



NOAA HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL

March 2024 Speaker Biographies

<u>Spring 2024 Speakers</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
DR. CLARISSA ANDERSON	2
CONGRESSMEMBER NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN	3
DR. JAMES BEHRENS	3
CAPT. JOHN M. BETZ	4
DR. YEHUDA BOCK	4
MR. DANA CACCAMISE	5
MS. ROBIN CZERWINSKI	5
MS. RACHAEL DEMPSEY	5
MR. CHRIS DiVEGLIO	6
MS. RACHEL FONTANA	6
MR. JEFF FERGUSON	7
MS. ROSEMARIE FUSCO	7
DR. DOUGLAS GEORGE	8
MR. JIM HAUSSENER	8
CAPT. TOM JACOBSON	9
MR. RYAN KITTELL	9
MS. NICOLE LeBOEUF	10
CAPT. KIP LOUTTIT	11
MR. JUSTIN LUEDY	11
CAPT. RYAN MANNING	12
MR. MARK MERRIFIELD	12
DR. CHRIS PARRISH	13
MR. JEREMY POTTER	13
MR. BRAD KEARSE	14
MR. KASTEN Uil	14
MR. DARREN WRIGHT	14



NOAA HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL

Spring 2024 Speakers

Dr. Clarissa Anderson

Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System



Dr. Clarissa Anderson is a biological oceanographer with expertise in ecological forecasting and remote sensing. After receiving a B.A. in Integrative Biology and Art History at UC Berkeley and a Marine Science Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara, she completed several postdoctoral appointments, including a National Research Council fellowship and National Science Foundation postdoctoral award, before transitioning into a professional research position at UC Santa Cruz. Her research has focused on the prediction of harmful algal blooms and toxins in estuarine and coastal ecosystems as well as the fate and transport of harmful toxins to deeper waters and sediments. During her time as research faculty at UC Santa Cruz, she worked to establish the California Harmful Algae Risk Mapping (C-HARM) system with NASA Applied Science support. Clarissa is now at Scripps Institution of Oceanography serving as the Executive

Director of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Director of the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences. She continues to conduct research on phytoplankton ecology in coastal California with NASA, NOAA, NSF, and CA State support. She is Chair of the UNESCO GlobalHAB Scientific Steering Committee, a member of the SCOR Working Group on Observing Air-Sea Interactions Strategy, U.S. CLIVAR Working Group on Coastal Climate Solutions, the Science Advisory Team for the CA Ocean Protection Council, and the U.S. National HAB Committee.

Congressmember Nanette Diaz Barragán

Representing California's 44th District



Nanette Diaz Barragán was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2016, becoming the first Latina ever to represent California's 44th Congressional district.

Born and raised in the Harbor Gateway, Nanette's humble beginnings shaped her interest in issues that matter locally: environmental and health justice, immigration reform, strengthening the economy and affordable and accessible education.

As the youngest of eleven children raised by immigrant parents from Mexico, Nanette knows about the challenges that many low-income minority families face firsthand. Her father, a local tv repairman, instilled in her a strong work ethic and influenced her love for baseball (in particular, for the Los Angeles Dodgers). Her mother, who only completed the third grade, cleaned homes, cared for others and worked in factories to make ends meet. Nanette learned from her

parents the values of hard work, and obtained her undergraduate degree from UCLA and her Juris Doctor from USC Gould School of Law.

Dr. James Behrens

Principal Development Engineer/Manager, CDIP Program



James Behrens, PhD, is Program Manager and Principal Engineer for the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), UC San Diego. He is responsible for operations and development of the CDIP wave buoy station array, working with funding agencies such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, California State Parks, and US Navy, plus the Marine Exchange of Southern California and various energy industry partners, and collaborating with NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regional Associations. He is engaged in ongoing research of ocean wave activity, modeling, and coastal impacts. With a BS in Physics from Purdue University, a PhD in Marine Electromagnetic Geophysics from SIO / UC San Diego, and years of experience working as a hydrocarbon industry consultant prior to joining CDIP in 2016, James has

been involved in a variety of oceanographic, geophysical, and glaciological research and exploration projects spanning the globe.

Capt. John M. Betz

Chief Port Pilot, Los Angeles Pilot Service



Capt. John Betz jointly oversees the Los Angeles Pilot Service, a team of dedicated professionals that diligently strive to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vessels within the Port. The Service maintains an around-the-clock operation that handles roughly 3,600 ships a year and is the only pilot organization in the nation staffed with government employees.

