

## **49<sup>th</sup> Annual Zeke Grader Fisheries Forum – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### *Presenter Biographies*

#### **Wade Crowfoot** – California Secretary for Natural Resources

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. Secretary Crowfoot oversees an agency of 19,000 employees charged with protecting and managing California's diverse resources. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues. Crowfoot brings over two decades of public policy and environmental leadership to the office, with expertise in water, fisheries, climate and sustainability issues. He most recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropy that builds shared water solutions for communities, economy, and the environment across the American West. Prior to joining the foundation, Crowfoot served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor. In that role he led the administration's drought response efforts and spearheaded several of the Governor's priority initiatives to build California's resilience to climate change. Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 and earned a master's degree in public policy from the London School of Economics in 2004, where he graduated with honors

#### **Charlton Bonham** – Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Charlton "Chuck" Bonham is the director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He was originally appointed on September 6, 2011, making him one of the longest-serving directors in the department's 152-year history.

The department's mission is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public. As one of the oldest and largest state fish and wildlife agencies in the country, with approximately 3,000 employees and a \$860 million budget, the department is the primary agency charged with managing California's unequalled habitat and wildlife biodiversity.

Prior to his appointment, Bonham served in several roles for Trout Unlimited for over ten years, including as the organization's California director and as a senior attorney. He was responsible for developing, managing, and implementing Trout Unlimited's programs in California, including the California Water Project, Sportsmen's Conservation Project, and various other restoration and watershed projects.

Bonham has also served as a gubernatorial appointee on the board of directors of the Delta Conservancy, whose mission is to conserve, sustain and enhance the cultural, agricultural, recreational, wildlife, and natural habitat resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta region, as well as develop and promote sustainable protection, management, and stewardship programs through research and education.

Bonham received his J.D. and Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He was also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa.

**Joseph James** – Chairman, Yurok Tribe

The Honorable Joseph L. James, the Yurok Tribal Chairman, is from the village of Sregon along the Klamath River in Northern California. Chairman James has worked for Tribal Governments for the last 22 years in the areas of fisheries, water policy and law, infrastructure, protection of cultural resources, economic development and leadership. He has served as the Yurok Tribe's Transportation Manager, East District Councilmember and most recently elected as the Chairman in October 2018 and Yurok Economic Development Board President. As part of his Nation-building actions, Chairman James has expanded the economic development portfolio, protected the Yurok Tribe's natural and cultural resources and have furthered the importance of educational achievement for tribal youth, and instituted dynamic elders programs and services. Chairman James's innovative and strategic approaches have been effective and serves as a model for both tribal and non-tribal responses to Coronavirus. These proactive measures of closure of tribal businesses, closure of the Yurok reservation and culturally relevant public outreach methods have all led to minimizing the impacts of COVID-19.

**John McManus** – President, Golden State Salmon Association

GSSA president John McManus is a long-time salmon fisherman and salmon advocate. He comes from a varied background that includes ten years of commercial salmon fishing in southeast Alaska, 15 years producing news for CNN, and 11 years doing publicity and organizing for the public interest environmental law firm Earthjustice before joining the Golden Gate Salmon Association, now the Golden State Salmon Association. Work at Earthjustice included organizing and publicity supporting restored salmon fisheries in the Columbia, Klamath and Sacramento rivers.

A San Francisco native, Muni Pier and Lake Merced were the places where he first learned to tie a fishing line, bait a hook, and cast. He's a long time member of the Coastside Fishing Club and keeps a boat part of the year in Half Moon Bay. He fishes seasonally off the San Mateo, Sonoma and Marin coasts.

From the 1970s on he spent a lot of time in the north coast salmon communities of Pt. Arena, Fort Bragg and Eureka. As salmon runs declined in the 1990's, he got a front row seat to the demise of the coastal communities in San Francisco Bay, Mendocino and Humboldt counties, something that fuels his advocacy for salmon and salmon communities to this day.

