

## Sea Grant Advisory Board Members

**John V. Byrne**  
Corvallis, Oregon

Dr. John V. Byrne is President Emeritus of Oregon State University (OSU), where he served as president for eleven years (1984 - 1995). During his 35 year tenure at OSU, Byrne served for sixteen years in OSU's Oceanography program as faculty member, department chair, and dean. Subsequently he was OSU's Dean of Research, Graduate Dean, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. He has also served the United States government in Washington, D.C. as a program director for oceanography at the National Science Foundation, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce, and as the United States commissioner to the International Whaling Commission. Since retiring from OSU's presidency, Dr. Byrne has served as Executive Director of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities, as a consultant on various aspects of higher education to more than a dozen major public universities, and has assisted university governing boards with board-president relations, presidential assessments, and presidential searches. He currently serves as an advisor to K-12 education in the state of Oregon, and has served on several corporate and non-profit boards as well. Dr. Byrne received his Ph.D. in Geology at the University of Southern California.

**Jeremy Harris**  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Mayor Harris began his career as a marine biologist serving as a Sea Grant Extension Agent at the University of Hawaii. His graduate training is as an environmental scientist specializing in urban ecosystems. Mayor Harris served as Managing Director of the City of Honolulu for 9 years before being elected Mayor for three terms from 1994 to 2005. During this time he worked to develop Honolulu, the 12<sup>th</sup> largest cities in the country, into a model of sustainability. While chief executive, the City & County of Honolulu received the gold award as the most livable large city in the world and was recognized as one of the best managed cities in the U.S.. Mayor Harris has received numerous awards, including: "Outstanding Achievement Award for Sustainability" from the U. S. Conference of Mayors, and the "Keystone Award" from the American Architectural Foundation. Harris has served as visiting senior faculty at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, as a member of the Sustainability Roundtable for the National Academy of Sciences and as Distinguished Irving Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at Ball State University. He consults for governments and NGOs around the world on issues related to sustainable urban development, and he is currently on the Adaptation to Climate Change Panel of the National Academy of Science. Jeremy is a former member of the National Board of the AIA, and he is recognized as one of the leading urban strategists and foremost authorities on sustainable planning and growth. He is the author of the book, "The Renaissance of Honolulu: The Sustainable Rebirth of an American City".

**G. Ross Heath**

Seattle, Washington

Dr. G. Ross Heath is Dean Emeritus of the College of the Ocean and Fishery Sciences and Professor of Oceanography at the University of Washington. His research in marine geology has focused on deep-sea manganese nodules, the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, and paleoceanography, resulting in more than a hundred publications. He has served on numerous panels and committees of the National Academy of Sciences, NASULGC, JOI, and CORE. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1993 he served as an environmental analyst for KIRO TV (the CBS affiliate in Seattle). He is a member of the National Sea Grant Review Panel. He grew up in Adelaide, Australia where he earned his bachelors degree and worked as a geologist for several years before moving to the U.S. In 1993 he came to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to study for a Ph.D. in Oceanography, which he obtained in 1968. His subsequent career has included faculty appointments at Oregon State University (including Dean of Oceanography from 1978 to 1984), the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Washington (including dean from 1984 to 1996) as well as two years as president and CEO of MBARI, prior to his present position.

**Michel Orbach**  
North Carolina

Dr. Michel Orbach is a Professor of the Practice of Marine Affairs and Policy in the Division of Marine Science Conservation at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He has performed research and has been involved in coastal and marine policy on all coasts of the U.S. and in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Alaska and the Pacific, and has published widely on social science and policy in coastal and marine environments. He has worked as a Cultural Anthropologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and has held several Governor's appointments to environmental Boards and Commissions as well as appointments to National Academy of Sciences Boards and Committees. He has been the President of The Coastal Society, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Surfrider Foundation.

**Nancy Rabalais**  
Chauvin, Louisiana

Dr. Nancy Rabalais is a Professor at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. Dr. Rabalais' research interests include the dynamics of hypoxic environments, interactions of large rivers with the coastal ocean, estuarine and coastal eutrophication, benthic ecology, and environmental effects of habitat alterations and contaminants. Dr. Rabalais is an AAAS Fellow, an Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Fellow, a Past President of the Estuarine Research Federation, a National Associate of the National Academies of Science, a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of LOICZ/IGBP, and currently is Chair of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Science. She received the 2002 Bostwick H. Ketchum Award for coastal research from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and was the Ian Morris Scholar in Residence at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies in 2004. Her work on the causes and consequences of Gulf hypoxia

have garnered several citations—the Blasker award shared with R.E. Turner, and a NOAA Environmental Hero, Clean Water Act Hero, and Gulf Guardian award. She earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983, and her B.S and M.S. in Biology from Texas A&I University, Kingsville.

### **Rolland A. (Rollie) Schmitten**

Leavenworth, Washington

Rolland A. (Rollie) Schmitten has been a natural resources manager for the past 38 years; focusing on marine fish and mammals for the last 25 years. He has served as the Washington State Director of Fisheries. The federal (National Marine Fisheries Service) West Coast Regional Director of 6 states; the National Director of Marine Fisheries; the US Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs (NOAA), and the National Director of Marine Habitat Conservation. During his career he served 4 presidents with Presidential appointments as the: US Tuna Commissioner, US Atlantic Salmon Commissioner, and served 10 years as the US International Whaling Commissioner. Among his many awards and recognitions include: Presidential Merit Award, Trout Unlimited Washington Sportsman of the Year, Presidential award for outstanding achievement of a Vietnam veteran, and the Department of Transportation (USCG) Commandant's Award for Meritorious Public Service. In 2005, Mr. Schmitten retired and moved back to Sockeye Point Lodge in Washington State where he continues to work on marine and fresh water resource issues.

