



Panelists and Invited Speakers
Best Management Practices Workshop for Atlantic Offshore Wind Facilities
and Marine Protected Species
March 7-9, 2017
Silver Spring, MD

Abby Arnold (facilitator). Abby Arnold is a Principal at Kearns & West, and concurrently the Executive Director of the American Wind Wildlife Institute, a 501c3. AWWI is a collaboration among the wind industry and conservation organizations committed to developing wind power while minimizing impacts to wildlife. Abby has been a practicing mediator for nearly 30 years and specializes in energy resources and wildlife conservation.

Tamara Arzt is an Environmental Protection Specialist and the ESA Lead for the Division of Environmental Assessment within the Office of Environmental Programs at BOEM. Ms. Arzt has been with BOEM since 2011 where her work has focused mainly on policy, procedural and legal aspects of ESA Section 7 Consultations across BOEM regions related to oil and gas activities, MMPA issues, and NEPA. Prior to joining BOEM, she worked for the Bureau of Land Management in DC and Colorado on issues in the terrestrial environment.

Dr. Helen Bailey is a Research Associate Professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Helen has published over 40 journal articles, specializing in marine mammal and sea turtle ecology. She has studied the environmental impacts of offshore wind turbines in Scotland and currently leads a project on passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals in the Maryland Wind Energy Area.

Kyle Baker is a Marine Biologist for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Office of Renewable Energy Programs. Kyle works on environmental studies and assessments of sea turtles and marine mammals in Atlantic wind energy areas. Prior to joining BOEM, Kyle worked at NOAA on endangered species issues for 15 years. He has worked on population impacts from ocean noise, oil spills, and has been a leader in the development of mitigation and monitoring strategies.

Jen Banks is the Environmental Permitting Specialist for US Wind. Jen leads permitting efforts for the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Project – managing agency relationships, securing permits, and overseeing environmental consultant activities. Previously, Jen worked at SEWC and AWEA. Jen holds a B.S. in Environmental Technology from NCSU and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from Clemson University.

Dr. Mary C. Boatman is the Science Coordinator for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Office of Renewable Energy Programs. Mary has worked at BOEM at both the regional office in New Orleans and in the Headquarters office in Herndon, Virginia on both offshore oil and gas and renewable energy issues. Her area of expertise is Chemical Oceanography, but she has worked in a multi-disciplinary capacity for many years through the Environmental Studies Program at BOEM.

Catherine Bowes is the Senior Manager for Climate and Energy at the National Wildlife Federation. Catherine leads the organization's Campaign for Offshore Wind Power, which is focused on promoting responsibly developed offshore wind as an essential strategy for achieving a clean energy future. She holds a B.A in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis and a Master's in Environmental Policy from Bard College.

Jordan Carduner is a Fishery Biologist for NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division. Jordan evaluates applications for incidental take authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. He has also worked on ESA section 7 consultations and served on the U.S. delegation to the International Whaling Commission. Jordan earned a Masters in Environmental Management from Duke University where he participated in a study of the underwater soundscape in the proposed Cape Wind project area.

Vicki Cornish is an Energy Policy Analyst for the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission. The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent Federal agency of the U.S. Government, located in Bethesda, MD. Ms. Cornish focuses on the effects of offshore oil and gas and renewable energy activities on marine mammals and their environment, as well as the enhancement of policies and programs to better understand and minimize those effects.

Julie Crocker is the Endangered Species Coordinator for Protected Resources Division of NOAA Fisheries' Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. Julie oversees programs for the recovery of Endangered Species Act listed Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon as well as supervising staff that carry out ESA section 7 consultations on energy projects.

Deborah Epperson is a Protected Species Biologist for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Deborah has worked on protected species issued associated with energy development since 2003. This includes the Protected Species Observer program associated with seismic surveys in the Gulf of Mexico as well as Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act consultations. In her current position, she monitors compliance and provides enforcement for BOEM and BSEE required protected species mitigation.

Pernille Hermansen is the Permitting Project Manager for DONG Energy Wind Power AS. Pernille is leading on DONG Energy's U.S. offshore wind farm project with responsibility for the permitting including environmental assessment as well as stakeholder engagement. Pernille has extensive experience of permitting and environmental topics in relation to development, construction and operation of commercial scale offshore wind farms in Europe.

Allison Hernandez is an Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation biologist for NOAA Fisheries. Allison joined NOAA in 2016 and conducts consultations for wind and conventional energy programs. She has a diverse background with over 17 years as a biologist with expertise in protected species ecology; having achieved most of that time in Federal Service at BOEM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service in several locations including Guam.

Michael Jasny is the Director of the Marine Mammal Protection Project for the National Resources Defense Council. Michael is an expert in the law and policy of ocean noise pollution, among other issues affecting marine mammals, and has worked domestically and internationally for more than a decade through high-profile litigation, lobbying, science-based policy development, and public advocacy to improve regulation of this emergent problem.

Aileen Kenney is the Vice President of Permitting and Environmental Affairs for Deepwater Wind. Aileen is responsible for overseeing the environmental assessment, permitting, and key stakeholder outreach. Aileen successfully permitted the Block Island Wind Farm. Aileen was instrumental in developing measures to protect the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. Her environmental stewardship has helped make Deepwater Wind a leader in responsible offshore wind development.

