Stefán Jón Hafstein, BA, MA

Title: Aquaculture the global picture

Professional background:

2021-2024: Special Envoy on Ocean Affairs for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Iceland, and the Chair of the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition (outgoing), a multistakholder international coalition for the promotion of foods from waters and the ocean.

Served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iceland to FAO, WFP and IFAD in Rome 2018-21, previsously Head of Mission in Uganda and Malawi and program manager in Namibia.

Before serving in bilateral and international development programs he was an elected city councillor in Reykjavik, capital of Iceland, and before that a well know media person, editor of a national newspaper and director of broadcast outlets.

He did a course at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Boston: *Using Evidence to Improve Social Program Effectiveness*, June 2013; has a diploma in *Development studies* from the University of Iceland, and has taken certified coiurses at MIT and Oxford University in development studies as well as two management courses a the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies in the UK.

Publications

Author of seven books in Icelandic, most recent (2022) *The World as it is*, (English version 2024); *Africa, love at second sight*. (2014)
Author of a host of scholarly and journalistic articles published since 1977 to date in

newspapers, journals, books and magazines Producer and director/presenter of several TV documentary films and a great number of radio programs, guest lecturer on mass media and politics for the University of Iceland and a number of non governmental organizations since 1975 to date.

Kevin Fitzsimmons

Title: Keeping the ocean as a source of sustainable food: Replacing wild-catch in aquaculture feeds with more sustainable ingredients

Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons is a Professor of Environmental Science in the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Fitzsimmons is also a co-founder and judge for the F3 Future of Fish Feeds Initiative and their associated F3 Challenges, devoted to accelerating use of sustainably produced ingredients in aquafeeds, eventually eliminating need for fishmeal and fish oils in aquaculture diets.

His research and extension work since 1981 at the University of Arizona has focused on improving the sustainability of the aquaculture industry in the US and abroad. He has been a leader in the development of the tilapia farming industry on a worldwide basis and has organized, hosted and co-edited the proceedings for 9 of the 12 International Symposia on Tilapia in Aquaculture. Dr. Fitzsimmons served as an advisor to the Chinese government and tilapia industry for many years. He was a PI on multiple projects with the Aquaculture CRSP/Innovation Lab in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In 2017, he was awarded his second Fulbright Fellowship, a research grant working on commercialization of alternative ingredients for aquaculture feeds with three Universities in Southeast Asia. From 2015 to 2021 he was Team Leader for aquaculture development projects funded by USAID and the EU-GIZ in Myanmar (Burma). He is a Distinguished Adjunct Professor with the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok and he serves on the Scientific Advisory Board for the Monterey Bay Aquarium – Seafood Watch program. He is a past President and Fellow of the World Aquaculture Society.

José Luis Chicoma

Title: Fish for Food: Overcoming Political and Power Challenges

José Luis Chicoma is an expert in sustainable food systems. Currently, he is the Senior Advisor on Food Systems for the United Nations Development Program. Previously, he served as Minister of Production in Peru, where he was in charge of the fishing and aquaculture sectors. He also held several high-level positions in Peru's public sector, including Vice Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises and Industries, and Director of Export Promotion for PROMPERU. He is a member of the team of experts developing the report on strengthening urban food systems for the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. He has served as consultant and advisor on food systems for several international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). He will serve as the Program Chair of "The Future of Food: Biodiversity and Power" at The New Institute in Hamburg in 2024 and 2025.

Chicoma was the executive director of Ethos, a Mexico City-based think tank focusing on governance and sustainable development. In 2023, he was the Guest Editor of a special issue on Foreign Affairs Latin America on food and power. He frequently writes and speaks internationally on the intersection of politics and food. In 2022, he was a Professor in Global Food Systems at the Universidad Católica del Perú and the Universidad Pacific del Perú. Harvard Master in Public Policy; Yale World Fellow; Stanford Fisher Fellow; and Bellagio Resident.

