

**NSGO NEWSLETTERS**

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# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT NEWS

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MARCH 2006

## BREAKING NEWS —

### First Quarter Highlights Available Online

Sami Grimes regularly mines your briefing books, newsletters and news releases for program highlights and impacts. Please see the latest at:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

**Send Us Your News:** Thank you for e-mailing your stories and news releases.

Please continue to forward them to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov)

In addition to *Hot Items*, your news is frequently featured in *Access NOAA*, *NOAA Report*, *Sea Grant News & Notes*, *OAR/Jana Goldman's Weekly Report*, the national website, and other outlets—this coverage is routed to the network regularly via e-mail.

### Dr. Ronald C. Baird Retires

This month, we bid farewell to Ron Baird, Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. Throughout NOAA, Dr. Baird was known for his vision, strong leadership and a results oriented approach to management. For over nine years, he led the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA), National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) while also serving for the last five years as NOAA Research's Associate Director for Ocean Research. Under Dr. Baird's leadership, the National Sea Grant Program has become a national and world leader in advancing the science and practice of managing our coastal and marine resources. Dr. Baird provided scientific vision while creating the forward thinking, innovative, stakeholder-focused organizational culture that, coupled with performance-based accountability, has made Sea Grant widely acknowledged as a highly effective enterprise. For those of you who wish to reach him, Dr. Baird has returned to academia and can be reached at the following address:

Center for Marine Science  
UNC-Wilmington  
5600 Marvin Moss Lane  
Wilmington, NC 28409

(910) 962-2301 (receptionist)  
Email: [bairdr@uncw.edu](mailto:bairdr@uncw.edu)

### **Jim McVey to Retire in April**

Please see Jim's bullets, below.

### **National Sea Grant Review Panel (NSGRP) and Sea Grant Association (SGA) Meetings Held March 6-7**

The NSGRP held its spring meeting at the Department of Commerce. The Panel heard from Eric Webster, Director, NOAA Legislative Affairs and Dr. Rick Spinrad, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research, who discussed the Sea Grant budget and the search process for a new Sea Grant Director. Timothy R.E. Keeney, NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere conducted a ceremony to swear in three new members: John V. Byrne, President Emeritus of Oregon State University (OSU), where he served as president for eleven years (1984 - 1995); C. Barry Raleigh, Dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawaii; and William L. Stubblefield, retired Director of the Office of NOAA Corps Operations and former Executive Director of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

The SGA held its meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC, and also heard from Dr. Rick Spinrad, who emphasized the importance of forging partnerships with NOAA Research labs/offices and other Agency programs. Panel member Frank Kudrna also presented information on the costs of program reviews, program recertification, competition, and guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

### **NSGO Staffing Update**

As a reminder, Leon Cammen is serving as the Acting Sea Grant Director and Jim Murray is the Acting Deputy Director. Jim will also continue as Extension Director, while Dorn Carlson will become the Acting Research Director.

In June, Kola Garber will move into a newly created position as Assistant Director for Operations. As our staff grows smaller, we're looking for ways to become more efficient while still being able to provide the same or improved service, and that is the tough assignment that will be facing Kola. She will also be working with program planning and evaluation and the Fellows' programs.

Dr. Jacques Oliver has been responsible for the Knauss Fellows Program this year and he will begin to take on Program Officer responsibilities in April.

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

### ***Leon Cammen, Acting Director***

Ronald.Baird@noaa.gov

No submissions.

**Jonathan Eigen, Grants and Budget Manager**

Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov

No submissions

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Dorn Carlson, Research Director, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Ballast Water Program Coordinator**

Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov

No submissions.

**Melissa Pearson, Ballast Water Coordinator**

Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov

**Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Project (BWTDP):** In February, we held Technical Panels for both BWTDP Competitions (Treatment Technology, and RDTE.) We expect to make decisions on these competitions within the next few weeks.

**James McVey, Aquaculture Program Coordinator**

Jim.McVey@noaa.gov

**Marine Aquaculture Competition:** Megan Agy, Jacques Oliver, Mary Robinson and I ran the Marine Aquaculture Competition for preproposals. We received over 210 pre-proposals and the review panel process selected 45 proposals to be encouraged for full proposals. After receiving the full proposals we will probably select ten proposals for funding this year and hold the remaining proposals for possible funding in FY 07.

**Retirement:** I will be retiring from Sea Grant on April 3 of next month so I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire Sea Grant community for making my 22 years with this organization so enjoyable and I hope productive. I believe we have made significant contributions to US aquaculture production and the creation of jobs and an improved economy while developing sustainable technologies for the future. I have enjoyed working with the many Sea Grant Programs around the US and it has been my pleasure to serve you.

**Megan Agy, Ecologist**

[Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)

**National Sea Grant Law Center Topical Advisory Team:** Serving as Program Officer for the Law Center TAT (March 20 - 24), which is chaired by Jeff Stephan of the National Sea Grant Review Panel and includes Mary Hope Katsouros of Merrell Katsouros LLP in Alexandria, Virginia and Richard Hildreth of the University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene, Oregon.

**Marine Aquaculture Program:** Worked with Jim McVey and Jack Oliver on the preliminary proposal review panel held March 9-10. Please see Jim's section for more information on the competition.

**National Sea Grant Review Panel Meeting and SGA Meeting:** Attended one day for each of these meetings March 6-7 in Washington, D.C.

**Terry Smith, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Coordinator**  
[Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)

**South Atlantic Regional SG Meeting (February):** As the program officer focusing on the southeast region (NC, SC, GA, and PR), I attended the South Atlantic Regional Sea Grant meeting. The two-day event took place at the Baruch Marine Research Institute in Georgetown, SC and was hosted by South Carolina Sea Grant and led by Jack Thigpen from North Carolina. The agenda covered updates from the regional Sea Grant programs as well as a mini-workshop to develop some regional projects/products for the next regional meeting (late 2007).

**NMFS-SG Fellowship (March):** The 2006 meetings of the NMFS-Sea Grant fellows in Population Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics begins March 13 at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA. The meeting is hosted by the NMFS and California Sea Grant. All 16 current fellows will be present and provide seminars on their research to the science community at the Univ. of California San Diego (where the SWFSC, Scripps and CA Sea Grant reside). The meeting ends on Wednesday, March 15 with a tour of Hubb-Sea World, a seabass hatchery, in Carlsbad, CA.

## OUTREACH DIVISION

**James D. Murray, Outreach Director/Extension Program Coordinator**  
[Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)

**Out of the Office:** Due to an emergency appendectomy and the need for follow up surgery, for me the month of March is one to soon be forgotten. I have a rare carcinoid-type colon cancer which fortunately is a slow growing type. The standard treatment is to surgically remove it. I have visited several doctors over the past two days and surgery is now scheduled for Tuesday, March 14. According

to my doctor, recovery is 3-6 weeks and the prognosis for full recovery is very good. I have received many kind letters of support from my friends and colleagues in the Sea Grant network, demonstrating to me once again that Sea Grant is truly a family and that it is the people in Sea Grant that give the program its great reputation. Thank you!

***Jamie Krauk, Communications Manager***

[Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)

**Beltway Brown Bag:** The next installment of the Beltway Brown Bag series will be held the week of March 14th. Ed Melvin of Washington Sea Grant and Torie Baker of Alaska Sea Grant will highlight their seabird bycatch reduction work in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska with longline and trawl fisheries. In addition to presenting a Brown Bag, they will meet with multiple NOAA Offices, hold an evening seminar as well as an informational briefing on the Hill.

**Theme Team One-Pagers:** We will be updating theme team one-pagers as well as the National Sea Grant College Program one pagers. We look forward to working with the theme teams and the entire network to prepare documents that we can all use.

***Jacques Oliver, Knauss Fellow Coordinator***

[Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)

**Knauss Update:** On Feb. 28 the Class of 2006 participated in a welcome briefing by NOAA leadership. VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, the NOAA Administrator, and the NOAA line office Assistant Administrators provided an introduction on NOAA and its functions.

**Alumni Reception:** SGA sponsored the annual Knauss Alumni Reception on March 8 on Capitol Hill. Many thanks to Jon Kramer.

**Applications:** Knauss applications are due to individual Sea Grant programs in March. Applicants should check with their SG program for their deadline. All applications must be forwarded to the NSGO by April 6.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-Sea Grant Fellowship:** I am attending the annual fellows meeting in California and will return to the NSGO on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Aquaculture Competition:** Megan and I have been assisting Jim Mcvey in preparing for and running the Aquaculture pre-proposal competition. MAJOR KUDOS TO AMY BUCCI for helping us construct a web portal for the reviewers to gain access to all the relevant information for the panel. Megan and I will continue to help McVey with Aquaculture (pre-proposal mop up and full proposal review panel in May).

***Nikola Garber,***  
[Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov](mailto:Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov)

**EPA:** Participated in the FACA review of the EPA STAR and GRO fellowship program on March 2-3. The report should be completed by June.

**Coastal Hazards Presentation:** Will be presenting my research "International Natural Disasters: Formulating Reconstruction Funding Efforts in NOAA" at the Global Policy and Development Conference: Nation/State-Building in the Contemporary International System in Norfolk, VA on March 31st.

***Amy Painter, Communications Coordinator***  
[Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)

**E-newsletter:** See the newsletter:  
<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/newsletter/january/index.html>  
We presented a draft copy of "E-Currents," our new quarterly electronic newsletter, to the Sea Grant communicators several weeks ago. As mentioned last month, the newsletter will target key stakeholders (largely in DC, but also outside of) & has been designed with input from many of the audiences we are trying to reach. We feel it will bring our program lots of great exposure and recognition for our individual, regional *and* collective efforts as a network.

**Sea Grant Displays:** The titles are: NOAA Sea Grant (main banner), Marine & Aquatic Science Literacy, Applied Technology, Sustainable Seafood, Aquatic Invasive Species, Coastal Communities & Urban Shores, Integrated Regional Services and Ecosystems & Habitats. Please call or e-mail me to order for use at upcoming workshops/symposia, etc.: [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)

***Sami Grimes, Program Analyst/Writer-Editor***  
[Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: AK SG, HI SG, LA SG, TX SG and CA SG. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**Sea Grant News**  
**March 2006**  
**National Sea Grant College Program**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**  
**1335 East-West Highway**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

NSGO Newsletters: March 2006 - Feb 2007

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**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

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APRIL 2006

## BREAKING NEWS —

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### Look Out for *E-Currents*

*E-Currents*, our new electronic quarterly newsletter made its debut this week! Our spring issue was sent to the network and others in your universities, NOAA, DOC and other agencies. Please distribute the newsletter and encourage folks to sign up! It's available online at:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/newsevents/newsevents.html>

**Send Us Your News:** Thank you for e-mailing your stories and news releases. Please continue to forward them to [oar.sq.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sq.news@noaa.gov)

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### Marine Aquaculture Competition

Full proposals are due April 13<sup>th</sup>. To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/rfp2006.html>

### Aquaculture Scientist Sought

Sea Grant and OAR are seeking the services of an aquaculture scientist and manager to assist in the management of aquaculture issues and activities in the National Sea Grant Office. The funding for the position would be through an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA) for a one year period. This person would work closely with the previous Program Director for Aquaculture, who will be on short term contract during this transition period, to take on the duties of that

position. There is the possibility of longer term agreement depending upon the availability of funds. Experience in research and extension in aquaculture issues is desired as well as conduct of scientific competitions.

Specific duties would include:

- \* Serve as OAR representative on the NOAA Aquaculture Program team
- \* Coordinate Sea Grant's broader Aquaculture program with Sea Grant Directors around the country and with the Sea Grant Aquaculture theme team
- \* Serve a point of contact for OAR's Congressional earmarks in Aquaculture
- \* Serve as national program review manager for Sea Grant's Marine Aquaculture, Oyster Disease and Gulf Oyster competitions
- \* Follow-up with grantees funded through national competitions to obtain research results for reporting purposes
- \* Represent NOAA/NSGO on the USDA-NOAA National Aquaculture Extension Steering Committee
- \* Serve as point of contact for OAR's International Agreements with Korea and China
- \* Prepare scientific and technical reports in support of overall NOAA Aquaculture Program and assist in passage and follow-up for the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005
- \* Work with the NOAA Library on improvement of aquaculture web pages

If you are interested in this position, or if you would like to discuss it further, please contact Jim Murray, Acting Deputy Director at [jim.d.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.d.murray@noaa.gov) <<mailto:jim.d.murray@noaa.gov>> by April 14 and attach a CV.

### **Other Funding Opportunities**

See bullets for Dorn Carlson and Amy Painter, below

### **Jim McVey Retires**

GA SG Director Mac Rawson and MIT Extension Leader, Cliff Goudey joined the NSGO and many others in NOAA on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to wish our most recent retiree, Jim McVey well. Jim, who has been with Sea Grant for 22 years, formally retires on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are grateful for his contributions to our Nation's aquaculture production and new technologies. He will begin working on contract in late April/early May.

### **NEW Program Officer (PO) Assignments**

As a result of Jim's retirement, the NY, FL, MS-AL, and LA Sea Grant programs have been assigned new POs. Your new Pos will be in touch this week.

