

2008 Clarke Prize Laureate

Nancy N. Rabalais, Ph.D.

Executive Director and Professor

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

For over 25 years, Dr. Nancy Rabalais has dedicated her career to understanding and mitigating the effects of human-induced changes in water quality, particularly the long-term environmental impacts of excess nutrients and petroleum contamination on marine ecosystems. She is renowned for her seminal research on understanding and characterizing hypoxia, or severe oxygen depletion, in water resources, bringing this crucial issue to the forefront of water science.



Since the mid-1980s, Rabalais has been the driving force behind identifying and characterizing the dynamics of the large hypoxic region in the Gulf of Mexico, which receives excess nutrients from the Mississippi River. She also serves on numerous boards and panels, such as the Scientific Steering Committee of the Land-Ocean Interactions of the Coastal Zone of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and the National Research Council Committee on the Mississippi River and the Clean Water Act. Rabalais is Executive Director and Professor of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium in Chauvin, Louisiana.