Maren Headley

Title: The ocean as a source of sustainable food and its contribution to sustainable development in the Caribbean

Dr. Maren Headley works with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat which is an intergovernmental organization consisting of 17 Member States. CRFM's mission is "to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region". She joined the CRFM Secretariat in 2006 and is currently the Programme Manager for Fisheries Management and Development. She provides technical and advisory support to Member States for the implementation of activities based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries. Dr. Headley is a graduate of the University of the West

Indies and received her doctorate in Fisheries and Aquaculture Bio-economics from the Marist University of Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

Gina Rico Mendez Bio

Title: Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish: Translating Knowledge Into Impact for Sustainable Aquatic Foods

Gina Rico Mendez is an Assistant Research Professor and Research Fellow at the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University. Rico Mendez serves as the Research and Learning Manager for the Fish Innovation Lab. In this capacity, she oversees the design and implementation of research strategies, ensures the integration of learning into project activities, and facilitates knowledge sharing to enhance program effectiveness and impact.

Prior to her current appointment at Mississippi State University, Rico Mendez served as the Developmental Evaluator and Interim Director of the USAID-funded Complexity-Aware Monitoring and Evaluation (C-AME) of the Reconciliation Activity in Colombia.

Her research spans the study of food systems, exploring the intricate interplay between natural resource management for agricultural production and human behavior, and integrates gender and social inclusion perspectives into food security and agricultural programming. With over a decade of experience working with communities, public organizations, and academic institutions across Latin America, North America, Southeast Asia, and Africa, she brings a wealth of knowledge and a diverse perspective to her work.

Rico Mendez holds a B.A. in Political Science and a M.A. in Habitat (Human Settlement Studies) from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. She completed her PhD in Public Policy and Administration at Mississippi State University, funded by the prestigious Fulbright scholarship.

Claire Colegrove

Title: Mapping the Future: The Role of ProtectedSeas Navigator in Global Ocean Sustainability

Claire H. Colegrove is an ocean law attorney, recognized for her extensive expertise in international ocean governance and marine protection laws. Since 2018, she has served as a Staff Attorney at ProtectedSeas, where she plays a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the ProtectedSeas Navigator. This innovative tool offers comprehensive mapping of marine protected areas (MPAs) and marine managed areas (MMAs) worldwide, providing critical data to support the sustainable use of ocean resources and analysis of global marine protections.

Raised on an island in Washington State, Claire developed a profound appreciation for the ocean from an early age. She earned her Juris Doctorate with an Environmental Law Certificate from the William S. Richardson School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Hamilton College. Claire is a respected member of the Washington State Bar and the World Commission on Environmental Law.

Claire's career includes notable positions such as Judicial Clerk for the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai`i, Alaska Representative for Defenders of Wildlife, and Federal Policy Analyst at Simon and Company, Inc. Her work is characterized by a steadfast commitment to fostering international collaboration and advancing policies that ensure the long-term sustainability of our oceans.

Claire H. Colegrove remains dedicated to promoting legal frameworks that support environmental resilience and marine conservation. For further information, she can be contacted at claire@protectedseas.net, or visit www.protectedseas.net

David Vivas Eugui

Title: The potential of seaweed for trade & food security

Chief of Section (a.i) at the Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD. He is an attorney with more than 25 years of experience on trade, environment, oceans economy, intellectual property, and sustainable development. He possesses a strong managerial, leadership and negotiations skills and more than 15 years of experience in strategic planning, programmatic design, implementation, team building, fundraising and setting of impact assessment systems.

He was also Senior Economic Affairs Officer and Legal Officer, at the Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy and at the Trade and Environmental Branches at UNCTAD, Deputy Programmes Director at ICTSD; Senior Attorney at CIEL; Attaché for Legal Affairs at the Mission of Venezuela to the WTO and Staff Attorney at the Venezuelan Institute of Foreign Trade. He has Juris Doctor degree at the Universidad Católica Andres Bello, Venezuela, a L.L.M. at Georgetown University in the United States and Master degree on Transnational Business at Universidad Externado, Colombia.

He has worked as an advisor and consultant for various institutions, international and national organizations such as WTO, WHO, UNCTAD, WIPO, IDLO, European Patent Office, GIZ, South Centre, ACP Group of Countries, ACP MTS, Rockefeller Foundation, the Development Bank of Latin America, Enabling Environments, CUTS International, Saana Consulting, QUNO, AITIC, , SPDA; ALIFAR, Ministry of Science and Technology of Venezuela, and. Constant participation in teaching and academic activities have been carried out at Strasbourg University, WIPO DL Academy (Geneva), University of Business and International Studies (Geneva), Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina), Universidad de los Andes and Universidad Javeriana (Colombia), and Universidad Católica del Peru.

