

Michigan Wetlands Association Annual Conference

August 30 – September 2, 2011 near Traverse City, Michigan



Speaker Bios

Transitions in Wetland Science, Management and Policy

Wetland Management in Response to Climate Change

Current Issues in Wetland Policy and Regulation

Wetlands and Watersheds

Michael N. Beaulac

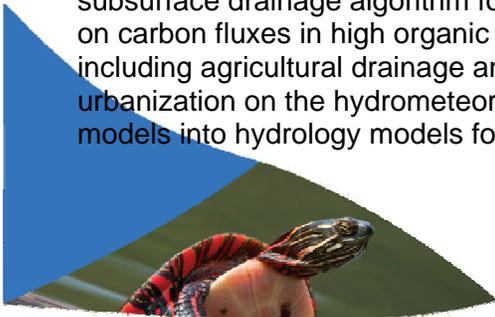
Michael Beaulac currently wears at least three hats within the Department of Environmental Quality. He is the agency's main contact for climate change issues – including a facilitator and contributor to the state's Climate Action Plan and a key organizer of the Michigan Climate Coalition. He is the Information Technology Liaison overseeing a wide range of technology projects involving the agency and its industry, federal, and not-for-profit partners. Mike is also the agency's Tribal Liaison with Michigan's 12 tribes on environmental issues, including chairing the Water and Climate Accords to resolve issues in those areas of environmental interest.

Mike has his AS and BS degrees in Oceanography, Biology/Chemistry – Florida Institute of Technology and Western Michigan University, and his MS in Limnology/Resource Development from Michigan State University.

Laura C Bowling

Dr. Laura C Bowling is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. She received her M.S.C.E. and Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Her Ph.D. work focused on hydrology in cold regions and involved field work in the Yukon Territories and on watersheds in the Prudhoe Bay, Alaska region. She has contributed extensively to the extension of the Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC) hydrology model into northern regions, including the development of a lake and wetland algorithm used to study the role of wetland water storage in low-gradient watersheds.

Since joining the Department of Agronomy in 2004, Dr. Bowling has continued to work on problems associated with climate change and wetland hydrology, including overseeing the development of a subsurface drainage algorithm for the VIC model and field studies on the role of soil drainage condition on carbon fluxes in high organic matter soils. She also addresses the role of land management, including agricultural drainage and forest management, on water quality and quantity, the effect of urbanization on the hydrometeorology of extreme events, and the integration of agricultural crop models into hydrology models for the assessment of climate change on agricultural production.



Dawn Browne

Ms. Dawn Browne is a Manager of Conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited's National Headquarters. She works on climate change policy, science and communications issues and the development of new sources of conservation finance related to environmental markets such as carbon sequestration and water quality credit trading. She has also overseen Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing applications in support of Ducks Unlimited's national and international programs, facilitating technological exchange between DU and conservation partners. Dawn has been involved in habitat related data development, spatial analysis and landscape habitat priority modeling for the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Gulf Coast and various projects for DU's Latin American program.

Rodney Chimner

Dr. Rodney Chimner is an Assistant Professor at the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University. Rod has worked for almost 20 years studying and restoring wetlands in northern Michigan, mountainous regions of Colorado, California, Hawaii, and South America, and in Micronesia and the arctic. He currently teaches a senior level wetlands class and graduate level courses in advanced wetlands and restoration ecology at MTU.

Jeanne Christie

Jeanne Christie is the Executive Director of the Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. (ASWM). She has been with ASWM since 1999 and Executive Director since 2001. From 1995 to 1999 she was a Resource Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wetlands and Watersheds Division where she was national program leader for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. She worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wetlands Division (1988-1995) moving from the staff level to Section Chief and Acting Branch Chief. As an environmental planner at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1985-1988) responsibilities included the Green Bay Remedial Action Plan and the 208 Watershed Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. She has a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S. in Environmental Science, both from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Jeanne is a 2007 winner of the National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach. She lives in an 1860 farmhouse in Windham, ME, with her husband Larry and their 'rescued' animal companions Tux, Houdini and Massey.

