

**Speaker Biographies, HSRP public meeting,  
New Orleans, LA, August 27-29, 2019**

<b><u>Table of Contents</u></b>	(Updated Aug 13, 2019)	PAGE
1) Captain Andy Armstrong		2
2) Mr. Paul Aucoin		2
3) Ms. Juliana Blackwell		3
4) Captain Michael Bopp		3
5) Mr. Thomas Chance		4
6) Ms. Brandy Christian		4
7) Ms. Renee Collini		5
8) Captain Brian Connon		5
9) Mr. Windell Curole		6
10) Mr. Sean Duffy, Sr.		6
11) Mr. Richard Edwing		7
12) Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet		8
13) Captain Stephen Hathorn		8
14) Dr. John G.W. Kelley		9
15) Captain Elizabeth Kretovic		9
16) Mr. Matt LaGarde		10
17) Ms. Nicole LeBoeuf		10
18) Mr. Brian Lezina		11
19) Dr. Rick Luettich		11
20) Ms. Audra Luscher		12
21) Captain Kristi Luttrell		12
22) Lt. Damian Manda		13
23) Captain Michael Miller		13
24) Mr. Cliff Mugnier		14
25) Col. Stephen Murphy		14
26) Lt. Governor William Nungesser		15
27) Mr. Tim Osborn		15
28) Dr. Jackie Pettway		16
29) Mr. Neeraj Saraf		16
30) Mr. Galen Scott		17
31) Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith		17
32) Dr. Michael J. Starek		18
33) Mr. Mike Steenhoek		18
34) Ms. Julie Thomas		19
35) Ms. Claire Trokey		19
36) Mr. Stephen White		20
37) Mr. Craig Winn		20
38) Mr. Mark Wingate		21
39) Mr. Darren Wright		21

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

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

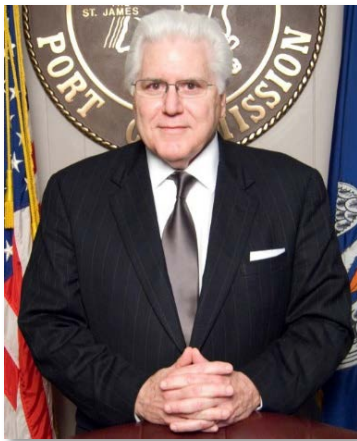


Captain (NOAA, ret.) Andrew Armstrong is Co-Director of the NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center where he leads NOAA's role in the research, mapping and educational programs of the Center. He is the Bathymetric Data Acquisition team leader for the U.S. Interagency Extended Continental 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.

## Mr. Paul Aucoin

### Executive Director, Port of South Louisiana



Paul G. Aucoin was born and raised on the Westbank of St. John the Baptist Parish in Wallace, Louisiana. In July 2013, Paul was selected to serve as Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana. He has long-standing affiliations with the American and Louisiana State Bar Associations. He served as Director and Chairman of various organizations and boards including the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Indigent Defender Board, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the South Central Planning Regional Loan Foundation, the River Parishes Community College, the River Parishes Tourist and Visitors Commission, the River Region Chamber of Commerce, the St. James Bank and Trust Company, the St. James Bank Corporation, and the St. James Parish Economic Development Board. He has close ties with local groups like St. Joseph Co-Cathedral Pastoral Council, the River Region Arts and Humanities Council, and the New Orleans Chamber River

Region Committee. Paul was appointed to the Board of Directors of the World Trade Center of New Orleans and participates in the organization's Government Affairs, International Business and Transportation committees. Most recently he was appointed to the Louisiana Board of International Commerce and the Louisiana River Pilot Review and Oversight Board. Paul was named as one of the "21 of Industry's Most Influential Leaders of the Corridor" in 10/12 Industry Report in 2016. He attended Loyola University for and received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Loyola University Law School. Aucoin has practiced law since graduating from law school in 1970, acquiring his own private practice in 1971, and maintains his private law firm.

## 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 Michael Bopp

### President, Crescent River Pilots Association



Captain E. Michael Bopp was born and raised in St. Bernard Parish. Before becoming a river pilot, Captain Bopp had an extensive maritime background on the Mississippi River working for Cooper/T. Smith for 18 years, where he worked in multiple capacities, including as a deckhand and captain. He also worked at River City for one year as a Master. In 1997, Captain Bopp was commissioned by the State of Louisiana and began his 22-year career as a river pilot for the Crescent River Port Pilots' Association. He has been a member of his Association's Board of Directors for ten (10) years and has served as President for the Association since December 2016. Captain Bopp takes this responsibility very seriously and understands that the Crescent River Port Pilots' Association plays an integral role that affects not only commerce on the lower Mississippi River, but also has a daily impact on the U.S. economy. Captain Bopp has served on the Board of Directors for the Association's Foundation and assisted in the development of a strategic plan to better serve the communities as a good "corporate" neighbor. The Crescent Pilots safely move in excess of one million cruise ship passengers in and out of the New Orleans area, which is a tremendous benefit to the Louisiana tourism industry. On August 23, 2018, during the Annual Lt. Governor's Travel Summit held in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Captain Bopp was recognized as an ambassador for helping to promote travel to Louisiana. Captain Bopp was appointed to the Louisiana Pilotage Fee Commission in December of 2016, and the Water Resources Commission in October of 2017. He has worked closely with all segments of the region's maritime industry, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the Port of New

Orleans, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Greater New Orleans Port Safety Council, Petroleum Club, World Trade Center of New Orleans, and the Maritime Navigation Safety Association. He attended Our Lady of Holy Cross and received an Associate degree in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lacrosse University.

