

New England Innovates: The Blue Economy

THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

September 18, 2023

New England Aquarium

AGENDA

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Registration & Networking

2:00 - 2:05 p.m.

Welcome

James T. Brett, President & CEO
The New England Council

2:05 - 2:10 p.m.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Vikki Spruill, President and CEO
The New England Aquarium

2:10 - 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Remarks and Audience Q&A

Dr. Richard Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
and Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

Moderator:

Doug Robbins, MITRE Corporation

Panelists:

- Dr. Diane Foster, Ph.D., Director of the UNH School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering, University of New Hampshire
- Dr. John Mandelman, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Scientist, New England Aquarium
- Christopher Montferret, Vice President, Maritime & Strategic Systems Strategy and Business Development, General Dynamics Mission Systems
- Dr. Richard "Rick" Murray, Ph.D., Deputy Director and VP for Science and Engineering, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Dr. Barbara Wolfe, Ph.D., Provost, University of Rhode Island



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SPEAKER PANEL & BIOGRAPHIES

Welcome Speaker:

James T. Brett, President & CEO The New England Council

James T. Brett is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business association. Mr. Brett was appointed to this position by the Council's Board of Directors in October 1996.

Under Mr. Brett's leadership, The New England Council has become the region's premier business advocacy and networking association. During his tenure, revenues have grown significantly, membership has increased tenfold, and the organization has expanded its programming to offer upwards of 60 events annually throughout the six New England states and in Washington, D.C. The Council is widely respected by business leaders and policymakers alike for its non-partisan, consensus-based approach to policy advocacy. As a result, in recent years, Mr. Brett has led the Council's successful and impactful federal advocacy on a wide range of critical economic issues, including energy, financial services, healthcare, education and workforce development, technology, transportation, trade, and more.

Prior to joining the Council, Mr. Brett served for 15 years as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. During that time, he served as a Chairman of several of the most influential committees in the Massachusetts legislature, including the Committee on Banking, the Committee on Taxation, and the Joint Committee on Congressional Redistricting. As a State Representative, Mr. Brett's legislative priorities included providing tax relief for key Massachusetts industries, creating high-wage jobs, developing and retaining a skilled workforce, and fostering an overall business climate that supports economic growth and prosperity for all residents.

Mr. Brett has been a lifelong champion for people with disabilities. In May 2022, President Joe Biden appointed him to serve as the Chair of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID). He previously served on PCPID under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, including a term as Chairman from 2011 – 2013. In 2016, Congress appointed him to the National Council on Disability, and he currently serves as Vice Chairman. He is also currently the Chair of the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability, and the Chair of the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission. In 2013, the University of Massachusetts Boston established the James T. Brett Chair in Disability and Workforce Development, the nation's only endowed chair in disability and workforce development.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Brett has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his achievements and contributions. He has been named to the Boston Business Journal's "50 Most Influential Bostonians" list on several occasions in recent years. He has also been recognized with honorary degrees from a number of institutions, including Anna Maria College, Bridgewater State University, New England College, Saint Anselm College, Suffolk University, and Westfield State University.

Mr. Brett received his Bachelor's degree from American University, and holds graduate degrees from Suffolk University and Harvard University. Jim was born and raised in Dorchester, MA, where he currently resides with his wife, Patricia. In his spare time, Jim volunteers at the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, named in memory of his mother.



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Introductory Speaker:

**Vikki Spruill, President and CEO
The New England Aquarium**

Vikki N. Spruill is President and CEO of the New England Aquarium, an ocean conservation organization that educates and inspires more than a million visitors a year on Boston's Central Wharf; conducts applied research through its Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life; and rescues and rehabilitates threatened and endangered sea turtles in its Sea Turtle Hospital in Quincy, Mass.

Ms. Spruill previously served as President and CEO of the Council on Foundations, the largest association of philanthropic grant-making organizations, and Ocean Conservancy, a science-based advocacy organization dedicated to the oceans. She also founded the Trash Free Seas Alliance, was the founding director of SeaWeb, and helped found COMPASS, which empowers scientists to better engage in public discourse on environmental issues.

Ms. Spruill is on the Board of Directors of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and the Water Institute of the Gulf. She is a Trustee of the New England Aquarium and an active member of Boston's Green Ribbon Commission and the Massachusetts Women's Forum. She also serves as Co-chair of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Climate & Energy Leadership Council.