Marcy Colclough, Senior Planner

Marcy Colclough, Senior Planner with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, has over 12 years of experience working with municipalities and community groups in southwest Michigan in the areas of watershed planning, land use planning and zoning, recreation planning and development, non-motorized trails, economic development and public transit. She has developed a track record of securing grant funds and implementing successful projects that have improved the quality of life in southwest Michigan. She is committed to community visioning, stakeholder involvement and sustainable development. Education and public outreach efforts are a component of all of the planning and implementation projects and include different audiences such as municipal officials, agricultural landowners and the general public.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies
Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Ohio Northern University
Master of Environmental Science, Miami University, Ohio



Matthew Cooper

Currently a PhD student at the University of Notre Dame in the Department of Biological Sciences, Matt has worked on various Great Lakes coastal wetland monitoring projects over nearly ten years and has published a number of papers on the subject. He is currently heavily involved with the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program funded by the U.S. EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. His interest is in developing new ways to monitor and assess Great Lakes coastal ecosystems, as well as more basic questions such as how carbon is cycled and processed in coastal ecosystems.

Dave Dempsey

Dave Dempsey has helped shape conservation and Great Lakes policy for 28 years and is an author and co-author of five conservation books. He is currently a policy advisor for the International Joint Commission. Dave's past positions include:

- Environmental advisor to Michigan Governor James J. Blanchard (1983-89).
- Executive Director, Michigan Council on Environmental Quality (1989-90).
- Program director at Clean Water Action (1991-1994).
- Policy Director/Senior Advisor, Michigan Environmental Council (1994-2004).
- Member Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Presidential appointment, 1994-2001).
- Communications Director, Conservation Minnesota (2006-2010).

Dave's book titles include:

- *Ruin and Recovery: Michigan's Rise as a Conservation Leader*, an environmental history of Michigan since its statehood in 1837, published by the University of Michigan Press in 2001;
- *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century*, published by Michigan State University Press in 2004.
- A biography of Republican William G. Milliken, Michigan's longest-serving governor and a champion of the environment, published by the University of Michigan Press in April 2006, and entitled *William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate*.
- *Great Lakes for Sale: From Whitecaps to Bottlecaps*, published by the University of Michigan Press in 2008.
- *The Waters of Michigan*, co-authored with David Lubbers and published by the Michigan State University Press in 2008.
- *Superior Shores*, a self-published novel, available in 2010.

In 2009, the Michigan Center for the Book, the Michigan Library Association, and Sleeping Bear Press gave Dave the annual Michigan Author Award.

Dave has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Michigan University (1977) and a master's degree in resource development from Michigan State University (2001) and served from 1999-2004 as an adjunct instructor at MSU in environmental policy through the Department of Resource Development (now Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies). He is married and is stepfather of two.



Kimberly Fish

Kim Fish is the Assistant Division Chief of the Water Resources Division in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In this capacity, Kim oversees the wastewater and surface water programs; permits to control aquatic nuisance plants; nonpoint source pollutants; Great Lakes, critical dunes, wetlands, inland lakes and streams, and floodplains issues; dam safety; and soil erosion and sedimentation control issues.

Prior to this position, Kim was the Assistant Division Chief for the former Land and Water Management Division where she was responsible for administering the land and water interface programs. From 1999 through 2006, she was the Field Operations Section Chief for the Land and Water Management Division, responsible for overseeing the permitting and compliance and enforcement work within the land and water interface programs. Kim started her career with the Department of Natural Resources/DEQ in 1986 as a biologist in southwest Michigan working in the land and water programs processing permit applications and doing compliance/enforcement work.

Kim has a Bachelors degree from Michigan State University in resource development with an emphasis in resource management and economics.

