

**Florida Ocean Alliance Workshop  
Florida Oceans Day, March 10, 2010  
Biographies of Speaker and Panelists**

**Plenary Speaker**

**Charles (Bud) Ehler** is the President of Ocean Visions, a consulting company specializing in integrated coastal and ocean management and marine spatial planning. He works in Paris, France, primarily as a consultant to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Man & the Biosphere Programme, and other international organizations, national governments, and non-governmental organizations. Before moving to Paris in 2005, he worked as a senior executive for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for 27 years, leading national and international programs in integrated coastal management, strategic environmental assessment, marine pollution monitoring and assessment, oil spill response and natural resource damage assessment. He worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development from 1973-78 and taught regional planning and natural resources management at the University of Michigan, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He was the Marine Vice-Chair of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas from 2000-2005. In 2007, he received an award from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for his work on coastal adaptation and its contribution to the award of the Nobel Prize to the IPCC. He is the author of over 90 publications, including most recently a UNESCO guide to marine spatial planning.

**Panel**

**Moderator: Laura Geselbracht** is Senior Marine Scientist with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). She has over twenty years of professional experience in the areas of environmental/conservation science, planning and policy. In her work with TNC, Ms. Geselbracht has headed up development of a marine site prioritization framework for Florida, the marine component of Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and a marine gap assessment for Florida. Prior to this, Ms. Geselbracht headed up TNC's Everglades Large-scale Conservation Area and played a key role building support for ballot initiatives that have contributed more than \$225 million to conservation land acquisition in South Florida. Most recently, Ms. Geselbracht conducted a sea level rise analysis of coastal Hernando County using the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model. Ms. Geselbracht holds a master's degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Panelists**

**CSA: William Sloger, M.S., P.E.**, has over 20 years of experience specializing in the project management and production of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. He has managed large multidisciplinary teams that have completed Environmental Impact Statements for projects covering a wide range of activities, including dredging, Navy operations, and construction. Mr. Sloger has also written, reviewed, or supervised the preparation of numerous Environmental Assessments. Mr. Sloger also has extensive experience with other federal laws, including the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Clean Water Act. Prior to joining CSA, Mr. Sloger was Head of the NEPA Compliance Section of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast. His responsibilities included managing the environmental planning staff and its workload, preparing and presenting reports on various topics to government decision-makers, and coordinating with federal, state, and local agencies.

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Lee Edmiston** is Director of the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). Before coming to CAMA, Mr. Edmiston was the research coordinator for the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. He received his master's degree from the FSU Department of Oceanography in 1979. His thesis was on zooplankton of the Apalachicola Bay System. He has worked on Apalachicola River and Bay issues for 30 years. He has conducted research at the reserve for 13 years, including several resource inventories on the river and bay. He also has worked for such Florida agencies as the Department of Natural Resources and Florida Fish and the Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**Florida Petroleum Council: David Mica** is Executive Director of the Florida Petroleum Council (FPC), a position he has held since 1985. The Florida Petroleum Council is a division of the American Petroleum Institute, a trade association with more than 400 members representing all areas of the petroleum industry, including most of the nation's major oil companies. During his tenure with the FPC, Mr. Mica has worked with Florida government on diverse industry issues, such as the Florida Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Program, Florida's landmark Used Oil Recycling Program, and a comprehensive rewrite of the state's motor fuel tax laws, which led to unsurpassed revenue collections for the state's coffers and relief of regulatory strangleholds for the industry. Professionally, he has served on various state committees and boards, including the Big Cypress Advisory Committee, in assisting the siting of exploration of petroleum resources, and as a member of the Clean Fuels Florida Commission. He currently serves as a member of the Florida State Emergency Response Commission. He is also the co-Chair of Associated Industries of Florida Energy Council and committees of the Florida Chamber. In 2003, he attained the American Society of Association Executives professional designation, Certified Professional Executive. Mr. Mica graduated from the University of Florida in 1977.

**Florida Seaport Transportation Economic Development Council (FSTED): David McDonald** is currently Vice Chairman of FSTED and past Chair of the Florida Ports Council. He is Executive Director of Port Manatee, a position he has held since 1992. During his tenure at Port Manatee, more than \$200 million in port improvements have been completed, solidifying Port Manatee as one of Florida's fastest growing seaports with a regional economic impact of \$2.3 billion annually, supporting more than 20,000 jobs statewide. Mr. McDonald is past chairman of the Florida Ports Council, a position he held for 10 years. He also served as chairman of the Florida Ports Council's Environmental Management Committee and is currently chairman of the Florida Ocean Alliance. Mr. McDonald earned his accreditation as a Professional Port Manager (PPM<sup>®</sup>) in 1996 from the American Association of Port Authorities and was one of the nation's first five port managers to receive the distinction. In 2008, he completed a three-year term serving former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and subsequently Mary Peters on the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council. McDonald holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's degree from Florida International University.

**IGFA: Rob Kramer** is President of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), a 70 year old world renowned not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical, angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping. He has been fishing all his life and has fished the waters of six different continents. Prior to coming to IGFA, he worked for Florida's Division of Marine Fisheries where he disseminated fisheries research data to the fishing public and represented recreational fishermen on various regional and national fishery management bodies. Kramer is also the founder of Fish Florida, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides fishing opportunities and conservation information to Florida's citizens. In addition to his duties with IGFA, he sits on several advisory councils and Boards including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the Center for Coastal Conservation and the Florida Ocean Alliance.

**The Nature Conservancy: Janet Bowman** is Associate Director of Government Relations at The Nature Conservancy. Before coming to The Nature Conservancy, she was general counsel for 1000 Friends of Florida. She was also an attorney for the Florida Senate, Committee on Comprehensive Planning, Local & Military Affairs. During her tenure with the Legislature, Bowman served as staff attorney for the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, where she focused on local government issues. She has served as an assistant general counsel at the Department of Environmental Protection and practiced environmental law as an associate with the law firm of Messer, Vickers, Caparello, French & Madsen.

**Organized Fishermen of Florida: Jerry Sansom** is currently the Executive Director of the Organized Fishermen of Florida, an organization which represents commercial fishermen in the State of Florida. Mr. Sansom has over 32 years of experience in working on issues facing ocean and coastal resources. He has worked as a governmental affairs consultant to Northrop Grumman Corp. and numerous cities in east central Florida. He is a member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Governor's Ocean Policy Board, Florida Inland Navigation District and Governor's Coastal Resources Citizens Advisory Committee. He is currently a Trustee of the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation.