



SPEAKER BIOS

PSMFC 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Ryan Kanaka'ole, Chairperson, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. Ryan was raised in the Ka'ū district of Hawai'i Island. He serves as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Throughout his public service career - as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawai'i, Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i, First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and now Chairperson of the Board - he has worked at the intersection of law, public policy, and stewardship. Much of his career has focused on the State's trust obligations to Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai'i. He serves on Governor Josh Green's Advisory Committee on Military Leased Lands and is a member of the State's Public Land Trust Working Group, contributing to discussions on the future of Hawai'i's public trust lands.

Jennifer Quan, West Coast Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries. Jen began service as the Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region in April 2023. In over 27 years of working on West Coast natural resources issues, she benefits from diverse perspectives gained during her time with state and federal governments, the U.S. Senate, and from working with Pacific Northwest tribes. Her career includes experience across a broad spectrum of West Coast fisheries issues ranging from dolphin conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, to research on Blue and Humpback Whales in California, the study of tribal harvest on Gray Whales, Pacific fisheries management, salmon recovery, and Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations. Prior to working for the U.S. Senate, she worked for NOAA's Fisheries West Coast Region where she supervised the south Puget Sound Branch of the Oregon/Washington Coastal Office. Before coming to NOAA, she spent 10 years at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in various roles. Jen is a fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute and holds a master's degree in marine Affairs from University of Washington and a Bachelor of Science from Evergreen State College.

Jon Kurland, Alaska Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries. Jon Kurland is the Alaska Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. He oversees the regulation and management of sustainable fisheries that produce about 60% of the seafood caught in U.S. waters, contributing more than \$15 billion to the national economy and supporting the nation's food security. He also oversees programs to conserve marine mammals and habitats that contribute to healthy ecosystems and support a robust tourism industry as well as vital subsistence uses by Alaska Natives. He previously served in three other senior leadership roles in the Alaska Region:

Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, and Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources. Before moving to Alaska, Jon was the national Essential Fish Habitat Coordinator based at NOAA Fisheries' headquarters office, and prior to that he worked in the habitat program in NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Region (now called the Greater Atlantic Region).

Sarah Malloy, Pacific Islands Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries. Ms. Malloy has over 25 years of experience in natural resource management and policymaking. She currently serves as the Deputy Regional Administrator for the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Honolulu, HI. Ms. Malloy began her career as a natural resource economist, analyzing the economic impacts of natural resource policies in areas such as endangered species, clean air and water, and oil spill control and response. She then moved to NMFS to work on marine resource economics and policy in the Pacific Islands and also served as the strategic planner for NMFS's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. In 2014, Ms. Malloy joined PIRO as the Deputy and currently manages approximately 100 staff supporting marine resource management in the western Pacific.

Evan Howell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Scientific Programs, NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Evan Howell serves as the Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries. In this role, he directs NOAA Fisheries' initiatives to deliver the scientific basis for sustainable fisheries and ecosystems and to advance the nation's objectives of eliminating overfishing, restoring fish populations, safeguarding critical species, and conserving essential habitats. In addition, he presides over the strategic planning, development, and administration of a complex scientific portfolio encompassing both fundamental and applied research. He holds oversight of NOAA's six regional Fisheries Science Centers, comprising 24 laboratories and field stations, as well as the Office of Science and Technology. Previously, Dr. Howell held the position of Director of the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, where he led the collaborative prioritization and execution of science activities for the agency. During his tenure there he led the redesign of the Recreational Fishing Data Collection Federal-State Partnership, the creation of a National Survey and Data Acquisition program to optimize funding and prioritization for fishery-independent surveys, and other significant projects. Prior to this, he served as the Deputy Director, a Supervisory Operations Research Analyst, and a Research Oceanographer for the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, where his work and research over a 23-year period focused on critical habitat and potential climate impacts on highly migratory and protected species within the central North Pacific ecosystem.

Edward "Luna" Kekoa, Ecosystem Management Program Manager, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. Luna Kekoa received the 2023 Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Outstanding Leadership Award for his contributions to community-based natural resource management and conservation in the state.

