agencies, a national estuary program, non-profits, and university centers. She received her B.S. from Bates College, and attended the graduate program in marine science at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

**Marian Macpherson, J.D., LL.M.**  
**Management and Program Analyst**  
**Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Marian Macpherson has worked on MSA issues since 1996 when she joined NOAA GCF as a Magnuson Act attorney. Since 2002, she has worked on the policy issues in the Office of Sustainable Fisheries (OSF). Based in the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory (NSIL) in Pascagoula, MS, she has worked to improve the quality of the fishery management process through implementation of the Regulatory Streamlining Project (RSP) specifically focusing on revision of the Operational Guidelines and development of the Regulatory Training Program for fishery management staff. Ms. Macpherson is currently working on efforts to streamline the NEPA and MSA procedures in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act. Her education includes a B.A. (English) from the

University of the South, Sewanee, TN; a J.D. from Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA; and an LL.M. in Environmental Law from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

**Dwayne Meadows, Ph.D.**  
**Fishery Management Specialist**  
**Office of Protected Resources**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Dr. Dwayne Meadows is the National Coordinator for the Species of Concern proactive conservation program and work on other Endangered Species Act issues for NMFS' Office of Protected Resources. He has Bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley and Oregon State University, respectively. Dr. Meadows served as Assistant, then Associate, Professor of Zoology at Weber State University until 2001 when he became Director of Research and Marine Science for the Pacific Whale Foundation in Hawaii. During that time he served on the Advisory Panel to the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council. He then began a career at NOAA working at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Coral Reef Ecosystem Division and led the development of the Hawaii Comprehensive Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Strategy. He has worked at NOAA Headquarters for two years. Dr. Meadows has studied and written about the ecology of American lobsters, coral reef fish ecology and conservation, marine mammals and sea turtles, and mollusk and riverine ecology and has worked extensively in habitat restoration following hurricanes and tsunamis. He has served as secretary of the Hawaii American Fisheries Society chapter and president the Utah Chapter of Sigma Xi, scientific research society.

**Emily Menashes**  
**Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Emily Menashes began serving as the Deputy Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries in 2007, where she is responsible for supporting NOAA Fisheries Service activities relating to the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other fisheries laws. Previously, Ms. Menashes served as the Deputy of the Ecosystem Goal, managing the strategic planning and program development process for NOAA's Ecosystem programs and as the Chief of the Regulatory Services Division within the Office of Sustainable Fisheries. She also held positions in the Office of Protected Resources, working on fishery bycatch issues, and the Office of Science and Technology, working on economic policy issues. Ms. Menashes is a graduate of NOAA's Leadership Competencies Development Program, has an M.S. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University, and a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College.

**Linda (Lin) Moon**  
**Program Management Specialist**  
**Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Lin Moon is the responsible personnel in the Regulatory Services Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries for managing the council membership and appointments process, including soliciting annual nominations, requested by the Assistant Administrator for

Fisheries, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. Ms. Moon has been with the NOAA Fisheries Service for the last 15 years, first working for NOAA in Washington, D.C., and then coming to Silver Spring, MD in 1998. She served as assistant to the coordinator of the membership and appointments process until 2003, when she took on the coordinator responsibilities.

**Caroline Park, J.D., LL.M.**  
**Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Fisheries**  
**NOAA General Council for Fisheries**

Caroline Park has been with NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries in Silver Spring, MD, since 2002. She initially served as counsel to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, providing advice on fishery management plans, rulemaking, and litigation involving the Atlantic tunas, sharks, billfish, and swordfish fisheries. She currently advises, and supervises a team of attorneys who advise, NOAA Fisheries on a broad range of domestic and international fisheries issues, including new overfishing provisions under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. She is also legal counsel to the U.S. delegation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Prior to NOAA, Ms. Park was a teaching fellow at Georgetown University Law Center and a trial attorney with the Environmental Crimes Section, U.S. Department of Justice. She has a J.D. and L.L.M. from Georgetown University and a B.A. from Stanford University.

