

## MODERATOR BIOGRAPHY

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### **SAMUEL D. RAUCH**

Mr. Samuel D. Rauch is Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs at NOAA Fisheries. He oversees all of NOAA Fisheries' regulatory actions, including those to support protected resources, sustainable fisheries, and habitat conservation. From January 2004 to June of 2006, Mr. Rauch served as the Assistant General Council for Fisheries where he supervised a team of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff responsible for providing legal counsel to the NOAA Fisheries.

Prior to joining NOAA Fisheries he served as a trial attorney and the Assistant Section Chief for the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division for the United States Department of Justice. In this role, he either conducted or managed most of the litigation brought against NOAA Fisheries Service.

Mr. Rauch holds a J.D. from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, a M.S. from University of Georgia, and a B.A. from University of Virginia.

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## PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

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### **DR. ROBERT RHEAULT**

Dr. Robert Rheault received his Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1995. He has 30 years of experience in various aquaculture positions and has been the president of Moonstone Oysters in Narragansett, RI for the past 21 years. He is an innovator in shellfish aquaculture technologies and holds a patent on novel shellfish culture gear design.

Dr. Rheault is president of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, has been an officer of the Ocean State Aquaculture Association for 12 years and is an ardent advocate for the industry.

## PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

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### **SAMUEL W. (BILLY) PLAUCHÉ**

Mr. Billy Plauché is a partner at Buck & Gordon LLP in Seattle. His practice focuses on public and private sector land use and environmental regulatory issues.

Mr. Plauché represents a number of west coast shellfish farms and shellfish associations on regulatory issues, permitting issues and litigation. His clients include the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, the Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association, Taylor Shellfish Farms and Coast Seafoods Company.

Before joining Buck & Gordon, Mr. Plauché was a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Defense Section. While at Justice, he represented federal clients in civil litigation matters in federal court, including the Clean Water Act, Superfund cost recovery actions, and Clean Air Act challenges.

### **NEIL A. SIMS**

Neil Anthony Sims, M.Sc. is the co-founder and president of Kona Blue. He has over 25 years experience in fisheries biology, fisheries management, and sustainable aquaculture development throughout the tropical waters of the world. In addition to leading the company, he directs its research and development.

Mr. Sims founded Kona Blue in 2001, as the USA's first integrated marine fish hatchery and open ocean fish farm, off the Big Island of Hawaii. Kona Blue currently produces over 12,000 lbs per week of sashimi-grade Kona Kampachi™ from its farm site.

Mr. Sims is a founding board member of the Ocean Stewards Institute (OSI), a trade association that champions environmentally sustainable offshore aquaculture in the Americas.

A native of New Zealand, he earned a B.Sc. in Marine Science from James Cook University and M.Sc. in Zoology from the University of New South Wales.

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### **TIM EICHENBERG**

Mr. Tim Eichenberg is the director of the Pacific Regional Office of the Ocean Conservancy, and Adjunct Professor of Law at the Vermont Law School, where he teaches Ocean and Coastal Law. He has served as legal counsel for the California Coastal Commission, and chair of the Clean Water Network in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of the Washington University School of Law, was a post-doctoral fellow in marine policy at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and has published numerous reports and articles on aquaculture.

### **RICHARD SMITH**

Mr. Richard Smith is a partner in the firm of Robinson & Cole LLP focusing on environmental and resource management law.

He advises a wide variety of business, utility and municipal clients regarding their environmental compliance and permitting strategies, risk management issues, development projects and commercial transactions.

Mr. Smith often assists clients in securing permits for a variety of coastal development projects including the state's largest aquaculture production facility. These coastal projects also include permit applications and compliance counseling matters under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (and its state law analog), the Coastal Zone Management Act, and related statutory permit programs administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state agencies.

Mr. Smith is an advisor to the National Aquaculture Association Board, and has assisted the association in addressing a variety of industry issues related to state and federal aquaculture programs.