Dr. Scott Kraus is the Vice President for the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life and Senior Advisor at the New England Aquarium. Scott, a research scientist at the New England Aquarium since 1980, has published over 110 papers on marine mammals, bluefin tuna, fisheries, and bycatch. He is an expert on North Atlantic right whales and aerial surveys, and serves on the faculty at the University of Massachusetts.

Stan Labak is a Marine Acoustician for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Environmental Programs, Division of Environmental Sciences. Stan has worked on the development and testing of acoustic systems for over 30 years. For the last 15 years, that work has included modeling and analysis of anthropogenic noise on marine animals. He is a former submariner and a retired Naval Reservist. He currently works on projects involving acoustics for BOEM's Oil & Gas, Renewable, or Marine Mineral Programs.

Dr. Sónia Mendes is the Senior Marine Mammal Advisor of Offshore Industries for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, United Kingdom. Sónia is a marine biologist and senior offshore industries adviser at JNCC, the statutory advisor to UK government on nature conservation. For the past 10 years, she has contributed to advice on the effects of offshore industries on marine mammals, in particular on risk assessment, regulation, mitigation and monitoring.

Michelle Morin is the Chief of the Environment Branch for Renewable Energy in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. During Michelle's 21 years with the bureau, she coordinated dozens of environmental impact statements and assessments for BOEM's oil and gas and renewable energy programs. Currently, Michelle manages an interdisciplinary team responsible for environmental assessments, consultations, and studies related to renewable energy leasing and development on the Atlantic OCS.

Kara Nave (facilitator). Kara Nave is an Associate at Kearns & West in the marine and energy practices. She joined the firm in 2015 with experience in policy research related to smart growth, land conservation, and energy issues. Kara also has a strong background in federal energy policies and program administration.

Christian Newman is President of APEM Inc., an aerial remote sensing and geomatics company, with 20 years of experience developing innovative wildlife monitoring technology. He oversaw BOEM's first project to use high resolution digital aerial methods for offshore wildlife in the United States. He is APEM's project director for the largest offshore digital wildlife survey in the world occurring off of Long Island, New York.

Jay Odell leads The Nature Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Marine Program, developing science and policy in service of ocean conservation solutions. Jay has worked as fisheries biologist and marine ecologist since 1988. For the past several years this work has included spatial data development, co-leading the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Team and serving as a strategic advisor to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body.

Dr. Debra Lynn Palka is a Research Fishery Biologist with NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Debi received her Master's in bio-statistics from University of North Carolina 1986, and her PhD in Biological Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography 1993. She currently estimates abundance and bycatch for marine mammals in the U.S. North Atlantic, assist take reduction teams, study marine mammals' habitat, and work with the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee.

Dr. Sofie Van Parijs is a Fishery Biologist for NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Sofie leads the passive acoustic research program at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole. She has worked from the poles to the Tropics for over 20 years. Currently her focus is on using acoustics to improve long term monitoring of marine mammals and fish as well as ocean noise.

Dr. Eva Philipp is the Environmental Lead for Offshore and Onshore Wind Projects for Vattenfall. Eva runs the Environmental strategy department in the Business Area Wind at Vattenfall. She is a marine biologist and worked more than 10 years in science before joining Vattenfall Wind in 2012. Her theoretical and practical Offshore Wind experience covers all environmental topics from development to construction and generation.

Desray Reeb is a Marine Biologist for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs. Desray did her Ph.D. and post-doctoral work mainly focusing her research on issues related to right whales. However, she has worked on various aspects related to multiple marine mammal species throughout her career. She spent much of her career as a field biologist and brought her research and mitigation experience to BOEM's Renewable Energy Program in 2013.

Jason Roberts is a Research Associate at Duke University's Marine Geospatial Ecology Laboratory. Jason is a marine ecologist and software engineer interested in the habitats and movements of marine animals, methods for modeling species distributions, the application of remote sensing to marine ecology problems, and techniques for minimizing human impacts on ocean life while facilitating sustainable use of ocean resources.

Dr. Howard Rosenbaum is a Senior Conservation Scientist and Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Ocean Giants Program. Howard is a Senior Scientist at the American Museum of Natural History and core faculty member at Columbia University, a member of the U.S. Delegation to the International Whaling Commission, the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group, and Important Marine Mammal Area Task Force, and holds the Conservation Seat for SBNMS Advisory Council.

Amy Scholik-Schlomer is the Protected Resources Acoustics Coordinator for NOAA Fisheries. Amy has been the technical lead for acoustic issues within the Office of Protected Resources in NOAA Fisheries for over a decade. She has been an author on several publications/reports, as well as presented at numerous national/international conferences, on the issue of underwater noise and marine protected species.

Douglas Simpson is with District 5 of the United States Coast Guard.

Nancy Sopko is the Director of Offshore Wind & Federal Legislative Affairs at the American Wind Energy Association. As such, Nancy is staff liaison to the association's offshore wind committee, works with the administration on permitting, regulatory, and other priorities, lobbies Congress on policies that are helpful to the industry, and liaises with the environmental community on marine wildlife issues

David Zeddies is a senior scientist and engineer for Jasco Applied Sciences. David received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1990) and a PhD in Neuroscience from Northwestern University (2001). He was a Post-doctoral Associate at the Parmlly Hearing Institute at Loyola University of Chicago from 2001 to 2003 and a Research Associate in the lab of Arthur Popper at the University of Maryland from 2004 to 2008.