

**28th Annual
International Submerged Lands Management Conference Webinar Series**

Session Panelist Biographies and Abstracts

Working Waterfronts: October 8, 2009

The goal of the Working Waterfront session is to address the issues that surround the conversion of working waterfronts ~ ports, commercial marinas, boat repair yards, dry docks, fishing piers, charter fishing docks, boat builders, etc. to private residential development and other non-water dependant businesses/uses. The panelists will address trends, management strategies, legislation, the education of decision makers and the public on the value of this sector of the economy and the need to preserve public access to our working waterfronts.

Panelists

Thomas Murray, VIMS
Sarah van der Schalie, NOAA
Andrew Willner, Andrew Willner Associates
Jody Thompson, Alabama Sea Grant

Thomas J. Murray tjm@vims.edu

Marine business is the specialty of Tom Murray, a 30 plus-year veteran of applied natural resource economic analysis. Murray's broad experience spans industry as well as academia and has ranged from financial feasibility analysis and forecasting, to marine industry infrastructure development, to economic impact analysis.

Murray is no stranger to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. After serving as a resource economist in the 1980s, he returned to the campus after working in economic analysis for the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, as well as in banking and aquatic work with the Farm Credit System. He has held academic appointments at the University of Florida, University of South Florida and the Georgia State University School of Business. Murray also served as executive director of the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation from 1985-1991, and since 1991 has headed up the applied economics consulting company, Thomas J. Murray & Associates, Inc.

Sarah van der Schalie Sarah.vanderSchalie@noaa.gov

Sarah van der Schalie is a Coastal Management Specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Coastal Programs Division. Sarah is a liaison to the state coastal programs of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia and works on regional and national coastal management issues including sustainable communities and climate change. Sarah holds a Masters degree in Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences and a Bachelors degree in Geography/Environmental Studies and International Development Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to attending graduate school and joining NOAA, Sarah was a Coastal Program Analyst for the California Coastal Commission.

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SMART GROWTH FOR COASTAL & WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES

Sarah van der Schalie, Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management, NOAA

Waterfront and coastal communities have historically been, and will remain, desirable places to live. A 2004 report released by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration estimated that coastal counties cover less than 17 percent of the land area in the United States, but are home to 53 percent of the population (excluding Alaska). Within 10 years, that population is expected to grow by 12 million people—or by 3,600 people per day—reaching a total population of 165 million by 2015.¹

The unique amenities that draw people to the coast require special consideration when addressing growth and development. These issues include balancing the dynamic ecology of the land and water interface, revitalizing waterfronts and preserving water dependent uses, providing public access to the waterfront, and planning for hazard resiliency and the impacts of climate change. These considerations help protect important ecosystem functions, maintain a livable community with sense of place, and protect lives, property, and infrastructure.

Smart Growth for coastal communities requires a tailored approach that recognizes the unique opportunities and challenges of waterfront and coastal development. This presentation will highlight: 1) the release of the publication “Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities” developed by NOAA, EPA, Rhode Island Sea Grant, and the International City/County Management Association; 2) smart growth approaches that can address working waterfront issues; and 3) the launch of the website <http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov>.

Andrew Willner andrew.willner@gmail.com

Andrew Willner has been a city planner, furniture designer, sculptor, boat builder, environmentalist, story teller, and photographer. He was Executive Director and Baykeeper at NY/NJ Baykeeper www.nynjbaykeeper.org for nineteen years and retired in April 2008.

He has started a consulting firm, Andrew J. Willner, Inc., is exhibiting and published a book of his photographs, in 2008-9 was a visiting public scholar at Monmouth University’s Urban Coast Institute www.monmouth.edu/urban_coast_institute. He is a founding member and continues to serve on the international Waterkeeper Alliance Board of Directors www.waterkeeper.org, and has traveled nationally and internationally to speak on behalf of the Waterkeeper model of water and habitat protection.

Mr. Willner is a sought after speaker on a wide variety of subjects including environmental advocacy, habitat restoration, and sustainability. He is also called on to read from fiction and non-fiction works in progress, often supported by exhibitions of his [photographs](#).

¹ NOAA. 2004. Population Trends Along the Coastal United States: 1980-2008. U.S. Department of Commerce: Washington, D.C.

Community Based Fisheries Management in the North East and Caribbean
Andrew Willner

Coastal fishing communities are in trouble. The sense of place and the traditional connection of community residents to marine resources are vanishing. Current management systems are undermining the ecological, social and economic basis of community sustainability. In many cases this has contributed to the exhaustion of resources, decreased biological diversity, and the loss of a way of life that forms the basis of much of our history and culture. Increased absentee ownership and capital costs deny the traditional entry of future generations from coastal communities. The community's knowledge of, economic dependence upon, and attachment to fisheries resources is essential to promoting a strong sense of stewardship. There is a national and an international interest in maintaining healthy, dynamic and diverse coastal communities.

Jody Thompson thomp13@auburn.edu

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Jody Thompson has worked in natural resources planning and extension in coastal Alabama since 1999. She has coordinated projects and authored management plans for several coastal Alabama watersheds and served as the Facilitator for the Coastal Clean Water Partnership. Mrs. Thompson is currently providing facilitation through the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium for the Alabama Working Waterfronts Coalition, and provides extension and outreach on coastal resiliency and water quality issues to the community.

Mrs. Thompson holds her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alabama, and her Master of Science from the University of South Alabama.

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THE FATE OF WORKING WATERFRONTS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA: THE ALABAMA EXPERIENCE

Jody A. Thompson, Auburn University Marine Extension & Research Center/Alabama Sea Grant Extension

KEYWORDS: waterfront, land use, community character, preservation, management

Traditionally, the coastal counties of Alabama have relied on access to the water for their livelihood. Generations of families, based in towns like Bayou La Batre, Alabama, operate fishing boats, seafood processing facilities, boat yards, and support industries. These water-dependent industries have tremendous economic impacts both on the county and the state. Water-dependent interests in the area are wide-ranging, including commercial fishermen and shipbuilding facilities, a large charter fishing fleet, and heavy industrial shipping, with a large demand for recreational access in addition. These traditional fishing villages involve large participation from Vietnamese and Laotian communities (Bayou La Batre, AL: 51.7 percent white, 23 percent Vietnamese, 9.5 percent other Asian; approx. 1,500 total residents).

Fisheries and other related activities have tremendous economic impacts. According to the University of South Alabama, the economic expenditures related to fishing and non-consumptive activities (water-related tourism, charter fishing, birding, etc.) around Mobile Bay, AL, equals \$3 billion per year^[1].

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated traditional fishing areas of coastal Alabama. According to the University of South Alabama, the economic losses to the commercial fishing industry in Bayou La Batre, AL, alone totaled \$112.25 million.

In response to constituent concerns, AUMERC held workshops in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Bayou La Batre, Alabama, in October 2006 to inform and discuss working waterfront issues. Attendees included business, industry, political leaders, and fishing representatives. AUMERC continued to help organize an Alabama group of water-dependent businesses and other stakeholders. Involved interests have included commercial fishing and related industries, charter fishing, recreational fishing, tourism, environmental groups, and heavy industry.

Over 40 stakeholders from a wide range of interests have formed the Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition. AUMERC provides the group with technical support and facilitates the group. To meet the needs of the stakeholders, AUMERC produced a fact sheet and Web site, facilitated discussions with the state legislative delegation, provided press contacts through local and national media outlets, and acted as a liaison to local and national actions and potential partners. To meet needs identified by the stakeholders, MASGC funded an Inventory of Working Waterfront in Mobile County, Alabama.