

## ACCELERATING THE INFUSION OF SCIENCE INTO COASTAL POLICY – A PANEL

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Driven by rapid developments in sensor design and deployment, robotics, big data acquisition, storage and analytics, artificial intelligence and Earth Systems modeling, the pace of coastal science has accelerated. At the same time, the scale and gravity of the hazards confronting coastal waters, shorelines and communities has also been accelerating. Many of these coastal hazards are systemic - warmer water, rising seas, tropicalization - the result of the changing climate. Others are more localized – legacy pollution, altered hydrologic regimes, ecosystem disturbance. Synergies between these global and local impacts, coupled with multidecadal time horizons, present a profound policymaking challenge. Policy challenges include engineering scaled up coastal hazard mitigation and adaptation measures, changing human behaviors, and planning for a coastal future we can model but cannot easily imagine. These challenges will tax the current policy framework for coastal management. Each panelist will briefly address their own work at the interface of science and policy and discuss role of the coastal science presented during the symposium in informing future policy. Panel and audience will then engage in a moderated, interactive discussion.

### **PANELISTS BIO:**

Professor Brett teaches in the areas of environmental law, ocean and coastal law, and the intersection of law and science. Her scholarship focuses on how scientific data is used in decision-making. Prior to joining UF, Professor Brett worked on international ocean policy for Stanford University and the World Economic Forum.

Dr. Silverstein practices both science and policy in her role as Executive Director of the Miami Waterkeeper. Prior to becoming the Waterkeeper, she was Knauss Sea Grant Fellow and Professional Staff for the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard.

Adam Blalock is responsible for restoring and protecting Florida's aquatic ecosystems; managing aquatic research, monitoring and laboratory analysis; governing coastal protection and resiliency. In addition to practicing law in the private sector, Adam served as policy chief for the Agricultural and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Florida House of Representatives.

**MODERATOR BIO:** Professor Ankersen directs the UF Law Conservation Clinic and is Florida Sea Grant's legal specialist. He also serves on the leadership team of the Center for Coastal Solutions where he helped to pilot the Coastal Policy Lab, a collaboration between the Colleges of Law and Engineering and Florida Sea Grant.