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About our contributors



JUDY PRESTON

Judy Preston conducts public engagement and education programs for the Long Island Sound Study at Connecticut Sea Grant. In partnership with the UConn Master Gardener program, she runs the Coastal Certificate program that teaches sustainable gardening practices. She lives, plays and volunteers in conservation efforts at the mouth of the Connecticut River. She has an undergraduate degree in geology from Skidmore College, a Master of Science in botany from the University of Vermont and Master of Environmental Management from Yale University.



HOWARD "MICKEY" WEISS

Howard "Mickey" Weiss founded Project Oceanology in 1972, served as director until 2002, and is currently senior marine scientist. Dr. Weiss has led workshops for civic leaders in NY and CT and taught courses for science teachers in New England, Alaska and Mexico. He conducted research on blue crabs, American lobsters, spiny lobsters and the Thames River, and published several books including *Marine Animals of Southern New England and New York* and *Investigating the Marine Environment*. He is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the EPA's Long Island Sound Study and was its first co-chair in the 1980s.



SYMA EBBIN

Syma Ebbin serves as both a professor at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus and the research coordinator for Connecticut Sea Grant, teaching courses in environmental and marine science and policy. She engages in social science research focused on fisheries and other marine and coastal issues. She developed and administers CTSG's Art Support Awards Program, which awards competitive grants to local artists working on coastal and marine themes. She obtained doctorate and masters' degrees from Yale University, a Master of Science from the University of Alaska, Juneau, and a bachelor's degree from Williams College.



NANCY BALCOM

Nancy Balcom is the associate director and extension program leader for Connecticut Sea Grant and a senior extension educator with UConn Extension. Her extension interests range from safe seafood handling and safety at sea to disaster risk communication and community resilience. She has been part of the Sea Grant family for more than 34 years, starting in 1985 as a graduate student. She earned her undergraduate degree from UConn and her masters in marine fisheries from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary.



KIRA GOLDENBERG

Kira Goldenberg is a freelance writer and communications professional, and a Connecticut native. She writes regularly for university publications, including Barnard College and Wesleyan University's alumni magazines. Her work has also appeared in *The Connecticut Mirror*, *The Day*, the *Hartford Courant* and *The Guardian*, among other publications. She is working on her master's degree in social work at Hunter College.



JUDY BENSON

Judy Benson has been communications coordinator at Connecticut Sea Grant and editor of *Wrack Lines* since 2017. Before that, she was a newspaper reporter and editor, concluding her journalism career at *The Day* of New London covering health and the environment. She is the author of a forthcoming book created in collaboration with artist Roxanne Steed: *Earth and Sky: Nature Meditations in Word and Watercolor*, being published by New London Librarium (nllibrarium.com). She earned both a bachelor's degree in journalism and a Master of Science in natural resources from UConn.