



NOAA HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL

Detroit, MI - Speaker Biographies

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Fall 2024 Speakers

Captain Richard Armstrong

Commander, Detroit District, U.S. Coast Guard



Captain Rick Armstrong assumed duty as the Commander of Sector Detroit in June 2023. He oversees eleven subordinate units with an area of responsibility stretching from Vermillion, Ohio west and northward beyond Tawas, Michigan along 427 miles of international border with Canada through Lakes Erie, St. Clair and Huron and along the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers.

Prior to assuming command of Sector Detroit, Captain Armstrong served as Deputy Sector Commander in Key West, Florida where he oversaw three multi-mission stations, six Fast Response Cutters, and an Aids to Navigation Team. Prior to Key West, Captain Armstrong served at the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he synchronized operations across maritime, land, cyber, air, missile, and space domains in support

of homeland defense, civil support, and security cooperation missions.

In previous assignments, Captain Armstrong served as Comptroller of the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama where he was responsible for \$18 million annually, overseeing all acquisitions and logistics services for the Coast Guard's largest and most diverse aviation command. He also served as Chief of Incident Management at Sector Maryland – National Capital Region, Financial Analyst for the Coast Guard's Chief Financial Officer at Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Operational Planner at the Atlantic Area Command in Portsmouth, Virginia, and Deck Watch Officer aboard the VENTUROUS, a medium endurance cutter homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Originally from Syracuse, New York, Captain Armstrong graduated with honors from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Research and Computer Analysis. He also attended Syracuse University and earned a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration. Captain Armstrong is a Certified Government Financial Manager and has earned the Response Operations Ashore and Advanced Boat Forces insignias.

His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation and Achievement Medals, Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbons, and various other personal and unit awards. Captain Armstrong is married to Michelle and they have two children, Thomas and Teagan.

Senator Gary Peters

U.S. Senator, Michigan



Gary Peters has represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate since 2015. Throughout his career in public service, Peters has focused on a stronger economy, good-paying jobs, affordable health care, a secure retirement, and the opportunity for everyone to succeed.

Senator Peters is the Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The Committee's jurisdiction includes government operations generally and the Department of Homeland Security in particular. Its primary responsibilities are to study the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the federal government; evaluate the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of government; and study the intergovernmental relationships between the U.S. and states and municipalities, and between the U.S. and international organizations of which the U.S. is a member. Peters is the first Michigan senator to serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee in decades. The Appropriations Committee is responsible for drafting the legislation that allocates federal resources to government agencies, our national defense, and organizations on an annual basis.

Mr. Peter Barry

Director of Port Operations & Harbor Master for the Port of Windsor



Appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer/ Harbour Master in 2009, Mr. Barry assumed the role as the primary Traffic Control Officer, Chief Enforcement Officer, Port Development Officer and Lead Environment Officer for the Windsor Port Authority.

In that role Mr. Barry works closely with all levels of law enforcement and marine agencies within Canada and the United States. The Port of Windsor is one of 17 Federal port authorities and the only port with direct proximity to the international border.

Mr. Barry is the Vice Chair on the Executive Committee of the US Coast Guard Southeast Michigan Area Maritime Security Committee including several sub-committees, Past Chair of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities Security Committee, and Executive Member of the National Ports Security Committee as well as numerous marine domain management committees in both the United States and Canada.

Mr Barry is an instructor at Acadia University in Nova Scotia in the subject of maritime international law enforcement

He has been in law enforcement for 44 years and during this time served as a United Nations Peacekeeper in the former Yugoslavia enforcing sanctions and investigating organized criminal networks operating in the country

Mr. Ed Bailey

Director Program and Portfolio Development, Northwest Michigan College



Ed Bailey is the director of Program and Portfolio Development at Northwestern Michigan College responsible for supporting the institution's strategic plan initiatives and managing the Marine Center. The Marine Center at Northwestern Michigan College provides comprehensive technical training solutions for the marine, surveying, and remote sensing industries. This program provides workforce development, professional training, accreditation programs, and micro-credentials in support of the geospatial industry sector.

Ed has an extensive background in program and project management and has worked in the academic, pharmaceutical, and commercial industries. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Project Management from the University of Wisconsin –Platteville. Ed serves as an adjunct instructor teaching Marine Project Management at Northwestern Michigan College.

