

Heather Leslie, Biosketch

Director, Ira C. Darling Marine Center & Professor, School of Marine Sciences
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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

7/2021-on Professor, University of Maine
8/2015-on Director, Darling Marine Center (reappointed in 5/20 for a second five-year term)
8/2015-8/21 Associate Professor, University of Maine (appointed Libra Assoc. Prof – 2015-2019)
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 Limnología (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

Select Peer-Reviewed Publications (6 most relevant of 58)

** 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.
- Pellowe, K.E.* & **H. M. Leslie**. 2020. Ecosystem service lens reveals diverse community values of small-scale fisheries. *Ambio* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-020-01405-w>
- Pellowe, K. E.* and **H. M. Leslie**. 2019. Heterogeneity among clam harvesters in northwest Mexico shapes individual adaptive capacity. *Ecology and Society* 24(4):25.
- 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.
- Bernhardt, J. R.* and **H. M. Leslie**. 2013. Resilience to climate change in coastal marine ecosystems. *Annual Review of Marine Science* 5: 371-392.

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Select Recent Grants

- 2020-2022 CNH2-S: Measuring adaptive responses that strengthen governance of marine resources in small coastal fishing communities (\$749,598). Funded by US NSF. (HL, Co-PI).
- 2015-2020 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 (HL, Lead PI).
- 2017-2021 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 (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).
- 2017-2020 Investing in waterfront infrastructure to power Maine's marine economy through applied research and development, workforce training and business incubation (\$2,600,000). Funded by the US EDA (HL, Lead PI).
- 2019-2024 RII Track-1: Molecule to Ecosystem: Environmental DNA as a Nexus of Coastal Ecosystem Sustainability for Maine (\$20,000,000). Funded by NSF (HL, co-PI).

Select Policy Briefings and Science Communication Activities

Invited testimony, Joint Legislative Committee on Marine Resources, Augusta, ME (2019, 2020, 2021); COMPASS communications & engagement workshop on People and Ocean Change (co-lead), Arlie, VA (2017); President Obama's Ocean Policy Task Force Working Group, Washington, DC (2009)

Synergistic Activities

1. *Scientific leader in advancing coupled systems science and graduate education.* Leslie leads interdisciplinary, multi-institutional research and graduate training programs focused on the coupled human-natural systems associated with Mexico and Maine small-scale fisheries.
2. *Diversifying and expanding the marine and conservation workforce.* Leslie co-founded an applied marine science workforce development program linking university researchers, undergraduates, and marine industry professionals, SEA Fellows. She also founded an undergraduate training program in environmental science and policy at Brown University, Voss Environmental Fellows.
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 diverse topics, including ecosystem-based management and protected areas. Leslie also serves as co-lead on the Maine Climate Council's Coastal & Marine Working Group and the board of The Nature Conservancy in Maine.
4. *Contributing to statewide economic and workforce development.* Leslie co-founded the Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy. She was the founding chair (2017-2018) and served as a member of the Advisory Group (2017-2019).

Teaching & Mentoring

Dr. Leslie has taught courses in conservation science and ecology at multiple universities, and supervised 21 undergraduate theses and capstone projects, 13 graduate student theses, and 6 postdocs. She is committed to diversifying and expanding the marine and conservation workforce.