



## 2023 Speaker Biographies NOAA HSRP Public Meeting, September 2023

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## Dr. Qassim Abdullah

### Dr. Qassim Abdullah

Vice President and Chief Scientist, Woolpert Inc., Adjunct Professor, Penn State and UMBC



Dr. Qassim Abdullah is a scientist with more than 45 years of combined industrial, research and development (R&D), and academic experience in analytical photogrammetry, digital remote sensing, and civil and surveying engineering. Dr. Abdullah obtained his doctorate and master degrees in photogrammetry from the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is the Vice President and Chief Scientist for Woolpert Inc. His responsibilities include designing and managing strategic programs to develop and implement new remote sensing technologies focused on meeting the evolving needs of geospatial users. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, and at Penn State, where he teaches graduate courses on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), photogrammetry and remote sensing. Among his achievements, Dr. Abdullah evaluated and introduced a Geiger-mode and single photon lidar to the geospatial industry while leading Woolpert

research activities surrounding intelligent transportation systems, digital twin, smart cities, and UAS sensor calibration and workflow development. Dr. Abdullah is a Fellow with the ASPRS and the creator and principal author of the new ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data where he received the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 and has been the recipient of several prestigious awards. He publishes a monthly column, "Mapping Matters," in the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) journal, PE&RS. Dr. Abdullah is a member of the NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) and is on two of the Transportation Research Board's Standing Committees, the New Users of Shared Airspace (AV095) and the Geospatial Data Acquisition Technologies (AKD70). Dr. Abdullah is a certified photogrammetrist and licensed professional surveyor and mapper in Florida, Oregon, Virginia, and South Carolina. He is also a certified thermographer by the FLIR Infrared Training Center and a Certified GEOINT Professional in Remote Sensing and Imagery Analysis (CGP-R) by the USGIF.

## Capt. (NOAA, Ret.) Andrew A. Armstrong

### Capt. (NOAA, Ret.) Andrew (Andy) A. Armstrong III

Co-Director, NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center, NOS, NOAA



Andrew Armstrong is Co-Director of the NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center where leads NOAA's role in the research, mapping, and educational programs of the Center. Andy joined the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps in 1974, following 4 years of commissioned service in the U.S. Navy. He retired from the NOAA Corps in 2001, continuing with NOAA as Co-Director of the Joint Hydrographic Center in a civil service capacity. He has specialized in hydrographic surveying and seafloor mapping throughout his NOAA career. He has served on several NOAA hydrographic ships and field parties, conducting hydrographic and bathymetric surveys in Alaska and Hawaii, along the Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico coasts, and in the Great Lakes. He served as commanding officer of NOAA Ship Peirce and NOAA Ship Whiting, and as chief of NOAA's Hydrographic Surveys Division. He has a B.S. in

geology from Tulane University and a M.S. in technical management from The Johns Hopkins University.

## Ms. Juliana P. Blackwell

### Juliana P. Blackwell

Director, National Geodetic Survey, NOS, NOAA



Ms. Juliana P. Blackwell is the Director of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS). As Director, she is responsible for the financial, administrative and programmatic performance of NGS, the lead federal agency for positioning activities in the Nation. She oversees the management and delivery of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the nation's consistent coordinate system for latitude, longitude, height, shoreline, gravity measurements and shoreline information throughout the United States. The NSRS supports a wide range of important activities including mapping and charting, navigation, flood risk determination, transportation, land use and ecosystem management. Ms. Blackwell serves as Chair of the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, exercising government-wide leadership in the development and improvement of geodetic surveying specifications, methods, instrumentation, and data transfers.

She is a member of NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel, a federal advisory committee providing advice to the NOAA Administrator on matters related to hydrographic services. She represents NOAA on the interagency Alaska Mapping Executive Committee and the 3D Elevation Program Executive Forum. A graduate of Tufts University, Ms. Blackwell earned a B.S. in mathematics. She received a MBA from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

## Mr. Pat Burke

### Pat Burke

Chief, Oceanographic Division, CO-OPS, NOS, NOAA

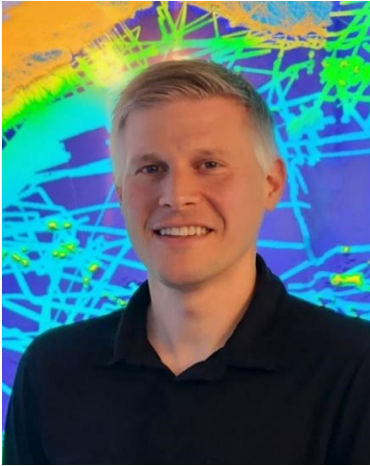


Patrick Burke is the Chief of the Oceanographic Division for the NOS Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). He oversees operational aspects of NOS' coastal modeling program, and works closely with other NOS and NOAA Program Offices and the external modeling community to transition and implement coastal modeling systems that support navigation and water quality applications. He has over 15 years of experience in physical oceanography, coastal modeling and operations management. Patrick received his B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Rutgers University and his M.S. in Ocean Engineering from the Stevens Institute of Technology.

## Dr. Thomas Butkiewicz

### Dr. Thomas Butkiewicz

Director, Data Visualization Research Lab University of New Hampshire



Thomas Butkiewicz is director of the Data Visualization Research Lab within the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Butkiewicz specializes in creating interactive visualizations which allow users to perform complex visual analysis on geospatial datasets through intuitive exploratory techniques. His research lab combines knowledge of computer graphics and human visual perception to create more-effective visualizations that support ocean mapping, hydrography, and safer marine navigation. His research interests include virtual and augmented reality, stereoscopic displays, human visual perception, and image processing/computer vision. His current research projects include heads-up display of marine navigation information, immersive telepresence, methods for integrating advanced data visualization methods within electronic navigational chart displays, and virtual reality hydrographic data editing.