Ms. Jennifer Boehme

Executive Director, Great Lakes Observing System



Jennifer became GLOS' chief executive officer in 2023 after serving as the board chair. Previously, she served as an environmental scientist at the International Joint Commission (IJC)'s Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario and assisted the IJC in advising governments of the United States and Canada on water quality issues affecting the Great Lakes. She served as Secretariat to IJC's Health Professionals Advisory Board, which provides guidance to the IJC on current and emergent clinical and public health issues in the area of Canada-US transboundary environmental health. Prior, Jennifer spent 10 years as a research scientist for the University of Maine and the Smithsonian Institution, and, before joining the IJC, delved into science policy and communication at the National Science Foundation via a fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She holds A Ph.D. in Marine Science from the University of South Florida and a B.S. in Chemistry from Emory University.

Capt. Tony Brandano

Lake Pilots Association



Captain Anthony Brandano graduated from the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in 2007. I worked in the domestic fleet on the Great Lakes for 9 years with Grand River Navigation. I was Captain for 5 years. I started working for Lakes Pilots Association in 2016. I was elected to the Board of Directors at Lakes Pilots in 2019. I was Vice President in 2023. I was Elected President of Lakes Pilots Association in March of 2024.

Mr. John Bratton

Senior Science Officer, LimnoTech



John F. Bratton, PhD, PG, is LimnoTech's Senior Science Officer and has broad expertise in earth and environmental sciences. He has led successful projects involving large ecosystem restoration, adaptive management, contaminated sediment remediation, numerical modeling and observing systems, environmental policy, and litigation support. John has worked as a consultant, researcher, educator, and science manager for over 35 years, especially in the Great Lakes, Northeast, and Pacific regions. He previously served as Acting Director of the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and research vessel fleet, and as a geochemistry research group leader with the Coastal and Marine Geology Program of the U.S. Geological Survey in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He also holds an adjunct faculty appointment at Wayne State University in Detroit and is a licensed professional geologist in four states.

Mr. Mark Breederland

Michigan Sea Grant



Mark Breederland, District Extension Agent with the Michigan Sea Grant College Program, has served the Greater Detroit and Southeast Michigan area on a variety of urban Great Lakes waterfront and conservation issues since 1995. In 1997, he co-chaired the application team which nominated the Detroit River to President Clinton and led to subsequent designation as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers in July, 1998. Mark is founding chairman of the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative steering committee and has worked collaboratively with numerous federal agencies on a variety of environmental conservation projects. He

has recently been recognized for his work by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Program Leaders (Outstanding Program Award, April 2000) and Michigan State University Extension (Excellence in Individual Programming, December 1999).

Mark's additional experience includes a detail to the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes office in Windsor, Ontario, from 1992-1995 where he worked on Great Lakes Areas of Concern and from 1986-1992 as Environmental Programs Director for the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments in Traverse City, Michigan. A native of southeast Michigan, Mark has a B.S. (Biology-1984) from Taylor University and a M.S. degree (Environmental Science/Water Resources-1987) from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Mr. Ryan Chatland

Chief of Lock Operations and Quality Assurance, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation



Captain Ryan W. Chatland assumed the duties of the Chief, Lock Operations in July 2016. His position is located in the Office of Lock Operations and Marine Services in Massena NY. Mr. Chatland serves as the Office Department Chief to all 50 operations employees; with major responsibilities in customer service, vessel traffic management; incident response, emergency response, and program management. He provides analysis, review, and recommendations on administrative and operational policies and procedures, and serves as Quality Assurance Officer for the US Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Captain Chatland oversees activities between Operations Supervisors and Ship Inspectors and assists in determining technical,

financial, and logistical needs and priorities.

A native of Fort. Covington, New York, Ryan Chatland proudly served in the U.S. Coast Guard across the East Coast and Great Lakes region. Upon receiving an Honorable discharge from the Coast Guard, Ryan Chatland studied at SUNY Maritime, He then started his career at the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation as a Line-handler in 2005 progressing through all the ranks within the Operations department.

Captain Ryan Chatland is married to his beautiful wife Meghan Elizabeth Chatland along with their two loving children Carsten and Paisley. When not working Ryan enjoys fishing walleye and spending time with his family on the gorgeous St. Lawrence River.

