

## **Thomas E. Bigford**

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### **Current duties**

Directs national habitat protection programs related to marine habitats, wetlands and waterways, anadromous species, and watersheds. Major mandates and issues include: managing the essential fish habitat program under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; coordinating policy and science issues associated with dredging and dredged material disposal; developing policy for offshore and coastal energy issues; providing environmental perspectives on marine aquaculture; assuring that anadromous fish are accommodated in hydropower and water diversion projects; implementing wetland policies; developing streamlined approaches to permitting and licensing; implementing the President's Ocean Action Plan; and other activities related to riverine, estuarine, and marine habitats. Coordinates with colleagues in the public and private sectors to implement national programs.

### **Professional experience**

More than 30 years in the marine research and management fields. With NOAA since 1980, including 4 years at NOAA headquarters in Washington, DC, 10 years with the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region in Gloucester, Massachusetts, nearly 1 year with the NOAA Fisheries Northwest Region in Seattle, and the 12 years with NOAA Fisheries headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Also 3 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Rhode Island doing research on pollution issues and 2 years with a private sector consulting firm working on national marine sanctuaries and marine resource management plans. Also volunteered for 30 years with The Coastal Society, serving as Executive Director for 5 years and editor of the Society's *Bulletin* for 16 years.

### **Academic training**

Bachelors of Science in Fishery Biology (Michigan State University) 1974, with honors  
Masters of Science in Zoology/Marine Biology (University of Rhode Island) 1976  
Masters in Marine Affairs (University of Rhode Island) 1977