

**Site Review Team's Review of the  
Louisiana Sea Grant College Program  
22-23 March 2011**

*Gene W. Kim*

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**Gene W. Kim**  
Chair, Federal Program Officer

*6/15/11*

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Date

*John V. Byrne*

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**John V. Byrne**  
Co-Chair, National Sea Grant Advisory Board Member

*6/15/11*

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Date



## INTRODUCTION

The site review team (SRT) review of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program (LASG) took place from 22-23 March 2011.

The SRT members included (see appendix I for biographical sketches):

<p><b>Gene W. Kim (SRT Chair, Federal Program Officer)</b> NOAA National Sea Grant Office Silver Spring, MD</p>	<p><b>John V. Byrne (SRT Co-Chair, National Sea Grant Advisory Board)</b> Oregon State University (President emeritus) Corvallis, OR</p>
<p><b>Judith McDowell (SRT member, Sea Grant Director)</b> Woods Hole Sea Grant Program Woods Hole, MA</p>	<p><b>Rita Curtis (SRT member)</b> NOAA Fisheries Silver Spring, MD</p>
<p><b>Jay Rasmussen (SRT member)</b> Oregon Sea Grant (ret.) Newport, OR</p>	

Prior to the SRT visit, and in conformance with National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) guidelines, the LASG issued a public notice of the upcoming SRT visit inviting interested parties to send written comments to the SRT Chair. The public notice was distributed at least 30 days prior to the SRT via the LASG website, their monthly fisheries newsletter, the faculty distribution list, and via a news release. The SRT Chair received no letter in response to the public notice. Prior to the site review, the SRT held one conference call and met in person the morning of the site visit.

The site review took place 22-23 March 2011 at the LASG Office on the campus of Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, LA. During the review, the SRT met with LASG staff and University administration, in addition to telephone conference calls with federal and Sea Grant Network personnel. On day one, the SRT was welcomed by Dr. Charles “Chuck” Wilson (Director, LASG), Chancellor Mike Martin (LSU), Vice Chancellor Thomas Klei (LSU), and Vice Chancellor Paul Coreil (LSU), in addition to hearing panels relating to communications, student engagement, healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable coastal development, and resilient coastal communities. Day one ended with an informal reception, during which some panelists remained to interact with the SRT. Day two continued the panel on resilient coastal communities, as well as panels on safe and sustainable seafood and regional collaborations. All panelists expressed gratitude towards the LASG for providing research, extension, and communication that was deemed relevant and useful, especially given the recent crises. A more detailed agenda with presenters can be found in Appendix II.

This report of the SRT follows the guidelines of the Site Review Team Procedures Manual (NSGO, March 2010). The SRT focused the review and discussion on how well the LASG met the three broad SRT categories: 1) Organization and Management of the Program; 2) Stakeholder Engagement; and 3) Collaborative Network Activities. The SRT considered the LASG Strategic and Implementation Plan when reviewing the Program and used them to guide our findings, suggestions and recommendations. Within each of these areas, the SRT report presents the findings, recommendations, and suggestions of the SRT.

## I. ORGANIZING AND MANAGING THE PROGRAM

### Leadership

The LASG management team is effective in providing leadership for the Program. The team is capably led by the Executive Director (Charles “Chuck” Wilson). In addition, the management team is comprised of the Associate Executive Director (David Nieland), Business Manager (Kelly Robertson), Assistant to the Executive Director (Katie Lea), Director of Marine Extension (currently vacant), Director for Outreach and Communications (Roy Kron), Director of Law and Policy Program (James Wilkins), and Director of Education Program (Dianne Lindstedt). At the time of the site visit, a national search was ongoing for the Director of Marine Extension, Rex Caffey was serving as Interim Director for Extension. Although both the Executive Director Wilson (started in 2005) and the Associate Executive Director Nieland (started in 2007) are relatively new to their positions, they are adept in their roles for management of the LASG.

Four external groups provide guidance for the LASG: (1) the Advisory Council and (2) the Academic Advisory Panel provide overall guidance for the Program; and two project-specific panels, (3) the Sea Grant Law and Policy Advisory Panel and (4) the Marine Extension Advisory Panel. The 16-member Advisory Council includes leaders of: state agencies; regional federal agencies; academic and research institutions; local communities; and stakeholder groups. Their role is to provide input and feedback for the LASG Strategic Plan, as well as individuals from that group assist with proposal review, research and outreach. The Advisory Council meets on an *ad hoc* basis, with no regular meetings scheduled. The eight-member Academic Advisory Panel is composed of researchers and professors from several State universities. The Academic Advisory Panel is consulted as needed for comments and suggestions on strategic planning, guidance for LASG management, evaluation of Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program applications, and distribution of research announcements. The six-member Marine Education Advisory Panel assists the Program on marine and coastal education needs for Louisiana’s K-12 teachers and students. This panel meets annually, in addition to working with the Director of Marine Education. The five-member Law and Policy Panel meets one to two times per year and supports the LASG Law and Policy Program, which is one of five members of the Sea Grant Legal Network. This group provides insight on current and emerging legal issues and provides feedback on the Omnibus proposal for legal funding.

- **Finding:** *The management team works well together and provides strategic planning and coordination of research, extension, and communication to address issues in Louisiana. However, the recent loss of institutional knowledge in the management team and extension is a concern.*
- **Finding:** *The majority of the recommendations of the 2006 Program Assessment Team Report have been effectively addressed.*
- **Finding:** *The LASG Advisory Council includes member representation from a diverse group of stakeholders that have proved to be invaluable in reviewing the strategic plan.*
- **Recommendation:** *We recommend that the LASG Advisory Council be more fully engaged on a regular basis and meet annual or semi-annually with LASG staff. A suggestion stemming from this recommendation would be to encourage LSU to vet ideas using this advisory board, such that the Council could become an advisory vehicle for LSU's coastal and marine programs.*

## Organization

Organizationally, LASG appears to be positioned appropriately within LSU, the fiscal host. Since establishment in 1968, the Program resides in and reports to the Vice Chancellor for Research. Given the Sea Grant Director's past position as LSU Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Program is well connected internally within the university and has a high degree of visibility. The LASG leadership has two reporting avenues. The Sea Grant Director reports to the LSU Vice Chancellor for Research, whereas the Director for Marine Extension reports to the Vice Chancellor for Extension within the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter), both of whom met with the SRT. Both Marine Extension Agents and Specialists are considered faculty and are eligible for promotion and tenure (specialists by departments, agents by Extension), and LASG formally participates in the tenure and promotion process. Relative to reporting, the Extension Specialists report jointly to departments and the LASG Director of Marine Extension, whereas the Extension Agents report jointly to Extension Regional Directors and the LASG Director of Marine Extension. The rest of the management team reports directly to the Sea Grant Director. Having part of the staff report outside the Program is not entirely uncommon among Sea Grant Programs. Given the current working relationships, it appears to be appropriate for LASG.

