

Ellen Mecray

Ellen is an interdisciplinary scientist with expertise in climate and societal risk management, oceanographic research, strategic planning, partnership development, and engagement across the public and private sectors. With 25 years in federal service, she is an experienced research scientist, policy analyst, strategist, educator, and leader supporting efficient cross-sectoral collaboration with key partners at scales ranging from the local level to the international realm.

Ellen is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Regional Climate Services Director for the Eastern Region. She focuses on the delivery and interpretation of information using networks across the critical sectors of the Eastern region including, water, health, transportation, energy, coasts, and marine fisheries. In addition, she is a leader at the international level as the U.S. co-lead for the Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Network. Ellen is a recognized climate expert and communicator for her 16-state region, serving as the Coordinating Chapter Author for the Northeast regional chapter of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Fourth and Fifth National Climate Assessment, and a leader for several federal interagency partnerships. In these roles, Ellen successfully distills, translates, and coordinates information, services and products from a diverse group of stakeholders and she helps to bring NOAA's climate information to regional, state, and local geographies and specific sectors of importance to the eastern region. Ellen is a champion for regional climate services through the management and the execution of a \$6 Million budget and the communication and coordination of climate service programs.

Ellen served in a detail as Acting Chief of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geophysical Sciences Data Center in Boulder, CO in 2018. In this role, she managed a team of 45 scientists across 2 sections, one focusing on Solar and Terrestrial Physics (STP) and the other on Coastal and Marine Geology (CMG). Together these sections represented about \$12 million in partner and base funding. The funding for STP is for activities pertaining to the World Magnetic Model, Ionospheric measurements and calibration of observations, and calibrating and optimizing the Level 1b information off NOAA's GOES-R and DSCOVR satellites. The support for CMG is for activities pertaining to mapping of the seafloor in the US Exclusive Economic Zone, archive to visualization of marine acoustics information, hazards assessment, and bathymetry information.

Previously, Ellen was the Lead Strategic Planner for NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). In this capacity, she led several initiatives that championed NOAA's research and resulted in new programs and funding to NOAA on ocean acidification (\$8M), Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (\$1M), and Climate Services (\$6M). Working with agency leadership, Ellen was the OAR representative for the development of the current NOAA Strategic Plan, crafting language on the Science, Service, and Stewardship elements which have guided NOAA's mission-driven culture.

Prior to joining NOAA, Ellen was an Oceanographer with the U.S. Geological Survey's Coastal and Marine Geology program. Her research included planning and executing ship-board and laboratory experiments on the geochemistry of estuarine and coastal contaminants as well as paleo-climatic reconstructions. Her work is published in a number of research journals including the Journal of Coastal Research, Environmental Geology, and Water, Air and Soil Pollution. Ellen is also an accomplished educator, having taught courses in oceanography, chemistry, and environmental science at the secondary level prior to joining the federal service. Her years in teaching included mentoring students in classroom, coaching, and dormitory situations.

Ellen received an M.S. in Geological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and an A.B. in Geology from Colgate University. She is a member of the Geological Society of America, the American Geophysical Union, the Geochemical Society, the Sigma Xi Honor Society, and the American Meteorological Society.