## Mr. Thomas Chance

**Vice President and General Manager, L3/ASV Global (retired)**



Mr. Chance is the former CEO of C & C Technologies and ASV Global. C & C Technologies, founded by Mr. Chance in 1992, is a hydrographic surveying company headquartered in Lafayette, Louisiana with 500 employees in 10 offices across the globe. C & C is a world leader in deep water AUV operations having done enough AUV surveys to encircle the globe more than eight times. Further, C & C has supported NOAA's Office of Coast Survey as a hydrographic survey contractor for more than a decade. In 2015, Mr. Chance sold C & C Technologies to Oceaneering International. C & C has since changed its name to Oceaneering Survey. ASV Global, founded by Mr. Chance in 2010, is a leader in unmanned vessel technology. With 110 employees in offices on both sides of the Atlantic, ASV Global has built more than 85 ASVs for defense, scientific, and industrial sectors worldwide. The company's C-Worker 5 unmanned vessels have been used by NOAA, as well as NOAA's contractors to assist in hydrographic survey data collection. ASV Global is in the process

of converting one of the Canadian Hydrographic Service HSLs to optionally unmanned and was completed last year. Mr. Chance has a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering from LSU, a Master's in Geodetic Surveying from Purdue University, and a Master's in Industrial Administration also from Purdue. He has been involved with several marine related professional organizations including the Hydrographic Society of America and the Marine Technology Society. Mr. Chance has also received numerous awards for business and ocean technology.

## Ms. Brandy D. Christian

**President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans, CEO of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Corp.**



Brandy D. Christian is the President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans and the CEO of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Corp., a shortline connecting railroad and subsidiary of the Port. The two public agencies have combined revenues of \$100 million, nearly 500 employees, and more than \$200 million in capital projects. In her Port role, Christian oversees all cargo, cruise, and industrial real estate operations. As the CEO of the Public Belt, she sets strategic direction and oversees all rail holdings. Christian serves on the Green Marine Board of Directors, Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council, Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank Trade and Transportation Advisory Council, Louisiana Board of International Commerce, the World Trade Center of New Orleans Board of Directors, the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors and as the Cruise Committee Chair for the

American Association of Port Authorities. Before joining Port NOLA, Christian served 14 years with the Port of San Diego as vice president of strategy and business development.

## Ms. Renee Collini

### Northern Gulf Of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative Coordinator, Mississippi Sea Grant



Renee Collini is the Program Coordinator for the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative and a Climate Extension Associate for Mississippi State University and Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant. Focused on sea-level rise, she works throughout the northern Gulf to facilitate the flow of information between researchers and decision-makers to improve science application. She integrates a multi-state network of stakeholders, researchers, NGOs, and state and federal agencies to build tools, programs, and projects to address gaps in sea-level rise observing, research, and decision-making in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Collini also works on standardizing and coordinating monitoring and observations across the Gulf and encourages use of these data in management and decision-making. Collini serves on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Resilience and Habitat Teams, is an elected director to the Gulf of Mexico

Coastal Ocean Observing System Board of Directors, and is a leader in the Gulf of Mexico Climate and Resilience Community of Practice. She has lead projects and efforts that have improved coastal community and environmental resilience to sea-level rise across the northern Gulf and has lead development of tools applied throughout the Gulf and across the United States.

## Captain (U.S. Navy ret.) Brian Connon

### Director, University of Southern Mississippi's Hydrographic Science Research Center



Brian Connon became Director of the University of Southern Mississippi's Hydrographic Science Research Center in September 2018 after serving over 28 years in the U.S. Navy. He is a strong advocate of the IHO's capacity building efforts, having served as Vice Chairman of the Capacity Building Subcommittee and, most recently, leading an IHO technical visit to the Regional Maritime University in Ghana. Prior to joining USM, he directed the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety Office where he was responsible for providing all nautical charting information to the Department of Defense. His was recognized for his efforts to modernize Notice to Mariners, transition the Navy from the Digital Nautical Chart to the Electronic Navigation Chart, and publish the latest edition of the American Practical Navigator (Bowditch). Previous duties include Superintendent of the U.S. Naval

Observatory, Deputy Navigator of the Navy, Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy, Deputy Hydrographer of the Navy, and Commanding Officer of the Navy's Fleet Survey Team. He also served as Staff Oceanographer and Tomahawk Land Attack Missile Officer for Carrier Strike Group FIVE during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A certified Naval hydrographer, he holds a BS in Geography from the University of South Carolina, an MS in Oceanography and Meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and an MS in Hydrography from the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Mr. Windell Curole