Academically, LASG is well positioned to influence careers of Louisiana students during their undergraduate, graduate, or professional school tenure. Talented undergraduate students can gain hands-on research experience in the LASG Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (established in 1992). Numerous graduate students receive training on real-world research issues while they are supported on core LASG research projects or and in the Coastal Science Assistantship Program (administered by LASG and funded by the Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration). Law students are employed as legal research assistants in the LASG Law and Policy Program, gaining hands-on experience with coastal and natural resource legal issues. The Program has a consistent track record in Knauss Fellowships, averaging one Fellow per year during 2006-2010.

- **Finding:** *SRT finds that the program is integrating and tracking students well. The effort taken to track eventual job placement of funded graduate students is lauded.*
- **Suggestion:** *The SRT was very impressed with student engagement at the undergraduate and graduate levels and suggests that the Program may want to consider branding these students as "Sea Grant Researcher or Scholar" or some similar designation that elevates the visibility of the student role.*
- **Suggestion:** *The Program may want to consider developing a working relationship with the LSU Honors College. Such a relationship may enhance the awareness of the Sea Grant Program to the best and brightest undergraduates. In turn, the inclusion of outstanding graduates to Sea Grant graduate programs is thereby increased.*
- **Suggestion:** *The SRT suggests that LASG may want to approach and encourage in-state law schools (e.g., LSU, Tulane) to offer courses on 1) coastal law and 2) food law. Both are burgeoning areas of law that may not be offered by other law schools. Further, these areas complement core LASG areas of focus within the physical and life sciences (e.g., coastal engineering, oceanography, food science).*

### **Programmed Team Approach**

The LASG conducts a request for proposals (RFP) to recruit faculty talent once every two years. The priorities for the RFP are drawn from the LASG Strategic Plan goals and objectives and are fairly general in order to provide latitude for research topics. After input from Marine Extension personnel and Advisory Council, the RFP is distributed widely. After distribution of the RFP, there is a two-step process: 1) Statements of Interest are submitted by applicants and are screened by a panel of experts (including members from state and local federal agencies and some Advisory Council members) on the basis of applicability and responsiveness to Strategic Plan Objectives and 2) Full Proposals are requested for selected projects and subjected to external peer review and evaluation by a technical review panel of outside experts (mostly from out of state scientists) and members from the Advisory Council.

Generally nine to 11 projects are selected for funding. Each proposal includes a nominal schedule of milestones and is required to have a strong outreach plan, which could include extension specialists and agents, as well as other communications media. Over the past three, omnibus cycles (solicited once every two years) since the last site visit (2006), 110 statements of interest were received, 56 full proposals were reviewed, and 30 proposals were funded. Additionally, 34 project development proposals have been funded during this time period, about 15% of which went outside of LSU. Also, there are a number of ongoing regional projects in research, extension, outreach, and education being led directly by the four Sea Grant Programs in the Gulf of Mexico.

As was recognized by the 2006 PAT, the program has a strong base of researchers, many of whom reside in the host university. Not surprisingly the list of proposals and funded investigators is heavily represented by LSU faculty. To increase participation of non-LSU faculty, the LASG should continue to use Program Development funds and regional projects to enhance connections with talent outside LSU. The recent RFP appears to have garnered the interest of a broader group of investigators. All of these actions appear to be steps in the right direction.

- **Finding:** *In terms of competitive research, LASG has done well at balancing funding between competitive research/education and other elements of the program. The guidelines from the NSGO state that approximately 50% of the federal core funding be awarded competitively. In tough financial times such as these, many programs find this guideline difficult to follow.*
- **Finding:** *Although there was a predominance of LSU faculty receiving core LASG research awards during 2006-2010, recent trends in the response to the 2010-12 request for proposals and the use of program development funds should result in more diverse representation of faculty from other Louisiana institutions. These program development funds can be used as rapid response funds or for other program development; NSGO guidelines state that these program development funds be no more than 10% of the federal core, in any one year.*
- **Suggestion:** *The SRT suggests that the LASG explore ways to develop a diverse research portfolio in order to encourage projects that help Louisiana Sea Grant meet the goals set forth in the current strategic plan. The response to the current program RFP shows a diversity of topics related not just to seafood issues, but also related to concerns of*

*sediment transport, biogeochemical cycles and wetland restoration. This is encouraging and such diversity can be enhanced with the use of program development funds, investment in new areas, and new partnerships.*

- **Finding:** *Within LSU, considerable expertise lies in departments not traditionally associated with Sea Grant, such as the E.J. Ourso College of Business, College of Art and Design, School of Landscape Architecture, and the School of Social Work. Engagement with these departments has enhanced LASG's ability to achieve its strategic plan. Also, much of the Delcambre Direct efforts towards the LASG Strategy to "Design and implement outreach programs on sustainable use of coastal resources for community leaders and industry" was achieved due, in part, to efforts outside the departments and faculty who are traditionally involved with the LASG (e.g., University of Louisiana at Lafayette MBA Program, School of Architecture and Design).*
- **Suggestion:** *Continue to engage non-traditional parts of Louisiana universities to achieve your strategic plan where links and capacity do not currently exist.*

## **Support**

The core federal funding is about \$1.4 million, with about \$1.2 million in additional funding from other federal sources (national competitions, pass-through funds, etc.). Administrative costs are about 4% of core Omnibus federal funds, and 56% of these funds are devoted to research. Although LSU has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate of 48% for research, the LASG qualified for a reduced off-campus rate of 28% for federal funds and 13% for state research funds. The LASG recovers about 15% of the indirect costs from LSU as an annual rebate for use in its research program as Program Development funds and equipment purchase for researchers.

