Gulf of Maine Research Institute

POSITION PROFILE: CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

The Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) will lead a multidisciplinary team of world-class scientists conducting marine research to better understand and steward the Gulf of Maine ecosystem—from its physical dynamics to its human communities. The CSO will apply a systems approach to develop scientific priorities, conduct research, pioneer collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges, and help shape the conversation around climate change and ecosystem sustainability at the local, national, and international levels.

GMRI infuses its research findings into the policy arena and designs solutions with fishermen, aquaculturists, and seafood businesses to sustain fishery resources, harvest them responsibly, and market them as premium quality food. GMRI nurtures emerging leaders in communities that depend on the sea. GMRI's education programs cultivate science literacy and build a foundation of collaborative problem-solving among our next generation of leaders, scientists, citizens, and stewards. Each year, GMRI serves over 25,000 stakeholders from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia.

Working closely with the leaders of GMRI's other core program areas (Education and Community) and cross-cutting programs (Climate Center and Business Development), the CSO will facilitate integration of research into GMRI's strategic plan to ensure that our Research Team's activities are synergistic with, and deepen the impacts of, adjacent program areas. The CSO will also work closely with our Development Team to cultivate and steward key donors (private foundations, individuals, corporations) supporting both GMRI's science capacity and general operations. The CSO is a key leadership position and serves a vital role on GMRI's Management Team.

GMRI is locally focused and globally relevant. We are dedicated to the resilience of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that depend on it. We support solutions that will broadly benefit the bioregion and its diverse communities over generations to come. We leverage the Gulf of Maine's significance as a testbed for adaptation to environmental change and responses to global opportunities and challenges.

GMRI is committed to the principles of independence and objectivity. Our research is evidence-based, transparent, and nonpartisan. We convene diverse and often competing stakeholders to solve complex problems. We work with partners and networks to leverage knowledge, relationships, and resources to increase our shared impact.

GMRI's commitment to excellence ensures that thoughtful, entrepreneurial, and persistent staff who aspire to high levels of impact are recruited and empowered.

PRINCIPAL OPPORTUNITIES

The position of Chief Scientific Officer at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute offers a purpose-driven researcher an extraordinary opportunity to undertake work that is both challenging and deeply meaningful in one of the nation's most livable small cities. Portland, Maine and surrounding towns offer good schools, a vibrant food and arts scene, engaged and approachable community leaders, and wonderful access to outdoor adventure at sea, on rivers and lakes, or in the mountains. Equally important, the successful candidate will be joining an entrepreneurial and energetic management team that embraces a collegial and collaborative culture around strategic planning, organizational policy development, and decision-making, and strives to achieve applied solutions and knowledge transfer through innovative, out of the box thinking.

This an exciting moment to assume a scientific leadership role of a stakeholder-focused, results-oriented organization with an impressive track record. GMRI has grown rapidly over the past two decades, emerging as one of the region's most respected marine NGO's due to its program impact and the exceptional caliber and commitment of its staff, management team, and board. Within the rich depth and breadth of GMRI's science, education, and community work, the organization is known for implementing local solutions that have global relevance, including:

- *Discovering that the Gulf of Maine is one of the fastest warming ocean regions and demonstrating the power of predictive models to inform climate-ready stewardship and business strategies;*
- *Collaborating with fishermen to implement management strategies to end overfishing and diversify into aquaculture while preserving important economic and cultural values;*
- *Working across the supply chain to shift seafood sourcing practices to more local and sustainable options and supporting the growth of shellfish farms; and*
- *Immersing 12,500+ of Maine's middle school students and teachers in authentic hands-on science experiences every year.*

The GMRI Research Team includes 20+ full-time employees, including five research scientists, 15+ research technicians, associates, postdocs, and administrative staff, as well as two University of Maine scientists collocated at GMRI and 10+ interns. In 2020, research expenditures reached $3,800,000 (out of a total institutional budget of $12,000,000). Research is supported mainly by federal grants (primarily NSF, NOAA, and NASA), as well as state, foundation, and other philanthropic funding.

