

NOAA Office of the General Counsel 2010 Awards Ceremony and Reception



*February 23, 2011
11:30 am*

NOAA General Counsel is a team of professionals advancing the mission and objectives of NOAA by delivering legal services of the highest quality. We are committed to providing sound judgment, thoughtful analysis, and constructive advice through effective communication. In an environment fostering innovation and professional development, we apply the rule of law with integrity, respect for people, and commitment to excellence and the public trust.

*NOAA Office of the General Counsel
2010 Awards Ceremony and Reception*

Program

<i>Introductions</i>	<i>11:30 am</i>
<i>Jane Chalmers</i> <i>Deputy General Counsel</i>	
<i>Welcome</i>	<i>11:35 am</i>
<i>Lois Schiffer</i> <i>General Counsel</i>	
<i>Presentation of Awards</i>	<i>11:40 am</i>
<i>Marilou Shanefelt, Announcer</i>	
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	<i>12:00 pm</i>
<i>Lois Schiffer</i> <i>General Counsel</i>	
<i>Reception</i>	<i>Immediately following ceremony</i>

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Craig O'Connor (GCNR)

Provided exceptional leadership and management as head of NOAA's Office of the General Counsel for Natural Resources in its response to the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the largest oil spill in United States history. Through his tireless efforts in the days, weeks and months that followed, Craig played a critical role in leading the legal teams involved and preserving the government's claims arising from this crisis. As a result of his efforts, NOAA is well-positioned to meet its goals of restoring the injured natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

LINDY S. JOHNSON ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

Alexa Cole (GCEL)

For her outstanding achievements as the sole GC enforcement attorney for the vast Pacific Islands Region. These achievements include managing with efficiency and skill a very large and diverse case load having both domestic and international implications, and representing U.S. enforcement interests in various international forums and international initiatives.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Mary Foote (GCNW)

For her outstanding contributions to NOAA GC that greatly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the General Counsel's Office, including mentoring new GC administrative professionals, spearheading efforts to develop an administrative professionals manual and handling the unique administrative challenges of the detail of a NOAA GC attorney to GC Northwest for the year.

PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR

Debra Ketchopulos (GCNE)

Provided exceptional support to the Northeast Regional Office and the Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, taking on additional duties to ensure the NOAA GC litigation database was kept up-to-date, leading efforts in the Northeast office to respond in a timely manner to an unusual volume of FOIA and other document requests during the past year, and ably assisting in resolving a backlog of Northeast enforcement cases to ensure the agency's limited resources are focused going forward on higher priority matters.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

SENIOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

Joseph Klimavicz (CIO)

As the NOAA Chief Information Officer, he provided exceptional leadership in ensuring NOAA's compliance with critically important litigation holds in connection with the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and in partnering with NOAA GC in its efforts to replace its existing administrative enforcement database.

GENERAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Susan Beresford (GCEL)

For her extraordinary efforts and initiative in improving the management and reporting of enforcement-related information. She has taken a leadership role in the development of a more reliable, responsive and better integrated electronic data base system while assuring, in the meantime, that NOAA Leadership has the information it needs to facilitate high-level review of enforcement efforts.

Mark Fina (North Pacific Fishery Management Council)

For his significant contributions to the continued and increased use of catch share programs as an effective tool for sustainably managing living marine resources in the North Pacific and for his exceptional efforts to coordinate with NOAA GC as early as possible on issues that may present legal challenges.

Steve Freese (NMFS)

For exceptional leadership and dedication in his management of the implementation of the West Coast trawl rationalization program. Through his extraordinary efforts in partnership with NOAA General Counsel and the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the program was adopted in time for the 2011 fishing season.

Helen Golde (NMFS)

For providing exceptional leadership in support of NOAA's protected species; especially regarding response efforts resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Gretchen Harrington (NMFS)

For her significant contributions to the successful defense of litigation challenging the agency's Alaska Salmon Fishery Management Plan and the development of workable options for future Federal and State management of Alaska salmon that successfully navigate extremely controversial issues.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENERAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Dan Hytrek (GCSW)

For exceptional legal contributions advising NOAA and multiple Federal, State, and local partners with respect to the Endangered Species Act and NOAA's authorities and responsibilities to conserve anadromous fish culminating on February 18, 2010, when Under Secretary Lubchenco signed a letter of support for the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and signed the Klamath Hydropower Settlement Agreement, after several years of intense negotiations over two controversial and high profile projects in California and Oregon involving removal of four large dams and allocation of large amounts of water.

