Presenter Bios

Mid-Atlantic EPA Team:

Jordan West, Ph.D., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Jordan West, Ph. D., is a Senior Ecologist in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development. Her areas of expertise include wetland and coral reef ecology, climate change impacts and adaptation, resilience and threshold theory, translational science, and human-centered design. Dr. West's research focuses on frameworks and methods for assessing the vulnerabilities of aquatic systems to climate change and developing climate-smart adaptation responses that can be integrated with program planning and structured decision-making processes. She works with National Estuary Programs on vulnerability assessment frameworks and resilience-based management of coastal wetlands, and with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force on climate change adaptation methods for coral reef management. Dr. West has been a regular contributor to National Climate Assessments (NCA) of the interagency U.S. Global Change Research Program and is currently serving as Agency Chapter Lead for the Ecosystems Chapter of the Fifth NCA.

Anna Hamilton, Ph.D., Tetra Tech

Anna Hamilton is an aquatic ecologist at Tetra Tech, Inc. Center for Ecological Sciences, where she has been working with EPA/ORD to develop methods and tools supporting vulnerability and resilience assessment, adaptation planning and decision making. She studies climate change effects on aquatic ecosystems, including biological responses to and indicators of climate change and assessment of implications to water resource management, design of climate change monitoring networks, and assessment of implications to water resource management. Dr. Hamilton designs, manages, and conducts studies of benthic communities in estuaries, streams, rivers, and lakes to characterize conditions and trends, define impacts, and assess watershed health with the goal of supporting environmental management and decision making. She develops biological indices of ecological integrity in both estuarine and stream environments; studies environmental flow needs as determinants of healthy watersheds; and supports wetland restoration planning and impact assessment.

LeeAnn Haaf, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

LeeAnn Haaf is the Wetland Coordinator at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. This means she spends much of her time assessing the health of tidal wetlands, which are important for the good health of the Delaware Estuary. She oversees programs including the Mid Atlantic Coastal Wetland Assessment and helps synthesize scientific data on estuarine processes that contribute to the Delaware Estuary health, which leads to the Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin. Haaf earned both her Bachelor's and her Master's in Environmental Science from Drexel University in 2012. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Drexel University, where she is studying the effects of climate and coastal flooding on low lying forests in the Delaware and Barnegat Bays. While her interests in ecology are diverse, Haaf's professional goal is to help bridge the gap between rigorous scientific research and its implementation to inspire positive environmental change. Haaf resides Quinton, New Jersey and, in her spare time, enjoys horseback riding.

Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech

Jen Stamp is an aquatic ecologist with Tetra Tech's Center for Ecological Sciences, where she has worked since 2007. Since 2010, she has worked closely with USEPA ORD on examining climate change effects on aquatic ecosystems and has helped to design and develop long-term Regional Monitoring Networks (RMNs) to monitor and track climate-related changes in biological, thermal and hydrologic data in freshwater lakes and wadeable streams. These efforts are currently being expanded to include wetlands. For the last several years, she has worked collaboratively with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) on case studies examining vulnerabilities of salt marshes in the lower Delaware Bay to long-term sea level rise (SLR), storm surge and other changing environmental conditions. Prior to working at Tetra Tech, she worked for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Biomonitoring and Aquatic Studies Unit. She received her MS at Ohio University and her BA from Dartmouth College.

New England EPA Team:

Cathleen Wigand, Ph.D., US EPA Narragansett

Cathleen Wigand is a Research Ecologist with the US EPA in Narragansett, Rhode Island, where she has worked for 24 years. She received her PhD from the University of Maryland and conducted postdoctoral research at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York and at the University of Southern Denmark Odense. Her applied research interests span three broad areas: (1) monitoring and assessment of wetland condition and vulnerability; (2) implementation and monitoring of restorative and adaptive measures to build habitat, community, and coastal resiliency; and (3) multiple stressor effects (e.g., eutrophication, climate change, sea level rise, land development) on the structure abatement, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity).

Kate Mulvaney, U.S. EPA ORD

Kate Mulvaney is a social scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection and function of wetlands, and provision of ecosystem services (e.g., water quality maintenance, flood integrating social science into interdisciplinary ecological research efforts. She completed her Ph.D. in natural resources social science at Purdue University with a focus on understanding the management implications of climate change for Great Lakes fisheries. She also holds an M.A. in marine affairs from the University of Rhode Island and a B.S. in marine biology from Roger Williams University. In addition to her research and educational experiences, she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines for three years, a Knauss Fellow in the U.S. State Department's Office of Marine Conservation, and she also worked at Save The Bay, Narragansett Bay, on various habitat conservation projects. Kate lives very close to Narragansett Bay and some of its marshes, which she likes to explore with her rad little family.