## Capt. Anuj Chopra

### Prof. (Capt.) Anuj Chopra

Co-founder and CEO, ESGplus LLC



Captain Anuj Chopra is an international executive, enterprise risk manager, and big data champion who has successfully forged client relationships in the maritime industry for more than three decades. His deep experience developing ethical, customer-focused EQ & SQ cultures has led him to conclude high-value contracts with some of the largest shipping companies in the world. Captain Chopra cofounded ESGplus LLC, an international consulting firm focused on bringing resiliency, efficiency, and independent board advisory to clients invested in the global maritime supply chain.

ESGplus promotes sustainability, increased safety standards, and reducing the environmental impact of the maritime industry as a whole. Captain Chopra guides ESGplus as a diversity-focused company, providing client value by promoting exemplary, transparent customer solutions for a sustainable and resilient maritime supply chain. Captain Chopra spent nearly a decade as a Vice President of RightShip, negotiating high-level due diligence and compliance agreements in developing business across North and South America. Prior to RightShip, he served as the President of U.S. Operations for the Anglo-Eastern Group, with direct oversight of all vessels visiting U.S. ports, risk evaluation, and government relations. Captain Chopra began his seafaring career as a deck cadet, working his way up to Captain. He has commanded large bulk carriers and tankers and holds a Commonwealth Extra Masters Certificate of Competency and Shipping Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He serves as a Fellow of The Nautical Institute (Chair, U.S. Gulf Branch), an Ambassador for the Sailor Society, and on the Board of Directors at the Houston International Seafarers Center. He also teaches at the University of Houston, where he is an Adjunct Professor for the Supply Chain & Logistics Program. He is a Board Member and Treasurer of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) and a member of NOAA's Hydrographic Services Review Panel. He continually mentors students and professionals in the maritime supply chain.

## Ms. Rachael Dempsey

### Rachael Dempsey

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning, NOS, NOAA



Rachael A. Dempsey is the National Ocean Service's (NOS) first-ever deputy assistant administrator for navigation, observations, and positioning, and maintains full responsibility for establishing, managing, and providing strategic direction for the NOS navigation, observations, and positioning programs. She further supervises NOS's information technology and data management strategies.

With nearly 28 years as a Meteorology and Oceanography and Information Warfare Officer in the United States Navy, Ms. Dempsey has broad meteorological and oceanographic prediction and operational application expertise. She has significant experience leading large, diverse organizations, and has had the privilege of Command of two operational Navy organizations in Yokosuka, Japan and San Diego, California, and was the first female Information Warfare Commander for the USS Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group.

Ms. Dempsey also possesses an extensive background in cyber operations and network defense. She earned her bachelor's degree in marine science from Jacksonville University in Florida and holds master's degrees in meteorology and oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School and in national security strategy from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

## Mr. Christopher DiVeglio

### Chris DiVeglio

Maritime Services Program Manager, CO-OPS, NOS, NOAA



Chris DiVeglio works for NOS' Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) as the Maritime Services Program Manager – serving in this role since 2019. Chris oversees the NOAA Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) program as well as engagement and outreach tied to CO-OPS current surveys and hydrodynamic models. Chris regularly engages with various groups of maritime stakeholders and partners in seaports around the U.S. which are served by a PORTS®, in order to meet operational needs and enhancements for these valuable systems. He works closely with the operational teams and leadership within CO-OPS, coordinating projects and associated programmatic tasks related to the Maritime Services Portfolio. He serves as a CO-OPS liaison for meteorological data with the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) and local National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices. Chris' previous experience at CO-OPS includes time on both the Data Monitoring and Data Processing teams in the Oceanographic Division. Before joining NOS in 2013, Chris worked as an operational meteorologist for

a private weather company in the NYC area. Chris earned his Bachelor's degree in Meteorology from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

## Mr. Sean Duffy

### Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

Executive Director, Big River Coalition



Mr. Duffy directs the Big River Coalition which is committed to protecting maritime commerce across the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT). He leads the Coalition which focuses on maximizing transportation efficiencies on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico) with a dedicated focus on channel maintenance. The Big River Coalition is at the forefront of efforts to deepen the Mississippi River Ship Channel to 50 feet. He spearheads the visions of the future deep-draft navigation on the MRT to ensure that systematic approaches protect maritime commerce by maintaining fully authorized channel dimensions while also updating and maintaining navigation infrastructure, specifically the locks and dams along the MRT. The Big River Coalition missions include a dedicated focus to secure increased federal investments for channel maintenance of the Mississippi River Ship Channel. The project to deepen the Ship Channel to 50 feet and to increase the beneficial use

of dredge material or “sediment recycling” were projects first promoted by the navigation industry through the Big River Coalition. Mr. Duffy also serves as an Executive Vice President / Maritime Advocate for the parent company the New Orleans Steamship Association and another d.b.a. the Louisiana Maritime Association. Mr. Duffy is a proponent for local industry specializing in advocating on Capitol Hill to secure supplemental funds for maintenance dredging and waterway maintenance. Previous employment experiences include various management positions, Boarding Agent, Deckhand, Stevedore General Superintendent and Marine Surveyor. Mr. Duffy is familiar with obstacles faced by the maritime industry, both nationally and those specific to Louisiana, and has been recognized for his efforts on coastal restoration through maintenance dredging. He became the HSRP co-chair in March 2021.

