Jim Berkson, Ph. D.
Office of Science and Technology
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

April 25, 2022

David Witherell, Executive Director
Dr. Sherri Dressel, SSC Co-Chair
Alison Whitman, SSC Co-Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Witherell, Dr. Dressell, and Ms. Whitman,

On behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), I would like to nominate the National Stock Assessment Program Lead, Ms. Kristan Blackhart, to serve on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (NPFMC) Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team (GPT). Ms. Blackhart has supported NMFS’ Office of Science and Technology on national stock assessment science and policy issues for nearly two decades and can offer your process a wealth of experience and knowledge. Additionally, her participation in the GPT will provide important perspective on science and management processes used by the NPFMC, aiding in her leadership of the National Stock Assessment Program for NMFS.

As Ms. Blackhart’s supervisor, I approve her participation in the GPT including attendance at biannual meetings. If you would like additional information about Ms. Blackhart, you can telephone me at (443) 545-4662.

Respectfully,

Jim Berkson, Ph.D.
Assessment Branch Chief
Kristan Blackhart

PO BOX 30608
SEATTLE, WA 98113
(206) 289-0383
KRISTAN.BLACKHART@NOAA.GOV

Skills and Core Competencies

Strategic planning; fisheries stock assessment; program management; policy analysis and implementation; technical writing; communicating with diverse audiences; database management and design; geospatial analysis; quantitative and data science; R; ArcGIS; Adobe Creative Commons.

Experience

JANUARY 2021 - PRESENT

NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, Seattle, WA – National Stock Assessment Program Lead

● Review and evaluate national stock assessment program activities and work toward achieving an effective, prioritized, and appropriately-sized program.
● Provide first-line leadership and oversight of the tasks and staff within the National Stock Assessment Program.
● Serve in acting leadership roles as needed, including Acting Branch Chief and Acting Senior Science Advisor.
● Facilitate the implementation of NOAA Fisheries’ next generation stock assessment enterprise.
● Provide coordination, management, and oversight of working groups and projects associated with stock assessment and fisheries science issues of national importance.
● Contribute to fisheries research projects and development of material for communicating research, including manuscripts for peer review, agency documents (e.g. tech memos), presentations, and other forms of communication.
● Organize workshops and symposia on issues related to stock assessment.
● Serve as liaison between the National Stock Assessment Program and other groups and activities.
● Coordinate and facilitate communication about stock assessment science among NOAA Fisheries' science centers, the Office of Science and Technology, NOAA Fisheries leadership, and external stakeholders.
● Develop answers to questions about NOAA Fisheries' stock assessment program for Congress, OMB, Department of Commerce, NOAA, and other stakeholders and interested parties.
SEPTEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2021

**ECS Federal, Seattle, WA - Contractor in support of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology and Contract Program Manager**

- Lead implementation of actions identified in the *Next Generation Stock Assessment Improvement Plan*.
- Lead implementation of the stock assessment prioritization process.
- Develop and review policy and strategic plans for the National Stock Assessment Program.
- Lead continued development of the Species Information System database and the associated Stock SMART web tool.
- Train new staff on database management and development activities.
- Coordinate national responses to data requests related to living marine resources.
- Lead planning for National Stock Assessment Workshops.
- Develop science outreach materials for distribution in various formats, including in print and on the web.
- Represent NOAA Fisheries to the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and lead a national team to complete an assessment of U.S. marine habitats for NFHP.
- Lead implementation activities for the habitat science program.
- Manage contract staff in support of multiple NOAA task orders and distributed across multiple geographic regions/NOAA facilities.
- Provide guidance to staff on administrative procedures and government regulations.

JUNE 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2014

**NTVI Federal, Seattle, WA - Contractor in support of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology**

- Represent NOAA Fisheries to the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and lead a national team to complete an assessment of U.S. marine habitats for NFHP.
- Lead implementation of actions identified in the *Habitat Assessment Improvement Plan*.
- Lead development and data management for the Species Information System database.
- Develop outreach materials to improve communication of agency science products.
- Coordinate national responses to external requests for data, agency input, and report contributions related to living marine resource management issues.

FEBRUARY 2005 - MAY 2009

**OAK Management, Silver Spring, MD and Seattle, WA - Contractor in support of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology**

- Edit and author technical agency reports on living marine resource issues.
- Lead development and data management for the Species Information System database.
- Plan and execute national workshops for regional stock assessment scientists.
- Track performance of the national stock assessment program.
- Coordinate responses to external requests to the agency for information related to living resource management issues.
FEBRUARY 2004 - JANUARY 2005

**California Sea Grant Program, Silver Spring, MD – Knauss Sea Grant Fellow**

- Support Director of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology on a diverse portfolio of projects including strategic and operational program planning.
- Author and edit summary reports, white papers, and tech memos.
- Lead NEPA document preparation and review.
- Coordinate agency responses to internal and external requests.
- Serve as Executive Secretary to the NOAA Fisheries Science Board and track actions.

