

# Conference and Networking Event for Professional Women in Marine

## Marking World Maritime Day 2019

26<sup>th</sup> September 2019



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**Yvonne Shields O'Connor** – Chief Executive, Irish Lights

Yvonne joined Irish Lights as Chief Executive in August 2011, where along with the management team she leads the implementation of the organizations strategy Safe Seas – Connected Coasts 2018-2023. She has a Masters in Environmental Science (TCD) and an MBA (DCU). She is a Chartered Director and has broad experience of corporate governance.

Yvonne has extensive experience in Ireland and Europe contributing to policy, strategy and programme development in research, infrastructure, regional and national development. As Director of Strategic Planning & Development at the Marine Institute she led the development and implementation of the National Sea Change Strategy 2007-2013 and in that context managed significant marine funds under the National Development Plan, including funding evaluations, international peer review, contract negotiations, programme and ex-ante evaluations and value for money audits. Previously as Director of Science & Technology she led the establishment of the National Seabed Survey and INFOMAR projects, the Weather Buoy Network around Ireland and the expansion and operation of the Institute's Marine Research Vessel Capability.

Yvonne currently serves as a non-Exec Director on the Board of the Western Development Commission which focuses on the economic and social development of the western region. She is also a non-Exec Director of SmartBay Ireland Ltd and Irish National Opera.



**Susan Steele** – Chair, Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority

Dr. Susan Steele (PhD, MBA, MEd, BSc) is currently the Authority Chair at the SFPA. With a focus on strategic direction, Dr. Steele works with the senior management team in promoting excellence in the SFPA through a combination of leadership, commitment and clear direction, while ensuring SFPA employees continue to protect our marine resources. She is originally from Castletownbere, where she harboured an ambition to become a marine biologist from the age of three. With a PhD in Zoology from UCC and a BSc in Marine Biology from the University of Wales, Dr. Steele has worked in both academic and private and public sector appointments, and prior to joining the SFPA in March 2013, she was involved in developing BIM's Seafood Development Centre as Head of Innovation. She is also a business and executive coach, and was awarded a Harvard Executive Certificate in Public Leadership in 2018. Dr. Steele is a member of the Institute of Directors, sits on the board at the Health Research Board, and is a member of the Strategic Advisory Board at UCC.



**Julie Ascoop** – Associate Director, ARUP

Julie Ascoop is an Associate Director with Arup where she is maritime business leader in Arup Ireland and maritime skills leader for Arup-Europe. Julie is a chartered Civil Engineer and has over 25 years working experience as an engineer in the maritime environment, working with both consultants and contractors in Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany. In her previous employment for BAM contractors she was the construction project manager on the Berth 50 container terminal in Dublin Port. More recently Julie was project manager on the AMETS wave energy test site development on behalf of SEAI and she is currently project director for the design of the new Greenore heavy duty quay wall.

Julie has extensive experience in the project management, masterplanning, design and construction of maritime projects, such as port developments, dredging projects, marine infrastructure, coastal protection and ocean energy developments.

Julie graduated from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands in 1994 with a Masters in Civil Engineering, specialising in Maritime Structures.

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**Jenny O'Leary** – Team Lead, Policy & Research Support, Marine Institute

Jenny O'Leary has a number of years of involvement in supporting integrated maritime policy in Ireland. Since 2000, Jenny has worked in a number of strategic planning and development roles in the Marine Institute across a broad range of national and international marine science, technology, social, economic and policy-related initiatives. This has included specifically developing a marine socio-economic research programme in Ireland, working in partnership with the National University of Ireland Galway through the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) and Teagasc – Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority. Jenny also provides support to Ireland's interdepartmental Marine Coordination Group in the development, implementation and reporting on Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan (Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth). In recent years she also supported a number of Marine Task Forces e.g. Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Growth, as well as co-authoring national marine research, socio-economic and policy support plans and strategies. Jenny has a degree in Earth Science and Masters in Coastal Zone Management.



**Roberta O'Brien** – Lt. Commander, Navy

Lieutenant Commander (Lt. Cdr.) Roberta O'Brien is a senior officer in the Irish Naval Service with over twenty three years' experience. She was one of the first two females to be awarded a Naval Service Cadetship. During her career, her sea rotations included Navigation Officer, Gunnery Officer and Fisheries Officer onboard the LÉ Niamh and Executive Officer (2<sup>nd</sup> in Command) of LÉ Emer.

In 2008, Lt. Cdr. O'Brien took command of the LÉ Aisling. This was the first time in the history of the Naval Service that a female was appointed to take command of a state ship.

Her shore appointments included Staff Officer in the Naval operations centre, Cadre Officer for the Naval Service Reserve, Naval Service Press Officer, Snr. Staff Officer in Naval Service Headquarters, Naval Service Formation Health and Safety Advisor, NS Gender Advisor, and OiC of Young Officer training.

She has a BSc from NUI Galway, a H Dip in Management and Marketing from UCC, a H Dip in Safety Health and Welfare @ Work from UCC and an MSc in Leadership Management and Defence Studies from NUI Maynooth. She completed a Gender Advisors course in SWEDINT in Sweden and is focused on enhancing military Operations effectiveness through gender awareness.



**Mairead Rushe** – Chartered Engineer and Project Manager, Dublin Port Company

Mairead Rushe is a Chartered Senior Engineer and Project Manager working in the maritime sector with over 12 years' experience working on the management and procurement of marine works and coastal structures design. Mairead has significant marine experience in the design and project management of quay design, marine site investigation and dredge projects in Ireland and the UK. In her current role she is a Project Manager for Dublin Port Company responsible for capital works projects with construction costs of multimillion euros. Her current projects include the dredge, geochemical soil stabilisation and infill of contaminated sediment from the Alexandra Basin, the demolition of significant marine structures within a busy port environment and the design and install of several bespoke linkspan structures to accommodate evolving RoPax vessel requirements. Her previous engineering roles have included RPS, Arup and the Department of the Marine.

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**Ann Ruddy** – CEO, Redrose Developments

Ann Ruddy, is a highly effective and adaptable individual, with experience of the public and private sector. A criminologist by profession, she has worked at board level in the role of Sales and Marketing Director for a commercial specialist printing group of companies and has previously advised the H&SE and the Home Office on matters relating to workplace violence. She has designed an anticounterfeit system that is seen on passports and drivers licences and created a software based dynamic risk assessment tool to reduce levels and/or impact of violence which was used by a large retail chain in the UK and by the British Red Cross. Currently, Ann is working at EU, state and local level to create a value chain for Irish seaweed using good science to evidence why Irish Seaweed is the best in the world.



**Trudy McIntyre** – Chairperson, National Inshore Fisheries Forum

Trudy's life has revolved around the sea and fishing since birth.

She attended the BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara) fisheries school receiving a certificate in deckhand placing second in her class. She married a fisherman, and together they run their fishing business together. Later in her career, after the birth of her children, Trudy took on the role of shore manager of their fishing vessel, and also became more involved in the coastal community, becoming a member of the Irish Coast Guard, and is secretary of the Irish charity LAST (Lost at Sea Tragedies). Trudy is chairperson of the National Inshore Fisheries Forums in Ireland, and is currently the representative at the national quota management advisory committee (QMAC), The Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory committee. (CSHMAC). She is a founding member of the National Inshore Fishermen's Association. Trudy spoke at the 20th anniversary of Women in Seafood in Australia in 2018 and is involved in strategic leadership to a recently formed "Women in Fisheries Network" group that want to bring visibility to the talent and diversity that women bring to the sector, giving these women a voice, and enabling them to upskill and to benefit their own family run business and local communities.



**Katharine Martin** – Ship Surveyor, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Belfast

Katharine has worked as a ship surveyor for the Maritime & Coastguard Agency for the past two years. The organisation's aims are the preservation of shipping and life at sea and the prevention of marine pollution.

She worked previously for ten years as Contracts Manager at MJM Marine in Newry, which involved passenger vessel refitting operations. Prior to this she worked as a mechanical engineer at Harland & Wolff's Shipbuilding and Heavy Industry in Belfast.

She started her career at Lloyds Registry of Shipping.

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**Clodagh McGrath** – Environment and Consents Manager, DP Energy Ltd

Clodagh manages the environmental impact assessments (EIA), consent applications and stakeholder engagement for the DP renewable energy developments (tidal, floating offshore wind, onshore wind, solar and energy storage) in a range of jurisdictions (Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Australia). She is also project manager for the Fair Head Tidal development and DP representative on range of Government and Industry committees. Clodagh has 24 years' experience in the environmental, is a qualified and experienced environmental trainer and has presented at a range of environmental conferences and seminars. Clodagh has a BSc in Applied Ecology and an MSc in Environmental Impact Assessment



**Deirdre Lane** – Harbour Master, Dunmore East

Deirdre started her career with Northern Marine Management sailing on various tankers and Ro-Ro's. She then spent some years sailing on Tallships; Stavros S Niarchos and Prince William.

In 2007 Deirdre moved to Irish Lights in a seagoing role as Second Officer and Chief Officer on ILV Granuaile. Following that she moved ashore to the office working as Marine Assistant and Navigation Policy. Deirdre was appointed Harbour Master Dunmore East in April 2018.

Deirdre is a Master Mariner and holds an MSc in Shipping Operations along with a BSc in Nautical Science and a Diploma in Port Management.

Deirdre currently has the honour of holding the role of Chair of the Nautical Institute Ireland Branch. She also serves on Nautical Institute Council and Technical Committee.



**Kerrie Sweeney** – Chief Executive, Titanic Foundation, Belfast

Kerrie joined Titanic Foundation in March 2013 and has over 20 years' experience working in the tourism sector including 10 years between Belfast City Council and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, where she was a member of the team that put together the plans for the Titanic Signature Project. Kerrie's experience is in product and destination development, capital projects and partnership initiatives.

Over the last four years, Kerrie has played a key role in the restoration of the former Harland & Wolff Headquarter building and Drawing Offices into Titanic Hotel Belfast, securing £5million from Heritage Lottery Fund to ensure that the heritage and authenticity of the building is retained. Kerrie is an advocate for Titanic Quarter, believing that it has a key role to play in the future growth and success of Belfast City. The Foundation's most recently completed project is the Great Light, where a very rare, 130 year old lighthouse optic has been put on public display in a new glass enclosure in the Titanic Quarter public realm. Kerrie has also led the development of a new Destination Plan for Titanic Quarter.

Kerrie holds a BA Hons Degree in Modern History and MSc in Tourism Management.

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**Loreto O'Neill** – Coastal Unit Manager, Irish Coastguard

Loreto O'Neill is a Coastal Unit Sector Manager in the Irish Coast Guard. In this role, she is responsible for managing the on-unit volunteer training, auditing and exercising for their declared search & rescue response. She was the first appointed female officer the Irish Coast Guard.

Prior to coming ashore, Loreto spent 17 years in the merchant navy, working on a variety of vessels which began in Ireland, training with Arklow shipping & ILV Granuaile. Having qualified as a second officer, she continued her career on board survey vessels & moved into the oil & gas industry operating in the North Sea. During the course of this time she took command of 3 of BP's multi-functional platform supply vessels. After reaching her goal of serving as captain, she is now a year into her new role in the Irish Coast Guard, progressing her marine career ashore.



**Anne Marie Hayes** – Port and Vessel Reporting, European Maritime Safety Agency, Lisbon

Anne Marie Hayes works at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon. EMSA provides technical assistance and support to the European Commission and Member States in the development and implementation of EU legislation on maritime safety, pollution by ships and maritime security. Anne Marie works on developing information services for vessel traffic monitoring, maritime surveillance and oil pollution detection for the EU28 maritime authorities (including some Coast Guard and Naval services) and other EU Agencies/organisations. Anne Marie began her career in Ireland at the Marine Institute and subsequently worked at the European Space Agency (ESA) in Rome and at the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen. She is interested in protecting our seas and oceans, sustainability, new technology, innovation and public policy. Anne Marie graduated from NUI Galway with a BSc in Marine microbiology. She has an MSc in Applied Environmental Science from Queens University Belfast, and a Grad. Dip. in GIS and Remote Sensing from NUI Maynooth.



**Jennifer Nolan** – Managing Director, Dublin Stevedore

Jennifer came to work in the family business Dublin Stevedores in 1995. Having spent all of her working life working in Stevedoring and Dublin Port. Jennifer started off with Freight Forwarding, and her role now has evolved to Compliance and Health and Safety which she particularly passionate about. Coming from a small business she feels that she has experienced better customer knowledge which requires fewer resources to learn what people want from their service, allowing them to best meet customer expectations.

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**Margaret Rae** – Director, Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, Marine Institute

Dr. Margaret Rae is the Director of the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Coordination and Support Action at the Marine Institute. In 2019, Margaret piloted the #GoAtlanticBlue to celebrate our Atlantic Ocean and connections to it. Prior to joining the Marine Institute in 2015, Margaret worked in Marine Biodiscovery under the Beaufort Marine Biodiscovery Research programme at NUI Galway. Margaret has had diverse roles over the years in local authority, regulatory, multinational companies and academic environments. Margaret graduated from UCD with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry, later went on to do a part-time Master's degree with the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and finally obtained her Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the Instituto Superior Técnico at the University of Lisbon in Portugal. Margaret has published research in peer reviewed journals across a broad range of subject matter from physical chemistry to the biological sciences and most recently in marine policy.