### General Manager, South Lafourche Levee District



Windell A. Curole has worked as the General Manager of the South Lafourche Levee District for the past 39 years overseeing hurricane and flood protection projects. He has worked to negotiate and administer cost share agreements and grants on federal, state, and local levels worth millions of dollars in several areas which include flood related, environmental and cultural activities. He spearheaded a campaign to double the millages for the South Lafourche Levee District in 1996 from 5 mills to 10 mills with a 73% voter approval. In 2006 he again spearheaded a campaign to add a 1-cent sales tax for levee improvements making it the highest sales tax in the area. That sales tax passed with an 82% voter approval. His past 15 years of experience in the Lafourche Parish Emergency Preparedness made him responsible for making the decision of when to evacuate the

citizens of Lafourche when faced with approaching hurricanes or tropical storms. Mr. Curole has spent the past 43 years working on coastal issues for South Louisiana. His involvement in coastal activities has led him to serve on various committees and organizations including the Governor's Coastal Restoration and Conservation Advisory Commission (2002–2006) and presently the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. He also served on the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee for over 13 years and was the CZM Administrator. In addition, Mr. Curole served as Chairman of the Management Conference for Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Program for seven years, is the current President of the Cheniere Hurricane Centennial, served as the Extension Service Sea Grant Agent for five years, and is a former President of the Chamber of Commerce of Lafourche and the Bayou Region. He currently serves as chairman of Coastal Louisiana Levee Consortium which was created to advise the state in applying practical solutions for its flood problems. Mr. Curole holds a B.S. in Science of Biology and has received his teacher certification from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA. His dedication in hurricane and flood protection has earned him the National Hurricane Conference Award for two years.

## Mr. Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

### Mr. 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 deep-draft ship channel from 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 of the MRT to ensure that systematic approaches protect maritime trade 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 are focused on securing increased funding from the Harbor Maintenance Tax and the Inland Users Fuel Tax, efforts to deepen the Lower Mississippi River to 50 feet and to increase the beneficial use of dredge material or

“sediment recycling.” Mr. Duffy also serves as an Executive Vice President / Maritime Advocate for the parent company the New Orleans Steamship Association d.b.a. 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.

## 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.

## Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet, Ph.D., U.S. Navy (ret)

### Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator



Timothy Gallaudet, Ph.D., was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on October 5, 2017, as the assistant secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere for the Department of Commerce in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Dr. Gallaudet was previously a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, where his most recent assignment was Oceanographer of the Navy and Commander of the Navy Meteorology and Oceanography Command. During his 32 years of military service, Dr. Gallaudet has had experience in weather and ocean forecasting, hydrographic surveying, developing policy and plans to counter illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and assessing the national security impacts of climate change. He has led teams of Navy sailors and civilians performing such diverse functions as overseeing aircraft carrier combat operations, planning and conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster response efforts, assisting Navy SEAL Teams during high visibility counter-terrorism operations, and developing the Navy's annual \$52 billion information technology, cyber security and intelligence budget. Dr. Gallaudet holds a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and master's and doctoral degrees from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, all in oceanography.

## Captain Stephen Hathorn

### President, New Orleans / Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA)



Captain Stephen H. Hathorn is President of the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association ("NOBRA") and has been a state commissioned river pilot since 1990. In addition to his responsibilities as President of NOBRA, Captain Hathorn serves as a member the Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee; the New Orleans Board of Trade, Maritime Navigation and Safety Association, the Port Safety Council, and various other maritime related committees. Captain Hathorn is Chairman of the Board of the Maritime Pilots Institute ("MPI"), a graduate level school for deep draft pilots located in Covington, Louisiana. He is a former Trustee for the State of Louisiana for the American Pilots Association as well as a former Regional Vice President Gulf States-Louisiana. He has over 40 years of experience in the maritime industry and currently holds U.S. Merchant Marine Officer Licenses as Master of Towing and First Class Pilot. Captain Hathorn attended the University of Mississippi and University of Southern Mississippi.



## Dr. John G.W. Kelley

### Dr. John G.W. Kelley, Ph.D., Coastal Marine Modeling Branch, Coast Survey Development Laboratory, OCS, NOS, NOAA



Dr. Kelley is a meteorologist and coastal modeler with NOAA National Ocean Service's Coastal Marine Modeling Branch within the Coast Survey Development Lab. He is the dissemination manager for NOAA Precision Navigation Project. John is the project manager for NOAA's nowCOAST, a GIS-based web mapping portal to real-time observations, analyses, imagery, watches/warnings, and forecasts for the U.S. and also the project manager for the team responsible for developing, testing, and implementing NOS's new 3-D operational lake circulation forecast modeling systems for the Great Lakes. He is an adjunct research professor at the University of New Hampshire where he teaches the marine weather section of the Seamanship class for graduate students in ocean mapping and engineering. John received a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the Ohio State University and M.S.

in Meteorology and M.P.A., both from Penn State. John worked at ZedX, Inc. where he helped in developing information technology products and services for the commercial agricultural and environmental sectors including for precision agriculture. Before joining NOS, he was a postdoctoral scientist with the Ocean Modeling Branch of the NWS; National Centers for Environmental Prediction in Maryland.