John A. Freeland, Ph.D., PWS

John Freeland, Certified Professional Wetland Scientist #1264, earned a B.S. degree in Geology from Grand Valley State University, an M.S. in Soil Science from the University of New Hampshire, and a doctorate in Soil Science from North Dakota State University. His doctoral research focused on soil indicators of ecological health and was supported by a grant through the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) Northern Prairie Wetland study. John has authored several reports and peer-reviewed publications and is a Professional Wetland Scientist. John spent seven years as a high school science teacher and has been a full time consultant since 1997. He's worked as and environmental scientist for Environmental Consulting & Technology since 2004.

Erin Fuller

Erin Fuller has been working at the Van Buren Conservation District as a Watershed Coordinator since 2003. Erin has led a variety of grant projects for the District, including the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Black River. Her current project focuses on wetland restoration and protection in the Black and Paw Paw River watersheds. Erin has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Skidmore College and a master's degree in Geography from Western Michigan University. She lives in Kalamazoo with her husband Nate and 2-year-old son, Theo.

Keto Gyekis, PWS

Keto Gyekis is an Ecologist/Field Biologist whose background includes experience with aquatic, terrestrial, and avian ecological assessment. He has a BS in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State University and a MS in biology/ecology from Grand Valley State University. From 2005 through 2007, Keto worked for the Michigan DEQ, where he aided in the development of the Michigan Rapid Assessment Method (MiRAM), which is utilized for determining a wetland's functional value. He is currently employed by King & MacGregor Environmental, Inc. and travels throughout the



Upper Midwest conducting ecological assessments, threatened and endangered species investigations, wetland delineations and determinations, and wetland functional value assessments. Keto personally maintains a web-based photo database of Michigan wetland plant species, containing over 800 original high-quality botanical photographs (www.KGnaturephotography.com).

Kimberly Hall

Dr. Kimberly Hall is the Great Lakes Climate Change Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and is based in the Lansing, Michigan, office of TNC. Her work focuses on synthesizing current research on climate change impacts on biodiversity in the Great Lakes region, and on working with other TNC staff and partners to frame how these impacts should shift conservation strategies and priorities. Projects that extend beyond the Great Lakes region have included contributions to NatureServe's Climate Change Vulnerability Index, and updates to TNC's guidance on how to conduct regional-scale conservation planning in light of climate change. Prior to starting this position in December 2008, she completed an M.S. and a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Melanie Haveman

Melanie Haveman is an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 in Chicago where one of her roles is to review Michigan Public Notices under EPA's Clean Water Act Section 404 oversight authority. He is a graduate of Calvin College with a B.S. in Environmental Geology and Western Michigan University with a M.S. in Geology with an emphasis on Wetland Biogeochemistry

Heather Huffstutler

Heather Huffstutler, Stewardship Director Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, has a B.S. in Biology from Eastern Michigan University and holds a secondary education teaching certificate. Her career in conservation began as a volunteer in Northern Michigan for The Nature Conservancy and she's been hooked ever since. She has worked for The Nature Conservancy as a Preserve Management Assistant in Michigan and Minnesota and as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Vermont Chapter. As Stewardship Director, Heather oversees all aspects of the Conservancy's Stewardship Program, including conservation planning, ecosystem restoration, writing management plans, and managing stewardship volunteers. Heather can be reached at hhuffstutler@sixriversrlc.org.

Christopher Hoving

Chris Hoving graduated from the University of Maine in 2001 with a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology. His thesis topic was the habitat of Canada lynx at multiple spatial and temporal scales. His models were used to delineate critical habitat and to model sensitivity to climate change. From 2003 to 2008, he served as the DNR's private lands biologist for southwest Michigan, focusing on restoring oak savannas and prairie fens. In 2009 Chris transferred to the position of Endangered Species Coordinator, where he was lead author on a conservation plan for prairie fens in Michigan and Indiana. Chris continues to restore his own land to native plants, raise bees, and research wildlife history.