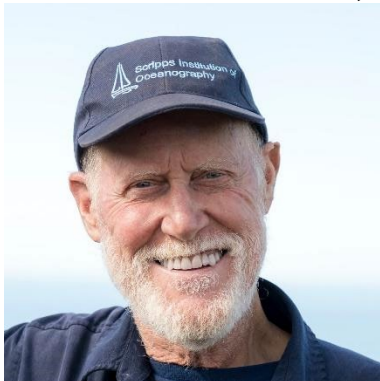
Capt. Betz began his career with the Port of Los Angeles in 2002. He previously sailed on tankers for Chevron Shipping Company, serving as master, mooring master and Alaska pilot. Captain Betz holds pilot licenses for Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors, San Francisco Bay, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, and various minor Alaska ports.

Capt. Betz earned a bachelor's degree in nautical science and a master's degree in transportation management from the California Maritime Academy. He also earned a juris doctor from University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Capt. Betz chairs the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee and California Maritime Academy Foundation Board and is a member of the Propeller Club of Los Angeles/Long Beach, Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club and American Legion Post 43. He is a past president of the California State University Maritime Academy Alumni Association and a former commissioner on the State Bar of California, Admiralty and Maritime Law Commission. Capt. Betz has served in both the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy Reserve.

Dr. Yehuda Bock

Researcher and Lecturer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography



Dr. Bock is a Distinguished Researcher and Senior Lecturer at UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) in the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics. He arrived in La Jolla in 1989 after receiving a PhD in Geodetic Science at the Ohio State University (OSU) in 1982 followed by postdoc and research positions at MIT, working with a group developing high-precision GPS instruments, theory and software. I serve as director of the Scripps Orbit and Permanent Array Center (SOPAC) and the California Spatial Reference Center. Dr. Bock's research has focused on applying geodesy, reference frames and GPS technology to a range of scientific applications such as geophysics, meteorology and natural hazards. Dr. Bock has

carried out crustal deformation and subsidence surveys in the Western U.S., Indonesia, Middle East, Venice and Stromboli volcano, established the first real-time continuous GPS network and developed a system for local tsunami warnings. Scripps Institute of Oceanography has been awarded a five-year grant from NOAA's National Geodetic Survey to develop a geodesy program at SIO, an intra-frame deformation model for the National Spatial Reference System, and an integrated marine/terrestrial vertical reference frame. Dr. Bock is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, recipient of The Karrina and Weikko A. Heiskanen Award from OSU and the CSRC's Founder Award and have published over 150 journal articles.

Mr. Dana Caccamise

Pacific Southwest Region Geodetic Advisor, NOS, NOAA



Dana Caccamise is the NOAA/National Ocean Service's (NOS) National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) Pacific Southwest Region Geodetic Advisor. He assists the geospatial community throughout California and Nevada—including public- and private-sector surveyors, GIS professionals, engineers, and earth scientists—with the proper application of the National Spatial Reference System.

Dana has been part of the NGS since 2014 and has graduate degrees in the fields of Earth Sciences, Geophysics, and Geodesy and currently resides in San Diego, California. The California Spatial Reference Center (CSRC), located at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) at the University of California San Diego (UCSD), is hosting his position.

Dana also holds a Research Associate position in the SIO's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP).

Ms. Robin Czerwinski

Policy Analyst, Policy & Constituent Affairs Division



Robin Czerwinski is a policy analyst in NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Policy & Constituent Affairs Division. In this role, Robin serves as the policy liaison for the Office of Coast Survey and the National Geodetic Survey, supporting the development and coordination of policy related to NOAA's navigation and positioning portfolio. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan in environmental science and a Master of Arts in Global Affairs from Yale University. She began her NOAA career in 2018 as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow and has held various positions in NOS headquarters over the last 5 years.

Mr. Derek Davis

Deputy Chief Harbor Engineer, Port of Long Beach



Derek E. Davis is a Deputy Chief Harbor Engineer in the Program Management Division of the Engineering Services Bureau for the Port of Long Beach. As Deputy Chief Harbor Engineer, Mr. Davis supports the Director of Program Management with the Port of Long Beach's Capital Improvement Program. Project assignments

have included management of the Port's capital and maintenance dredging program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Long Beach Deep Draft Navigation Improvements Feasibility Study and Channel Deepening project, and supporting the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Program.