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

### ***Leon Cammen, Acting Director***

Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov

**Coastal Services Center:** Met with Coastal Services Center staff to discuss Sea Grant strategic planning and performance measures

**Ocean Exploration/NURP Biotech Meeting:** Met with Ocean Exploration and NURP to discuss biotechnology and the potential role of NURP's National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology as a national repository of biochemical / biomolecular products of marine organisms from US and international

waters for use by the biotechnology research sector

**University of Vermont:** Met with University of Vermont administration to discuss plans for development of Lake Champlain Sea Grant

***Jonathan Eigen, Grants and Budget Manager***

Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov

**Pass Thru Awards:** The deadline for submission to the National Office for all Pass thru awards is May 15th, 2006. Unless instructed differently, please call Jonathan Eigen for the Grants.gov portal when submitting.

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

***Dorn Carlson, Research Director, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Ballast Water Program Coordinator***

[Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov](mailto:Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov)

**Invasives Funding:** The NOAA Invasive Species program and Sea Grant announced a joint funding opportunity in the Federal Register on March 27, 2006 (71 FR 15171). It can be found on <http://grants.gov> by searching for Funding Opportunity Number OAR-SG-2006-2000586. Three topics are covered: (1) human health-related outreach activities related lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) in the southeast United States, (2) research related green crab (*Carcinus maenus*), and (3) research and outreach related to invasive tunicates. The due date for full proposals is April 24, 2006.

***Melissa Pearson, Ballast Water Coordinator***

[Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov)

**Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Project (BWTDP):** In February, we held Technical Panels for both BWTDP Competitions (Treatment Technology, and RDTE.) We expect to make decisions on these competitions within the next few weeks.

***Megan Agy, Ecologist***

[Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)

**Regional Research, Information Planning, and Coordination**

**Competition:** Received 7 proposals, covering 8 regions. Working with Leon to convene review panel in April.

**Regional Climate Extension Specialist:** Working with Jim Murray and Hannah Campbell of NOAA's Climate Program Office/Regional Integrated Sciences

and Assessments program on this competition. Responsible for the publication of the Federal Register Notice and Federal Funding Opportunity that was published on March 28. Applications are due May 1, 2006. Please see <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/funding/rfp2006.html> for more information.

**Harmful Algal Blooms:** Participating as Sea Grant representative on the informal working group (under the Interagency Task Force for HABs and Hypoxia) to provide information on Sea Grant activities. Specifically, collecting information on Sea Grant research and outreach projects over the past five years for the HABs Prediction and Response Report.

**NSI Submissions:** Preparing guidance for FY2007 NSI submissions that will be sent to Sea Grant Research Coordinators and Fiscal Officers for their input on the new procedures for preliminary and full proposal submissions. Federal Register Notices are due to NOAA in mid-April for the June publication.

**Terry Smith, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Coordinator**  
[Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)

**NMFS - Sea Grant Joint Fellowships in Marine Resource Economics and Population Dynamics:** Since 1999, NOAA Fisheries Service and Sea Grant have funded 31 fellowships in Population Dynamics (assessment of populations) and Marine Resource Economics (valuation, cost/benefit). In the seventh such cycle two disciplinary-specific panels met in late March to review a total of 20 fellowship applications - 15 in Population Dynamics and 5 in Resource Economics. The panels rank the applicants according to specified criteria related to the strength of the prospective fellow's academic background, research proposal and personal statement, and recommendations. At least two fellowships in each discipline will be awarded this year. Selections should be announced by the end of the month.

## OUTREACH DIVISION

**James D. Murray, Outreach Director/Extension Program Coordinator**  
[Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)

**Thank You:** I was very moved by the tremendous support that I received this past month from the Sea Grant family with regard to my health issues. The experience was a reminder that Sea Grant's success is based on the many high quality, people-oriented folks in our organization. According to my doctor, I was very lucky. The surgery was successful and I now have a clean bill of health. Thank you.

**Duties:** I assumed Interim Deputy Director duties this month. In addition to my previous duties, enhanced responsibilities associated with this position

include greater representation of Sea Grant interests within NOAA and more emphasis on administrative matters within the office.

***Jamie Krauk, Communications Manager***

[Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)

**Program Officer Travel:** As the new program officer for New Jersey Sea Grant, I will be visiting the program later this month. It will be my first chance to visit the program and will be a great opportunity to better understand the Marine Sciences Consortium.

**OAR Communications Director:** NOAA Research has hired a new Communications Director. Ms. Randee Exler comes to OAR from her position as Communications Director of the Weather Service. I have worked with Randee before and very much look forward to working more closely with her in her new role.

**Reminder:** Hollings Fellows applications for the Class of 2006 are currently being accepted this month.

***Jacques Oliver, Knauss Fellow Coordinator***

[Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)

**Knauss Update:** Knauss applications are from the SG Programs on April 6, 2006 by 5 PM EST through Grants.gov. The Knauss Selection Panel will meet on May 3-5, 2006 in Silver Spring, MD.

***Nikola Garber,***

[Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov](mailto:Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov)

**Global Policy Conference:** March 31st, I presented my research "International Natural Disasters: Formulating Reconstruction Funding Efforts in NOAA" at the Global Policy and Development Conference in Norfolk, Virginia

**Presentation:** On April 8-9th, I will be presenting my research and NOAA information during an overnight trip to at the top of Mt. Washington in NH (windiest recorded point in the world).

**Listening Sessions:** On April 11-12, a NOAA delegation along with the Small Business Association and possibly USDA will be traveling to Biloxi, MS and Houma, LA for listening sessions with waterfront dependent business constituents. These meetings, along with the one held in January in Key West, FL, will help NOAA and other federal agencies create a playbook for better response following future disasters. Thanks to Mississippi-Alabama and Louisiana Sea Grant programs for making these upcoming meetings possible!

**Amy Painter, Communications Coordinator**

Amy.Painter@noaa.gov

**E-Currents Debut:** Sent on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> via e-mail. Check it out & let us know what you'd like us to include in the summer issue.

**Marine Debris Funding Opportunity:** The Marine Debris Program NFWF RFP has been announced. You can find the RFP at the link below (also attached). Please pass along to your external partners for federal funding opportunities.

[http://nfwf.org/programs/marine\\_debris.cfm](http://nfwf.org/programs/marine_debris.cfm)

**Sea Grant Displays:** The titles are: NOAA Sea Grant (main banner), Marine & Aquatic Science Literacy, Applied Technology, Sustainable Seafood, Aquatic Invasive Species, Coastal Communities & Urban Shores, Integrated Regional Services and Ecosystems & Habitats. Please call or e-mail me to order for use at upcoming workshops/symposia, etc.: [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)

**Sami Grimes, Program Analyst/Writer-Editor**

Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Alaska Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, Connecticut Sea Grant, Florida Sea Grant, Hawaii Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, , Minnesota Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, and Wisconsin Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**MDSG Pre-proposal Review:** Attended Maryland Sea Grant pre-proposal review process on March 31, 2006.

**Quarterly Highlights:** The highlights from the first quarter are currently posted on our website; the second quarter will be posted shortly. Please view your program's highlights at <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>.

**Sea Grant News**

**April 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1335 East-West Highway**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

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**fax 301/713-0799**

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**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

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MAY 2006

## BREAKING NEWS —

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

**14th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS)** - May 14-19, Key Biscayne, FL. (Melissa Pearson and Dorn Carlson are attending the conference and HACCP training.)

**NMFS Southeast Bycatch Workshop** – May 16-18, St. Petersburg, FL. Terry Smith will attend from NSGO. See Terry's bullets, below for more.

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) meeting** - May 24-26, Hyannis, MA. (Melissa Pearson will present on NIASDWG.)

**Sea Grant Outreach 2006: Partnering in Puerto Rico** – May 23-25. Leon Cammen, Jim Murray, Megan Agy, Jamie Krauk, Terry Smith and Amy Painter will attend from NSGO.

**Great Lakes Regional Sea Grant Meeting:** Jim Murray will attend from NSGO.

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

### ***Leon Cammen, Acting Director***

Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov

**Maine Sea Grant Program Assessment:** Jacques Oliver and I attended the Maine Sea Grant Program Assessment. We were particularly impressed with the way Maine SG and Cooperative Extension are able to work together seamlessly to address a broad variety of issues important to Maine's coastal communities.

**OAR's Senior Research Council:** I'll be attending a meeting of OAR's SRC next week. This group is made up of all the OAR Laboratory Directors and Program Managers and the purpose is to coordinate and develop collaborations among the programs. There is also an Ocean Focus Group of the SRC that focuses on the issues most closely related to Sea Grant.

**Staffing:** This month we will be reviewing the applications for a one-year Aquaculture IPA position here in the Sea Grant office and hope to have the person on board shortly. The IPA will be working with Jim McVey while he is still here on a variety of aquaculture issues, including an emphasis on extension programming. In addition, we have offered several opportunities for short-term assignments to NOAA staff development programs and may have some additional help as a result.

### ***Jonathan Eigen, Grants and Budget Manager***

Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov

**Pass Thru Project DEADLINE:** This is a reminder that all pass thru projects to be processed in FY 2006 (I.E. prior to October 1st, 2006) should be submitted to the NSGO **no later than May 15th, 2006 thru Grants Online.**

## **RESEARCH DIVISION**

### ***Dorn Carlson, Research Director, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Ballast Water Program Coordinator***

[Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov](mailto:Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov)

**No submissions.**

### ***Melissa Pearson, Ballast Water Coordinator***

[Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov)

**Invasive Species Advisory Council:** On April 27, I spoke to the Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC), an advisory committee for the National Invasive Species Council, on the efforts of NIASDWG. The committee was highly supportive of NIASDWG's work, and strongly supports the need for effective and coordinated invasive species databases. The Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Working Group (NIASDWG), which includes a high level of involvement by the Sea Grant community, coordinates cross-agency efforts relating to federally sponsored aquatic nonindigenous species databases to promote greater efficacy in communication of aquatic nonindigenous species related data and greater efficiency of database management. The group website is located at <http://www.sgnis.org/nisc/niasdwg.htm>.

**Megan Agy, Ecologist**  
[Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)

**Regional Research and Information Planning Competition:** Review panel convened on April 20 and feedback has been sent to all of the Principal Investigators who submitted proposals. An announcement will be sent to the Sea Grant network after awards are made by the NOAA Grants Office.

**Regional Climate Extension Specialist:** Applications due May 1. Preparing for review panel meeting that will take place on May 18.

**Oregon Sea Grant Program:** Attending an Oregon Sea Grant Advisory Council meeting on May 8-9 in Newport, OR.

**National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration:** Participating as a reviewer for presentation proposals for the 2006 Restore America's Estuaries conference.

**Terry Smith, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Coordinator**  
[Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)

**NMFS-Sea Grant Joint Fellowships in Population Dynamics and Resource Economics:** As I reported last month, two discipline-specific review panels met to review and rank applications. Final decision on awards to be made this year depends on the level of NMFS funding available. When that issue is resolved, I'll let those directors whose programs submitted applications know who was selected.

**NMFS Southeast Bycatch Workshop:** I'll be attending the NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Bycatch Workshop in St. Petersburg, FL on May 16-18. The workshop is designed to review the state of the regional bycatch implementation plan. I'll speak to the group about Sea Grant and the network's efforts in bycatch research and mitigation.

**Puerto Rico PAT:** I'll be meeting with the Puerto Rico program staff immediately following the Sea Grant Outreach Meeting in Rincon (May 23-25) to start preparations for this year's PAT (the week of August 20).

## **OUTREACH DIVISION**

**James D. Murray, Outreach Director/Extension Program Coordinator**  
[Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)

**Senate Supplemental:** Sea Grant was mentioned twice in the supplemental report of Senate appropriations committee that addressed Gulf reconstruction. NOAA Fisheries has the lead role and I met with senior NMFS staff to present Sea Grant capabilities and describe our potential role in Gulf reconstruction. In particular, there was interest in our capabilities in coastal construction/communities, aquaculture/oyster rehabilitation and bycatch. As of this writing, the supplemental is still being debated in Congress.

**Other:** Other activities included participation in the Coastal Response Research Center board meeting at the University of New Hampshire, attending Jim McVey's retirement party, addressing staffing issues in the NSGO (we have an aquaculture IPA position available that is funded by NOAA Fisheries), conducting mid-year performance reviews and attending numerous conference calls and NOAA meetings.

**Jamie Krauk, Communications Manager**  
[Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)

**New Jersey Sea Grant:** I had the opportunity to visit the New Jersey Sea Grant program as their new program officer. It was delightful to meet the staff and to learn of their good works. With 127 miles of ocean shoreline (not counting the bay) and more than 80% of its counties bordering on salt water, New Jersey is truly a "Coastal State." I learned that the nearly \$50 billion coastal economy that results from New Jersey's shore-based activities all fit nicely into the Sea Grant and NOAA sciences: Ports and Commerce (more than \$30B), Coastal Tourism (more than \$16B), and Fisheries and Aquaculture (more than \$3B)

**Outreach Meeting:** The Sea Grant Outreach Meeting will be held in Puerto Rico May 23-25. It will provide a wonderful opportunity for the Communicators network to meet jointly with the Extension Assembly, some of the Educators, and other leaders in the Sea Grant network on the first day to discuss Sea Grant's priority areas and to discuss joint ways for the outreach community to move forward on them. In addition, it will provide a venue for the Communicators and Assembly to meet separately over the following two days.

**E-Currents:** Most of you have seen the latest NSGO communications

product, our electronic newsletter E-Currents. Huge kudos to Amy Painter, Sami Grimes, and part-time webmaster Amy Bucci for a beautiful publication. Remember that the only way we can include your stories is if we hear about them! Please continue to send materials, press releases, etc. to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov)

**NSGO One-Pager Update:** We are in the process of updating the National Sea Grant College Program one-pager for use by the Sea Grant programs, NSGO, and Review Panel. We'll have an opportunity to discuss it in Puerto Rico and will be seeking comment and input from the network.