Edward R. Johnson (NWS)

For invaluable assistance to NOAA GC in fulfilling its mission of providing effective legal advice and counsel to the National Weather Service by encouraging NOAA GC involvement in major NWS policy matters.

Ruth Ann Lowery (GCF)

For her outstanding work in furthering General Counsel for Fisheries' national legal coordination role, particularly on matters relating to the Endangered Species Act and climate change.

Christopher Meaney (PCO)

For his exceptional service to NOAA GC first as a member of NOAA's Program Coordination Office and then as a member of the NOAA Policy Office. He consistently demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the issues, mastery of NOAA's processes and procedures, a collaborative and can-do approach, and unfailing good humor in the face of impossible demands.

Jonathan Pollard (GCAK)

Under his leadership and supervision, GC Alaska attorneys provided thorough and sound advice on a number of highly controversial matters including listing decisions for ice seals, designation of critical habitat for the Cook Inlet Beluga whale, the biological opinion on the Alaska groundfish fisheries and associated revisions to Steller sea lion protective measures, and the charter halibut limited access privilege program.

Maria Rea (NMFS)

For successfully nurturing a unique and close working relationship with NOAA GC in the management of a critical NOAA Fisheries office at the heart of high-profile California water and Endangered Species issues.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENERAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Marjorie Sams (GCNR)

For demonstrating great initiative and helpfulness this past year in the hiring process for the five new attorneys for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for GC Natural Resources and in volunteering her help and administrative support for GC Weather and GC Fisheries when they were short staffed by working extra hours and providing guidance and leadership in a cheerful and supportive manner.

Marilou Shanefelt (GCHQ)

For exceptional work organizing the NOAA General Counsel awards program in February 2010, including cataloging award nominations, reserving a site, procuring refreshments and award plaques, and designing and producing a souvenir program. In preparation for her role as emcee, she practiced the pronunciation of every awardees' first and last name to ensure that every individual was clearly recognized. Her dedication and hard work helped to ensure the awards program was a first class event for the GC staff and award recipients.

GENERAL TEAM AWARDS

Amendment 16 Team

Douglas W. Christel (NMFS)

Mark Grant (NMFS)

Gene Martin (GCNE)

Sue Murphy (NMFS)

Melissa Vasquez (NMFS)

Tom Warren (NMFS)

This team is recognized for its exceptional performance and significant contributions to the development and implementation of the New England groundfish catch share program.

The Bouchard Oil Spill Team

Branden Blum (GCNR)

Tom Brosnan (NOS)

John Catena (NMFS)

Katherine Clark (NOS)

Frank Csulak (GCNR)

Brian Donohue (DOJ)

Gwendolyn McCarthy (GCNR)

Tony Penn (NOS)

Rob Ricker (NOS)

James Turek (NMFS)

In 2003, the Bouchard barge spilled approximately 100,000 gallons of fuel oil into Buzzards Bay, off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, adversely affecting a variety of natural resources. The Bouchard Oil Spill Team led the efforts of Federal and State natural resource trustees to assess damages, plan for restoration, and secure a multi-million dollar settlement from the responsible parties in intense, multi-year settlement negotiations.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENERAL TEAM AWARDS

Casitas Defense Team

<i>E. Barrett Atwood (DOJ)</i>	<i>Darren Brumback (NMFS)</i>
<i>Mark H. Capelli (NMFS)</i>	<i>Stan Glowacki (NMFS)</i>
<i>Christopher Keifer (GCSW)</i>	<i>James Lecky (NMFS)</i>
<i>Rick Rogers (NMFS)</i>	<i>William Shapiro (DOJ)</i>
<i>Eric Shott (NMFS)</i>	<i>Kristine Tardiff (DOJ)</i>
<i>Steven Thomas (NMFS)</i>	<i>Craig Wingert (NMFS)</i>

This team of NOAA GC and NOAA Fisheries biologists and officials excelled under challenging circumstances successfully defending NOAA in a legally and factually complex Fifth Amendment Takings Case: Casitas v. United States.

Deepwater Horizon Electronic Discovery Team

<i>Nancy Berube (GCNR)</i>	<i>Marguerite Matera (GCNR)</i>
<i>Evelyn Nackman (GCNR)</i>	<i>Hugh Schratwieser (GCW)</i>
<i>Gail Siani (GCNR)</i>	

The Deepwater Horizon Electronic Discovery Team provided outstanding leadership in addressing NOAA's legal responsibilities regarding electronic discovery issues and document preservation responsibilities resulting from the largest oil spill in United States history.

