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Prior to joining the CMTS, Catherine worked in international development and environmental policy, including managing environmental research projects for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, serving as a policy liaison for the U.S. Navy, and running a social enterprise committed to improving child road safety in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Catherine received a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Economics and African Studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science in Freshwater Science & Technology from the School of Freshwater Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She was a 2015 Knauss Marine Policy Fellow with the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy.