Leeron Tagger

Founder/CEO and Principal Scientist

Years of Experience
20 years

Education
Bachelors

Environmental Science, and Geography and Planning

Geographic Information Systems

State University at Albany, New York, 2007

Registrations
U.S. Coast Guard Captains License – 100 Gross Tons Nearshore

Qualified Forest Conservation Professional (QP)

Certifications

Certified Wetland Delineator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC)

Personal Survival Techniques (ATONMI-871) STCW

40-Hour OSHA HAZWOPER Training

8-Hour OSHA HAZWOPER Refresher

30-Hour OSHA Construction Safety Training

8-Hour OSHA Supervisor Training

CPR, First Aid & Blood Borne Pathogens Training

Advanced Wetland Plant Identification Training

Rosgen Stream Assessment Method Training

Wetland Design and Construction

Professional Profile

Leeron Tagger is the Founder and CEO of Northland Airboats Marine and Environment, Inc., with over 20 years of experience supporting land development, infrastructure, and environmental projects through wetland delineation, permitting, and geotechnical and environmental investigations. A U.S. Coast Guard–licensed captain and wetland scientist, he has worked extensively with developers, engineering firms, and public agencies across the transportation, energy, and environmental sectors, guiding projects through feasibility, regulatory approval, and field execution. His expertise includes large-scale wetland delineations, constraints analysis, and state and federal permitting, helping clients navigate complex environmental regulations while advancing project design.

He is also recognized for pioneering innovative access solutions in challenging wetland and coastal environments, integrating specialized shallow-water platforms and marine logistics to support development in areas traditionally considered inaccessible. Mr. Tagger's multidisciplinary background—spanning roles as scientist, permitting lead, operations manager, and marine contractor—enables a practical, solutions-driven approach that balances development objectives with environmental stewardship and efficient project delivery.

Pertinent Project Experience

Woods Pond and Housatonic River Vibracoring, Anchor QEA, LLC, General Electric, USEPA, Berkshires, MA
Completed an environmental and geotechnical contaminated sediment investigation within a 60-acre shallow water pond and within the upper reaches of the Housatonic River. Challenges included various shallow water environments and debris that impeded access for traditional outboard vessels. Utilizing airboats and vibracore equipment, successfully collected 12-foot vibracores from 128 locations to successfully delineate historic PCM contaminated sediments to inform future remedial action.

Brick Township Beneficial Use Marsh Restoration, Gahagan & Bryant and Associates, Mobile Dredging, Brick, NJ
Provided airboat support and marine logistics to surveyors for a preconstruction survey of existing conditions within a tidal salt marsh with limited access, in preparation for the thin-layer placement of beneficially used dredged material from Barnegat Bay. Facilitated unimpeded transportation and access to line plan survey locations across multiple tidal marsh creeks, mudflats, and marsh vegetation, while also assisting with grade stake installation. Provided vessel support for progress surveys during the thin-layer placement of dredged material, as well as for the final as-built survey and drone flights.

Stouts Creek, Light House Center, Ephraim Island, Shaw Island, Abbotts Meadow, Gahagan & Bryant and Associates, Inc., Various Location, New Jersey
Planned, coordinated, budgeted, and executed a large-scale geotechnical site investigation across five different townships 85 miles apart, all within challenging ultra-shallow water and wetland environments, including salt marsh islands, mudflats, restored wetlands, impoundments, and open waters in Barnegat Bay, Delaware Bay, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, and Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. The scope of work involved the transportation of oversized heavy equipment and multiple vessels, navigation with airboats across varied marine and wetland terrain, coordination with commercial and residential landowners, reconnaissance, and the successful execution of mud rotary auger drilling and split spoon sampling to evaluate bearing capacity and storage potential for the future placement of beneficially used dredged material for marsh restoration. This project was conducted on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources, meeting all project milestones on time and within budget.

Abbotts Meadow Wildlife Management Area Marsh Restoration, H&L Contracting, Elsinboro Township, Salem County, NJ
Provided continuous 24/7 vessel support and USCG-licensed captains for 95 consecutive days during construction of the restoration project, assisting with tasks such as topographic surveying, refueling construction equipment, crew transport, equipment repair, and marine logistical support in challenging aquatic and semi-aquatic conditions. This support was extended to various contractors and government agencies, including Norfolk Dredging and the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Maritime Resources, during the hydraulic dredging and placement of 600,000 cubic yards of sand, silt, and clay. This effort was key in developing a new channel and vessel berths at the NJ Wind Port Facility. The dredged material was beneficially used to restore portions of a 365-acre tidal marsh.

