

**The Assembly Select Committee
on Coastal Protection and Access to Natural Resources
“Coastal Monitoring: Ocean Changes and the California Coastline”**

Panelist Biographies

Dr. Karina Nielsen

Dr. Karina Nielsen is Director of San Francisco State University’s Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies and a Professor of Biology. Her research focuses on the ecological functioning and biodiversity of coastal ecosystems, especially rocky shores, sandy beaches, surf zones and estuaries. As a community ecologist she studies all the species that use these habitats, but is especially knowledgeable about marine invertebrates, plants and algae. Karina’s current research is on marine protected areas and the influence of ocean acidification, hypoxia, and drought on the ecological structure and function of intertidal and estuarine ecosystems. She serves on the Ocean Protection Council’s Science Advisory Team, the Governing Council for the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System and the Management Advisory Board of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Karina has a BS in Biology from Brooklyn College (1992) and a PhD in Zoology from Oregon State University (1998).

Dr. James Lindholm

Dr. James Lindholm is the James W. Rote Distinguished Professor of Marine Science and Policy and the Director of the [Institute for Applied Marine Ecology \(IfAME\)](#) at [California State University Monterey Bay](#). He also serves as the Coordinator of the [Marine Science Program](#) and as the Chair of the [Research Diving Program](#). Dr. Lindholm has conducted research around the world, including the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Red Seas, using technologies ranging from ROVs, AUVs and HOVs to SCUBA and drift camera systems. His research interests include the landscape ecology of fishes, design and evaluation of spatial management regimes, and the ecological effects of fishing.

Dr. Mark Carr

Dr. Mark Carr is a professor of marine ecology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. His research focuses on the ecology of coastal marine fishes and coastal marine ecosystems and informs a variety of topics in marine conservation and fisheries management (<http://research.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/rclab/>). He conducts research on the design and evaluation of marine protected areas (MPAs) and long-term ecological monitoring

programs. For eight years, Mark served as Co-chair of the Science Advisory Team to California's Marine Life Protection Act, then as Co-chair of the Science Advisory Team to California's Ocean Protection Council. Currently, he is a member of the US MPA Federal Advisory Committee and Co-interim Director of UCSC's Coastal Science and Policy graduate program. He is a founding principal investigator with the Partnership for interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program.

Ms. Cyndi Dawson

Cyndi Dawson is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and is the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Program Manager and Policy Advisor. Cyndi joined the OPC in 2014 and is an experienced marine scientist with her past work focusing on nearshore ecology, marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries management. In her current role with OPC, Cyndi helps diverse stakeholders to understand and use science to address complex ocean management issues including helping agency and non-agency partners work together to support effective adaptive management of California's MPA Network.

Dr. Selena McMillan

Selena McMillan has been involved in marine ecology and research for over 14 years. While an undergrad at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. McMillan began working for the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) as a subtidal technician, organizing and performing long-term subtidal monitoring efforts along the California coast. Selena left this position to pursue her master's at Moss Landing Marine Laboratory (MLML) where she completed a subtidal thesis examining the trophic interactions between giant kelp and snails. While at MLML, she worked as a research assistant for Dr. Rick Starr at California Sea Grant where she was integral in organizing a Data-Poor Fisheries workshop that brought together scientists, policy makers and fishermen from all over the world. Recently, she completed her Ph.D. at The University of Auckland in New Zealand examining herbivorous fishes in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and the temperate reefs of New Zealand. She is excited to be returning to California and ocean monitoring as the new Southern California Regional Manager for Reef Check California.

Dr. Pete Raimondi – UC Santa Cruz

Dr. Peter Raimondi is a professor in and chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC Santa Cruz (<http://research.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/rclab/>). He received his PhD from UC Santa Barbara in 1988 and prior to his appointment at UC Santa Cruz had post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Melbourne in Australia and at UC Santa Barbara. He is the author of 100+ peer reviewed papers and technical reports on a wide range of topics, such as coral recruitment, kelp forest and rocky shore ecosystems, demography, molecular genetics, marine protected areas, wave energy, ecotoxicology,

once-through cooling at power plants and desalinization facilities, nearshore oceanography and particularly design of monitoring programs. He is a principal investigator with the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), and the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE), which are multi-entity university consortiums designed to conduct interdisciplinary research that informs coastal marine management and policy (see www.pacificrockyintertidal.org for interactive mapping and graphing of marine biological resources along the west coast) . He advises numerous panels, including the California Marine Life Protection ACT (MLPA), the California Coastal Commission Scientific Advisory Panel, the Statewide Ocean Desalinization Task Force, National Marine Sanctuary Program (NOAA) and the California State Water Board Advisory Panel.

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