## Dr. Nicole Elko

### Dr. Nicole Elko

Executive Director, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)



Executive Director of the South Carolina Beach Advocates, and President of Elko Coastal Consulting

In 2023, Dr. Nicole Elko was named the new Executive Director for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA). She recently served ASBPA for over twelve years as Science Director providing science-based guidance to Congress, federal and state agencies, and local communities on national coastal resilience challenges. Prior to becoming the Science Director, she served on the ASBPA’s Executive Committee, was a Vice-President and Secretary of the Association, and has been an ASBPA member for 20 years. Dr. Elko works with U.S. coastal communities on topics of resilience, research, and restoration. She provides hydrographic services, including topographic and

bathymetric survey data and water level data, to her clients in the Southeast. Dr. Elko understands the challenges facing coastal practitioners such as flooding, erosion, Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB). She received her Ph.D. (Geology) from the University of South Florida after working with the USGS Coastal Marine Geology Program, and while serving as the coastal coordinator for Pinellas County, FL. Dr. Elko has 25 years of experience in coastal resource management and has managed or assisted with dozens of beach preservation projects along the U.S. Southeast and Gulf coasts. Dr. Elko has co-authored a book on coastal management, numerous technical reports, and over 35 journal publications, including The Future of Nearshore Processes Research, a seminal report that provides a research vision developed by the coastal research

community. This led to her role as a co-Executive Director for the grass-roots U.S. Coastal Research Program. Regionally, Dr. Elko serves on South Carolina Governor McMaster's Floodwater Commission, and the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) Science Committee. Dr. Elko teaches a "Beaches 101" training course to regulators and elected officials in the Carolinas. In her free time, she enjoys surfing with her family and serving as the Director of the Folly Beach Wahine Classic, the longest running all-female surf contest on the U.S. East Coast.

## Rear Admiral Benjamin K. Evans

### Rear Admiral Benjamin K. Evans

Designated Federal Officer, HSRP; and Director, Office of Coast Survey, NOS, NOAA



Rear Admiral (lower half) Benjamin K. Evans is the Director of the Office of Coast Survey and U.S. National Hydrographer responsible for overseeing NOAA's hydrographic services, including the mapping and charting of all U.S. coastal waters, as well as representing the U.S. on interagency and in international hydrographic efforts. He leads NOAA's ocean mapping and nautical charting program, continuing the transformation of the agency's navigation services to meet the needs of twenty first century mariners and apply Coast Survey's technical expertise to meet a broad range of requirements for authoritative ocean mapping data. He is an experienced hydrographer with over twenty-one years of service in the NOAA Commissioned Corps, most of which has been in the NOAA mapping and charting community afloat and ashore. He has served in a wide range of leadership, technical, and policy roles, including command of NOAA Ships Ferdinand R. Hassler and Rainier, management positions in Coast Survey and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, and on the staff of the

NOAA Administrator and the acting chief of staff of the NOS Assistant Administrator. Rear Admiral Evans holds degrees in Physics from Williams College, and Ocean Engineering from the MIT/WHOI Joint Program where his research focused on uncrewed systems. He is an American Conference on Surveying and Mapping / Hydrographic Society of America Certified Hydrographer.

## Dr. Vicki Ferrini

### Dr. Vicki Ferrini

Senior Research Scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO)



Vicki Ferrini is a Senior Research Scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO). Her research focuses on using mapping techniques to understand the processes that shape the seafloor in a variety of environments. She has participated in research expeditions around the world mapping shallow water and deep-sea environments using ships, boats, submersibles and towed platforms. Most of her work is in the field of geoinformatics and is focused on ensuring that high-quality marine geoscience research data are made available to the science community and to the public. She is the Head of the Seabed 2030 Regional Center for the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

## Dr. Ayumi Fujiaski-Manome

### Dr. Ayumi Fujiaski-Manome

Associate Research Scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR)



Dr. Fujiaski-Manome is an Associate Research Scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR). Her research program aims to 1) understand these interactions and physical processes unique to freshwater environments, 2) improve forecasting models to represent these processes better, and 3) work with stakeholders to co-design forecast products for better information uptake by end users. Through her work at CIGLR, current research was aimed at improving ice, snow, and hydrodynamics models used by NOAA to forecast weather and water events in the Great Lakes. Dr. Fujiaski-Manome has also applied this research to other regions of the world (e.g., the Sea of Okhotsk, the Alaskan coastal region, the Arctic Ocean) to address questions unique to these locations, and to hone the accuracy of the models that she developed.

Her research enabled the development and validation of the first-ever ice forecast prediction for the Great Lakes Operational Forecast System (GLOFS). These forecasts provide the capability to determine risks in many areas, including vessel navigation in the transportation sector; ice jamming at rivers and resulting flooding in coastal areas, and frazil ice buildup (or clogging) on water intake structures. The product also informs planning of winter recreations, such as ice fishing, tours to ice caves, and temporary land bridges for island communities.

Dr. Fujiaski-Manome published 29 papers, including work that has been quoted by public media outlets, such as Nowcast 'Papers of Note' in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, and received NOAA's 2021 outstanding scientific paper award. She has also received the NOAA Team Member of the Month Award in April 2019, and is a Unified Forecast System (UFS) Coastal Applications Team (CAT) co-lead for Safe and Efficient Marine Navigation.