State funds, which provide the primary source of matching funds, are declining. Matching funds have historically been strong, typically equaling or exceeding the amount of federal funds (matching funds for the past 2006-2010 Omnibus award were about 67% of federal funds); however, continuation of recent trends in state support may jeopardize this. Although the amount of matching funds still exceeds the legislative mandate (50% in non-federal match), recent and future expected funding decreases are troubling (17% reduction between 2005 and 2010; anticipated additional 10% reduction in 2011). Aside from this state funding decrease, there appears to be excellent support from LSU, as well as federal, state, and parish partners. No institutional or organizational constraints were identified. Partnering agencies, industries, the state, and parish governments are making large contributions to the program, both financially and otherwise. For example, extension agents often are housed in spaces provided by the parishes that they cover.

## **II. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### **Extension/Advisory**

Care is taken to ensure that LASG activities are relevant to coastal constituent needs and involve research, extension and outreach. Stakeholder engagement starts with the development of the LASG's four-year strategic plan (most recently for 2009-2013). The Strategic Plan uses information gleaned from the Gulf of Mexico Research Planning Project (workshop with > 100 stakeholders; 1,500 survey responses), a LSU Public Policy Research Laboratory Survey (628 telephone surveys), as well as input from LASG Marine Extension Personnel, the LASG

Management Team, the LASG Advisory Council, and the LASG Academic Advisory Panel. Funded researchers are required to engage Extension personnel in the full proposal development and implementation process in order to produce an outreach plan for each project.

Communication and education personnel at LASG produce materials to assist extension staff in engaging with coastal stakeholders. One important task is to provide the results of scientific research funded by the LASG to the general public, in addition to regular presentations to experts at scientific and technical conferences. This requires making the information physically more accessible in the form of LASG website, newsletters, workshops, town hall meetings, news media, pamphlets and other written materials in order to convey the relevant coastal and marine-related information to stakeholders in non-technical terms. Through educational programs and practical assistance, LASG Extension serves Louisiana's coastal population, which comprises about 70% of the State's residents. Examples of informal education were presented, including the Ocean Commotion event and the Coastal Roots Program. In addition, formal education was highlighted in how it produces lesson plans and activities for K-12 education. To assess these products, LASG's Education program works with educational researchers to employ pre- and post-test evaluations to gauge student and teacher knowledge levels to measure comprehension, develop and evaluate appropriate learning materials, and to assess overall program effectiveness. Beyond traditional communication and education methods, such as newsletters, workshops, science teacher training, the Program has adopted emerging social media for information delivery (e.g., YouTube, Twitter, Facebook). All of these communication products complement traditional methods of contact (e.g., office visits, telephone calls, letters) with people who have come to rely on the neutral, science-based products and information of the LASG to make informed decisions. The combined result of these efforts is to increase exposure for the Program as a source of reliable, science-based information.

- **Suggestion:** *The SRT encourages the LASG to investigate and evaluate informal or free choice learning as an addition to their educational program. This could augment their strong current stakeholder-enabled programming in formal or k-12 education and greatly extend the reach and impact of coastal education. By doing this, the Program would engage other Sea Grant Programs in their approach to reach new learning audiences.*
- **Suggestion:** *The communications strategies have been exemplary. The SRT encourages the LASG to continue combining the new and traditional new communication strategies, particularly related to acute natural disasters (e.g., storms oil spills), as well as chronic but critical issues (e.g., relative sea level rise and its impacts on communities of place and of interest).*

### **Relevance and Relationships**

The changing "landscape" of coastal Louisiana profoundly influences the services provided by LASG. The natural processes of the Mississippi River and Delta (e.g., sediment accretion, wetland formation, river meandering, barrier island formation) have been altered by human activities, changing both the natural and constructed environment. Yet, despite material alterations, the Mississippi River still provides drainage for about 41% of the continental US, and the commercial activities of coastal Louisiana still provide critical resources for the entire nation (e.g., fisheries, oil and gas, shipping). Today, coastal Louisianans live on a subsiding terrain on

which the effects of sea level rise will be exacerbated. Recent hurricanes and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disasters have exposed the vulnerability of the region with respect to flood control, natural resource management, and maintenance of the unique ways of life in the region. This is the changing “landscape” within which the LASG must continue to provide relevant research results, communications, education and extension to coastal stakeholders

Coastal constituents have direct input into the activities of every LASG marine extension agent. All extension agents are required to have his/her own advisory committee. This personal committee provides each extension agent direct input and guidance from local constituents. In recent years, the scope of agent work has expanded to include multi-parish responsibilities, which necessitates the agent’s membership in numerous scientific, management, and issue-based advisory committees that are pertinent to their program and region of responsibility. This can result in an extension agent actively involved in more than a dozen local, state, and regional boards or committees. Within the LASG, formal procedures ensure that research, communications, education and extension work together to transfer relevant research results to coastal stakeholders. The management team meets at least monthly, whereas marine extension management and staff meet quarterly to exchange information and ideas.

The LASG has a powerful approach for engaging coastal constituents, even under duress. As chronicled during the site visit, LASG provides relevant and timely information for Louisiana stakeholders by integrating research, extension, communication, education, and legal and policy issues. From the presentations, it was apparent to the SRT that the LASG, especially the Extension Program, provides valuable and relevant services to a broad range of constituents. This is even more remarkable given the rapid response required to the recent hurricanes (e.g., Hurricanes Rita, Katrina, Ike) and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The flexibility shown did not detract from the relevance to stakeholder; rather, it showcased how the LASG was most relevant when decisions and personnel could be mobilized in a timely manner. Extension that was geared towards assisting industries in making decisions that enhance their ability to adapt to crises, which was highlighted by the oyster aquaculture and the storm preparation and mitigation projects. Program Development funds contribute to flexibility, as well as passionate and professional staff within the Program.