**Paul Rago, Ph.D.**  
**Supervisory Research Fish Biologist**  
**Northeast Fisheries Science Center**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Paul Rago is Chief of the Population Dynamics Branch at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries Service in Woods Hole. He leads a staff of over 40 fishery scientists to assess the status of finfish and shellfish stocks in the Northeast US. His research interests include quantitative analyses of populations, graphical methods for exploratory data analysis, application of tagging models, experimental estimation of gear efficiency, and design of bycatch monitoring programs. In addition to spiny dogfish, he has worked on a wide variety of stock assessments, including scallops, lobsters, surf clams, ocean quahogs, monkfish, and yellowtail flounder. He has been active in a number of cooperative experiments with the fishing industry and the incorporation of vessel monitoring system data into stock assessments. Prior to working with National Marine Fisheries Service, Dr. Rago spent 15 years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service where he served as coordinator of the Emergency Striped Bass Study and a variety of Atlantic salmon studies. His degrees include a B.S. from the University of Michigan, an M.S. from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1986.

**Alan Risenhoover**  
**Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

In 2006, Alan Risenhoover began his service as the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries in Silver Spring, Maryland. In this role, he is responsible for NOAA Fisheries Service headquarters activities relating to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other laws, and oversees more than 90 staff in a number of locations

around the country. The Office oversees Atlantic highly migratory species (bluefin tuna, swordfish, billfish, shark) management, domestic fisheries regulation coordination, fisheries policy development and implementation, Atlantic Coastal Act implementation, outreach and constituent services, and food safety risk analysis. Beginning his career with NOAA in 1989, Mr. Risenhoover has held several key positions within the agency including Deputy Director within the Office of Sustainable Fisheries (2004-2006), Deputy Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 1999 – 2004), Fisheries Team Lead for Legislative Affairs (1994 –1999), and assignments within the Offices of Protected Resources and Habitat Conservation. He received his bachelor's degree in aquatic zoology from Colorado State University and a master's degree in fish and wildlife sciences from Texas A&M University.

**Samuel D. Rauch III**  
**Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Sam Rauch began serving as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs at NOAA Fisheries in June of 2006. In this capacity he oversees all of NOAA Fisheries' regulatory actions, including those to support protected resources, sustainable fisheries, and habitat conservation. From January 2004 to June of 2006, Mr. Rauch served as the Assistant General Council for Fisheries where he supervised a team of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff responsible for providing legal counsel to the NOAA Fisheries. Prior to joining NOAA Fisheries he served as a trial attorney and the Assistant Section Chief for the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division for the United States Department of Justice. In this role, he either conducted or managed most of the litigation brought against NOAA Fisheries Service. The immediate future will bring new challenges for him as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, signed into law on January 12, 2007. Mr. Rauch holds a J.D. from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, and M.S. from University of Georgia, and a B.A. from University of Virginia. He has also been the recipient of many honors during his career, including: NOAA General Counsel's Award (1998, 2002, 2004, 2005); and Department of Justice Special Achievement Awards (1997, 1998, 2000, 2002).

**Gary Sims, Ph.D.**  
**Policy Specialist, Tribal Relations**  
**Northwest Regional Office**  
**NOAA Fisheries**

Gary Sims joined NOAA Fisheries in 2000 and works on tribal relations in the Northwest Regional Office in Seattle, WA. He formerly he worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as an Agency Representative to the Regional Ecosystem Office in Portland, OR; Forest Products Development and Marketing Branch Chief and Forest Manager, Makah Reservation in Washington. He received a Ph.D. in Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences from the University of Idaho in 1991, and the U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Award in 2008.

