Speaker Biographies
HSRP Virtual Public Meeting, September 23-24, 2020

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Captain (NOAA, ret.) Andrew A. Armstrong III

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

Captain (NOAA, ret.) Andrew Armstrong is Co-Director of the NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center where he leads NOAA's role in the research, mapping and educational programs of the Center. He is the Bathymetric Data Acquisition team leader for the U.S. Interagency Extended Continental Shelf Task Project where he has been responsible for mapping nearly 875,000 square nautical miles of the seafloor in the Arctic Ocean, the U.S. Pacific Islands, and along the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific margins. 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. Throughout his NOAA career, he has specialized in hydrographic surveying and seafloor mapping. 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 an M.S. in technical management from The Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. 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. 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 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 Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. She received a master's in business administration from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Captain Richard Brennan

Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Division, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA NOS

Captain Brennan has served with the NOAA Corps for over 20 years, and is currently the chief of the Hydrographic Surveys Division. He has sailed on nearly every hydrographic ship in the modern NOAA fleet. He has conducted surveys throughout U.S. waters, through the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean to the Gulf of Maine, and from the Oregon coast to Chukchi Cap in the Arctic Ocean. Brennan's most recent sea assignment was as the commanding officer of the NOAA Ship *Rainier*, surveying Alaskan waters. Captain Brennan has served as the chief of the Coast Survey Development Lab, chief of Coast Survey's Atlantic Hydrographic Branch and as the mid-Atlantic navigation manager. Brennan has a Master of Science degree in ocean engineering from the University of New Hampshire's Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, specializing in ocean mapping, acoustics, and tidal error models. He led the Hydrographic Systems and Technology Program at NOAA, with a focus on transitioning new technology into fleet operations. He graduated from the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellows program.

Professor Maria Burns

Faculty, SCLT, CM, Director, Logistics and Transportation Policy Program, College of Technology, Lead Researcher, BTI - a DHS Center of Excellence, University of Houston

Prof. Maria Burns is a National Academies scholar, and Honorary Member of the US Coast Guard Aux. She parlays over 25 years of experience in the maritime industry, in leadership roles. Since 2014 she serves the University of Houston's College of Technology, as Faculty SCLT, and the Director of the Logistics and Transportation Policy Program (LTPP). A valued researcher with the Borders, Trade & Immigration (BTI) Institute (a DHS Center of Excellence) since 2015, she has generated over $550,000 in research grants. She conducts multidisciplinary scientific research in the realms of maritime & logistics, big data analytics, policy analysis, risk management, energy, homeland security, performance optimization for America's largest seaports and land ports of entry, etc. Since 2018 she leads a DHS-funded educational grant and is the lead course developer for a new Academic Program comprising Undergraduate, Graduate, and Certification/Continuing Education Programs for DHS. She has developed a series of Training Manuals approved by the US Coast Guard, evaluated as of "world class standards". She is a Certified Auditor for Security, Safety, Quality, and the Environment. Security is the key theme in her published books: Port Management & Operations (2014), Logistics & Transportation Security (2015), Energy Security (2019), and others to follow. She was conferred

several security-related awards and accolades, including the “Excellence in Emergency Management Award” by the Department of Public Safety, Research Award by the University of Houston, Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT), etc.

Mr. Richard Edwing

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

Richard Edwing is the director of **NOAA’s Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services** (CO-OPS), the nation’s authoritative source for accurate, reliable and timely water-level and current measurements. In his role, he oversees and continues to improve this 24-hour a day operation to provide mariners, coastal managers, and many other users with real-time data on ocean conditions along America’s 95,000-mile coastline. Edwing’s career with NOAA spans three decades with much of that time spent advancing NOAA’s navigation services mission to provide the nation with up-to-date ocean, weather, mapping and positioning data and tools for safe transits to and from U.S. ports. He started with NOAA in 1976 in the Marine Boundary Program, a partnership between NOAA and coastal states to establish tidal data such as base elevations in sensitive wetland areas vulnerable to urban growth. He was the division chief of the National Ocean Service’s policy, planning and analysis division, where he shaped NOAA’s priorities for ocean issues, as well as identified budget needs to advance and modernize ocean science. He graduated in 1976 from George Washington University with a Bachelor of Science degree in oceanography, and completed graduate level work in civil engineering at the University of Maryland. For two hundred years, CO-OPS and its predecessor agencies have provided the critical oceanographic data needed to protect life, property, and the marine environment. The Center manages NOAA’s Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System, the National Water Level Program, and National Current Observation Program - major national systems critical to keeping America’s oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes safe, healthy and productive.