JANUARY 2002 - DECEMBER 2003

**University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA – Graduate Research Assistant**

- Field and lab research on marine ecology projects.
- Underwater population surveys.
- Care of captive animals.
- Installation and maintenance of coastal oceanographic monitoring equipment.

SEPTEMBER 2001 - MARCH 2003

**University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA – Graduate Teaching Assistant**

- Prepare lectures and other course materials and lead classroom discussions.
- Lead lab experiments and field trips.
- Create and maintain course websites.
- Complete course grading and narrative evaluations.

MAY 2001 - AUGUST 2001

**Pacific Marine Research, Seattle, WA – Volunteer Marine Science Educator**

- Lead lessons for school groups (grades 3-8) on various marine science and conservation topics in a dynamic environment at sea.

MARCH 2000 - MARCH 2001

**University of Washington Burke Museum, Seattle, WA – REU Research Assistant**

- Lead marine fish surveys during a multidisciplinary, international field expedition to the Russian Far East.
- Follow-up data entry and analysis from field expedition.
- Assist with curatorial activities for the museum's ichthyology collection.
- Taxonomic research.
Education

SEPTEMBER 2010 - JUNE 2011

University of Washington Extension, Seattle, WA – GIS Professional Certificate

*Capstone Project:* Predicting the Impacts of Sea Level Rise in the Puget Sound Region

*Relevant Coursework:* Principles of Cartography & Thematic Design; GIS Data and Database Design; GIS Project Planning and Implementation; GIS Modeling and Analysis; GIS in Practice in the Northwest; Advanced GIS Analysis and Applications

SEPTEMBER 2001 - JUNE 2005

University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA – M.A. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

*Master’s Thesis:* Linking Coastal Oceanography and the Settlement Dynamics of Rockfishes (Advisor: Dr. Mark Carr)

*Relevant Coursework:* Dynamic Marine Ecosystems; Advanced Organismal Biology; Evolutionary Ecology; Applied Marine Ecology; Scientific Skills; Physics of the Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate; Topics in Physical Oceanography

SEPTEMBER 1997 - MARCH 2001

University of Washington, Seattle, WA – Cum Laude B.S. Aquatic and Fisheries Science with Minor in Quantitative Science

*Senior Thesis:* Pelagic Juvenile Rockfishes Associated with Drift Habitats in the San Juan Islands, Washington (Advisor: Dr. Bruce Miller)

*Relevant Coursework:* Fisheries Techniques; Aquaculture and Food Production; Fundamentals of Fish Population Dynamics; Fisheries Management and Conservation; Marine Reserve Design; Marine Conservation; Biology of Fishes; Life History of Marine Fishes; Sampling Theory for Biologists; Biostatistical Analysis; Statistics and Probability; Oceanography; Principles of Ecology; Genetics; Bioscientific Vocabulary; Scientific Report Writing; Streamside Studies; Biological Problems of Water Pollution; Biochemistry; Marine Zoology and Botany Field Program

Training & Certifications

2. C++ programming, NOAA Fisheries - 2022
5. Microsoft applications, Microsoft - 2022
6. EndNote, EndNote - 2022
7. Ethical and Inclusive Leadership, University of South Florida Muma School of Business - 2021
10. Reproducible Reporting with R (R\(^3\)) for Marine Ecological Indicators, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2021
11. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, University of South Florida Muma School of Business - 2021
12. Creating Connections, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science - 2021
13. Facilitation Basics, NOAA - 2020
14. Effectively Running Virtual Meetings, Northwest Fisheries Science Center - 2020
15. Practical R Workflow, Northwest Fisheries Science Center - 2020
16. Species Distribution Modeling, NOAA Fisheries - 2020
17. Github, NOAA Fisheries - 2020
18. 508 Accessibility, NOAA Fisheries - 2017, 2019, 2020
19. Inspired Leadership Specialization, Coursera - 2019
20. Plain Language Training, NOAA Fisheries - 2012, 2015, 2019
21. Data-Limited Stock Assessment Methods, NOAA Fisheries - 2018
22. Data Science Specialization, Coursera - 2018
23. Introduction to User Experience Design, Commerce Data Academy - 2017
24. FishStats, NOAA Fisheries - 2016
25. Rmarkdown, NOAA Fisheries - 2016
27. Adobe Print Production Workflow, Adobe - 2015
29. EndNote Training, NOAA - 2014
30. Perk Up Your Presentations, North Seattle College - 2014
31. Climate Change, Coursera - 2013
32. Programming in R, NOAA Fisheries - 2012
33. Learn R in Depth, USGS - 2011
34. Microsoft Access, Microsoft - 2008
35. ArcGIS, ESRI - 2005
36. NEPA Document Preparation and Review, Environmental Planning Strategies - 2004
37. SAS Programming, SAS Institute - 2004
38. Scientific Diving, University of California Santa Cruz - 2001
39. NAUI Basic, Nitrox diver
40. PADI Rescue, Master diver
41. At-Sea Safety Training, Merchant Marine Service (2000); NOAA Fisheries (2009)
42. WA, CA small boat operator
43. CPR, First Aid, Oxygen First Aid
Affiliations