High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act Team

<i>Derek Campbell (GCIL)</i>	<i>Meggan Engelke-Ros (GCEL)</i>
<i>Stacey Nathanson (GCF)</i>	

This team is recognized for its excellent work advising NOAA on implementation of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act. Their work has greatly supported NOAA's efforts to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources at the international level.

Magnuson Act Emergency Authority Memo Team

<i>Jane H. Chalmers (GCHQ)</i>	<i>Adam Issenberg (GCF)</i>
<i>Caroline Park (GCF)</i>	<i>Katherine Renshaw (GCF)</i>

This team is recognized for its work on preparation of a legal memorandum analyzing the scope of the Secretary's authority to issue emergency regulations. The memorandum was a key component of the Secretary's support for the New England groundfish rebuilding program in the face of significant challenges from a wide variety of stakeholders.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENERAL TEAM AWARDS

Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Horizon Emergency Fisheries Closures Team

<i>David Randle Blankinship (NMFS)</i>	<i>Heather Blough (NMFS)</i>
<i>Steve Branstetter (NMFS)</i>	<i>Rebecca Chiampi (NMFS)</i>
<i>Tricia Choe (DOC GC)</i>	<i>Anik Clemens (NMFS)</i>
<i>Susan Gerhart (NMFS)</i>	<i>Tom Gleason (GCF)</i>
<i>Shepherd Grimes (GCSE)</i>	<i>Asha Mathews (DOC GC)</i>
<i>Cynthia Meyer (NMFS)</i>	<i>Michael McLemore (GCSE)</i>
<i>Caroline Park (GCF)</i>	<i>John Oliver (NMFS)</i>
<i>Sam Rauch (NMFS)</i>	<i>Duane Smith (GCEL)</i>
<i>Eric J. Teeters (NMFS)</i>	<i>Tracey Thompson (NMFS)</i>
<i>Megan Walline (GCF)</i>	<i>Jacqueline Wilson (NMFS)</i>

The oil spill resulting from the April 20, 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico required the immediate closure of significant portions of the Gulf of Mexico to fishing, in order to ensure the safety of the fishing fleet and of consumers of seafood from the Gulf. This team is recognized for its swift and creative action in developing and implementing procedures for emergency closures and reopening of areas as they were shown to be safe.

NOAA's Commercial Remote Sensing Team

<i>Jane D'Aguanno (NESDIS)</i>	<i>David Hasenauer (NESDIS)</i>
<i>Alan Robinson (NESDIS)</i>	<i>Glenn Tallia (GCW)</i>

This team is recognized for ably handling several significant regulatory matters related to the U.S. commercial remote sensing industry, ensuring its viability and international competitiveness.

Portland Harbor Natural Resource Assessment Team

<i>Mary Baker (NOS)</i>	<i>Megan Callahan Grant (NMFS)</i>
<i>Norman Meade (NOS)</i>	<i>Robert Neely (NOS)</i>
<i>Katherine Pease (GCNR)</i>	

The Portland Harbor Superfund site includes nine miles of the Willamette River, a critical migratory route for salmon, that has been heavily polluted with a variety of hazardous substances. The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Assessment Team successfully negotiated a phased cooperative assessment with 25 potentially responsible parties securing over \$5.7 million dollars in "up front" funding to complete the assessment.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENERAL TEAM AWARDS

Oil Budget Calculator Document Production Team

<i>Roxie Allison-Holman (GCF)</i>	<i>Kate Barfield (GCNR)</i>
<i>Ginger Bennett (GCOS)</i>	<i>Jamon Bollock (GCOS)</i>
<i>Barbara Daire (GCW)</i>	<i>Evangeline Davis (GCF)</i>
<i>Roger Eckert (GCF)</i>	<i>Justin R. Ehrenwerth (DOC GC)</i>
<i>Scott Farley (GCF)</i>	<i>Sonya Fletcher (GCF)</i>
<i>Janine Galloway (GCF)</i>	<i>Keith Hagg (GCF)</i>
<i>Adam Issenberg (GCF)</i>	<i>Stephen Lipps (GCHQ)</i>
<i>Joan Moumbleaux (NMFS)</i>	<i>Evelyn Nackman (GCNR)</i>
<i>Katherine Renshaw (GCF)</i>	<i>Marjorie Sams (GCNR)</i>
<i>Connie Sathre (GCF)</i>	<i>Jonathan Wright (DOC Leg. Affairs)</i>

The Oil Budget Calculator Document Production Team is recognized for their contributions to NOAA and the Department in enabling the Department to satisfy congressional and public requests for documents under extremely challenging circumstances.

