

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE RECOVERY PROGRAM REVIEW PANELISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Ballance, Lisa, Ph.D. NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center:

Lisa has been with NOAA Fisheries Service since 1988 and the Director of the Marine Mammal and Turtle Division at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, since November of 2007. In this role, she is responsible for setting the research priorities in accordance with division mandates for seven science programs and some 80 individuals, and for day-to-day management of division resources.

Lisa's Ph.D. research focused on community and physiological ecology of seabirds associated with yellowfin tuna and spotted and spinner dolphin schools in the eastern tropical Pacific. She obtained her doctoral degree from the University of California Los Angeles in 1993, and accepted a post-doctoral position the same year with the National Research Council, The National Academies, conducting research on comparative cetacean ecology in the eastern tropical Pacific and tropical Indian oceans. She became a marine ecologist with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in 1996, Chief Scientist of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Cetacean and Ecosystem Research Cruises in 1999, and Leader of the Ecosystem Studies Program in 2001. In addition to her doctorate, she holds a Master of Science degree from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (1987) and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California San Diego (1981). Lisa is also an [Adjunct Professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#), Research Adviser with the National Academies, and Affiliate Professor at the University of San Diego. She is an editorial board member of *Marine Ornithology*, Past Chair of the Pacific Seabird Group, and Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Carden, Kristin, Ph.D. Society for Conservation Biology; Assistant Director for COMPASS:

Kristen currently serves on the North America Section board and North America Policy Subcommittee for the Society for Conservation Biology. Kristin is Assistant Director for COMPASS, which helps empower scientists to engage in the public discourse about the environment. She develops and leads communication trainings and workshops intended to empower scientists, both as individuals and as a community, to more effectively communicate their collective insights around salient environmental topics. Kristin builds bridges between the scientific community and policymakers to catalyze and transform the policy dialogue around natural resource issues at state, regional, and federal levels. Kristen has an interdisciplinary background that reflects her interest in the interface between environmental science, law, and policy. She received a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Management from the University of California, Santa Barbara, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a B.S. in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Arizona. Throughout her career, Kristin had the opportunity to work in the governmental, corporate, and non-profit sectors. Her field work includes studies on Alaskan brown bears and hawksbill sea turtles. She taught high school science and various

university-level science and policy courses, served as a staffer for the Under Secretary of Commerce and NOAA Administrator, and worked as a litigator in both for-profit and non-profit law firms.

Crouse, Deborah, Ph.D., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Ecological Services Program, Division of Restoration & Recovery:

Dr. Crouse's professional goal has been to ensure that conservation policy, of endangered species in particular, is based on the best science. Debby has been in the FWS Headquarters office since July of 1998. Her focus has been recovery planning and implementation during this tenure. She has been an instructor in the National Conservation Training Center Endangered Species Recovery course since 1998. Debby is co-lead for developing the current joint NMFS/FWS recovery planning guidance and is currently on the Core Team for development of the Recovery Enhancement Vision (REV), the Service's new approach to recovery planning. A fundamental assumption of REV is that a REV plan will be based on a recently completed Species Status Assessment (SSA – a new FWS approach to assessing a species status). Debby has training in structured decision making, which she finds very valuable in developing both SSAs and recovery plans. She spent more than 30 years working on sea turtle conservation biology, including developing a population model to assess the relative importance of our knowledge uncertainties and the trade-offs between several management alternatives. Debby worked for the state of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and the Center for Marine Conservation in addition to FWS in pursuing her work. Dr. Crouse brings a broad variety of experience and perspectives to her work.

Gruver, Brad, Ph.D. Division of Habitat & Species Conservation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:

Dr. Brad Gruver as worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for over 30 years. He was a charter member of Florida's Nongame Wildlife Program, and has served in leadership positions for both management and research components of the agency. He is currently the Section Leader for the Species Conservation Planning Section, a section within the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation primarily responsible for management of endangered and threatened species. He has also served as the agencies' Endangered Species Coordinator. Dr. Gruver has a Ph.D. in Range and Wildlife Science from Texas Tech University, a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Mississippi State University, and a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech.

Polidoro, Beth, Ph.D. School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Arizona State University

Dr. Beth Polidoro is an assistant professor of Environmental Chemistry and Aquatic Conservation in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences at Arizona State University

(ASU). She also serves as Co-Chair of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission- Marine Fishes Red List Authority and Specialist Group. Her primary research interests are in population and environmental risk assessment within the context of marine and freshwater biodiversity conservation, sustainable seafood and human health.

Dr. Polidoro has a broad background in marine and freshwater ecology, and environmental science. Before arriving at ASU, Dr. Polidoro was a senior Research Associate with the IUCN Marine Biodiversity Unit, and worked with scientists around the globe to quantify the impacts of fishing, habitat loss, pollution and other anthropogenic threats on more than 20,000 marine species for inclusion on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. For the past 10 years, she has worked with various governments and other organizations around the world to adapt marine species biodiversity data and risk assessments into national, regional and global conservation planning initiatives. In addition to her continued work with IUCN, she currently has projects in the Gulf of Mexico, the US Pacific Islands and metro Phoenix to determine the impact of various pollutants and micro-plastics on water resources and marine and freshwater fishes.

Steger, Jennifer, National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Restoration Division, Northwest and Alaska Region:

Jennifer Steger has been with NOAA for 26 years, and serves as the Northwest & Alaska Regional Supervisor for the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center housed in the Office of Habitat Conservation. She has Bachelor degrees in Biology and Chemistry from Immaculata University and a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Geography from the University of Connecticut, and has additional certifications in GIS, Environmental Management and Leadership from the University of Washington. Jennifer spent several years in as an environmental consultant until joining the NOAA Corps in where she served as navigation and fishing officer on three of the NOAA ships including the MILLER FREEMAN, WORTHY and the last cruise of the SURVEYOR to the Antarctic. She joined the Restoration Center as a the sole project manager, ecologist and case manager responsible for the four northwestern states and Alaska and has since assembled a team of restoration ecologists, biologists and engineers that facilitate habitat restoration across region through community partnerships and settlement negotiations with potentially responsible parties. Jen is married and has two sons Jonathan (14) and Christopher (9) and black Labrador (Bublebee) and lives in Issaquah, Washington.