In addition to our partnership with the University of Maine, GMRI leverages relationships with the Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR), the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), Rutgers University, the School for Marine Science and Technology at UMass Dartmouth (SMAST), Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), and others. In keeping with GMRI's strategic plan, our Research Team is collaborating with international partners to advance research efforts across the North Atlantic.

GMRI's research program is interdisciplinary and integrated, with expertise distributed across the following labs: Climate Change Ecology, Coastal and Marine Economics, Fisheries Ecology, Integrated Systems Ecology, Ocean Data Products, Pelagic Fisheries, and Quantitative Fisheries Research, all of which are detailed further below.

Climate Change Ecology

This lab seeks to understand how warming, acidification, and deoxygenation alter marine ecosystems, including how:

- *marine ecosystems respond to changes in ocean temperatures and other physical factors;*
- *commercially and ecologically valuable species such as lobster, copepods, and endangered right whales will be affected by climate change; and*
- *humans can best anticipate and adapt to climate change to ensure a sustainable future.*

Coastal and Marine Economics

This lab seeks to understand the mechanisms behind our decisions and behaviors, and how they relate to coastal and marine resource uses. The lab aims to:

- *explore and understand the complex trade-offs involved when people make decisions about the natural environment;*
- *support decision-makers by providing useful and timely information and tools; and*
- *promote the sustainability and resiliency of communities and economies that depend on coastal and marine resources.*

Fisheries Ecology

This lab investigates ecological information about economically important fish, ensuring our world-class fisheries can adapt to changes. The work aims to:

- *provide fisheries managers and fishermen with the continual stream of up-to-date information necessary to run sustainable, profitable operations;*
- *track how changing ocean conditions influence fish distribution, abundance, habitat associations, predator-prey interactions, behavior, movement, and more; and*
- *sustain the culturally, historically, economically, and ecologically important fisheries in the Gulf of Maine.*

Integrated Systems Ecology

This lab works to distill and analyze complex ocean dynamics to inform decision-makers and promote sustainability and resiliency in the Gulf of Maine. It does so by:

- *developing climate-resilient conservation and management strategies;*
- *providing the information stakeholders need to sustain fish populations and fisheries in changing ecosystems; and*
- *working closely with fishing industry participants, managers, planners, and other stakeholders to achieve ecological and socio-economic goals.*

Ocean Data Products

This team transforms a constant flow of complex ocean data into simplified, accessible information streams and visuals for a diverse range of stakeholders. Its activities include:

- *developing tools and visualizations to improve understanding of climate change trends in the Gulf of Maine and beyond;*
- *providing scientists, researchers, fishermen, and other stakeholders with improved access to data that informs their decisions; and*
- *using innovative techniques and modern technology to simplify complex information data and develop products for decision-makers.*

Pelagic Fisheries

This lab uses cutting edge science to fill life history gaps for highly valuable and migratory species, and by doing so, improve management capacities. The research aims to:

- *fill in life history knowledge gaps for highly migratory species such as tunas and billfish (including swordfish);*
- *collaborate with fishermen and researchers, domestically and internationally, to improve biological understanding and management practices, and to reduce stock assessment uncertainties; and*
- *use innovative, rigorous, hands-on scientific methods to develop more accurate stock assessments and put fishery managers in a position to succeed.*

Quantitative Fisheries Research

This lab conducts research and participates in science advisory work to improve the management and sustainability of ecologically and economically valuable marine resources, ecosystems, fishing communities, and the seafood industry. This lab aims to:

- *understand the influence of climate, harvest, and management on our fishery resources;*
- *develop approaches to improve fisheries stock assessment and management;*
- *advance the study of fish population structure and its implications to sustainable management and resilience of fishery resources; and*
- *understand aspects of fish population biology and dynamics in relation to key factors (e.g., climate and ecosystem factors and fishing).*

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES of the CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

GMRI's Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) plays a central leadership role, both within GMRI and externally in state, interstate, federal, and international forms. Our CSO reports to our Chief Operating Officer.