**Damon Goodman** – Mount Shasta-Klamath Regional Director, CalTrout

Damon was introduced to the importance of conservation at a young age in the front of his dad's canoe during wilderness river expeditions. This spark led to a passion for exploring wild rivers around the world and a career dedicated to conserving the species that rely on them. His work has focused on bring people and science together to solve complex fish conservation issues across California for the past 15 years. These efforts have resulted in the implementation of projects that benefit fishes and the publication of 25 peer-reviewed journal articles covering a diverse range of fisheries management issues. In 2020, his work was recognized by the California-Nevada American Fisheries Society with the Distinguished Professional Achievement Award. He holds a Master of Science degree in Fish Biology from Humboldt State University where he studied under Dr. Stewart B. Reid and Andrew P. Kinziger.

**Kate Poole** – Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

Kate Poole is a senior director with the Natural Resources Defense Council and leads the freshwater work and the wildlife work in NRDC's Nature Program. She has served as lead counsel for NRDC in multiple lawsuits seeking to reform the operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project to reduce their impacts on threatened and endangered fish and to revive the health of California's rivers as a shared public resource. Before coming to NRDC, Ms. Poole was a partner with the law firm of Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo and was of counsel at the Seattle office of Earthjustice. Ms. Poole graduated from the University of Michigan with a magna cum laude Bachelor's degree in economics, and received a cum laude Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School.

**George Bradshaw** – President, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

George is a life-long fisherman based out of Crescent City California. Owner of F/V Swan, he fishes Dungeness crab, salmon, tuna and rock cod. He serves as the President of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association and as a member of the statewide Dungeness Crab Task Force.

**Dr. Michael Graham** – Professor, San Jose State University

Dr. Michael Graham is a Professor of Marine Ecology at the Moss Landing Marine Labs (MLML) at San Jose State University (SJSU), where he focuses on the ecology and function of California kelp systems. He is also the Editor of the world's top scientific journal dedicated to algae and seaweeds, the Director of Advancement for the MLML Aquaculture Center, and the Chair of the Marine Science Department at SJSU. He is the President-Elect of the California Aquaculture Association and the founder-owner of Monterey Bay Seaweeds, the largest commercial land-based seaweed farm in the continental US.

**Dr. Sara Hamilton** – Postdoctoral Researcher, Bodega Marine Labs

Dr. Sara Hamilton earned her PhD studying kelp forest ecology and conservation at Oregon State University and is now a postdoctoral researcher in the Ocean Climate Lab at the University of California-Davis. In her position at UC-Davis, Sara currently studies patterns of oceanographic change in the California Current and socio-ecological vulnerability to this change. She also works in kelp forest conservation in Oregon as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Oregon Kelp Alliance, a community-based organization leading kelp forest monitoring and restoration efforts in the state. In her career, she hopes to use her scientific skills to help manifest equitable and sustainable ocean resource use. She spends her non-science time adoring her rescue dog D.B. Cooper.

**Hayley Carter** – Senior Science Officer, Ocean Science Trust

Hayley Carter is a science-policy professional with 10 years of experience developing science-based recommendations and actions to address complex ocean and coastal challenges. She oversees a range of initiatives focused on climate adaptation and resilience, including projects on blue carbon, nature-based solutions, marine protected areas, and climate-ready fisheries and aquaculture. She is especially interested in understanding the role of oceans and coasts in supporting progress towards state, national, and international climate goals, and helping natural resource management agencies evaluate the potential for nature-based climate solutions. She began her tenure at OST in 2013 as a California Sea Grant Fellow. Prior to joining the OST team, Hayley received her M.S. in Marine Biology from San Francisco State University Estuary and Ocean Science Center, and a B.S. from University of California Davis.

**Jenn Eckerle** – Deputy Director, California Ocean Protection Council

Jenn Eckerle is the Acting Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy at the California Natural Resources Agency and Acting Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). Jenn serves as a key advisor to the Governor and the Secretary for Natural Resources and directs policy, scientific research, and critical partnerships to increase protection of California's coast and ocean. Jenn served as OPC's Deputy Director from December 2016 to October 2022. Before joining OPC, Jenn spent eight years as an Ocean Policy Analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council, where she conducted technical analysis and developed policy recommendations to advance ocean conservation. Prior to that, she was a Coastal Program Analyst for the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Jenn earned an M.S. in Marine Biology from the Florida Institute of Technology and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Vermont.