### **Mayor Harry Simmons**

North Carolina

Harry Simmons has been Mayor of the Town of Caswell Beach, North Carolina since 1999 and was recently named "Elected Official of the Year" by Cape Fear Council of Governments. He currently serves as a Coastal Cities member of North Carolina's Coastal Resources Advisory Council, as chairman of the Brunswick (County) Beaches Consortium, as executive director of North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association, as President of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, and was recently named treasurer of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association. Previously, Mayor Simmons also served on the Board of Directors of the NC League of Municipalities and on the National League of Cities' Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. He is often called upon to testify before Congress and Federal agencies on a variety of coastal issues. Prior to his involvement in shaping coastal policy, Harry Simmons owned a music management firm and was primarily engaged in guiding the careers of record producers, songwriters and recording artists at record labels and publishing companies in New York, Los Angeles and Nashville. He is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, which continues to give him a vote for the prestigious Grammy Awards each year. Mayor Simmons is a graduate of the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

**William L. Stubblefield (Member-At-Large)**  
Martinsburg, West Virginia

In 1999 Rear Admiral Stubblefield retired from his position as the Director of the Office of NOAA Corps Operations. Prior positions include Executive Director of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; Special Assistant, Office of the Chief Scientist, where he received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal; Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship SURVEYOR; Chief Scientist for NOAA's Undersea Research Program; Program Monitor within the Office of Sea Grant; Deputy Director for Marine Geology and Geophysics Laboratory of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML); research oceanographer in coastal processes at AOML; and 5 years of active service in the U.S. Navy. Rear Admiral Stubblefield has served as an advisor to the Department of Geology, University of Iowa, and is/was a member of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Association for Advancement of Science, and the Geological Society of Washington. Rear Admiral Stubblefield is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Military Officers Association of America; Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Public Service Commission Water District, Berkeley County, West Virginia; co-chair for Berkeley County's Source Water Protection Study; member of Virginia-West Virginia Regional Water Policy Committee; Chairman of the Berkeley County Comprehensive Plan, and founder and President of Berkeley Community Pride (a county beautification non-profit organization). He is a candidate for the Berkeley County Commission. Rear Admiral Stubblefield received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in geology.

**Richard H. Vortmann**  
La Jolla, California

Richard H. Vortmann recently retired after a 30 year career with National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) based in San Diego, California where he served as President for 22 years. He also retired after six years as Vice President of General Dynamics (GD). He most recently completed an assignment as Interim President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is currently Chairman of Scripps Health, a \$1.8 billion San Diego hospital system; Vice Chairman of the National Academies of Science Marine Board and a member of Council, American Bureau of Shipping.

**Rear Admiral Richard D. West, U.S. Navy (Retired), (Chairman)**  
Washington, DC

Admiral West served as President/CEO of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) from August 2002 until December 2007. As President of this DC-based non-profit organization, he led efforts to promote ocean research and education within the U.S. federal government on behalf of the academic and private ocean research community. Admiral West significantly expanded the membership of CORE and was instrumental in promoting several ocean initiatives and the establishment of a U.S. integrated ocean observing program. He has testified before the U.S. Congress on several marine related policy issues and has addressed the United Nations on

Safety of Life at Sea. Admiral West serves on two marine related U.S. Federal Advisory Committees and continues as a consultant on national and international maritime issues.

Admiral West served as Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy where he managed a \$400 million program providing oceanographic, meteorological, geospatial and navigation support to the U.S. Navy from 1999 to 2002. As the first Navigator of the Navy, he led the Navy's transition to electronic navigation. As Oceanographer of the Navy, he was the Department of Defense representative to the U.S. Ocean Commission. Admiral West was a career Surface Warfare Officer serving on several ships. Admiral West served in Vietnam with the riverine forces and commanded three ships, two during hostilities in the Arabian Gulf.

### **John T. Woeste (Vice Chairman)**

Gainesville, Florida

Dr. John T. Woeste is professor emeritus and retired Dean of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences. From 1976 to 1995 he served as Director of Extension and the Florida Sea Grant Marine Extension Program. He was frequently recognized for his leadership of both agriculture and marine resource extension programs. In 1987 he received the USDA "Unit Award for Distinguished Service". In 1992, Dr. Woeste won the Mary Nell Greenwood Award from the American Evaluation Association for his sustained commitment to public accountability. In 1997, he was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame and in 2002 was elected to the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame. He was recognized by the National FFA with an "Honorary American FFA Degree" and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity with a "Brother of Distinction" award. Woeste has served on boards for the Southern region aquaculture center and the Sustainable agriculture program. He chaired the national Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP), and Co-chaired the Legislative committee for the Agriculture division of the Land Grant University Association while a member of the board of Directors. His international experience includes advisory visits and consulting trips to Ecuador, Cameroon and Israel addressing agriculture education and technology transfer. Currently, he is president of the Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corp, Inc., Director of the National NARRC, President of the Alpha Gamma AGR educational foundation, and a member of the SHARE-UF Foundation board executive committee. He is a retiring director and past president of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. In 2002 he was appointed to the National Sea Grant Review panel.

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