Keynote Speaker:

**Dr. Richard Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator**

Richard (Rick) W. Spinrad, Ph.D., was sworn in on June 22, 2021 as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the 11th NOAA Administrator. Dr. Spinrad is responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the agency and its over 12,000 employees, including developing NOAA's portfolio of products and services to address the climate crisis, enhancing environmental sustainability and fostering economic development, and creating a more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive NOAA workforce.

Most recently, Dr. Spinrad served as a Professor of Oceanography and Senior Adviser to the Vice President of Research at Oregon State University (OSU). He was also Vice President for Research at OSU from 2010-2014.

Dr. Spinrad served as NOAA's Chief Scientist under President Barack Obama from 2014 until 2016. He also led NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and National Ocean Service from 2003-2010. While at NOAA, Dr. Spinrad co-led the White House Committee that developed the nation's first set of ocean research priorities and oversaw the revamping of NOAA's research enterprise, including the development of the agency's Scientific Integrity policy.



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Prior to initially joining NOAA, Dr. Spinrad held leadership positions at the U.S. Office of Naval Research and Oceanographer of the Navy, where he was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award — the highest award given by the U.S. Navy to a civilian. He has held faculty appointments at OSU, the U.S. Naval Academy, and George Mason University; served as Executive Director at the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education; was President of Sea Tech, Inc.; and worked as a research scientist at OSU and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. He also developed the National Ocean Sciences Bowl for high school students. In the international arena, Dr. Spinrad served as the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission from 2005-2009.

He is the recipient of Presidential Rank Awards from presidents George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama. Dr. Spinrad is past president of The Oceanography Society (TOS) and the Marine Technology Society. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, Marine Technology Society, TOS, and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), and an IMarEST Chartered Marine Scientist.

Dr. Spinrad received his B.A. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from The Johns Hopkins University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography from Oregon State University.

Panel

Moderator

Douglas Robbins

Vice President, Engineering and Prototyping

The MITRE Corporation, MITRE Labs

Douglas Robbins is vice president, engineering and prototyping, MITRE Labs. He leads MITRE's Innovation Centers in the research, engineering, and prototyping of new and disruptive solutions in the public interest using world-class technical capabilities, solution platforms, and workforce. MITRE Labs addresses national-scale problems across MITRE's federally funded research and development centers, the federal science and technology landscape, and beyond. Robbins plays a key role in helping to connect all of MITRE to New England's business, government, and innovation communities.

Robbins previously was vice president of MITRE's Air Force portfolio. He worked with Air Force senior leadership to set strategy and priorities that ensure MITRE delivered technical capabilities in support of Air Force mission objectives across command and control, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; cyber defense and resiliency; and nuclear enterprise modernization. Robbins also served as director of strategic development for MITRE's Bedford campus and New England operations. In that role, he executed a strategy focused on shifts in the company's work program, developed needed capabilities and engagement approaches with academia, and established partnerships within the Boston-area innovation ecosystem.

He has directed the Enterprise Integration Division in MITRE's Command and Control Center, which focuses on developing enterprise-scale solutions in partnership with the Air Force, joint service warfighters, and coalition forces. Early in his career, Robbins held engineering leadership roles at MITRE locations in Massachusetts and New Jersey, and at ITT in Clifton, N.J.



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Robbins earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Maine and a master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology in 1999. He also completed the General Management Program at Harvard Business School. Robbins serves on the Board of the Massachusetts High Technology Council and the New England Council.

Panelists

Diane Foster

**Director of the UNH School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering
University of New Hampshire**

Diane Foster is the Director of the School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering and professor of mechanical and ocean engineering at University of New Hampshire. She is a leader in her field of coastal sediment transport with a research portfolio that includes support from NSF, DOD, NOAA, EDA, and more recently DOE. As the former Director of UNH's Chase Ocean Engineering Laboratory, she led UNH's efforts to establish an undergraduate ocean engineering program and expand its ocean engineering research capacity with a major renovation and building expansion. Since coming to the UNH Marine School, she has generated funds to launch a new Center for Sustainable Seafood System and supported the launch of the new Department of Energy's Atlantic Marine Energy Center. She serves on the Executive Committee of the US Coastal Research Program and New Hampshire's Offshore Wind Commission. She believes that addressing our increasingly complex societal problems impacted by our oceans will require a firm commitment to interdisciplinarity and stakeholder engagement.

John Mandelman, Ph.D.

**Vice President and Chief Scientist
New England Aquarium**

Dr. John Mandelman is a Vice President and member of the New England Aquarium's (NEAq) Executive Team, supporting the organization's vision toward a vibrant and vital ocean for future generations, and efforts to help drive the responsible growth of the ocean economy. As Chief Scientist/Vice President of the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, John oversees the NEAq's applied ocean scientific research, policy, and corporate/industry technical advising work. He is also the acting Vice President of the NEAq's Animal Care Division, which encompasses the NEAq's live animal exhibits, veterinary care, water quality and sea turtle Rescue work. Beyond his roles at NEAq, John is Adjunct Faculty in the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Boston's School for the Environment, UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology, and Tufts University's School of Veterinary Medicine. He serves as a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Ocean Science Advisory Council, and is a board member for several non-profits and scholarly scientific journals. John was recently included on the inaugural and global Bloolooop 50 Zoo & Aquarium Influencer List (2022).



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Christopher Montferret
Vice President, Maritime & Strategic Systems Strategy
and Business Development
General Dynamics Mission Systems

Chris Montferret is the Vice President of Strategy and Business Development for the Maritime & Strategic Systems line of business within General Dynamics Mission Systems. This large and growing portfolio includes surface navy, undersea systems, airborne composite systems, and Navy and Air Force strategic deterrent systems. As a partner to the line of business vice-president & general manager, he is responsible for customer relationship management, strategic planning, market assessment and analysis, new business investment management, and overall growth across the Maritime & Strategic Systems portfolio.

Montferret joined General Dynamics (formerly General Electric) in Pittsfield, MA in 1987 as a member of the Edison Engineering Leadership Program. Since then, he has held positions of increasing responsibility in Engineering, Quality Assurance, Program Management, and Business Development over his thirty-six year career. As a business development capture manager, he led the GDMS teams that successfully captured the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), and Air and Missile Defense Radar (AMDR) programs for General Dynamics Mission Systems. As the segment director for the strategic command and control business area segment, Montferret oversaw and managed the profit and loss for multi-discipline design, production, and sustainment teams for the system that controls the targeting and launch of ballistic missiles from United States and United Kingdom SSBN submarines, and Tomahawk missiles from the United States SSGN platform. Prior to his current role, he also served as the business development director for the surface systems, undersea systems, and strategic systems business areas.

Montferret holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Clarkson University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1987. He earned a Master of Engineering degree Magna Cum Laude in Computer and Systems Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1990. He has also completed several executive development programs within General Electric and General Dynamics. He and his wife Monica live in the town of Hinsdale in Berkshire County MA, where he is active in the local community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Berkshire United Way and the Dalton Community Recreation Association.

Dr. Richard “Rick” Murray
Deputy Director and VP for Science and Engineering,
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Dr. Richard W. (Rick) Murray is the Deputy Director and Vice President for Science and Engineering at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He was a Professor of Earth and Environment at Boston University (BU) from 1992 - 2019. He served as Director, Division of Ocean Sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 2015-2018. In addition to his NSF duties, he served as a Co-chair for the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, as part of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President, during both the Obama and Trump administrations. While at BU, Murray was the Director of the BU Marine Program from 2006-2009, and Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences from 2000-2005. He received his undergraduate degree at Hamilton College (1985), and also graduated from the Sea Education Association's (SEA's) program in Woods Hole (Class W-71). After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley (1991), he was a post-doctoral scholar at the Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island.



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Murray's research interests are in marine geochemistry, with an emphasis on sedimentary chemical records of climate change, volcanism, and tropical oceanographic processes, and in the chemistry of the seafloor biosphere. A seagoing oceanographer, he has participated on many research cruises in various capacities around the globe. He has authored or co-authored ~ 100 peer-reviewed research papers, is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, a former Trustee of SEA, and helped initiate and manage the Link Foundation's Ph.D. Fellowship Program in "Ocean Engineering and Instrumentation". Murray is a former Councilor of The Oceanography Society, and is currently on the Board of Directors of the American Geophysical Union. He was an elected Selectman in Scituate, MA, from 2006 to 2014, and has been active in town governance for many years.

Dr. Barbara Wolfe
Provost
University of Rhode Island

Dr. Barbara Wolfe's area of research focuses on the clinical symptoms and implications for intervention and relapse prevention in women with eating disorders. She has been the recipient of federal and foundation funding to support her research. She has widely disseminated this work through publications and national and international presentations.

Dr. Wolfe has received many awards throughout her career including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellowship and Psychiatric Nurse of the Year from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She is a member of the American Academy of Nursing, the Eating Disorder Research Society, and Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society for Nursing. She is a past president of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and has served on numerous national committees including the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5) Eating Disorders Workgroup and as a former chair of the NIH Nursing and Related Clinical Sciences Study Section. Dr. Wolfe is currently a member of the editorial board for the Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



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