Porfirio Alvarez Torres, Ph.D., Director for Regional Integration, SEMARNAT-MEXICO

Dr. Porfirio Alvarez Torres is the Director for Regional Integration, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT-MEXICO). He obtained a biology degree from the Metropolitan Autonomous University of Mexico and a doctorate in Fisheries Science from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology of Japan. Currently he is serving as Director for Regional Integration at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico. His duties include evaluation, design and implementation of management strategies and policies for the conservation of marine natural resources and the integrated management of coastal areas. Dr. Alvarez leads the process for the Sea and Land Use Planning in all coastal areas of Mexico. He leads the construction and instrumentation of the National Environmental Policy for Oceans and Coasts. He also leads the construction of the Binational Project Large Marine Ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico project between Mexico and the US. Dr. Alvarez is developing Mexico’s ocean policy under the ecosystem management approach. He is advisor to the National Interministerial Commission for the Sustainable Development of Oceans and Coasts (CIMARES) and represents Mexico at UN and other international conventions related to ocean and coastal issues.

Sibel Bargu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State Univ.

Dr. Sibel Bargu entered the graduate program at the University of California, Santa Cruz campus (UCSC), where she completed her Masters degree on the trace metal affinities of marine diatoms with Dr. Ken Bruland. She then switched directions slightly to work with Dr. Mary Silver on the ecology of toxic algal blooms for her PhD at the same institution. Since September 2006, Dr. Bargu is working at the Louisiana State University, Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences as a tenured-track faculty studying the trends in phytoplankton populations to address the causes of the apparent increase in harmful algae. Her main research efforts are: (1) to understand the physical and chemical conditions that initiates and promotes major algal blooms, specifically toxic Pseudo-nitzschia and toxic cyanobacteria, (2) to determine what controls their toxicity in a large river plume, thus complicating efforts to control outbreaks, and (3) to examine the extent to which phytoplankton are permeating aquatic food webs. Her research specifically focuses on toxic Pseudo-nitzschia ecology including food web contamination by its toxin.

Meridith Byrd, HAB Response Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Meridith Byrd is the HAB Response Coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). She graduated from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi with a B.S. in Marine Science. Meridith began her career with Texas Parks and Wildlife in 2001 and has served as the agency's HAB Response Coordinator since 2004. Meridith leads the
interagency Texas HAB Workgroup, represents TPWD on various committees, and is a member of the TPWD Kills and Spills Team. She works with managers, researchers, and other agencies during HAB events to obtain a broad understanding of bloom distribution and dynamics.

Scott L. Cross, Ph.D., East Coast Liaison, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDDC at Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research
Dr. Scott L. Cross is the Southeast Atlantic Coast Liaison for NESDIS/National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC), a group that provides access to the nation’s coastal data resources through the worldwide web. He is stationed at NOAA’s Center for Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research in Charleston, SC. As a regional Liaison, Scott is working with many partners to identify data sets of regional and national importance for inclusion into the NCDDC data catalog, which forms the basis of the group’s web data portal. He is also interested in developing software tools to aid in data management and analysis for the coastal ecosystem-management community.

Scott comes to NOAA after a total of 11 years in the Navy oceanography community. The last 6 years were with the Naval Oceanographic Office, working on various problems related to operational ocean modeling and prediction.

Scott’s educational background reflects interests that range across the earth and ocean sciences. Scott earned a Ph.D. from Duke University studying ancient climate change in South America as recorded in the sediments of Lake Titicaca. He holds a M.S. in oceanography from Texas A&M and a B.S. in geology from the University of Alabama.

Carol Dorsey, Supervisor, Alabama Department of Public Health, Mobile Division Laboratory
Carol Dorsey is a graduate of Auburn University with a B.S. in microbiology. She began her employment with the public health laboratories 30 years ago, with eighteen of those years involving phytoplankton analysis in the Northern Gulf. She now serves as the supervisor of the Environmental Branch of Mobile Division Laboratory, the Alabama Department of Public Health laboratory in Mobile, Alabama. As supervisor, she is responsible for the analysis of Shellfish Growing Waters for compliance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, recreational waters under the BEACH act, Drinking Waters, Phytoplankton, Rabies and facilities management for the laboratory. Her initial training in the identification of phytoplankton was provided by the then Florida Marine Research Institute under Dr. Karen Steidinger and her associates. She serves as the HAB Public Health Coordinator in Alabama heading a team of state and county personnel representing environmentalists, emergency preparedness, area administrators, and public information officers.

