

Carla Guenther is the Community Coordinator who manages our fishermen's leadership program. After studying lobster behavior at Woods Hole, MA she decided to test the waters of Baja California, Mexico where she learned about a special form of community-based co-management. Inspired by fishermen's level of organization and management structure, Carla pursued graduate studies in Marine Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Educated in oceanography, ecology, and anthropology, Carla approaches fisheries management with a focus on fishing communities.

She engaged Santa Barbara's commercial lobster fleet while conducting interviews for her doctoral research on Marine Protected Area impacts on socio-economics, reef ecology, and fishing behavior. These interviews became the basis of her communication with the rest of California's commercial lobster fleet and fostered the fishery's application for Marine Stewardship Council Certification, proposed legislation for self-funding lobster management science, and voluntary fishery-collection of biological data for use in the first stock assessment of California spiny lobster populations. Dr. Guenther brings invaluable knowledge and skills developed in California's science and policy arena to our mission to secure a future for the fishing communities of eastern Maine.