

Ashley Kelly *DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator*

I currently serve the Navy as one of the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinators. In my current role, I am part of a team that represents the DoD interests at Partnership goal team and workgroup meetings, tracks and reports on the annual progress toward meeting the DoD's federal planning goals, coordinates with all the DoD Services to collect and report annual BMP data to report to the jurisdictions and partners with jurisdictions to address issues and challenges with TMDL reporting and crediting.

Prior to my role with the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program, I was a National Environmental Policy Act project manager for the Navy and Marine Corps and oversaw complex environmental planning, consultation, and permitting efforts in support of Navy mission needs. I have also worked as a Senior Environmental Analyst for a government contractor supporting U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) Command with environmental planning and marine resources efforts. These environmental planning documents supported USFF mission readiness activities.

I have worked as a Phytoplankton Specialist at the Community Environmental Health Laboratory at the Mount Desert Island Laboratory in Maine. We collected phytoplankton and water quality at three coastal locations to monitor biotoxins as part of a partnership with Maine Healthy Beaches and Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Daily reports were also submitted to Maine Department of Marine Resources to monitor the biotoxins that impact the Maine mussel industry.

I received my bachelor's degree from University of Rhode Island with a major in Marine Biology. I also studied abroad in Australia and attended James Cook University. This is where I really started finding my interest in conservation. I attended the College of the Atlantic and received a Master of Philosophy degree in Human Ecology with a focus in Marine Ecology and Policy.