



Land & Coastal SERVICES

Results-Driven
Environmental Consulting

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Laura M. Ernst, Principal

Professional Background

Laura has over 17 years of environmental resource management, planning and regulatory experience; 6 years working at federal and state resource agencies on regulation and management of aquatic habitats and over 11 years working as a private consultant on water resource and ecological projects. Laura works with private, municipal, state and federal clients and is an effective facilitator for communicating scientific and technical information to stakeholders.

Technical Experience: Environmental assessments and impact analyses, strategic regulatory permitting, watershed planning, water quality sampling, salt marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation mapping, habitat restoration planning and monitoring, freshwater and coastal wetland delineations.

Experience

October 2008 – Present

Land and Coastal Services, LLC, East Greenwich Rhode Island
President and Senior Project Manager for Ecological and Water Resource Services

November 2001 – September 2008

ESS Group, Inc., East Providence, Rhode Island
Project Manager, Ecological Services and Permitting
Group Manager, Ecological Services and Permitting, Rhode Island Group

February 1997 – November 2001

RI Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, Rhode Island, Senior Environmental Scientist

January 1996 – January 1997

National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
National Sea Grant Fellow

June 1994 – January 1996

University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant, Research Assistant for Water Quality Study of Coastal Ponds

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Education

- Post-Graduate Courses: Wetland Ecology, Coastal Ecology, Marine Botany, ArcView GIS.
- Master of Arts in Marine Affairs, Coastal Management, University of Rhode Island, 1996. Thesis: Nutrient loading assessment to coastal lagoons.
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Rhode Island, 1990

Certifications & Training

- RI Coastal Resources Management Council Invasives Management Certification, 2013
- Institute for Wetland & Environmental Education & Research, US ACOE Certified Wetland Delineator Training, July 2010
- Institute for Wetland & Environmental Education & Research, Wetland Plant Identification Certificate, 2010
- RI Coastal Resources Management Council, Low Impact Development Certification, 2006

Professional Distinctions

- Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists, Member since 2012
- Coastal America Partnership Award, 2008, South Coast Habitat Restoration Project
- Governor's Appointment to the Science Advisory Committee for the Rhode Island Bays, Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team, 2005 and 2006
- Governor's Appointment to the Commission for Narragansett Bay and Watershed Planning, Habitat and Resource Subcommittee Chairperson, 2004
- Rhode Island Natural History Survey Board of Directors, 2004
- Coastal America Partnership Award, 2003
- ESS Group, Inc. Outstanding Performance Award, 2003
- State of Rhode Island Legislative Citation, 2000
- National Sea Grant Fellowship, 1996