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Dr. Sharon Walker received her M.S. in Marine Science from Louisiana State University followed by her Ph.D. in Science Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is currently the Associate Dean for Outreach in the College of Marine Sciences at USM; Administrator of the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center in Biloxi, MS; and Director of Education for the MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium. She has vast experiences as an educator and is currently a Professor within USM's Department of Coastal Sciences for the College of Marine Science. She has made significant contributions to ocean sciences education; has published numerous articles concerning oceanography, coastal processes, and global environmental issues; and has made important contributions to programs focusing on women in the sciences. Dr. Walker continues to collaborate on many research projects, make educational presentations, and stay involved in professional organizations.

Mr. Howard D. Walters received his B.A. in Elementary Education and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of West Florida. He is currently ABD at The University of Southern Mississippi in Educational Research/Adult Education. He serves as Coordinator of Educational Programs and Assistant Administrator of the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium (MEC&A) in Biloxi, Mississippi. Mr. Walters has invested 9 years in classroom instruction—from elementary school to college levels—and 6 years in informal science education. His areas of research interest are in informal science education, program evaluation, and the continuing professional education of teachers.

Ms. Harriet M. Perry earned her B.S. from Florida State University and her Masters of Science at The University of Southern Mississippi. She has worked as a Fisheries Biologist for 33 years at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Her research interest is dealing with the influence of shelf circulation on crab recruitment; population dynamics of coastal and deep-sea crabs; fishery development; management of crustacean fisheries and invertebrate taxonomy. She has published over 50 journal articles, edited four symposium proceedings, two fishery profiles and two regional fishery management plans. Ms. Perry is currently the Director of the IMS Center for Fisheries Research and Development.

Mr. Willie R. Heard earned his B.S. in English Education from Edward Waters College and his M.A. in Human Resources Management from Pepperdine University. He retired as an officer in the U.S. Air Force from service in Human Resources. He now serves as Coordinator of Operations/Research Associate at the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium (MEC&A) in Biloxi, Mississippi. Mr. Heard began his career in marine science by serving as a Docent—a teaching volunteer—and eventually hired on as a Marine Education Specialist. He is the primary interactive network site (PINS) coordinator for the JASON Project at the MEC&A. He is also an adjunct instructor for Embry-Riddle University at Keesler Air Force Base Resident Center.