Janice Fleischer, J.D., Principal, FLASH Resolutions
Janice M. Fleischer is the principal of FLASH RESOLUTIONS, which opened in October 2004. Ms. Fleischer practiced law from 1978 until 1990 when she began a full time Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) practice. She is a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator, a qualified mediation trainer, and has developed and designed both Basic and Intermediate Facilitation training programs. Ms. Fleischer has extensive experience in meeting design and facilitation with over 15 years in the field of public policy with a specialty in
environmental matters and a sub-specialty working with groups dealing with water issues. She has designed and facilitated public outreach programs as well as multi-year projects. Ms. Fleischer is often called in to assist groups that have not had previous success in accomplishing their work.

Ms. Fleischer was the sole facilitator of the South Miami Dade Watershed Study Advisory Committee from its inception to its end (approximately a 6 year effort) resulting in the South Miami Dade Watershed Plan which has just been given the 2007 Award of Excellence by FAPA. She has published articles on group facilitation and public policy conflict prevention/resolution. Her website is: www.flashresolutions.com

Cindy Heil, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, Harmful Algal Bloom Program, Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Dr. Cynthia Heil is a Senior Research Scientist and Red Tide Group Leader at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission in St. Petersburg, Florida where she oversees a staff of 25 people responsible for conducting research on and monitoring harmful algal blooms, including red tides in Florida. She received an MS degree from the University of South Florida studying Florida red tide and a PhD from the University of Rhode Island in 1996 for research on the nutrition of different types of harmful microalgae. After a post-doctorate appointment at the University of Queensland, Australia where she worked on the development of new methods to assess water quality, she returned to Florida to study red tide at the University of South Florida (USF)’s College of Marine Science from 1998 to 2003. She joined the staff of FWC in November 2003, and remains on faculty at USF. While her research focuses on harmful algae, nutrients and water quality, her research group at FWC studies topics ranging from red tide toxins to taxonomy to new technology development to the potential impacts of Everglades restoration on coastal algal blooms.

David Heil, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Division of Aquaculture, FL Dept. of Agriculture and Community Services

Dr. David Heil is the Assistant Director of the Division of Aquaculture with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Major duties include public health protection related to molluscan shellfish in Florida for over 30 years. David has been involved in the implementation of new laws and regulations on both state and national levels. He has served on many state and national task forces and committees to facilitate public awareness regarding seafood safety. David received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Science from Florida State University, a Master of Public Health Degree in Environmental Health Sciences from Tulane University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Public Administration and Policy from Florida State University.

Jorge Hererra Silveira, Ph.D., Profesor Titular, CINVESTAV-IPN Unidad Mérida

Dr. Jorge Herrera is a Titular Professor in the Marine Resources Department of the CINVESTAV-IPN Unidad Mérida, Mexico, where he has been on the faculty since 1989. He received his Ph.D. (1993) and M.Sc. (1988) in Marine Biology and his B. A. in Biology (1983). Jorge established the Primary Production Laboratory at his institution. He is interested in the factors and processes related to spatial and temporal variations of the primary production in tropical coastal ecosystems and has published on a wide range of
topics, including ecosystem health indicators, phytoplankton-hydrology interactions, eutrophication, nutrient dynamic and water quality indicators in tropical coastal lagoons, mangrove and seagrasses ecology/restoration, and phytoplankton and hydrological characterization of sink-holes. He applies his understanding of ecosystem health assessments with management strategies to harmful algal blooms and the impact of natural events as hurricanes on the ecological stability of the ecosystems. Jorge coordinates the HABs working group in Yucatan that includes research and monitoring programs and collaborations with public and government organizations as well as education institutions. Jorge is part of a multidisciplinary group which conducts a long-term ecosystem research program on Processes and Management of the Coastal Zone of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Jorge is coordinator of the ECOPEY group which is part of the LTER-Mexican net. Jorge’s working group maintains an international research and training program in collaboration with Professors from USA, Venezuela, Canada and Spain.

