Standing Committee on Environmental Science and Assessment for Ocean Energy Management

Committee

Kevin Stokesbury

Chair

Kevin Stokesbury is a professor in the Department of Fisheries Oceanography, School for Marine Science and Technology, at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. His research examines the marine ecology of invertebrates and fish, and the impacts of fishing and energy development. He was awarded the David H. Wallace Award from the National Shellfish Association (2013) and the Standard-Times Southcoast Man of the Year (2018) for his two decades of science in the public interest. His research has been published in 69 scientific papers and 5 book chapters. He served the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on “Fisheries Research and Monitoring for Atlantic Offshore Development” (2017) and “Assessment and Advancement of Science in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Environmental Studies Program” (2021). He is a subject editor for the Journal of Shellfish Research and Reviews in Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture. Previously, Dr. Stokesbury served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor and Co-principle Investigator on the SEA Herring Project at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks’ Institute of Marine Science. He received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada, and went on to earn his Ph.D. from Université Laval in Quebec, Canada.

Carin Ashjian

Member

Carin Ashjian is Senior Scientist and current Department Chair in the Department of Biology at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). She previously did postdoctoral work at Brookhaven National Laboratory, the University of Miami, and WHOI before joining the scientific staff. Her research has focused on oceanography, zooplankton ecology, and biological-physical interactions in a range of the world’s oceans. Her recent work focuses on the impact of climate change on polar ecosystems and the greater Arctic system, including the human dimension. She has served on numerous national committees, including the North Pacific Research Board Science Panel, the Bering Sea Program Science Advisory Board, and the Regional Research Vessel Science Oversight Committee and she is a past chair of UNOLS Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee. Ashjian received the USCG Meritorious Public Service Award (2009), the WHOI Henry Bryant Bigelow Chair for Excellence in Oceanography (2016), and the Alaska Sea Life Center Alaska Marine Research Award (2020). She earned a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1991. She previously served on the National Academies’ Committee on Emerging Research Questions in the Arctic and the Committee on Polar Icebreaker Cost Assessment.

John Barth

Member

John A. Barth is a professor of oceanography in Oregon State University’s College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. He is also the Executive Director of Oregon State University’s Marine Studies Initiative, a program to unite marine-related research, teaching, and outreach and engagement across OSU and the state of Oregon. His research seeks to understand how coastal ocean circulation and water properties shape and influence coastal marine ecosystems. He has led research, technology development and ocean observing system projects off Oregon and around the world. His present research includes a focus on the characteristics and formation of low-oxygen zones off Oregon. His research team uses autonomous underwater gliders, robots beneath the sea surface. From 2013-2016, Dr. Barth served on the U.S. West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel, and, from 2018-2022, he co-chaired Oregon’s Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Coordinating Council. He is a Fellow of The Oceanography Society and of the American Meteorological Society. He received a Ph.D. in Oceanography in 1988 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program in Oceanography

Daniel Costa

Member

Daniel Costa is a Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California at Santa Cruz. He was previously a postdoctoral researcher at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. His research focuses on the ecology and physiology of marine mammals and seabirds. He has worked with a broad range of air breathing marine vertebrates and has published over 500 scientific papers. His research focuses on the movement and distribution patterns of marine mammals and seabirds to understand their habitat needs and their response to underwater sounds. This research is developing ways to assess the likelihood that a disturbance results in a population consequence. He has supervised 22 master’s and 31 doctoral students as well as 18 post-doctoral scholars. He co-founded the Tagging of Pacific Predators program, a multidisciplinary effort to study the movement patterns of 23 species of marine vertebrate predators in the North Pacific Ocean, and is a member of the NOAA IOOS Advisory Committee. Costa received a B.A. at UCLA and a Ph.D. at U.C. Santa Cruz. He is a member of the National Academies’ Ocean Studies Board and has served on several NASEM committees, including Assessment and Advancement of Science in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Environmental Studies Program.?