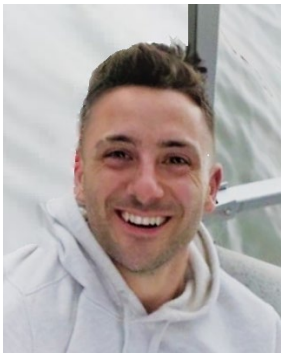
Erin E. Burman, U.S. EPA ORISE Fellow, Atlantic Environmental Sciences Division

Erin Burman is a research fellow through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education at US EPA's Atlantic Environmental Sciences Division in Narragansett, Rhode Island. She studies the social and economic implications of changing coastal wetlands in New England, and is interested in how the well-being of ecosystems and humans intersect. She has a Master of Health Science degree in social factors in health from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Rhodes College.

Simona Trandafir, Ph.D., University of Rhode Island

Dr. Simona Trandafir is an Associate Professor in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics at URI. Her research focuses on non-market valuation, renewable energy, and water quality.

Adam Reilly, Southeast New England Program (SNEP), USEPA Region 1



Adam is a physical scientist and grants project officer for the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) at the US Environmental Protection Agency in Region 1 (New England). SNEP is a geographic program that encompasses three tribal nations, Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts; and works at the community level to find, fund, implement, and amplify innovative solutions to address common environmental challenges. Additionally, Adam serves as the team lead for the SNEP Ecosystem Services subcommittee, the Climate Change Coordinator for the EPA Region 1 Non-point Source Section, and as a member of the EPA Region 1 Environmental Justice (EJ) team, with special emphasis on EJ mapping and regional internal support. His research interests include better understanding and communicating the effects of climate change on community health and wealth, ecosystem service valuation, benefit transfer, carbon markets and crediting initiatives, and science communication.

Nate Merrill, Ph.D., US EPA/ORD Atlantic Coastal Environmental Sciences Division

Dr. Merrill is an environmental economist who studies the costs and benefits of improvements in coastal water quality to support the US EPA's cost-benefit analyses and state and local partner's needs. Through surveys, emerging big data resources, modeling and on-site observations, the cost and benefits of coastal water quality can be quantified, informing policymakers on the effects, in monetary terms, of protecting and improving natural resources in the coastal zone. Through collaboration with ecologists, oceanographers and remote sensing experts, he works to create and test new representations of human behavior and environmental quality at the scales that better match economic methods. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine and a Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston.

Mid-Atlantic Panel:

Pamela Mason, VIMS

Pamela Mason is a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Coastal Resources Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary. She is lead on provision of advisory service at the Center and her research is focuses on natural and nature based features co-benefits and the integration of shoreline decision making in support of coastal community resilience. She is currently co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Wetlands Workgroup working toward the CBP wetland restoration and creation goal. Pam is a member of the Virginia Coastal Policy Team, a Virginia Coastal Zone Management group and is an appointed Board member on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. Pam has a B.A. in Biology from University of Delaware and and M.S. in Marine Science from William and Mary.

Julie Reichert-Nguyen, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Julie Reichert-Nguyen joined the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office in October 2019. She is a Natural Resources Specialist with 18 years of experience in researching and evaluating human impacts on natural resources. She specializes in evaluating climate change and ocean acidification effects on fisheries and aquatic habitats and applying scientific information to inform decisions through Clean Water Act programs. She has a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a M.S. in Environmental Sciences. She currently serves as the coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Program's Climate Resiliency Workgroup, which focuses on monitoring trends and designing strategies to enhance resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay to changing climate conditions and sea level rise.

Breck Sullivan, USGS@CBP

Breck Sullivan is a Physical Scientist at USGS with an interagency agreement with the EPA. She supports the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program as the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Coordinator. STAR focuses on the monitoring, modeling, and analysis needed to explain the health of the Bay. Previously to her position at USGS, she worked for the Chesapeake Research Consortium through the Environmental Management Career Development Program as the STAR staffer at the CBP. She graduated with her Masters in Environmental Monitoring and Modeling from State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in 2018.

Christine Conn, Ph.D., Director, Chesapeake and Coastal Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Since joining the Department in 2000, Christine has spent most of her career developing and managing conservation and restoration policies, strategic plans and decision-support tools to ensure the long-term protection of Maryland's high value natural resources and outdoor recreational assets. Christine believes that healthy natural places are fundamental to healthy communities and economies. She works to translate science and deliver financial and technical resources to decision makers that influence how our natural lands and waters are protected and restored. In turn, these natural places provide critical services to society such as protection from flooding, clean drinking water and bountiful natural resource products and economies. Prior to her career at DNR, Christine taught college level natural resource science for several years after earning two undergraduate degrees in Biology and Business Administration from Towson University, Maryland and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecosystem Sciences from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Josh Moody, Ph.D., Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Joshua Moody, Ph.D. is the Restoration Programs Manager at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. In this role, he manages a variety of projects to meet the region's restoration needs, including the Delaware Estuary Living Shoreline Initiative (DELSI). Moody also helps develop tools and methodologies to identify when and where restoration is appropriate and its potential impacts. In addition, Moody studies shellfish physiology and ecology, including nutrient cycling and sequestration in natural and restored settings, to inform restoration methodologies and maximize shellfish-based ecological services. Moody earned his Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Science from Drexel University (2017), a master of science in Ecology and Geospatial Information Science from Rutgers University (2012), and a bachelor of science in Biology from Temple University (2008). Moody lives in Newark, Delaware with his wife and two children.