## Mr. William Gavin

### William Gavin

Geographer and eHydro Project Manager, USACE



Shanks Gavin, a highly skilled Geographer and GIS Specialist, serves as the Project Manager for eHydro, a vital USACE enterprise initiative focused on managing hydrographic survey data and navigable waterway infrastructure across the United States. His pivotal role overseeing eHydro demands leadership across a diverse team that spans the nation. Shanks' expertise extends to data stewardship, adhering to standards like SDSFIE and ISO 19115 and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, including Azure Cloud and Esri's ArcGIS Online. Shanks is also a proficient Python programmer, applying object-oriented design principles in his work. With a bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Sciences from Kennesaw State University, he demonstrates his commitment to excellence through certifications like CompTIA Security+ and an active GISP.

Recognized with numerous awards, including the Superior Civilian Service Award, Shanks remains a dedicated advocate for advancing geospatial technology and data management.



## Mr. Lindsay Gee

### Lindsay Gee

Hydrographic and Strategic Development Consultant



Mr. Lindsay Gee has over four decades of broad experience working in the international hydrographic surveying and ocean mapping industry. This experience ranged from working at a national hydrographic service, then consulting in the broader offshore industry, and leading a small innovative company providing software and services to the international hydrographic industry, and recently managing the mapping and science operations for the E/V Nautilus. His roles included conducting and managing operational hydrographic surveys for nautical charting and ocean exploration, client representation for geodetic and geo-hazard surveys in the oil and gas industry, through to leading a team in development of software applications to support hydrographic surveying and ocean mapping.

He built a deep understanding and expertise in guiding the transfer of technology from research at partner ocean mapping research institutions, and leading the development of an agile company to successfully interpret industry requirements and trends. His consulting is focused on both ocean mapping operations and the technology used in the industry, and the strategic planning and business development required to identify and transition innovative technology to products, services and solutions for general operational use. Mr. Gee is affiliated with the Hydrographic Society of America, Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute, Australasian Hydrographic Society, Marine Technology Society and American Geophysical Union.

## CDR Briana Welton Hillstrom

### CDR. Briana Welton Hillstrom

Chief, Hydrographic Services Division, OCS, NOS, NOAA



CDR Briana Welton Hillstrom has been a NOAA Commissioned Corps Officer for 17 years, with nearly nine years in sea assignments on all four of NOAA's hydrographic ships – Rainier, Fairweather, Ferdinand R. Hassler, and Thomas Jefferson – mapping on both coasts of the United States, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Arctic. She is the new Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Division in OCS and served throughout the Office of Coast Survey (OCS), from the mobile units of Bay Hydrographer and Navigation Response Team 7; Mid-Atlantic Navigation Manager; and Chief of the Atlantic Hydrographic Branch. She was the former Commanding Officer of NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson, NOAA's 2020 Ship of the Year, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, where she leads a crew of 36 professional mariners mapping the seafloor for nautical chart update and hurricane response. CDR Hillstrom has a bachelor's degree in

mathematics from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and a Master's of Science in Ocean Engineering Ocean Mapping from the University of New Hampshire. She received a Commerce Gold Medal for taking a new Navigation Response Team to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, to survey unexploded ordinance for the U.S. Navy; a NOAA Corps Commendation Medal for leading Fairweather in its most productive field season just after receiving and integrating four new survey launches and the ship's first Arctic project; and the Association of Commissioned Officers Science and Engineering Award for work on in situ field acoustic calibration methods of hydrographic multibeam sonars. She is a member of The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA); and is a CAT A hydrographer

## Mr. Marten Hogeweg

### Marten Hogeweg

Senior Principal Consultant, Product Manager Esri Geoportal Server



Marten is the Senior Principal Consultant at Esri and carries with him an extensive 25-year industry experience in supporting National Government and Maritime organizations in their respective digital transformation journey. As the lead consultant for the Port of Rotterdam's geospatial enterprise system, Marten led the implementation of a geospatial framework which supported collaboration, asset management, strategic planning, and smart infrastructure processes.

Together with the Port of Rotterdam and other key industry leaders, Marten has worked on developing a smart shipping container in and defining the Digital Twin program for the Port, that eventually will include 3D representation of all port assets, real-time systems to capture hydrological, meteorological data and status of key port assets such as bollards, fenders, and shipping containers.

In addition, Marten was also instrumental in developing the main prototype of Indonesia's National Spatial Data Infrastructure which resulted in a data sharing platform between several government agencies. He was also instrumental in rolling out several of the U.S. Government's Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (RATB) various open government initiatives.

It is this valuable experience that saw him brought on board as a consultant for GeoSpace-Sea's development - a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. Marten also carries extensive experience in geospatial industry standards from ISO, the Open Geospatial Consortium, United States Geospatial Platform, and European INSPIRE programs. Marten has a Master of Science in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Salford, United Kingdom (2000) and a Master of Science in Mathematics, the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands (1989).

## Ms. Shannon Hoy

### Shannon Hoy

Expedition Coordinator Team Lead for NOAA Ocean Exploration



Shannon Hoy serves as the Expedition Coordinator Team Lead at NOAA Ocean Exploration. She leads and participates in a team of Expedition Coordinators responsible for planning and executing expeditions aboard the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*. Utilizing tools like multibeam sonars and remotely operated vehicles, these expeditions aim to explore some of the ocean's most remote and poorly understood areas. When not in the field, Shannon concentrates on enhancing the operational efficiency and effectiveness of NOAA Ocean Exploration. She also spearheads innovative concept-of-operation projects and offers ocean mapping expertise on a range of initiatives, collaborating with governmental, academic, and industry partners. Specializing in deepwater ocean mapping, Shannon holds a Master's degree in Earth Sciences with a focus on Ocean Mapping from the University of New Hampshire. She is dedicated to advancing the pace and quality of ocean mapping as an active member of the global mapping community.