Mr. Davis joined the Port of Long Beach in 2012. Prior to joining the Port, Mr. Davis served as a Senior Project Manager with CH2M Hill, Inc. While at CH2M Hill, Mr. Davis' experience included the construction of bridge structures for the 105 Freeway in Los Angeles, construction of the San

Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Replacement program, redevelopment of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, and the construction of upgrades to an activated sludge facility. In addition to CH2M Hill, Mr. Davis' previous employers include the Morrison- Knudsen Company, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mr. Davis is a California Registered Professional Civil Engineer and holds a Bachelor of Art in Architecture and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

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.

Mr. Chris DiVeglio

PORTS Program Manager, 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.

Ms. Rachel Fontana

Chief, Policy and Constituent Affairs Division



Rachel Fontana is NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Policy & Constituent Affairs Division Chief. In this role, Rachel helps lead the development, coordination and implementation of congressional affairs, policy, and international affairs for NOS. She has a Bachelor of Science in marine science and biology from University of Miami, Florida and a Ph.D. in marine ecology/biological oceanography from University of California, Davis. In 2013, Rachel began her NOAA career as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow. Rachel has gone on to work in a variety of positions across NOAA over the past decade using her expertise in science policy, congressional analysis, and communications to help meet NOAA's mission.

Mr. Jeff Ferguson

California Navigation Manager, NOS, NOAA



Mr. Ferguson has spent his 37-year NOAA career working throughout NOAA's Mapping and Charting programs.

He joined the NOAA Corps in 1986 and was first assigned to the NOAA Ship DAVIDSON, which conducted ocean mapping projects in Alaska and the U.S. West Coast. His NOAA Corps career included assignments with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Hydrographic Surveys Division (HSD) and a second sea assignment as Field Operations Officer of the NOAA Ship MT MITCHELL. He resigned from the NOAA Corps as a Lieutenant Commander in 1999 and transitioned into civilian employment with HSD.

Positions held in Silver Spring, MD, between 1999 and 2014, included; team lead of HSD's hydrographic contracting program, Deputy Chief of HSD and Chief of HSD.

For the last 10 years, he has been the California Navigation Manager and is currently also the Acting Navigation Manager for Oregon and Washington. He is the NOAA representative to the states' Harbor Safety Committees and supports local stakeholders with a wide range of NOAA products and services.

Ms. Rosemarie Fusco

University of Rhode Island, Marine Affairs Department



Rosemarie Fusco joined the Marine Affairs department in 2021. She is interested in how both incentivized standards and regulations impact development decisions, and in how the outcomes of these decision-making processes are equitable and successful. Rosemarie has also had the opportunity to contribute to other Marine Affairs research projects such as the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) from 2020-2021 where she worked with Naval Staff to develop a GIS inventory of consequence thresholds in and around Naval Station Newport. Prior to attending URI, she received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida where she researched environmental justice of coastal planning practices in city and county government.

Dr. Douglas George

Geological Oceanographer, NOS, NOAA



Dr. Douglas George is a geological oceanographer at the NOAA Office for Coastal Management in the Applied Sciences Division and the program manager for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System's Science Collaborative. Over the last two decades, he has worked on nearshore and coastal sediment transport, estuary restoration, living shorelines, regional sediment management, and climate change adaptation. He's conducted oceanographic research along the U.S. West Coast, the Maritimes in Canada, the south coast of Australia, and the Adriatic Sea of Italy. Some of the far-reaching projects he's overseen include developing the first comprehensive coastal LiDAR mapping of California's coast, launching the California State Parks coastal program, and creating a sediment management/coastal

resilience planning committee for hundreds of miles of central and northern California's coastline. Dr. George's education background includes a B.S. in Oceanography from Humboldt State University, a M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University, a M.Sc. in Oceanography from Dalhousie University and a Ph.D. in Hydrologic Sciences from the University of California, Davis. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), a Vice-President of the California Shore and Beach Preservation Association (CSBPA), and the co-chair of the Science Advisory Committee for the Santa Barbara and Ventura counties joint powers authority, Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON).

Mr. Jim Haussener

Executive Director, California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference



Jim Haussener has over forty years of experience in the California maritime industry, serving from harbor patrol officer to marina manager as well as teaching sailing and other aquatic sports. He has been a recreational boater for over fifty years.

