

Laurie Allen

In January of 2003, Laurie Allen began her current role as Acting Director for the Office of Protected Resources. This headquarters office is responsible for national leadership, policy development, and program implementation for NOAA's protected resource conservation mandates, primarily the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. The office is the primary support for many international treaties and conventions on protected resources worldwide. Ms. Allen joined NOAA in 1990 as a seafood inspector, developed seafood standards between 1991 and 1993, beginning work in the Habitat and Protected Resources Division of NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office in 1994. She has wide ranging experience with all NOAA's protected resource mandates, working as a staff biologist on all parts of the two major Acts and moving on to become regional team lead. Fishery and protected resource interactions has been a major focus. Between 2000 and 2002, Ms. Allen served in various capacities in support of senior leadership in headquarters, as a special assistant to the Deputy and later as Senior Policy Advisor to Assistant Administrator. She has a Bachelor of Science degree (1984) in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Vermont and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University (2000).