Specific responsibilities are outlined below:

Lead a team of world-class scientists conducting marine research to better understand and steward the Gulf of Maine ecosystem—from its physical dynamics to human communities. Key activities include:

- Advance GMRI's scientific excellence and leadership in the Gulf of Maine, national, and

international arenas

- Develop scientific priorities in response to emerging marine resource and environmental challenges and opportunities, and in alignment with the mission and strategic plan of the organization
- Work with others to guarantee long-term stability of Research Department budget and to develop and secure GMRI's scientific funding base
- Support, guide, and lead large-scale proposals that foster interdisciplinary collaboration across GMRI and with external collaborators
- Provide oversight to the Ocean Data Products Team and their use of innovative techniques and technology to leverage complex information data and develop products for decision-makers
- Nurture a stimulating, productive, and safe environment for Research Department through direct supervision of senior scientists and research management staff, mentoring, and department budget oversight
- Work closely with the leads of GMRI's other core program areas (Education and Community) and cross-cutting programs (Climate Center and Business Development) to deepen program impact and ensure synergy with Research Team activities

Lead an active personal research program that is relevant and impactful in the Gulf of Maine bioregion and beyond, and that contributes to GMRI strategy. Key activities include:

- Maintain an active research lab in appropriate balance with CSO duties
- Publish high-impact scientific research
- Communicate research results to scientific, management, and general audiences through peer-reviewed papers, presentations, and other media
- Serve in leadership capacities on local, state, regional, national, and international scientific councils in the ocean/climate/fisheries domains

Contribute to the creative leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and collaborative environment of a strong, evolving nonprofit entity. Key activities include:

- Serve as member of GMRI Management Team and, in that capacity, help lead the design and achievement of GMRI's intended impact and strategy
- Provide broad direction to and oversight of GMRI's evolving strategic plan from a research perspective
- Champion and model strategies to build and maintain diversity on GMRI's Research Team, across our staff, and in the sciences more broadly, and to promote equity in who participates in and benefits from our work
- Cultivate an equitable, inclusive, and respectful environment for GMRI staff and stakeholders
- Contribute to organizational policy and decision-making to support overall fiscal health and sustainability of the organization
- Drive innovation by encouraging out of the box thinking to achieve applied solutions and knowledge transfer
- Work with Development Team to communicate Research Team's ongoing work and cultivate and steward key donors (private foundations, individuals, corporations) giving to both GMRI's science capacity and general operations

Represent GMRI and its research programs externally to share knowledge, leverage relationships, and increase impact. Key activities include:

- Work with Communications Team to represent GMRI research activities to the general public and interpret science for a broad range of constituencies
- Work with Chief Community Officer and Climate Center Director to contribute to regional climate science/fisheries discussions and decision-making
- Report on research to GMRI Board of Directors and Science Advisory Committee

QUALIFICATIONS

GMRI is searching for candidates with vision, deep expertise, and demonstrated leadership capability to lead GMRI's Research Team and share leadership of our entire organization during a period of enormous challenge and opportunity. Required qualifications include:

- Ph.D. in relevant natural or social and behavioral sciences, and at least 10 years of postgraduate research experience.
- Distinguished record of research leadership, including experience building a successful research program, leading multidisciplinary research teams, recruiting and mentoring scientific and research staff, successful grant writing, and significant scientific achievement;

Additional preferred qualifications include:

- Demonstrated transdisciplinary experience taking a systems approach to understand and address complex challenges and opportunities;
- Experience operating effectively at the science/policy interface;
- Experience communicating complex scientific information to a variety of technical and lay audiences, including media; and
- Ability to provide organizational leadership, interact with research/administrative personnel in a leadership role and build consensus.

The final candidate may have the literal qualifications summarized above or an eclectic background that provides the insight, leadership, entrepreneurial bent, and management, communication, organizational skills required to excel in this position.

KEY COLLEAGUES

SCIENCE LEADERSHIP

Graham Sherwood, Ph.D.
Interim Chief Scientific Officer
Graham is an ecologist whose [Fisheries Ecology](#) lab research focuses on the intersections between food-web ecology, behavioral ecology, and energetics of diadromous, estuarine, coastal and continental shelf fish species. He uses a broad range of observational methods to discern patterns in movement, stock structure, feeding, growth, and reproduction of a broad range of commercially and ecologically important species in the northwest Atlantic (e.g., Atlantic cod, Atlantic herring, alewife, monkfish,

American lobster, northern shrimp). This includes fisheries acoustics, tagging (conventional and electronic), stable isotope analysis, and various stock discriminating techniques like morphometrics and otolith microchemistry.

Recent work has focused on evaluating the efficacy of closed areas for rebuilding cod stocks, identifying cod spawning locations, using acoustics to track herring and northern shrimp abundance and distribution in coastal Maine, and examining alternate life-history strategies in cod.

Graham is the lead PI on GMRI's flagship coastal ecosystem monitoring program known as the Casco Bay Aquatic System Survey (CBASS) and lead PI on an NSF-funded summer internship program – Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) – which began in 2019.

Graham Sherwood earned his B.Sc. in Biology & Environmental Science from McGill and his Ph.D. in Biology from McGill.

Lisa Kerr, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Lisa leads our Quantitative Fisheries Research lab, and is broadly interested in understanding the structure and dynamics of fish populations, with the goal of enhancing our ability to sustainably manage fisheries and ecosystems as a whole. She is particularly motivated to understand the role complex population structure and connectivity play in the productivity and stability of local and regional populations.

Lisa employs a diverse skill set to address critical ecological questions that are also directly applicable to fisheries management. Her expertise includes structural analysis of fish hard parts (e.g., otoliths, vertebrae) and the application of the chemical methods (stable isotope, radioisotope, and trace element analysis) to these structures. She also uses mathematical modeling as a tool to understand how biocomplexity within fish stocks (e.g., spatial structure, connectivity, life cycle diversity) impacts their response to natural climatic oscillations, climate change, fishing, and management measures.
Other skills used to address questions about stock structure, movement patterns, and basic life history of fish include bioenergetics modeling, fish tagging, statistics, and larval cohort analysis.

Lisa earned her B.S. in Biology from Tufts University, her M.S. in Marine Science from San Francisco State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

Kathy Mills, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Kathy leads our Integrated Systems Ecology Lab. Kathy has studied ecosystem change and fish-ecosystem relationships in the Gulf of Maine and Northeast U.S. Shelf regions for over a decade. She uses statistical analysis and modeling to understand (1) how physical and ecosystem conditions are changing; (2) how these changes affect fish populations, biological communities, and marine fisheries; and (3) how fisheries and fishing communities can effectively respond.

Kathy's research spans a range of topics to investigate how physical changes affect ecological patterns and processes, such as the productivity, distribution, phenology, growth, and size structure of different species. She is interested in how species-specific changes shape multispecies interactions and community-level dynamics.

Much of Kathy's research also seeks to understand and inform management of fisheries as coupled social-ecological systems. This research integrates physical, biological, social and economic information to link changes in the ecosystem and management system to societal outcomes. Climate adaptation within marine fisheries is a major focus, with emphasis on assessing climate vulnerabilities, evaluating climate adaptation strategies, and providing information to support adaptation planning by fishery participants, fishing communities and fishery managers.

Kathy earned her B.A. in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Cornell.

Kanae Tokunaga, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist
Kanae came to GMRI in March of 2019 to lead our [Coastal and Marine Economics Lab](#). Kanae uses various research methods, including bioeconomic modeling, econometrics, surveys, and interviews, to approach coastal and marine resource management issues. She is primarily interested in understanding efficiency, efficacy, and stability of various fisheries management institutions, and how they may be impacted by climate change and other environmental changes various aspects of socio-economic activities that take place in coastal communities, and how they shape coastal and marine resource use.

Kanae values and enjoys collaborative research and continues to work with researchers from diverse disciplines such as sociology, engineering, oceanography, while also working closely with coastal communities, policymakers, and industries.

Prior to GMRI, Kanae worked as a researcher at the University of Tokyo's Ocean Alliance. She worked on fisheries management, seafood market analysis, ecosystem service valuation, marine spatial planning, and offshore renewable energy development.

Kanae earned her B.A. in Economics from Washington College and her Ph.D. in Economics and Graduate Ocean Policy Certificate from the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa.