**Dr. Craig Shuman** – Marine Region Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Craig Shuman is the Marine Region Manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife where he directs the Department's marine science and policy activities in ocean waters off California's coast. He earned a doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering from UCLA and a master's degree in Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Prior to joining the Department, Dr. Shuman served as the Marine Advisor to the California Fish and Game Commission, worked in the nonprofit sector, and worked as a consultant where he focused on coastal wetland restoration, water quality, citizen monitoring programs, corporate sustainability, and communications.

**Dr. Clarissa Anderson** – Executive Director, Southern California Coast Ocean Observing System

Dr. Clarissa Anderson is a biological oceanographer with expertise in ecological forecasting and remote sensing. After receiving a B.A. in Integrative Biology and Art History at UC Berkeley and a Marine Science Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara, she completed several postdoctoral appointments, including a National Research Council fellowship and National Science Foundation postdoctoral award, before transitioning into a professional research position at UC Santa Cruz. The majority of her research has focused on the prediction of harmful algal blooms and toxins in estuarine and coastal ecosystems as well as the fate and transport of harmful toxins to deeper waters and sediments. During her time as research faculty at UC Santa Cruz, she worked to establish the California Harmful Algae Risk Mapping (C-HARM) system with NASA and NOAA support. Clarissa is now at Scripps Institution of Oceanography serving as the Executive Director of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and continuing to conduct research on phytoplankton ecology in coastal California. She is an elected member of the UNESCO SCOR GlobalHAB Scientific Steering Committee, the UN SCOR Working Group on Observing Air-Sea Interaction Strategy, the Science Advisory Team for the CA Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and the U.S. National HAB Committee (NHC).

**Dick Ogg** – Commercial Fisherman, Bodega Bay California

Dick was adopted and brought to the United States at a very young age. Dick was taught to fish by his grandfather, who was a Native American belonging to the Ponca Tribe in Oklahoma. From that beginning, Dick moved to California and settled in Sonoma County some 62 years ago, and never left. Dick has had the good fortune to fish and dive along our coastline for more than 45 years. While fishing, Dick has also been an electrical contractor and the supervising electrician for Sonoma State University for 31 years. Retiring 16 years ago. Dick has lived in Bodega Bay since 1999 and doesn't plan on moving, at least in this lifetime. Dick wants nothing more than to see the fishing industry thrive and continue to provide a sustainable resource to the public.

**Ben Platt** – President, California Coast Crab Association

Ben Platt is a second generation California commercial fisherman whose current homeport is Crescent City, California. He started working on his family's commercial fishing boats at the age of nine years old in the summers while growing up in Pt. Arena. Ben worked his way through high school on his family's boats and then college at Humboldt State University between 1980-1985 on other salmon and crab boats based out of Eureka and Ft. Bragg. He left fishing for 10 years after college to pursue a career as a scenic artist in Hollywood, returning in 1997 when his father became ill, taking over operation of one of his family's smaller vessels.

He and his wife started boat ownership with a 17' skiff with an outboard motor fishing nearshore rock cod out of Noyo Harbor 22 years ago, bought their first small salmon troller the next year and have owned two other boats in the ensuing years until this fall launching the Miss Heidi, a 58'x25' steel combination steel combination vessel that is rigged for salmon, tuna, crab, shrimp trawl and tendering salmon in Alaska. In the last twenty years, Ben has spent most of his summers trolling for salmon or albacore from Morro Bay, California to the Fairweather Grounds in the Gulf of Alaska. He has spent fall, winter and spring fishing for crabs out of nearly every port in California. The Miss Heidi and Ben's previous crab boats employ 3-4 crewmen during the crab seasons.

Ben has long been active in advocacy work for the crab and salmon fisheries. He has served on the California Salmon Council for eight years, and is its current Vice President. He represented the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association of Ft. Bragg between 2005-2010 at the Pacific Fisheries Management Council salmon season meetings. Ben is a founding board member and current President of the California Coast Crab Association, which was formed in the wake of the CBD vs. Bonham out-of-court settlement agreement, to establish strong industry representation for working with CDFW to find workable RAMP guidelines for the interim fishing period while also providing legal, scientific and political cover for industry to achieve fair and practical regulations under the eventual Incidental Take Permit.