**Catriona Dowling** – Navigation and Services Manager, Irish Lights

Captain Catriona Dowling is the newly appointed Navigation Services Manager at the Commissioners of Irish Lights. Prior to taking on this role she was the Harbour Master of Warrenpoint Harbour which is Northern Ireland's second commercial Port and the fifth on the Island of Ireland. With 14 years of seagoing experience on board a variety of vessel types, 6 years shore-based Senior Management experience supported by Master's Degree in Shipping Operations, an Honors Degree in Nautical Science and a Masters Mariner's Unlimited Certificate of Competency she has developed a unique set of specialist skills and knowledge within the Maritime Industry. Catriona was the first female Harbour Master in the history of the Island of Ireland and was one of only two in the United Kingdom at the time. Catriona received the 6th CIT STEM Graduate Achievement Award at the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) for her significant contribution in a professional context. As the Navigation Services Manager for Irish Lights Catriona is responsible for leading a team that provides expert navigation and maritime safety advice, to the senior management team, CEO, Board and external stakeholders of Irish Lights and for the provision and ongoing development and delivery of key statutory and operational services that meet the challenges and opportunities that exist in the wider national and international environment a role which is as challenging as it is diverse.



**Val Cummins** – Senior Lecturer, UCC

Senior lecturer, researcher and consultant in ocean innovation and sustainability. 20 years of experience in the human dimension of coastal and marine social ecological systems. Research and practice on coastal governance, blue growth, marine renewable energy transitions, adaptation to climate change, stakeholder engagement, innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship. Motivated by the protection of the marine environment, blue growth, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Interested in transdisciplinary research, and the transfer of knowledge to action to achieve sustainability pathways.

Current activities: Co-PI on the Science Foundation Ireland Eirwind project, applying a trans-disciplinary approach to the development of offshore wind. PI on the ProtoAtlantic project on the development of a marine accelerator programme. Collaborator with Stanford University to review the impact of the marine sanctuary in Palau, Micronesia. Expert contributor to the UN second World Ocean Assessment. Co-chair of the Future Earth Coasts 2014 to present, providing a platform to influence the global community concerned with the impact of science on coastal vulnerability. Editor Coastal Atlas of Ireland, Cork University Press publication.

Previous roles included Director of the Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC) from 2010-2016 and Director of the Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (CMRC) from 2002 to 2010. Married with three young daughters. Enjoy recreational sailing, hill walking and live music

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**Danni Devine** – Specialsit Marine Recruiter, Halcyon UK

Danni's career has been focused and developed within the maritime, shipping and energy recruitment sectors.

A specialist in this area since 2006, Danni has a track record of delivering a wide variety of senior management, commercial, technical and operational recruitment projects across the lifecycle of shipping for organisations across the globe. Danni's experience incorporates project team recruitment, executive search, training and developing recruitment teams and consulting projects



**Terry Denny** – Business Psychologist and Managing Director, OPES

Terry is a Business Psychologist and has worked with a range of major public and private-sector organisations in Ireland, Northern Ireland, the rest of the United Kingdom and Internationally, for over 25 years. She is the Managing Director in Opes and a Senior Fellow with Minnesota University. Previously, she worked as the Managing Director of a private Consulting firm and as a Group HR Director. Her work includes coaching individuals, facilitating systemic team coaching and conducting in-depth assessments for senior strategic posts within the public sector and private sector in Ireland, the UK and USA. It also involves her working on significant leadership, organisation development and talent issues. She brings signature strengths around her capacity to tap into clients' needs and helping to unleash their potential to drive sustainable solutions with long term impact. Much of her work draws on evidenced based psychological principles and science such as Neuroscience, Positive Psychology and Systemic thinking.



**Joan Mulloy** – Competitive Offshore Sailor

Joan Mulloy is an Irish offshore sailor from Westport, Co Mayo. In 2018, she was the first Irish woman to compete in the solo Solitaire du Figaro race in France, one of Europe's most grueling offshore regattas. Her 2018 campaign was sponsored by Taste the Atlantic - A Seafood Journey. She completed her second Figaro in June 2019, this time sailing under sails emblazoned with the name of the Irish pirate queen Grace O'Malley, thanks to sponsorship from Grace O'Malley Irish Whiskey. Her next goal is to compete in the Vendée Globe solo around the world race.