## Mr. Brad Kears

### Brad Kears

Deputy Director, NGS, NOS, NOAA



William (Brad) Kears has been the Deputy Director of NGS since 2016. Immediately prior, Brad was a manager with Deloitte Consulting supporting projects at NOAA and the Department of Commerce. Brad is a retired NOAA Commissioned Officer with 28 years of service. He has served on NOAA ships and aircraft, and in NOAA program offices and field parties. He was the Director of NOAA's Commissioned Officer Personnel Center and Commanding Officer of NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center, home of the NOAA "hurricane hunter" aircraft. He received a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the College of Charleston and a Masters of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

## Ms. Nicole LeBoeuf

### Nicole LeBoeuf

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, NOS, NOAA



Nicole R. LeBoeuf is the Assistant Administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service, an organization of 1,800 staff in more than 50 locations around the country. As the Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management at NOAA, Ms. LeBoeuf oversees all strategic and operational aspects of America's premiere coastal and ocean agency.

She provides the strategic vision needed to lead the implementation of activities that support NOS's priorities of safe and efficient transportation and commerce; preparedness and risk reduction; and stewardship, tourism and recreation. She serves as the focal point for conveying the value of NOS products and services within NOAA and to the Department of Commerce, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress.

Ms. LeBoeuf actively establishes and grows partnerships with other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Ms. LeBoeuf has over 20 years of scientific and program management experience, with emphasis on the connections between science and policy. Previously, Ms. LeBoeuf served as the NOS Deputy Assistant Administrator. In this role, she oversaw the financial, administrative, and performance activities across NOS to address the evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our ocean, coasts, and coastal communities. Prior to joining NOS, Ms. LeBoeuf served as Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Protected Resources in NOAA Fisheries, and Chief of the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division in the Office of Protected Resources, where she maintained oversight of a diverse portfolio of protected species conservation and management activities. Ms. LeBoeuf has also worked in NOAA headquarters, in the NOAA Budget Office and as NOAA's finance lead during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, in NOAA Fisheries' Office of International Affairs as NOAA's Lead for the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, and as the Special Assistant to NOAA Fisheries Science Director, during which time she represented NOAA at the U.N. General Assembly and the World Conservation Union. Ms. LeBoeuf grew up on the Texas Gulf Coast and knows the importance of coastal communities to our nation. She holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in sustainable development and conservation biology from the University of Maryland. She is also a proud graduate of NOAA's Leadership Competencies Development Program. She lives with her husband, stepchildren, and hound dog in Kensington, Maryland.

## Ms. Lynn Mayo

### Lynn Mayo

Joint Venture Program Manager, NESDIS, NOAA



Lynn Mayo has a Masters in Engineering from Stanford University and over 30 years of Project Management experience. She is currently the Program Manager for the NOAA National Environment Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) Joint Venture Partnerships Program. Joint Venture Partnerships works with other federal agencies, academia, and industry to evaluate emerging data and technologies for potential use in NOAA operations.

## Dr. Heidi Mehl

### Dr. Heidi Mehl

Director of Water and Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy



Heidi Mehl is the Director of Water and Agriculture programs for The Nature Conservancy in Kansas. Heidi holds a PhD in geography, with an emphasis on fluvial geomorphology and the cultural geography of water resources. Heidi works in both agricultural and urban communities within Kansas to improve water quality and water security. She also serves on The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi Basin program science team. Over her career, Heidi has worked with Indigenous communities in the United States, Siberian Russia, and Kenya on issues related to water sovereignty. She maintains a research interest in linking cultural frameworks to land and water management decisions, and the implications for both people and nature.

## Mr. Brian Meyer

### Brian Meyer

NOAA, National Centers for Environmental Information, Trackline Geophysics Data Manager



Brian Meyer has been managing Trackline Geophysical Data (Bathymetry, Gravity, Magnetic, and Marine Seismic) at NCEI for over 11 years. He has a B.A. in Geophysics from the University of Colorado Boulder and is working on an M.A. in Organizational Leadership and Change Management from University of Colorado Denver. Based in Boulder, Brian spends his free time hiking, biking, going to see live music, and cooking.

## Dr. Saeed Moghimi

### Dr. Saeed Moghimi

Physical Scientist, Coastal Marine Modeling Branch, Coast Survey Development Lab, OCS, NOS, NOAA



After completion of his PhD in 2005, Dr. Saeed Moghimi spent four years on an assistant professor position in the Department of Civil Engineering of Arak University. In 2009, he was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship in Physical Oceanography at the Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Germany. His scientific research on model coupling, water column turbulence and mixing, wave modeling, coastal ocean circulation modeling, wave-current interaction and the use of data assimilation methods for predicting coastal ocean geophysical variables made him one of the few people with this caliber and expertise for tackling coastal modeling related problems.

Currently he serves as the NOAA's National Ocean Service Storm Surge Modeling Team Lead at the Coastal Marine Modeling Branch at CSDL/OCS/NOS/NOAA. He is leading all related efforts concerning the operational storm surge and tide forecast system capabilities such as: 1) research and development; 2) research-to-operation (R2O); 3) operational support; 4) regular upgrades and maintenance; and 5) skill assessment and dissemination. He is also leading the development of the next generation NOS' Coastal Ocean Modeling infrastructure (UFS-Coastal) following the NOAA Unified Forecast System.