Samuel D. Rauch III, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA Fisheries. Mr. Rauch is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs. Mr. Rauch oversees NOAA Fisheries' regulatory actions and programs, including those to support the conservation and recovery of marine mammals and endangered species; ensure economically and biologically sustainable fisheries; and promote habitat stewardship through restoration and conservation. Coordination of the NOAA Fisheries' aquaculture activities and outreach, and the agency's National Environmental Policy Act programs are also under his purview. From 2004 to 2006, he served as the Assistant General Counsel for Fisheries where he supervised a team of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff responsible for providing legal counsel to NOAA Fisheries. He also served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs at NOAA Fisheries since 2006. Prior to joining NOAA, Mr. Rauch served as a trial attorney and the Assistant Section Chief for the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Rauch holds a J.D. from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, an M.S. from the University of Georgia, and a B.A. from the University of Virginia. He has also received many honors during his career, including NOAA General Counsel Awards (1998, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2010); Department of Justice Special Achievement Awards (1997, 1998, 2000, 2002); and Department of Commerce Gold Medal (2007), Bronze Medal (2011), and the Presidential Rank Award (2011).

David Sakoda, Fisheries Program Manager, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. David is the Fisheries Program Manager for the State of Hawaii, Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). He oversees DAR's commercial and recreational fisheries programs and serves as DAR's legislative and administrative rulemaking coordinator. Since 2020, David has served as the state agency representative on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. David is a 2010 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law with a certificate in Environmental Law, and he holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Wheaton College. He is also an avid free-dive spearfisherman and ocean enthusiast, with a passion for sustainable fisheries management.

Scott Rumsey, Senior Program Manager. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Scott joined PSMFC in January 2026. He was previously with the West Coast Region of NOAA Fisheries for 24 years, serving most recently as Acting Regional Administrator and Deputy Regional Administrator. Scott has a BS in Biology with a Marine Emphasis from UCLA, and a PhD in Biological Oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Rob Ames, Senior IT-Database Software Specialist. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Rob Ames works at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and has more than 25 years of experience in fisheries, including more than 15 years in database development and analytical work. His work focuses on modernizing fisheries data systems and applying new technologies, including machine learning and generative AI, to address practical fisheries management challenges. He develops databases, reporting products, and analytical tools that support scientists, managers, and partner agencies.

Gordon Smith, Coordinator, Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership. Gordon graduated from Oregon State University and went on to the University of Hawaii for graduate school. I've worked on conservation of streams, estuaries, and coral reefs in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands for most of my career. The National Fish Habitat Partnership inspires me. My day-to-day activities are mostly with landowners, non-profits, and non-federal agencies. I enjoy working with a new group of cooperators each grant cycle. My favorite part of the Partnership is seeing on-the-ground conservation projects implemented!

Kalani Quiocho, Director Marine Program on Hawai'i Island, The Nature Conservancy. Kalani holds a PhD in marine biology and spent several years as a fisheries observer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Bryan Ishida, Aquatic Biologist, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. Bryan's areas of focus include commercial and non-commercial fisheries of Hawai'i, State fishing regulations and rulemaking, fishery licensing and permitting, and commercial reporting. Before moving back home to Hawaii in 2018, Bryan spent nearly a decade working for the Yakama Nation Fisheries Program in Central Washington. He is a fisherman, hunter, and proud father.

Gil Kualii, Commercial Fisherman. Gil is a PSMFC Commissioner for the State of Hawaii and the vice-chair of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Advisory Panel.

Barry Thom, Executive Director, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Barry joined PSMFC in April 2022. He was previously the West Coast Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Barry began his career as a research biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and moved to NOAA Fisheries in 2001.

Josh Tucker, Project Manager, West Pacific Electronic Monitoring Program, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Josh joined PSMFC in 2025 as the West Pacific Electronic Monitoring (EM) Project Manager, supporting the full implementation of EM in the Hawaii longline fishery. He previously worked on the R&D EM program with CIMAR at PIFSC and first entered the industry in 2012 as a fisheries observer and later a debriefer. Outside of work, Josh enjoys spending time with his family on Windward Oahu and kayak fishing whenever he gets the chance.