Riley Young-Morse
Senior Program Manager
Riley manages our [Ocean Data Products](#) group and also serves as an individual contributor to the team as project manager and UI designer. She works closely with internal and external partners in the marine research, marine resource management, and marine education communities to deliver innovative and reliable ocean data management and decision support tools.

Riley has been with GMRI since our merger with the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) in November 2009. Prior to joining GMRI, Riley served as Product Development Manager for GoMOOS. Previously, Riley served as Director of Product Development for JobsInTheUS.com.

Riley earned her B.S. in Marine Science from Eckerd College, a Certificate in Natural Science Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design, and her M.S. in Fisheries Science from the University of Rhode Island.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Yong Chen, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Maine School of Marine Sciences; collocated at GMRI

Yong is a fisheries scientist interested in fisheries ecology, and assessment and management of fisheries resources of commercial and recreational importance.

Yong's research focuses on quantitative fisheries ecology, stock assessment, and management. He studies how fishing and environmental factors may affect the dynamics of fish populations and fish communities and develop new approaches to modeling the dynamics of fish populations and conducting stock assessment. His current research interests include: evaluating fish life history and environmental impacts; developing stock assessment framework for invertebrate (e.g., American lobster, sea urchin, sea cucumber, crabs, etc.) and finfish (groundfish and pelagic fish) species of commercial importance in Maine and other parts of the world; fisheries ecosystem modeling; designing fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent survey programs; conducting risk analysis of alternative management strategies; studying quality and quantity of fisheries data and their impacts on stock assessment; developing Bayesian stock assessment approach robust to outliers and erroneous priors; and assimilating fisheries data of different sources in stock assessment. Much of his work has been interdisciplinary, involving fisheries biology, ecology, mathematical and statistical modeling, management policy and computer simulations.

Yong Chen earned his Bachelor of Agriculture in Fisheries Science from Qingdao Ocean University (now Ocean University of China) and his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Toronto, Canada.

Walt Golet, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Maine School of Marine Sciences; collocated at GMRI
Walt is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maine's School of Marine Sciences collocated at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) leading the Pelagic Fisheries lab.

Walt studies the energetic condition, spatial distribution, foraging ecology, age, and growth of bluefin tuna and broadbill swordfish in the Atlantic. Stock assessments for highly migratory species (HMS) often lack basic information like age structure, stock delineation, predator prey interactions, size at maturity, indices of abundance, basic sampling, fecundity and more. Walt's applied research is applied addresses these and many other aspects of HMS life history to improve stock assessment models and reduce uncertainty in their current and future projections. His work engaged commercial and recreational stakeholders.

Walt also dedicates a portion of his time to domestic and international management of these species. He holds an academic appointment on the NOAA Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, serves as a technical advisor on the ICCAT Advisory Committee, and is a regular contributor to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics to ICCAT. These positions allow Walt to directly participate in domestic and international allocation and use of HMS resources, and appointments to these panels gives Walt the opportunity to understand the most pressing management and scientific issues facing both domestic and international management bodies.

Walt earned his B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Maine and his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of New Hampshire, Durham.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Jonathan Labaree
Chief Community Officer
Jonathan oversees GMRI's Community Team, which supports fishing communities around the Gulf of Maine as they adapt to changes in the environment, economy, and regulations. Our Community Team runs training and convening programs that bring together the fishing industry, aquaculture industry, managers, and scientists to support evolution of more effective, equitable, and sustainable fishery management and aquaculture development practices.

Jonathan came to GMRI in 2009 from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a state-wide land conservation organization, where he held several positions conserving land and raising funds. Prior to MCHT, Jonathan worked for the Quebec-Labrador Foundations Atlantic Center for the Environment, running community-level conservation projects throughout New England aimed at increasing public involvement in natural resource management.

Jonathan earned his B.A. in History from Williams College and Masters in Environmental Management (MEM) from Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Leigh Peake
Chief Education Officer
Leigh Peake joined GMRI in 2014 as Chief Education Officer to lead GMRI's extensive work with K-12 teachers and students across Maine in order to nurture scientific literacy in the next generation of Mainers. Leigh is passionate about education, youth, and STEM, and is actively connecting GMRI to some of the most exciting STEM research and development efforts in the country. Additionally, she brings an entrepreneurial spirit and product development experience that has become a hallmark of GMRI Education programs.