Jeff King

Jeff is a graduate of the Michigan State University Resource Development Program, with a Masters Degree from Western Michigan University in Public Administration. In 1978, Jeff became the first field employee in the Land Resource Programs Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which became the administering division of the State's Wetland Program. At one point or another in his 12-year career with the DNR, Jeff served as District Supervisor in each of the DNR Districts of Southern Michigan. In 1990, Jeff left the DNR and went on to found King & MacGregor Environmental. Since that time, Jeff and his company have served as consultants representing primarily development-sector clients throughout Michigan. Jeff is currently President of King & MacGregor and serves on the State's Wetland Advisory Council.

Barb Liukkonen

Barb Liukkonen has worked in water resources for 35 years. She currently serves as a Program Leader for University of Minnesota Extension. She has a BA in geology and education from Carleton College and a MS in hydrogeology from the University of Minnesota. For 28 years Barb worked as a water resource specialist for Minnesota Extension, focusing on volunteer monitoring, shoreland education, safe drinking water, wastewater management, and preventing the spread of invasive species. She is currently the PI on a 319 grant investigating the effects of climate change and water level fluctuation on shoreline plants, which she'll talk about today.

Todd Losee

Todd Losee is a Wetlands Specialist with the DEQ Water Resources Division. Todd's primary duties include coordinating the development and management the General Permit and Minor Project categories for wetlands, lakes and streams, and Great Lake Submerged Lands regulations. Todd also serves as the state's expert in wetland identification and oversees the DEQ's Wetland Identification Program (WIP) and development of the Michigan Rapid Assessment Method for wetlands (MiRAM). As a Wetlands Specialist, Todd is responsible for training and assisting DEQ field staff in wetland regulation and policy and providing assistance to DEQ field staff in permit review decisions, appropriate enforcement options, and interpretation of wetland, lake, and stream regulations. Prior to becoming a Wetland Specialist, Todd worked as a DEQ Field Staff in Southeast Michigan reviewing permit applications, conducting compliance inspections, and initiating enforcement actions relating to wetlands, inland lakes, streams, and the great lakes protection. Todd has a B.S. degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and an M.S. Degree in Zoology from Michigan State University.

Dianne Martin

Dianne Martin is a Professional Wetland Scientist and the Director of Resource Assessment and Management at ASTI Environmental in Brighton, MI, where she has been employed for 14 years. She holds dual bachelor's degrees from Western Michigan University in Biology and Environmental Studies and a Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University in Aquatic Ecosystems. Ms. Martin has significant experience in ecological assessment, with an emphasis on aquatic ecosystems. Her work includes wetland delineation, wetland mitigation design, wetland restoration, habitat management plans, endangered species surveys, natural features inventories, and environmental assessments and impact statements, as part of the NEPA compliance process. Prior to joining ASTI, Ms. Martin worked as a field research supervisor for the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Shawn McKenney

Shawn McKenney, currently with the Allegan Conservation District, received his B.S. in Geology from Northern Michigan University. Mr. McKenney has worked with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts for the past 12 years managing DEQ 319 projects and soil erosion control programs for Conservation Districts. Mr. McKenney has managed the Gun River Greenbelt and Wetland Restoration Initiative for the past three years concentrating on wetland restorations utilizing the DEQ wetland functional assessment tool and riparian buffer strips within the watershed.

Matt Meersman

Matt Meersman works as a Watershed Coordinator for the Van Buren Conservation District in Paw Paw Michigan. He is currently serving as President of the Friends of the St. Joe River Association and Treasurer of the Two Rivers Coalition. His passion for clean rivers and streams stems from his love of paddling. He can be found on the water almost any time of year and he regularly competes in marathon canoe races.

