Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange: A Workshop Series

Committee

Edwin (ED) Levine

Chair

Mr. Edwin “ED” Levine currently operates his own consulting company providing training and crisis response. He retired from NOAA after 33 years with the Emergency Response Division. He has participated locally, nationally, and internationally in hundreds of incidents involving oil spills, chemical releases, and many other various emergency responses including the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon oil spills. He provided planning and preparedness activities including training and participation on numerous committees at all levels of government, industry, and academia. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO). Among his many recognitions Mr. Levine received the NOAA Distinguished Career Award, three USCG Meritorious Team Commendations, and the USCG Commander’s Award for Civilian Service. He received a Master of Science degree from the University of Puerto Rico in Marine Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University in Coastal Environmental Sciences. Most recently he was the Vice-chair of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine publication Oil in the Sea IV: Inputs, Fates, and Effects (2022).

Bernard D. Goldstein

Member

Dr. Bernard Goldstein is emeritus faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health who has retired to Alaska where he previously studied the benzene risk of Valdez residents. He is a physician and toxicologist with training in epidemiology. He was a faculty member of the NYU Department of Environmental Medicine; then at Rutgers where he was the chair of the Department of Environmental and Community Medicine and founding director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and then became Dean of the Pitt School of Public Health. Goldstein served as EPA Assistant Administrator for R&D under Administrators Ruckelshaus and Thomas and was elected President of the Society for Risk Analysis. His involvement in the Gulf Oil spill led to publications on disaster response, including an invited review in the New England Journal of Medicine. An elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, his academy-related activities include chairing over ten committees and serving on over twenty committees of which most pertinent are his membership on the original Advisory Group and then the Board of the Gulf Research Program, and on the NASEM Committee on Dispersants and then Oil in the Sea IV. He also chaired the Coordinating Committee of the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program.

Davin Holen

Member

Dr. Davin Holen is a Coastal Community Resilience Specialist for the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and Associate Professor conducting research for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Davin facilitates workshops and other activities related to coastal resilience addressing monitoring, mitigation, and adaptation to local stressors from climatic and ocean changes. Before joining Alaska Sea Grant Davin spent 15 years at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducting social-science research and managing the subsistence program in Southern Alaska. His dissertation, as well as current research and extension efforts, examines societal and economic factors intertwined with climatic and environmental changes influencing subsistence economies important for culture in Alaskan communities. Davin developed and manages the website Adapt Alaska (adaptalaska.org) hosted by Alaska Sea Grant. Since 2015, Davin has been a member of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council Scientific Advisory Committee and now serves as Chair. Davin led the 2019 National Academies Gulf Research Program-funded workshop in Alaska, Setting Priorities for Health, Social, and Economic Disruptions from Spills in Alaska: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future. Davin has spent a career researching the societal impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound and has published several technical papers on the topic. Davin serves as the Alaska representative on the National Academies Gulf Research Program Gulf Health and Resilience Board.

May T. Nguyen

Member

Ms. Mây Thi Nguyen is a Senior Philanthropic Advisor at the East Bay Community Foundation. She has over 15 years of experience in climate and disaster resilience as a community organizer, attorney, and nonprofit leader. She has provided written testimony on the Oil Pollution Act for a US Senate Energy Subcommittee hearing, offered perspective on NBC, NPR, and local Louisiana media, and co-authored a white paper on the BP Oil Spill for the White House Initiative on AAPI. In her community-based work, Mây published a revised second edition environmental law and policy advocacy guide, taught an undergraduate program, and trained over a thousand impacted people and local elected leaders to protect the environment. She received UCLA School of Public Policy’s Rishwain Social Justice Entrepreneurship Award for her transformative organizing work with Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant fishing communities to win recognition and damages for traditional fishing practices. Mây earned a JD with a certificate in Public Interest Law and Policy from UCLA School of Law, a BA in Political Science from Amherst College, and a MA in International Economics and Southeast Asia Studies from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies.

