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Nancy Rabalais is a Professor at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, where she has been employed since 1983. She earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983, and her B.S and M.S. in Biology from Texas A&I University, Kingsville, in 1972 and 1975. Prior to LUMCON, Dr. Rabalais was a Research Associate then graduate student at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. She teaches marine science courses at LUMCON and in the Dept. of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University. Dr. Rabalais' research interests include the dynamics of hypoxic environments, interactions of large rivers with the coastal ocean, estuarine and coastal eutrophication, benthic ecology, and environmental effects of habitat alterations and contaminants. Dr. Rabalais is an AAAS Fellow, an Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Fellow, a Past President of the Estuarine Research Federation and currently is Chair of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Science. She was named a 1999 NOAA Environmental Hero for her work on the causes and consequences of Gulf hypoxia, shares the 1999 Blasker Award for Environmental Science and Engineering with Gene Turner of LSU for similar endeavors, received the 2002 Bostwick H. Ketchum Award for coastal research from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, is one of thirty heroes for the thirty years of the Clean Water Act by the Clean Water Network, and a Gulf Guardian.