## Dr. Lynn Montgomery

### Dr. Lynn Montgomery

AI Research Engineer at Lockheed Martin



Dr. Lynn Montgomery is an AI Research Engineer at Lockheed Martin and the principal investigator of the NOAA Earth and Space Observations Digital Twin program. She received her PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science from CU Boulder in 2020 and is interested in anything Earth science and remote sensing related.

## Mr. Mark Osler

### Mark Osler

Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience, NOS, NOAA



Mark Osler is the Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His leadership advances coastal inundation science and the ability of decision makers to prepare for and respond to changes affecting the nation's coastlines. He serves as senior advisor to NOAA leadership on defining research, applied science, and policy priorities related to understanding and reducing impacts of coastal risk to the public, our national security, and our nation's economy. Mark's inter-agency leadership includes: U.S. Government representative to the G7's Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance; Co-chair of the Coasts Workgroup within the U.S. Global Change Research Program; NOAA representative within various White House interagency fora including the National Security Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Council on Environmental Quality. Prior to joining NOAA Mark worked for 17 years in the private sector.

He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Lehigh University and a M.S. in coastal engineering from the University of Delaware's Center for Applied Coastal Research.

## Dr. Shachak Pe'eri

### Dr. Shachak Pe'eri

Chief, Geoscience Research Division, NGS, NOS, NOAA



Dr. Shachak Pe'eri is the Division Chief of Geoscience Research Division at NOAA's National Geodetic Survey that is currently working to incorporate data and new algorithms into tools and services for users to determine latitude, longitude, and height coordinates relative to NOAA's new National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). This year Dr. Peeri will also transition into the VDatum Program Manager Position. Previously, Dr. Peeri served as the Chief of Office of Coast Survey Office of Coast Survey that provides coastal and ocean modeling development and support for NOAA's operational forecast models, surge models and VDatum. Other positions that Dr. Pe'eri held in the past include: Branch Chief of the Chart Standards Group and Chief of the Cartographic Support Branch within the Office of Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division. Dr. Pe'eri earned his Ph.D. in Geophysics, atmospheric and planetary sciences from Tel Aviv University, Israel. He is also affiliated with Center of Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM), University of New Hampshire (UNH).

## Dr. Ben Phillips

### Dr. Ben Phillips

Lead for NASA's Earth Surface and Interior Focus Area



Benjamin Phillips is Lead for NASA's Earth Surface and Interior Focus Area, which supports research and analysis of solid-Earth processes and properties from crust to core. His responsibilities include managing the competitive research program and serving as the program scientist for NASA's Space Geodesy Program, which is building, deploying, and operating a next-generation space geodetic network of integrated, multi-technique observing systems to refine our knowledge of Earth's shape, rotation, orientation, and gravity. Dr. Phillips also serves as program scientist for the Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation (EMIT) mission, which will measure the composition of mineral dust sources around the world. He is also the alternate program scientist for NASA's Hyperspectral Infrared Imager (HypSIIRI) mission, which will help in assessing volcanic behavior worldwide, and for the Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) mission, which uses airborne radar to study dynamic Earth processes.

Prior to joining NASA, Dr. Phillips was Science Advisor to the Geothermal Technologies Office, U.S. Department of Energy, where he was a lead developer of the Frontier Observatory for Geothermal Energy (FORGE) and the agency-wide Subsurface Technology and Engineering R&D (SubTER) Crosscut effort. He also previously served as a Program Director in Geophysics at the National Science Foundation, managing projects spanning geodynamics, seismology, geodesy, and potential fields research. Before joining the government, Dr. Phillips studied global mantle convection and magma dynamics by developing numerical simulations for high-performance computing platforms. He received his Ph.D. in Geosciences from Princeton University in 2005.

## Ms. Kathryn Rovang

### Kathryn Rovang

Senior Geoscientist/GIS Analyst, Fugro



Kathryn Rovang is a senior geoscientist/GIS analyst for Fugro, responsible for implementing and administering the enterprise GIS environment, including product engineering and developing client delivery solutions. She is also involved with marine site characterization projects that include the integration of geodata to evaluate engineering constraints and geohazards. Prior to her role at Fugro, she worked in the Utilities industry which initially sparked her interest in Enterprise database design and the concept of a 'global GIS', that collaborates real-world representation with IT design thinking. She has BSc's from the University of Houston in Geology, Geophysics, and Archaeology and a GIS Analyst II certification.

## Ms. Leslie Ruta

### Leslie Ruta

Director of Planning, Port of Corpus Christi



Leslie Ruta is the Director of Planning at Port Corpus Christi. She joined the PCCA Accounting Department in 2015 as the Staff Accountant and was promoted to Revenue Accountant where she led the Revenue Team before moving to Planning in 2018.

Leslie and the Planning team lead organizational planning efforts and provide internal Port clients with strategic project coordination (including infrastructure planning, enterprise asset management, and grants management), market and operational data analysis, land-use analysis, geographic information system (GIS) and unmanned aircraft system (UAS) services. Leslie also provides support to the organization's strategic planning efforts.

Some of Leslie's current projects include coordinating the Horizons Clean Hydrogen Hub application and overseeing the execution of two CarbonSAFE grants for onshore and offshore storage.

