



Biography for Dr. Rebecca Lent

Rebecca Lent currently serves as Executive Director of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission.

She received her Ph.D. in Resource Economics from Oregon State University, with a dissertation on modeling price determination in the global salmon market. Her Master's thesis in Economics estimated production functions for the Pacific harpoon swordfish fishery.

After completing her studies, Rebecca was a Post-doc Fellow in the Chateaubriand Program of the government of France; her research at the Concarneau Laboratoire de Biologie Maritime analyzed the impacts of EU minimum prices on the ex-vessel market for landed fish. She then moved to Canada to teach and conduct research in agricultural and resource economics at the Université du Québec à Rimouski and Université Laval.

In 1992, Rebecca joined the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), where she served as Economist and then Chief of the Division of Highly Migratory Species. She joined the NMFS Senior Executive Service in 2000, serving as the Southwest Regional Administrator, the Deputy for Regulatory Programs, and the Director of the Office of International Affairs. During her time at NMFS, Rebecca participated in many multilateral and regional fishery management organizations including IATTC (U.S. Commissioner) and ICCAT, as well as the Fisheries Committees of FAO and OECD. She also spent one year on detail at the World Bank's Program on Fisheries. Dr. Lent joined the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission in 2013.

Rebecca is married to Dr. Utpal Vasavada, who is an Agricultural Economist. Their adult daughter, Kajal, is a social worker. When she is not working, Rebecca enjoys long walks with her dog, travel, volunteer work, and drumming.