

# ALLISON M. COLDEN, PH.D.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Maryland Executive Director**, *Chesapeake Bay Foundation* Apr. 2023 – Present

- Provide strategic leadership for Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Maryland Office policy and advocacy agenda, including regulatory and legislative actions and litigation. development of the Foundation's fisheries and coastal habitat policy agenda and implementation strategy for legislative and regulatory action at the state and federal level.
- Manage a team of more than 20 environmental scientists, attorneys, organizers, and outreach specialists.

**Maryland Senior Fisheries Scientist**, *Chesapeake Bay Foundation* Jan. 2017 – Apr. 2023

- Developed the Foundation's fisheries and coastal habitat policy agenda and implementation strategy for legislative and regulatory action at the state and federal level.
- Provided technical expertise and policy insights on key fisheries management actions as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Maryland Oyster Advisory Commission.
- Spearheaded innovative research programs and projects to improve coastal habitat restoration.
- Oversaw the Maryland Oyster Restoration Program, including leading the oyster restoration team, providing strategic vision for program priorities and budget and grants management.

**Senior Manager of External Affairs**, *Restore America's Estuaries* Jan. 2016 – Jan. 2017

- Developed and implemented a strategic legislative and policy agenda to support coastal habitat restoration, including identifying policy priorities, drafting bill language, garnering support from Members of Congress and educating Congressional staff through briefings and in-person meetings.
- Engaged diverse stakeholders through the leadership of several coalitions to build consensus on coastal policy and management issues.

**Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow**, *U.S. House of Representatives* Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2016

- Analyzed policy initiatives, drafted legislation, and provided technical expertise for a diverse policy portfolio, including fisheries, conservation, coastal restoration, water quality and public lands.
- Drafted letters, testimony, speeches, press releases and social media posts on the policy implications of proposed legislation and Administration policy.

**Graduate Research Assistant**, *Virginia Institute of Marine Science* Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2014

- Designed, executed, and analyzed field and laboratory experiments on habitat restoration in Chesapeake Bay, resulting in several publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- Coordinated with federal marine resource managers to incorporate study findings into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Native Oyster Restoration Master Plan for Chesapeake Bay.

## EDUCATION

### **Ph.D. in Marine Science**

College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science | Gloucester Point, Virginia  
Department of Fisheries Science | Concentration: *Marine Conservation Biology and Marine Policy*  
Dissertation: Biophysical Control of Oyster Reef Performance in Chesapeake Bay

### **B.S. in Biology**

University of Virginia | Charlottesville, Virginia  
Department of Biology | Concentration: *Ecological and Biological Conservation*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### **Advisory Panel Member**, River Herring and Shad Advisory Panel

*Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council*

### **Legislative Proxy for Maryland**, Shad and River Herring and Atlantic Menhaden Management Boards

*Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

### **Commissioner**, Maryland Oyster Advisory Commission

*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

### **Commissioner**, Annapolis Environmental Commission

*City of Annapolis, Office of the Mayor*

### **Technical Reviewer**

2022 Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Selection Panel  
*NOAA National Sea Grant Office*

2021 Louisiana Sea Grant Competitive Research Program  
*Louisiana Sea Grant*

2021 NOAA Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research Program  
*NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office*

### **Reviewer**

*Estuaries & Coasts, Journal of Experimental Marine Biology & Ecology, Marine Ecology Progress Series*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Fisheries Society
- Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
- National Shellfisheries Association
- Coastal Conservation Association Maryland
- Women's Aquatic Network

## PUBLICATIONS

Ray NE, Hancock B, Brush MJ, **Colden A**, Cornwell J, Labrie MS, Maguire TJ, Maxwell T, Rogers D, Stevick RJ, Unruh A, Kellogg ML, Smyth AR, Fulweiler RW. A review of how we assess denitrification in oyster habitats and proposed guidelines for future studies. *Limnology and Oceanography: Methods*. 2021; 19:714-731. doi:10.1002/lom3.10456.

- Rose JM, Gosnell JS, Bricker S, Brush MJ, **Colden A**, Harris L, Karplus E, Laferriere A, Merrill NH, Murphy TB, Reitsma J, Shockley J, Stephenson K, Theuerkauf S, Ward D, Fulweiler RW. Opportunities and challenges for including oyster-mediated denitrification in nitrogen management plans. *Estuaries and Coasts*. 2021. doi:10.1007/s12237-021-00936-z.
- DeAngelis BM, Sutton-Grier AE, **Colden A**, Arkema KK, Baillie CJ, Bennett RO, Benoit J, Blich S, Chatwin A, Dausman A, Gittman RK, Greening HS, Henkel JR, Houge R, Howard R, Hughes AR, Lowe J, Scyphers SB, Sherwood ET, Westby S, Grabowski JH. Social Factors Key to Landscape-Scale Coastal Restoration: Lessons Learned from Three U.S. Case Studies. *Sustainability*. 2020; 12(3):869. doi:10.3390/su12030869.
- Gittman RK, Baillie CJ, Arkema KK, Bennett RO, Benoit J, Blich S, Brun J, Chatwin A, **Colden A**, Dausman A, DeAngelis B, Herold N, Henkel J, Houge R, Howard R, Hughes AR, Scyphers SB, Shostik T, Sutton-Grier A, Grabowski JH. Voluntary Restoration: Mitigation's Silent Partner in the Quest to Reverse Coastal Wetland Loss in the USA. *Front. Mar. Sci*. 2019; 6:511. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00511.
- Sutton-Grier AE, Gittman RK, Arkema KK, Bennett RO, Benoit J, Blich S, Burks-Copes KA, **Colden A**, Dausman A, DeAngelis BM, Hughes AR, Scyphers SB, Grabowski JH. Investing in Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure: Building Better Along Our Coasts. *Sustainability*. 2018; 10(2):523. doi: 10.3390/su10020523.
- Colden AM**, Latour RJ, Lipcius RN. Reef height drives threshold dynamics of restored oyster reefs. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser*. 2017; 582:1-13. doi: 10.3354/meps12362.
- Colden, AM**, Fall, KA, Cartwright, GM, Friedrichs, CT. Sediment Suspension and Deposition Across Restored Oyster Reefs of Varying Orientation to Flow: Implications for Restoration. *Estuaries and Coasts*. 2016; 39:1435–1448. doi: 10.1007/s12237-016-0096-y.
- Colden AM**, Lipcius RN. Lethal and sublethal effects of sediment burial on the eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica*. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser*. 2015; 527:105-117. doi:10.3354/meps11244.
- Sisson M, Kellogg ML, Luckenbach M, Lipcius R, **Colden A**, Cornwell J, Owens M. Assessment of Oyster Reefs in Lynnhaven River as a Chesapeake Bay TMDL Best Management Practice. 2011; Special Reports in Applied Marine Science and Ocean Engineering (SRAMSOE) No. 429. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary. doi: 10.21220/V52R0K.
- Lipcius RN, Shen J, Schulte DM, Hoenig JM, **Colden AM**. "Ecosystem-Based Planning of Native Oyster Restoration." 2010. Final Report to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

## SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Master Watershed Steward– *Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy*
- NAUI Open Water and Advanced SCUBA Certifications
- Maryland and Virginia Boating Safety Certifications
- Social Media Professional Certification - *George Mason University*
- Skilled in R, ArcGIS, Adobe Suite, Microsoft Office