



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Devon Aguiar, Hawai'i Coral Reef Initiative, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawai'i



Devon Aguiar works on contract to the Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources in Hilo, Hawai'i as a habitat and fish monitoring specialist. In addition to conducting coral reef fish and coral surveys, he also participates in anchialine pool and estuarine monitoring throughout the island of Hawai'i. Devon received a bachelor's degree in Marine Science and a master of science degree in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science from the University of Hawai'i Hilo.

Michelle Bahnick, Tulalip Tribes Natural and Cultural Resources Department



Michelle Bahnick (they/them or she/her) is the Wetland Biologist for the Tulalip Tribes Natural and Cultural Resources Department where they manage the Tribes' Wetland Program. They are excited to further develop and refine the Wetland Program in order to preserve, protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and their functions for the benefit of the Tulalip Tribes now and into the future. Having grown up in the Pacific Northwest, Michelle has always been fascinated by ecosystems where water and land meet, as well as the connections and interactions between human communities and the ecosystems we live in. Prior to their work with the Tulalip Tribes, Michelle worked in environmental consulting, assisted with studies assessing juvenile salmonid passage through dams on the Columbia River, caught rock iguanas in the Bahamas for a long-term life history study, taught college students how to collect and identify stream benthic macroinvertebrates, and served with the Washington Conservation Corps to restore riparian areas and monitor Aquatic Reserves in Puget Sound. Michelle is also a technical advisory committee member for Cascadia College's Water Resource Management degree program and the University of Washington's Wetland Science and Management certificate program, the Vice President of the Board of Directors for Sound Salmon Solutions, and the Mentoring Chair for Women in Environment's Puget Sound Chapter. They are a Professional Wetland Scientist and have a M.Sc. in Biology from Western Washington University, a B.A. in Biology from Earlham College, and a certificate in Wetland Science and Management from the University of Washington.

David Gillett, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project



Dr. David Gillett is an ecologist who specializes in studying the influence of anthropogenic disturbances and habitat quality on the community structure and ecosystem functioning of marine, estuarine and freshwater benthic communities. His research focuses on the development of biologically-based methods of habitat quality assessment in marine and freshwater systems using both traditional and DNA-based tools. He is leading the development of causal and protective assessment methodologies for California's freshwater and marine habitats, using changes in biological communities to identify stressors that impact degraded systems or pose a risk to non-degraded systems. Dr. Gillett is also leading regional efforts to build a seagrass monitoring and condition assessment framework centered on the extent and functioning of eelgrass. More broadly, he is leading efforts to develop condition assessment indices for coastal habitats in California and across the country. As part of this, he is involved with expanding the use of genetic barcoding, metagenomics and eDNA as methods for the assessment of a variety of coastal habitats from the seagrasses of estuaries to the soft sediments of the continental slope.

He received a B.S. in marine science from Eckerd College in 1997, M.S. in marine biology from the University of Charleston in 2003, and Ph.D. in marine science from The College of William and Mary in 2010. He joined SCCWRP in 2010.

Brenda Goeden, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission



Brenda Goeden is the Sediment Program Manager for the Sediment Management Program at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, where she has 25 years of experience in navigation dredging, beneficial reuse of dredged sediment in wetland restoration projects, sand mining, flood protection activities, as well as sediment contaminant remediation projects in San Francisco Bay. She is the technical lead on the Sediment for Wetlands Adaptation Project, seeking to increase beneficial reuse of dredged sediment in wetlands and other habitat projects to assist in sea level rise adaptation.

Maya Goodoni, Hawai'i Coral Reef Initiative, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawai'i



Maya Goodoni is passionate about protecting Hawai'i's unique ecosystems and supporting communities in caring for their lands and waters. With a background in Environmental Studies and a master's degree in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science, she brings an interdisciplinary perspective to conservation and restoration efforts—from ridge to reef.

She has experience in natural resource management across terrestrial, aquatic, and marine environments, as well as in environmental planning and community engagement. Her work often bridges science and community, supporting initiatives that integrate traditional knowledge, local stewardship, and ecological resilience.

Originally from Hawai'i Island, Maya is deeply committed to place-based approaches that honor cultural values and promote long-term care of the environment.

Ian Grosfelt, National Association of Wetland Managers



Ian is an Environmental Analyst with NAWM wearing a variety of hats and working on a variety of projects. He has a BS in Agriculture from Cornell University and a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment. Ian has a decade of experience working in environmental fields starting as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal and continuing with environmental education organizations throughout New England as a facilitator, school gardener, and trainer. He is also trained in data analysis and geospatial mapping and has a passion for using these tools to further effective conservation.

Cristina Grosso, San Francisco Estuary Institute



Cristina Grosso is the Managing Director of the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Environmental Informatics Program. She leads the strategic development of the [EcoAtlas](#) toolset, which integrates wetlands and coastal habitat mapping, tracks restoration progress, and enhances accessibility to environmental data and visualizations for a range of audiences.

Sasha Harris-Lovett, San Francisco Estuary Partnership



Sasha Harris-Lovett is the Lead Environmental Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and a Program Manager for the San Francisco Estuary Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program.