HRE Stony Creek Marsh Ecosystem Restoration Project, Jamaica Bay, NY and HRE Naval Weapons Station Earle (NWSE) Oyster Restoration Project, Subsurface Exploration, Leonardo, New Jersey and Jamaica Bay, Queens NY, US Army Corps of Engineers – New York District
Provided shallow water marine logistics using airboats and other shallow-draft vessels for a biobenchmark survey. On behalf of the Corps, led a large-scale ultra-shallow water geotechnical subsurface sampling investigation in Jamaica Bay salt marsh islands and between two piers at Naval Weapons Station Earle. This involved using shallow-draft vessels and drill rigs to assess soil properties and strength characteristics of the subsurface materials across salt marsh islands and mudflats, ensuring accurate accounting for the settlement caused by the placement of up to 400,000

CYD of beneficially used sand and the installation of large-scale oyster castles.

Propel NY Energy, New York Power Authority (NYPA) and New York Transco, Long Island Sound, NY
Developed work plan and executed a nearshore and shallow water geotechnical and environmental campaign along the proposed Long Island Sound cable crossing using vibracore technology.

Ocean Wind 01 (OCW01), Orsted/Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey
Provided airboat vessel support and marine logistics for the drillers and client throughout a 41 days geotechnical drilling campaign for the BL England export cable route within Barnegat Bay, New Jersey.

Staten Island Arthur Kill Terminal, Breakwater Marine/Posillico
Provided vibracoring services within various ultra shallow (1m to 5m) water depths in the Arthur Kill to support proposed dredging and engineering design of the future offshore wind terminal in Staten Island, NY.

Former Walton's Farm Project, AECOM, Gravity Marine, PPG, Delran, NJ
Provided geotechnical and environmental drilling services including vibracoring, mud rotary auger drilling, and vessel support during a large-scale environmental site investigation and proposed remedial action within a 55-acre tidal freshwater wetland adjacent to Rancocas Creek.

Hope Creek Generating Station Insulator Replacement, Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G)
Provided shallow water transportation solutions using airboats for high line electrical workers to electrical transmission towers within Supawna Wildlife Refuge and Lower Alloways Creek, NJ, during a 4-week scheduled electrical outage.

Silver Run Electric, L.S. Power, Harlan Electric, Wetland Research Services, Odessa, DE
Provided crew and equipment transport through the shallow-water tidal system of the Appoquinimink River and Delaware Bay estuary during installation of a new 230 kV 5 mile electric utility transmission corridor, part of the broader Artificial Island Project, between the Hope Creek Generating Station in Salem, NJ and New Castle, DE.

Wetlands Restoration, RI and Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA), Confidential Client, Woodbridge, NJ
Lead scientist in the investigation and restoration of several environmentally sensitive areas historically impacted by an industrial facility that produced plasticizers and other industrial chemical products within the Lower Raritan River Watershed. Supervised wetlands investigations, large scale sediment sampling investigations, biological surveys, and remedial investigation activities (analysis of soils, sediment and surface water) within tidal wetlands and surface waters. Conducted review of pertinent site information and performed an analysis of tidal and freshwater wetland impacts attributable to historical development to develop a baseline upon which to derive estimates of contamination-related injuries to the site based on ecological service analysis. Prepared NJ freshwater wetland permit and flood hazard area applications for remedial activities. Evaluated wetland mitigation alternatives, developed conceptual habitat enhancement plans; reviewed reference sites for feasibility and effectiveness; and developed preliminary cost estimates for implementation, annual maintenance, and annual operation; oversaw ecological restoration of a 4.5-acre formerly tidal freshwater forested and emergent wetland; provided plans for capping of two 1-acre ponds, and trapping and relocation of wildlife; developed work plans for remedial investigation and conceptual mitigation within 75 acres of tidal wetlands off-site impacted by the facility.

Ecological Assessment of Kalamazoo River, Enbridge Oil Spill, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Marshall, MI

EPA contractor on the Submerged Oil Task Force, a team of professionals comprising EPA officials, the responsible party (RP) representatives, and stakeholders including Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR),

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and City of Kalamazoo. Reviewed Work Plans for removal of oil from sediment and surface water within the river and pilot studies of removal methods. Surveyed a 35-mile reach of the Lake Michigan tributary system identifying specific habitats present, and impacted areas where oil persisted in submerged sediments. Performed sediment probing, coring and various ecological investigations and within the tributary network with the following objectives:

- Identify visually impacted sediments by probing, sediment coring and sampling.
- Prioritize areas for oil removal and recommend remedial alternatives that would minimize environmental impacts where appropriate.
- Identify and map the ecological communities and vegetation types present at each priority area.
- Map submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) within the 30-mile section of the river impacted.
- Identify any rare, endangered, or threatened species that may be impacted.
- Determine which priority areas represented a significant ecological concern from the perspective of proposed treatment activities.