For the past 20+ years Mr. Haussener has been Executive Director to the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (CMANC), the association of local sponsors of federal navigation projects within California. CMANC supports the integrated system of California ports and harbors that provide a key national gateway to international commerce and trade.

Mr. Haussener represented the small craft industry to the San Francisco Estuary Project. He similarly served on the Policy Review Committee for the Long Term Management Strategy for Dredged Material in San Francisco Bay (LTMS) and the California Technical Advisory Committee for Marinas and Recreational Boating. He chaired the Sediment Technical Advisory.

Committee to the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health. Over the past decade, Mr. Haussener has been part of teams developing value engineering suggestions for maintenance dredging and strategic plans for navigation.

Jim is a Past Chair of the CMANC Board, Past President of both the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains and the California Marine Parks and Harbors Association.

Capt. Tom Jacobson

President / CEO of Jacobsen Pilot Service, Inc.



Captain Tom Jacobson is President / CEO of Jacobsen Pilot Service, Inc., a family-run company that has provided piloting services at the Port of Long Beach since 1924. Tom has been President of the company since 1998. He has his Unlimited Masters license, and Unlimited First-Class Pilot license for LA/LB, San Pedro Bay & Anaheim Bay. He graduated from the California Maritime Academy in 1988. He has been President & Chairman, and currently Treasurer of the Marine Exchange of Southern California. Member of the Propeller Club, Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce, and FuturePorts. Jacobsen Pilot Service (JPS) has been instrumental in helping the Port of Long Beach bring in the largest ships in the world safely into port by implementing state of the art technology such as; shore side radars, highly accurate sector range lights, contributing to the development of Pilot

Portable Units (PPUs) with RTK GPS technology for "Precision Piloting", and utilizing the ProTides program for predicting VLCC's under keel clearances. Jacobsen Pilot service also runs the Long Beach sector of the Vessel Traffic System.

Mr. Ryan Kittell

Marine Program Manager, NWS, NOAA



Ryan Kittell is a meteorologist and the Marine Program Manager at the National Weather Service in Oxnard. He grew up in Redondo Beach, CA and graduated from UCLA with a master's degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Ryan started with the National Weather Service as a student intern in 2003 and became full time in 2005. Ryan and his wife Kristina live in Newbury Park and have 3 school aged kids.

Ms. Nicole LeBoeuf

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management



Nicole R. LeBoeuf is the assistant administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Ocean Service, an organization of 1,800 staff in more than 50 locations around the country. As the assistant administrator 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. She serves as the U.S. Representative to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, where she advances the application of ocean and coastal observations in understanding and preparing for climate change and promoting U.S. best practices in ocean science for sustainable development and climate adaptation.

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.

Capt. Kip Louttit

Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California



Captain Kip Louttit was appointed as the Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California in January 2013. A graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, he served in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for 30 years prior to retiring with the rank of Captain. Captain Louttit's experience includes 10 years at sea in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Bering, Mediterranean, and Caribbean Seas.

Captain Louttit leads a staff of 20 civilians and a Coast Guard detail of six active-duty Operations Specialists with an annual budget of \$4.1 million. The Marine Exchange of Southern California, a non-profit organization first established in 1923, is unique among the nation's Vessel Traffic Services in having a public/private partnership with the Coast Guard. It has evolved into one of the world's foremost organizations of its kind and uses state-of-the-market electronic and computer technology to provide Vessel Traffic Service for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and Maritime Information Service for Southern California region including the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, Hueneme, and Chevron Offshore Moorings in El Segundo. The Marine Exchange continuously works to promote a safe, secure, efficient, reliable, and environmentally sound maritime transportation system.

Captain Louttit was a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and holds master's degrees from MIT and Golden Gate University. Captain Louttit has served as the Executive Secretariat of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee since 2013.

Mr. Justin Luedy

Senior Environmental Specialist, Port of Long Beach



Justin Luedy has worked as a Senior Environmental Specialist at the Port of Long Beach for over 15 years, where he's responsible for projects and programs related to climate change adaptation and coastal resiliency planning, harbor-wide biological surveys, wildlife mitigation and management, water quality monitoring, compensatory wetland mitigation, and sustainability. Justin holds a B.S. in Marine Biology and a M.S. in Environmental Science.

