

**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). Dr. Shafer conducts research and development, impact assessments, and provides technical support/technology transfer to assess, manage, and restore seagrass and coastal wetland habitats for the Department of Defense (including USACE) and other Federal agencies. From 2003-2010, she was 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.

**Biographical Sketch:** Dr. Shafer was born 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. She is nationally recognized as a leading expert in the physiological tolerances of an introduced seagrass species on the Pacific Northwest coast, *Zostera japonica*. 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
- Ecophysiology and habitat characteristics of introduced and native seagrass species in the Pacific Northwest
- Using natural and nature-based features to improve coastal resiliency
- Coastal ecosystem good and services