## Captain Elizabeth Kretovic

### Acting Director, and Deputy Hydrographer, Office of Coast Survey, NOS, NOAA



A NOAA Corps officer for 20 years, Captain Liz Kretovic spent her career sailing and leading NOAA research vessels while collaborating with stakeholders and partners in emergency response and NOAA's navigation services. She reported to the Office of Coast Survey as Deputy Hydrographer in December 2017 to assume the role of Program Manager for NOAA's Precision Navigation program; an effort currently in development to disseminate NOAA's real time environmental observations, forecasts, and high resolution bathymetric charts to mariners in the ports of New York/New Jersey and the Lower Mississippi River Complex. CAPT Kretovic completed NOAA's Leadership Competencies Development Program (LCDP) in January 2016. During the 18-month program she held two developmental assignments, shadowed many leaders within NOAA, and cemented her own leadership philosophy. With over nine years

of sea duty, CAPT Kretovic served as Commanding Officer of NOAA Ship *Hi'ialakai* from February 2016 to November 2017 where she led the ship through its longest planned deployment away from homeport. She served two tours aboard NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown*, NOAA's only global class vessel and her first sea assignment was aboard NOAA Ship *David Starr Jordan*. All of her sea time has included the added complexities of bringing NOAA ships into international ports, a welcomed challenge. A native of Worcester, MA., CAPT Kretovic graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1996, with a B.S. in Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. She is enrolled in the Academy's M.S. program in Maritime Business Management and anticipates completion in the spring of 2020.

## Mr. Matt LaGarde

### Assistant Vice President Health, Safety, Security, and Environment, Ingram Barge Company



Matt Lagarde has been a member of the Inland Navigation Industry for over 27 years and is a credentialed Master of Towing Vessels upon Inland Waters and Western Rivers (Unlimited). He has operated towing vessels throughout the Inland Waterways of the United States from 800 horsepower to 8000 horsepower. He started as a deckhand and worked his way up to the wheelhouse positions before transitioning to shore side roles including Port Captain, Operations Manager. He currently serves as the Assistant Vice President for Safety, Training and Compliance for Ingram Barge Company, one of the largest barge and towing suppliers in the United States. He served two 3 year terms as a Committee Member for the USCG Towing Safety Advisory Committee which included serving as the Chairman for the Electronic Chart tasking assigned to the group by the USCG.

He has served as the President of the Maritime Navigation Safety Association in New Orleans for 8 years. He is also currently serving as the Co-Chair of the AWO Interregional Safety Committee and 2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Chair of the Greater New Orleans Port Safety Council. Matt has worked for the last several years closely with the industry and USCG to help implement Subchapter M regulation throughout the industry and looks forward to helping improve safety and operating conditions for our nation's mariners.

## Ms. Nicole R. LeBoeuf

### Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, NOAA

Nicole LeBoeuf has over 20 years of scientific expertise and program management experience at NOAA, with an emphasis on making connections between science and policy. She's worked on a wide range of issues across NOAA and currently serves as the acting assistant administrator at NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS). Nicole oversees all strategic and operational aspects of America's premiere coastal and ocean agency with more than 1,700 staff located in over 50 places. NOS's mission is to provide science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our ocean and coasts and to provide data, tools, and services that support coastal economies and their contribution to the national economy. Before arriving at NOS, Nicole's professional experiences included strategic inter-agency engagement,



oversight of budget formulation and execution, personnel, public process, policy analysis, and synthesis and application of scientific and technical information for use by decision makers. Although she is a subject matter expert in the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, Nicole has also managed day-to-day financial and personnel operations of five of NOAA's coastal science laboratories and served as NOAA's finance lead during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Nicole has over a decade of international fisheries treaty experience, overseeing NOAA's Antarctic Treaty System responsibilities, coordinating NOAA's protected species bycatch reduction efforts, as well as representing NOAA at the U.N. General Assembly regarding the protection of deep sea corals. Growing

up on the Texas Gulf Coast, Nicole is profoundly connected to the coast, which makes her work at NOS all the more meaningful and fuels her commitment to protecting coastal communities. Next to her passion for marine conservation and serving coastal communities, she is committed to public service, including fostering diversity and inclusivity at NOS and with all whom she interacts. Nicole 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.

