NOAA FISHERIES

Panelist Biographies

2018 Habitat Enterprise Fish Passage Program Review

Adrian Jordaan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Fish Population Ecology and Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Jordaan joined the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass) in September 2012 after serving as adjunct Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University (SBU), as well as a consultant on a number of research projects. His research employs quantitative modeling and statistical approaches to understand ecological patterns and life processes in marine, near-shore and freshwater systems. He is particularly interested in the sometimes subtle links between ecosystems that are critical for sustaining ecological communities and human resources. From an applied perspective, understanding anthropogenic and natural variation within aquatic and marine animal populations helps to develop effective regulatory, restoration, and social options for cross boundary ecosystem management.

Mapping the spatial distribution of fish populations and using this information to design area-based protection has been a primary research theme for the last ten years. Recently, Jordaan has been investigating how multi-species interactions form species assemblages and biodiversity gradients. In particular, he has been exploring how the movements of anadromous fish, which are generally at low historical abundance, extend their interactions across distinct ecological regions. This calls into question the nature of boundaries between natural systems. Exploring ecosystem permeability and connectivity has clear implications for management and also for understanding a world in which natural boundaries are increasingly uncertain.

Jeremy Pratt, Vice President and Hydro Market Director, TRC

Jeremy Pratt is a Market Director in TRC's hydro regulatory practice. Jeremy and has more than 30 years of experience in hydro licensing and license compliance in California and the Pacific Northwest. He has managed new license applications under the Traditional Licensing Process, relicensing work under the Traditional and Integrated Licensing Processes, license surrender applications, dam removal assessments including NEPA and state-level environmental review, 401 water quality certificate applications, hydro project right of way agreements on federal lands, hydro settlement agreement processes, review of FERC hydro NEPA compliance, defense of hydro projects in appeal, evaluation of new hydro projects, and technical work in all resource areas required for hydro licensing. He advises private hydro developers on sites and projects in the West, Midwest, and internationally, and provides assistance in developing financial backing and participation in their projects. A particular interest has been in facilitating the development of watershed scale hydro licensing.

Throughout his career Jeremy has focused on managing controversial projects to resolve long-standing resource conflicts in complex regulatory environments. His unique ability to combine a multi-disciplinary planning and science background with skills in facilitation, regulatory compliance, and large project management keeps challenging projects on budget and on schedule. He seamlessly integrates environmental conflict resolution into project and process management to facilitate difficult multi-stakeholder projects to closure. Jeremy is a trained senior facilitator who has met the stringent requirements for listing on the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution National Roster.

John Ferguson, Ph.D., Principal Fisheries Scientist, Anchor QEA, Seattle, WA

Dr. John Ferguson has 40 years of experience evaluating the behavior and survival of salmon in large river systems and applying this information to water management decisions. He has worked at Anchor QEA since 2011 on the

performance of fish passage facilities, fish passage engineering feasibility studies, and habitat restoration program design and effectiveness. Since 2014, he has supported an extensive revision to National Marine Fisheries Service's fish passage engineering guidelines for the West Coast Region. From 2003 to 2011, Dr. Ferguson directed the Fish Ecology Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Northwest Fisheries Science Center and oversaw Riverine Survival, Migration Behavior, Estuary and Ocean Ecology, Fish Passage Engineering, and Watershed programs. Dr. Ferguson has a Ph.D. in salmon biology from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Umeå, Sweden), a M.S. in aquatic ecology from the University of California (Davis, CA), and a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Biology from University of California (Davis, CA).

John Rothlisberger, Ph.D., National Program Leader for Fish and Aquatic Ecology Research, U.S. Forest Service Research & Development, Washington, DC

John is the National Program Leader for Fish and Aquatic Ecology Research for the U.S. Forest Service. He has been stationed in Washington, D.C. since taking this position in June 2015. His duties include providing national coordination of Forest Service research regarding aquatic ecosystems, enhancing the visibility and application of Forest Service aquatic science, and identifying emerging issues and future science needs. He also serves as a subject matter expert in the Forest Service's national office on topics related to fish and aquatic ecology.

John has been with the Forest Service for nine years. From 2009 to 2015 he worked as an aquatic ecologist in the regional office of the agency's Eastern Region in Milwaukee, WI. He has also served in temporary assignments as an aquatic ecologist for the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan and, via an inter-agency agreement, as the State-wide Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

John holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Notre Dame, where he studied the ecological and economic impacts of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region. John also has a M.S. in Ecology from Utah State University and a B.S. in Conservation Biology from Brigham Young University.

John is originally from Baltimore, Maryland, where his favorite childhood activities included collecting crayfish and minnows, and searching for salamanders. He enjoys backpacking, reading, and spending time with his wife and four children.