**Dean Swanson, Ph.D.**  
**Office of International Affairs**  
**NOAA Fisheries**

Dean Swanson joined NOAA Fisheries in 1978 and has worked primarily on international living marine resource issues, for the first 12 years in connection with the International Whaling Commission and for the past 18 on a variety of international fisheries issues in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Antarctic Oceans. He is the Federal U.S. Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization and has served in a variety of elected positions in this and other international organizations. He received a Ph.D. in international relations in 1976 from the Ohio State University.

**Galen Tromble**  
**Chief, Domestic Fisheries Division (F/SF3)**  
**Office of Sustainable Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**

Galen Tromble is Chief of the Domestic Fisheries Division for NOAA Fisheries. He is responsible for coordinating national implementation of fisheries management in U.S. waters under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks. Prior to moving to headquarters in 2004, he spent 14 years in NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Region Office managing the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. Mr. Tromble is NOAA's Fisheries Management Program Manager, and manages strategic planning, budgeting, and performance management for all NOAA Fisheries programs related to sustainable management of domestic and international marine fishery resources.

## **Lunch Speakers**

**Laura Cantral**  
**Senior Mediator, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative**  
**Meridian Institute**

Laura Cantral has been with Meridian for some time, worked with the U.S. Ocean Commission, currently leads the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative project, and is extremely well versed on fisheries and many other NOAA issues.

**Ruth Ann Lowery, J.D.**  
**NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries**

Ruth Ann Lowery has been an Attorney-Advisor in the NOAA Office of General Counsel for Fisheries (GCF) since April 2006, where her work focuses on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Federal Power Act, and cross-cutting issues of climate change. Prior to that, she was a Trial Attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she represented a number of federal agencies in litigation involving wildlife and environmental statutes, primarily the ESA. Before entering government service, Ruth Ann was in private practice in Washington, D.C. for several

years. She is a graduate of the American University Washington College of Law, where she now occasionally teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the Externship Program.

**Michael F. Sigler, Ph.D.**  
**Marine Biologist**  
**Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

Mike Sigler leads the habitat and ecosystems program of the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Dr. Sigler is recognized as a fishery stock assessment expert and also has developed innovative pinniped-prey and predator studies while leading Steller sea lion studies. He has served on stock assessment review panels for New England (chair), Washington-Oregon-California (chair), Canada, Alaska State, and Alaska Federal (vice-chair) fisheries, was an analyst for a National Research Council (NRC) review of stock assessment methods, and has advised University of Azores (Portugal) and New Zealand scientists on survey methods and population models. He invented a widely used electronic fish measuring board; has published over 20 peer-reviewed publications spanning species including sablefish, Steller sea lion, Pacific sleeper shark, pollock, herring, eulachon and sperm whale; authored nearly 30 stock assessments and technical reports; spent over 800 days at sea; and has been chief scientist on over 30 research cruises in Alaska. Dr. Sigler has lived in Alaska since 1982 and earned his B.S. and M.S. from Cornell University and Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He is an Affiliate Professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, where he has taught Population Dynamics.

## Participants - Council Members

### **Mark Cedergreen** **Pacific Council**

Mark Cedergreen is beginning his third term on the Council. Mr. Cedergreen is Executive Director of the Westport Charterboat Association, serves on the Council's advisory panels for both salmon and groundfish and serves on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Anadromous and Marine Resources Recreational Fishery Advisory Group.

### **David Cupka** **South Atlantic Council**

David Cupka is beginning his second term on the Council. Mr. Cupka served 29 years as a marine biologist with the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department and in 2003 was given responsibility for all South Carolina Department of Natural Resources marine mammal activities. Mr. Cupka serves on several council committees, is a member of the American Fisheries Society, American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists, International Game Fish Association, and National Coalition for Marine Conservation.

### **Robert Dersham** **North Pacific Council**

Ed Dersham has been a charterboat operator for more than 23 years, is a fisheries coordinator with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and active participant on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Mr. Dersham is co-owner and operator of a fishing lodge on the east side of Cook Inlet..