Marian Kjellevold

Title: Harnessing Aquatic Foods for Global Nutrition: Bridging Knowledge Gaps and Policy Perspectives

Research Professor Marian Kjellevold is a nutritionist at the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) in Bergen, Norway. Her expertise focuses on food security and nutrition, particularly micronutrients in aquatic foods.

Aquatic food is not well integrated into efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of "zero hunger" (SDG 2) and "good health and well-being" (SDG 3). Dr. Kjellevold's research, therefore, emphasizes how SDG 14 (Life Below Water) can enhance nutrition security in low- and middle-income countries in Africa and Asia, as well as in high-income countries like Norway.

Since 2018, Dr. Kjellevold has led the “Nutrition and Food Safety” science theme within the EAF Nansen Programme which includes both science and capacity building. She has been member of the FISH Independent Steering Committee (ISC) which reports directly to the WorldFish Board of Trustees on the performance of the research program, and the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, Committee of World Food Security (HLPE-17) “Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition”. She is a co-author of the "Illuminating Hidden Harvest – The contributions of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development" (2023), and the FAO Technical Report 694 (2023) on "Small Fish for Food Security and Nutrition".

Dr. Kjellevold has authored or co-authored approximately 110 peer-reviewed journal articles across several fields: nutritional epidemiology, food composition and analysis, food safety and food and nutrition security. She has also delivered numerous scientific presentations, spoken at various conferences, and written popular articles on these topics.

Hettie Schönfeldt

Title: Exploring the nutrient composition of different types of blue foods and their significance in delivering essential nutrients

Professor Schönfeldt holds a Research Chair in Nutrition and Food Security at the University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa. Her research focuses on linking nutrient quantity and quality of foods to sustainable food systems. She is an advocate for nutrition research, promoting excellence through the creation, translation and dissemination of science-based information into policies, programmes and training programmes both nationally, and internationally. Professor Hettie publishes evidence on why country specific food composition data is essential to make it possible to interpret the dietary outcomes of countries. She serves as a scientific advisor to AFROFOODS, a network on the African continent, forming part of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences/FAO INFOODS Task Force. Prof Schönfeldt is the designated UP-representative to United Nations Academic Impact Hub for Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG) 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition. She has recently been appointed on the 15-member High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, which is the United Nations body that give scientific advice to the Committee on World Food Security.

Julio Cordano

Title: The Ocean and Climate Dialogue under the UNFCCC: recommendations to enhance climate policies in fisheries and food security

Born in Santiago, Chile (1971).

He completed his BA in History at the University of Chile (1994) and Master of Public Management at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (2004).

Joined the Foreign Service in 1996 and after graduating from the Diplomatic Academy, he worked at the East Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

He held diplomatic positions in New Zealand (2000-2004) and Italy (2007-2012), as well as in the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in New York (2021-2022).

In Santiago, he has been Head of the Climate Change department since 2012, leading the national delegation to the UNFCCC sessions since then. He also was lead representative of the COP Presidency during COP25, and instrumental in the creation of the Ocean Dialogue at COP25 through decision 1/CP.25.

He has held a number of ocean-related responsibilities, such as senior member of the organization of the “Our Ocean” Conference in Valparaiso in 2015. Also, he has been a permanent advocate of the ocean-climate nexus, leading the efforts in the launching of the “Because the Ocean” initiative in COP21. Also, he is currently one of the co-Chairs of the Ocean and Climate Dialogue (2023 – 2024).

He has performed the role of co-facilitator in a number of issues under the climate negotiation process, especially in the area of adaptation.

In April 2022 he assumed the position of Director of Environment, Climate Change and Oceans at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

In October 2023 he was promoted to the level of Ambassador.

He is the Chilean sherpa to the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. He is also the lead negotiator of Chile to the BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction), the third implementation agreement of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, among other processes.