***Jacques Oliver, Knauss Fellow Coordinator***

[Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)

**PAT:** Maine PAT was completed last week, April 24-28.

**Knauss:** Knauss Selection Panel to select 2007 finalists is this week, May 3-5.

**Aquaculture Selection Panel:** Aquaculture Full Proposal Panel is next week, May 11-12.

***Nikola Garber,***

[Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov](mailto:Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov)

**On travel**

***Amy Painter, Communications Coordinator***

[Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)

**Theme Team One-Pagers and Impacts:** Jamie and I have converted the one-pager documents to Word files and have updated each to reflect the current Chairs, websites and contact information. The SGA Program Mission Committee is working with the Theme Teams to develop a schedule for updating content. We will post the updated documents to our website shortly and will make them available to the network.

**Biennial Report:** Editing stories for the 2004-05 annual report which will focus on education. We will also include information about our current Knauss fellows, coastal hazards, the extension survey, program impacts and much more.

**Sea Grant Displays:** The titles are: NOAA Sea Grant (main banner), Marine & Aquatic Science Literacy, Applied Technology, Sustainable Seafood, Aquatic Invasive Species, Coastal Communities & Urban Shores, Integrated Regional Services and Ecosystems & Habitats. Please call or e-mail me to order for use at upcoming workshops/symposia, etc.: [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)

**Sami Grimes, Program Analyst/Writer-Editor**

Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov

**Draft Annual Report Guidance:** Collected network comments on the Annual Report Guidance draft. A special thanks to those programs that have provided comments on the Annual Reporting Guidance. A final version of the guidance will be sent to Sea Grant Directors soon.

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent your news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: AK, DE, HI, IL-IN, LA, NC, NH, OH, OR, SC, and TX. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**Grants:** Processing both earmarks and pass-thrus for MD and MS-AL.

**ERP Training:** Will be working with NOAA's Ecosystem Research Program in preparing the Program Baseline Assessment. Training will be held mid-May.

**Sea Grant News**

**May 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1335 East-West Highway**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**301/713-2431**

**fax 301/713-0799**

**<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov>**

**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT NEWS

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## BREAKING NEWS —

### **NRC Report Release Date Set**

The National Academies/Ocean Studies Board Report: *Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process* will be released on June 16, 2006.

A briefing and question & answer session will be held on June 15th at the U.S. Department of Commerce. The briefing will feature a pre-release presentation of the findings and recommendations of the study. The contents of the report are confidential until the public release at 9:00 a.m. on June 16th, 2006.

This study assessed procedures adopted by the National Sea Grant Program since the publication of the 1994 National Academies report, *A Review of NOAA National Sea Grant College Program*, to determine their impacts. During the current study, the committee addressed the impact of the new procedures and evaluation process on the National Sea Grant College Program as a whole, identifying constructive changes and value added to overall institutional effectiveness, responsiveness, quality of management, leadership, and reputation. **For details, please see Jamie Krauk's submissions, below.**

### **NSGO Welcomes Ruth Osborne and Therese Conant**

We are pleased to welcome two talented NOAA employees to our staff for rotational assignments. Ruth Osborne ([Ruth.Osborne@noaa.gov](mailto:Ruth.Osborne@noaa.gov)) joined us on June 5<sup>th</sup> as a participant in the Department of Commerce Aspiring Leaders Development Program (ALDP), a 45-day rotational assignment. Ruth is reviewing your PAT briefing books and annual reports in order to develop concise, powerful impact statements. As *Writer/Editor* for the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Ruth is an experienced editor and communications professional. Please welcome Ruth.

Therese Conant, with NOAA/NMFS' Office of Protected Resources will be on detail to our office for the next few months as part of NOAA's Leadership Competency Development Program (LCDP). She will begin on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Therese will coordinate

the response to the NRC study on the Sea Grant Evaluation process. She will work closely with Sami Grimes, Nikola Garber and Jamie Krauk during her time with Sea Grant.

### **Rip Current Awareness Week (June 4-10) and Education Campaign**

See bullets for Amy Painter in Outreach section, below.

### **First Quarter Highlights Available Online**

Sami Grimes regularly mines your briefing books, newsletters and news releases for program highlights and impacts. Please see the latest at:

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

**Send Us Your News:** Thank you for e-mailing your stories and news releases.

Please continue to forward them to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov)

In addition to *Hot Items*, your news is frequently featured in *Access NOAA*, *NOAA Report*, *Sea Grant News & Notes*, *OAR/Jana Goldman's Weekly Report*, the national website, and other outlets—this coverage is routed to the network regularly via e-mail.

### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS**

**Great Lakes Regional Sea Grant Meeting:** Jim Murray will attend from NSGO.

### **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

#### **Leon Cammen, Acting Director**

Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov

**Advisory Panel:** Discussed Sea Grant's Extension model at a meeting of the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel focused on technology transfer. The ORRAP advises the ocean agencies on resource issues.

**Ocean & Coastal Policy Roundtable:** Attended the Ocean and Coastal Policy Roundtable.

**Puerto Rico Outreach Meeting:** Attended the Sea Grant Outreach meeting in Puerto Rico.

**Coastal Zone Management Program:** Will be meeting with David Kennedy, new head of the Office of Coastal Resource Management to discuss how Sea Grant and the Coastal Zone Management Program can better support each other.

#### **Jonathan Eigen, Grants and Budget Manager**

Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov

**Grants Deadline:** I am away from June 12-30. In order to prepare for my leave, I (along with each NSGO program officer) have been working hard to get our grants out in order to meet the GMD deadline (June 30<sup>th</sup>).

## **RESEARCH DIVISION**

***Dorn Carlson, Research Director, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Ballast Water Program Coordinator***

[Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov](mailto:Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov)

**No submissions.**

***Melissa Pearson, Ballast Water Coordinator***

[Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov)

**AIS Conference:** Attended the 14th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species in Miami, and the AIS HACCP training.

**Presentation:** Presented information on the NIASDWG (Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Database Working Group) to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)

***Megan Agy, Ecologist***

[Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)

**NOAA Grants Administration:** Processing grants for the following competitions: Regional Planning, Climate Extension and Aquaculture.

**FY2007 National Strategic Investments:** The Federal Register Notice for the NOAA Omnibus, which will include Sea Grant NSIs, will be published this month - June. The research competitions for FY2007 include Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry Program, Oyster Disease Research Program, and Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach Program. Preliminary proposal deadline to Sea Grant programs will be August 17, 2006 (August 24 to NSGO). Full proposal deadline to Sea Grant programs will be December 19, 2006 (January 18, 2007 to Grants.gov).

***Terry Smith, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Coordinator***

[Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)

**NMFS Workshop:** On May 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, I was at the NMFS Southeast Regional Bycatch Workshop in St. Petersburg, FL. The 3-day meeting was convened to develop action plans for dealing with issues related to the management of incidental catch (data, science, management, gear technology). I gave a talk about Sea Grant's role in bycatch research and about current and potential

partnerships for Sea Grant and NMFS in this complex and difficult arena.

**Puerto Rico Meeting/PAT:** I remained in Puerto Rico after the Sea Grant Communicators/Extension meeting to work with the Puerto Rico Sea Grant director and staff in preparing for the August PAT review of the program. The visit was very productive and generated a detailed draft agenda for the review.

**Stock Assessment Meeting:** At the end of June I'll be chairing, on behalf of NOAA, a stock assessment peer review meeting in Atlanta GA known as SEDAR (Southeast Data and Assessment Review) which will review new assessments for two southeast gag grouper stocks.

## OUTREACH DIVISION

**James D. Murray, Outreach Director/Extension Program Coordinator**

[Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)

**Grants Online Update:** Our staff is presently processing numerous earmarks (11), competitions (8), Sea Grant awards (14) and pass thrus (11).

**CCD Review:** Assisted John Woeste, Chair of the Coastal Community Development Review team, with editing and organizing the final report of the CCD review.

**Puerto Rico:** Participated in the biennial outreach meeting in Puerto Rico. Great job to Chapa and staff for being such superb hosts and to the planning committee for organizing an excellent meeting. I was particularly pleased that the Assembly selected Ron Baird as the recipient of the biennial and prestigious Wick award for his contributions to extension as an administrator.

**Climate Extension:** Along with Megan Agy, we organized a technical panel to review the climate extension proposals. We received two very good proposals and will be able to select one, which will be announced when it is officially awarded.

**Jamie Krauk, Communications Manager**

[Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)

**Puerto Rico Sea Grant Outreach Meeting:** Many thanks to everyone for a successful meeting in Puerto Rico. It was an opportunity to galvanize our thoughts around the network priority bundles of 1) Resilient Coastal Communities, and 2) Seafood Resources. The key for me from the Puerto Rico meeting is that we are now working as a community (SGA, NSGO, Sea Grant Review Panel) to rally around joint priorities and use the information that we gather about each of those priorities for multiple purposes and for a unified message. We are also looking to our constituents to help deliver our messages. There are many exciting outcomes from

the meeting including possible ways that the Communicators can lend their expertise and service to a broad portfolio centered on the two bundles. Stay tuned.

**NRC Study:** The Ocean Studies Board Division on Earth and Life Studies of the National Research Council will release their report (June 15<sup>th</sup>) assessing the new procedures adopted by the National Sea Grant College Program since the publication of the NRC's 1994 review of Sea Grant. The latest study was designed to address the impact of the new procedures and evaluation process on Sea Grant as a whole and to assess the impact of those changes on the overall institutional effectiveness, responsiveness, quality of management, leadership, and reputation. The Committee examined the effectiveness of major changes instituted; examined the effectiveness of program review procedures with regard to accuracy, accountability, and enhancement of individual program performance; and conducted an assessment of the usefulness and fairness of metrics developed to evaluate programs with different operational constraints, resources, and local priorities.

**Smithsonian Ocean Hall:** June marks our move into the "Words on the Wall" phase of Ocean Hall planning. This is the phase when the actual content in the gallery will be presented in a very concise manner (no more than 45 words per display). Again, the Smithsonian Ocean Hall will open in September 2008.

**200th year anniversary for NOAA:** I am part of the Events Working Group that will highlight calendar year 2007 as NOAA's anniversary. This means that we will have the opportunity to highlight and raise the visibility of Sea Grant events.

**Jacques Oliver, Knauss Fellow Coordinator**  
[Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)

**Knauss Class of 2007 (Panel):** On May 3-5, 2006, the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) convened a panel to review and make recommendations for the 2007 Knauss Finalist Class. The NSGO received and considered 80 applications from 28 Sea Grant programs. The NSGO selected 47 Finalists total. Of the 47 Finalists selected, 10 are Legislative and 37 are Executive Finalists. In addition, 29 are women and 18 are men. Graduate degrees being pursued by or conferred up on the 2007 Finalists include 18 Ph.D.s, 26 Masters, and 3 J.D.s. A list of the 2007 Knauss Finalists can be found at:  
<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/knauss/knauss.html>

**Placement Week:** Placement Week for the 2007 Knauss Class will be December 3-8, 2006 in Washington, D.C. A detailed agenda for Placement Week will be posted later this year at:  
<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/knauss/knaussplacementweek.html>  
Details on accommodations and travel will be provided to the Finalists and Sea Grant programs later this year and update on the website above.

**Nikola Garber,**  
[Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov](mailto:Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov)

**Return to NSGO:** After a few more days in my detail at NOAA's Program Coordination Office, I'll be returning to a fabtastic (fabulous plus fantastic) life in Sea Grant! Look for more happenings next month!

**Amy Painter, Communications Coordinator**  
[Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)

**Rip Current Awareness Week (June 4-10):** Sent out the NOAA press release announcing Rip Awareness Week and copies of the new B-roll to interested programs. Jim Murray and I will meet with USLA leadership and NWS next month to discuss how we can bring the Break the Grip of the Rip message and materials to teachers and classrooms. If any educators or communicators are interested in contributing advice and guidance, please let me know. This will be an exciting continuation of this successful campaign.

**National Information Management System (NIMS):** We are continuing to work with the system (now on a NOAA server). Our programmer is completing the Annual Report (metrics) section for 2007. As soon as this work is complete, we will beta test the system with several Sea Grant programs gracious enough to volunteer for duty.

**Impacts:** I will be working with Ruth Osborne to cull impacts in order to identify top impacts in the bundle areas (see Jamie's info., above for details on the bundles). Many thanks to Sami Grimes who has worked hard to gather impacts from briefing books and annual reports, and to input them into an NSGO database.

**CCD Review:** Working with John Woeste and Jim Murray to edit this report.

**Reminder:**

**Sea Grant Displays:** The titles are: NOAA Sea Grant (main banner), Marine & Aquatic Science Literacy, Applied Technology, Sustainable Seafood, Aquatic Invasive Species, Coastal Communities & Urban Shores, Integrated Regional Services and Ecosystems & Habitats. Please call or e-mail me to order for use at upcoming workshops/symposia, etc.: [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)

**Sami Grimes, Program Analyst/Writer-Editor**  
[Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)

**ERP:** I have been working on preparing the Program Operation Plan Guidance for the Ecosystem Research Program with John Primo and Leon.

**Grants:** Everything is complete, except for the West Alabama Earmark

(system is locked and waiting for Grants Online to fix this problem), and two pass thrus (Shellfish Aquaculture Plan—waiting for budget justification from PI, and “A Comparison of the Financial Performance of Offshore and Land-Based Aquaculture” in Korea—waiting for reviews). Still haven’t seen PA SG shiptime proposal—I am promised it’s coming, but haven’t received the proposal yet.