W. Scott Pegau

Member

Dr. Scott serves as the Research Program Manager for the Oil Spill Recovery Institute. His duties include searching for the best research and development projects that can improve oil spill recovery in Arctic and subarctic marine waters. This involves understanding the capabilities of existing oil spill response equipment and how it is used. He also serves as crew and alternate captain on a fishing vessel that is contracted for rapid response to oil spills in Prince William Sound. He trains annually and perform drills in nearshore and offshore response. This allows him to train on many of the response tactics used in the nearshore environment and provides first-hand knowledge of the equipment used during spill response. He has a background in oceanography with a Ph.D. from Oregon State University and a B.S. in physics from the University of Alaska – Fairbanks. The oceanography training includes fluid dynamics which provides a basic understanding of oil spill trajectory modeling. He also had basic training on NOAA's GNOME oil spill trajectory model.

Stephen H. Sempier

Member

Dr. Sempier is the Outreach and Deputy Director at the Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium where he leads the program's extension, outreach and education team. During the past 17 years he has also led numerous Gulf-wide sea grant initiatives including developing the Gulf of Mexico research plan and implementing a community-based restoration program. After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, he led a multi-disciplinary team of Sea Grant extension and communications specialists located across the five Gulf of Mexico states that addressed regional issues ranging from oil spill science to harmful algal blooms to marine microplastics. This team was awarded Sea Grant's Superior Outreach Programming award for their oil spill science outreach work. Steve currently serves as the chair of the Sea Grant extension assembly, which is comprised of the 34 Sea Grant extension leaders across the U.S. Prior to joining Sea Grant, he worked at Mississippi State University on an aquaculture risk management project and at Oregon State University on a USAID-supported program devoted to increasing food security in developing nations. Steve earned his B.S. in marine science at Eckerd College; M.S. in marine resource management at Oregon State University; and his Ph.D. In coastal sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Rashid Sumaila

Member

Dr. Rashid Sumaila is a Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Interdisciplinary Ocean and Fisheries Economics at the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia. His research focuses on bioeconomics, marine ecosystem valuation and the analysis of global issues such as fisheries subsidies, marine protected areas, illegal fishing, climate change, marine plastic pollution, and oil spills. Sumaila has experience working in fisheries and natural resource projects in Norway, Canada and the North Atlantic region, Namibia and the Southern African region, Ghana and the West African region and Hong Kong and the South China Sea. Dr. Sumaila received his Ph.D. (Economics) from the University of Bergen and his B.Sc. (Quantity Surveying) from the Ahmadu Bello University. Sumaila is widely published and cited. He won the 2017 Volvo Environment Prize and was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2019. He is serving on an NAS Ocean Studies Board Committee: Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability.

Frances Ulmer

Member

Ms. Frances Ulmer is an associate fellow at Harvard’s Belfer Center. She has served in a variety of capacities, including: Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska’s Lieutenant Governor, state legislator, mayor of Juneau Alaska, professor, lawyer, research director, special advisor to the State Department on the Arctic, Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and a member of the BP Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill Commission. She has undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin, and has been a visiting professor at Stanford, and at Harvard’s Institute of Politics. She has previous NAS volunteer service and she has lectured internationally on Arctic issues from Antarctica to the North Pole. Ms. Ulmer served on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Special Legislative Committee 1989-1990.

Collin P. Ward

Member

Dr. Collin P. Ward is an Associate Scientist in the Department of Marine Chemistry & Geochemistry at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. His research characterizes how and how fast sunlight and microbes alter the physical and chemical properties of organic carbon in aquatic ecosystems. He works on a wide range of organic carbon types, including natural organic matter, crude oil, and plastics. His study sites span fresh and saline surface waters from the Alaskan Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico. He was a chair of the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Synthesis and Legacy effort, with a focus on oil fate and weathering at the sea surface and on shorelines. He received the 2024 James J. Morgan Environmental Science & Technology Early Career Award from the American Chemical Society. He earned a BS and MS in Environmental Sciences from The Ohio State University, and a PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of Michigan.