Capt. Ryan Manning

Captain of the Port of Los Angeles, U.S. Coast Guard



Captain Ryan Manning currently serves as the Captain of the Port of Los Angeles – Long Beach and is the Commander of Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach, leading a team of 550 active duty, reserve and civilian personnel and a 750 member volunteer Auxiliary workforce. This team facilitates regional partnerships and conducts federal maritime safety, security, law enforcement and environmental protection operations throughout the central California coast and within the United States' largest container port complex. Prior to his current assignment, he most recently served as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Activities Europe, located in Brunssum, The Netherlands. In this position, he directed U.S. Coast Guard vessel inspection and port security assessments throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

A native of Burbank, South Dakota, CAPT Manning received his commission from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1994 and has served in a variety of Port Safety and Security related positions throughout his career. He has earned a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, Master of Science in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Mark Merrifield

Director, Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego



Mark Merrifield has spent the past two decades studying global and regional sea-level change. A Scripps alumnus, Merrifield returned to campus from a 20-year stint as director of the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center to direct the Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation. Merrifield's research areas include sea-level rise and climate variability, coastal oceanography, and nearshore processes. He received his PhD in Oceanography from Scripps in 1989, was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia from 1989 to 1991, followed by a return to Scripps as a project scientist and researcher. In 1994, he joined the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Ocean Engineering

department, subsequently moving to the Oceanography department from 1997-2017. He has a longstanding interest in linking basic and applied research outcomes to practical solutions for societal benefit. Merrifield has had experience working with partners in academia, industry, government, and non-government organizations as the chair of the Global Sea Level Observing System, as the lead investigator of the Waves and Water Level component of the Pacific Integrated Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), and as a lead author of the Sea Level Change chapter of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As the new CCCIA director, Merrifield will pursue research that advances the understanding of climate impacts and provides meaningful projections, and develop a focused curriculum that prepares the next generation of scientists, engineers, and policymakers in risk assessment and adaptation strategies.

Dr. Chris Parrish

Director of the Geospatial Center for the Arctic and Pacific, Oregon State



Christopher Parrish is a Professor and the Plasker Faculty Scholar in Geomatics at Oregon State University, where he also serves as Director of the Geospatial Center for the Arctic and Pacific (GCAP). He holds a doctorate in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Geospatial Information Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's in Civil and Coastal Engineering with an emphasis in Geomatics from the University of Florida. Chris is Past President of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). Prior to joining OSU, he held the position of lead physical scientist in the Remote Sensing Division of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey. He also serves as an affiliate faculty member in the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping - Joint Hydrographic Center (CCOM-JHC) at the University of New Hampshire. Additional information on Chris' research

group is available at: <http://research.engr.oregonstate.edu/parrish/>

Mr. Jeremy Potter

Environmental Studies Chief for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Jeremy Potter has been the Environmental Studies Chief for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Pacific Region since early 2017. At BOEM, Jeremy is responsible for managing and directing the activities of multidisciplinary staff in the planning, design, procurement, and implementation of environmental studies to support BOEM environmental data and information needs related to offshore renewable energy, offshore conventional energy, and marine minerals. Prior to BOEM, Jeremy worked at NOAA for ~15 years in various positions at the Office of Ocean Exploration, the Office of the Under Secretary, and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Jeremy has spent much of his career organizing intra- and inter-agency deepwater mapping and characterization partnerships.

Mr. 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.

Mr. Kasten Uil

Managing Director, CHARTA Software



Founder of Charta Software. Charta Software is a young and ambitious software company specialized in improving software development techniques and applying them in tailor-made high quality software. These applications typically solve difficult mathematical problems and make strong use of visualizations to structure and understand the results.

Mr. Darren Wright

Precision Marine Navigation Program Manager, NOS, NOAA



Darren Wright is the Precision Marine Navigation (PMN) Program Manager for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey. The PMN program aims to consolidate NOAA's marine navigational information such as electronic navigational charts (ENCs), water levels, currents and marine weather forecasts into an internationally standard format (S-100) that is machine readable for easy access by navigation system manufacturers and other marine entities. Darren has been with NOAA since 1984 and has worked in operational oceanography and meteorology for over 40 years. Prior to this position Darren worked at NOAA's National Weather Service as their National Marine Program Manager where he sought to improve marine forecasting products and services. Before that he served at NOAA's National Ocean Service as their Maritime Services Program Manager where he oversaw the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®), current survey, hydrodynamic modeling and meteorological programs.