## Mr. Galen Scott

### Galen Scott

Constituent Resources Manager, Geodetic Services Division, NGS, NOS, NOAA



Galen Scott has served in a number of roles since he started at National Geodetic Survey in 2003. He currently serves as the NGS Constituent Resource Manager, responsible for engaging the broad array of NGS stakeholders, soliciting feedback on NGS products and services, and helping NGS incorporate that feedback into the product development life cycle and strategic planning for modernizing the National Spatial Reference System. Galen was the project manager for GEOID18 and currently leads the GPS on Benchmarks program to crowd-source data for the 2022 Transformation Tool. He holds Master's Degrees in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University and Environmental Science and Management from the University of Rhode Island.



## Dr. Greg Seroka

### Dr. Greg Seroka

Physical Scientist, Coastal Marine Modeling Branch, Coast Survey Development Lab, OCS, NOS, NOAA



Greg Seroka is an oceanographer and meteorologist with the OCS in the NOAA. Dr. Seroka supports marine navigation and disaster mitigation through several projects. He has recently led efforts to operationalize a state-of-the-art global model and a three-dimensional (density layered) regional model for forecasting storm surge and tides. He is also leading annual upgrades to these water level forecast guidance systems. These forecast tools are essential for safe and efficient marine navigation and for protecting coastal communities during storms. Dr. Seroka is also involved with an international effort to standardize oceanographic data for mariners, such as water levels and surface water currents, which are important for developing coherent marine navigation systems across international waters. Finally, he is a Unified Forecast System (UFS)

Coastal Applications Team (CAT) co-lead for Safe and Efficient Marine Navigation.

Prior to his work at NOAA, Greg earned his PhD in physical oceanography from Rutgers University with a Graduate Certificate in Energy, where his research improved hurricane intensity forecasts and assessed offshore wind energy resources in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic. He received his Master's in atmospheric science from Texas A&M, where he worked on improving lightning forecasts, and his Bachelor's (honors) in meteorology from Penn State where he served as President of the Campus Weather Service.

## Mr. Derrick Snowden

### Derrick Snowden

Acting Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, NOS, NOAA



Derrick currently serves as the Acting Director of the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, the nation's authoritative source for accurate, reliable and timely water-level and current measurements. In this acting capacity he is responsible for CO-OPS operational observing, prediction, and product development activities. Throughout his 24 year career at NOAA, he's worked across the value chain of ocean observations, from collecting oceanographic observations to developing data management and cyber infrastructure systems to overseeing coastal prediction programs. In his permanent position, as Chief of the Operations Division in the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Office, he oversees programs which together with eleven Regional Associations collect ocean observations, develop ocean predictions, and derive products and services to address local stakeholder needs. In addition to the Regional coordination, the Operations Division leads

several competitive award programs focused on transitioning mid to high readiness level ocean information technologies toward operational implementation. Derrick has a BS in Physics and Marine Sciences from University of Miami. As a career student, he's collected graduate degrees and experiences in Applied Math, Physical Oceanography, and Engineering Management and Systems Engineering.

## Mr. Scott Spaunhorst

### Scott Spaunhorst

Chief Geoscience Technical Executive Office NGA

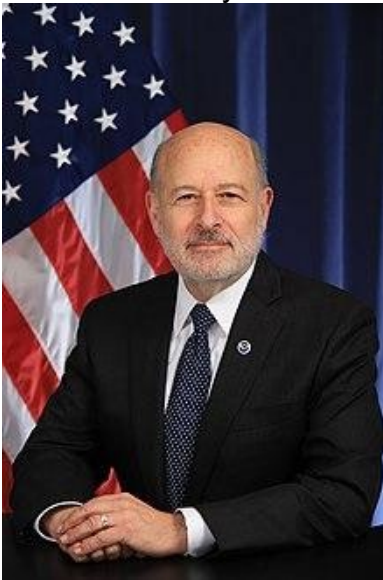


Scott Spaunhorst, Technical Executive, Office of Geomatics - National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Greater St. Louis

## Dr. Richard Spinrad

### Dr. Richard Spinrad

Under Secretary of Commerce for Ocean and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator



Richard (Rick) W. Spinrad, Ph.D., was sworn in on June 22, 2021 as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the 11th NOAA administrator. Dr. Spinrad is responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the agency and its over 12,000 employees, including developing NOAA's portfolio of products and services to address the climate crisis, enhancing environmental sustainability and fostering economic development, and creating a more just, equitable, diverse and inclusive NOAA workforce.

Most recently, Dr. Spinrad served as a professor of oceanography and senior adviser to the vice president of research at Oregon State University (OSU). He was also vice president for research at OSU from 2010-2014.

Dr. Spinrad served as NOAA's chief scientist under President Barack Obama from 2014 until 2016. He also led NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and National Ocean Service from 2003-2010. While at NOAA, Dr. Spinrad co-led the White House Committee that developed the nation's first set of ocean research priorities and oversaw the revamping of NOAA's research enterprise, including the development of the agency's Scientific Integrity Policy.

Prior to initially joining NOAA, Dr. Spinrad held leadership positions at the U.S. Office of Naval Research and Oceanographer of the Navy, where he was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award — the highest award given by the U.S. Navy to a civilian. He has held faculty appointments at OSU, the U.S. Naval Academy, and George Mason University; served as Executive Director at the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education; was President of Sea Tech, Inc.; and worked as a research scientist at OSU and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. He also developed the National Ocean Sciences Bowl for high school students. In the international arena, Dr. Spinrad served as the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission from 2005-2009.