**Kate Kauer** – Fisheries Strategy Lead, The Nature Conservancy

Kate is the Fisheries Strategy Lead for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in California and leads TNC's North America fisheries strategy seeking to improve fisheries management to support healthy and resilient ecosystems and communities. Kate leads collaborative research projects and policy initiatives to expand the use of electronic technologies in fisheries and builds partnerships to improve decision-making using better data. Previously, Kate was a Fisheries Project Director at TNC responsible for overseeing the California Groundfish Project, managing a portfolio of fishing assets and developing nonprofit fisheries trusts. Kate serves as an advisory committee member for the Local Fish Fund in Alaska and the California Groundfish Collective, holds a non-voting seat on the California Dungeness Crab Task Force, and is a member of the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Advisory Committee at the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Kate holds a B.A. in biology from Dartmouth College and a Master's in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California Santa Barbara.

**Rachelle Fisher** – Administrative Team, California Dungeness Crab Task Force

Rachelle Fisher is a Principal at Strategic Earth Consulting, a multi-disciplinary firm that specializes in effectively linking science and policy with community outreach and engagement. Since 2009, Ms. Fisher has worked with California fishing communities, state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and resource managers to arrive at fisheries management decisions that are informed by robust science and grounded in local and experiential knowledge. She has worked with the California Dungeness Crab Task Force since its inception, and during that time, has provided administrative support, strategic planning, facilitation, and project management support to the Dungeness crab industry. Ms. Fisher is a California Sea Grant Fellowship recipient and holds a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Masters of Advanced Studies in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego.

**Dr. Luke Gardner** – California Sea Grant Extension Aquaculture Specialist, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, San Jose State University

Leading and supporting aquaculture research, education, and extension activities, Luke Gardner, PhD, is a biologist exploring how sustainable aquaculture intersects with the coastal California environment, economy and residents. Gardner has expertise in identifying emerging aquaculture challenges and opportunities within California and is focused on community supported solutions. Currently based at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, he earned his PhD from Queensland University of Technology, Australia, and holds a BS in aquaculture from James Cook University, Australia.

**Mitch Farro** – Vice Chair, California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout

With a lifelong fascination with fish and wildlife, began fishing commercially for salmon during the summer of 1974 at the ripe old age of 15. Became a full time fisherman in 1980 and began working through Trinidad Bay Fishermen’s Marketing Association to develop projects to address the continued loss of local coastal salmon stocks. Served as Restoration/Recovery Director for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations 1985-1991.

Developed and managed native salmon enhancement/rearing projects simultaneously in three separate watersheds that included monitoring programs from 1985-1993. Conducted habitat restoration efforts first aimed at improving the instream channel, then riparian and eventually encompassing “headwaters to tidewaters” scale efforts in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Served as a founding Board member for what became the Salmonid Restoration Federation and also the Fish, Farm and Forests Communities Forum. Served for ten years (1989-1999) as Humboldt County’s representative to the Federal Klamath River Basin Fisheries Restoration Task Force.

Served as a commercial fishing representative on the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout since 1986 and in the position of Chair or Vice-chair for the past twenty+ years.

Employed as the Projects Manager for the nonprofit Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association since 1991. PCFWRA has completed over 200 major habitat restoration projects in cooperation with State and Federal resource management and involving many public and private landowners across the NW California coast region.

**Dr. Liz Whiteman** – Executive Director, Ocean Science Trust

Liz is the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (OST), a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating progress towards a healthy and productive ocean future for California. Created by state legislation, OST bridges the gap between cutting-edge scientific research and sound ocean management. Liz has over a decade of experience working at the science-policy interface in California on topics ranging from marine protected areas to sea-level rise and ocean acidification. Trained as a marine ecologist in the UK, Liz also spent a decade in the Caribbean, promoting science-informed decisions for fisheries and protected area management. Liz received her PhD from the University of East Anglia, UK.