Eugenio Piñeiro Soler, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries. Mr. Piñeiro Soler oversees NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency responsible for managing our nation's marine fisheries and conserving protected marine species. Mr. Piñeiro Soler worked in fisheries management for 30 years as a successful commercial fisherman, fisheries captain, and entrepreneur in his home island of Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean. Mr. Piñeiro Soler has been part of multiple oceanic conservation and administrative organizations. These include the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, for which he served as Chair from 2001 to 2010, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the International Whaling Commission, and the Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee. In the first Trump Administration, Mr.

Piñeiro Soler served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Radford University, followed by his Juris Doctor from the Catholic University Law School of Puerto Rico.

Sebastian O'Kelly, Consultant, Robertson, Monagle & Eastaugh. Sebastian has over thirty-five years of experience in Washington, DC, serving in both the executive and legislative branches, as well as working in government relations. His background covers a broad range of issues, with a particular expertise in natural resources, appropriations, maritime, fisheries, transportation, energy, and space issues. O'Kelly is partner and co-owner of Robertson, Monagle & Eastaugh LLC, providing advocacy services and counsel to the firm's maritime, fisheries, and local government clients, with previous service of over twenty years to the firm as a consultant. Previously, he served for two years as ombudsman to the Secretary of Commerce, providing independent views on high profile natural resource and marine fisheries issues.

O'Kelly's legislative experience spanned nearly a decade as professional staff on the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs serving Senator John Glenn. During the latter part of his tenure, he served as the Senator's primary advisor on space and technology issues. Early in his Washington career, he was an economic researcher and writer for a trade association and a branch of the Agency for International Development. O'Kelly graduated from Duke University with a bachelor's degree in economics related to Pacific Ocean marine resources at both the state and federal level. He resides in Bethesda, MD with his wife Elizabeth and has two grown children. He is coauthor of *The Offbeat Angler*. In his spare time, he fly fishes and teaches fitness classes.

Nate Pamplin, Director of External Affairs, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Nate serves as a Commissioner to the PSMFC on behalf of the director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). He has worked for WDFW since 2006 in various roles, including leading the agency's Wildlife Program and serving as the Policy Director. In his current position, Nate represents the director on numerous intergovernmental forums, including the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. He has a BS in Zoology and an MS in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University (OSU). He also conducted graduate studies in Biological Oceanography at OSU. Before joining WDFW, Nate worked as a wildlife biologist for the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona and as a marine mammal biologist for the Makah Tribe in Washington state. He was born and raised in Alaska and resides in Olympia, WA.

Rachel Baker, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Rachel represents the State of Alaska's interests in federal fisheries management issues, including participation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on behalf of the Commissioner. Rachel has more than 15 years of experience working to develop and implement fisheries policy and management programs for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries of Alaska. Prior to joining the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in early 2019, Rachel worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau as an analyst and regulatory specialist for Alaska's federal halibut, groundfish and crab fisheries. Rachel began her fisheries career as an economist with the ADF&G and later worked as an analyst and fishery manager for the New Zealand

Ministry of Fisheries and for the National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters office in the Washington, DC area.

Jim Fredericks, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Jim is currently the director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He was raised in northern Idaho where he grew up engaged in a range of outdoor pursuits. He attended the University of Idaho for his undergraduate education, earning a B.A. in psychology in 1988. After working in a psychiatric hospital for a year, he changed course and returned to the University of Idaho and earned an M.S. in Fishery Resources in 1994. Since that time, he's worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, serving the agency as a Fishery Biologist, Regional Fishery Manager, Chief of the Fisheries Bureau, and Deputy Director. He has served in leadership roles with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the American Fisheries Society.

Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mike began his career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2008. He has held various biologist roles in the Bend and Klamath areas, has managed all fish and wildlife programs for various watersheds and acted as the ODFW East Region Manager before being asked to lead the Fish Division. He has a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Wyoming and a MS from the University of Vermont, where he researched the use of sex pheromones in sea lamprey management. In 2015, Mike was recruited into ODFW's leadership development program where he managed fish and wildlife field programs in the John Day watershed and then acted as the Deputy Director. Mike is also a member of the 2022 Leadership Oregon cohort. Mike and his wife Bethany are currently raising their three sons and daughter in Silverton, OR. Much of his spare time is spent coaching youth wrestling and watching swim meets and soccer. When there is time, the family enjoys exploring Oregon's mountain lakes.

Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Dr. Craig Shuman is the Marine Region Manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife where he leads the department's marine science and policy programs. In this role, he advances statewide marine and coastal conservation priorities and oversees high level coordination with federal, state, regional, and Tribal partners to support resilient ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. He holds a doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering from UCLA and a master's degree in Biology from UC Santa Barbara. Before joining CDFW, Dr. Shuman served as Marine Advisor to the California Fish and Game Commission and held leadership positions in both the nonprofit and consulting sectors, directing initiatives in coastal restoration, water quality, community science, corporate sustainability, and strategic communications.

Brian Neilson, Division of Aquatic Resources Administrator, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. With over 25 years of experience in natural resources management, Brian has worked across Oregon, Alaska, and Hawai'i. For the past 15 years, Neilson has focused on nearshore fisheries, aquatic invasive species, coral reef and estuarine management and restoration in Hawai'i. A strong advocate for collaborative stewardship, Neilson prioritizes

community engagement and partnerships with local communities, fishers, cultural practitioners, and nonprofit organizations. Under his leadership, DAR has expanded efforts to support community-based management and co-management approaches that integrate traditional knowledge with modern science. Neilson began his career as a Fisheries Technician and Biologist in Oregon and Alaska. He holds both undergraduate and master's degrees in Fisheries Science and Management from Oregon State University. His work continues to support the sustainable management and protection of Hawai'i's unique aquatic resources through inclusive, science-based decision-making.

Jeremy Rusin, Science Director, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries.

Jeremy has served as the Acting Science Director for the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) since May 2025. In this role, he leads a diverse staff that provide the science necessary to conserve marine and anadromous species and their habitats off the West Coast and in freshwater rivers of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Jeremy's experience at NOAA spans over 25 years. After first serving as an observer on commercial fishing vessels, he was hired to lead domestic and international fisheries management and implementation of the Tuna Conventions Act. For the next 12 years Jeremy oversaw several research programs at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA. In these roles, he provided technical expertise in support of U.S. interests in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and in trade dispute settlement hearings in the World Trade Organization. He also built cohesive teams providing science operations support for a variety of Center research programs. Prior to joining NWFSC, Jeremy served as the Deputy Science Director for six years at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Jeremy earned a B.S. in Biology from Davidson College and a Master's in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.

Kristen Koch, Director, NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries.

Ms. Koch is currently the Science and Research Director of NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center where she has served in the role since 2018. She has held various positions with NOAA for nearly three decades. In her external roles, Kristen has represented the SWFSC and NOAA Fisheries at meetings of national and international science and management bodies including the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the International Scientific Committee, and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, among others. Prior to being named Director of the Southwest Center, she served as the Deputy Science and Research Director of the Center from 2009-2018. Before her time at SWFSC, Ms. Koch held multiple positions in NOAA Headquarters. She has also served in several temporary assignments in NOAA, including a stint as Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries.

Jamal Moss, Director, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Jamal Moss performs the duties and functions of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center director. Jamal joined NOAA in 2003 and spent the first 20 years of his career serving as a Research Fisheries Biologist and the Deputy Division Director for the Auke Bay Laboratories at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Since 2023 he has served as the Deputy Regional Administrator for the Alaska Region. Jamal is a graduate of the NOAA West Leadership Program. He has a degree in biology from

Connecticut College and a master's and doctorate degree from the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences.

Charles Littnan, Director, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Littnan is the Science and Research Director for NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i, where he leads a multidisciplinary science enterprise supporting the stewardship of fisheries, protected species, and marine ecosystems across the vast U.S. Pacific Islands region. A marine biologist with 25 years of experience in marine mammal and sea turtle science, he has spent his career connecting rigorous science with real-world conservation and management challenges. As Director, he works closely with NOAA's Pacific Islands Regional Office and partners throughout the region to ensure that science informs sustainable fisheries, marine resource stewardship, and the long-term health of Pacific ecosystems. Dr. Littnan was the Protected Species Division Director at the Center from 2017 - 2023. In 2015, he stepped in as the acting Deputy Director at the Center for several months. From 2007 to 2017, he led the Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program within the Protected Species Division. He has also authored or coauthored more than 50 scientific and technical papers and is credited with pioneering and implementing an innovative research and conservation program for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. He holds a PhD in environmental science from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Ecology from Texas A&M University.