

Name: Deborah J. Shafer

Grade: DB 04

Classification: 0401 Biologist

Title: Research Marine Biologist, Coastal and Wetlands Ecology Branch, Ecosystem Evaluation and Engineering Division, Environmental Laboratory, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center



Duties: Dr. Shafer is a Research Marine Biologist in the Environmental Laboratory, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). Since 2003, she has been the Program Manager for the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration Research Program. She oversees multiple research projects directed at advancing the status of the science with respect to large-scale restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation communities in the Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere. Dr. Shafer conducts research and development, impact assessments, and provides technical support/technology transfer to assess, manage, and restore coastal wetland habitats and communities for the Department of Defense (including USACE) and other Federal agencies.

Biographical Sketch: Dr. Shafer was born in 1958 in Vicksburg, MS. She earned a Ph.D. in Marine Science from the University of South Alabama in 2007, a Master of Science degree in Biology North Central Louisiana University in 1996, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Science from California State University, Fullerton in 1979. She has more than 20 years of research experience in developing and assessing impacts and benefits resulting from proposed USACE projects. Dr. Shafer's research interests include the following:

- Seagrass and coastal wetlands restoration and creation
- Impacts of dredging and overwater structures on seagrass resources
- Beneficial uses of dredged materials for coastal habitat creation
- Development of HGM functional assessment protocols for coastal ecosystems
- Physiology of an introduced seagrass species in the Pacific Northwest.

She also holds an adjunct faculty position at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences Horn Point Laboratory where she is actively engaged in research on large-scale restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation communities in collaboration with a number of university faculty members. She is nationally recognized as a leading expert in the physiological tolerances of an introduced seagrass species on the Pacific Northwest coast, *Zostera japonica*.