Dr. Neil Jacobs

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Neil Jacobs is the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. In this role, Dr. Jacobs is responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of over $3.4 billion in annual spending, supporting NOAA's broad portfolio of sea, air, land, and space observing platforms as well as the critical infrastructure for the assimilation and exploitation of environmental data. Previously as the Chief Atmospheric Scientist at Panasonic Avionics Corporation, he directed the research and development of both the aviation weather observing platform and weather forecast model programs. He was previously the Chair of the American Meteorological Society’s Forecast Improvement Group, and

also served on the World Meteorological Organization's aircraft-based observing systems expert team. Dr. Jacobs holds a bachelor degree in mathematics and physics from the University of South Carolina and masters and doctoral degrees in atmospheric science from North Carolina State University.

Ms. Nicole R. LeBoeuf

Acting Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, NOAA

Nicole R. LeBoeuf is the Acting Assistant Administrator, and the permanent Deputy Assistant Administrator, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service, an organization of 1,700 staff in more than 50 locations around the country. Ms. LeBoeuf oversees all strategic and operational aspects of America's premiere coastal and ocean agency, which provides science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our ocean, coasts, and coastal communities. She worked on a wide range of issues from protected species conservation and oil spill response to international treaty negotiation. Prior to joining NOS, Ms. LeBoeuf served as Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Protected Resources in NOAA Fisheries, where she maintained oversight of a diverse protected species conservation and management portfolio. Before that, she spent four years as the Chief of the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division in the Office of Protected Resources. Her work included, among numerous duties, application of scientific information to implement the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act and is a subject matter expert in the implementation of this legislation. Ms. LeBoeuf served in the NOAA Budget Office as NOAA's finance lead during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Her international expertise includes overseeing NOAA's Antarctic Treaty System responsibilities, coordinating protected species bycatch reduction efforts in multiple tuna treaties, and representing NOAA at the U.N. General Assembly regarding the protection of deep sea corals. Ms. LeBoeuf 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.

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith

Designated Federal Officer, HSRP, and Director, OCS, NOS, NOAA

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith became the director of the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) on August 26, 2016. As director, Smith is dedicated to advancing the Coast Survey initiatives of **modernizing digital charting**, increasing use of **autonomous systems for hydrography**, and **improved integrated navigation services for seaports**. Rear Adm. Smith serves as a presidentially-appointed member of the **Mississippi River Commission** that oversees navigation and flood control projects on the largest river system in the United States. Smith also serves as the chair of the **International Hydrographic Organization**'s (IHO) Council that comprises 30 leading IHO member nations and oversees performance management and business requirements. Hallmarks of Smith's career have been his leadership in the modernization of NOAA's charting systems and transformation of NOAA's hydrographic technologies to expand Coast Survey's data capabilities and support a data-enabled maritime economy. Smith was commanding officer of NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*, on which he served three tours. During his latest tour, Smith became NOAA's first commanding officer to operationalize autonomous surface vehicles for mapping shallow areas previously inaccessible and uncharted. While chief of Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division, he changed the nation's charting tradition, established in the 19th century, by restructuring chart production and distribution. This modernization made U.S. navigational data more accessible to the public through a wider range of electronic formats, faster and more accurately. Smith has a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell University and a master of science degree in ocean engineering from the University of New Hampshire. He received a direct commission to the rank of ensign in the NOAA Corps in 1993.

Paul Turner

Physical Scientist, Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM), OCS, NOS, NOAA

Paul Turner serves as the Technical Advisor with NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Program. He's worked with NOAA's Office of Coast Survey and IOCM Program since 2003 embracing the IOCM framework to work collaboratively with various ocean mapping programs on integrated ocean and seafloor mapping efforts. Throughout his NOAA career, he's supported the Office of Coast Survey as a cartographer, hydrographer, strategic planning and budget formulation program analyst, and in his current role as physical scientist. He earned a B.S. degree in Geography and Geographic Information Systems from Appalachian State University in 2002 and an M.S. degree from the George Washington University, School of Business in 2015.

Representative Don Young

Congressman, State of Alaska

Congressman Young served as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee from 1995 to 2001 and the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from 2001-2007. In the 110th Congress, Representative Young returned to the helm of the Resources Committee to lead his fellow Republicans as the Ranking Member. In the 112th Congress, he was chosen to serve as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs (IIANA) – a position he held until January 2017. After fulfilling a successful 6-year term as Chairman of the IIANA Subcommittee, Congressman Young was named Chairman Emeritus of the full House Committee on Natural Resources – a role that allows him to bring his years of experience and knowledge to all five of the panel's Subcommittees. Congressman Young currently serves as the most senior Republican on both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Natural Resources Committee. He is the Republican Party's longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives in history, having represented Alaska for 24 terms. He remains the only licensed mariner in Congress.