### **James Fair, Jr.** **New England Council**

Jim Fair is engaged as a fisheries consultant since 2002 after retiring from a career with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. Mr. Fair is highly familiar with the region's living marine resources as a life-long fisherman and career marine biologist. Mr. Fair is past president of the Northeast Shellfish Sanitation Association, and a voting delegate to the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

### **John Henderschedt** **North Pacific Council**

John Henderschedt is the Operations and Fisheries Management Coordinator for Premier Pacific Seafoods, Incorporated. Mr. Henderschedt has been involved in the fisheries of the Bering Sea and North Pacific for 22 years, is alternate to the Council's Salmon Bycatch Working Group, and a member of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee.

### **Joseph Hendrix, Jr.** **Gulf of Mexico Council**

Joe Hendrix is beginning his third term on the Council. He is Founder and President of SeaFish Mariculture, a consulting business specializing in open ocean cage mariculture

design/installation, marine hatchery systems/design/construction and harvest systems design/implementation. Mr. Hendrix has experience with the culture of numerous species including red drum, yellowfin tuna, and snapper.

**David Itano**  
**Western Pacific Council**

David Itano is a Research Associate at the University of Hawaii, performs contractual services as a fisheries consultant on a variety of subjects related to marine fisheries, and is a recreational fisherman. Mr. Itano has made several presentations related to the tuna resources and pelagic fisheries of the Western/Central Pacific Ocean.

**Howard King, III**  
**Mid-Atlantic Council**

Howard King is a former state fisheries director for the Department of Natural Resources of Maryland. Mr. King has served on the Council as a state official, also served as a Commissioner on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and as Commissioner for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. Mr. King was also a member of the Maryland Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission and was Chairman of the Maryland Atlantic Fisheries Advisory Committee.

**Michael Leary**  
**New England Council**

Michael Leary is beginning his second term on the Council. He previously served as a mate on recreational charter party boats and commercial fishing vessels. Mr. Leary is currently a commercial fisherman, owner and operator of two commercial fishing vessels, treasurer of the New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, and a member of the East Coast Tuna Association and the Associated Fisheries of Maine.

**John McMurray**  
**Mid-Atlantic Council**

John McMurray is the Director of Grant Programs for the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, owner and operator of a recreational fishing charter service, and is currently a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Striped Bass Advisory Panel. Mr. McMurray is also a freelance writer and photographer.

**Mary Beth Tooley**  
**New England Council**

Mary Beth Tooley is the Government Relations representative for the O'Hara Corporation, has worked for the Small Pelagics Group, and former Executive Director of the East Coast Pelagic Association. Ms. Tooley has served on advisory councils for the New England Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and is a former member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Council.

**Benigno Sablan**  
**Western Pacific Council**

Ben Sablan is beginning his third term on the Council. Mr. Sablan, who has a degree in fisheries science, served for three consecutive terms as a member of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) House of Representatives, was former secretary for the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and was an elementary school teacher.

**Edward W. Sapp**  
**Gulf of Mexico Council**

Ed Sapp is a retired insurance agent from Allstate Insurance Company. Mr. Sapp is a recreational fisherman, and a former weekend hook-and-line commercial fisherman. Mr. Sapp was active in the Florida Department of Natural Resources redfish tagging program, helped form the North Florida Flyfishers, and currently serves as a member of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club and Coastal Conservation Association.

**Robert L. Shipp**  
**Gulf of Mexico Council**

Robert Shipp is beginning his second term on the Council. Mr. Shipp is Chairman, Department of Marine Sciences at the University of South Alabama, Director, Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies, and heads the Alabama Oyster Restoration Program. Mr. Shipp is a staff writer for Sport Fishing Magazine.

**Jule D. Wheatly**  
**Mid-Atlantic Council**

Jule Wheatly is a commercial fishermen and shoreside processor. Mr. Wheatly served as Commissioner of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission from 1987-1995. Mr. Wheatly was also a member of the Atlantic Menhaden Advisory Board, the North Carolina Seafood and Aquaculture Advisory Committee, and Co-Chair of the North Carolina Fisheries Central Advisory Division.