Mr. Derek Cusimano

Survey Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Derek Cusimano is a State University of New York graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Surveying Engineering Technology. He has been with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the last 15 years on the Great Lakes, working various roles for both the Buffalo & Detroit Districts. Currently Derek is a Geographer in the Operations Division, Maintenance Support Section at the Detroit District. He also serves as the Districts Survey Coordinator, District Datum Coordinator, ATPM and the Geospatial Lead for hydrographic and topographic surveys which support USACE Operations & Maintenance of federally authorized navigation channels and a variety of USACE projects throughout the Detroit District and the Great Lakes. Derek works with both federal and private sector Surveyors, Engineers, Designers and GIS

professionals at the local, state, and federal level. Additionally, he is the USACE Hydrographic Community of Practice and was recently recognized as the 2024 USACE Geospatial Professional of the Year.

Ms. Robin Czeidinski

Policy Analyst, Policy & Constituent Affairs Division



Robin Czeidinski is a policy analyst in the National Ocean Service (NOS) leading the Navigation and Positioning portfolio. She has held a variety of positions in NOS Headquarters over the last six years, advising NOAA and NOS leadership on policy, constituent engagement, and strategic initiatives. Before coming to NOAA, she worked for the National Park Service and served in the Peace Corps. She holds a bachelor of science in the environment from the University of Michigan and a Master of Arts in Global Affairs from Yale University.

Ms. Sierra Davis

Oceanographer, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services



Sierra Davis is an oceanographer at NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). Sierra works on CO-OPS' Datums Team, the group responsible for providing the most up-to-date tidal datum and Great Lakes water level datum information. She is a member of the bi-national Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic data, and supports the development of the International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD 2020). In this role, she co-leads a working group that ensures that water level data processing methods between the United States and Canada are standardized. She holds an MS in Geological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and is an alumni of the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program.

Ms. 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.

Dr. Jeff Freymueller

Professor, Michigan State University



Jeffrey Freymueller, an Endowed Chair for Geology of the Solid Earth in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, is an internationally recognized leader in the field of geodesy and geophysics. His extensive research, utilizing satellites from the Global Positioning System to make highly precise measurements of movement on Earth's surface, has led to discoveries in a wide range of topics including plate tectonics and plate boundary zones; faults dynamics; the continuing rebound of Earth's surface from melting ice-age glaciers; and the inflation and deflation of volcanoes.

Freymueller received his B.S. in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of South Carolina. After his graduate studies, he was a postdoctoral research associate at Stanford and joined the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, as an assistant professor in 1995, with appointments at both the Geophysical Institute and the Department of Geological Sciences. He remained at Fairbanks until joining MSU in 2018. Freymueller is also the director of the EarthScope National Office, an NSF-funded program to study the structure and evolution of North America.

In addition to his research, Freymueller is well known for carrying out extensive and successful leadership service in numerous community-scale organizations, including UNAVCO, Inc., Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology, and the American Geophysical Union, to name a few. Freymueller was an associate editor for the *Journal of Geophysical Research* and the *Journal of Geodesy*, and editor-in-chief for the International Association of Geodesy Symposia Series.

Ms. Stephanie Gandulla

Resource Protection Coordinator, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Stephanie Gandulla is a maritime archaeologist and the Resource Protection Coordinator for NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, based in Alpena, Michigan. She has participated in projects around the world including the Great Lakes, the South Pacific, Sweden, Jamaica, and the Arctic. As a NOAA Scientific Diver, she enjoys exploring and documenting the dozens of historic shipwrecks in Lake Huron's sanctuary waters.

Ms. Mara Figueroa Berrocá

PhD Candidate, The Ohio State University



Mara Figueroa is a PhD candidate in Geodetic Science at The Ohio State University, specializing in geodesy, geophysics, and earthquake cycle modeling. Her research focuses on using GNSS observations to study co- and post-seismic surface deformation caused by megathrust earthquakes in South America, particularly the 2010 Maule and 2015 Illapel earthquakes in Chile. Mara holds a Master's degree in Geographic Information Technologies from Universidad de Extremadura, Spain, and a Surveying Engineering degree from Universidad Nacional de San Juan, Argentina.

