

**Panel Biographies**  
***Federal Agency Perspectives***

**MODERATOR:**



**Ashley Chappell, Executive Director, U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System**

Ashley Chappell comes to the CMTS from NOAA. With a degree in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she started as a cartographer with NOAA. She soon migrated from nautical charts to policy, strategic planning, and budget formulation in support of safe and efficient marine transportation. After earning her Master's in Geography and Cartographic Sciences from George Mason University, she detailed to NOAA's Office of Policy and Planning to support the Promote Safe Navigation Strategic Goal. This move enabled her to work on several interagency MTS-related projects, including the 1999 Assessment of the U.S. Marine Transportation System, the formation of the Interagency Committee on the Marine Transportation System (ICMTS, predecessor to the CMTS), and the impactful U.S. decision to turn off Selective Availability of GPS signals, enabling GPS innovations in commercial and civil applications.

Building on this early MTS background, Ashley has continued to build strong interagency relationships, whether in her primary role leading NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping program, co-chairing the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping, or co-leading the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Elevation Theme. Ashley has always participated in the ICMTS/CMTS, working on strategic plans, congressional engagement opportunities and CMTS publications, including as an Arctic Integrated Action Team co-chair. Ashley has focused largely on the emerging threats and opportunities from a warming Arctic, and the national need for better marine transportation system information infrastructure and foundational geospatial data to support science-based decision-making in the coastal zone.

In recent years, Ashley has participated in crafting and implementing the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration and Characterization Strategy, which calls for interagency coordination and collaboration to map the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. She also led the drafting of the Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy and was instrumental in adding coastal mapping to the federal/state Alaska Mapping Executive Committee's purview. Ashley has also brought her extensive experience to the table on offshore wind and coastal resilience data acquisition initiatives, including the creation of NOAA's RDML Richard T. Brennan Ocean Mapping Matching Fund.

## PANELISTS:



### **Stephen L Hill, PMP, SES, Director of Operations and Regulatory Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Mr. Stephen Hill is the Director of Operations and Regulatory Program, Headquarters, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

He is responsible for the strategic oversight and execution of a highly complex and politically sensitive \$6 billion annual program. This program delivers critical services in operations, maintenance, and regulatory functions to over 260 million U.S. citizens across key areas such as navigation, hydroelectric power, public recreation, environmental stewardship, asset management, cybersecurity, water supply, wildlife protection, the safeguarding of waterways and wetlands, and overall sustainability. Additionally, Mr. Hill oversees the Army's regulatory program under the Clean Water Act, River and Harbors Act and navigable waters of the United States. He also provides executive-level integration for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, as well as the North Atlantic Division. Leading a dynamic team of both military and civilian professionals, Mr. Hill ensures the effective delivery of Operations and Maintenance and Regulatory programs within USACE's expansive Civil Works infrastructure portfolio. His leadership supports the organization in fulfilling its wide-ranging mission across the enterprise.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Hill served as the Director of Contingency Operations and Chief of the Homeland Security Office at USACE Headquarters. He is a strategic and visionary leader, known for driving major programs across both public and private sectors. With a demonstrated ability to lead teams, manage complex initiatives, and build coalitions with key partners, his accomplishments span collaborations with the Department of the Army, Department of Defense (DoD), and other federal agencies.

Mr. Hill brings over 35 years of combined experience from both federal service and private industry. In the private sector, he played a senior leadership role in the World Trade Center Construction Program in New York City, supporting an \$18 billion construction effort. His expertise also extends to global infrastructure projects, including key initiatives in the Middle East and Asia, as well as emergency response operations during Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Maria. In the aftermath of the hurricane, he served as Mission Director for the Power Field Office in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. His global experience includes service and projects in Japan, Iraq, Germany, Haiti, Kuwait, Egypt, Qatar, and numerous U.S. locations.

A combat veteran, Mr. Hill has extensive experience in high-pressure environments, effectively leading winning teams on significant programs worldwide.

Mr. Hill holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, and a Master of Arts in Strategic Planning and Policy from the U.S. Army War College.



**Nicole LeBoeuf, Assistant Administrator, NOAA's National Ocean Service**

Nicole R. LeBoeuf is the assistant administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Ocean Service (NOS), an organization of 1,700 federal staff in more than 50 locations around the country. Ms. LeBoeuf oversees all strategic and operational aspects of America's premiere coastal and ocean agency, providing strategic vision in support of NOS's priorities of safe and efficient transportation and commerce; preparedness and risk reduction; and coastal zone management, stewardship, tourism and recreation. She serves as the focal point for conveying the value of NOS products and services within NOAA and to the Department of Commerce, the Office of Management and Budget, and to Congress. In the course of her work, Ms. LeBoeuf actively establishes and grows partnerships with other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. She serves as the first female U.S. Representative to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, where she advances the application of ocean and coastal observations in understanding and preparing for climate change and promoting U.S. best practices in coastal and ocean observations and science for a more safe, resilient, and prosperous future. She also serves as Co-Chair of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and as a member of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force - both important opportunities to advance NOAA's conservation and economic prosperity missions across state, federal, and territorial jurisdictions.

Ms. LeBoeuf has nearly 30 years in public service, specifically scientific and program management experience, with emphasis on the connections between science, technology, and in identifying policy solutions to complex national and international challenges. Previously, Ms. LeBoeuf served as the NOS deputy assistant administrator and worked in the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources as chief of the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, where she maintained oversight of a diverse regulatory portfolio of protected species conservation and management activities. Ms. LeBoeuf has also worked in the NOAA Budget Office as NOAA's finance lead during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and in NOAA Fisheries' Office of International Affairs as NOAA's lead for the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and as NOAA's expert on reducing bycatch in multiple tuna fisheries on the high seas. As the special assistant to NOAA Fisheries science director, she represented NOAA at the U.N. General Assembly and the World Conservation Union.

Ms. LeBoeuf grew up on the Texas Gulf Coast and knows the importance of coastal communities and economies to our nation. She holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in sustainable development and

conservation biology from the University of Maryland. She is also a proud graduate of NOAA's Leadership Competencies Development Program. She lives with her husband in Kensington, Maryland.