Sediment Quality Investigations, Habitat Assessments and Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys, Confidential Client, Northern NJ
On behalf of a Fortune 500 company, coordinated ecological and sediment assessments including multimedia sampling collection and evaluation of soil, sediment and surface water data for assessment of ecological impacts and ecological services analysis, performed wetlands delineations, terrestrial and aquatic biological surveys, wildlife habitat surveys, avian censusing, hydrological data collection, performed evaluations of phytoremediation projects, and evaluated remedial action alternatives for contaminated estuarine mudflat restoration. Responsibilities included technical training for staff and client personnel in the areas of habitat assessments, avian surveys and wetland delineation. Assisted with research and interpretation of regulations and negotiating with regulatory agencies to significantly reduce regulatory requirements resulting in both preservation of habitat as well as multi-million dollar cost savings for this client.

Wetland Delineation/Assessments, Multiple Clients, NJ, PA, NY, MD, DE, VA, NC
Performed tidal and freshwater wetland assessments on foot and airboat on over 200 sites throughout the mid-Atlantic and northeast United States within the coastal plain, northcentral northeast and piedmont regions. Performed or supervised all wetland delineation and site assessments. Particular focus consisted of plant species identification, soils classification, and large-scale complex sites often with disturbed hydrology. Authored proposals, technical reports, directed field work, managed budgets, met with regulatory agencies, advised clients, prepared regulatory permits, and negotiated collections.

Wetland Mitigation and Conservation Bank, City of Newark, Newark, NJ
Worked with the City to evaluate existing habitat and wetland functions and develop concept for a 20-acre wetland mitigation and conservation bank on publicly owned land with input and review from multiple stakeholders (USACE, NOAA, EPA, USFWS and NJDEP). The site consisted of degraded estuarine wetlands with restricted tidal flow along the coastline of Newark Bay.

Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), Shoal Point Bayou sediments, OT29, Panama City, FL
Under the direction of the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE), was part of a team prepared a revised ERA of OT29 that integrated results of 15 years of investigations at the site. Worked with AFCEE representatives and federal stakeholders to revise the document and ERA approach to address remaining data gaps and to revise the conceptual site model (CSM) of ecological risks at the site. Assisted with ERA Work Plan that described the path forward for characterizing risks at the site. Assisted with the work plan approach for field efforts

collecting additional information necessary to update prior risk assessments and provide a basis for remedial action decisions regarding DDT-impacted sediments within Shoal Point Bayou. Assisted in evaluation of existing aquatic habitat and determined ecological receptors most likely at risk from DDT contamination; implemented field program for assessing ecological risks via collection of sediment, tissue and biological data, and will soon be entering the report phase.

Environmental Assessment and Feasibility Study New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, NJ, USACE, Philadelphia District

Assisted in the preparation of a feasibility study/EA document, assisted with identification of dredge material placement alternatives, habitat restoration sites and beneficial reuse options for maintenance dredging of approximately 70 miles of New Jersey's Intracoastal Waterway. Major project tasks included evaluation of existing data (e.g., land use, bathymetry, aerial photographs); coordination with regulatory agencies as well as the identification of viable habitat creation, restoration and enhancement opportunities to improve degraded ecological conditions on historic dredge spoils sites within the project area. Prepared report on ecological benefits and impacts of different ecological restoration alternative using clean dredged material.

Ecological Assessment and Wetlands Restoration, Northern, NJ

Participated in ecological risk investigations, remedial actions, permitting and wetland restoration at several areas of concern formerly impacted by petroleum contamination and solid waste fill activities at the 1,400-acre active refinery in New Jersey. Assessments include multimedia sampling collection and evaluation of soil, sediment and surface water data for assessment of ecological impacts and ecological services analysis, wetlands delineations, terrestrial and aquatic biological surveys, wildlife habitat surveys, avian censusing, hydrological data collection for baseline wetland functional assessment, evaluation of phytoremediation projects, evaluation of remedial action alternatives for contaminated estuarine mudflat restoration, tidal creek restoration plans and evaluation of historical impoundments, and ecological risk assessment of several areas of concern.

Ecological Impact Analysis, Multi-faunal Species Survey Program, Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment, Orellana Province, Amazon Rainforest, Ecuador

Serving as a lead biologist, conducted a large-scale biodiversity study and ecological impact analysis on a 1,800-hectare reserve in a remote region of the Amazon rainforest. Designed and directed multiple long term biological surveys to census species richness, distribution, assemblages, communities and effects of habitat fragmentation on understory birds, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and invertebrates within various habitats on the reserve including primary and secondary forest. Annual amphibian and reptile surveys consisted of pitfall and visual encounter surveys. Annual avian monitoring consisted of understory mist netting, capture, identification, and release and subsequently monitored local and migratory behavior with radio telemetry equipment.