



Sustainable Coastal Development 2010 Annual Report

Due to shrinking budgets, the Sustainable Coastal Development (SCD) focus team convened via teleconference on November 29, 2011 to conduct the annual focus team meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate 2010 impact statements for the SCD focus area and engage in visioning for the next strategic plan. The meeting objectives were to answer the following questions: “What should we be highlighting for communication products and reporting?” “What are the gaps in SCD’s 2009-2013 National Strategic Plan?” and “What should the network be doing to address the gaps in the SCD focus area?” Based on team discussion, this report identifies the top three content themes to be highlighted, the top three gaps that need to be addressed, and recommendations for the SCD focus area over the next two years.

Top Three Themes

Call participants identified three main topics that cut across the three strategic plan goals and can be supplemented with reported impacts and accomplishments.

Water-Related Economic Development

For 2008 and 2009, the SCD focus team highlighted Sea Grant’s involvement with working waterfronts. For 2010, the team wanted to broaden the message that Sea Grant is involved in several types of water-related economic development activities. For example, *Sea Grant conducts research and facilitates public discussions to acquire and maintain public beach access.*

Florida: Sea Grant access study results helped Keaton beach obtain \$100,000 in state boating improvement funds to expand public parking. Further economic analysis showed that provision of public access facilities sustained 158 jobs and contributed \$10 million to the local economy in rural, coastal Florida.

Maine: Sea Grant facilitated discussions to solve competing uses and beach access issues, resulting in a 12-acre land purchase (valued at \$1.44 million) by the Trust for Public Land, which secured permanent public access to the beach.

Sea Grant helps states obtain financial support to sustain marine-related businesses and contributes to economic development through trainings, stakeholder engagement, and community involvement.

Virginia: Sea Grant technical assistance to the marine recreational boating industry helped marinas obtain Boating Infrastructure Grants and local match that generated a total economic impact of \$2.7 million for the state.

oyster tong restrictions, allowing 300 oystermen to work during the summer harvest season.

Louisiana: Since 2005, Sea Grant’s method to assess the economic impact of hurricanes on fisheries provided the economic justification for more than \$250 million in fisheries recovery funds.

North Carolina: Sea Grant helped establish four local seafood branding initiatives and increased exposure through a blog titled Mariner’s Menu.

Florida: Sea Grant information led the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to remove

Washington: Sea Grant brokered lane agreements between crab fishermen and towboat companies, saving an estimated \$1.4 million per year in crab trap replacement.



Sea Grant is also involved in long-term coastal tourism efforts.

Florida: Economic analysis showed that the 30-year old artificial reef program (initiated by Sea Grant) is responsible for more than 2500 jobs and contributes over \$226 million to the local Southwest Florida economy.

Wisconsin: Sea Grant efforts to explore, map and chart historical shipwrecks help Wisconsin have the most shipwrecks on the National Register of Historic Places. This publicity helps promote local tourism.

Ocean-Renewable Energy

Sea Grant has been involved in alternative energies and renewable energy development. In 2010, Programs became more involved in the process and application of ocean-renewable energy research. *Sea Grant programs prepare communities for future offshore development by conducting research and education to facilitate the process of siting for renewable ocean energy.*

Rhode Island: Sea Grant helped facilitate the research and engagement process for siting offshore renewable energy facilities. RI Sea Grant is providing a model and working with programs in other states to provide guidance in their own marine spatial planning processes.

state and federal agencies, NGOs, and the wave energy industry.

Oregon: Sea Grant-funded research on wave energy led to the designation of the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center, which has received more than \$16.2 M from

Maine: Sea Grant engaged members from three communities in participatory mapping to delineate valued fishing areas along the coast. The maps are used in meetings about offshore wind development.

Michigan: Sea Grant supported research to evaluate the benefits and challenges of wind energy development.

Assistance for Communities to Plan and Implement Sustainable Practices

Around the nation, Sea Grant programs provide science-based information to communities and targeted audiences to increase knowledge of the benefits of sustainable practices and to assist with adoption and implementation of such practices. The SCD focus team wanted to emphasize how Programs follow the Sea Grant model of research, education, and extension to achieve progress in stormwater management, both locally and regionally. *Sea Grant researches the costs and benefits of stormwater management techniques and uses research results to develop tools for resource managers.*

Illinois-Indiana: Sea Grant research led to creation of a \$5 million discretionary fund to support green infrastructure projects around the state.

resulted in incentives for developers to manage on-site stormwater more effectively.

Michigan: Sea Grant models of nutrient movement through the Spring Lake watershed

Mississippi-Alabama: Sea Grant's model showing possible effects of land use changes on water quality is used by several state agencies to identify TMDLs for river pollutants.



Sea Grant programs develop partnerships and provide information to inform model ordinances for policy change.

Georgia: Two counties have adopted Sea Grant-authored model ordinances for local governments to implement methods for stormwater management related to new development and watershed protection.

Pennsylvania: Sea Grant information helped Harborcreek Township update zoning ordinances for residential site development, resulting in approval of the first subdivision conservation site plan.

Sea Grant conducts outreach and educational programs to engage communities in rain garden construction and installation. Sea Grant also engages volunteers in efforts to improve water quality.

Connecticut, New Jersey and Washington: Sea Grant-led efforts from these three states installed rain gardens that filter 637,000 gallons of stormwater every year.

Mississippi-Alabama: Sea Grant coordinates the Oyster Gardening Program, in which volunteers have created 40 acres of oyster reefs and removed 250 pounds of nitrogen per year.

The SCD focus team also wanted to emphasize Sea Grant engagement with stakeholders and community members to assist in efforts to plan for the future. Sea Grant specialists and agents work with local governments, Native American tribes, state and federal resource management agencies, private businesses, NGOs, conservation groups, and community residents *to help identify vulnerabilities, assess risks, and conduct more informed planning processes.*

Ohio: The Village of Edgerton provided funds for community-wide sessions to develop a visioning document to adopt sustainable solutions for future growth and conservation needs.

Trustees approved a resolution that requires any future planning and funding efforts to incorporate climate change components.

Illinois-Indiana: The Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Board of

Washington: Six local jurisdictions have adopted new habitat protection regulations to update shoreline master plans and critical area ordinances.

Top Three Gaps

Call participants identified and discussed the following gaps, related to 2010 impact statement submissions, to address in SCD's 2009-2013 National Strategic Plan. Questions raised during discussion are included below each gap heading.

Smart Growth and Land Use Practices

The SCD focus team identified a noticeable gap in 2010 impact statements related to research and extension activities for Smart Growth as it relates to land use. Is this gap a question of training for extension agents? Where are the impacts for any EPA Smart Growth implementation projects? Impacts from CCCAI projects will most likely be reported in future years.

Carrying Capacity Research

In the 2009-2013 National Strategic Plan, one strategy is to strengthen Sea Grant's research and extension activities to help coastal communities determine the sustainable carrying capacity of their land and water resources. Due to the lack of impact statements related to this strategy for 2010, focus team members emphasized that the topic of carrying capacity needs to be added into research agendas.



Local Leadership in Underserved or At-Risk Communities

Sea Grant programs have reached out to underserved communities, especially in the Gulf of Mexico region after major hurricanes and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. However, the SCD

focus team identified a need for more social science research at the local level to understand ethnic communities, for example, subsistence fisheries. Examples of this work already exist around the network, but a greater investment is needed to raise the work to impact level.

Emerging Areas

As a result of the top content themes and top gaps discussion, call participants identified several topics that they consider to be emerging areas of work or emphasis within the SCD focus area.

Sustainable Coastal Tourism

Includes leadership training, nature-based tourism, recreational fishing, and charter boat activity

Workforce Development

Includes leadership and capacity-building at the local level

Oceans and Human Health

Includes HABs, oil spills, seafood safety, perception of safety

Product Development

Includes marketable products, such as pharmaceutical agents and skin care products

Top Three Actions for the Next Two Years for the SCD Focus Team

The focus team brainstormed and discussed activities to develop over the next two years, in light of reduced budgets and constrained travel.

Professional Development Webinar Series

By utilizing webinar technology, Programs can engage in educational webinars on a variety of topics, including Smart Growth, economic analysis and valuation, GIS tools, and standardized sustainability metrics (i.e., ecological footprint ‘scorecards’, Community Sustainability Index).

invest time and effort in communicating Sea Grant’s success in these areas through national media.

Replicating programs instead of initiating programs

The focus team can identify products and tools that can be used as transferable models in other states. On the call, team members immediately offered ideas, including the Island Guidebook (OH), the Community Resilience Index (MS-AL), and the Beach Access website (ME and Sea Grant Law Center).

Writing National Aggregate Impact Stories

For several years now, Sea Grant programs have been doing work related to the Clean Marina Initiative, rip currents, and alternative energy. The focus team could