Between 2017-2021 he was member of the Adaptation Committee of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Philipp Hess

Title: Harmful Algal Blooms – biological and chemical diversity in a changing climate and emerging risks for food safety and security

Philipp Hess is an analytical chemist leading the research unit on the *Physiology & Toxins of Harmful Algae* (PHYTOX) at the French Research Institute for the exploitation of the Seas (IFREMER), Nantes, France. He holds a Bsc in chemistry (DE), an MSc in analytical chemistry (FR), a PhD in marine environmental contaminants (UK) and a Habilitation to Direct Research (FR). His research has contributed to risk evaluation in various national, European and international fora and has permitted many legislative improvements for effective and safe shellfish production. Since 2011 he is the French representative on the IOC-UNESCO's Intergovernmental Panel for Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB), leads the Task team on Biotoxin Monitoring, Management and Regulations, contributes to the Ciguatera Task Team and since 2023 also the chair of IPHAB.

Amund Måge

Title: Building resilient aquatic food systems through seafood safety and sustainable practices

Amund Maage (Måge) started his career with a master’s in nutrition from the University of Bergen focusing on seafood safety (crabs) in 1986. He did a PhD on minerals in fish nutrition and became a group leader for mineral and trace elements research at the National Institute of Seafood and Nutrition Research (now merged into Institute of Marine Research). He has later

held several leading positions there, such as head of research for food safety, have run a private environmental laboratory for 5 years, and been the Marine director at the University of Bergen. He also served as a junior professional in nutrition at the FAO office in Bangkok, Thailand in the early 90-ties. He was a conjugated professor in Food Chemistry at the University of Bergen from 2010 to 2018 and is now conjugated professor in marine sustainability at the same university, while holding the position as Head of Research for Seafood and Nutrition at the Institute of Marine Research.

Dr. Maage's research field has been focused on seafood safety including the building and financing of monitoring programs large enough to be useful for both securing human health and seafood trade. This has been done in cooperation with Food Safety Authorities, Fisheries & Environmental Authorities, and the Coastal Authority. Dr Maage is author/coauthor of about 120 peer revied papers and book chapters within the fields of: a) Seafood safety, quality and nutrition; b) Fish nutrition; & c) Analytical methods (metals) and have held a row of scientific presentations, talks at conferences and written popular articles.

Sebastian Mathew

Title: Small-scale Fisheries as a Source of Sustainable Seafood: Opportunities and Challenges

Mr Sebastian Mathew, Executive Director, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), has been engaged in fisheries policy processes, research and documentation, communication and information dissemination for over three decades, valorising small-scale fisheries, especially the knowledge and institutions of fishers and fishworkers.

On behalf of ICSF, Mr. Mathew has followed major international policy processes that concern small-scale fishers and fishworkers at the United Nations and its agencies like the FAO. Mr. Mathew has undertaken studies on topics such as gear conflicts, tenure rights, fishers' knowledge, labour (migrant, forced and child labour in fisheries in developing countries), social protection and fisheries subsidies. On behalf of ICSF, Mr. Mathew is currently engaged in implementing the SSF Guidelines within a human rights-based approach towards improved governance and inclusive, conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and inland fishery resources for food security, nutrition, and poverty eradication.

Sebastian Mathew (sebastian1957@gmail.com)

Christina Hicks

Title: The global contribution of oceans to livelihoods and nutrition and current threats

Michelle Tigchelaar

Title: Harnessing diverse aquatic foods for nutrition & climate

Dr. Michelle Tigchelaar is the Impact Area Lead for Climate and Environmental Sustainability at WorldFish in Penang, Malaysia. She is a climate scientist with more than a decade of experience in interdisciplinary research for impact, spanning the aquatic and terrestrial and the ecological and human. She is particularly interested in avenues for integrating aquatic foods in (national) climate and biodiversity strategies, scaling climate adaptation solutions, and developing tools for assessing blue-green climate risk to food system benefits. Before joining WorldFish, Michelle was a Research Scientist with the Center for Ocean Solutions at Stanford University, where she played a lead role in research, communications, and policy engagement for the Blue Food Assessment, an integrative assessment of the role of aquatic foods in transformations towards healthy, sustainable, just, and resilient food systems. She currently advises the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition, a multistakeholder initiative that emerged from the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Michelle holds a MSc in Climate Dynamics from Utrecht University, and a PhD in Oceanography from the University of Hawaii.

