**Dr. Susanna Theroux, Ecologist, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)**

Susie Theroux is an ecologist specializing in microbiology and biogeochemistry. Her research focuses on the development of molecular methods (next-generation DNA and RNA sequencing) for bioassessment and biomonitoring, with an emphasis on microbial community response to environmental change. Dr. Theroux received her PhD in Geological Sciences from Brown University and completed a postdoc in Computational Biology at the Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Institute. She joined the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project in 2016 and currently leads the California Water Quality Monitoring Council’s Molecular Methods Workgroup.

**Katie Grady, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)**

Katie Grady is an environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). She works primarily in management of the California market squid fishery and monitoring data. She also supports ageing of Northern anchovy, mapping of coastal pelagic finfish survey data, and various subtidal kelp and invertebrate surveys. Prior to joining CDFW in 2018, she worked with the Channel Islands National Park Kelp Forest Monitoring program where she conducted subtidal monitoring on scuba at various sites and analyzed time series data. She received her master’s degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she did applied research studying invertebrate ecophysiology and population dynamics. Katie is a NAUI Scuba Instructor and has a life-long goal of encountering a giant squid.

**Julia Coates – Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)**

Julia Coates is a senior environmental scientist, specialist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). She provides quantitative support to all programs within the Marine Region where she is needed, thus working on invertebrates and finfish as well as commercial and recreational fisheries. Among other analyses, Julia works on stock assessments, population dynamics models, harvest control rule development, and management strategy evaluations. Julia serves as the primary CDFW representative on the CalCOFI Committee and is on the CDFW dive team. Prior to joining CDFW in 2014, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Ocean Science Trust and Southern California Coastal Water Research Project and completed a PhD in ecology in the joint program between UC Davis and San Diego State University.

**Dr. Clarissa Anderson, Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS)**

Dr. Clarissa Anderson is a biological oceanographer with expertise in ecological forecasting and remote sensing. Her research focuses on the prediction of harmful algal blooms and toxins in estuarine and coastal ecosystems as well as the fate and transport of harmful toxins to deeper waters and sediments. During her time as research faculty at UC Santa Cruz, she worked to establish the California Harmful Algae Risk Mapping (C-HARM) system with NASA Applied Science support. Clarissa is now at Scripps Institution of Oceanography serving as the Executive Director of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and continuing to conduct research on phytoplankton ecology in coastal California. She is an elected member of the UNESCO SCOR GlobalHAB Scientific Steering Committee, the UN SCOR Working Group on Observing Air-Sea Interaction Strategy, the Science Advisory Team for the CA Ocean Protection Council (OPC), the U.S. National HAB Committee (NHC), and the Steering Committee for the Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Alert Program (Cal-HABMAP).

**Dr. Eric Ward, Statistician, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)**

Eric is a statistician for NOAA at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle and an affiliate professor at the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS) at the University of Washington. He works on a wide range of projects, ranging from stock assessment problems to protected species issues. Much of his recent work has involved time series analyses, spatial analysis, and forecasting techniques.