**Sea Grant Website/Annual Reports:** Both the word version and pdf version of the annual report guidance are found in the administrative information section of our website (<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo.html>). Some programs have already asked for it, and I wanted to make sure everyone knew where to find it.

**200th year anniversary for NOAA:** Worked with events working group and Jamie K. to come up with events that are happening next calendar year within Sea Grant to publicize NOAA’s anniversary.

**Sea Grant News**

**June 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1335 East-West Highway**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**301/713-2431**

**fax 301/713-0799**

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**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

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## BREAKING NEWS —

### **Rip Current Awareness Education Campaign**

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Jim Murray and Amy Painter met with National Weather Service representatives and United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) leadership to discuss the "Break the Grip of the Rip" task force campaign. The group was impressed with Sea Grant's adoption of the campaign and with the signs, brochures, magnets, neck totes, news releases and other creative outreach materials the Sea Grant programs have produced in order to raise public awareness about this coastal hazard. Our sincere thanks to everyone who continues to produce rip current awareness materials. We are particularly indebted to Katie Mosher (NC SG), Wendy Carey (DE SG), Spencer Rogers (NC SG) and Elizabeth LaPorte (MI SG) for their leadership and for their efforts to make this lifesaving campaign a national success.

Beginning this summer, the task force will focus its efforts on getting this message to kids via informal educational outreach. We will develop a "teaching tool kit" with a rip current video, fact sheet, talking points and other materials in order to help USLA lifeguards, teachers and others spread the rip current and beach safety message. We hope to tap the expertise of any communicators and educators who are interested in being involved with this effort. If you would like to join the task force, or to provide guidance and advice to the group re. communications/educational strategies and/or product development, please contact Jim Murray (Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov) or Amy Painter (Amy.Painter@noaa.gov). Jim will also speak with the Sea Grant Educators' Network about this campaign at the upcoming NMEA conference next week.

### **Second Quarter Highlights Available Online**

Sami Grimes regularly mines your briefing books, newsletters and news releases for program highlights and impacts. Please see the latest at:

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

**Send Us Your News:** Thank you for e-mailing your stories and news releases. Please continue to forward them to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov). In addition to *Hot Items*, your news is frequently featured in *Access NOAA*, *NOAA Report*, *Sea Grant News & Notes*, *OAR/Jana Goldman's Weekly Report*, the national website, and other outlets—this coverage is routed to the network regularly via e-mail.

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

**National Marine Educators' Association, New York City, July 17-21:** Leon Cammen, Jim Murray, Sami Grimes and Jacques Oliver will attend from NSGO.

### DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**Leon Cammen, Acting Director**  
Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov

**No submissions.**

**Jonathan Eigen, Grants and Budget Manager**  
Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov

**Attending conference.**

### RESEARCH DIVISION

**Dorn Carlson, Research Director, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Ballast Water Program Coordinator**  
[Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov](mailto:Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov)

**No submissions.**

**Melissa Pearson, Ballast Water Coordinator**  
[Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Pearson@noaa.gov)

**Away for one month beginning July 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Megan Agy, Ecologist**  
[Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)

**No submissions.**

**Terry Smith, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Coordinator**

[Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)

**Awards and Pass-Throughs:** The month of June was largely taken up with grant processing. There were a number of fisheries related pass-throughs: an award of \$49,300 from NMFS to NC Sea Grant to continue a competition for research awards to reduce bycatch of bottlenose dolphin and Risso's porpoise in the Southeast; an award of \$40,000 to GA Sea Grant for a project funded by NOAA Aquaculture to develop a model for an intensive shellfish aquaculture operation in South Korea; and another NOAA Aquaculture pass-through award of \$32,000 to the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference to continue an education program to reduce the health risks of consuming raw shellfish infected with *Vibrio vulnificus*.

**Fellowship:** On the fellowship side, the joint NMFS-Sea Grant graduate fellowship awards for 2007 were processed. Selected for 3-year Ph.D. fellowships in Population Dynamics were: Amanda Bradford, from the University of Washington (WA Sea Grant) and Robert Leaf, from Virginia Tech (VA Sea Grant). Selected for 2-year Ph.D. fellowships in Marine Resource Economics were Matthew Freeman, University of Rhode Island (RI Sea Grant) and Cameron Speir, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign(IL/IN Sea Grant). This is the 7th year that NOAA Fisheries and Sea Grant have been able to jointly sponsor this very competitive program which provides fellows with \$38,000/year to complete their dissertations on research of interest to NMFS and Sea Grant.

**OUTREACH DIVISION**

**James D. Murray, Outreach Director/Extension Program Coordinator**

[Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)

**Attending the Gulf Coastal Hazards Meeting, LSU.**

**Jamie Krauk, Communications Manager**

[Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)

**NRC Response:** We are thrilled to have Therese Conant helping to coordinate the response to the recent NRC report. We submitted an initial response checking purely for any factual errors. NOAA is responsible for officially responding to the report. We are now in the process of coordinating that response among the network.

**One-Pager Update:** Thanks to those who volunteered during our meeting in Puerto Rico, we are underway with updating the National Sea Grant one-pager. Look for a draft by the end of the month.

**Awards:** Congratulations to all of the Sea Grant recipients of the APEX, ANREP, NAGC and other awards.

**Impacts for Bundle Areas:** Many thanks to the network and to Amy Painter and Sami Grimes in the National Office for compiling impacts in the two bundle areas. The impacts you've submitted will feed the efforts of the Outreach Working Group formed in Puerto Rico.

***Jacques Oliver, Knauss Fellow Coordinator***

[Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)

**No submissions.**

***Nikola Garber,***

[Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov](mailto:Nikola.Garber@noaa.gov)

**Return to NSGO:** I've returned from my one year detail with NOAA headquarters as the Assistant Director of Operations in the National Sea Grant Office. You can still reach me at [nikola.garber@noaa.gov](mailto:nikola.garber@noaa.gov) or at 301-713-2435 x 158. Watch the newsletter each month to find out what new activities I'll be doing.

***Amy Painter, Communications Coordinator***

[Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)

**Rip Current Awareness Meeting:** Please see "Breaking News."

**Impacts for Bundle Areas:** These were submitted to the Puerto Rico Outreach Working Group on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Sami Grimes for compiling program impacts and to the many Sea Grant programs who took the time to submit impacts for the Puerto Outreach Working Group. The Group is reviewing the impacts this week.

**Reminder:**

**Sea Grant Displays:** The titles are: NOAA Sea Grant (main banner), Marine & Aquatic Science Literacy, Applied Technology, Sustainable Seafood, Aquatic Invasive Species, Coastal Communities & Urban Shores, Integrated Regional Services and Ecosystems & Habitats. Please call or e-mail me to order for use at upcoming workshops/symposia, etc.: [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)

**Sami Grimes, Program Analyst/Writer-Editor**

Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov

**NMEA:** Attending the National Marine Educators Association Conference the week of July 17th in New York.

**Technical Reviews:** Will be attending Maryland Sea Grant's technical review the end of July and New York Sea Grant's at the end of August.

**Quarterly Impacts:** Third quarter impacts will be completed shortly, and you will be able to view them at

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Louisiana Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, New Jersey Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant, Minnesota Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, MIT Sea Grant, Hawaii Sea Grant and Ohio Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**Sea Grant News**

**July 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1335 East-West Highway**

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# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



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### BREAKING NEWS

#### Third Quarter Highlights Available Online

Sami Grimes regularly mines your briefing books, newsletters and news releases for program highlights and impacts. Please see the latest at:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

#### **NATIONAL NEED: Synthesis of Research on Jellyfish Stings and Remedies**

Recently, the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA), a Sea Grant partner, requested that Sea Grant provide information on effective pain relief regimens in order to minimize the negative outcomes of swimming or recreating at areas where jellyfish are known to be present. Jellyfish stings seem to be a growing problem in many beach communities. The USLA is concerned that there seem to be few studies on remedies, which has resulted in all sorts of effective and ineffective home remedies and inconsistent advice to the public. Given that there may be a number of strong studies that are not well publicized, NSGO is requesting that a member of the SG network consider synthesizing existing studies in order to provide the USLA, our network and the public with solid, reliable information about remedies. This information will be shared with other lifesaving organizations, including The International Life Saving Federation, which has a Medical Committee composed of doctors from national lifesaving federations worldwide. Sea Grant has been working in partnership with the United States Lifesaving Association for several years on the "Break the Grip of the Rip" campaign. There is much interest in expanding the campaign to include a broader array of beach safety issues (see "Partnerships," below, for details). If interested in this project, please contact:

[Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)

#### Welcome Hollis King to Sea Grant

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Hollis King to NSGO. Hollis will serve on a six-month detail with our office beginning August 7th. She is currently an NOS

employee with the Marine Charting Division, and, as with all detail positions, NOS will continue to pay her salary during her tenure with NSGO. Hollis, a Senior Cartographer Electronic Navigation Charts, will focus on working with program impacts. In addition to helping develop and package impacts, she will be looking for common themes and projects (ala Rip Currents and NEMO) in order to create/aggregate up regional and national impacts. She will be contacting many of you soon. Hollis is highly skilled, and we are very privileged to have not only the benefit of her expertise, but also a full-time position devoted to helping coordinate and develop a strong set of state, regional and national impacts. Please welcome Hollis ([Hollis.King@noaa.gov](mailto:Hollis.King@noaa.gov)) to Sea Grant.

**Send Us Your News:** Thank you for e-mailing your stories and news releases. Please continue to forward them to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov). In addition to *Hot Items*, your news is frequently featured in *Access NOAA*, *NOAA Report*, *Sea Grant News & Notes*, *OAR/Jana Goldman's Weekly Report*, the national website, and other outlets—this coverage is routed to the network regularly via e-mail.

## NRC UPDATE

**National Research Council (NRC) Report/Strategic Planning Meeting** ([Therese.Conant@noaa.gov](mailto:Therese.Conant@noaa.gov)): On July 24<sup>th</sup>, NSGO, Sea Grant Review Panel and SGA leadership met in Washington, DC. The group discussed a proposed structure for the development of implementation strategies for the NRC Program Assessment Report. Although the details are still being formulated, each party will have a role in this process. A key part of the process will include strategic planning. NSGO is reviewing state strategic plans in order to identify focus areas and regional themes. This process will help inform the development of a national strategic plan which will include up to five focus areas. This national plan (due by winter 2006) will help inform development of new state Sea Grant program strategic plans.

## GRANTS, BUDGET & COMPETITIONS

**Annual Reports:** Due August 30<sup>th</sup>. Sami Grimes is developing a "Frequently Asked Questions" memorandum that will be sent to you and posted on our website.

**Omnibus Guidance** ([Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov)): Due November 1<sup>st</sup> through Grants.gov. NSGO will send omnibus guidance to the state programs by the end of August. There is a great deal of uncertainty about our 2007 budget given the discrepancy between the House and Senate numbers. The House mark is: \$52M; the Senate mark is: \$72M. The Administration's request for FY 2007 is \$55M (level funding).

**OAR / National Marine Fisheries Service Workshop** ([Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)): Proposals are being solicited (see "Director's Report," below).

**FY2007 National Strategic Investments** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)): See the "Research" section, below, for details.

**NOAA Sea Grant Awards Funding to Eight Regions for Research and Information Plans** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)) (to be released to the media by NOAA) NOAA has awarded funding to eight regions for the National Sea Grant College Program's Regional Research, Information Planning, and Coordination competition. The following regions received awards with a start date of June 1, 2006: Alaska, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Insular Pacific, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Maine. A total of \$250,000 of federal Sea Grant funds was made available for each region over two years to cover completion of the plans. Each of the eight recipients will provide an additional \$125,000 in matching funds.

The objective is to use Sea Grant's university capabilities to facilitate discussions among the broad range of regional ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes stakeholders to help identify and prioritize critical resource management problems and associated research and information needs necessary for practical solutions.

NOAA's Strategic Plan calls for integrating the concerns, priorities, and expertise of all citizens and sectors in the management of coastal and marine resources. Given the broad array of management-critical problems to be addressed, and the limited resources that can be brought to bear, effective planning and prioritization of research and information needs will be critical to guide the scientific and management communities.

Each region will be expected to: 1) Establish a regional coordination group to oversee the planning and implementation of the research and information strategy; 2) Conduct a bottom-up needs assessment with broad user and stakeholder input; 3) Identify research and information gaps; 4) Develop a research and information plan for the region that prioritizes actions according to management-critical needs; 5) Develop coordination mechanisms to ensure the transfer of technology and information to the appropriate end users; and 6) Provide an ongoing platform for coordination, collaboration, and resource sharing among participants.

## FELLOWSHIPS

**Knauss Fellowship** ([Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)): The 2006 Knauss Fellow Class will be traveling to Seattle, WA August 13-18 for their annual class trip. The fellows will be visiting with federal and state agencies, as well as local and tribal stakeholders, to discuss a variety of marine resource issues. They'll make stops at the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Friday Harbor Laboratory, conduct a volunteer activity at Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and visit with representatives from the Macaw Tribe, local NGOs, NOAA's Fisheries Science Centers and Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, and of course, Washington Sea Grant. The annual Knauss Class Trip began in 2003 and is designed to engage the fellows on aquatic resource management and policy issues at the regional, state, and local levels.

**Hollings Fellowship** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)): I had the opportunity to serve as a Judge for the NOAA undergraduate Hollings Fellows end-of summer presentations. I was impressed with their mastery of the content as well as their poise. I know that at least one Sea Grant program has served as a host for a Hollings Fellow, but if anyone is interested in possibly serving as a host for future students, please let us know.

**NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Sea Grant Jointly Announce Four Ph.D. Fellowship Awards in Population Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics** ([Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)) (to be released to the media by NOAA)

The NOAA Fisheries/National Sea Grant College Program graduate fellowship program in population dynamics and marine resource economics recently awarded four fellowships. The fellowships provide three years of support for Ph.D. students studying Population Dynamics (related to the assessment of fish and marine mammal populations) and two years of support for Ph.D. students in Marine Resource Economics (economic behavior and resource valuation). The students are provided with an annual stipend of \$38,000, half of which comes from NOAA Fisheries, with a third from the National Sea Grant Office and the balance provided by the sponsoring state Sea Grant program.

The four fellows selected in this year's competition are:

*Population Dynamics*

**Amanda Bradford**, University of Washington. Amanda's dissertation is titled, "Modeling population and spatial dynamics of endangered baleen whales in the North Pacific." The fellow will work closely with major professor, Glenn VanBlaricom, and Paul Wade from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, who serves as the NMFS mentor.

**Robert Leaf**, Virginia Tech University. Robert's dissertation is titled, "The evolutionary effects of fishing and implications for stock management and rebuilding." The fellow will work closely with major professor, Yan Jiao, and Mike Prager of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Beaufort NC, who serves as the NMFS mentor.

*Marine Resource Economics*

**Cameron Speir**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Cameron's dissertation is titled, "Incorporating contaminant levels into models of fishing location choice: an application to fisheries in Lake Michigan." The fellow will work closely with major professor, John Braden, and Alan Haynie of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, who serves as the NMFS mentor.

**Matthew Freeman**, University of Rhode Island. Matthew's dissertation is titled, "Modeling and experimental assessment of lobbying activity of heterogeneous agents." The fellow will work closely with major professor, Chris Anderson, and Steve Edwards of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole, who serves as the NMFS mentor.

The NOAA Fisheries/Sea Grant graduate fellowship program in population dynamics and marine resource economics and has awarded a total of 35 fellowships over its six year duration.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### **Rip Current Awareness Education Campaign** ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)):

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Jim Murray and Amy Painter met with National Weather Service representatives and United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) leadership to discuss the "Break the Grip of the Rip" task force campaign. Thanks in large part to the Sea Grant network, the campaign has been a tremendous success with signs, brochures and other materials distributed to beaches throughout the U.S. and in Mexico. During the meeting, the Task Force members discussed targeting teenagers (the age group most prone to surf zone drownings). In the near term, group members are developing a "toolkit" for educators, lifeguards and organizations (including YMCA and other aquatic programs). The kit will include a DVD, a fact sheet, stickers, the brochure and other materials that can be used to educate groups and individuals. We hope this kit will be a resource for the Sea Grant network and invite interested Sea Grant educators and communicators to provide advice and guidance re. the best and most useful materials and products to communicate the rip current safety message. Over the long term, the group plans to expand the rip current campaign portfolio to a broader "beach safety" approach that will include additional information about staying safe at the beach. To learn more about the "Break the Grip of the Rip" campaign, visit: [www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PATs

**Puerto Rico PAT (week of August 20)** ([Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)): The PAT will commence in San Juan on Monday, ending on Thursday. On the team are: Ross Heath (NSGRP, chair), Judy Weis (NSGRP), Bob Malouf (OR SG), Hillary Egna (OR State), and Rocio Lozano (Channel Islands Sanctuary).

**Oceans 2006** (September 17-21, 2006, Boston, MA) ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)): NOAA will host an exhibit and has invited any Sea Grant speakers or attendees to stop by or help staff the booth. Paul Taylor (NOS) is coordinating the NOAA presence, and is willing to collect and distribute Sea Grant materials. The theme is *Hurricanes: From Prediction to Response & Restoration*. Materials are due to Paul by August 25<sup>th</sup>. I will send a notice to the network communicators in early August.

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE LEON CAMMEN, ACTING DIRECTOR

### **OAR / National Marine Fisheries Service Workshop** ([Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)):

This fall, Bill Hogarth, the Assistant Administrator for NMFS, and Rick Spinrad, the AA for OAR, will co-host a NMFS-OAR research retreat. The purpose of this retreat is to highlight OAR and NMFS research efforts that could benefit from closer collaboration between the two line offices. This is a follow-on to the successful NMFS-OAR science retreat held in La Jolla in 1998. In preparation for this retreat, OAR and NMFS are soliciting very brief (no more than one paragraph) proposals

highlighting opportunities for OAR and NMFS collaboration. Proposals should include the following: 1) One sentence description of proposed OAR/NMFS collaboration; 2) Need/concern that it would address; and 3) Benefits (new analytical tools, efficiencies, etc). Submissions should come to Terry Smith who has to forward them on to OAR by August 4, 2006.

**Korea Sea Grant Briefing** ([Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov)): I reviewed the Sea Grant Program with an official from the Korean Maritime Institute who is reviewing various cooperative activities between NOAA and the Korean Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

**NOS Coordination** ([Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov)): Kola Garber and I met with the Program Managers from NOAA's Office of Coastal Resource Management to look for ways to better coordinate our activities. OCRM is the home of the Coastal Zone Management, National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, and Coral Reef Conservation Programs. We agreed to continue discussions and to look for ways to involve each other as we both move ahead with strategic planning.

**Ecosystem Research Program (ERP)** ([Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov)): After many months of hard work, my team completed the ERP submission to the Office of Program Planning and Integration. I would like to thank first and foremost, Knauss fellow, John Primo for his hard work and impressive dedication. John is a real credit to the Knauss fellowship program. I am also grateful to Sami Grimes and Rebecca Newhall for their hard work and numerous contributions. In addition, Jamie Krauk, Nikola Garber and Amy Painter contributed to this process. Many thanks to all.

**National Research Council (NRC) Report/Strategic Planning Meeting** ([Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:Leon.Cammen@noaa.gov)): Jim Murray attended the meeting, and I was able to call in. Please see "NRC Update," above for details about this important meeting.

## RESEARCH

**Washington Sea Grant** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)): Attending Washington Sea Grant Technical Review Panel, August 15-16 in Seattle. Visiting with extension agent Teri King in Shelton to learn more about her work on Hood Canal.

**NOAA Leadership Seminar** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)): Participating in the NOAA Leadership Seminar, August 28-31 in Warrenton, Virginia.

**FY2007 National Strategic Investments** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)): Deadline for preliminary proposals to be received by the local Sea Grant programs is August 17, 2006. Preliminary proposals must be forwarded to [oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov) at the National Sea Grant Office by August 24 via email. The email message should include a list of all preliminary proposals received and separate attachments for each proposal (preferably as PDF files). The email message must include a statement certifying that all attached preliminary

proposals were received by 4:00 PM EDT August 17, 2006. For more information, please refer to the submission guidance memos sent on June 14 and 26 (let me know if you did not receive it).

**Regional Climate Extension Specialist** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)): The Carolinas Coastal Climate Outreach Initiative was recently awarded \$100,000 by NOAA as a result of the NOAA Sea Grant and Climate Program Office/Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments competition. The objectives of the project are to: 1) Develop the capacity of North Carolina/South Carolina Sea Grant to inform and educate coastal decision makers of the implications of climate variability and change for major coastal issues; 2) Provide tailored, decision relevant information on the implications of climate variability and change to coastal decision makers from residents to government officials to business people; 3) Increase the capacity of the Sea Grant network regionally and nationally to research and deliver outreach programs on the impacts of climate variability and change for coastal stakeholders; and 4) Evaluate and review increases in Sea Grant climate education and outreach capacity and approaches.

## OUTREACH

**Travel Update** ([Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)): Last month consisted a lot of travel, including travel to the OAR management conference in Longmont, CO; the Sea Grant Educator's network meeting in New York City; the Gulf States Sea Grant regional planning meeting at LSU, with a side trip by Mike Liffmann to New Orleans to view Katrina problems and rebuilding efforts (enormous work and many years will be needed for the city to regain some semblance of normalcy); the California Sea Grant technical review panel meeting in La Jolla, and a side trip to Eureka and Crescent City to see Sea Grant programming in northern California.

**National Research Council (NRC) Report/Strategic Planning Meeting** ([Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)): I also participated in a meeting among the leadership of SGA, NSGRP and NSGO to begin discussions on how to respond to the recommendations of the National Research Council report on Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process. See also, "NRC Update," above for details.

**VA Technical Review** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)): I will attend the Virginia Sea Grant Technical Review in mid-August.

**International** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)): The House Science Committee has requested a briefing from our office this month detailing existing efforts re: applying the Sea Grant model internationally. Jim Murray and I will attend.

**Ocean and Coastal Policy Roundtable** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)): NOAA hosted the last convening of the Ocean and Coastal Policy Roundtable. The meeting specifically highlighted Sea Grant's efforts in marine and aquatic science literacy as well as our regional planning efforts that are now underway.

**Theme-Team National One-Pager** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov)): I mentioned the updated National one-pager in the newsletter last month. Thank you to David Gordon (WA Sea Grant) and Kirsten Weir (NH Sea Grant) for their efforts with that update. We are making a few edits on the latest draft before sending it around to the Communicators to view.

**Rip Current Banner** ([amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)): Our graphic designer, Phil Raymond is working on a new banner that will feature the rip current graphic and will fit into the family of Sea Grant banners. It will be available for the network to use as a stand-alone, or in tandem with the other banners.

**Impacts** ([amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)): Thanks again to everyone who sent impacts to the Puerto Outreach Working Group. I am working to input the new and updated impacts into our database. I look forward to working closely with Hollis King (see "Breaking News," above) who will be focusing on impacts for the next six months.

**Worcester Polytech. Institute (WPI) Project** ([amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)): Kola and I will meet with students and advisors from WPI next week to discuss a Sea Grant project in which the students would identify the best means to target teenagers (using the latest communications technologies) with the "Break the Grip of the Rip" and beach safety messages.

**Summer E-Currents** ([amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)): Coming soon. Look out for our second issue which will feature many network impacts.

**Technical Reviews** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): Attended Maryland Sea Grant's technical review the end of July and will attend New York Sea Grant's at the end of August.

**Hot Items** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Hawaii Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Florida Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, MIT Sea Grant, Alaska Sea Grant, Washington Sea Grant, and New Jersey Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**ERP Submissions for Sea Grant** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): Worked with the NSGO staff to submit Sea Grant materials for NOAA's Program Operating Plan (POP) process.

**NOAA Leadership Seminar** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): Will be attending the NOAA Leadership Seminar the end of August, along with Dorn Carlson, Jamie Krauk and Megan Agy.

**Sea Grant Education Update** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)):

Sami and Jack attended the National Marine Educators Association Conference the week of July 17<sup>th</sup> in New York and were able to attend Sea Grant presentations throughout the week. There was a National Sea Grant College Program exhibit presenting the network's education materials. Leon Cammen and Jim Murray also attended the educators' meeting on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

A Sea Grant education alternative was written by the NSGO for ERP's Program Operating Plan. The material for this alternative was gathered from the Marine and Aquatic Science Literacy theme team booklet.

Sami is currently working with the educators to capture accurate and complete metrics for the NIMS database.

## **Sea Grant News**

**August 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1315 East-West Highway**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**301/713-2431**

**fax 301/713-0799**

**<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov>**

**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



### Inside:

Breaking News  
Grants & Budget  
Director's Office  
Research  
International

Outreach  
Fellowships  
Conferences/Meetings/PATs

SEPTEMBER 2006

## BREAKING NEWS—

### **New Director of the National Sea Grant College Program**

NOAA announced the appointment of Dr. Leon Cammen as Director of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program. See the full story:

[http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/newsevents/stories/2006/08\\_cammen.html](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/newsevents/stories/2006/08_cammen.html)

**Hill Meeting:** Leon Cammen and Jamie Krauk will meet with House Science Committee staff and Senate Commerce Committee staff on the Hill the week of Sept 18. Topics include: Introduction to new Sea Grant Director, NRC report, and the upcoming reauthorization process.

**NOAA Leadership Seminar:** Four members of the NSGO staff (Dorn Carlson, Megan Agy, Sami Grimes, and Jamie Krauk) attended the NOAA Leadership Seminar—a leadership training opportunity for NOAA employees in late August.

**Strategic Planning:** Mr. Scott Duncan has joined NSGO for a two-month detail (from the National Ocean Service, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS)). Scott is compiling and analyzing the current state program strategic plans and implementation plans to examine common themes and priorities. This compilation can serve as a baseline for creating the next National Sea Grant Strategic Plan.

**Blocked E-mail Messages:** A new NOAA-wide anti-spam protection system is blocking some (not all) e-mails that originate from non-governmental sources. Although several blocked senders have now been identified and added to the spam filter "white list" to prevent further problems, we do not know which of you might continue to be blocked since we simply do not receive your messages. So, if you have reason to suspect your messages are not transmitting, please alert a member of our staff.

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Project** ([amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)): We are pleased to welcome four WPI students to NSGO beginning October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The students will spend six weeks exploring the most potent *and* cost-effective means of reaching teenage audiences through traditional (e.g. radio, TV) and/or emerging media (e.g. blogs, wikis, text messaging, podcasts, etc.) in order to effectively communicate rip current/beach safety messages. The WPI students will conduct formal and informal "market research" using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies in order to determine how to target the communications campaign to this age group in a way that will capture their attention (and reach teens of varying socio-economic strata) without exceeding the Agency's limited budget. The students will then develop a marketing communications plan for the task force members to implement. The plan should include documentation of and an explanation of the research methodologies employed (e.g. surveys, focus groups, interviews, etc.) along with a description of each recommended strategy or medium, a basis/rationale for each recommendation, approximate estimated costs for each, and methods for evaluating or measuring the success of each recommendation. NOAA will use this plan in order to disseminate its rip current/beach safety message.

**Send Us Your News:** Thank you for e-mailing your stories and news releases. Please continue to forward them to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov). In addition to *Hot Items*, your news is frequently featured in *Access NOAA*, *NOAA Report*, *Sea Grant News & Notes*, *OAR/Jana Goldman's Weekly Report*, the national website, and other outlets—this coverage is routed to the network regularly via e-mail.

## GRANTS & BUDGET

**Omnibus Guidance** ([Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Eigen@noaa.gov)): **Due October 24th through Grants.gov.** Omnibus guidance was sent to the state programs on September 8th. There is a great deal of uncertainty about our 2007 budget given the discrepancy between the House and Senate numbers. The House mark is: \$52M; the Senate mark is: \$72M. The Administration's request for FY 2007 is \$55M (level funding).

### Annual Progress Reports

Annual Progress Reports were due on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your submissions. Currently, Program Officers are reading through your reports.

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR

**Chesapeake Bay:** Met with Lowell Bahner (Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office) to discuss how to get the various NOAA programs in the Chesapeake Bay working together to demonstrate an ecosystem approach to management.

**National Research Council (NRC) Report** ([Therese.Conant@noaa.gov](mailto:Therese.Conant@noaa.gov)): Jim Colman (NRC Chair) briefed Dr. Richard Spinrad (OAR Assistant Administrator) on the NRC Report on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Also in attendance were Jamie Krauk and Therese Conant from NSGO.

## RESEARCH

### NSIs

#### FY2007 National Strategic Investments:

- Received **52** preliminary proposals for the **Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach** competition.
- Received **32** preliminary proposals for the **Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry** Program
- Received **33** preliminary proposals for the **Oyster Disease Research** Program

**C-IFLOW** ([Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov](mailto:Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov)): On August 30-31<sup>st</sup> the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) hosted a meeting of partners in the NOAA "Coastal Inland Flood Observation and Warning" (C-IFLOW) Project. This project seeks to couple NOAA weather and water flow research and modeling with Sea Grant extension capabilities to make available new river, estuary and coastal flood-forecast capabilities, coupled with improved prediction of water quality, and estuarine ecosystem health. Sea Grant was represented by Bob Stickney, Jack Thigpen and Bob Bacon. Also present was Ron Baird, former Director of Sea Grant and one of the conceivers of the C-IFLOW project.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Indonesia** ([Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)): Jim stated that the Coastal Zone Asia conference in Indonesia was successful, with the Sea Grant concept receiving considerable play. There were 17 Countries and 500 people represented. The Sea Grant programs in Indonesia and South Korea received a lot of attention at the conference. The Sea Partnership Program in Indonesia now has programs in 26 of the possible 33 districts (districts are equivalent to states).

**Sea Grant International Hill Briefing:** Jim Murray, Jamie Krauk, Jason Robertson (NOAA Leg. Affairs), Rene Eppi and Jamie Doyle (OAR International), met with House Science Committee staffers, Chad English and Jason Patlis to discuss Sea Grant's international efforts, particularly in Indonesia. English was a 2003 Knauss Fellow from CA SG. Patlis spent six years in Indonesia and has worked with Senator Chaffee and the Environment and Public Works Committee. The Hill staffers have requested a follow-up meeting to further discuss Sea Grant's international efforts.

## OUTREACH

### Extension

**Climate Extension** ([Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)): A NOAA/Sea Grant workshop is being organized for April, 2007 that will focus on the application of climate related decision support resources in coastal management. The purpose of the workshop will be to enhance the capabilities of Sea Grant outreach staff to apply climate variability and change research and related information to the needs of decision makers. Dale Baker and Jack Thigpen are representing Sea Grant on the planning committee.

### Education

**Meeting with NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> Education Committee** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): Thanks to all the Sea Grant educators who submitted educational material for the 200<sup>th</sup> NOAA Anniversary events (an educational tool kit will be put together and 20,000 copies printed).

**Education metrics** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): We would like to thank the Sea Grant educators, in particular, Maya McGuire and Dianne Payne for developing an appropriate and meaningful set of education metrics for annual reporting, reviews and so forth.

### Communications

**Summer E-Currents** ([amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)): Please check out the summer issue, sent out on September 6<sup>th</sup> at:  
<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/newsevents/newsevents.html>

### Sea Grant Impacts

Many of you will hear from Ms. Hollis King, who has joined us for a six-month detail, and has been working with impacts. In addition to helping develop and package Sea Grant program impacts, Hollis is looking for common themes and projects (ala Rip Currents and NEMO) in order to create/aggregate up regional and national impacts. She will be contacting many of you soon in order to solicit your guidance in helping coordinate and develop a strong set of regional and national impacts. Please welcome Hollis ([Hollis.King@noaa.gov](mailto:Hollis.King@noaa.gov)) to Sea Grant.

**Communications Metrics** ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)): The communicators have been invited to submit metrics. Due Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Hot Items** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov)): Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: **Rhode Island Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, MIT Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, Minnesota Sea Grant, Alaska Sea Grant, Washington Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Connecticut Sea**

**Grant, WHOI Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, South Carolina Sea Grant, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant.** Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**Rip Current Awareness Education Campaign** ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)):

The "Break the Grip of the Rip" Task Force is developing a rip current banner (matching the family of Sea Grant banner stands). The banner will be available to the Sea Grant programs, to National Weather Service and to the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). The banner is a component of the "education kit," reported on last month in this section. To learn more about the "Break the Grip of the Rip" campaign, visit: [www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)

## FELLOWSHIPS

**Knauss Fellowship** ([Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov)): We are pleased to welcome the Knauss Class of 2007. Congratulations and welcome to the Sea Grant family (<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/colleges/colleges.html>). Here are some interesting Knauss Class of 2007 statistics:

- This is the 28th Knauss Class dating back to 1979 (there are over 600 Knauss alumni)
  - There are 47 Finalists in this class (definition of "Finalist" below) - 10 Legislative and 37 Executive
  - There are 29 women and 18 men
  - Graduate degrees pursued by or conferred upon: 18 Ph.Ds, 26 Master's, 3 J.D.s
  - 23 Sea Grant programs are represented
- The list of Finalists can be found at:

[http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/knauss/doc/2007\\_Knauss\\_Finalists.xls](http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/knauss/doc/2007_Knauss_Finalists.xls)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PATs

**PATs** (week of September 10<sup>th</sup>):

**Alaska** (Megan Agy, Program Officer)

**Louisiana** (Nikola Garber, Program Officer)

**New Hampshire** (Jacques Oliver, Program Officer)

### Meeting

**Fisheries Extension Meeting** (October 16-18, Sea Turtle Inn, Jacksonville Beach, FL) ([Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov)): Leon Cammen will be the keynote speaker at the first ever national meeting of fishery extension agents. A full 3-day program is planned which will include seminars, panel discussions and educational sessions. See <http://seagrants.gso.uri.edu/fisheries/extension/> for more details and information on registration.

### **Advisory Committee**

**Washington Sea Grant Advisory Committee** ([Megan.Agy@noaa.gov](mailto:Megan.Agy@noaa.gov)): Meeting on September 15 in Seattle, Washington. Megan Agy will attend.

### **Conferences**

**American Fisheries Society (AFS)** ([Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)). AFS convenes its 136th Annual Meeting in the Olympic Village of Lake Placid, NY, 10-14 September 2006. Theme: "Fish in the Balance."

**Oceans 2006** (September 17-21, 2006, Boston, MA) ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)): NOAA will host an exhibit and has invited any Sea Grant speakers or attendees to stop by or help staff the booth. Paul Taylor (NOS) is coordinating the NOAA presence, and is willing to collect and distribute Sea Grant materials. The theme is *Hurricanes: From Prediction to Response & Restoration*. Many thanks to Andrea Cohen and Cliff Goudey (MIT Sea Grant) for helping coordinate a Sea Grant presence.

**California World Ocean Conference** (September 17-21, Long Beach, CA) ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)): USC Sea Grant and CA Sea Grant will host booths featuring the Sea Grant displays and theme team information. Our thanks to Phyllis Grifman for helping to coordinate this effort.

### **Sea Grant News**

**September 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1315 East-West Highway**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**301/713-2431**

**fax 301/713-0799**

**<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov>**

**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



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OCTOBER 2006

### BREAKING NEWS—

#### **Quarterly Highlights: Sea Grant's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Highlights**

See the latest program news and accomplishments:

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

**NRC/Strategic Planning:** The Response and Integration Team (RIT), agreed to by members of the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), National Sea Grant Review Panel (Panel), and the Sea Grant Association (SGA), had the initial in-person meeting on September 28, 2006. Members of the RIT include: Ross Heath (chair-Panel), Jerry Schubel (Panel), Jonathan Kramer (SGA), Paul Anderson (SGA), Jim Murray (NSGO), and Kola Garber (NSGO). Sub-Team charges were discussed and members for the Sub-Teams are currently being sought through each member group. Watch for more updates next month!

#### **Dr. Cammen's Photo:**

Many programs have asked for Dr. Cammen's photo. We've made it available to you for download at the following link:

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/images/cammen.tif>

**Welcome Kimberly Marshall to Sea Grant:** We are delighted to welcome Kimberly Marshall to the NSGO. Kim will serve on a six-month detail with our office, which began September 18<sup>th</sup>. She is currently a NOAA Fisheries employee with the Office of Sustainable Fisheries and also serves on NOAA's Ecosystem Goal Team in her role as Program Coordinator of the Fisheries Management Program. As with all detail positions within NOAA, Fisheries will continue to pay her salary during her tenure with NSGO. Kim will focus on Sea Grant outreach projects, such as developing a Sea Grant extension one-pager, assisting with the Fisheries Extension Enhancement Report, assisting with coastal community development needs, as well

as other outreach activities. We are very fortunate to have her with us. Please welcome Kim to Sea Grant ([Kim.Marshall@noaa.gov](mailto:Kim.Marshall@noaa.gov)).

### **Cooperative Conservation**

In August 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order #13352 entitled *Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation*. The order directs the Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency to implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources in a manner that promotes cooperative conservation, with an emphasis on local involvement. The co-chairs of the initiative have been facilitating regional "listening sessions" throughout the last few weeks and Sea Grant has been invited to attend and participate in several cases as a testament to the strength of the partnership between NOAA and the state programs.

## **GRANTS & BUDGET**

**NOAA Continuing Resolution:** NOAA is operating under a continuing resolution at the level of the FY2007 House budget mark, and will continue to do so at least until November 17 when the CR runs out. The House mark is well below the FY2006 funding level for Sea Grant, and we (as well as all other NOAA programs) have been given a very tight budget cap that leaves little funding to cover travel. In reviewing the upcoming travel for this first few months, we have had to make some difficult decisions (see below).

**Review Panel Meeting Postponed:** After consulting with Ross Heath, Leon decided to postpone the November meeting of the Sea Grant Review Panel and instead to hold the next Panel meeting in February. This allows us to carry on with the two Program Assessments scheduled in October (DE and CT), and will allow us to begin developing our response to the NRC report by being able to provide travel support to the joint committees that will be formed.

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

**NOAA Research's Senior Research Council (SRC):** The SRC met last week. The SRC is comprised of OAR lab and program directors. Among other topics, the SRC focused on research priorities for OAR.

## **RESEARCH**

**OAR-NMFS Retreat** ([Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov)): Rick Spinrad, Assistant Administrator of OAR, has called for a number of 'bilateral' meetings between OAR

and sister NOAA agencies. The OAR-NMFS retreat is tentatively scheduled for early December. In preparing for the retreat many of you responded to a call for 'mini proposals' suggesting new collaborative activities that the two agencies might undertake. A total of 74 proposals were received, fairly even split between OAR and NMFS. About 10 of the proposals came in from Sea Grant. Thank you!

**Next Steps:** The proposals have been grouped into four themes: Ocean observation, expansion and integration; integrated ecosystem assessment; fellowship expansion; and, education/outreach. In the next month, teams of authors will develop 'white papers' for each theme, and, in December, OAR and NMFS leadership will act on recommendations listed in the white papers. Leon and Terry Smith have been working on this on behalf of OAR and Terry is co-lead on the fellowship theme and an author on the education/outreach team. If anyone wants to follow up on their proposals or share some ideas on any of the theme topics give Terry a call (301-713-2435 x144).

**Aquaculture Grants:** Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez announced the recipients of the NOAA aquaculture grants last Friday, Sept 15th in Miami, FL. Thanks to all at the FL Sea Grant Program and to everyone who was prepared to get the word out as soon as we were allowed.

**Sea Grant Regional Research and Information Services:** Plans are beginning. NOAA Chief of Staff commended the effort and the West Coast Governors have already endorsed the process and have offered their support and action - way to go west coast programs!