David A. Mifsud

David A. Mifsud, herpetologist, is a certified professional wetland scientist and professional ecologist. He is the owner and founder of Herpetological Resource and Management (HRM). He has been working for over fifteen years in wildlife biology, wetland ecology, and habitat conservation and management. Mifsud is very active within the herpetological community and is the Michigan Herpetological Atlas Administrator, member of the State of Michigan Amphibian and Reptile Technical Advisory Board, and Chair of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Michigan Chapter (MIPARC). He serves as an expert on Great Lakes Turtles for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group. He has also served as a Board member for the Northcentral Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists and currently serves as a co-chair for the Michigan Wetland Association Research and Science Committee. David has overseen and designed numerous projects and studies focused on the inventory, monitoring, rescue and translocation, and head starting of amphibians and reptiles in Michigan for a variety of partners including non-profit, private, and governmental agencies. David works to promote vernal pool conservation in Michigan and has developed Michigan's first volunteer salamander monitoring program. Currently he is developing a manual for the State of Michigan for the conservation and management of amphibians and reptiles.

William Mitsch

Dr. William Mitsch is the Distinguished Professor of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University, where he is also the Director of the Olentangy River Research Park. Dr. Mitsch is an internationally recognized research scientist in wetlands and water issues; among other honors, he received the Stockholm Water Prize in 2004, is a National Wetland Award recipient, and has received a lifetime achievement award from the Society of Wetland Scientists. Dr. Mitsch is currently organizing a major international conference – EcoSummit 2012 – to be held in Columbus, Ohio, with the theme “Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet’s Ecosystem Services.”



Michael Murray

Michael Murray has been Staff Scientist with the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes office since 1997. His work has expanded from an earlier focus on the scientific and policy aspects of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes to other areas, including aquatic invasive species, climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Great Lakes region, and wetlands science-policy issues (including co-authoring NWF's 2009 state wetlands policy assessment report). He has served on over two dozen technical and advisory committees, including currently as co-chair of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition Technical Advisory Committee. Michael received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Water Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and also has appointments at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment and School of Public Health.

Michael Pennington

Michael Pennington is the Wetland Mitigation Specialist for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Michael has worked for MDOT for over 12 years and is responsible for administering MDOT's Wetland Mitigation and Wetland Banking Programs. His responsibilities include locating suitable wetland mitigation sites, managing wetland design contracts, overseeing wetland construction and conducting research projects aimed at improving the success of MDOT's wetland restoration efforts. Michael received his Masters degree from Michigan State University in Forestry and a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University in Geography. His research focused on creation/restoration of forested wetlands.

Joseph Rivet

Born and raised in Bay County, Joseph Rivet graduated from Delta College with an Associates of Arts Degree and went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Masters in Business Administration from Michigan State University. Joseph began his career as a Legislative Aide at the State Capitol in Lansing, later becoming the Executive Director of the Bay Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau. In 1994, he was elected Bangor Township Supervisor. In 1998 he was elected State Representative for the 97th District in Bay County and was re-elected in 2000 & 2002. While a member of the Legislature, he authored 11 Public Acts and became the first Minority Party Member of the House to be named Chairman of a standing sub-committee in over 30 years. In 2004, he was elected Bay County Drain Commissioner. Joseph is also an Adjunct Instructor of Political Science and Fencing at Saginaw Valley State University and Delta College.

Joseph Rivet is married to Kristen McDonald and they have six children; Courtney, Grant, Madison, Ella, Laken & Elijah. He is the Immediate Past President of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners and has served on many professional, community & church boards.

Kathleen Ryan

Kathleen Ryan is the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service's Project Manager for the *Northern Lower Michigan Wetland Initiative*. Kathy uses the voluntary Wetland Reserve Program to encourage landowners to restore and protect wetlands in a twenty-seven county area. Kathy has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Physiological Ecology. She began her wetland career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District in the Regulatory



Branch where she became an Ohio Section team leader and staff trainer. Kathy piloted one of the first *In Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation* programs in the country; worked on the National Task Force for developing the Corps' Jurisdictional Appeals Regulation; and coordinated two rounds of Nationwide Permits Program water quality certifications in Ohio. She came to Michigan and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2002. Kathy assumed responsibility for delivering the *Northern Lower Michigan Wetland Initiative* in May of 2010, and works to restore ecosystem services to wetlands degraded through agricultural activities.