## Mr. Brian Lezina

### Chief, Planning and Research Division, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Mr. Lezina serves as the Chief of the Planning and Research Division at where he oversees the development of Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast; A plan used to guide the state's multi-billion dollar integrated coastal restoration and protection program. The Division is responsible for large-scale feasibility studies, project planning, and the permitting and environmental compliance of restoration projects within the coastal area. Mr. Lezina's experience spans over 20 years in coastal wetland and estuarine ecology, restoration planning and regulation, and natural resources management in both state government and academia. He holds a B.Sc. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Louisiana State University and a M.Sc. in Coastal Sciences from the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Dr. Rick Luettich

### Alumni Distinguished Professor and Director, Institute of Marine Sciences and Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Rick Luettich is Alumni Distinguished Professor of Marine Sciences and Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he also directs the Institute of Marine Sciences and the Center for Natural Hazards Resilience. His research addresses modeling and observational studies of circulation and transport in complex coastal systems. He is a principal developer of the ADCIRC circulation and storm surge model that is widely used by the academic, government and private sectors for coastal flood hazard assessments, mitigation design, event-based forensics and forecasting. He published over 100 peer reviewed papers and led over \$50 million dollars in extramurally funded research. He is actively engaged in the coastal science and coastal resilience communities as: lead PI, Department of Homeland Security's Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence since 2008; lead PI, NOAA Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed, 2010-2018; a member of three recent National Academies study committees on coastal issues (chair, 2013-14 committee on Coastal Risk Reduction); member, Water Institute of the Gulf's Science and Engineering Advisory Council; and member, Board of Commissioners of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, 2012-2019. Rick has an undergraduate and master's degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and a doctor of science in civil engineering from MIT.

## Ms. Audra Luscher

### Coastal Hazards Program Manager, CO-OPS, NOS, NOAA



Audra Luscher-Aissaoui joined NOAA Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) as the Coastal Hazards Program Manager to support the Office with applying water level products and services to climate, coastal hazard and ecosystem issues. She has 20 years of experience working on federal, state and local coastal resilience and ecosystem issues and supporting partnership-building within NOAA's coastal management community. Before joining NOAA CO-OPS in 2014, she worked for the NOAA Office for Coastal Management and served as the Federal Program Manager for the NOAA Coastal Storms Program. Before joining NOAA, she worked on coastal hazard and resource management issues as a Coastal Hazards Manager from both the North Carolina and Maryland Coastal Programs. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology and minor in Chemistry from

California State University at Long Beach, and a Masters in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

## Captain Kristi Luttrell

### Commander, Sector New Orleans, United States Coast Guard



Captain Luttrell assumed the role of New Orleans Sector Commander in July 2018 after serving two years as the Deputy Sector Commander. Her previous operational tours include serving as the Response Department Head at Sector Delaware Bay in Philadelphia, PA from 2010-2013 where she oversaw maritime Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Pollution Response operations for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. From 2004-2007 she served as the Operations Officer at Group Galveston and the Command Center Supervisor at Sector Houston-Galveston, TX. In this capacity, she supervised 3 patrol boats, a construction tender, 3 multi-mission stations, 3 Aids to Navigation Teams and a 30 person operations center. She served as a Deck Watch Officer on USCGC DURABLE homeported in St. Petersburg, FL from 1994-1996 where she participated in Operations Able Manner and Able Vigil during the mass migrations from Haiti and Cuba. Prior to that she was assigned as the Assistant Operations

Officer at Group Milwaukee, WI from 1993-1994. Captain Luttrell's staff tours have included assignments to the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans, LA as the Assistant Director of Auxiliary, Command Duty Officer and Aide to the District Commander. The Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL as the Command Center Chief where she was responsible for search and rescue and migrant interdiction case prosecution for the Florida Straits, Southern Atlantic and Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The Department of Homeland Security Office of Policy as a Program Analyst and Planner responsible for the Department's Maritime Mass Migration Plan. Coast Guard Headquarters in the Office of Planning and Performance (CG-81) and the Office of Boat Forces (CG-731). A 1993 graduate of Officer Candidate School, Captain Luttrell holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, TN, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

## Lt. Damian Manda

**Chief, Hydrographic Systems and Technology Programs Branch, Coast Survey Development Laboratory, OCS, NOS, NOAA**



LT Damian Manda currently serves as Chief of the Hydrographic Systems and Technologies Branch (HSTB) within the Coast Survey Development Lab. At HSTB, he leads development and integration of new technologies into field use by NOAA hydrographic platforms, including software development, workflow automation, acquisition systems, and unmanned vessels. During his career in the NOAA Corps, LT Manda has served on NOAA Ships *Rainier* and *Fairweather*, most recently as Operations Officer. He holds a Master's Degree in Ocean Engineering from the University of New Hampshire and a Bachelor's in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Colorado.

## Captain Michael Miller

**President, Associated Branch (Bar) Pilots**



Captain Michael T.D. Miller is President of the Associated Branch Pilots based in Metairie, LA. The Associated Branch Pilots (Bar Pilots) for the Port of New Orleans is an association of professional pilots who guide ocean-going vessels of all sizes and descriptions from the Gulf of Mexico through the narrow channels of Southwest Pass. Captain Miller was born and raised in New Orleans. He began his professional career after spending a year as a cadet on general cargo ship working all over the world. Captain Miller then began his apprenticeship with the Bar Pilots in 1986 and was commissioned as a Louisiana State Pilot in 1991. Captain Miller has since served for 20 years on the Board of Directors of the Bar Pilots, as Vice President for 16 years and was elected President in 2016. In addition to his work as Bar Pilot, Captain Miller has served on several area boards and commissions. These include the New Orleans Board of Trade, Mississippi Valley Trade and Transport Council, the Council for a

Better Louisiana Leadership Class of 2009, Port Safety Council, and the Lower Mississippi River Safety Advisory Committee. Captain Miller is also a proud Eagle Scout and has received a United States Coast Guard Certificate of Merit.