Callum Roberts

Title: Rethinking fisheries sustainability for a fast-changing world

Callum Roberts is Professor of Marine Conservation at the University of Exeter in the UK. His research focuses on threats to marine life and on finding the means to protect them. He provided the first clear evidence that, as well as protecting wildlife, marine protected areas can support surrounding fisheries, a win-win for environment and industry. His research highlighted the growing extinction risks to marine species worldwide, especially for coral reef and deep sea ecosystems. His team provided the scientific underpinning for the world's first

network of high seas marine protected areas covering over half a million square kilometres of the North Atlantic in 2010, and for the new ocean protection target – 30% by 2030 – which was adopted as a global goal at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting in 2022. He currently leads the Convex Seascape Survey, an international research programme that aims to understand carbon storage on the world's continental shelves to better harness the power of the sea in the fight against climate change. He is author of *The Unnatural History of the Sea* (Island Press 2007), *Ocean of life: how our seas are changing* (Penguin 2013). Callum is chief scientific advisor to the Maldives Coral Institute and was lead science advisor for the BBC series Blue Planet II. He is recipient of the Grand Prix des Sciences de la Mer Albert 1er de Monaco and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Chicago in 2023.

Julio Morón Ayala

Title: Sustainable and Responsible fishing as source of healthy food supply to a growing population

Dr. Julio Morón is Managing Director of OPAGAC / AGAC (Tuna purse seine association in Spain) since 2007. Before becoming director, he was Scientific Advisor to the same Organization since 1997.

Since he finished his studies at the Complutense University of Madrid in 1989, where he got his PHD in Biology, he has worked as a fisheries observer aboard several fishing boats, operating in the Malvinas, Central Atlantic and Gulf of Cadiz fishing grounds aboard freezer trawlers and surface longliners.

From 1991 to 1994, he worked as an FAO Associated Expert for the Indo- Pacific Tuna Program (IPTP) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

From 1994 to 1997 he worked in the Seychelles for the Spanish Institute of Oceanography directing the Spanish Fisheries Office, dependent on the General Secretariat of Fisheries of Spain.

He is currently President of the Spanish Fisheries Confederation (CEPESCA), Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of the Sea in Spain and President of Group 4 of the European Commission's Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC).

Lindy Weilgart

Title: The Impacts of Anthropogenic Underwater Noise on Fisheries, Fish and Invertebrates, and Ecosystem Health

Lindy Weilgart has been specializing in underwater noise pollution and its effects on marine life since 1994. She has studied whales since 1982, primarily sperm whales, and her M.Sc. (Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland), Ph.D. (Dalhousie), and post-doctoral studies (Cornell) were all in the field of whale acoustic communication in the wild. Lindy has served as invited noise expert for the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), International Maritime Organization (IMO), U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, among others. She has also met with members of NATO, the European Parliament, and the European Commission DG Fisheries to discuss ocean noise issues, given many lectures on this topic and others, and published numerous reports and peer-reviewed papers. She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Canada, and Senior Ocean Noise Expert and Policy Consultant for OceanCare, a Swiss NGO. Previously, she was employed as Scientific Advisor by the private foundation Okeanos. She was a Scientific Expert on the German government's Antarctic Commission. She is currently a member of the Technical Group on Noise for the European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive and is on the Correspondence Group for Underwater Radiated Noise under the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Subcommittee on Design and Construction.

Maggie Broadwater

Title: Harmful algal blooms and impacts to the environment, societies, and economies – Advancing solutions

Maggie Broadwater is a physical scientist and program manager with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. As the United States representative and Vice Chair of the IOC-UNESCO's Intergovernmental Panel for Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB), she works across NOAA and with other U.S. agencies and global partners to advance understanding, detection, prediction, control, mitigation, and response to harmful algal blooms. Maggie has worked as a research scientist in NOAA's Marine Forensics and Marine Biotoxins programs,

and holds a B.S. in Biochemistry, M.S. in Biomedical Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. She lives in Charleston, SC, USA.

