

Executive Director of Bigelow Laboratory Passes Away

Graham Shimmield Leaves Behind Legacy of Marine Research, Transformative Leadership

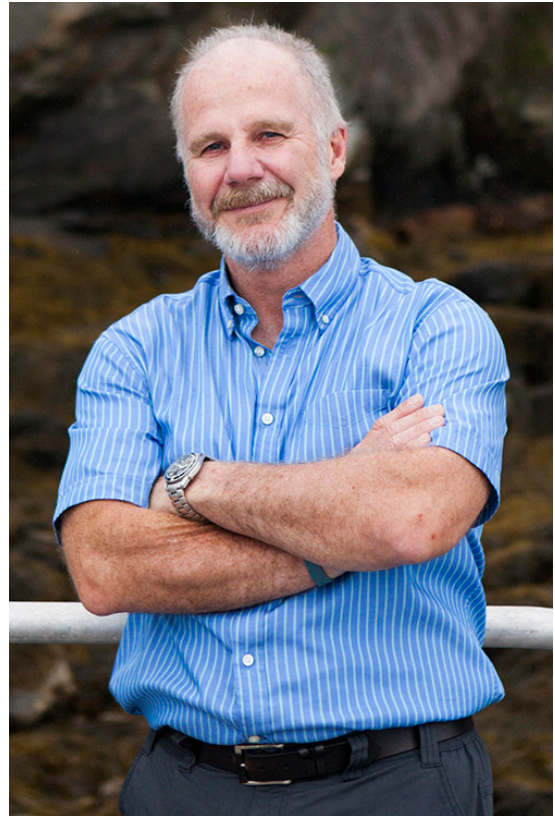
Graham Shimmield, executive director of Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, died December 24 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. A globally recognized leader in oceanography, Shimmield served in his role at Bigelow Laboratory since 2008. During his tenure, he transformed the organization, building upon its longstanding scientific reputation to develop a \$32-million marine research and education campus in East Boothbay, Maine, which opened in 2012, along with a \$6-million residence facility that will open in spring 2017.

“Graham was an accomplished scientist, a visionary leader, and a kind and compassionate human being who changed our organization and our lives,” said Ben Twining, a vice president and senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory who is now serving as acting executive director. “We were very lucky to have him at the helm during the last nine years.”

Shimmield was born in Pointe-a-Pierre, Trinidad, on December 1, 1958. A citizen of the United Kingdom, he received his bachelor’s in geology from the University of Durham in 1981. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh in chemical oceanography. After serving 10 years as a Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, he was awarded a Readership at the university in 1995. His research focused on identifying indicators of climate change and examining human impacts on the ocean. Shimmield published more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific articles, placing original research papers and review articles in many selective and influential journals. His work earned him recognition as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, and a recipient of the Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership Medal.

In 1997, Shimmield became managing director of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), where he served until moving to the United States to assume his role at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. There he led the independent, not-for-profit research institution that studies the ocean and how it is changing – from the biology and ecology of marine microorganisms to large-scale ocean processes that affect the global environment.

Shimmield held an array of other positions while at SAMS and Bigelow Laboratory, including president and vice president of the European Federation of Marine Sciences and Technology Societies; chairman of the European Census of Marine Life; member of the board of trustees and executive committee for the Consortium for Ocean Leadership; chairman of the International Science Advisory Board for the Decommissioning of Man-Made Structures in the North Sea, Oil & Gas; member of the Advisory Board for the National Oceanography Centre; member of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Marine and Coastal Strategy for Scotland; member of the UK



International Polar Year Committee; chairman of the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group; chair of research for the University of Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute; member of the board of Scientific Counselors for the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory; and a member of the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board.

“Under Graham's leadership, Bigelow Laboratory has nearly doubled in size, developed significant education programs, and increased the reach and impact of our science,” Twining said. “Graham was also committed to contributing to innovation and growth in Maine's economy through our research and partnerships around the state. We will continue to actively pursue the strategies he developed in collaboration with our staff.”

Bigelow Laboratory plans to arrange a celebration of Shimmield's life in the spring, and it will provide the details of that event to its email mailing list at a later date: <https://www.bigelow.org/news/subscribe.html>.

***Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences** is an independent, not-for-profit research institution on the coast of Maine. Our research ranges from the biology and ecology of marine microorganisms to large-scale ocean processes that affect the global environment. Recognized as a leader in Maine's emerging innovation economy, the Laboratory's research, education, and technology transfer programs are spurring significant economic growth in the state. Learn more at www.bigelow.org, and join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*