Dr. Jacob Heck

Great Lakes Geodetic Advisor, NOAA/NGS



Dr. Jacob Heck is a geodesist, serving as the National Geodetic Survey's Regional Geodetic Advisor for the Great Lakes, where he supports users of the National Spatial Reference System throughout Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and elsewhere. As part of this position, he is active in the Vertical Control - Water Levels Subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data, the binational group that maintains the International Great Lakes Datum. His office is hosted at the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI. He has worked for NGS since 2016, previously as GNSS Researcher in the Geosciences Research Division. He is a licensed Professional Surveyor in Michigan. Jacob serves as Immediate Past President of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Young Surveyors Network, and is active in the International Federation of Surveyors.

Ms. Erika Jensen

Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission



Erika Jensen serves as executive director of the Great Lakes Commission, appointed in July 2021. As executive director, Ms. Jensen directs operations, manages relations with the Commission's Board of Directors and Commissioners, oversees policy and advocacy efforts, and collaborates with the agency's numerous partners to advance strategic regional priorities, among other duties.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Jensen directed the Commission's aquatic invasive species (AIS) program. In that role she served as coordinator for the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and Invasive Mussel Collaborative, and was the Commission's designee to the U.S. federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Ms. Jensen has been a member of the Commission staff in various roles since 2006. She has a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Mr. Paul LaMarre

American Great Lakes Ports Association and Port of Monroe



Capt. Paul C. LaMarre III, is a third generation Great Lakes mariner whose lifelong freshwater legacy and industry advocacy has led to his recognition as a prominent leader across the Great Lakes-St Lawrence Seaway navigation system.

Capt. LaMarre has served as the Port Director of the Port of Monroe, MI since 2012 and is directly responsible for the Port's rebirth from being a dormant harbor to what is now a regarded as national example of seaport revival and redevelopment.

A graduate of the California Maritime Academy, Capt. LaMarre holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation with minors in logistics and naval science and maintains an unlimited USCG Deck Officers License as a Master of Towing

Vessels.

In 2013, Capt. LaMarre was appointed to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) National Freight Advisory Committee by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood where he served as the sole representative of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System and State of Michigan. In 2016, Capt. LaMarre was appointed to the USDOT's Port Performance Freight statistics working group by Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx where he once again is the sole representative of the Great Lakes port community.

He was also appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder as Chairman of the State's first Port Authority Advisory Committee which he still chairs for Governor Gretchen Whitmer. He also sits

as a maritime advisor to the State of Michigan Commission for Logistics & Supply Chain Collaboration. In 2018, he was appointed to the USDOT's Marine Transportation System National Advisory Committee (MTSNAC) by Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and in 2021 was appointed to the U.S. Coast Guard's Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC) by Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas.

Capt. LaMarre is also the President of the American Great Lakes Ports Association, Vice President of the International Shipmasters Toledo Lodge #9, Vice Chairman of the National Museum of the Great Lakes and a Board Member of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, Marine Historical Society of Detroit, Great Lakes Seaway Shipping Online Inc. (Boatnerd.com), and the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. He has also served as a Board Member of the Great Lakes Towing Co. and Pro Medica Monroe Regional Hospital. As a Great Lakes historian, Capt. LaMarre has received the Association of Great Lakes Maritime

History's Annual Award for Historic Preservation and was also named the Marine Historical Society of Detroit's "Historian of the Year" for his preservation of the S.S. Col James M. Schoonmaker Museum Ship. The vessel is the centerpiece of the National Museum of the Great Lakes which he also conceptualized and developed with the Great Lakes Historical Society. He has also served as pilot in the United States Navy, having logged the majority of his flight hours in the F/A-18 Hornet.

Mr. Mark Schrupp

Executive Director, Port of Detroit



Mark Schrupp has served as Executive Director of the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority since March of 2021. There he has worked to develop a new publicly-owned general cargo dock and to spur innovative uses of the Great Lakes for short-sea shipping. A major project at the Port Authority is the development of a Decarbonization and Air Quality Improvement Project for the entire Port of Detroit, including all private terminals, which aims to reduce port-related carbon emissions to zero by 2040.

Congressman Shri Thanedar
Representing Michigan's 13th District



Congressman Shri Thanedar represents Michigan's 13th Congressional District, serving on the Homeland Security and Small Business Committees. He passionately champions legislation on vital issues, from affordable housing to flooding relief. Committed to securing more resources for education, promoting entrepreneurship, and addressing racial wealth disparities, Thanedar is a tireless advocate for Southeast Michigan's families.