

Andrew (Andy) Lipsky

SeaPlan

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Andy Lipsky is a leading ocean and environmental conservation professional. For more than 23 years, he has worked at the NGO, State, Tribal, and Federal levels, including two years at the White House Council on Environmental Quality where he helped develop and implement President Obama's National Ocean Policy. An interdisciplinary scientist, regulatory and policy expert, project manager, spokesperson, and campaign director; he led the planning, design, permitting, implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management of terrestrial and marine conservation projects throughout the U.S. He managed more than 100 coastal, marine, watershed, and fishery restoration projects in partnership with dozens of federal, state, tribal, non-profit, and business sector clients on thousands of acres of private, public, and tribal lands/waters. He has experience lobbying, and building coalitions and leading local, regional, and national conservation initiatives that have resulted in successful passage of laws at the State and Federal levels.

CAREER

Senior Partner (2012-present)/ Director of Science and Policy (2011-2012), SeaPlan, Boston, MA

Directs science, regulatory and policy programs, including leading organizational business development and fundraising activities, and science staff supervision in coastal resilience, marine habitat classification, marine planning, and human use characterization programs. Manages industry/government partnerships and is a principal author of the recently completed Northeast Recreational Boater Survey. As a fisheries scientist liaison for the pilot Block Island Wind Farm directs and executes cooperative fisheries research projects with industry to address interactions between offshore wind and commercial fisheries. Supports many projects associated with the Northeast Regional Ocean Data Portal. Recent international work includes serving as Chair and facilitator for the European Commission Marine Spatial Planning and Fisheries Workshop. Directs a number of community resilience, preparedness, and vulnerability studies. Manages budgets, and recently co-raised over \$2.4 million in private philanthropy and fee-for-service contracts in support of marine planning activities.

Senior Scientist, Coastal and Ocean Planning and Ecosystem Restoration EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., Warwick, RI (2011-2012)

Business development, senior technical review, and project management for climate adaptation, fish habitat restoration, fisheries science, and marine planning projects. Lead preparer of key chapters of NOAA's *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill* Gulf of Mexico Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

National Water Quality/Ocean Sciences Leader

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Washington, D.C. (2010 - 2011)

Led USDA coastal and ocean science activities and advised the Office of the Secretary, including development of Farm Bill position papers on marine conservation/aquaculture. Developed guidance and supported states and territories to develop and execute strategic conservation initiatives (e.g., Coral Reef Task Force, Gulf of Mexico Conservation Initiative). Led development of technical guidelines and policies regarding aquatic conservation activities. Developed the first comprehensive interagency science framework for an integrated approach to field-based monitoring and modeling for the Mississippi River Basin, supporting \$500 million of USDA water quality improvement investments. Led interagency efforts to better coordinate Farm Bill investments with NOAA assets and programs.

Ocean Policy Advisor, National Ocean Council (NOC)

Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C. (2010 – 2011)

Supported the phased implementation of CMSP in the nine regional planning areas by developing guidance, training, and engagement of regional intergovernmental representatives. Working across 26 Federal agencies, led development and implementation of national Strategic Action Plans, including the National Plan for Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land, and the National Plan for Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. Coordinated agency budget guidance efforts with OMB and was the lead author of the *Federal Ocean and Coastal Activities Report to Congress*. Managed external affairs for the NOC, designing and executing President Obama's public campaign to implement the new National Ocean Policy, including stakeholder engagement with thousands of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes stakeholders; NOC Liaison for recreational and commercial fishing sectors, and executed and coordinated outreach activities with White House Legislative Affairs. Led the design and execution of a White House National Marine Planning Summit and Simulation Exercise, bringing over 700 federal, state, tribal, and stakeholder leaders together to advance regional ocean planning in the U.S. Responsible for coordinating ocean policy and science recommendations with the President's Climate Adaptation Task Force.

Ocean Policy Advisor, The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C. (2009- 2010)

Provided expert scientific and policy advice to the President's Principal Environmental Advisor and was responsible for developing and implementing policies and initiatives related to marine and coastal natural resources. Responsible for managing President Obama's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, comprised of 24 Federal agencies and White House Offices, to establish the United States' first National Ocean Policy. Facilitated interagency discussions and drafting teams to develop national policies, principles, and national objectives for Task Force deliberations, including fisheries, ecosystem restoration, water quality improvement, ocean planning, and climate adaptation and resiliency

strategies. Co-led the design and implementation of White House stakeholder engagement and outreach activities. Co-chaired with the Office of Science Technology and Policy Working Committee Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Science and Data Subgroup to establish the framework for a national information management system for all coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. Developed the essential elements of the National CMSP Framework and worked with scientists, stakeholders, and intergovernmental partners to incorporate the requisite knowledge, data, and assessment activities for effective marine planning.