Ann Jochens, Ph.D., Regional Coordinator, Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association, and Research Scientist, Texas A&M University
Dr. Ann E. Jochens is a Research Scientist in Oceanography at Texas A&M University. She came to physical oceanography as a mathematician/statistician (B.S.) and attorney (J.D.) with extensive experience in environmental, safety, and permitting in the oil and gas and minerals industries. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography at Texas A&M University. For nearly 20 years, Jochens has been a Principal Investigator on studies of the circulation and water properties over the Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida shelves and in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. On each of these multi-institutional, interdisciplinary studies, she also served as Program Manager or Deputy Program Manager in charge of all aspects of the studies. Jochens was awarded the Minerals Management Service 2009 Offshore Leadership Award for her work as the Principal Investigator and Program Manager for a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional study of Gulf of Mexico sperm whales, their habitat, and their response to anthropogenic noise. She also is the Regional Coordinator for the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association (GCOOS-RA) that is building an operational observing system for the Gulf of Mexico as part of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System. She is a co-Principal Investigator on an ocean observing system project off Oman. Jochens has participated in over 10 oceanographic expeditions, has over 60 publications, reports, and abstracts, and has served on 13 graduate student committees. She has been principal or co-principal investigator on 15 sponsored projects funded for approximately $35M. Her research interests are processes at the boundary of coastal and open oceans; Gulf of Mexico physical oceanography; integration of physical and biogeochemical measurements, both in situ and remotely sensed, for analysis of circulation and property transports through the ecosystem with emphasis on coastal environments; meso- and large-scale ocean circulation and property distributions, with emphasis on shelf and slope processes; development of coastal ocean observing systems; ocean law and policy; and research planning and management.

Gary Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., Program Manager, Phytoplankton Ecology Program, Mote Marine Laboratory
Dr. Gary Kirkpatrick is a senior scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory and manager of the Phytoplankton Ecology Program. His graduate degrees in Marine Science are from the
North Carolina State University at Raleigh. His graduate studies focused on the physiological ecology of marine phytoplankton. The Phytoplankton Ecology Program has maintained a 12 year study of the phytoplankton community structure on the west Florida shelf utilizing HPLC pigment analyses. More recently he has been involved in the development and deployment of automated, optical-based harmful algal bloom detection technology and management of the Sarasota Operations of the Coastal Ocean Observation Laboratories (SO COOL).

Jan Landsberg, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Fish and Wildlife Health, Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Dr. Jan Landsberg is a Research Scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida. She has been with the agency since 1989. Jan received her Ph.D. in Fish Health from London University, England in 1981. From 1982-1987, Dr. Landsberg worked at the Fish Disease Laboratory, Nir-David, Israel. In 1988 she conducted aquatic animal health research at the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. At FWC, Dr. Landsberg has investigated disease and mortality events affecting Florida’s marine, estuarine, and freshwater resources, and has provided health support to FWC’s aquaculture and stock enhancement operations. Research projects have included seagrass, corals, shellfish, fish, sea turtle, birds, and marine mammal diseases and mortalities, ecosystem health monitoring, and the impacts of harmful algal blooms on aquatic organisms. Dr. Landsberg has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers on aquatic animal health/harmful algal blooms.

Hugh MacIntyre, Ph.D., Senior Marine Scientist, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and Assistant Professor, University of South Alabama
Dr. Hugh MacIntyre’s training is in microalgal physiology and ecology (PhD in Oceanography). Prior work includes modeling blooms of the Brown Tide Aureococcus anophagaefferens on Long Island, NY, based on their physiological responses to variations in benthic-pelagic coupling. Current work focuses on the effects of variable groundwater discharge on dynamics of Pseudo-nitzschia and bloom-forming dinoflagellates in two shallow bays, and development of spectral fluorescence techniques for real-time monitoring of microalgal community structure.