## **Other Training Participants**

**Fatima Ahmad, J.D.**  
**Attorney Advisor**  
**NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries**

Fatima Ahmad is an Attorney-Advisor in the NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries. Previously, she was an associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, practicing environmental and real estate law. Ms. Ahmad graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 2005, where she was a member of the University of Chicago Legal Forum. Ms. Ahmad earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia, concentrating in Foreign Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies.

**Carmen S. DeGeorge, LCDR, USCG**  
**Commanding Officer, Eighth Coast Guard District**  
**Chief of Fisheries Enforcement**  
**U.S. Coast Guard**

Lieutenant Commander Carmen S. DeGeorge enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1993 and began his career as a Seaman aboard the USCGC AQUIDNECK (WPB 1309) in Portsmouth, VA. After one year, he received an appointment to the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and graduated in 1998, receiving a commission as Ensign, USCG and B.S. degrees in both Marine Engineering and Nautical Science. Since his commission, he has served on the USCGC CONFIDENCE (WMEC 619); as an Intelligence Analyst at the Justice Department's National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) in Johnstown, PA; aboard the USCGC CAMPBELL (WMEC 909); as commander of the USCGC ADAK (WPB 1333), which had been forward-deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to operate as part of a multi-national coalition force; and as commander of the USCGC TYBEE (WPB 1330), conducting numerous Search & Rescue (SAR) cases, several high-profile law enforcement operations, and critical Homeland Security missions ranging from Maine to New Jersey. From 2005-2007, Lieutenant Commander DeGeorge departed for a unique tour at the White House Situation Room, as a Duty Officer in the West Wing's 24-hour command center, providing all-source intelligence reporting of international, political, military, and economic developments to provide crisis notifications to the National Security Council (NSC) and senior White House Officials, including the President, Vice-President, and National Security Advisor.

In 2007, LCDR DeGeorge attended graduate school at the University of Rhode Island where he was awarded a MA in Marine Affairs in May of 2008. He is currently assigned to the Coast Guard District Eight Law Enforcement Staff in New Orleans, LA where he serves as the Assistant Branch Chief and Fisheries Enforcement Officer. His military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the USCG Meritorious Service Medal with "O" Device, USCG Commendation Medal with "O" Device, USCG Achievement Medal with "O" Device, 9/11 Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the USCG Cutterman's Insignia, and other personal and unit awards.

**Keith Hagg, J.D.**  
**Attorney-Advisor**  
**NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries**

Keith A. Hagg is an Attorney-Advisor in the NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries. He advises NOAA Fisheries on the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act including the Act's confidentiality requirements and the requirement to designate and identify essential fish habitat in fishery management plans. Prior to joining NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries, Keith practiced administrative and fiscal law at the Department of Commerce's Office of General Counsel, General Law Division. Mr. Haag is a graduate of the Washington College of Law and earned a bachelors of arts in political science at Suffolk University. He is licensed to practice law in Maryland.

**Russell H. Hudson, President**  
**Directed Shark Fisheries, Inc. (DSF)**  
**Daytona Beach, Florida**

Rusty Hudson is a member of the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) of the NOAA Fisheries Service. His deep sea fishing experience includes working on and operating charter and head boats; commercial fishing for snapper/grouper, golden tile, king mackerel, sharks, swordfish, and tuna; and he ran a large shrimp boat through the 1980s. He voluntarily worked with NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources since the early 1980s where he utilized and helped improve the early models of the Turtle Excluding Devices (TEDs) and Fish Excluding Devices (FEDs) used in shrimp nets. Mr. Hudson also trained the Office of Law Enforcement during August 1993 in shark fin identification and participated in conducting 47 HMS Protected Species workshops for NOAA Fisheries from November 2006 - May 2008 to certify fishermen with shark and swordfish federal permits in careful handling and release protocols for protected resources.