Vera Agostini

Title: Blue Transformation: Realizing the full potential of the ocean as a source of sustainable food

Dr. Vera Agostini is the Deputy Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division at the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) where she provides oversight, strategic leadership and technical support. From 2007-2017 Vera was with The Nature Conservancy, initially as Senior Scientist with the Global Oceans Team, and then as Director of Conservation and Director of Climate Adaptation. Dr. Agostini is a fisheries scientist by training, who has held positions across three sectors (non-governmental, government, and academia/educational) providing technical and strategic leadership across a range of multi-disciplinary efforts around the globe. Her experience ranges from comprehensive ecosystem research to broad policy and planning. She has provided technical and strategic leadership across a range of multi-disciplinary efforts and worked with coastal communities and artisanal fishers around the globe. Areas of focus include biodiversity mainstreaming in the fisheries sector, marine spatial planning and protected area network design, ecosystem based climate adaptation and disaster risk management, ecosystem approaches to fisheries, ecosystem services in pelagic environments, social resilience and small-scale fisheries.

Masanori Kobayashi

Title: Securing sustainable seafood through sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and climate change adaptation – opportunities and challenges

Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Research Fellow, OPR-SPF, m-kobayashi@spf.or.jp
Mr. Masanori Kobayashi is Senior Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) in Tokyo, Japan. He undertakes research work on ocean and sustainability policy including sustainable blue economies, marine environment and resource management, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution control, ocean based renewable energies, and regional and international cooperation and partnership. He worked on sustainability issues at the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, the Yokohama National

University, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the United Nations (New York, Geneva and Bonn) and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds LL.M (University of Georgia School of Law), M.A. (International Christian University), LL.B. (Chiba University), and completed the doctor course without degree on life and agricultural sciences (University of Tokyo). His publications include Kobayashi, M. et al (2022) Capitalizing on Co-Benefits and Synergies to Promote the Blue Economy in Asia and the Pacific". In: Morgan, P. et al. eds. Blue Economy and Blue Finance – Toward Sustainable Development and Ocean Governance. Asian Development Bank Institute, pp. 150 – 189., Kobayashi, M. (2022) "The COVID-19 impacts and challenges to achieving sustainability in Japan's fisheries and aquaculture". Marine Policy, 143, pp. 1-10., Kobayashi, M. and Watanabe, A. (2021) Multiple deep sea water use in OTEC renewable power generation – socio-economic variables and peculiarity, Kobayashi, M. (2017) Sustainable Development Goal 14 for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Oceans and Resources" Journal of Japan Society of Ocean Policy.

Mauro Gongora

Title: The role of the ocean as a food source in the Caribbean and Central America - challenges and opportunities in international cooperation and collaboration

Mauro Gongora is from Belize, Central America, He is a Fisheries Officer in the Belize Fisheries Department, Government of Belize for the past 20+ years. Mauro holds a Master of Science degree in Aquaculture from the University of Stirling in the United Kingdom. He has also completed a Marine and Inland-Waters Resources, Assessment and Monitoring (Fish Stock Assessment) at the University of the United Nations in Iceland and successfully completed a training programme in Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management at the International Ocean Institute at Dalhousie University in Canada.

His work focuses on management and conservation of commercially important fish species and development of fisheries policy and planning in Belize. Currently, he is a member of a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (QC SSTAG) of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/ CRFM/CITES Working Group on Queen Conch and is a member of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora representing Central and South America and the Caribbean Region.

Mauro works in tropical fisheries management and conservation at the regional level participating as an expert in the Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector for the Central American Isthmus (also known as OSPESCA), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECFAC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Ana Margarida Ferreira

Title: Ocean policies and Blue Food: Cascais Sea Strategy, Local Governance in Practice

Senior Officer for the Ocean at Cascais Municipality, with a professional experience of 17 years in Coastal Zone Management at a local public administration.

Was responsible for several research and development projects that promote knowledge and conservation in the marine environment as well has good governance practices.

Marine Biologist by training and by heart, with a post-graduation in GIS and several specialized courses, has concluded her PhD in Biosciences in 2018, with the thesis "Coastal Zone Integrated Management, from theory to practice. Avencas Beach, Cascais".

Currently works at the Sea Municipal Strategy Unit of Cascais Municipality, responsible for the development and implementation of local maritime policies. It is also an invited researcher at the Marine and Environmental Center (MARE-center).

