

CONCUR, INC.

FIRM OVERVIEW

CONCUR is one of the country's leading facilitation and mediation firms, with offices in California and New York. The company's work ranges across environmental and public policy issues, with a major focus on complex marine resource policy, water, land use, climate change and infrastructure issues. CONCUR's services are centered around using joint fact-finding, strategic planning, and other consensus-building skills to help government agencies, private organizations, and communities resolve complex disputes. In its 22 years of work, the firm has completed roughly 100 projects and dozens of negotiation-focused training courses.

CONCUR brings considerable experience working on marine resource issues and a very strong track record of providing effective facilitation services on issues related to avoidance and reduction of impacts of commercial fishing and resolution of other marine resource use conflicts. Most recently, CONCUR facilitated the pre-meeting of the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team held November 2009 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Additionally, CONCUR has been facilitating three National Marine Fisheries Service-sponsored Take Reduction Teams over the past five years: the Harbor Porpoise, Atlantic Large Whale and Pelagic Longline teams. CONCUR staff have also been actively engaged in an in-depth strategic planning effort with NMFS intended to strengthen the Take Reduction Program nationwide and have facilitated numerous NMFS-focused workshops centered on serious injury and mortality and other related topics.

FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Scott McCreary, Principal. Scott manages the Berkeley Office of CONCUR and serves as Principal-in-Charge for all CONCUR projects managed in that office. He has also served Adjunct Professor at Vermont Law School where he taught a course on "Mediation of Water and Marine Resource Conflicts." Scott has led dozens of mediations and facilitated planning collaboratives, and convened and chaired numerous public workshops. His core practice emphasizes managing science-intensive public policy issues in a manner that bridges and integrates the views and concerns of all stakeholders. He has particular expertise in coastal and marine resource management.

Scott heads CONCUR's work in the facilitation of several Take Reduction Teams for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPA Initiative). With Bennett Brooks, he has facilitated the work of the Atlantic Large Whale, Harbor Porpoise and the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Teams. He also served as lead facilitator in a series of assignments with NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources, the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and the Pacific Islands Region of NOAA Fisheries. Additionally, he has teamed with Bennett Brooks on facilitation of a high stakes transportation infrastructure project in Seattle, Washington.

Scott holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from M.I.T., a Master's Degree in Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley, and a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Planning from UC Santa Cruz. He has held positions at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (Marine Policy and Ocean Management Program), the MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program, NOAA's Sanctuary Programs Office, the California Coastal Commission and the California State Coastal Conservancy. Dr. McCreary has published extensively on marine spatial planning, negotiation, collaborative planning, and joint fact-finding. He has authored over 40 publications including "Resolving Science-Intensive Disputes: Reflections on the New York Bight Initiative" in the *Consensus Building Handbook* (1999) and the book *Institutional Arrangements for Managing Coastal Resources and Environments* (1990).

He co-authored the article "Science-based and stakeholder-driven marine protected area network planning: a successful case study from north central California," which will be published in the next issue of *Coast and Ocean* journal (2010). He served on the Editorial Board of *Coastal Management Journal* and has published articles in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, and *Risk Assessment*.

Bennett Brooks, Senior Associate. Senior Associate Bennett Brooks heads up CONCUR's New York City office. Bennett is an integral part of the CONCUR team, serving as lead staff on several of the firm's largest projects. He is involved in all facets of CONCUR's work, including mediation, facilitation, strategic planning and joint fact-finding, and he is adept at working with senior policy makers. Bennett's project work has included facilitating more than two-dozen collaborative dialogues on complex natural resource issues. His recent fisheries work includes co-facilitating the Atlantic Large Whale, Harbor Porpoise and Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Teams for the National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as facilitating a three-day workshop on protecting marine endangered species in New York State waters. He also co-designed and co-facilitated a four-day conference that brought together fishermen, fishery managers, researchers, environmental advocates, and others to address issues of seabird and marine turtle bycatch and mortality in longline fisheries. Currently, Bennett is working with senior state, city and county officials in Washington State to resolve a longstanding dispute over replacing the at-risk Alaskan Way Viaduct, a 60-year-old stacked highway that separates downtown Seattle from the waterfront. Other project work focuses on water resource conflicts, ecosystem restoration, public financing, and military base reuse. He has also managed and facilitated several high-profile independent review panels.

Since joining the firm in 1998, Bennett has co-designed and taught more than 15 negotiation/mediation training courses. Trainings emphasize theory, skills and processes necessary to participate in and/or design mutual-gains bargaining initiatives. Before joining CONCUR, Bennett worked as a senior trade and economic development official in the Alaskan government, where he worked frequently on fisheries issues. He also worked as a journalist in the New York metropolitan area and in Asia. Bennett earned his Master's Degree in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where he specialized in housing and economic development. Bennett has a B.A. in Political Science from Tufts University.