- ***Finding:*** *Louisiana is facing relatively rapid and profound changes to its environment, with significant changes already occurring. LASG is playing, and must continue to play, a lead role in assisting local communities’ ability to understand the risks and plan appropriately for its and its residents’ futures.*
- ***Finding:*** *In the recent past, there has been a turn-over in administrative staff and extension (i.e., about one third of the LASG have been on staff less than six years). While recent hiring better allows the LASG to reflect changing priorities and demographics of the coastal communities, the SRT hopes that the vacancy at the Director of Marine Extension will be solidified soon with a stellar candidate.*
- ***Suggestion:*** *Continue to require acknowledgement for LASG products and communications. The logo and name should be prominent and communicate that this is Louisiana Sea Grant, not LSU Sea Grant, and is part of NOAA.*
- ***Suggestion:*** *The Law and Policy Program is a critical resource for the program. Sea Grant’s importance to this nation can be enhanced by presentations to non-traditional*

*Sea Grant audiences such as the American Bar Association, American Planning Association, and American Risk and Insurance Association. Such presentations will help encourage greater consideration of legal issues surrounding coastal and marine issues, especially by non-traditional Sea Grant audiences and professional societies.*

- ***Suggestion:*** *The Delcambre Direct Project is an excellent example of engagement by Sea Grant with stakeholders. Recognition of Sea Grant as a contributor to engagement by LSU and a recognition of Sea Grant itself as an agent of engagement can be enhanced by submitting an application for the C. Peter Magrath-Kellogg Community Engagement Award made annually by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. To date only one application by a state Sea Grant has made it to the review level at APLU. Should the application survive to the finalist level, it and Sea Grant will become known to the entire membership of this educational association consisting of Land Grant and other public universities.*
- ***Recommendation:*** *The LASG should increase programming to assist local communities (of place and interest) in recognizing and understanding the risks and implications of profound changes to their environment. For example, an increase in social science programming could allow these risks to be understood by chronicling oral histories and cultural data to record ongoing changes, as a complement to physical data and model predictions. With significant research and program development resources in this area, these social science findings could be useful for targeted outreach (e.g., The Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice) to effectively communicate about and address complex and contentious issues, such as climate change and sea level rise. Following a multi-pronged approach likely will enhance the leadership role of LASG for research and outreach on these coastal issues.*

### **III. COLLABORATIVE NETWORK/NOAA ACTIVITIES**

The LASG is extremely active within the Gulf of Mexico Region. The Program is a leader within the Gulf of Mexico Region, collaborating with the four neighboring Sea Grant programs to develop the Gulf of Mexico Research Plan, the new climate outreach community of practice, and joint funding of RFPs on coastal resilience and climate adaptation that address regional priorities. These regional efforts allow combined funding, and resultant increases in applicability of the work to a regional level. In addition, other regional contributors to this partnership include the USEPA-Gulf of Mexico Program and the NOAA regional cooperative institute (Northern Gulf Institute). Also, members of the LASG staff are active in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the regional governance program developed by the five Gulf of Mexico states. Specifically, LASG participates in two of the six priority issues teams: Coastal Community Resilience and Environmental Education.

The LASG is directly engaged with NOAA and other federal agencies. In response to the Hurricane Rita disaster, LASG partnered with the NOAA Office of Coast Survey and the NOAA Marine Debris Program (in addition to state and local groups) to mark and map debris strewn along the bottom of Lake Calcasieu . In addition, NOAA Fisheries commissioned a socioeconomic project to LASG for socio-economic assessment of the northern Gulf of Mexico fisheries in order to provide baseline data for fishery management considerations. Perhaps the most remarkable federal partnership the SRT heard during the site visit was the role that LASG played during the Deepwater Horizon Response. Federal agencies, including NOAA, quickly

realized the value of the local connections that LASG extension has. A LASG extension agent was placed within the Joint Incident Command to assist with communication and outreach to local stakeholders. In addition, LASG and the other Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Programs called upon the experience that their counterparts in Alaska Sea Grant had in response to the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez oil spill more than 20 years earlier. As a result, extension and other LASG personnel participated in the peer listening training that enabled them to identify when to refer them to healthcare professionals. These were roles during crises that were difficult, if not impossible, to predict.

The LASG is engaged with the Sea Grant Network primarily via activities of the management team. In addition, the LASG management staff provides leadership on various National Sea Grant Networks for communicators, educators, and legal specialists. The Director provides leadership for the Sea Grant Network as co-chair of the Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply Focus Team and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Sea Grant Association. Examples of extension agents contributing to the larger Sea Grant Network appear to be limited to working on activities parallel to those of their colleagues in other Sea Grant Programs. An example of this is extension providing technical training mandated under the Trade Adjustment Act; similar activities occur throughout the Sea Grant Network for other states and sectors that are eligible for these funds (e.g., shrimp in other states, lobster fishermen). As a whole, participation by parish-based extension agents with regional counterparts and the Sea Grant network was not apparent during the site visit. The SRT realizes that restrictions on travel funds and other issues exist; however, interactions with Sea Grant colleagues represent career development and beneficial ‘cross-fertilization’ with other agents who work on similar topics. Such collaborations could benefit their day-to-day activities and the Sea Grant Network. Examples could include storm surge risk communication, direct seafood marketing, aquaculture, coastal and marine spatial planning, and sustainable fisheries.

- **Finding:** *the LASG appears to be well connected to the National Sea Grant Network and is a leader in the Gulf of Mexico Region.*
- **Suggestion:** *Work with NSGO and other Gulf Sea Grant Programs to write up the blueprint for response and continuity of operations for other SG programs. This could include practical considerations mentioned during the visit for ensuring continuity of operations during a prolonged emergency (e.g., a ‘Trauma School’ for SG extension that includes plans for communications without electricity and internet, having printed materials ahead of time, emergency contact list, providing shelter, base of operations, and mental health for extension professionals, mental). In addition, it could include reserving a portion of PD research funds to address unexpected issues and coordinating responses with the Public Health Service and other affiliated helping professions.*
- **Suggestion:** *Continue to use the regional approach to engage and provide leadership for the federal effort on Coastal Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) in the Gulf of Mexico. Regardless of the name (exclusion maps, artificial reefs, oyster cages), your program (extension, seafood, legal program) is leading efforts in the regional of CMSP, starting primarily on-land. Continue to work with Gulf SG Programs and the Law Center, in addition to within LASG, to ensure regionally applicability of the work.*
- **Suggestion:** *The SRT was impressed by the impacts presented by the various extension projects during the site visit. There is a need to capture these in writing to produce*

*succinct, meaningful impact statements to inform the Sea Grant Network and the NSGO of the significant accomplishments of LASG. The SRT suggests that members of the extension staff brainstorm with one another to construct meaningful impact statements that reflect their accomplishments, including the response to the hurricanes and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.*

- ***Suggestion:** The SRT found the storm surge visualization a promising way to communicate storm hazards and risks. The LASG may want to consider improving connections to the local and regional National Weather Service (NWS) office. This could include incorporating NWS precipitation models into the storm surge predictions, combined warning systems, outreach by NWS forecasters and TV weather reporters.*
- ***Suggestion:** LASG should consider providing a vision for the seafood industry, identifying future issues. CMSP is only one example where LASG can provide leadership to be proactive on both research (life sciences and social sciences) and legal issues across the entire Gulf of Mexico Region.*

#### IV. SUMMARY of FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS and SUGGESTIONS

This section recapitulates the recommendations, findings, and suggestions from the text above and indicates the section in which each can be found (as amended in the foregoing text).

Note: A *recommendation* is a formally prescribed course of action for which the Sea Grant Program is accountable. The Sea Grant Program is expected to respond to each recommendation, explaining how it *has* implemented, how it *plans* to implement, or why it *chooses not* to implement each course of action. A *suggestion* is an idea that is presented for consideration. The Sea Grant Program is not accountable for responding to suggestions, but is encouraged to consider implementing those deemed useful and appropriate by program leadership.

##### **Recommendations (items the Program must consider):**

- **Recommendation:** We recommend that the LASG Advisory Council be more fully engaged on a regular basis and meet annual or semi-annually with LASG staff. A suggestion stemming from this recommendation would be to encourage LSU to vet ideas using this advisory board, such that the Council could become an advisory vehicle for LSU's coastal and marine programs. [From section "Organizing and Managing the Program – Leadership"]
- **Recommendation:** The LASG should increase programming to assist local communities (of place and interest) in recognizing and understanding the risks and implications of profound changes to their environment. For example, an increase in social science programming could allow these risks to be understood by chronicling oral histories and cultural data to record ongoing changes, as a complement to physical data and model predictions. With significant research and program development resources in this area, these social science findings could be useful for targeted outreach (e.g., The Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice) to effectively communicate about and address complex and contentious issues, such as climate change and sea level rise. Following a multi-pronged approach likely will enhance the leadership role of LASG for research and outreach on these coastal issues. [From section "Stakeholder Engagement: Relevance and Relationships"]

##### **Findings:**

- **Finding:** The management team works well together and provides strategic planning and coordination of research, extension, and communication to address issues in Louisiana. However, the recent loss of institutional knowledge in the management team and extension is a concern. [From section "Organizing and Managing the Program – Leadership"]
- **Finding:** The majority of the recommendations of the 2006 Program Assessment Team Report have been effectively addressed. [From section "Organizing and Managing the Program – Leadership"]
- **Finding:** The LASG Advisory Council includes member representation from a diverse group of stakeholders that have proved to be invaluable in reviewing the strategic plan. [From section "Organizing and Managing the Program – Leadership"]

- **Finding:** SRT finds that the program is integrating and tracking students well. The effort taken to track eventual job placement of funded graduate students is lauded. [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Organization”]
- **Finding:** In terms of competitive research, LASG has done well at balancing funding between competitive research/education and other elements of the program. The guidelines from the NSGO state that approximately 50% of the federal core funding be awarded competitively. In tough financial times such as these, many programs find this guideline difficult to follow. [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Programmed Team Approach”]
- **Finding:** Although there was a predominance of LSU faculty receiving core LASG research awards during 2006-2010, recent trends in the response to the 2010-12 request for proposals and the use of program development funds should result in more diverse representation of faculty from other Louisiana institutions. These program development funds can be used as rapid response funds or for other program development; NSGO guidelines state that these program development funds be no more than 10% of the federal core, in any one year. [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Programmed Team Approach”]
- **Finding:** Within LSU, considerable expertise lies in departments not traditionally associated with Sea Grant, such as the E.J. Ourso College of Business, College of Art and Design, School of Landscape Architecture, and the School of Social Work. Engagement with these departments has enhanced LASG’s ability to achieve its strategic plan. Also, much of the Delcambre Direct efforts towards the LASG Strategy to “Design and implement outreach programs on sustainable use of coastal resources for community leaders and industry” was achieved due, in part, to efforts outside the departments and faculty who are traditionally involved with the LASG (e.g., University of Louisiana at Lafayette MBA Program, School of Architecture and Design). [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Programmed Team Approach”]
- **Finding:** Louisiana is facing relatively rapid and profound changes to its environment, with significant changes already occurring. LASG is playing, and must continue to play, a lead role in assisting local communities’ ability to understand the risks and plan appropriately for its and its residents’ futures. [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Relevance and Relationships”]
- **Finding:** In the recent past, there has been a turn-over in administrative staff and extension (i.e., about one third of the LASG have been on staff less than six years). While recent hiring better allows the LASG to reflect changing priorities and demographics of the coastal communities, the SRT hopes that the vacancy at the Director of Marine Extension will be solidified soon with a stellar candidate. [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Relevance and Relationships”]
- **Finding:** the LASG appears to be well connected to the National Sea Grant Network and is a leader in the Gulf of Mexico Region. [From section “Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities”]

**Suggestions (ideas the Program may want to consider):**

- **Suggestion:** The SRT was very impressed with student engagement at the undergraduate and graduate levels and suggests that the Program may want to consider branding these students as “Sea Grant Researcher or Scholar” or some similar designation that elevates

the visibility of the student role. [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Organization”]

- **Suggestion:** The Program may want to consider developing a working relationship with the LSU Honors College. Such a relationship may enhance the awareness of the Sea Grant Program to the best and brightest undergraduates. In turn, the inclusion of outstanding graduates to Sea Grant graduate programs is thereby increased. [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Organization”]
- **Suggestion:** The SRT suggests that LASG may want to approach and encourage in-state law schools (e.g., LSU, Tulane) to offer courses on 1) coastal law and 2) food law. Both are burgeoning areas of law that may not be offered by other law schools. Further, these areas complement core LASG areas of focus within the physical and life sciences (e.g., coastal engineering, oceanography, food science). [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Organization”]
- **Suggestion:** The SRT suggests that the LASG explore ways to develop a diverse research portfolio in order to encourage projects that help Louisiana Sea Grant meet the goals set forth in the current strategic plan. The response to the current program RFP shows a diversity of topics related not just to seafood issues, but also related to concerns of sediment transport, biogeochemical cycles and wetland restoration. This is encouraging and such diversity can be enhanced with the use of program development funds, investment in new areas, and new partnerships. [From section “Organizing and Managing the Program – Programmed Team Approach”]
- **Suggestion:** Continue to engage non-traditional parts of Louisiana universities to achieve your strategic plan where links and capacity do not currently exist.
- **Suggestion:** The SRT encourages the LASG to investigate and evaluate informal or free choice learning as an addition to their educational program. This could augment their strong current stakeholder-enabled programming in formal or k-12 education and greatly extend the reach and impact of coastal education. By doing this, the Program would engage other Sea Grant Programs in their approach to reach new learning audiences. [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Extension/Advisory”]
- **Suggestion:** The communications strategies have been exemplary. The SRT encourages the LASG to continue combining the new and traditional new communication strategies, particularly related to acute natural disasters (e.g., storms oil spills), as well as chronic but critical issues (e.g., relative sea level rise and its impacts on communities of place and of interest). [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Extension/Advisory”]
- **Suggestion:** Continue to require acknowledgement for LASG products and communications. The logo and name should be prominent and communicate that this is Louisiana Sea Grant, not LSU Sea Grant, and is part of NOAA. [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Relevance and Relationships”]
- **Suggestion:** The Law and Policy Program is a critical resource for the program. Sea Grant’s importance to this nation can be enhanced by presentations to non-traditional Sea Grant audiences such as the American Bar Association, American Planning Association, and American Risk and Insurance Association. Such presentations will help encourage greater consideration of legal issues surrounding coastal and marine issues, especially by non-traditional Sea Grant audiences and professional societies. [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Relevance and Relationships”]

- **Suggestion:** The Delcambre Direct Project is an excellent example of engagement by Sea Grant with stakeholders. Recognition of Sea Grant as a contributor to engagement by LSU and a recognition of Sea Grant itself as an agent of engagement can be enhanced by submitting an application for the C. Peter Magrath-Kellogg Community Engagement Award made annually by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. To date only one application by a state Sea Grant has made it to the review level at APLU. Should the application survive to the finalist level, it and Sea Grant will become known to the entire membership of this educational association consisting of Land Grant and other public universities. [From section “Stakeholder Engagement: Relevance and Relationships”]
- **Suggestion:** Work with NSGO and other Gulf Sea Grant Programs to write up the blueprint for response and continuity of operations for other SG programs. This could include practical considerations mentioned during the visit for ensuring continuity of operations during a prolonged emergency (e.g., a ‘Trauma School’ for SG extension that includes plans for communications without electricity and internet, having printed materials ahead of time, emergency contact list, providing shelter, base of operations, and mental health for extension professionals, mental). In addition, it could include reserving a portion of PD research funds to address unexpected issues and coordinating responses with the Public Health Service and other affiliated helping professions. [From section “Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities”]
- **Suggestion:** Continue to use the regional approach to engage and provide leadership for the federal effort on Coastal Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) in the Gulf of Mexico. Regardless of the name (exclusion maps, artificial reefs, oyster cages), your program (extension, seafood, legal program) is leading efforts in the regional of CMSP, starting primarily on-land. Continue to work with Gulf SG Programs and the Law Center, in addition to within LASG, to ensure regionally applicability of the work. [From section “Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities”]
- **Suggestion:** The SRT was impressed by the impacts presented by the various extension projects during the site visit. There is a need to capture these in writing to produce succinct, meaningful impact statements to inform the Sea Grant Network and the NSGO of the significant accomplishments of LASG. The SRT suggests that members of the extension staff brainstorm with one another to construct meaningful impact statements that reflect their accomplishments, including the response to the hurricanes and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. [From section “Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities”]
- **Suggestion:** The SRT found the storm surge visualization a promising way to communicate storm hazards and risks. The LASG may want to consider improving connections to the local and regional National Weather Service (NWS) office. This could include incorporating NWS precipitation models into the storm surge predictions, combined warning systems, outreach by NWS forecasters and TV weather reporters. [From section “Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities”]
- **Suggestion:** LASG should consider providing a vision for the seafood industry, identifying future issues. CMSP is only one example where LASG can provide leadership to be proactive on both research (life sciences and social sciences) and legal issues across the entire Gulf of Mexico Region. [From section “Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities”]

○ **V. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:**

The best management practices identified by the SRT will be shared with other Sea Grant Programs.