Rónadh Cox

Member

Rónadh Cox is the Brust Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at Williams College, Massachusetts and a Visiting Professor in the School of Earth Sciences at University College Dublin. Her primary area of research is in wave impacts on rocky coasts, megagravel transport, and distinguishing the deposits of extreme storms from those of tsunami. She also studies the effects of progressive land loss on indigenous communities in coastal Louisiana. Rónadh is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as an elected Member of the Royal Irish Academy; she also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Geological Society of America. She was awarded a B.Sc.(hons) in Geology from University College Dublin and a Ph.D. from Stanford University

Jeremy M. Firestone

Member

Jeremy Firestone is a Professor at the University of Delaware (UD). He holds his principal appointment in the School of Marine Science and Policy and is Director of UD’s interdisciplinary Center for Research in Wind (CReW). Previously he was an Assistant Regional Counsel for US EPA (1986-89) and an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan (1989-96). In his research and writing, Professor Firestone focuses primarily on understanding public attitudes toward, and human behavior regarding, renewable energy technology, particularly offshore wind power, using survey research and semi-structured interviews. Other focal areas of research include the rights of indigenous peoples and marine spatial planning, along with domestic and international ocean and coastal law, regulation, and governance. He teaches courses on Offshore Wind Power, Renewable Energy, and Ocean and Coastal Law. He received a Bachelor of Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan and PhD in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina. In 2010, he served as a Workgroup Member, Panel Moderator and Breakout Session Leader for a National Academy of Sciences Marine Board, Offshore Wind Energy Workshop.

James Flynn, III

Member

James Flynn joined the faculty at the University of Houston’s Department of Earth & Atmospheric Science in 2013 and is currently a Research Associate Professor. His work focuses on atmospheric chemistry and air quality issues so that decision makers can develop informed policies supported by current science. His group has participated in numerous airborne, marine, and ground based campaigns in the US and abroad as well as maintaining research networks in Texas and developing balloon-based sensors to validate satellite observations of trace gases. In 2022 James became a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors. He received his BS in Aviation Science from Baylor University where he continued to work in their airborne air quality research program until 2006. He earned his MS (2009) and PhD (2013) in Atmospheric Science from the University of Houston.

Katrin Iken

Member

Katrin Iken currently is a Professor at the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she is a member of the Marine Biology department. She also is the director of the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, a coastal lab facility in Kachemak Bay, Southcentral Alaska, which is a NOAA-owned and UAF-operated facility supporting research, teaching, and outreach missions. Iken’s primary research expertise is with benthic communities, especially patterns in diversity as well as food web structure. Much of her work focuses on Arctic systems but she is also active in some long-term monitoring efforts in the Northern Gulf of Alaska. She is active on international committees such as the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) under the Arctic Council, as well as a member of the international steering committee of EU programs. She earned her degrees at various academic institutions in Germany before coming to the US in 1999 for a post-doctoral position, transiting to the faculty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2002.

John O. Jensen

Member

John Odin Jensen is an associate professor and coordinator of the graduate program in history at the University of West Florida. Born in Alaska and a former commercial fisherman, Dr. Jensen is a social and policy historian and marine archaeologist whose research areas include historic shipwrecks, cultural heritage management, fisheries, and health and social welfare. A specialist on maritime frontiers and applied cultural landscapes, his expertise and publications encompass multiple areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Great Lakes regions of North America. His interdisciplinary monograph Stories from the Wreckage: A Great Lakes Maritime History Inspired by Shipwrecks received the Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators Book of Merit Award for the most valuable contribution to public understanding of Wisconsin's history in 2020. He has served on many professional committees, including the NOAA MPA System FAC (2012-16) and the MPA FAC Cultural Heritage Working Group (2010-2012). Dr. Jensen holds a BA in history from Lawrence University, an MA in maritime history and underwater archaeology from East Carolina University, an MS in history and policy, and a PhD in Social history from Carnegie Mellon University.?

Les Kaufman

Member

Les Kaufman is Professor of Biology at Boston University. He has worked for many years on committee assignments and field work with the New England Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Sanctuaries System, Conservation International, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, and the World Conservation Union. Dr. Kaufman is an active researcher in marine benthic ecology with specialization in fisheries and coral reef ecology. He leads the BU program on Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS), with current field projects, modeling, and decision support in the Gulf of Maine, Florida and the Caribbean, the Great Lakes of Africa, and the Lower Mekong Basin. He is engaged in long-term studies of benthic communities, food web dynamics and forage fish population biology with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and BOEM. He is on the founding science steering committee for NOAA’s Mission: Iconic Reefs. Dr. Kaufman was the first Pew Marine Fellow in Conservation and the Environment, and has received the Parker-Gentry Award in Conservation Biology. He received a BS and PhD from Johns Hopkins University, and did postdoctoral research at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Kelsey T. Leonard

Member

Kelsey Leonard is a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Waters, Climate and Sustainability and an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, where her research focuses on Indigenous water justice and its climatic, territorial, and governance underpinnings. Dr. Leonard seeks to establish Indigenous traditions of water conservation as the foundation for international water policymaking.

Dr. Leonard has been instrumental in safeguarding the interests of Indigenous Nations for environmental planning and builds Indigenous science and knowledge into new solutions for water governance and sustainable oceans. In collaboration with a global team of water law scholars Dr. Leonard has published in Lewis and Clark Law Review on Indigenous Water Justice and the defining international legal principle of self-determination under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Her recent scholarship explores legal personhood for water and you can watch her TEDTalk here: TEDTalk “Why lakes and rivers should have the same rights as humans”.

Ruth L. Perry

Member

Ruth M. Perry is the Head of Regulatory Affairs for Shell Renewables and Energy Solutions Offshore Power Americas. In this role, she is responsible for leading and executing the permitting and regulatory advocacy, policy and research strategies for Shell’s renewable power generation portfolio in the Americas. On behalf of Shell, she develops and leads public-private science collaborations, such as real-time monitoring programs, to improve industry’s knowledge of the offshore marine environment and is helping to lead similar industry-wide collaborations. More so she establishes sustained ocean observation and research partnerships between offshore wind, governments, and ocean users, including the NGO community and fishing industry, to support responsible energy planning and development. Dr. Perry represents the energy sector as a member of NOAA Advisory Committees and Councils, including the IOOS Federal Advisory Committee, the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the NOAA Science Advisory Board. She has also recently been recognized as A Word About Wind’s 2022 Top 100 North American Power leaders in offshore wind. Dr. Perry has over 15 years of ocean technology research and system implementation and ocean policy experience. She earned a Ph.D. in Oceanography from Texas A&M University in 2013. Dr. Perry previously served on the National Academies Ocean Studies Board, the Committee on Advancing Understanding of Gulf of Mexico Loop Current Dynamics, and as a representative to the U.S. National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Kevin St. Martin

Member

Kevin St. Martin is a Professor and Chair in the Department of Geography at Rutgers University. He is a human geographer whose work is at the intersection of economic geography, political ecology, and critical cartographies. His work includes critical analyses of economic and resource management discourse as well as participatory projects that work to rethink economy and foster economic and environmental wellbeing. Dr. St. Martin's projects have in common the regulation and transformation of the marine environment. He uses the paradigmatic case of fisheries in the U.S. Northeast to better understand the power of discourse, data, and devices to shape economic and environmental outcomes. He co-edited Making Other Worlds Possible: Performing Diverse Economies, he is an editor of the Diverse Economies and Liveable Worlds book series, he is an associate editor for the journal Maritime Studies, and he serves on the advisory board of the Floating Laboratory of Action and Theory at Sea (FLOATS). Dr. St. Martin received his PhD from Clark University's Graduate School of Geography.?

Lori L. Summa

Member

Lori L. Summa is a geologist with 40 years of experience in geoscience, basin formation research, and petroleum-systems analysis. She retired as a senior technical consultant with ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company in 2016. In this position, she advised corporate management on strategic geoscience issues to ensure appropriate research was performed in support of business objectives. She is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Geosciences at Rice University and a research collaborator at the University of Texas, Jackson School of Geosciences. Her background is in basin analysis and numerical modeling, but she has done significant applied research in oil and gas exploration and drilling. She has chaired committees for both American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Geological Society of America (GSA) and has led numerous student short courses for the GSA, for which she received a 2016 Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Summa earned a B.S. in geology with honors from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of California, Davis in 1986. She participated in NASEM's 2016 Committee on Future Directions for the U.S. Geological Survey's Energy Resources Program, and NRC's 2011 Committee on Scientific Ocean Drilling: Accomplishments and Challenges.