

Heather Leslie, CV

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Dr. Heather Leslie is a marine conservation scientist with expertise in coastal marine ecology; human-environment linkages, particularly those related to coastal marine fisheries; and the design and evaluation of marine management strategies.

Education

1992-1996 AB cum laude in Biology, Harvard University
1998-2004 PhD in Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon
Graduate Advisors: Profs. Jane Lubchenco and Bruce Menge

Professional Appointments and Relevant Employment

8/2015-on Director, Darling Marine Center and Libra Associate Professor, University of Maine
5/2012-6/15 Adjunct Assistant Scientist, Ecosystems Center, Marine Biological Laboratory
7/07-7/15 Sharpe Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology, Brown University
2007-2009 Visiting Research Collaborator, Princeton University
2004-2007 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Princeton University (*Advisor: Prof. Simon Levin*)
1998-2004 Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant (various positions), Oregon State University
1998 Public Relations and Campus Coordinator, Darling Marine Center, University of Maine
1997-1998 AmeriCorps Volunteer with PADRE, a grassroots environmental nonprofit in Maine
1997-1998 Researcher, Manomet Center for Conservation Science (Brunswick, Maine)
1996-1997 Volunteer Researcher, Pronatura Yucatan (Merida, Mexico)
1996-1997 Volunteer Researcher, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia (Mazatlan, Mexico)
1995 REU Fellow, H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest, Oregon State Univ./US Forest Service
1993, 1994 Researcher and Community Liaison, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications (6 most relevant of 49)

** Denotes postdoc, graduate, and undergraduate students that Leslie has advised*

- McLeod, K. L. and **H. M. Leslie** (editors). 2009. *Ecosystem-Based Management for the Oceans*. Washington, DC: Island Press. 392 pp.
- Leslie, H. M.** 2018. Value of ecosystem-based management. *PNAS* 115: 3518-3520.
- Leslie, H. M.**, and 16 others. 2015. Operationalizing the social-ecological systems framework to assess sustainability. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112: 5979-5984.
- Reddy, S. W*, A. Wentz*, O. Aburto-Oropeza, M. Maxey, S. Nagavarapu, **H. M. Leslie**. 2013. Evidence of market-driven size-selective fishing and the mediating effects of biological and institutional factors. *Ecological Applications*. 23:726-74.
- Bernhardt, J. R.* and **H. M. Leslie**. 2013. Resilience to climate change in coastal marine ecosystems. *Annual Review of Marine Science* 5: 371-392.
- Sievanen, L.,* L. Campbell, and **H. M. Leslie**. 2012. Challenges to interdisciplinary research in ecosystem-based management. *Conservation Biology* 26:315-323.

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Selected Recent Grants

- 2017-2019 Assessing the potential for sustainability of fishing-dependent communities in coastal Maine in the face of environmental and socioeconomic change. (\$275,308). Funded by NOAA's Saltonstall-Kennedy Program (HL, Lead PI).
- 2017-2020 Investing in waterfront infrastructure to power Maine's marine economy through applied research and development, workforce training and business incubation (\$1,500,000). Funded by the US Economic Development Administration (HL, Lead PI).
- 2016-2026 Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy (\$7,000,000). Awarded by the State of Maine in response to RFP#201507125, the marine economy & jobs bond (HL, co-PI).
- 2015-2019 CNH-L: Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Small-Scale Fishing Communities and Coastal Marine Ecosystems to Environmental and Economic Variability (\$1,790,687). Funded by NSF's Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) Program (HL, Lead PI).

Selected Policy Briefings and Communication Activities

COMPASS communications and engagement workshop on People and Ocean Change (co-lead), Arlie, VA (2017); Communications Workshop for Faculty & Postdocs, Brown Univ. (2012); President Obama's Ocean Policy Task Force Working Group, Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, DC (2009); Massachusetts Ocean Partnership's 'Ocean Management 101' Workshop, Boston (2008); COMPASS Communications Training Workshop for Young Scientists, Durham, NH (2007)

Synergistic Activities

1. *Scientific leader in advancing coupled systems science.* Since 2009, Leslie has led a National Science Foundation (NSF) and private foundation-supported multi institutional, international research and training program focused on the coupled human-natural systems associated with Mexico and more recently Maine's, small-scale fisheries.
2. *Diversifying and expanding the marine and conservation workforce.* In 2016, Leslie co-founded an applied marine science workforce development program linking university researchers, undergraduates, and marine industry professionals, SEA Fellows. Leslie also founded and directed an undergraduate training program in environmental science and policy at Brown University, Voss Environmental Fellows, between 2008-15.
3. *Engaged and public scholar.* Leslie is a Leopold Leadership Fellow and UMaine Faculty Fellow. She has briefed local, state, and federal decision makers on a wide array of ocean management topics, including ecosystem-based management, marine spatial planning, and reserve design. Leslie also serves on the board of the Maine chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is on the Advisory Board of the Ocean Modeling Forum.
4. *Contributing to statewide economic and workforce development.* Leslie co-founded and currently chairs the Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy, an network of companies, organizations and individuals dedicated to the growth of a vibrant marine economy for Maine.

Teaching & Mentoring

Dr. Leslie has taught courses in marine ecology and conservation science at multiple universities, and supervised 17 undergraduate theses, 8 graduate theses, and 3 postdoctoral research associates. She is committed to diversifying and expanding the marine and conservation workforce.