Leigh is a seasoned educational publishing executive and entrepreneur who came to GMRI from the Education Development Center (EDC) in Waltham, MA where she was Director of New Enterprise Initiatives. Prior to EDC, Leigh served as President of Corwin and Sr. VP of SAGE Publications. Leigh also spent fifteen years at Heinemann Publishing where she developed of one of the premier lines of professional resources and services for teachers.

She earned her B.A. in Psychology from Smith College and her M.A. in Political Philosophy from Brandeis University.

David Reidmiller, Ph.D.
Director, Climate Center
David joined GMRI in 2020 as the Director of our new interdisciplinary Climate Center. Dave draws across the breadth of the organization to help individuals, communities, and businesses understand and anticipate how climate change affects them. A core aim of the Center is to develop and deliver solutions to ensure coastal communities thrive in a changing climate.

Prior to joining GMRI, Dave served in a variety of senior positions for the federal government. As Acting Director of the Northeast and Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASC) with the U.S.

Geological Survey, he oversaw a unique partnership between the federal government and university consortia to advance and deliver science to help fish, wildlife, habitat, and people adapt to a changing climate. Before joining the CASC Network, Dave directed the Fourth National Climate Assessment as part of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Dave has deep international climate science policy experience as well, having served in the State Department's Office of Global Change where he led U.S. engagement in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and was the lead U.S. science and technology negotiator for the Paris Agreement.

Dave earned his B.A. in Chemistry from Colgate University and M.S. and Ph.D. from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington.

Blaine Grimes
Chief Ventures Officer
Blaine leads GMRI's Gulf of Maine Ventures group. This new initiative supports the incubation, acceleration, and funding of mission-driven business ventures and partnerships to leverage private sector market opportunities where GMRI's involvement, leadership, and investment can accelerate positive social and economic impacts in the Gulf of Maine.

In this capacity, Blaine builds on her prior sixteen years heading GMRI's Development Team and career concentration in the science and technology sectors. She brings deep experience in fundraising, product development, marketing and sales, and operational process design to assist startup companies with market and technology innovations within the wild and farmed seafood supply chain. Blaine's role is to draw on GMRI's institutional know-how and ocean climate expertise to advance business ideas, coalesce investment, and lead partnerships that will contribute to the New England marine industry's economic health and development.

Blaine earned her B.A. in English from Amherst College and her M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

MANAGEMENT

Amy H. Kimball
Chief Operating Officer
Amy joined GMRI in 2021 following 15 years of leadership roles in Boston-based scientific research institutes. As COO, Amy oversees our Research, Education, and Community teams; our Climate Center; and our Finance & Administration team. She leads GMRI's daily operations, strategic planning processes, and organization-wide efforts to foster an inclusive, respectful environment and a culture of excellence. In partnership with our management team, she facilitates strategic alignment and supports entrepreneurial approaches that address emerging opportunities and maximize our institutional impact.

Prior to joining GMRI, Amy served as CEO of the Boston VA Research Institute (BVARI), following prior BVARI roles as COO & Deputy Director and Director of Operations & Sponsored Programs, as well as Research Administration leadership roles at Tufts and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Amy's role at GMRI represents an exciting pivot that builds on her passion for scientific research and education and realigns her work with her longstanding maritime interests. The health and sustainability of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem, the resilience of our coastal communities, and climate change mitigation are of deep importance to her.

Amy earned her B.A. in English from Ohio Wesleyan University, certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from Boston University Questrom School of Business, and M.B.A. from M.I.T. Sloan School of Management.

Don Perkins
President and Chief Executive Officer
Don has served as GMRI's President and CEO since 1995. Don works with GMRI's staff, board, and external partners to drive GMRI's evolution as a strategic science, education, and community institution that serves the Gulf of Maine bioregion and to scale GMRI's impact beyond. Since 2013, Don has served as the Executive Director of the Harte Charitable Foundation developing their investments in the stewardship and sustainable development of the Gulf of Mexico. Don is dedicated to building creative, strategic organizations, traditional or virtual, that contribute to solving intractable problems and creating new opportunities in marine conservation, STEM literacy, and common property governance and management.