Pacific Islands False Killer Whale Team

<i>Adam Bailey (NMFS)</i>	<i>Keith Bigelow (NMFS)</i>
<i>Paul Dalzell (WPFMC)</i>	<i>Jason Forman (GCF)</i>
<i>Karin Forney (NMFS)</i>	<i>Russell Ito (NMFS)</i>
<i>Kristy Long (NMFS)</i>	<i>Jamie Marchetti (NMFS)</i>
<i>Michael Marsik (NMFS)</i>	<i>Erin Oleson (NMFS)</i>
<i>Fred Tucher (GCPI)</i>	<i>Alecia Van Atta (NMFS)</i>
<i>Nancy Young (NMFS)</i>	

This team is recognized for outstanding achievement in guiding the false killer whale take reduction team in developing and finalizing its consensus draft take reduction plan to assist NOAA Fisheries Service in reducing and eliminating serious interactions between false killer whales and the Hawaii-based longline fishery.

2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENERAL TEAM AWARDS

Papahānaumokuākea World Heritage Site Team

Theodore M. Beuttler (GCOS)

Ole Varmer (GCIL)

This team is recognized for outstanding legal work supporting the 2010 inscription of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument on the prestigious United Nations World Heritage List.

Steller Sea Lion Team

Gabrielle Aberle (NMFS)

Melanie Brown (NMFS)

Rebecca Campbell (NMFS)

Doug Demaster (NMFS)

Mary Furuness (NMFS)

Brandee Gerke (NMFS)

Josh Keaton (NMFS)

John Lepore (GCAK)

Steve Lewis (NMFS)

Joe McCabe (GCAK)

Ben Muse (NMFS)

Sue Salvesson (NMFS)

Bill Wilson (NMFS)

This team is recognized for its dedication and hard work on the development and implementation of fishery management measures to protect endangered Steller sea lions and their critical habitat from the effects of groundfish fisheries in the Aleutian Islands.

West Coast Trawl Rationalization Team

Jane H. Chalmers (GCHQ)

Eileen Cooney (GCNW)

Adam Issenberg (GCF)

Mariam McCall (GCNW)

Thomas Meyer (GCAK)

James Mize (GCNW)

Niel Moeller (GCEL)

Paul Ortiz (GCEL)

Caroline Park (GCF)

Katherine Renshaw (GCF)

Connie Sathre (GCF)

NMFS Northwest Region

NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Office of Law Enforcement NW Region

This team is recognized for providing NOAA and the Pacific Fishery Management Council with sound advice and guidance on the development of the West Coast trawl rationalization program. Through their extraordinary effort in partnership with NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific Council, the program was adopted in time for the 2011 fishing season.

NOAA GENERAL COUNSEL HONOR AWARD

<i>Kate Barfield (GCNR)</i>	<i>Nancy Berube (GCNR)</i>
<i>Branden Blum (GCNR)</i>	<i>Jamon Bollock (GCOS)</i>
<i>Linda Burlington (GCNR)</i>	<i>Laurie Lee (GCNR)</i>
<i>Marguerite Matera (GCNR)</i>	<i>Gwendolyn McCarthy (GCNR)</i>
<i>Sheila O'Brien (GCNR)</i>	<i>Craig O'Connor (GCNR)</i>
<i>Katherine Pease (GCNR)</i>	<i>Christopher Plaisted (GCNR)</i>
<i>Mary Elliott Rolle (GCNR)</i>	<i>Marjorie Sams (GCNR)</i>
<i>Hugh Schratwieser (GCW)</i>	<i>Gail Siani (GCNR)</i>
<i>Duane Smith (GCEL)</i>	<i>Robert Taylor (GCNR)</i>
<i>Stephanie Willis (GCNR)</i>	

The NOAA General Counsel Honor Award is being given as special recognition for the sustained commitment of these individuals over the course of many months in supporting NOAA and the Nation's response to the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. From the first, these individuals worked day and night to provide and support prompt and effective legal advice to all components of NOAA involved in responding to the spill, assessing the spill, protecting the public, assuring seafood safety, and working to assure that those public resources damaged by the spill are restored or compensated for. In addition, they have worked effectively with our sister federal and state agencies. As a result of their efforts, and steadfast resolve, NOAA's leadership in addressing this disastrous spill and beginning to restore the Gulf was rooted in sound law as well as sound science.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a bureau of the Department of Commerce. NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