Kyosti Lempa

Title: Advancing Sustainable Fisheries in the Nordic-Baltic Region: Integrating Research and Policy for Healthy Seas

I am a Special Adviser at NordForsk, a collaborative platform for Nordic research councils. My primary responsibility is organizing calls for proposals, guiding the process from initial concept development to final project evaluation. Before joining NordForsk, I worked with the Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland. I hold a PhD in Animal Ecology from the University of Turku, Finland, awarded in 2000.

NordForsk's calls are open to researchers from Nordic countries whose funding bodies participate in the call, and occasionally, researchers from other countries, including the Baltic region, can join. My areas of focus include aquaculture, fisheries, and agriculture. These calls primarily target research groups, but collaborations with industry partners are encouraged and sometimes required.

Given NordForsk's compact size, I manage all phases of the initiatives, ensuring a seamless process from developing thematic frameworks to evaluating project outcomes. This holistic involvement allows me to maintain high standards and ensure that the funded projects align with NordForsk's strategic goals, fostering innovation and sustainable development across the Nordic region.

Darius Campbell

Title: The ocean as a source of sustainable seafood – the regional perspective from North-East Atlantic Fisheries

Dr. Darius Campbell is the Secretary of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Before this role, Darius was the Executive Secretary for the OSPAR Commission, an intergovernmental organisation (Regional Seas Convention) aiming to protect and conserve the North-East Atlantic and its resources. Previously Darius worked for the UK's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs as a Deputy Director responsible for issues including developing the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme, UK policy on marine environment, and international oceans governance issues. Before joining the UK Civil Service, Darius worked in international development in Jordan, Nigeria and India. His first degree was in zoology, followed by an MSc in Livestock production and a PhD in nomadic livestock systems in Nigeria.

Delphine Schantz

Title: Promoting sustainable food sources through enhanced law enforcement at sea and crime prevention

Delphine Schantz, a national of France, is the Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Liaison Office in New York. In this capacity, she represents UNODC at intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and promotes policy dialogue pertaining to UNODC mandates and strategies.

Until January 2021, she was Chief of the Africa Section, Senior Legal Officer and Coordinator for terrorist financing-related issues within the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). This included being responsible for CTED's policy response on the issue countering the financing of terrorism, as well as carrying out visit assessments of Member States' counter terrorism frameworks on behalf of the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC).

Before joining CTED in September 2011, Ms. Schantz was the Programme Manager of the Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) of UNODC. In that capacity, she provided technical assistance to Member States of the United Nations in building effective anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) national systems as well as in reinforcing regional and international cooperation.

Ms. Schantz is a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Strasbourg and holds a master's degree in international law from the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas.

Sylvain Gambert

Title: Fostering sustainable aquatic food production into international processes

Dr. Sylvain Gambert is the environment and oceans expert at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York. Dr. Gambert holds a Ph.D. from the European University Institute where he researched marine and water governance in the European Union. He then worked on marine spatial planning, and maritime policy in the Baltic and North Sea between 2010 and 2015 in the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission. Dr. Gambert also worked on environment and marine environment policy coordination in the Secretariat-General of the European Commission and was Deputy Head of the Political Section at the EU Delegation to Albania prior to his current position.

Joel Immanuel Matonga

Title: Capacity building for the maintenance of the ocean as a source of sustainable food: a developing and least developed countries' perspective

Joel Immanuel Matonga is a Senior Legal Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi. He is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' lead on ocean affairs and law of the sea matters. In that capacity, he participated in the BBNJ Negotiations on behalf of Malawi and proffers legal advice to the Government of Malawi pertaining to the law of the sea and maritime law institutions and on international law in general. He has extensive legal training in the law of the sea, his most recent being the 2023/2024 International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea-Nippon Foundation Capacity Building and Training Programme on Dispute Settlement under PART XV of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Rado Aimé Rakotosoa

Title: Harnessing the Ocean for ensuring food Security in Madagascar

Almost 20 years of professional career in the field of fisheries sector, since september 2021, he held the position of Director General of Blue Economy in the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy.