James Sallee

James Sallee is a staff specialist and a Certified Professional Soil Scientist with the DEQ, Water Resources Division (WRD). James is the statewide wetland soils expert for the DEQ. He performs hydric soils determinations and advanced hydric soils investigations statewide. James is a member of the DEQ's technical team for wetland identification and delineation. James trains DEQ staff to identify and delineate hydric soils, and he provides technical assistance for atypical and naturally problematic sites statewide. James testifies as an expert witness for the DEQ in administrative, civil, and criminal enforcement cases involving hydric soil determinations. He works with other WRD staff specialists in the development of WRD programs and training materials. Prior to becoming a specialist, James worked as a field staff in the Kalamazoo and Jackson District Offices reviewing permit applications, conducting compliance inspections, and initiating enforcement actions relating to inland lakes and streams, wetlands, and great lakes protection. James has a B.S. degree in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University and a M.S. degree in Crop and Soil Sciences from Michigan State University.

Jamie Saxton

Jamie Saxton graduated from Heidelberg University in 1999 with a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Water Resources and he earned his M.S. in Limnology from Michigan State University in 2001. He is currently a Principal Research Scientist at Great Lakes Environmental Center in Traverse City and specializes in surface water quality and aquatic community monitoring. Presently Jamie is a field methods trainer and auditor for the U.S. EPA's National Wetland Condition Assessment and has been involved with the U.S. EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys since 2007.

Lee Schwartz

Mr. Schwartz has been with the Michigan Association of Home Builders since 1991. As its Executive Vice President for Government Relations, he heads the government affairs department and manages its day-to-day operations. A specialist in property rights, environmental and land use issues, as well as construction codes and standards, his political and legislative experience spans 40 years and includes serving as an Administrative Assistant in both the Michigan State House and Michigan State Senate. Mr. Schwartz has also served as an elected local official. Prior to joining the MAHB he held the position of Vice President for Governmental Affairs and Communications at the Small Business Association of Michigan



Heather M. Stirratt

Heather Stirratt is the Great Lakes Regional Coordinator for NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS). As an employee of NOAA's Coastal Services Center, Ms. Stirratt is working to better integrate NOS programs and enhance connections with customers and partners in the Great Lakes region. Currently she is focusing on the following programmatic areas of focus for the Great Lakes: habitat restoration, mapping, marine spatial planning, commerce and transportation, community resiliency, and climate change. Ms. Stirratt serves on the NOAA Great Lakes Regional Team, as NOAA representative to the International Joint Commission's Adaptive Management Working Group, as NOAA representative to the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Working Group and the Lake Superior Sustainability Working Group. Ms. Stirratt also serves as Chair of the NOAA Great Lakes Climate Working Group.

Ms. Stirratt has a broad portfolio of non-governmental, county, state, and federal work experience. Having served previously as the Special Assistant for NOS' Assistant Administrator (AA), she was responsible for daily operational support to the AA, building professional relationships among NOS' executive leadership, and fostering collaborative partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on projects of national interest. In total, Ms. Stirratt has served for over 10 years as a Fisheries Management Specialist focusing on some of America's most valuable state and federal fisheries. Her contributions to U.S. management of highly migratory species have been nationally recognized by the Department of Commerce and NOAA's General Counsel.

Ms. Stirratt holds a Masters degree in Marine Affairs, with specialties in fisheries management and ocean and coastal law, from the University of Rhode Island and a B.A. in Marine Affairs from the University of Miami. Beyond her academic and professional careers, Ms. Stirratt enjoys recreational scuba diving, fishing, and spending time with family.

