

National Sea Grant Review Panel Preparatory Discussion
Teleconference Call Meeting
Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Panel Members Present: Nathaniel E. Robinson (Chair), William (Bill) Stubblefield (Vice-Chair), Robin Alden, Peter Bell, John Byrne, Robert Duce, Ross Heath, Frank Kudrna, Jeffrey Stephan, Judith Weis, Richard West, John Woeste

Panel Members Absent: Manuel Hernandez-Avila, Jerry Schubel, Geraldine Knatz

Ex-Officio Panel Members: Leon Cammen (NSGCP Director), and Paul Anderson (SGA President)

NSGO's Designated Federal Official: James Murray

NSGO Staff: Jamie Krauk, Amy Painter

Call to Order (Mr. Robinson)

Opening of Discussion. Mr. Robinson and Dr. Cammen noted that this is preparatory meeting to discuss and prepare for the July 16, 2007, Teleconference Meeting.

Discussion Summary:

1. Regarding the Draft Letter of Advice, tie/connect the proposed action provisions to the Report's Findings of Facts.
2. Add supporting background information. In addition to the supporting background to illustrate the historical performance problem, the background will bolster the Report's Findings of Facts and strengthen the suggested action provisions.
3. The Draft Letter should demonstrate the NJSG program performance, and the recommendations to the Director should reflect a statement that the Panel's advice is based on knowledge gained from NSGO's records (previous PATs and TATs) and related credible sources – not just the SRT Report.
4. The objective is to demonstrate a more direct nexus between the Draft Letter and the SRT Report. The Draft Letter is to be revised in accordance with the aforementioned feedback. The Panel's Chair will consult with the SRT Chair and distributed the revised

Director's Report

Leon Cammen:

Budget: Sent out final 2007 budget. By cutting back on oyster disease, invasive species and Law Center, cuts to programs were less than anticipated and we were able to maintain regional planning efforts.

Staffing: NSGO has 15% fewer resources to work with than several years ago. Replacement for Jack Oliver coming in July. Megan Agy had twins and is out for maternity leave. Joe Brown hired as Assistant to the Director. Jim Hurley (WI SG) and Mike Liffmann (LA SG) hired to work at NSGO for one year. Ralph Rayburn working with NSGO part-time on FEMA extension. Sharon Walker working with NSGO part-time on education.

Reauthorization: Working closely with Panel committee and SGA. We have solicited Panel's formal comments and will have them in July. July 17th is Leon's date for final edits.

Panel will continue to be involved with program ratings.

Rep. Faleomavega introduced Sea Grant legislation. Focuses only on funding. NOAA Legislative Affairs says this is fine. House still awaiting our version of the Bill.

Senate Commerce Committee mark gives NOAA generous increase.

Panel Special Meeting for Reauthorization: Jim Murray noted that we need to develop Federal Registry notice. Aiming for July 16th.