In February 2006, recruited as Responsible of Economic Studies in the "economic observatory of the shrimp sector" project within the Ministry of Fisheries and Halieutic

Resources, he was director of the named project from 2010 to 2012. Aware of the efficiency of the project, the ministry at the time widened the observatory's field by creating a new public establishment called the "economic observatory for fishing and aquaculture", of which he became the Executive Director from 2013 to 2021. As economist by training, he began his career as a Teacher of microeconomics in 2000 at the Higher Polytechnic Institute of Madagascar. Then, he was Manager of the urban local development project in the west region of Madagascar.

In terms of studies, he obtained his master's degree in economics in 1999 and his specialized higher education diploma in local development and project management in 2004. In 2009, he deepened the economics of natural resources within the framework of the Master's Program in Policy of Resources, Agriculture, Sea and Environment at National School Agroeconomic Sciences of Rennes, France. In addition, he completed an expert training in fisheries statistics at the Sub-regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA) in Yaoundé, Cameroun in 2016. Recently, in 2018, he obtained an Advanced Studies Diploma in Diplomacy and International Relations at the National School of Administration of Madagascar.

Yoshitaka Ota, Ph.D.
Title: Food Sovereignty and Ocean Equity

Dr. Yoshitaka Ota is the founder of Ocean Nexus, a scholarly network of ocean researchers who devoted their research to advance ocean equity. Ota believes that all ocean policy and intervention shall be ‘anti-inequity’, explicitly designed and implemented to eliminate systemic issues, such as racism, colonial legacy and gender discrimination through ocean governance. This conceptual core is stemmed from a mount of evidence that Ocean Nexus offers by the research and further the network finds that any conservation and sustainability

effort for ocean environment ultimately fails to deliver the outputs without addressing social equity as the outcome.

Ota graduated University College London with Ph.D. in Anthropology and worked in universities and research institutes of UK, Japan, Canada and US as a researcher and professor. He has over 100 research publications, book chapters and reports. Ota held the Professor of Practice position at the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs in University of Washington 2019 to 2024 and have had various visiting and affiliate positions in US and Canada. He also has the Executive Masters of Public Administration from Evans Policy School at the University of Washington. He is now a Professor in the Department of Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

Jessica Gephart

Title: Sustainable seafood in the context of globalization

Jessica Gephart is an Assistant Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Her research focuses on the intersection of seafood globalization and environmental change, evaluating how seafood trade drives distant environmental impacts, as well as how environmental shocks disrupt seafood trade. Her work brings together global trade data, local consumption data, and environmental impact data to understand the opportunities and risks of seafood globalization for sustainable production and food security. Dr. Gephart received her PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center. She served on the Scientific Leadership Team of the Blue Food Assessment, where she co-led the environment and justice chapters and currently serves as a U.S. Science Envoy for the U.S. Department of State.

Donald M. Anderson

Title: New technologies and approaches to early warning, mitigation, and control of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that threaten human health and food security worldwide

Don Anderson is a Senior Scientist in the Biology Department of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He earned three degrees from MIT – a BS in Mechanical

Engineering in 1970, and a MS (1975) and PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1977. He joined the WHOI scientific staff in 1978.

He received the following awards: the Stanley W. Watson Chair for Excellence in Oceanography, the NOAA Environmental Hero award, the Dr. David L. Belding Award, the Yasumoto Lifetime Achievement Award, the Bostwick H. Ketchum Award, and the Lifetime Research and Service Award from the US National Harmful Algal Bloom Committee. Anderson is the former director of WHOI's Coastal Ocean Institute (COI), and serves as Director of the Cooperative Institute for North Atlantic Research (CINAR) and of the U.S. National Office for Harmful Algal Blooms.

Anderson's research is on toxic or harmful algal blooms (HABs), ranging from molecular and physiological studies of growth, sexuality, and toxin production to the large-scale oceanography and ecology of the "blooms" of these microorganisms, including numerical modeling, forecasting, and a range of monitoring and management strategies, many reliant on novel instrumentation and biosensors. A new area of research is on the effects of climate change and global warming on HABs. Anderson is heavily involved in national and international program development for research, monitoring, and management of HABs and has been actively involved in legislation and appropriations related to HABs and hypoxia.

Anderson is author, co-author, or editor of over 375 scientific papers and 15 books.