## OUTREACH

### Extension

**Beltway Brown Bag Series** (Nov 1 and 2, 2006) See "Upcoming Conferences..." below.

### Communications

**Delaware Coast Day:** Sunday, October 1. Thanks to Jamie Krauk's leadership, in partnership with NOS' Nadia Sbeih, NOAA brought more than a dozen volunteers to participate in hands-on education activities with children of all ages, including fish prints, origami turtles and whales, shark models and more. The event drew close to 16,000 people! Coast Day was also be the kick-off to the Delaware Sea Grant PAT

**New Jersey Coast Day:** Saturday and Sunday, October 7&8. Thanks also to Jamie's leadership, NOAA is bringing a cadre of volunteers to participate in the marine science educational event—a stronger NOAA presence than ever before. This event has won tourism awards from New Jersey's Governor.

**Hill Briefing:** Leon and Jamie visited the Hill this week to meet with the Senate Commerce Committee staff. It was Leon's introduction as National Sea Grant College Program Director and was the first in what will be numerous visits.

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Alaska Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, South Carolina Sea Grant, MS-AL Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, Minnesota Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, Maryland Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant, Washington Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, Maine Sea Grant, Florida Sea Grant, New Jersey Sea Grant, USC Sea Grant, Wisconsin Sea Grant, and WHOI Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**Admiral's EMT Report:** A Sea Grant item, "Sea Grant and partners host First Ever Great Lakes Dunes Conference," which includes NY, MI and WI Sea Grant Programs was included in the Executive Management Team (EMT) Report for October 2. The EMT Report is used by Admiral Lautenbacher to guide his discussion with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Commerce in their weekly meetings.

### Education

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & SG Educational Materials:** Thank you to all of the Sea Grant programs that submitted educational materials to be considered for use in NOAA's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities next year. Many of your materials will be used. In addition, special Congratulations go out to IL-IN Sea Grant and NJ Sea Grant because their materials have been selected to be included in special education activity kits. It will be great to have Sea Grant materials included in NOAA's 2007 celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful to Sami Grimes for leading this effort on behalf of NSGO!

**Bridge Highlighted:** The Bridge on-line marine sciences education resource was highlighted here in NOAA in late September. Lee Larkin, Vicki Clark, and Lisa Ayers from VA Sea Grant offered a seminar at the NOAA Library and presented to the NOAA Education Council. Recent efforts for The Bridge include a NOAA-specific education collection on the site, funded as a result of successful competition in the NOAA Education mini-grants competition.

### FELLOWSHIPS

**No updates.**

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PATs

### PATs

**Delaware** (Oct. 1) (Jim Murray, Program Officer)

**Connecticut** (Oct. 15) (Jon Eigen, Program Officer)

### Meetings

**National Sea Grant Office retreat** (Oct. 25-26): An NSGO staff retreat will be held off campus to discuss a number of topics, including the structure of the NSGO. Details will be forthcoming next month.

**Beltway Brown Bag Series** (Nov 1 and 2, 2006): The sessions will highlight the post-Katrina partnership effort to transport a boat travelift from AK to Plaquemines Parish, LA as well as many other recovery and preparedness efforts. More details to come.

**Community Resilience Meta-Theme Meeting** (Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>): This meeting in Silver Spring will be held to discuss the meta-theme of Community Resilience (Theme Teams include: Communities, Hazards, Ecosystems, and Urban Coasts).

### Other Events/Conferences

**New Jersey Coast Day** (Oct. 7&8) (see Communications notes, above, for more)

**Extreme Water in Maryland:** The Maryland Sea Grant College and the Maryland Water Resources Research Center are cosponsoring a one-day conference on Extreme Water in Maryland on Friday October 27th at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Melissa Pearson from NSGO will attend.

[www.waterresources.umd.edu](http://www.waterresources.umd.edu)

### Sea Grant News

October 2006

**National Sea Grant College Program**

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**1315 East-West Highway**

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# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

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NOVEMBER 2006

### BREAKING NEWS—

#### **Quarterly Highlights: Sea Grant's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Highlights**

See the latest program news and accomplishments:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

**NSGO Staff Retreat:** NSGO staff met October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss a number of issues, including proposed changes to the structure of the office given recommendations by the NRC, staff attrition and budget uncertainties. More info. on this soon.

### GRANTS & BUDGET

**NOAA Continuing Resolution:** A reminder that NOAA is operating under a continuing resolution at the level of the FY2007 House budget mark, and will continue to do so at least until November 17 when the CR runs out. The House mark is well below the FY2006 funding level for Sea Grant, and we (as well as all other NOAA programs) have been given a very tight budget cap that leaves little funding to cover travel. In reviewing the upcoming travel for this first few months, we have had to make some difficult decisions (see below).

### DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

**SGA Meeting:** Leon and Kola are attending the SGA Meeting.

**OAR/NOS Retreat:** Within NOAA, a joint OAR/NOS retreat was held among the leadership to discuss partnership opportunities and "One-NOAA." Similar workshops have been held, or are scheduled, between OAR and the other NOAA Line Offices.

**NOAA Social Sciences Plan:** NOAA has assigned a group to review the Agency's social science efforts to see what's missing. The idea is to create a unified plan for NOAA social science efforts.

**NOAA Research's Senior Research Council (SRC):** Jamie and I met with majority staff in the House Science Committee in early October. We received a warm welcome. It was the second of my introductory visits to the Hill. The staff were vocal supporters of the program and were particularly interested in our network process for responding to the NRC report.

**Coastal States Organization:** Also, in October, the NSGO met with Kacky Andrews, Executive Director of the Coastal States Organization (CSO). CSO is the non-governmental organization that represents the state Coastal Zone Management programs. The main focus of that meeting was regional planning. Jim Murray and I attended for the NSGO.

## RESEARCH

**New England Lobster Shell Disease Research:** A disfiguring shell disease first appeared in American lobster in southern New England in the 1980s. In the last several years, however, more animals over a wider geographic range seem to be impacted. Unfortunately, little is known about the cause of the disease, the agent or agents involved and the consequences to future populations.

Last year Congress appropriated \$3M to be shared by NOAA Fisheries, University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Sea Grant for cooperative research on the causes and consequences of the disease. To date about \$1M has been distributed to the New England states' fishery agencies for monitoring and descriptive work.

In October a review panel met to consider two-year research proposals seeking to learn more about the cause of the disease. In mid-November the Lobster Shell Disease Executive Committee will meet with the preliminarily selected PIs to discuss and refine the proposals and develop standard protocols for acquiring animals. It is anticipated that about \$2M will be awarded for the research phase of the initiative.

## OUTREACH

### Extension

**Beltway Brown Bag (BBB) Series** (Nov 1 and 2, 2006): A brownbag on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, organized by Jamie Krauk, highlighted the post-Katrina partnership effort to transport a boat travelift from AK to Plaquemines parish, LA as well as many other recovery and preparedness efforts. The BBB team also met with officials at FEMA to discuss the possibility of future partnerships and collaborations between Sea Grant and the Agency.

**Extension Meeting, Florida:** Although Sea Grant and Sea Grant extension have been actively engaged in fisheries research and outreach since the mid-60s, Sea Grant fisheries extension has never held a national-level meeting. So, it was especially exciting to attend the first gathering of fisheries agents in Atlantic Beach, FL from October 13-15.

Jim Murray and Terry Smith represented the NSGO. Jim gave a national overview presentation on behalf of the Sea Grant Director, Leon Cammen, who was called away to another meeting at the last minute and Terry and Ralph Rayburn spoke to the attendees about Theme Teams and, more specifically, the Fisheries Theme Team.

About 90 agents attended, many new to Sea Grant. Accordingly, the 3-day program provided some training opportunities interspersed with group dialogs on policy issues of interest to the extension community. The packed agenda also included a dinner talk from Steve Murawski (Dir. of Sci. Pgms, NOAA Fisheries) on ecosystem-based management and a luncheon presentation from Wayne and Nancy Weikel (FEMA) and Rusty Gaude (LA SG) about hurricane recovery efforts in Plaquemines Parish LA.

Beyond the agenda the meeting provided an opportunity for agents from around the country to meet one another and discuss common issues. Hopefully such meetings will become a regular occurrence.

## Communications

**NOAA Magazine:** Sea Grant is featured prominently in the current issue of NOAA Magazine highlighting NOAA's Ocean Education curricula and professional development opportunities for teachers. See: <http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag212.htm>

**NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The communications team is working on many aspects of the NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, including a coffee table book about the Agency's coastal hazards and resilience work, numerous educational efforts, events, and a web presence. Sea Grant's work will be reflected in these efforts.

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Rhode Island Sea Grant, Alaska Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, Maryland Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, Florida Sea Grant, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, Connecticut Sea Grant and Hawaii Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

**Dr. Cammen's photo:** Many programs have asked for Dr. Cammen's photo. We've made it available to you for download at the following link:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/images/cammen.tif>

## FELLOWSHIPS

**Knauss:** Placement Week for the 2007 Knauss Class is December 3-8, 2006.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PATS

### Meetings

**Community Resilience Meta-Theme Meeting** (Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>): This meeting in Silver Spring will be held to discuss the meta-theme of Community Resilience (Theme Teams include: Communities, Hazards, Ecosystems, and Urban Coasts).

**Sea Grant News**

**November 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

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# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

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### BREAKING NEWS—

#### **National Sea Grant Names New Leadership**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. James D. Murray as Deputy Director of the National Sea Grant College Program and Dr. Nikola Garber as Assistant Director for Administration. Dr. Murray served as Director of Outreach for nine years and has served in the Deputy Director capacity since spring 2006. Dr. Nikola Garber served as the Knauss Fellowship Program Director for seven years and will now oversee administrative and operational functions for the National Sea Grant Office.

#### **New NSGO Phone Numbers**

We were issued new phone and fax numbers this week. Please see our website directory to make note of the new numbers:

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/other/sgofficestaffdirectory.html>

#### **Continuing Resolution (CR)**

The CR will continue through February 15<sup>th</sup>. In all likelihood, this will require partial funding of omnibus awards once funds are allocated under the CR to the Sea Grant program.

#### **Retired Sea Grant Director, Ronald C. Baird Receives 2006 Presidential Rank Award**

The Presidential Rank Award is the most prestigious award given to senior executives and senior professionals for extraordinary and prolonged accomplishment. Dr. Baird is recognized for introducing numerous management innovations, including local empowerment, formalized planning, and accountability through performance review and merit-based resource allocation while simultaneously reducing administrative costs. Other programmatic innovations include creation of a law center, fisheries extension service, international Sea Grant, and ports/harbors specialists. Congratulations!

### **Delinquent Reports**

The National Sea Grant Office has received a list of delinquent progress reports created in the transition to Grants Online. Program officers have been/will be contacting programs individually to provide a list of delinquent reports and walk each program through the process of clearing these tasks. We ask for your patience and support as we make this transition.

### **Quarterly Highlights:**

See the latest program news and accomplishments. A new update will be posted at the end of December.

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

## **GRANTS & BUDGET**

### **Grants Online Help Desk**

For assistance with Grants Online, the toll-free number is 1-877-662-2478.

### **Pass Through Policy**

NSGO will assess an administrative fee for processing pass through awards through Grants Online: \$2,000.00 or 1 percent—whichever is greater—up to \$10,000.00 per grant.

### **SBIR due January 17, 2007**

The Department of Commerce (DOC) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invites small businesses to submit research proposals. Objectives of the program include stimulating technological innovation in the private sector and strengthening the role of small business in meeting Federal research and development (R&D) needs. This program also seeks to increase the commercial application of innovations derived from Federal research and to foster and encourage participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and woman-owned small businesses. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.ago.noaa.gov/ad/solindex.shtml> (scroll down to SBIR).

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

### **NSGO Organizational Structure**

The CR and 2006 budget have necessitated severe restrictions on NSGO travel which has enabled us to direct our energies toward reorganizing the office for the purpose of streamlining and improving its internal workings. Through numerous discussions, we have developed a new organization chart. The new structure emphasizes greater attention to PO responsibilities pursuant to the NRC report. To view the new

organizational chart, please visit:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/sgofficestaffdirectory.html>

## RESEARCH

### **NOAA Announces *Advancing NOAA Priorities through Regional Collaboration***

For many years, NOAA programs around the country have been experimenting with more extensive and effective mechanisms for cross-Line Office communication and coordination. NOAA now has the opportunity to expand upon these regional coordination and communication efforts with a shift towards Regional Collaboration, which adds the component of integrating program activities to address NOAA's priorities important at both the national and regional scale. The purpose of regional collaboration is to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers, using existing authority and accountability structures. This effort does not entail any changes to NOAA's organizational structure. Rather, it seeks to identify and apply NOAA's full range of capabilities, within and across regions, to design the best, geographically specific solutions for customers. Three programmatic priorities are natural focus areas for NOAA's existing capabilities to be integrated within a regional framework: **Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, Integrated Water Resource Services, and NOAA contributions to Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities.** These priority areas are consistent with the 2009-2013 Annual Guidance Memorandum and have been identified by NOAA's stakeholders as important roles for the agency as a whole. All require a geographically specific approach to be addressed adequately. We have a very exciting opportunity to build upon our past successes in a way that improves the services NOAA provides to the nation. Further information about NOAA's Regional Collaboration effort is located on our internal website at: <https://www.ppbs.noaa.gov/>.

## OUTREACH

### Communications

#### **Coast Guard Meeting** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov))

Jamie Krauk and Ocean Service colleagues had an opportunity to meet with folks from the Coast Guard - specifically the Sea Partners Program – in December. The Sea Partners program within the Coast Guard has the jurisdiction for all environmental education and outreach activities and work with a number of volunteers and other organizations to develop community awareness of environmental stewardship. They were provided with a strong Sea Grant background and reported that they have worked with a number of state Sea Grant programs. If you have specific details about ways that your program has partnered with the Coast Guard, please let Jamie know.