Nancy Rabalais, Ph.D., Executive Director and Professor of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
Dr. Nancy N. Rabalais’ research interests include the dynamics of hypoxic environments, interactions of large rivers with the coastal ocean, estuarine and coastal eutrophication, and science policy. She has published three books, 30 book chapters and over 90 refereed articles. Dr. Rabalais is an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, a National Associate of The National Academies, past Chair of the Ocean Studies Board, a Past President of the Estuarine Research Federation and an Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Fellow. She earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Texas and her B.S. and M.S. from Texas A & I University, Kingsville. She has been at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium since 1983, where she is now Executive Director.
Bradley Randall, Biological Program Coordinator, Shellfish Bureau, MS Dept. of Marine Resources

Bradley Randall is Biological Program Coordinator for the Shellfish Bureau of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), a position he has held for the past five years. His primary duties include managing the state’s oyster resources through monitoring and assessment of the oyster stocks, maintaining water quality standards with sanitary surveys and oyster reef restoration. He is currently the HAB information coordinator for Mississippi and a member of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Council Oyster Technical Task Force. He helped develop the Mississippi Marine Biotoxin Contingency Plan for all Marine and Estuarine Shellfish Growing Areas. Prior to joining the MDMR, he worked 13 years as an oyster research biologist at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Mr. Randall has a B.S. in ecology from Morehead State University.

Andy Reich, Coordinator, Aquatic Toxins Program, FL Dept. of Health

Andy Reich has been the Program Coordinator for the Aquatics Toxin Program within the Division of Environmental Health at the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in Tallahassee, FL, since 2004. His duties include the coordination of public health response, epidemiologic and research activities of the Aquatic Toxins Program in the Division of Environmental Health (DEH). He is the public health representative on the National Harmful Algal Bloom Committee and the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS). He is the Chair of the GCOOS-RA Standing Task Force on Public Health. His major focus is to describe public health impacts from HABs including Florida red tide, Ciguatera Fish Poisoning, Saxitoxin Fish Poisoning, and Cyanobacteria related illness. The Aquatic Toxins Program was recently awarded a grant from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the development and deployment of a federal HAB illness surveillance system (HABISS).

Mr. Reich served as Environmental Manager in the Drinking Water Toxics Program (1990-2004) and as Biological Administrator in the Bureau of Toxicology and Hazard Assessment (1988-1990) of the FDOH-DEH, as well as Environmental Specialist in the Environmental Hazards Epidemiology staff of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (1984-1988).

Mr. Reich has a Master’s of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham as well as a Master’s in Medical Science from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Michelle Tomlinson, Oceanographer, NOAA National Ocean Service

Michelle Tomlinson (Shelly) has been an Oceanographer with the Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, National Ocean Service, NOAA since 2002. Her current research focuses on the application of satellite-derived ocean color sensors (SeaWiFS, MODIS, MERIS) to detect, monitor, and forecast the occurrence of harmful algal blooms. This work has led to the development of an operational forecast system for harmful *Karenia brevis* blooms in the Gulf of Mexico. Shelly also represents NOAA as the lead on the bi-national (US-Mexico) project on HABs. Current research involves the detection of cyanobacterial blooms from MERIS, and the development of a detection/forecast system
for *Microcystis* spp. in western Lake Erie. She received her B.S. in Marine Science Biology from Southampton College of Long Island University, and a M.S. in Oceanography from Old Dominion University.

**Steve Wolfe, Program Administrator, GOMA Water Quality Team Coordinator, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection**

Steve Wolfe is a Program Administrator with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Water Quality Team Coordinator for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA). His interests include coordination of coastal monitoring and modeling in the waters around Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, including water quality, pathogens, and HABs.

Past lives include Team Lead for the GOMA Water Quality Team, State Co-Lead for the GOMA Nutrients Team, Liaison for the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council and the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council, member of Florida’s HAB Task Force, and FDEP representative to the Florida Bay and Adjacent Marine Systems Interagency Science Program Management Committee. He spent many years in the FDEP Central Biology Laboratory, including stints as an ecotoxicologist and in ecological risk assessment, bioassessment-methods development, and providing technical support in experimental design and data analysis for FDEP programs. He ended his tenure there as the Biology Laboratory Administrator, despite his past transgressions. He previously spent periods in spiny lobster aquaculture, boatbuilding, and as crew on an oceanographic research vessel. Mr. Wolfe has a B.S. in marine biology and an M.S. in biological oceanography from FSU.