New England Panel:

Caitlin Chaffee, Reserve Manager, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Caitlin Chaffee became Manager of the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in 2020 after serving as a policy analyst with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council for 14 years. In both roles her work has focused on the preservation and management of coastal and estuarine natural systems, and protection of the benefits they provide to coastal communities. While at CRMC she served as the agency's Resilience Coordinator, helping to author the state's climate resilience plan, "Resilient Rhody: An actionable vision for addressing climate change impacts in Rhode Island." She has worked closely with state and federal agencies, municipalities and non-governmental partners to identify, plan, fund and implement resilience-focused projects across Rhode Island. Chaffee received her master's degree in environmental science and management from the University of Rhode Island in 2005.

Tom Kutcher, Rhode Island Natural History Survey

Tom Kutcher is a Wetland Scientist with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, housed at the University of Rhode Island. His work focuses on the development of rapid and biological wetland assessment methods and the advancement of wetland conservation and restoration programming for the State of Rhode Island. He is a recent co-author of the Rhode Island's Salt Marsh Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (2016), Coastal Wetland Restoration Strategy (2018), and Salt Marsh Prioritization Framework (2021). Tom has developed and implemented wetland monitoring and assessment methods across Rhode Island, and is currently involved in developing a Restoration, Assessment, and Monitoring Program (RAMP) to help organize salt marsh restoration science and practices in the state and regionally. Tom lives and recreates along the shores of Narragansett Bay with his marine-biologist wife and two salty kids.

Courtney Schmidt, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Courtney has served as the Staff Scientist of NBEP since 2014. She started her career at NBEP by shepherding the organization and writing of the State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed, a 500-page report detailing the status and trends of 24 environmental indicators for the Watershed with a team of 63 organizations, colleagues, and NBEP staff. She now manages a diverse portfolio of scientific projects and programs, collaborates with regional partners to synthesize data, fill data gaps, identify research needs, and manages the implementation of projects. She coordinates the Internship Program, supporting NBEP programs and provides meaningful learning experiences for students. Courtney holds a Master's and Ph.D degrees from the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, and a Bachelor's of Science from the University of Tampa. She navigates life through drinking tea, getting lost in the woods, and a healthy dose of dirt (sometimes all three simultaneously).

Rachel Calabro, Rhode Island Department of Health

Rachel Calabro is the Climate Change and Health Program Manager at the Rhode Island Department of Health. In that role, Rachel helps Rhode Islanders prepare for the health effects of climate change through education, research, and supporting policy changes that help communities become more resilient. Rachel has been studying climate change and its effects for many years working in both state government and the non-profit sector as an environmental scientist. She has a master's degree in Geology from the University of Rhode Island and a bachelor's degree from William Smith College.

Workshop Support Team

Joseph Siegel, U.S. EPA Region 2

Joe Siegel has been an attorney in Region 2's Office of Regional Counsel, Air Branch, for 35 years. He also co-chairs the Region 2 Climate Change Workgroup and runs the Region's Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution Program, serves on the Mid-Atlantic Federal Climate Partners Steering Committee and the National Cross-EPA Adaptation Workgroup. Joe also teaches Climate Adaptation and the Law at Haub School of Law at Pace University and Environmental Dispute Resolution at Hofstra Law School. In addition, Joe co-chaired the ADR Committee and the Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Ecosystems Committee of the ABA's Section of Environment and Energy Resources. His international work includes serving as Education Chair for Mediators Beyond Borders International's Climate Change Project, an Advisor to Better Climate Governance, participation in a climate change initiative called Adaptation Without Borders, and attendance at UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COP) meetings. Joe has also facilitated a wide range of multi-stakeholder environmental matters including, among others, formation of the New York/New Jersey Federal Climate Partners, strategic planning for a HUD/DOT/EPA sustainability partnership, the Long Island Smart Growth Resiliency Partnership, an environmental justice initiative of multiple federal agencies in Region 2, the Long Island Sound Study Partnership, a brownfields and resilience partnership, and numerous other meetings on climate change and other topics.

Joan Johnson, U.S. EPA Region 3

Joan is an Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution (ECCR) Specialist and a Senior Assistant Regional Counsel in Region 3. In addition to providing collaboration and dispute resolution support services to Region 3, Joan presents ECCR-related skills training to EPA staff.

Adrianna Berk, Tetra Tech

Adrianna Berk is an environmental scientist and public outreach specialist with Tetra Tech. She manages and develops numerous outreach products in addition to managing logistics and facilitation of in-person and virtual public meetings, trainings, and workshops for federal, state, and local government clients.