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 (TOS) and the Marine Technology Society. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, Marine Technology Society, TOS, and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), and an IMarEST Chartered Marine Scientist.

Dr. Spinrad received his B.A. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from The Johns Hopkins University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography from Oregon State University.

## Dr. Quentin Stubbs

### Dr. Quentin Stubbs

Regional Navigation Manager for Texas, OCS, NOS



Quentin Stubbs, PhD serves as the Regional Navigation Manager - Texas in the NOAA - Office of Coast Survey. His primary responsibilities are to help identify navigational challenges facing the marine transportation system, and to provide the resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. His previous experience includes serving as a Geographer and Regulatory Specialist with the US Army Corps of Engineers and as a Geographer with the US Geological Survey - Chesapeake Bay Program. He holds a PhD in Geographical Sciences from the University of Maryland - College Park, a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Mercer University.

## Mr. Brian Tetreault

### Brian Tetreault

Acting Director CMTS



Brian Tetreault is the Program Manager for the Marine Transportation System (MTS) for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In this role he also serves as Senior Advisor to the U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) and USACE Liaison to the U.S. Coast Guard. Prior to this position, he was a Navigation Systems Specialist at the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory. He has worked on projects to develop and implement navigation information systems to improve safety, efficiency, and reliability of inland and coastal waterways. He has been a U.S. representative to national and international navigation-related bodies, including the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC), International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM). He is a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy and served in the Coast Guard for 22 years at sea and ashore.

## Ms. Julie Thomas

### Julie Thomas

Senior Advisor, Southern California Coastal Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA (retired)



Since 1976, Julie Thomas worked at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and during the last several years, served as the Program Manager and Principal Investigator for the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP). She served as the Executive Director for the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) from 2009 to 2018. She is now serving in an Advisory capacity for both of the above mentioned programs. She has been an advocate for sustained funding for real-time monitoring and model validation, working closely with many federal agencies, in particular the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NOAA. She worked closely with many of the coastal USACE whose projects are dependent upon high quality, long-term wave data, realizing that this long term history is critical in infrastructure design and repair. Through the State of California, she has obtained sustained project funding, working closely with the recreational and commercial maritime community, including the Coast Guard and state Oil Spill Prevention and

Response agencies. At the local and regional level, she is engaged with coastal issues, particularly those that are affected by energetic wave action, providing data for infrastructure design, shoreline change and sea level rise. Ms. Thomas has extensive outreach experience. She focused on listening to comments from the maritime users/operators, spent many hours walking the fishing docks with nautical chart in hand, discussing the best location for a buoy deployment, and attending the maritime industry meetings to help resolve their concerns. Her priority is to maintain standards for collecting and disseminating high quality data, assure that these data are curated and archived at the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), and advocate for the integration and communication of information that helps ensure safety, economic and environmental resilience, and the sustainable use of coastal oceans. She became the HSRP chairwoman in March 2021.

## Ms. Kim Valentine

### Kim Valentine

NOAA Geospatial Information Officer (GIO)



Kim Valentine serves as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Geospatial Information Officer (GIO). As the NOAA GIO, she is responsible for leading NOAA's annual GIS priorities to include ensuring NOAA meets the requirements under the Geospatial Data Act, overseeing NOAA's enterprise geospatial software and services contracts, and facilitating an open and inclusive NOAA geospatial community of users. As the NOAA GIO, she collaborates across the organization, at the Department of Commerce level, and across federal agencies to develop policies, and provide direction on enterprise geospatial software applications and solutions to meet the mission.

Kim is passionate about open data and open science as well as establishing meaningful relationships and growing partnerships with other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Kim holds a B.S. in Geology and Environmental Science and a M.Ed. in Mathematics and Science Education.

## Mr. Stephen White

### Stephen White

Staff Cartographer, Remote Sensing Division, National Geodetic Survey, NOS NOAA



As a Staff Cartographer within NOAA's National Geodetic Survey's Remote Sensing Division, he serves as the Program Manager for VDatum, leading the Quad-Office efforts to develop the Vertical Datum Transformation Tool (VDatum). As a program manager, he coordinates the project, oversees the apportionment of VDatum funds, and ensures the Quad-Office teams are working towards common goals to deliver the VDatum tool most effectively. In addition, he works on projects that involve evaluating new remote sensing technologies/systems for integration into NOAA programs, such as the Coastal Mapping Program. As Lidar Program lead a primary focus, has been utilizing topobathy lidar, with the assistance of a vertical datum transformation tool, for extracting consistent, non-interpreted shoreline vectors and shallow water bathymetry. Other efforts have included technical management of the division's coastal mapping contracting efforts, assisting with emergency response incidents and the development of

workflows for derivative products from acquired program data that can benefit a variety of users, assisting several projects, programs, and agencies through an integrated ocean and coastal mapping approach.

## Ms. Katrina Wyllie

### Katrina Wyllie

Physical Scientist, Hydrographic Survey Division, OCS, NOS, NOAA



Katrina Wyllie is a Physical Scientist with NOAA's Office of Coast Survey Hydrographic Surveys Division and is the Operations Team Lead of the National Bathymetric Source program. Prior to her current role, Katrina served as the Chief of Survey Section for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District. Katrina's previous positions with NOAA included Physical Scientist in the Hydrographic Surveys Division at both the Operations Branch in Silver Spring, MD and the Atlantic Hydrographic Branch in Norfolk, VA. Katrina has a B.S. in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston and an M.S. in Earth Sciences Ocean Mapping from the University of New Hampshire state.