## Mr. Cliff Mugnier

**C.P., C.M.S, Instructor, Center for Geoinformatics, Louisiana State University**



Cliff was a commissioned officer in the Corps of Engineers and reached the rank of Captain at Army Map Service during the Vietnam War. Cliff was a part-time member of the faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of New Orleans for 20 years and since 2000 has been a full-time member of the faculty of Civil Engineering at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where he teaches Surveying, Geodesy, and Photogrammetry. He has authored over 200 peer-reviewed papers, reports, and column articles; some of his work has been translated by others into Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish. He is cited by others in over 75 books, papers, and dissertations in 11 various languages. In 1979, Cliff proposed a research program for Louisiana that would establish a baseline study of existing relative gravity at elevation benchmarks. Within 5 years the majority of benchmarks in metro New Orleans had been observed for geodetic-quality relative gravity and accepted by NGS. In 1989 the National Geodetic Survey observed Absolute Gravity at the University of New Orleans. In the early 2000s, the LSU C4G started installing GPS Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) sites throughout Louisiana. In 2002, the Commander, New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers requested the support of NGA (then NIMA) by observing Absolute Gravity at all existing C4G CORS sites in Louisiana. In 2018, the C4G acquired its own FG5-X Absolute Gravity meter, and a Latvian-made Digital Zenith Camera the following year. By mid-year 2019, NGA completed its second Absolute Gravity campaign at all of the original CORS sites observed in 2002, which provided evidence of noticeable variations of Absolute Gravity. The C4G continues its densification of observations of Absolute Gravity and of Deflections of the Vertical throughout the Gulf South for subsidence research as well as support to NGS for GEOID enhancement.

## Col. Stephen Murphy

**Commander, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**



Col. Stephen Murphy serves as the 64th commander of the New Orleans District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Col. Murphy's Army career began in 1997 when he received his commission as an engineer officer from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Over the last 22 years, he has served at all echelons within the Army, to include assignments with Armored, Stryker, Airborne, and Special Operations units, as well as in the interagency in Washington D.C. No stranger to USACE, Col. Murphy commanded the Nashville District from 2015 to 2017 where he delivered a civil works program estimated at 290 million dollars annually with a focus on navigation, hydropower, and flood risk management. Col. Murphy has deployed to combat four times in both Iraq and Afghanistan as well as to peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. Within the United States, he has participated in humanitarian assistance missions, to include fighting forest fires in Montana and providing hurricane relief in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Col. Murphy comes to New Orleans from Carlisle, Pennsylvania where he recently graduated from the U.S. Army

War College. Col. Murphy holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Illinois Institute of

Technology, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology, and a Master of Arts in Strategy from the Army War College. Col. Murphy has earned the Ranger tab, the Sapper tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, and he is a recipient of the Army Engineer Association's Bronze De Fleury Medal.

## Lt. Governor William Nungesser

### Lieutenant Governor, State of Louisiana



Billy Nungesser is the 54th Lieutenant Governor of the state of Louisiana. He was elected in 2015 and took office in January of 2016. In July 2019, he officially took over as Chairman of the National Lieutenant Governors Association, a professional association which charts issues and work to be pursued by the second-highest ranking officials in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Under his administration, the state of Louisiana celebrated a third consecutive year of record-breaking visitation as Louisiana welcomed more than 51.3 million visitors, bringing in more than \$18.8 billion dollars to the state. Billy left a career as a successful businessman to begin his political career following Hurricane Katrina. In 2005, Nungesser and his wife Cher rode out Hurricane Katrina at their ranch in southern Plaquemines Parish. In response to his own frustration over the slow response from government following Hurricane Katrina, Billy decided to run for Plaquemines Parish President in 2006. He was re-elected in 2010 with over 70% of the vote. On April 20, 2010, Plaquemines Parish became ground zero for the nation's biggest environmental disaster. In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf, Billy became the voice of Louisiana's frustration. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the New York Times named him the "hardest working man in Louisiana" and ABC named him Person of the Week during the same period. Today he is second-in-command in the executive branch and Louisiana's ambassador as Commissioner of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

## Mr. Tim Osborn

### Navigation Manager, Navigation Services Division, OCS, NOS, NOAA



Tim Osborn is the navigation manager for the Gulf of Mexico. He works with a huge constituency of ports, navigation users, and communities, all of which are tied directly to the Gulf of Mexico and rely heavily on the products, resources, and services that NOAA provides. Tim has a B.S. in marine biology from Florida State University, and an M.S. in marine science and an MPA (masters of public administration), both from Louisiana State University (LSU). After graduating from LSU, he had the chance to be a NOAA Sea Grant Fellow and worked for a year in the U.S. Senate. Later, he became a Senate staffer, and after that he worked for a large private corporation in Washington, DC. Tim then got a position at NOAA headquarters. In the years since, he has had the honor of working for a number of NOAA line offices, and have enjoyed the work and challenges that each of them had to offer.

## Dr. Jackie Pettway

**Chief, Navigation Division, U.S. Army Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Engineer and Research Development Center (ERDC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**



Dr. Jackie S. Pettway has been a Corps team member for 24 years. She leads a team of 120 engineers, scientists, and technical staff that conducts research and provides engineering support regarding the planning, design, operation, management, and maintenance of navigation projects including inland and coastal structures, ports, waterway systems, dredging, and field data collection. Dr. Pettway oversees a work program of over \$25 million per year and manages physical assets totaling 1.5 million square feet. She is the engineering lead for the Water Resources Infrastructure Technology R&D program and fluid/structure interaction model development for capturing turbulent flows near structures including vessel motion and lock operations. Infrastructure for flood and storm damage reduction and navigation are her primary focus. Dr. Pettway served as chief of the Harbors, Entrances, and Structures Branch and led military and civil research developing large-scale, multi-physics models. She was a member of the Institute for Maneuverability and Terrain Physics Simulation, one of six DOD High Performance Software Application Institutes. Dr. Pettway received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Mississippi College and a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering from the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University. She is a licensed professional engineer in Mississippi, president and charter member of the Vicksburg Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders, and an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers serving where she served as the At-large Governor for Region 5. As adjunct professor with Mississippi State University, Dr. Pettway teaches graduate courses through the graduate institute at ERDC.

## Mr. Neeraj Saraf

**Acting Division Chief, Coast Survey Development Laboratory, OCS, NOS, NOAA**



Mr. Saraf leads the IT Infrastructure and Operations, Hydrographic Systems and Technology Management, and Coastal Modeling Development groups, collectively forming the research and development arm of the NOAA Office of Coast Survey. Included in this scope is the research, prototyping, and field testing for unmanned systems technology, such as autonomous underwater vehicles (Remus 600), autonomous surface vehicles (ASV Global, Saildrone and ixBlue Drix), unmanned aerial vehicles, and efforts to demonstrate use of optionally-manned survey launch capabilities from NOAA Hydrographic Ships. The work led by Mr. Saraf can help to supplement hydrographic survey operations in a variety of situations and locations difficult to service with the NOAA ship fleet. Mr. Saraf also is part of the NOAA UxS Working Group, helping to define the Agency-level strategic plan related to autonomous technology. He is an active member with the Marine Technology Society (MTS) Cyber Security and Infrastructure Committee. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and several IT and IT Security professional certifications. This experience complements the scientific and engineering efforts taking place across CSDL and the NOAA Office of Coast Survey to help address emerging technical challenges.



## Mr. Galen Scott

**Program Analyst, Geosciences Research Division, National Geodetic Survey, NOS, NOAA**



Galen Scott has served in a number of roles since he started at National Geodetic Survey in 2003. He is currently the Acting NGS Constituent Resource Manager, responsible for engaging a broad array of NGS stakeholders, the GEOID18 Project Manager, guiding the production of NGS' last hybrid geoid model, and the Co-Chair of the NOAA Sentinel Site Program which focuses NOAA data, services, and tools to help coastal communities address impacts of sea level rise. 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.

## Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith

**Designated Federal Officer, HSRP; Acting Deputy Director, NOS, and Director, OCS**



Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith became the director of the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) on August 26, 2016. Hallmarks of his career have been his leadership in the modernization of NOAA's charting systems and transformation of NOAA's hydrographic technologies. That leadership and experience are now be applied to expanding Coast Survey's data capabilities and supporting a data-enabled maritime economy. Smith returns to Coast Survey as commanding officer of NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*, on which he served three tours during his NOAA career. Smith became NOAA's first commanding officer to operationalize unmanned surface vehicles for mapping shallow areas previously inaccessible and uncharted. He served as the chief of Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division where he changed the nation's charting tradition by restructuring chart production and distribution. That modernization made U.S. navigational data more accessible to the public through a wider range of electronic formats, faster and more accurately. During ship assignments, he surveyed Alaska on NOAA Ship *Rainier*, was on the interagency response teams for the search and recovery of TWA flight 800, Egypt Air flight 990, the private plane piloted by John F. Kennedy, Jr., and commanded *Thomas Jefferson*, under his command, was awarded a Commerce Gold Medal for heroism and lead the six-week response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He has a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Cornell University. He has a master of science in ocean engineering in 2003, and completed the IHO Category "A" program, both at the University of New Hampshire.

