

NETWORKING FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN OCEANOGRAPHY AND TECHNOLOGY CAREERS

PLEASE JOIN OUR TOWNHALL
AT OCEANS 2025 – GREAT LAKES

HOSTED BY



THE
OCEANOGRAPHY
SOCIETY



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RECOMMENDED BUT
NOT REQUIRED

In response to a trend toward exploring oceanography-focused careers outside of academia, The Oceanography Society (TOS) aims to build capacity to help industry and agencies hire professionals with multi-disciplinary oceanographic and technology expertise. This townhall, hosted by TOS, will provide resources and networking opportunities to facilitate interactions among industry and agencies and their potential workers in various stages of their careers. The format will consist of two parts. First, a panel of employers from industry and agencies will describe and address questions focused on available positions, what skills are needed, potential training or certification program opportunities, how to develop a competitive CV/resume, and how to prepare for an application and interview. The second part will consist of smaller round-table discussions where panel members and other industry and agency representatives will rotate around the room to promote more informal conversations about careers at their organizations.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1:30–3:00 PM
ROOM 327, NAVY PIER

OUR PANELISTS



MADELEINE BOUVIER-BROWN

MARINE OPERATIONS LEAD, OPEN OCEAN ROBOTICS

Open Ocean Robotics is a Canadian company dedicated to protecting and understanding the oceans using affordable and sustainable uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs). Over the last three years, Madeleine (Madie) has worked on a wide variety of projects, including marine mammal monitoring, eDNA sampling, seafloor mapping, and illegal fishing mitigation. Prior to joining OOR, Madie received a B.Sc. in Marine Biology from the University of Victoria, and a M.Sc. in Ecological Restoration from Simon Fraser University. Her master's project focused on killer whale bioacoustics, and the effects of increased ambient noise levels on a unique beach rubbing behavior observed in British Columbia's northern resident population.



KITCH KENNEDY

DIRECTOR, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FOR OCEAN MAPPING AT SAILDRONE

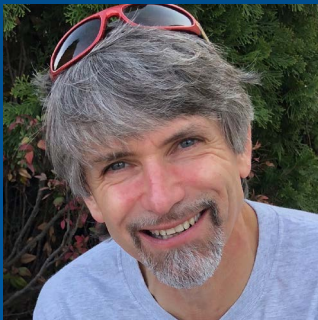
Captain Kitch Kennedy (ret.) served 26 years in the US Navy as a Naval Oceanographer, in posts including Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Maritime Safety Office, Deputy to the Navigator of the Navy, and commanding officer of the Navy's Oceanography Anti-Submarine Warfare Center. A certified U.S. Navy hydrographer, Kitch has an MS in Hydrography from the University of Southern Mississippi and an MS in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School.



SHEA QUINN

SLOCUM GLIDER PRODUCT LINE MANAGER, TELEDYNE WEBB RESEARCH

Shea has over 15 years of experience in the subsea and marine tech industry, the past 5 at Teledyne. Shea is responsible for driving the product line for the Slocum G3S and Sentinel gliders, and bringing the voice of customers to the engineering and development process within the company. Shea came to Teledyne Webb Research from Lockheed Martin, where he worked primarily as an Engineering Project Manager and Engineering Field Support lead for a variety of autonomous and remotely-operated subsea vehicle projects. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Mechatronics at Villanova University and a Masters of Engineering in Systems Engineering and Project Management from Cornell University.



FRITZ STAHR

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, OPEN OCEAN ROBOTICS

Fritz guides research, development, and manufacturing of Uncrewed Surface Vehicles (USVs) and associated data and control systems. Prior to that, he worked in the underwater vehicle and instrument space with ocean gliders and profiling floats, as well as doing research on hydrothermal vents and deep-sea currents using autonomous underwater vehicles. His experience includes instrument and ocean-vehicle production, technology management, ocean education, and opto-mechanical design. He holds a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Washington and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.



HELEN STEWART

HYDROGRAPHER, FUGRO

Helen Stewart is an NSPS/THSOA Certified Hydrographer and member of The Hydrographic Society of the USA. In her eclectic career spanning over two decades, Helen has worked in many different aspects of hydrography from nautical charting, geophysical surveys, and deepwater AUV projects to subsea engineering surveys and pelagic oceanographic research. Helen recently pioneered a novel method of using multispectral satellite imagery to detect subsurface hazards to navigation and threats to coastal and riverine structures, which is now being developed for monitoring risks to critical infrastructure. In 2021, Helen began working with the International Hydrographic Organization, the Hydrographic Society of America, and Canadian Hydrographic Service on policy guidelines for fair, equitable, and inclusive treatment for the maritime workforce, with a particular focus on safety for seafarers, shore-based workers, and office workers alike. Her professional advocacy work also extends into workforce development and community capacity building. Helen has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Science from the University of Cape Town. She lives in Houston, USA.



KATHARINE WEATHERS

PHYSICAL AND DATA SCIENTIST, VICE PRESIDENT OF SECTIONS, MTS

Katharine has over 10 years' experience as a physical and data scientist. Most recently, she has served as an Uncrewed Systems Data Coordinator at the NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. Use of uncrewed systems is growing exponentially, along with the data they collect. With proper data management, these data can be interoperable now and reusable in the future—answering today's questions and predicting tomorrow's challenges. Katharine had previously worked with NCEI as a contractor for General Dynamics Information Technology, as well as at the Cooperative Institute, Northern Gulf Institute of Mississippi State University in various capacities. She received her master's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi in Physical Oceanography after graduating from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science and Biology. She has worked as a contractor with Peraton, previously Perspecta, supporting the Naval Oceanographic Office with her expertise in remote sensing. Katharine has been an active participant of the Marine Technology Society since 2012 and is the current Vice President of Sections.



NATALIE ZIELINSKI

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER, SEA-BIRD SCIENTIFIC

Natalie's collegiate path started at the University of Delaware where she gained a BS in environmental science and minor in Oceanography. While gaining a Masters in Oceanography at Texas A&M, her passion for air-sea-ice interactions related to climate change grew. She thought higher education was calling her name for a PhD, but the waves were pulling her toward another path which brought her to Sea-Bird Scientific. Natalie waded into her role as part of the tech support team for the company. As her passion grew so did her knowledge in the oceanographic sensors, which led them to pursue her for a product management role. Natalie now works on defining the Sea-Bird product vision - and executing it for success. If you're looking for Natalie, you'll find her by the water.