- The LASG has shown ability to rapidly respond to the recent Deepwater Horizon and other disasters. The flexibility and nimbleness of this Program is a model for other Sea Grant Programs.
  - The education program “Ocean Commotion” is an exciting and engaging interactive program for students, parents, and teachers. Other Sea Grant Programs could learn from the design and implementation of this program.
  - The direct marketing program “Delcambre Direct” is a model for other Sea Grant Programs interested in new models for their fishery and aquaculture producers.
  - The storm surge visualization project is an effective tool to educate communities regarding the hazards and risks associated with storm events on local shorelines.
  - The Climate Community of Practice project is an excellent example of regional partnership and collaboration to develop educational and outreach programs for local communities.
  - The hiring of ethnically compatible extension agents is an excellent practice in interacting with the diverse ethnic groups living in coastal Louisiana.
  - The oral history project is another excellent example of integrating outreach activities with social history for a rapidly changing coastal population. These elements are part of the coastal community and should not be ignored.
  - Student engagement in projects was impressive and the tracking of graduate students trained and support by Louisiana Sea Grant was also impressive.
  - The Louisiana Coastal Hazards Mitigation Guidebook to be exemplary and a potential model for other Sea Grant Programs.
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## **APPENDIX I - Louisiana Site Review Team (SRT) Brief Biographies (22-23 March 2011)**

**Gene W. Kim (SRT Chair; National Sea Grant Office, NSGO)** - Gene W. Kim is the federal program officer for the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Programs (TX, LA, MS-AL, FL, National Sea Grant Law Center) and NSGO Program Director for Aquaculture. Based in Silver Spring, MD, Dr. Kim also directs the NSGO aquaculture competitive grants, collaborates with the NOAA Fisheries Aquaculture Program, coordinates and chairs several NOAA international aquaculture exchange programs, chairs the NSGO Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply Focus Team, and orchestrates a national network of Sea Grant aquaculture extension agents. His work experience includes NOAA Research's Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (NOAA Ecosystem Research Program Coordinator), the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee's Fisheries Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee (Knauss Legislative Fellow), and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Peer Review Coordinator). He holds a PhD from The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) where he focused on fisheries and aquaculture issues: water quality, fish biology, invasive species, benthic communities, and biomagnification of organic contaminants. His MS research at Auburn University (Auburn, AL) examined larval fish ecology and his undergraduate studies at Miami University (Oxford, OH) yielded degrees in Zoology (BS) and Philosophy (BA).

**John V. Byrne (SRT Co-Chair; National Sea Grant Advisory Board Member)** – John V. Byrne is President Emeritus of Oregon State University, one of American's leading land-grant universities, where he served as president for eleven years (1984 - 1995). His experience includes service to higher education, government, and the private sector. After joining Oregon State (OSU) in 1960 Byrne served for sixteen years in OSU's Oceanography program as faculty member, department chair, and dean. Subsequently he was OSU's Dean of Research, Graduate Dean, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. During his thirty-five year tenure at Oregon State he took leave twice to serve the United States government in Washington, D.C., first as a program director for oceanography at the National Science Foundation and later as the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce and also as the United States commissioner to the International Whaling Commission. Prior to joining OSU in 1960, he served three years as a geologist with the Humble Oil and Refining Company.

As president of OSU, he guided Oregon State through a period of turbulence caused by severe state budget restrictions resulting from a property tax limitation ballot measure. During this period OSU continued to grow in programs, facilities, and external funding. Byrne was one of the first to introduce Total Quality Management techniques to higher education. He emphasized the importance of international education for students at OSU and was a supporter of significant academic reform in higher education. After retiring from OSU's presidency, Dr. Byrne served as Executive Director of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities from 1995 through the Commission's conclusion in March 2000. The Kellogg Commission comprised the presidents and chancellors of twenty-five major public universities dedicated to the reform of American public higher education. Byrne has also served as a consultant on various aspects of higher education to more than a dozen major public universities. He has assisted university governing boards with board-president relations, presidential assessments, and presidential searches. He has served on several corporate and non-profit boards and is presently a member of the National Sea Grant College Advisory Board. For a number of years he was a member of the board of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Fort Pierce Florida and of the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Dr. Byrne has been recognized for his contributions to education and to science by community colleges and private and public institutions of higher education. His degrees are in geology: from Hamilton College, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. He resides in Corvallis, Oregon, home of Oregon State University.

**Judith E. McDowell (SRT member; Woods Hole Sea Grant Program Director)** - Judith E. McDowell is a Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Director of the Woods Hole sea Grant Program, and Department Chair of WHOI's Biology Department. Her research interests are focused on the physiological ecology of marine animals; developmental and energetic strategies of marine animals; physiological effects of pollutants on marine animals; and invertebrate nutrition. As a Pew Fellow in Conservation and the Environment, she studied multiple stressors on populations of shellfish throughout the world's oceans, focusing primarily on the interactions of chemical contaminant exposure and disease processes in marine bivalve populations. From 2006 to 2008 she led a scientific working group for the Pew Environmental Trust evaluating environmental standards for offshore aquaculture that were accepted by NOAA in development of their offshore aquaculture plan.

She is also interested in the effects of oil spills on the physiology of marine animals and the factors that contribute to bioaccumulation of specific hydrocarbons and the eventual loss of hydrocarbons from specific tissues. She has studied effects of petroleum hydrocarbons in laboratory and field settings and has assessed both chronic and acute effects, especially to marine molluscs and crustaceans. She has participated in several national and international workshops and committees addressing oil in the sea and exploratory drilling on the outer continental shelf. These include the NRC reports and study committees addressing fate, transport and effects of oil ("Oil in the Sea III"); the specific environmental conditions of drilling off the coast of Florida and California; the environmental studies program of the Mineral Management Services; and the Advisory Committee for the Marine Environment for the International Council for Exploration of the Seas.

**Jay Rasmussen (SRT external member)** - Jay Rasmussen was Oregon Sea Grant's Associate Director and Program Leader for Sea Grant Extension for 13 years retiring in 2009. In that role he provided leadership for 27 extension and education faculty agents and specialists throughout western Oregon and shared a faculty member each with California and with Alaska. He received the Sea Grant Association's Wick Award for Visionary Leadership in Administration in 2009 and the OSU Extension Administration Leadership Award in 2008. He has been Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair of the Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders. Before coming to Sea Grant, he was the director of the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA), an organization of coastal local governments. He served as a member of the Oregon Ocean Policy Council and chaired its Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. Recently he competed two terms as a member of the governor-appointed, senate-confirmed Oregon Water Resources Commission. Jay has also served as a member of the Board of Directors and chair for the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

**Rita Curtis (SRT External member)** - Rita Curtis is the Division Chief of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology, Economics & Social Analysis Division. She is responsible for developing Agency's economics and social science research program, with activities range from developing out-year budget initiatives to convening national workshops on key management issues such as marine spatial modeling, fishery buybacks, fishing capacity, and ecosystem modeling; organizing peer reviews; developing decision support tools for management; conducting cost-effectiveness analyses of major Agency programs including NOAA research vessels and the NOAA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act habitat restoration funding; and providing policy advice to NMFS leadership. Dr. Curtis received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland Agricultural & Resource Economics Department in 1999; her dissertation examined fishing location decisions made by the Hawaii longline fleet. In her master's thesis, also conducted at UMD-AREC, she focused on land use issues. She is currently a board member of the North American Association of Fishery Economists. Rita has worked for NOAA Fisheries since 1999.

