

Authors' Biographies

Laura E. Lallier



Laura E. Lallier holds a law degree from the University of Western Brittany in Brest, and a Master of Laws in Maritime Law and Law of the Sea from the University of Nantes. After a couple of professional experiences with the French Maritime Affairs, where she worked on abandoned ships and wrecks and safety at sea, she specialized in the legal framework of the deep seabed environment in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In 2013, she joined eCOAST and now works as a legal advisor on various projects addressing inter alia marine protected areas, bioprospecting and deep seabed mining.

Oonagh McMeel



Oonagh McMeel trained as a molecular biologist and has an academic background in differential gene expression in salmonids. She holds a degree in genetics and a PhD in molecular phylogenetics from Queens University Belfast. Oonagh's experience has spanned fundamental and applied research focusing on fish species. With the Marine Institute, she was responsible for development of molecular diagnostic methods for detection of fish pathogens to support the Institute's responsibility as the Competent Authority for the implementation of aquatic animal health legislation in Ireland. Since joining eCOAST research centre, she focuses on the interface between marine science and policy.

Thomas Greiber



Thomas Greiber is Senior Legal Officer at the IUCN Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, Germany. He holds a law degree from University of Cologne Law School and a Master of Laws in International Environmental Law from George Washington University in Washington D.C. Thomas has published in different fields of international environmental law and policy, including access and benefit-sharing, law of the sea, freshwater and forest law, payments for ecosystem services, as well as human rights and the environment. He is the lead-editor and a co-author of the recent IUCN Explanatory Guide to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

Thomas Vanagt



Thomas Vanagt obtained his PhD at the marine biology research group at Ghent University, with a study on sandy beach ecology. He holds a BSc in Biology and an MSc in zoology from Ghent University. He has been the managing director of eCOAST since the start of the research centre in 2009. Thomas is a well-respected expert in coastal ecology, for which he combines a strong ecological knowledge with a sound understanding of the physical environment. In previous years, Thomas initiated and collaborated in numerous projects in the

fields of marine ecology, marine environmental monitoring, ecotoxicology and marine aquaculture.

Alan D. W. Dobson



Alan D. W. Dobson studied biochemistry at the National University of Ireland, Galway and following his PhD worked as a Post Doc with Bert O'Malley at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, in the area of eukaryotic gene regulation. He then moved to the School of Microbiology at University College Cork, where he was appointed a Professor in 2005. He is currently Director of the Environmental Research Institute at Cork. His group employ both genomic and metagenomic approaches to exploit the microbiota associated with marine sponges and sediments with the goal of identifying novel bioactive compounds with potential biopharmaceutical applications.

Marcel Jaspars



Marcel Jaspars is Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Aberdeen. Research in the Jaspars group focuses on the functions and applications of natural products, particularly those from marine organisms. The goal of the work is to determine the biological role of selected natural products as well as using them as pharmaceuticals and tools for biomedical research. The core skills in the group are natural product isolation and structure determination

using spectroscopic methods. Marcel is leader of the EU FP7 project PharmaSea aimed at evaluating biomedical potential of marine microorganisms from extreme habitats.