

Michael P. De Luca
88 Lipman Drive, Cook Campus, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903-0231
848-932-3474, e-mail: deluca@marine.rutgers.edu

Education: B.S. Biology, Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1978.
M.S. Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science,
College of William and Mary, 1984.

Professional Experience

2015-Present Senior Associate Director, Office of Research, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University

1997-Present Manager, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
Lead efforts to develop research, education and stewardship programs and services for coastal decision-makers. Program areas include science-based land use planning, community resiliency, storm water management, land conservation, ecosystem approaches to management, and science education.

2011-Present Director, New Jersey Aquaculture Innovation Center at Rutgers University
Leads research, education and extension efforts to provide aquaculture entrepreneurs with a business incubator capability, new opportunities to enable large-scale culture of microalgae for shellfish nutritional studies and development of nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals, and efforts to rear non-commercial shellfish for community resilience and environmental restoration efforts.

1997- 2015 Senior Associate Director, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University

1998- 2008 Director, Mid-Atlantic National Undersea Research Center
Led regional efforts with advanced undersea technology to improve management of marine resources, mitigate coastal hazards, and raise public awareness of ocean issues.

2002 – 2007 Principal Investigator, NSF Mid-Atlantic Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence. Coordinated multi-institutional program to raise public awareness of the oceans through partnerships between academe, industry, government and the K-12 community.

1989-1997 Associate Director, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University

1989-1990 Director, Marine Biological Sciences, National Undersea Research Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1984-1989 Program Manager, National Undersea Research Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1981-1984 Program Staff, National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere

1980-1981 National Sea Grant Fellow

Brief Biography

Mike De Luca provides executive management and leadership for integrated programs of research, education and outreach, especially the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Aquaculture Innovation Center and the Coastal Exploration Center. Other key duties include management of major external research, science education and service programs, government relations, marine and coastal science policy, program development and partnerships. He also oversees operation of major field facilities and serves as Chair of the Rutgers Dive Control Board. He has led efforts to capitalize on environmental sampling and sensing networks to inform coastal management and enrich K-12 science education. Most recently, he initiated Rutgers efforts to support the development, growth and prosperity of aquaculture in New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region. He currently leads efforts to restore the ecological integrity of coastal systems and communities in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, develops science-based strategies to enhance resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems, and designs innovative approaches to science-based management of coastal systems and management of marine protected areas. His efforts have also focused on restoring the ecological integrity of the Barnegat Bay watershed and estuary, and the design of innovative approaches to science-based management of coastal systems, and activities to advance management of marine protected areas. His experience includes service as the President of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, Chair of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee for the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, member of the Heinz Center Panel on Innovations in Coastal Zone Management, and Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML). He is currently the President of NAML. He has also managed a variety of multi-million dollar construction projects including the building of the Jacques Cousteau Education Center, New Jersey Aquaculture Innovation Center, and many field laboratories and research facilities.

Synergistic Activities

Integration of geospatial and analytical tools into community engagement and regional planning efforts to develop Hazard Resilient Communities.

Scale-up of technical training and assistance on coastal resilience to coastal communities and professional training organizations.

Establishment of a whole school, marine science immersion program in New Jersey (MARE) to supplement existing K-8 science curricula and enhance ocean literacy.

Establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence to develop integrated research and education programs and resources that encourage lifelong learning experiences for a broad audience including K-12 teachers, students (K-16), coastal managers, families, and diverse populations, especially underrepresented groups in the marine sciences.

Development of internet-based curricula to incorporate real-time science information into high school classrooms.

Creation of the C.O.O.L. classroom with colleagues to enable students to apply and validate scientific concepts to real world situations, and real-time and archived data.

Other Affiliations

Education and Transition Theme Leader, NOAA Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR). Lead education efforts related to sustainable and science-based management of the U.S. northeast continental shelf ecosystem, a joint effort with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, U. Maine, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, U. Maryland and Rutgers University.

Chair, Committee on Government Affairs, and member of the Executive Committee for the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association.

President, National Association of Marine Laboratories

Past Chair, Public Policy Committee, National Association of Marine Laboratories