1. American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists - Member
2. American Fisheries Society - Member
3. Western Society of Naturalists - Member
4. Urban and Regional Information Systems Association - Member
5. Golden Key National Honor Society - Member

Distinctions

1. Dick Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition & Award, WA-URISA 2011
2. International Women's Fishing Association Scholarship - 2003
3. Friends of Long Marine Lab Student Research Award - 2002
5. Myers Oceanographic and Marine Biology Trust Research Grant - 2001
6. Mary Gates Research Training Grant - 2000
7. University of Washington Undergraduate Scholar Award - 2000
8. Havana Bradner Scholarship - 2000
9. Ellis Fund Scholarship - 2000
11. School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences Faculty Merit Award - 2000
13. Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program in the Life History of Marine Fishes, Friday Harbor Labs - 1999
17. Hewlett-Packard Employee Scholarship - 1997
18. T&M Myers Scholarship - 1997

Peer Reviewed Publications

Technical Reports


Professional Presentations

2. “Stock Assessment Models: Science to Support Sustainable Fisheries” - NOAA Modeling Fair, Virtual - April, 2021
5. “Prioritizing Stock Assessments” - Caribbean Fishery Management Council, San Juan, PR - April, 2019
6. “Stock Assessment Prioritization for WPFMC Stocks” - Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review Steering & Coordinating Committees, Virtual - April, 2019
7. “Stock Assessments: The Science Behind Sustainable Fisheries Management” - poster presentation, NOAA General Modeling Meeting & Fair, Silver Spring, MD - September, 2018
13. “NFHP National Coastal Assessment and Gulf of Mexico Regional Assessment - Lessons Learned and Applications to the West Coast” - Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership, Long Beach, WA - April, 2015
15. “Results of the National Coastal Assessment” - NFHP Science and Data Committee, San Marcos, TX - April, 2015
17. “A Standardized Framework to Assess the Condition and Stresses of Estuary Ecosystems at Regional Scales: A Case Study of the Northern Gulf of Mexico” - RAE 7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration, Washington, DC - November, 2014
22. “National Fish Habitat Action Plan Coastal Assessment Summary” - poster presentation, Coastal Zone Conference, Chicago, IL - July, 2011
24. “Supporting Marine Fisheries with Habitat Science: Habitat Assessment Improvement Plan” - poster presentation, Restore America’s Estuaries Annual Meeting, Galveston, TX - November 2010
25. “A Multiregional Assessment of Estuary and Coastal Fish Habitat of the United States” - AFS Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA - September, 2010
29. “Settlement Dynamics of Rockfishes in Monterey Bay” - poster presentation, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans Public Symposium, Monterey, CA - March, 2002
30. “Biogeography of Marine Shore Fishes in the Kuril Islands, Russia” - International Symposium on Kuril Island Biodiversity, Sapporo, Japan - May, 2001
31. “Biodiversity and Distribution of Marine Shore Fishes in the Kuril Islands, Russia” - University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium, Seattle, WA - May, 2001
32. “Fishes Associated with Drift Habitats in the San Juan Islands, Washington” - poster presentation, University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium, Seattle, WA - May, 2001
33. “Drift Habitat Use by Juvenile Rockfishes in the San Juan Islands, Washington” - San Juan Islands Marine Resource Council, Friday Harbor, WA - December 1999
Synergistic Activities

1. Mentor, Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship (Giselle Schmitz) - 2022-2023
2. Mentor, Virtual Student Federal Service Internship (Jessica Haley) - 2021-2022
3. Representative, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology Employee Advisory Board - 2021-2022
4. Mentee, NOAA Fisheries Mentorship Program - 2021-2022
6. Recruiter, Workforce Recruitment Program - 2021
8. Mentor, NOAA-Bates College Internship program (Rose Callanan) - 2021
9. Mentor, University of Washington Alumni Association - 2021
10. Session chair, “Addressing Data Standards and Integration into Stock Assessments from Non-Traditional Sources”, AFS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD - 2021
11. Mentor, Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship (Haley Oleynik) - 2021-2022
12. Steering Committee member, NOAA Fisheries Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training (QUEST) Program - 2021-present
14. Developed and coordinate a monthly seminar series on Stock Assessment Science for NOAA and other interested audiences, 2020-present
15. Organized a training session for the National Stock Assessment Workshop on Github - 2020
17. Mentor, Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship (Robert Ellis) - 2015-2016
19. Mentor, Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship (Anthony Marshak) - 2014-2015
20. Media contribution, story on the overfishing problem via scienceline.org - 2014
21. Review panel, NOAA Fisheries internal grants process for Habitat Assessment - 2013
22. Mentor, Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship (Tali Vardi) - 2012-2013
24. Review panel, NOAA Fisheries internal grants process for Habitat Assessment - 2012
26. Review panel, NOAA Fisheries internal grants process for Habitat Assessment and Assessment Methods - 2011
27. Session chair, “Advances in Coastal Atlases, Habitat Mapping, and Habitat Assessment Science to Support Fisheries and Ecosystem Decisions”, AFS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA - 2011
28. Mentor, Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship (Joe Nohner) - 2010-2011