



THE COASTAL SOCIETY

In partnership with Coastal Carolina Riverwatch's Water Quality for Fisheries Symposium



Presents

The Margaret A. Davidson (MAD) Coastal Careers Workshop

October 8, 2024 · 12:00pm-5:00pm

Duke University Marine Lab · Beaufort, NC

Combined Speaker Bios, Headshots, & Contact Information



Daniel Govoni is the Policy Section Chief with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM). In this role he coordinates state reviews of federal activities in accordance with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and provides support to the Coastal Resources Commission, Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, and DCM on a variety of coastal policy issues and projects. He has been with DCM for 16 years and previously worked for the North Carolina Division of Water Quality and Duke University Marine Laboratory. He grew up in “Down East” Carteret County and still resides there with his family. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Daniel can be reached at daniel.govoni@deq.nc.gov.



Riley Lewis is the White Oak Waterkeeper with Coastal Carolina Riverwatch. Riley spends her time researching and advocating for local water quality. She received her BS in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina and her MS in Coastal and Ocean Policy from UNCW. During her time at UNCW she re-established the TCS student chapter and today she continues to connect students with coastal professionals. Riley can be reached at rileyl@coastalcarolinariverwatch.org.



Rebecca Ellin is the Manager of the N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve, a program within the N.C. Division of Coastal Management. Rebecca has served in this role since 2005 and provides leadership for the research, education, training, and stewardship programs conducted at the 10 sites protected by the Reserve and within coastal N.C. She has a BS in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston, a MS in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina, and worked in a variety of marine science and coastal management jobs in South Carolina and California prior to her current position. Rebecca championed the development of NOAA's Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and is a two-time NOAA fellow herself. She also previously served as President of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, the national organization that supports the 30 Reserves within the Reserve System. Rebecca can be reached at rebecca.ellin@deq.nc.gov.



Rachel Baker is a Coastal Scientist for Moffatt & Nichol out of Morehead City, NC. Rachel started in this role after graduating from UNCW with a B.S. in marine biology, an M.S. in coastal and ocean policy, and a research background in coastal community resiliency in North Carolina. During her time at Moffatt & Nichol, she has worked with a large variety of clients, including federal contracts with NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard, state contracts with the Division of Coastal Management, Marine Industrial Park Authority, and Division of Mitigation Services, and local contractors including many coastal communities across the state. Rachel enjoys the variety of work the private sector brings and how she gets to utilize her interdisciplinary academic background every day. Rachel gets to use her marine science background to investigate and protect natural resources as part of project planning in this role, including protecting rare,

threatened, and endangered species, and critical habitats. Additionally, she enjoys that she gets to use her policy background to identify and plan feasible solutions for natural hazards faced by coastal communities, and navigate environmental permitting for coastal projects. Rachel can be reached at rbaker@moffattnichol.com.



Rachel Bisesi is the North Carolina Coastal Federation's Coastal Education Coordinator. Rachel, from Pine Level, North Carolina, joined the Federation in 2013 after volunteering for several years. She holds a Master of Science in coastal marine and wetland studies from Coastal Carolina University and a Bachelor of Arts in environmental studies from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Previously, Rachel worked as an educator in multiple coastal education centers, as a marine research technician and as a state park naturalist. Her background lies in linking coastal environments with education and outreach. Rachel can be reached at rachelb@nccoast.org.



Dr. Jennifer Biddle is an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) where she teaches courses in environmental governance and policy analysis. Jennifer earned her M.S. in Freshwater Ecology and Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University. Her research lies at the confluence of science, public policy, and public administration, and her primary areas of interest include integrated collaborative governance, adaptive capacity and resilience, and environmental policy. Jennifer's scientific background and training in ecological processes combined with her policy expertise and public administration experience provides her the ability to recognize and understand complex interactions

between human organizations and the built and natural environments. Her current research documents first person municipal water manager perceptions to leverage existing adaptive governance theory in the creation of both top-down and bottom-up policy approaches to preserve the integrity of our public water systems. Jennifer's early research and professional experience involved advising clients on Clean Water Act permitting and regulations at an environmental firm outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and assisting state agency programs aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters in Washington, D.C. These experiences, working in both private and public environmental sectors, awards Jennifer with a balanced perspective on the practical constraints and political challenges that arise when implementing policies to achieve sustainability goals. Her career goal is to apply her knowledge and training toward the betterment of coastal management practices. Dr. Biddle can be reached at biddlej@uncw.edu.



David Cerino is the Chair of the Aquaculture Technology Program at Carteret Community College (CCC) in Morehead City, NC. The primary focus of his work is on education, training, and workforce development. CCC carries out applied research to improve aquaculture productivity and sustainability. Collaboration with industry, academic partners, regulators, and NGOs offers opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning and support industry growth. To learn more about the CCC Aquaculture program visit <http://www.carteret.edu/programs/aquaculture-technology>. David can be reached at cerinod@carteret.edu.



Dr. Grant Murray is the Associate Dean for Duke's Masters of Environmental Management (MEM) program and the co-director for the Coastal and Marine Systems (CaMS) concentration within the MEM Program. He is also an alumnus. As a marine social scientist, his lab's principal objective is to continue to lead and participate in theoretically-informed, problem-oriented and community-relevant research projects that effectively mobilize knowledge in several focal areas, including: 1) the relationships between protected areas and adjacent communities; 2) seafood production systems; and 3) the relationships between local ecological knowledge, science, and social-ecological change. In his work he draws on theoretical insights specific to these three areas, but also cross-cutting theory and concepts drawn from sociology, anthropology and geography including political ecology, local/traditional ecological knowledge, and well a bundle of allied concepts that help frame our thinking about social impacts and dynamics, including values, well-being, and poverty. Dr. Murray has a Ph.D. from the School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan, a Master's of Environmental Management (Coastal Environmental Management concentration) from Duke University, and Bachelor of Arts degrees in English, Environmental Science, and Biology. Dr. Murray can be reached at grant.murray@duke.edu.