#### **Smithsonian Ocean Hall** ([Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Krauk@noaa.gov))

Many of you have seen Jamie's request for comments on the 95% review of the Smithsonian Ocean Hall documents. Thanks to those of you who have provided comments - they are critical as we move one step closer toward an Ocean Hall that we hope you will all have a chance to visit on the National Mall in less than two years.

### **Hot Items** ([Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov](mailto:Sami.Grimes@noaa.gov))

We are grateful to the Sea Grant programs that actively send us news. Sami Grimes enters each story into OAR's Hot Items news (not available to the public) and submits stories to the Admiral's Weekly Reports in order to ensure that your current news reaches NOAA Public Affairs and Leadership. The following programs submitted for November and early December: IL-IN, NY, MIT, PA, WA, CA, MS-AL, DE, AK, OR, RI, NC, OH, MI, MD, LA and HI. Thank you!

### **Education**

#### **Rip Current Presentation to NOAA Education Council** ([Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov))

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Jim Murray presented the latest information on the NOAA/NWS/USLA rip current task force to the NOAA Ed. Council. The Council learned about the ongoing work of a sub-set of the Task Force, the Education Working Group (comprised of Sea Grant, Weather Service and USLA); and, the work of four visiting students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute who just completed a marketing communications plan targeting teenagers with rip current safety information. We will make the WPI plan and the work of the Education Working Group available to the network shortly. **The Ed. Working Group is finalizing rip current information packets** for lifeguards and others to present to school assemblies and other groups. The packets contain: **rip current talking points; a fact sheet; holographic stickers (for distribution to teens); brochures; and guidelines for presenting rip information in a way that will engage kids.** The full task force will meet in late February to discuss funding for the packets, future directions and partnerships with YMCA and Red Cross.

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

#### **Knauss** ([Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacques.Oliver@noaa.gov))

##### **Knauss Class of 2006:**

Three current Legislative fellows were singled out by Members of Congress during the House of Representatives December 8, 2006 floor debate on the recently passed Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. They are: Emily Knight (Maine Sea Grant), Charlotte Stevenson (California Sea Grant), and Letise Houser (Delaware Sea Grant). Members praised the fellows, as well as other legislative staff, for their work on the legislation. Bonnie Bruce, a former Knauss Sea Grant fellow, was also singled out for praise. The floor debate will become part of the formal Congressional Record (located at <http://www.thomas.gov>).

##### **Knauss Class of 2007: Placement Week**

Knauss Placement Week was a success. The class of 2007 represents the 29th Knauss class and 44 fellows were placed last week, the largest class in the history of the program. Note on attrition: 3 fellows dropped out of the program between May

and November of this year. 47 fellows were initially selected.

There were 12 Legislative hosts vying for a 10 fellows and there were 48 Executive hosts vying for 34 fellows.

**The Executive fellows (n = 34) break down as follows:**

25 to NOAA:

NMFS = 9

OAR = 7

NOS = 4

Dept. of Commerce/NOAA = 4

PPI = 1

9 to non-NOAA agencies:

NSF = 3

Interior = 2

Defense = 1

State = 1

Homeland Security/FEMA = 1

Marine Mammal Commission = 1

**The Legislative fellows (n = 10) break down as follows:**

Senate = 5

House = 5

Personal staffs = 7

Committee staffs = 3

R's = 2 (out of 2)

D's = 8 (out of 10)

Note: Breakdown by political party was dependent upon the host offices that decided to participate in PW. 2 Republican offices and 1 Democratic office dropped out at the last minute due to staffing uncertainties.

Final placements will be distributed to the SG network and posted on the Knauss website the week of Dec. 18, 2006.

**Knauss Class of 2008:** Guidance to programs

Guidance to programs on the upcoming application process will be distributed to the programs the week of Dec. 18, 2006.

**Sea Grant News**

**December 2006**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

**1315 East-West Highway**

**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**301/713-2431**

**fax 301/713-0799**

**<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov>**

**Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



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JANUARY 2007

## BREAKING NEWS

### Reminder: New Phone Numbers at NSGO

New phone numbers: 301/734-1077 or 301/734-1066. Sea Grant Director: 301/734-1088 (phone); 301/713-1031 (fax). Online directory: <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/other/sgofficestaffdirectory.html>

### Response Integration Team

Jim Murray will serve as committee chair of the Response Integration Team (RIT), which has been organized for the purpose of assessing the range of recommendations from the National Research Council Committee Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process (NRC Report). The RIT is comprised of two members from the SGA (P. Andersen and J. Kramer) and two members from the NSGO (Murray and K. Garber). The RIT has appointed three subcommittees (strategic planning, program assessment and NSGO operations) each comprised of two members from the SGA and NSGO. The National Sea Grant Review Panel will also be providing advice on how best to address the recommendations of the NRC and Murray will serve as liaison between the RIT and NSGRP to ensure communications between the two parallel efforts.

### NSGO Solicits Your Expertise and Welcomes Ralph Rayburn (TX SG) and Sharon Walker (MS-AL SG)

Given staff shortages at the National Sea Grant Office, we are filling gaps by tapping the talents of our network. Over the past few years, we've heard from you that NSGO needs to draw upon the network to help address priorities at the national level. In response to your requests, we at NSGO invite others in the Sea Grant family who are interested in working as part of a "national Sea Grant team" to offer your talents and expertise. Please let us know if you wish to offer your skills in order to help ensure that important needs and priorities are addressed at the

national level. In order to provide some subject areas/needs, NSGO will gather a list of topics (areas in which help is needed) and distribute it to the network. We also welcome your ideas.

To this end, we are delighted to announce that Ralph Rayburn and Dr. Sharon Walker have just joined NSGO (part-time) in order to support national extension and educational undertakings. Ralph Rayburn will serve in an Extension Program liaison capacity to help with special projects. For example, he will work with high-level partners including FEMA, work with the network in determining the future of fisheries extension enhancement, and help organize a search process for the program leader for extension for the National Sea Grant College Program. Ralph will visit NSGO as needed, but work from his office at Texas A&M. He can be contacted at: [ralph-rayburn@tamu.edu](mailto:ralph-rayburn@tamu.edu) Sharon Walker's duties will include representing the Sea Grant Education Network on the NOAA Education Council and in the development of a Sea Grant National Strategic Plan, assisting the NOAA Office of Education with ocean literacy issues, ensuring that the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's education activities are aligned with NOAA's education priorities, and more. Sharon can be contacted at: [sharon.walker@usm.edu](mailto:sharon.walker@usm.edu)

### **Michelle Harmon Takes Lead for NOAA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program**

For the next year, the NOAA Aquatic Invasive Species Program will have a new manager. Michelle Harmon ([michelle.harmon@noaa.gov](mailto:michelle.harmon@noaa.gov), 301-734-1066 ext. TBD) from the NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science has started a developmental rotation to act as Program Manager for the NOAA AIS Program during 2007. In this role, she will work closely with the Sea Grant invasive species community, which she says was one of the attractions of the assignment. Michelle is known for her scientific experience, managerial prowess and enthusiasm. Please welcome her aboard. Dorn Carlson's role in the AIS Program will be significantly reduced this year, and he will take up more Sea Grant duties.

### **Final Evaluation Week, January 29-February 2**

NSGO staff and two members of the National Sea Grant Review Panel will conduct final evaluation reviews of the eight Sea Grant programs reviewed in 2006: Maine, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Louisiana, Delaware, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

### **TAT Reports**

The Topical Advisory Team (TAT) Report for National Sea Grant Law Center has been transmitted to the National Sea Grant Review Panel by the Chairman of the review, Mr. Jeffrey Stephan.

The Topical Advisory Team (TAT) Report for the Coastal Community Development Program has been transmitted to the National Sea Grant Review Panel by the Chairman of the review, Dr. John Woeste.

Once these reports are accepted by the National Sea Grant Review Panel, they will

be forwarded to the National Sea Grant Program Director for action (and at that time, made available for all).

### **Performance Measures**

A few programs were contacted regarding their performance measures for 2007 (submitted in October 2006). Thanks to all of you for your speedy responses.

### **Quarterly Highlights: Sea Grant's 1st Quarter**

Please view them at: <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/aboutsg/sghighlights.html>

## **GRANTS & BUDGET**

### **Continuing Resolution (CR)**

The CR will continue through February 15<sup>th</sup>. As a result, we will provide partial funding for omnibus awards allocated under the CR to the Sea Grant program. Releases of funds have been forwarded to NOAA's Grants Management Division (GMD). New omnibus awards are expected to be forwarded to GMD by the end of this week.

### **Reminder: Grants Online Help Desk**

For assistance with Grants Online, the toll-free number is 1-877-662-2478.

### **Reminder: Pass Through Policy**

NSGO will assess an administrative fee for processing pass through awards through Grants Online: \$2,000.00 or 1 percent—whichever is greater—up to \$10,000.00 per grant.

## **NSIs**

### **Due January 18**

Full proposals for National Strategic Investments are due to the National Sea Grant Office by January 18, 2007 via Grants.gov. (Oyster Disease Research Program, Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry Program, and Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach Program). The peer review panel for each competition will be held in March.

Mail reviews are due February 2, 2007 to the following email address:

[/oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov/](mailto:/oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov/)

### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

The SG Programs reported to the National Office that they received ten full proposals for the 2007 aquatic invasive species NSI. This number is much smaller than in previous AIS competitions, but commensurate with the anticipated AIS budget in 2007. Peer reviews of these proposals by the Programs are ongoing. We're anticipating making two or three awards, to projects that reflect regional aquatic invasive species priorities as determined

by the regional panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

### **Ballast Water**

The submission deadline for treatment technology full proposals to the Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program has arrived. We are sorting through the submissions to remove the duplicates and non-responsive applications, and expect to have received about 25 ballast water treatment technology proposals.

### **SBIR due January 17, 2007**

The Department of Commerce (DOC) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invites small businesses to submit research proposals. Objectives of the program include stimulating technological innovation in the private sector and strengthening the role of small business in meeting Federal research and development (R&D) needs. This program also seeks to increase the commercial application of innovations derived from Federal research and to foster and encourage participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and woman-owned small businesses. To learn more, visit: <http://www.ago.noaa.gov/ad/solindex.shtml> (scroll down to SBIR).

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

### **OAR-NMFS Research Retreat**

A joint research retreat for NOAA (NMFS and OAR) leadership will be held January 23-24. The purpose is to explore common areas of interest and potential partnerships across the line offices.

### **Regional planning workshop**

We are in the process of planning a regional workshop that will bring in PIs from seven regions (those who submitted regional proposals) to coordinate with each other in the development of regional proposals; to meet with NSGO PO representatives for each region; and, to meet with other NOAA staff members working on regional initiatives. Details will follow.

### **Integration of NOAA's Coastal Programs**

Discussions are underway to integrate NOAA's coastal programs. The NOS Office of Coastal and Resource Management (OCRM) is working on a strategic plan and hopes to work together with Sea Grant to identify goals and priorities. They will soon solicit comments on a draft document. Stay tuned.

## **RESEARCH**

See NSI's, above.

## **OUTREACH**

### **NOAA Science Advisory Board**

This month, Jim Murray provided an overview of Sea Grant extension, education and communications to a working group on Extension, Outreach and Education organized under the auspices of the NOAA Science Advisory Board. The purpose of this working group is to support the SAB in providing advice to NOAA to strengthen, coordinate, organize and improve its extension, outreach, and education activities to fully engage its constituents. The working group is co-chaired by Frank Kudrna of the NSGRP and includes three other Panel members (John Byrne, Jerry Schubel and Jeff Stephan) and Ohio Sea Grant Director Jeff Reutter.

### **Extension**

See Ralph Rayburn announcement in "Breaking News."

### **Communications**

#### **Daniel Perry joins OAR Public Affairs**

We are pleased to announce the addition of Daniel Parry to the NOAA Research Headquarters Public Affairs staff. Dan has served in public affairs in NOAA Fisheries and in NOAA Ocean Service. Dan has been a public affairs specialist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a public relations intern for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. He holds a bachelor's degree from Bowie State University in Bowie, Md., and has completed some graduate coursework in Public Relations Management. To start, Dan will focus on some of the NOAA Research grant-making entities, such as Sea Grant and the joint and cooperative institutes. Dan began on January 8<sup>th</sup> and can be reached at 301-734-1092.

#### **David Bryant becomes Communications Chair**

This month, Kurt Byers (AK SG) completed his tenure as Chair of the Sea Grant Communications network. David Bryant (GA SG) has assumed this position for 2007 and Elizabeth LaPorte will serve as Chair beginning in 2008. We would like to thank Kurt for his service to the Sea Grant network. We are also pleased to welcome David and look forward to working with both he and Elizabeth this year and next. Our thanks to each of you, and welcome!

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Alaska Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, Hawaii Sea Grant, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Ohio Sea Grant, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Puerto Rico Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant, Washington Sea Grant, and Wisconsin Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

### **Education**

See Sharon Walker announcement in "Breaking News."

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

### **Knauss**

The class of 2006 completes its fellowship on January 31. The class of 2007 begins its fellowship February 1.

The application window is now open for the class of 2008. The deadline for programs to submit their applications through Grants.gov is April 5, 2007.

## **CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PATS**

**National Sea Grant Review Panel Meeting**, February 20-22, at the office of the Consortium of Oceanographic Research and Education which is located at 1201 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

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