Marcin Whitman, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Marcin started his career in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, consulting to the offshore oil industry and the Department of Defense but soon felt he could make a more meaningful contribution working on the interface between fisheries and engineering.

After getting his graduate degree, he started the engineering department for the Southwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) where he worked for nearly 10 years with some international consulting interspersed. Since mid-1998 he has been the coastal engineer for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, specializing in salmonid fish passage but often finding himself drawn into issues of fluvial geomorphology.

He has served on numerous technical committee for both projects and programs as well as ad hoc policy development for organizations such as The Aspen Institute and the Congressional Office of Technological Assessment. He has also co-taught several short-courses and trainings in fish passage.

Marcin holds degrees in Naval Architecture, Marine Engineering, Aquaculture Engineering and Marine Biology. He is also a member of the American Fisheries Society, American Society of Civil Engineers, and past member of World Aquaculture Society and Aquaculture Engineering Society. Has served as chair/officer on various technical committees for professional organizations and authored papers for same.

Current emphasis of practice includes dam removal, passage at road crossings, flood control channels, fish screens and fish ladders.

Serena McClain, Director of River Restoration, American Rivers

Serena McClain has worked in the river restoration field for more than sixteen years, focusing largely on dam removal planning and restoration capacity building. She works with regional and national stakeholders to demonstrate how to enhance safety, quality of life and economic development by restoring the natural function of rivers. Serena utilizes her communications and policy expertise to ensure that local communities and key decision-makers are aware of the restoration opportunities available to them and are equipped with the tools necessary to aid them in those decisions.

While at American Rivers, she has managed multiple on-the-ground restoration projects, spearheaded state and federal policy initiatives, and overseen two restoration grant programs administered by the organization. She currently leads the American Rivers' River Restoration Program Dam Removal Practice and is managing the removal of Bloede Dam on Maryland's Patapsco River.

Prior to joining American Rivers, Serena provided media relations, marketing, and government relations support for a variety of clients, including ABCNEWS.com and the Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy, while an account executive with Porter Novelli. She also served as a political media consultant for the Gore-Lieberman presidential campaign, where she spent the final exciting weeks of the 2000 presidential campaign working to secure TV interviews for surrogate campaign spokespeople at news stations in key battleground states.

Stephen Gephard, Supervising Fisheries Biologist, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Fisheries Division

Steve Gephard is a Supervising Fisheries Biologist with the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with offices in its Hartford and Old Lyme headquarters. He is in charge of the Division's Diadromous Fish Program and its Habitat Conservation Program. He has over 35 years of experience with diadromous fish species and fish passage projects. His assignments include: the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's Technical Committee, the U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee, past-chair of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) American Eel Technical Committee, current chair of the ASMFC's Fish Passage Working Group, the River Herring Technical Working Group, member of the Loire River Scientific Council (government of France), and holds a presidential appointment as a U.S. Commissioner to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, a regional fisheries management organization dedicated to conservation of Atlantic Salmon in international waters.

He has overseen the construction of over 65 fishways, 15 dam removals, over 20 eel passes, and six culvert fishways. His fish passage project experience includes planning, design, developing partnerships, securing grants, permitting, and construction selection & oversight, evaluation, and monitoring. He has been an instructor for fish passage courses with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and American Fisheries Society and has performed third party assessment of new fishways in other states. In 2017, Steve was presented with the Career Achievement Award for Distinguished Service in Fish Passage at the International Conference on River Connectivity Best Practices and Innovations.

Steve Parker, Technical Services Coordinator, Yakama Nation

Steve Parker has been the Technical Services Coordinator in the Fisheries Resource Management Program of the Yakama Nation since 2003. He joined the Yakama Nation in 1986 as one of five biologists in a program of 22 staff housed in a converted gas station. Since then he has assisted in building the program to its current level of 55 biologists and 285 permanent and seasonal employees in seven field offices throughout central Washington State. As Harvest Manager during the early years of fishery co-management, he expanded tribal fisheries, developed fishery management practices, and designed catch accounting protocols to support tribal self-regulation. As Technical Services Coordinator he oversees and coordinates the activities of professional staff engaged in the restoration of tribal fisheries, fishery resources, and fish habitats in the upper Columbia Basin.

Steve came to the Yakama Nation from the Fisheries Research Institute at the University of Washington where his research interests focused on the ecology and dynamics of sockeye salmon populations in south central Alaska. He has BS and MSc degrees in Fisheries Science from the College of Fisheries at the UW. Since leaving the UW he

has become fascinated by the challenge of integrating different perspectives on science, law, and policy into public resource management.