**APPENDIX II – Site Review Team Agenda**  
**National Sea Grant Site Review of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program**  
**22-23 March 2011**  
**Baton Rouge, LA**

**Tuesday, March 22**

8:30 a.m.	Coffee, Welcome and Introductions
9:00 a.m.	Program Management <b>Charles “Chuck” A. Wilson, Executive Director</b> Rex Caffey, Interim Director of Marine Extension Roy Kron, Director of Outreach and Communications Katie Lea, Assistant to the Executive Director Dianne Lindstedt, Education Coordinator David Nieland, Associate Executive Director Kelly Robertson, Business Manager John Supan, Specialist, Molluscan Shellfish James Wilkins, Director of Sea Grant Law and Policy
10:30 a.m.	SRT meets with LSU Administration <b>Charles “Chuck” A. Wilson, Executive Director</b> Chancellor Mike Martin, Louisiana State University Provost Jack Hamilton, Louisiana State University Vice Chancellor Thomas Klei, Louisiana State University Vice Chancellor, LSU AgCenter, Paul Coreil
11:30 a.m.	Communications <b>Roy Kron, Director of Outreach and Communication, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Ashley Berthelot, LSU, University Relations Carl Brasseaux, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Kristine Cologne, LSU, University Relations Gina Costello, LSU Libraries Don Davis, Louisiana Sea Grant Jim Hiney, Texas Sea Grant Elaine Smyth, LSU Libraries
Noon	Student Engagement <b>David Nieland, Associate Executive Director, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Gregory Decossas, LSU, Renewable Natural Resources Ed Haywood, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration Jackie Johnson, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration Megan LaPeyre, LSU, Renewable Natural Resources Melissa Monk, LSU, School of the Coast and Environment Jessica Orgeron, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Healthy Coastal Ecosystems Wetlands Restoration Coastal Roots and Ocean Commotion <b>Dianne Lindstedt, Education Coordinator, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Susan Bergeron, Coastal Wetland Planning and Restoration Act, USGS Pam Blanchard, Department of Education Theory, Policy and Practice, LSU Angela Capello, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Brian LeBlanc, Specialist, Water Quality, Louisiana Sea Grant Mark Shirley, Marine Agent, Louisiana Sea Grant

	Ann Wilson, Louisiana Department of Education L State Science Supervisor
2:30 p.m.	Sustainable Coastal Development Working Waterfront – “Delcambre Direct” Hazards Mitigation Guidebook <b>James Wilkins, Director of Sea Grant Law and Policy</b> <b>Thomas Hymel, Marine Agent, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Scott Saunnier, Town of Delcambre Wendell Verret, Port of Delcambre Jim Wiggins, Port of Delcambre
4 p.m.	Resilient Coastal Communities Storm Preparation and Mitigation – “The Next Storm Surge” <b>Thomas Hymel, Marine Agent, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> <b>Maurice Wolcott, Extension Specialist, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Duvall Arthur, St. Mary Parish Homeland Security Director Rebecca Broussard, Vermilion Parish Homeland Security Director David Gauthé, BISCO Prescott Marshall, Iberia Parish Homeland Security Director deEtte Smythe, Department of Engineering, St. Tammany Parish
6 p.m.	Reception (Energy Coast & Environment Conference Room)

**Wednesday, March 23**

8:30 a.m.	Resilient Coastal Communities (continued from previous day) Disaster Response Hurricanes- “The rest of the story” <b>Rusty Gaude, Marine Agent</b> <b>Rex Caffey, Interim Director of Marine Extension</b>  Deepwater Horizon – “Response and Recovery” <b>Julie Falgout, Extension Specialist, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Steve Backstrom, Department of Health and Hospitals Troy Baker, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Thu Bui, Marine Agent, Louisiana Sea Grant Capt. Roger Laferrier, Coast Guard Gary Shigenaka, Marine Biologist, NOAA Andy Winer, NOAA External Affairs Jerome Zeringue La Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Climate Planning - Community of Practice <b>Melissa Daigle, Legal Coordinator, Louisiana Sea Grant</b> Lynne Carter, Southern Climate Impact Planning Program Barbara Dodds, Louisiana Environmental Action Network Carol Franze, Marine Agent, Louisiana Sea Grant Melanie Gall, Stephenson Disaster Management Institute deEtte Smythe, Department of Engineering, St. Tammany Parish Ann Weaver, Coastal Services Center
10:30 a.m.	Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply Oyster Program <b>John Supan, Specialist, Molluscan Shellfish</b> Patrick Banks, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Gordon Leblanc, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals John Tesvich, Ameripure Oyster Company

	Peter Vujnovich, Captain, Pete's Oyster Company Bill Walton, Auburn University Seafood Quality, Safety, and Marketing <b>Rex Caffey, Interim Director of Marine Extension</b> <b>Lucina Lampila, Associate Professor, Specialist, Food Science</b> Gary Bauer, Blue Crab Task Force Kurt Guidry, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, LSU
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Regional collaborations Competitive Grants Disaster Response Regional Planning <b>Steve Sempier, Deputy Director, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium</b> Karl Havens, Director, Florida Sea Grant Logan Respass, Associate Director, Texas Sea Grant LaDon Swann, Director, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium Charles Wilson, Louisiana Sea Grant
2:30 p.m.	SRT Closed Session
6:30 p.m.	SRT Dinner

*\*All activities will take place in the Louisiana Sea Grant Conference Room unless otherwise noted*