Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group - Approval of New Members

A Presentation to the
NOAA Science Advisory Board

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Outline

- Purpose
- Review of RSPAWG Membership
- Review of Subject Matter Expert Candidates
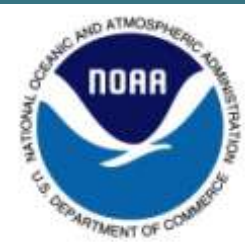- Desired Outcome – Approval of Members

Purpose

Science Advisory Board review of the RSPAWG Selection Committee recommendations for candidate subject matter experts (Group 3).

RSPAWG Membership

The RSPAWG shall be composed 15-20 individuals from 3 groups of outstanding scientists and leaders with a broad interest in Gulf of Mexico RESTORE related activities:

Group 1 – Representatives of science related organizations in the Gulf of Mexico

Group 2 – *Ex officio* members representing other funding organizations

Group 3 - A rotating group of external subject matter experts (SMEs)

RSPAWG Member Groups

Group 1: *Seven members representing science related organizations in the Gulf of Mexico and called out in the actual RESTORE ACT*

1. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
   - Mr. Jeffery Rester, Member, GSMFC
2. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
   - Dr. Carrie Simmons, Deputy Director, GMFMC

RESTORE Centers of Excellence for the states of :

3. Florida
4. Alabama
5. Mississippi
6. Louisiana
7. Texas

RSPAWG Member Groups

Group 2: *Four ex-officio members representing other funding organizations*

1. Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

2. National Academy of Sciences

3. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

   - Dr. Pasquale F. Roscigno

4. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

   - Dr. Pamela Plotkin

RSPAWG Member Groups

Group 3: *A rotating group of external subject matter experts (SMEs)*

- Individuals appointed for one 3-year (or staggered initial) term, renewable for one additional 3-year term.

- Subject areas solicited through the Federal Register Notice:
    - physical, chemical, or biological oceanography;
    - economics or social sciences
    - wetlands ecology
    - fishery, wildlife, and marine mammal ecology
    - ecosystem modeling
    - toxicology
    - observing and monitoring systems
    - ecosystem management

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Joseph N. Boyer, Plymouth State University**

Prior to moving to Plymouth State in New Hampshire to serve as Director of the Center for the Environment, Dr. Boyer spent 17 years at Florida International University. His expertise is in microbial ecology and biogeochemistry of estuarine systems. He continues to work with several Gulf-based observing system associations and other regional programs.

- **Christopher D'Elia, Louisiana State University**

Dr. D'Elia has served in academic leadership positions for the past 20 years at UMD Sea Grant, SUNY Albany, Univ. South Fl. And now LSU. His expertise includes nutrient cycling in aquatic ecosystems, estuarine ecology, marine pollution, and science policy.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Robert Dickey, University of Texas**

Dr. Dickey is currently the Director of the Marine Institute at UT Austin in Port Aransas. Prior to that he had a long career with the Food and Drug Administration in seafood safety. His research has included the effects of oil and oil dispersants on shellfish in conjunction with the Deepwater Horizon spill as well as past work with shellfish neurotoxins.

- **Richard E. Dodge, Nova Southeastern University**

Dr. Dodge is the Dean of the Oceanographic Center at NSU as well as Director of the NOAA-funded National Coral Reef Initiative. He is an expert on impacts on reefs, particularly of oil and oil dispersants. He has been appointed by the FL governor to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Research Board.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Yoko Furukawa, Naval Research Lab, SSC**

Dr. Furukawa is a Section Head in the Seafloor Sciences Branch at NRL Stennis Space Center, MS. His work is on fate and transport of aquatic sediments and sediment-bound compounds

(including carbon and contaminants) in aquatic systems, including development of a quantitative predictive capability for sediments, chemicals and benthic organisms.

- **Scott Glenn, Rutgers University**

Dr. Glenn has been at Rutgers for more than 20 years, leading a team of oceanographers and engineers in ocean observing systems. He has expertise in physical oceanography, including modeling of bottom boundary layers, as well as experience in running education programs associated with the Rutgers coastal systems.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Thomas Miller, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science**

Dr. Miller is the current director of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory of the University of Maryland. His research focuses on the science of fisheries management, marine fish population dynamics and the role of science in management and policy.

- **Thomas E. Miller, Florida State University**

A professor at FSU for almost 25 years, Dr. Miller is an ecologist in the Biological Sciences Dept. His research has ranged from competition in old-field plant communities to restoration of dune and wetland plant communities.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Dwayne Porter, University of South Carolina**

Dr. Porter serves currently as chair of the Dept. of Environmental Health at USC. His research interests encompass GIS/remote sensing, resource management and risk assessment, public health and the environment, environmental data management, and coastal and ocean observing systems. He serves as Institutional Representative to the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association (SECOORA) and is director of the NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve Data Management Office.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Nancy Rabalais, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium**

Dr. Rabalais has served at LUMCON for almost 30 years and is now the Executive Director. She is considered a world expert on coastal hypoxia and has done extensive research on the Gulf of Mexico "dead zone." She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a MacArthur Foundation Award in 2012.

- **Chris Reddy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

Dr. Reddy is a Senior Scientist and Director of the Coastal Ocean Institute at WHOI. His expertise in petroleum geochemistry and marine pollution led to his participation in sediment sampling after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He has also provided expert advice and testimony on impacts of the spill and dispersants used.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Kurt Schnier, Georgia State University**

Dr. Schnier is an Associate Professor at GSU as well as a Senior Research Fellow, The Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), Bozeman, MT. His research is on risk assessment and decision-making in areas as diverse as fisheries, land use, and healthcare. He serves on the technical advisory group for the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

- **Christine Shepherd, The Nature Conservancy (FL)**

Recently selected as the Director of Science for TNC's Gulf of Mexico program, Dr. Shepherd has worked on both the west and Gulf coasts. Her research focuses on human risk management in the context of sea level rise, storm surge, and other natural hazards.

RSPAWG SME (Group 3) Candidates

- **Pamela K. Yochem, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute**

Dr. Yochem is the Executive Vice President as well as a research associate at HSWRI. She specializes in the diseases of marine mammals and has done research with species off the Gulf and west coasts of the U.S. She has extensive experience with the impacts of oiling on marine mammals.

- **Paul V. Zimba, Texas A&M Univ., Corpus Christi**

Dr. Zimba is director of the Coastal Institute at TAMUCC, where he has been a researcher for almost 20 years. Before that, he spent a number of years at the Agricultural Research Service of USDA. His expertise is in the areas of microalgal toxins, marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms, and remote sensing of blooms, often in the context of aquaculture.

Desired Outcome

The RSPAWG selection committee requests the SAB to:

- Consider Approval of up to 15 SME new members

Questions

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