Don is active in the marine policy arena on multiple levels. He currently serves as chair of the Maine Economic Innovation Advisory Board and co-chaired the Governors Ocean Energy Task Force. He was co-founder of Friends of Casco Bay and the Maine Marine Research Coalition. He previously served on the boards of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, Maine Department of Marine Resources Advisory Council, and Maine Legislature's Task Force on the Development of Aquaculture.

Don earned his B.A. in Anthropology from Dartmouth College and M.B.A from Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Maggie Roudsari
Chief Development Officer
Maggie joined GMRI in 2020. She manages GMRI's Development Team which pursues foundation, corporate, and individual contributions to support GMRI's current programs and future aspirations.

Maggie Roudsari is an enthusiastic nonprofit leader driven by her genuine interest in connecting people to opportunities that empower them to change their communities. As a fundraiser, Maggie believes that anyone can participate in meaningful philanthropy. She has a broad range of strategic fundraising experience that includes grant writing, corporate partnership development, major gifts, and public sector fundraising.

Prior to joining GMRI, Maggie served as the Assistant Director of Advancement of the South Carolina Aquarium. Maggie led a team to complete a $25M comprehensive campaign at the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, SC that built a state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility for endangered sea turtles, developed a lifelong learning program focused on accessible STEM education for toddlers to senior citizens, established a Conservation Department, supported a variety of deferred maintenance and capital projects, and launched a planned giving program. Previously, Maggie served as Executive Director of the Colleton County Arts Council, Executive Director of the Charleston Regional Alliance for the Arts.

Maggie earned her B.A. in Arts Management and a Certificate in Nonprofits and Fundraising from the College of Charleston.

Charissa Kerr
Chief Financial Officer

Charissa Kerr joined GMRI in May of 2018 as the Chief Financial Officer. Her role is to manage and grow the financial functions of GMRI through leading and overseeing the Finance & Accounting, Human Resources, IT, Facilities, and General Administration teams. Prior to arriving at GMRI, Charissa worked for 15 years in the nonprofit sector.

Charissa earned her B.A. in Accounting/Economics from UMass-Dartmouth and her M.B.A. with a concentration in International Business from Endicott College.

LOCATION

On October 1, 2005, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute officially opened a 44,000-square-foot research and education laboratory on its 5.5 acre site in the heart of Portland, Maine's working waterfront. Its facility includes wet labs, analytical labs, office suites, conference rooms, and the Sam L. Cohen Center for Interactive Learning.

The lab fosters research partnerships among the region's leading research institutions, education institutions, the fishing community, private industry, and other stakeholders; provides an effective vehicle for marine researchers to share their work in a meaningful way with Maine students, teachers, and families; and serves as an economic engine, creating high quality jobs, as well as training opportunities for graduate and undergraduate experiences for student from colleges and universities across the region.

GMRI believes in the importance of community as the fundamental building block to resolving complex marine resource issues. Its facility was conceived to encourage collaboration across disciplines and institutions. Formal and informal meeting spaces are clustered around a three-story glass atrium which visually connects the city to the harbor. GMRI is proud to share its lab with some of the leading marine research organizations in the region and to interact with the rich mix of scientists, fishermen, legislators, and educators that regularly gather there.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Gulf of Maine Research Institute has a long-standing policy and commitment to providing equal access and equal employment opportunities in all terms, conditions, processes, and benefits of employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. GMRI's employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

Applicants and employees are encouraged to voluntarily self-identify their race/ethnicity, gender, disability status and veteran status to assist GMRI in fulfilling various data reporting requirements of the federal government. This self-identification is completely voluntary, will be kept strictly confidential and separate from your application data, and used only to meet federal reporting requirements. Providing or declining to provide this information will not result in adverse action of any kind.

SALARY & BENEFITS

Gulf of Maine Research Institute offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be accompanied by a cover letter and résumé. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the successful candidate has been selected.

To apply for this position, visit: https://gmri.org/join-community/jobs-internships/.

To nominate a candidate, please contact Don Perkins, President/CEO: don@gmri.org.

All inquiries will be held in confidence.