Lauren Healey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Lauren Healey is the Pacific Southwest (California and Nevada) Coordinator for the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). As a Regional Coordinator she helps ensure high data integrity for millions of acres of new NWI mapping in her region, coordinates with stakeholders, and assesses NWI applicability. She has 6 years of experience in wetland environments specializing in wetland restoration, private-public partnerships, and GIS. Previously she worked for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as a soil conservationist and USFWS as a Private Lands Biologist. In her free time she loves backpacking and homesteading.

Chantal Iosso, Nevada Division of Natural Heritage



Chantal Iosso has been with the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage as the Wetland Program Specialist since 2022. In this role, she works to build the state wetland program, by writing the 2023-2028 Nevada Wetland Program Plan, documenting rare and pristine wetlands, gathering data to inform conservation of wetland-dependent species, and coordinating amongst wetland partners. Before joining NDNH, she worked for Friends of Nevada Wilderness as the Springs Monitoring Coordinator, where she led technicians and hundreds of volunteers in a near-complete inventory of springs on public lands in southern Nevada. Chantal holds a B.S. in geology and environmental studies from Washington and Lee University. While obtaining her degree, she conducted research on stream changes after a dam removal and worked as a water monitoring technician.

Sarvy Mahdavi, U.S. EPA Region 9



Sarvy Mahdavi is a Life Scientist in the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act 404 program. She provides regulatory oversight of 404 permit applications and is the program coordinator for the Wetlands Program Development Grants. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from UC Santa Barbara and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics from UC Berkeley.

Jamie Lynn Mattson, Lummi Natural Resources Department



Jamie Lynn Mattson has worked for the Lummi Natural Resources Department in the Water Resources Division since 2007. Currently Jamie is a Water Resources Specialist III/Planner specializing in environmental permitting and land use review, permit writing, wetland delineations, wetlands planning, Wetland and Habitat Mitigation Bank management, floodplain management, stormwater management, water quality planning, and spill response. Jamie graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science in 2004, with minors in geology and water quality. Prior to working for the Lummi Nation Jamie was a land use planner for the community of Sudden Valley and the North Puget Sound Gypsy Moth Supervisor with the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Dana Michels, U.S. EPA Region 9



Dana Michels works in EPA Region 9's Wetlands and Oceans Section on Dredged Sediment Management. She previously worked as a Project Officer in the EPA's San Francisco Bay Program on Water Quality Improvement Fund Grants.

Katie Nichols, CA State Coastal Conservancy



Katie Nichols is a project manager with the California State Coastal Conservancy in their South Coast team. The Coastal Conservancy is a California State non regulatory agency that collaborates with others to protect and restore coastal resources, to help people get to and enjoy the coast, and enhance climate resilience. In this role Katie supports a variety of projects such as living shoreline restoration, wetland restoration and coastal resilience planning. Katie is based out of the Conservancy's Oakland office and works on projects in Southern California, in addition to managing the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. She earned her M.S. from San Diego State University in marine ecology and her B.A. in environmental studies and marine ecology from UC Santa Cruz. After graduate school Katie was a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow in Washington D.C. and spent several years after her fellowship working for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Hawaii and California. She has worked in fisheries policy and research, marine science education, and community based subtidal habitat restoration and enjoys supporting a wide variety of projects along the California Coast.

Portia Osborne, National Association of Wetland Managers

Portia Osborne is the Assistant Director at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM). Portia has been with NAWM since 2022, during which time she has worked on various projects to build the capacity of state and Tribal wetland programs across the country. She coordinates overall project schedules, delivers workshops and trainings, facilitates and coordinates various work groups, and moderates webinars. Before coming to NAWM, Portia spent a decade working in environmental consulting. Portia earned her MS in Ecology and BS in Environmental Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

Jeffrey Solomon, Lummi Natural Resources Department

Jeff Solomon has worked for the Lummi Natural Resources Department in various divisions since 2016 and landed in the Water Resources Division in late 2018 and, today, serves as a Natural Resources Specialist II specializing in field operations and stewardship of the Lummi Nation Wetland & Habitat Mitigation Bank, wetlands protection, water quality monitoring, and coordinating the Lummi Nation's oil spill response program. Jeff graduated from Northwest Indian College with a Bachelor of Science in Native Environmental Science in 2023. Most recently Jeff was appointed to the Board of Directors for both the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) and Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) and is very active in the local ecological restoration and spill response networks. Jeff is also a 14-year veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Yvonne Vallette, U.S. EPA Region 10

Yvonne Vallette is an Aquatic Ecologist who has worked for the last twenty-eight years at EPA Region 10's Oregon Operations Office in Portland serving as the Region's coordinator for enhancing State and Tribal Programs. Her work with EPA is focused on the technical and policy aspects of the Clean Water Act (CWA), including Section 404. Her practicable experience includes work in: aquatic resource monitoring and assessment development, 404 enforcement, compensatory mitigation, impact analysis, CWA jurisdiction, 404 program assumption, and aquatic resources restoration.