

**Spring 2023 MAFAC Meeting**  
Panels on Climate Ready Fisheries  
Panelist Bio's

**Katie Almeida, Senior Representative of Government Relations and Sustainability, The Town Dock**

Katie is the Senior Representative, Government Relations & Sustainability for the Town Dock located in Point Judith, Rhode Island. The Town Dock is one of the largest suppliers of calamari in the US and owns several vessels that fish for longfin squid, illex squid, whiting, butterfish, fluke, scup, black sea bass, herring, and a mix of groundfish. Katie is responsible for following all state and federal regulations that pertain to the species on which the Town Dock relies. She also sits on several New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Advisory panels as well as fishery working groups for wind industry issues and the Rhode Island Industry Advisory Committee. Katie is also a board member of the Responsible Offshore Developers Alliance (RODA) and the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA).

**Merrick Burden, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)**

As Executive Director, Merrick is responsible for overseeing all operations of the Pacific Council, including fishery management matters, fiscal issues, administration, and he works closely with Council members to set direction and priorities. Merrick has a diverse career in fisheries issues that spans work on multiple aspects of fisheries management, ranging from climate change matters to community development to stock rebuilding, and more. This has included work in Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and several regions of the U.S. – including an earlier tenure with the PFMC during the development of the trawl rationalization program. Mr. Burden has a bachelor's degree in Economics from Linfield College and a master's degree in Environmental and Resource Economics from Oregon State University. His career has included a prior tenure with a U.S. based conservation organization, as the former Executive Director for a large seafood interest group focused on fisheries off Alaska, as a Groundfish Staff Officer for the Pacific Fishery Management Council, as an Industry Economist for the National Marine Fisheries Service, as an analyst for Northern Economics, Inc., and as a commercial fisherman off the coast of Alaska.

Little known fact: Merrick has never had a cavity and plans to keep it that way.

**Bill Dewey, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Taylor Shellfish Farms**

Since receiving his degree in shellfish biology from the University of Washington in 1981 Bill Dewey has worked as a shellfish farmer in Washington State. He is Director of Public Affairs for [Taylor Shellfish Farms](#), the largest producer of farmed shellfish in the United States and he has owned and operated his own shellfish farm in Samish Bay for 25 years. Mr. Dewey works on environmental, human health, aquaculture, and regulatory policy issues at the local, state and federal levels on behalf of Taylor Shellfish and the broader shellfish industry. He serves on several boards and committees locally and nationally including the Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition and a stint on MAFAC from 2006 through 2012. He served on Washington State's Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel in 2011 and currently serves on the [Washington Marine](#)

[Resources Advisory Council](#) (MRAC) advising Washington's Governor and Legislature on the state's response to ocean acidification.

**Jamie Goen, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers**

Jamie Goen is Executive Director for Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, a non-profit industry trade association representing harvesters of king, snow (opilio), and bairdi (Tanner) crab that participate in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program. She sits on the boards of United Fishermen of Alaska, Alaska Ocean Acidification Network, and the Certified Seafood Collaborative. Before coming to the crabbers, Jamie worked for NOAA Fisheries for 15 years, predominately on catch share programs around the country, as well as working for the International Pacific Halibut Commission as part of their leadership team and for the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences on oceanography vessels around the world. Jamie has a master's degree from the University of Washington in marine policy and throughout her career has been grounded in science and drawn to collaborative management - encouraging stakeholder involvement and the importance of using fishermen's knowledge in management.

**Anne Hollowed, Affiliate Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington**

Dr. Anne Hollowed is an Affiliate Professor with the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington. She retired from NOAA Fisheries after serving for 40 years as a Senior Scientist and leader of the Status of Stocks and Multispecies Assessment Program at [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center \(AFSC\)](#) in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Hollowed received a BA in Biology and Geology from Lawrence University, a MS in Biological Oceanography from Old Dominion University, and a PhD in Fisheries Science from the University of Washington. Her scientific career at the AFSC started with the assessment of groundfish stocks in the North Pacific and her research portfolio grew to exemplify her multidisciplinary outlook on fisheries science and management. Dr. Hollowed's research addresses the implications of climate variability, climate change, and fishing on marine ecosystems, and identifying sustainable management strategies under changing environmental conditions. She is an internationally recognized leader on this topic with over 100 peer reviewed publications and significant contributions to domestic and international reports and committees. Dr. Hollowed served as a lead author of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate](#) and was a lead author on IPCC AR5 Climate Change 2014: Regional Aspects – Polar Regions.

**Charles Kaai'ai, Retired Indigenous Program Coordinator, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

Charles M Ka'ai'ai retired from the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in 2017 where he served as the Community and Indigenous Program Coordinator. He consults with the Council on issues related to his previous work with the Council. Charles' work with the Council allowed him the opportunity to work with communities in American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Hawai'i. He worked with the Council to operationalize the Western Pacific Community Development Program and the Western Pacific

Community Demonstration Project Program under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Community Development Program allowed for changes in the regulatory regime to allow for the recognition and allowance of certain traditional practices. The Demonstration Project Program provided grants to qualified communities to demonstrate their traditional fishing practices and other purposes. Growing up in the Native Hawaiian community, Charles has fished for his entire life and is familiar with many of the traditional methods of harvesting seafood and managing ocean resources. He is currently employed as a consultant with the Hawai'i Seafood Council as a tour guide for the Seafood auction, Hawai'i Longline fleet, and the Honolulu Fishing Village at Pier 38, as well as doing research, marketing, and promotion in support of the Hawai'i Longline Association.

### **Captain Todd Mansur, Dana Wharf Sportfishing**

Captain Todd Mansur was born and raised on the waters of Dana Point and has been a staple in the Orange County fishing industry ever since. The son of a fisherman, Todd spent his early years learning the ins and outs of the sea while working as a deckhand and crew member of many different charter boats in San Diego and Dana Point. In 2005, Jim Peterson and Ralph Brandi of Microsemi Corp, purchased the Boardroom and knew exactly who they wanted to be their partner- Captain Todd. Captain Todd helped purchase the 65 foot Hatteras and continues to run its private charters today. In 2017, Captain Todd purchased the Boardroom II. The newest addition to his fleet. Captain Todd continues to run the Boardroom, The Boardroom II as well as the landing boats for Dana Wharf Sport Fishing today. From 2012 to present, Todd has served as the Director of Education for the Gulf of Catalina Gray whale Foundation. He has educated over 20,000 young scholars in the classroom and on the water about the importance of migratory marine mammals and ocean ecosystems. Captain Todd has been published numerous times, has made dozens of T.V. appearances, is an award winning filmmaker, and has been interviewed in newspaper and magazines articles from coast to coast. He continues to give educational speeches and is a founding member of the Gray Whale Foundation.

### **Cody Szuwalski, Fishery Biologist, NOAA**

Cody Szuwalski works at the Alaska Fishery Science Center where he sits on the Crab Plan Team and is a co-PI on the Alaska Climate Linked Modeling project (ACLIM). He writes stock assessments for Bering Sea crab and reviews the science used in management as a part of the Crab Plan Team. In ACLIM, he works with economists, ecologists, climatologists, resource managers, and stakeholders who have the common goal of understanding the impacts of climate change on marine resources and developing responsive management.