

# BIOS



**Zofia Baumann** has been an assistant research professor of marine sciences at the University of Connecticut since fall of 2014, with a research focus on bioaccumulation of metal contaminants. Originally from Szczecin, Poland, Baumann earned her doctorate in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, N.Y. Outside of her academic interests, she enjoys taking walks with her kids and husband. She loves traveling.



**Anoushka Concepcion** has been an assistant extension educator with Connecticut Sea Grant and the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension since 2011, specializing in marine aquaculture. In addition to earning her master's degree in aquaculture from the University of Rhode Island, Anoushka has previously been manager of an algae lab at a commercial shrimp hatchery in the Florida Keys. She lives in Rhode Island with her husband and two precocious daughters.



**Tessa Getchis** is an aquaculture extension specialist with Connecticut Sea Grant and UConn Extension Programs. She works primarily on commercial and recreational shellfisheries, assisting farmers and doing field research, and also hosts public outreach events about Connecticut seafood and aquaculture. She earned a master's degree in aquaculture from the University of Rhode Island. Tessa serves as a member of the town of Stonington Shellfish Commission and as a coach for an elementary school running club in Mystic, where she lives with her husband and two daughters.



**Diana Payne** has been the education coordinator for Connecticut Sea Grant since 1999, with expertise in ocean literacy and experience as an evaluator on projects for the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Education. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and her doctorate in educa-

tional psychology from the University of Connecticut. Outside of her professional interests, she enjoys traveling.



**Penny Vlahos** has been a professor of marine sciences at the University of Connecticut since 2007, with a research focus on environmental chemistry and biogeochemistry. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Vlahos earned her doctorate at the University of Massachusetts in chemical oceanography. As residents of the Long Island Sound shoreline, she and her family are vested in preserving the integrity of this important waterway.



**Michael Whitney** is an associate professor of marine sciences at the University of Connecticut. His research focus is on coastal processes and river influences in the marine environment. He grew up in Connecticut, earned his bachelor's degree at Yale University and his doctorate at the University of Delaware. Whitney works with collaborators to address water quality issues affecting Long Island Sound and its marine resources.

## Meet Connecticut's Knauss Fellows:

The John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. Named after one of Sea Grant's founders, the national program matches highly qualified graduate students with hosts in the legislative and executive branch of government in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one-year paid fellowship. Connecticut Sea Grant recommended the applications of two Yale University graduates who were ultimately chosen for the fellowship for 2017:



**Ariana Spawn**, who earned a master's degree in environmental management with a focus in ocean and coastal policy, has been working in the office of Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey. Before coming to Yale in 2016, she was a research associate with the Environmental Law Institute, working on domestic and ocean management issues in Washington D.C. and in Louisiana on Deepwater Horizon oil spill recovery and restoration.



**Julia Luthringer** earned a master's degree in environmental management, with a focus on marine conservation management and policy. She has spent her Knauss fellowship year working as a congressional affairs analyst in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.