## Dr. Michael J. Starek

**Associate Professor of Geospatial Engineering, Texas A & M University Corpus Christi, Director of the Measurement Analytics Lab (MANTIS), Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science**



Dr. Michael “Mike” J. Starek is an Associate Professor in Geospatial Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) and Director of the Measurement Analytics (MANTIS) Lab with the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science. Starek holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida and was formerly a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow of the U.S. Army Research Office in affiliation with North Carolina State University. His research focuses on the merging of geomatics, remote sensing, and geospatial computing for precise measurement and analysis of natural and built system dynamics. Starek has co-authored over 30 publications and 100+ conference abstracts in geospatially centric areas including lidar, UAS, and machine learning for point clouds.

## Mr. Mike Steenhoek

**Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition**



Mike Steenhoek is executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC), established in 2007 and comprised of the United Soybean Board, the American Soybean Association, and thirteen state soybean boards. The Soy Transportation Coalition exists to promote a cost effective, reliable, and competitive transportation system that serves the agriculture industry. Mike’s responsibilities include communicating the initiative and the importance of transportation issues to soybean growers and processors; establishing and executing the organization’s strategic direction; and building collaborations with other effected industries. Mike is a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness and the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Freight Advisory Council. Prior to STC, Mike worked for U.S. Senator Charles Grassley (Iowa) for eight years – in Washington, DC, and in Des Moines, Iowa. In DC, he served as the Senator’s scheduler and frequent speechwriter. In Des Moines, he served as Senator Grassley’s director of economic development. Mike received his undergraduate degree and Masters in Business Administration from the University of Iowa.

## Ms. Julie Thomas

**Ms. Julie Thomas, Senior Advisor, Southern California Coastal Observing System (SCCOOS) and Program Manager for 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 served as the Program Manager and Principal Investigator for the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) and as a Senior Advisory to the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS). She served as the Executive Director of SCCOOS from 2009-2018. She advocated for sustained funding for real-time monitoring and model validation, worked closely with federal agencies, in particular the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NOAA. She worked with the coastal USACE whose projects are dependent upon high quality, long-term wave data, realizing this long term history is critical in infrastructure design and repair. Through the State of California, she 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 was engaged with coastal issues, particularly those affected by energetic wave action, providing data for infrastructure design, shoreline change and sea level rise. Her priority is to maintain standards for collecting and disseminating high quality data, assure 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 is the co-chair of HSRP.

## Ms. Claire Trokey

**Legislative Director, Congressman Steve Scalise, (R-Louisiana)**



Claire Trokey serves as the Legislative Director to Congressman Steve Scalise, (R-Louisiana), and a top policy advisory to him on maritime, transportation, flood protection and recovery, foreign trade, and tax issues. Prior to joining Congressman Scalise's office, Claire worked as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-Missouri). Ms. Trokey received her B.A. in Political Science from William Jewell College.

## Mr. Stephen White

### Remote Sensing Division, National Geodetic Survey, NOS, NOAA



Stephen White is a remote sensing specialist 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 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 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

## Mr. Craig Winn

### Portfolio Manager for HD Mapping, Marine Chart Division, OCS, NOS, NOAA



Craig Winn has been a nautical cartographer with NOAA for 25 years. He managed Products Branch G, the cartographic production team responsible for the 8<sup>th</sup> USCG District, for 10 years. He is well versed on all aspects of nautical cartography, and is currently leading OCS's HD Charting effort in support of NOAA's Precision Navigation project.

## Mr. Mark Wingate

**P.E., Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, Executive Office, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**



Mark R. Wingate, P.E. serves as the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District. Mr. Wingate is delegated full authority for management decisions related to all major District programs and projects. Projects include flood risk management, storm damage prevention, navigational projects such as channel improvements and lock & dam construction, environmental and coastal restoration/ sustainability, river stabilization and harbor development. With over 30 years of project management, planning and engineering expertise, Mr. Wingate brings firsthand knowledge of USACE traditional and non-traditional Civil Works programs, policies and regulations and the know-how and commitment to drive successful project delivery. He is responsible for delivering the New Orleans District Civil Works program with an annual program estimated at \$400M in close coordination and collaboration with a variety of sponsors

and stakeholders at all levels of government. Mr. Wingate joined USACE in 1993 and has held past positions within the New Orleans District as Project Management Branch Chief, Senior Project Manager, Study Manager and Hydraulic Engineer. Prior to joining USACE, Mr. Wingate served as a Civil/Hydraulic Engineer in the private sector with a focus on Hydrologic and Hydraulic modeling. He graduated from the University of New Orleans in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana.

## Mr. Darren Wright

**National Marine Program Leader, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch, National Weather Service, NOAA**



Darren Wright is the National Marine Program Leader of NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS). Darren has been with NOAA since 1984 and worked in operational oceanography for over 33 years before moving to the NWS two years ago. He is now responsible improving coastal, offshore and high seas forecast products and services. He engages routinely with both the National Ocean Service (NOS) and external marine communities. Prior to NWS, Darren worked for NOS' Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) as their Maritime Services Program Manager where he oversaw the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS<sup>®</sup>), current survey, hydrodynamic modeling and meteorological programs. Under Darren's leadership the PORTS<sup>®</sup> program more than doubled. The number of PORTS<sup>®</sup> now in operation nationwide is 33, serving approximately 82 U.S. Seaports.