State Fish & Wildlife/ Farm Bill Program Manager/Northeast Regional Interdisciplinary Resource Team Biologist USDA-NRCS, Warwick, RI and Northeast U.S. (2002- 2009)

Program manager and lead planner responsible for the planning, engineering, monitoring, and federal, state, and local regulatory requirements of more than one hundred natural resource and marine conservation projects, representing over \$25 million in conservation investments. Responsible for managing both program and project budgets and organizing cross-disciplinary science teams. As State Biologist for USDA in Rhode Island, led national efforts to develop and implement shellfish aquaculture and other innovative market-based conservation programs with industry and private landowners, stakeholders, and in partnership with state, tribal, and federal agencies. As the Regional Biologist, developed and implemented a Hydro-Geomorphic Model for the Cape Cod Water Resources Project. Served as agency spokesperson, including media coordination to highlight aquatic conservation activities. Developed national marine habitat management training materials and served as a national trainer for USDA. Notable accomplishments also include: leading agency efforts to develop and roll out the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Flood Plain Easement Program; in 2008 designed and carried out in partnership with marine aquaculture producers over \$3 million in industry-based shellfish restoration programs, led dozens of successful migratory fish passage, coastal wetland, seagrass, living shoreline, and shellfish restoration projects, and provided leadership and technical support to institute the first NRCS marine subaqueous soil mapping survey. Organized coalitions of non-governmental stakeholders and government representatives around numerous conservation initiatives. Worked closely with congressional delegations to secure resources and advance marine conservation efforts.

Restoration Program Director, Save the Bay, Inc, Providence, RI (1995 – 2002)

Led Save the Bay's nationally recognized *Narragansett Bay Habitat Restoration Program*. Planned, designed and implemented coastal wetland, coastal buffers, living shoreline, and fishery restoration, mapping, and monitoring projects throughout the Narragansett Bay Watershed. Led design and execution of successful state-wide and national legislation initiatives to advance marine and estuary restoration efforts in the Northeast and across the U.S.

EDUCATION

Master of Science

Marine Ecology & Watershed Hydrology; University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI (2003)

Graduate- USDA National Leadership Development Program, 2010-2011

Visiting Researcher

Physical Hydrology-Subsurface Tidal Hydrology Investigations, Brown University, Providence, RI (1999)

Bachelor of Arts

Environmental Studies and Political Science, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT (1992)

SELECTED AFFILIATIONS / CERTIFICATIONS / AWARDS

Technical Advisory Board Member, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council; 2002-2009

Coastal Fellow, Coastal Institute, URI 2002-present

Trainer, National Employee Development Center, USDA; 2005

Steering Committee Member, MAPCOAST, 2006-2009

Executive Committee-First Stewards Climate

Symposium-National Museum of the American Indian; 2012

Certified Conservation Planner, USDA-NRCS 2002-2009

Dozens of Federal Recognitions, including:

Letter of Recognition from the Chief of Staff of the President;

USDA National Honor Award for Eelgrass Partnership 2004

Environmental Merit Award, U.S. EPA.2002.

SELECTED PUBLICATION AND SYMPOSIA (Partial list)

- Emily J. Shumchenia; Marisa L Guarinello; Drew A Carey; Andrew Lipsky; Jennifer Greene; Larry Mayer; Matthew E Nixon; John Weber. (in press) Inventory and comparative evaluation of seabed mapping, classification and modeling activities in the Northwest Atlantic, USA to support regional ocean planning. *Journal of Sea Research*.
- Starbuck K, Lipsky A. SeaPlan. 2012 *Northeast Recreational Boater Survey: A Socioeconomic and Spatial Characterization of Recreational Boating in Coastal and Ocean Waters of the Northeast United States*. Technical Report Dec 2013. Boston (MA): Doc #121.13.10, p.105.
- Halpern, B.S. et al. 2011. *Near-term priorities for the science, policy, and practice of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning*. *Marine Policy*, doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2011.05.004 (Contributing Policy Advisor).
- Lipsky, A. 2009. *Ridgetop to Reef – Tapping the Potential of the U.S. Farmbill*. National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, Los Angeles, California. 20-24 July.
- Markey, K., M. Chiari, D. Leavitt, A. Lipsky, and E. Scherer. 2008. *Implementation of a USDA/NRCS EQIP Program for Shellfish Aquaculture in Rhode Island*. 28th Milford Aquaculture Seminar. NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center; Milford, Connecticut. 25-27 February.
- Lipsky, A. 2007. *Implementing Farm Bill Programs Underwater- Eelgrass Restoration in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island*, 137th American Fisheries Society 2007 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.
- Lipsky, A. 2002. *An Eelgrass Restoration Site Selection Model for Narragansett Bay*. Report and Data for the Rhode Island Aquafund, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.
- Cromwell, N., A. Lipsky, and W. Ferguson. 2000. *Coastal Property and Landscape Management Guidebook*. Save The Bay, Inc., Providence, Rhode Island. 76 pp.
- Contributing author to: *Principles of Estuarine Habitat Restoration*. 1999. Joint Document between Restore America's Estuaries and Estuarine Research Federation.
- Cottrell, H., I. Huber, L. Carson, and A. Lipsky. 1999. *Coastal Wetland Habitat Mapping in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island/Massachusetts*. In *Proceedings of Estuarine Research Federation, 15th Biennial International Conference, New Orleans, LA*.