

N.C. Voices on National Sea Grant Advisory Board

Two North Carolinians — Michael Orbach and Harry Simmons — have joined the National Sea Grant Advisory Board. The 15-member board advises the federal secretary of commerce, the undersecretary for oceans and atmosphere (the NOAA Administrator) and the director of the National Sea Grant College Program on scientific and administrative policy.

Simmons and Orbach will “expand the expertise of the board to help implement goals identified in the new National Sea Grant Strategic Plan,” says James D. Murray, deputy director of the National Sea Grant College Program and former extension director for North Carolina Sea Grant.

Murray notes that Simmons brings perspectives on hazards such as storms and beach erosion, as well as other topics that coastal communities face. Likewise, Orbach brings a keen social science perspective, including experience on a wide range of state and federal coastal policy topics.

Currently director of Duke University’s Coastal Environmental Management Program, Orbach formerly was director of the school’s marine laboratory in Beaufort. His focus is marine affairs and policy, and he previously was on faculty at East Carolina University and on staff at NOAA. His research has addressed coastal and marine policy questions on all coasts of the United States and in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, and he has published widely.

A cultural anthropologist, he has had many state-level appointments over the years, including chair of the N.C. Ocean Affairs Council and vice chair of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. He has served on National Academy of Sciences boards and committees, and was an advisor to national ocean commissions. Orbach is a past president of The



Michael Orbach



Harry Simmons

Coastal Society, and is planning for the opening session on ocean policy at the society’s June 2010 meeting in Wilmington. He is also past chair of the board of directors for the Surfrider Foundation.

Mayor of Caswell Beach since 1999, Simmons was recently named “Elected Official of the Year” by Cape Fear Council of Governments. He currently serves as a coastal cities representative on the N.C. Coastal Resources Advisory Council, as chairman of the Brunswick (County) Beaches Consortium, as executive director of North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association, as president of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, and is treasurer of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association. He also has served in leadership positions for state and national organizations for municipalities.

Simmons previously owned a music management firm, guiding the careers of record producers, songwriters and recording artists at record labels and publishing companies. He is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, which continues to give him a vote for the prestigious Grammy Awards each year.

On the national Sea Grant board, he is the liaison to the communications network.

“I am pleased that Harry and Mike have been recognized for their abilities to guide national Sea Grant programming and direction,” notes North Carolina Sea Grant Executive Director Michael Voiland. “At the same time, they are both well grounded in the realities of coastal issues at the state and local level.”

— Katie Mosher, Managing Editor

I N T H I S I S S U E

Contributing Writers:

Kathleen Angione □ Terri Kirby Hathaway □ Benjamin Young Landis
Zachary Moser-Katz □ Katie Mosher □ Lisa Schiavinato
Alison Weaver □ Susan West □ Robin Wienke

Contributing Photographers:

Marybeth Brey □ Kevin Craig □ Joe Dalrymple
Niaz Dory □ Clare Fieseler □ Lindsay Glass □ Byron Holland
Laura Kramar □ Benjamin Young Landis □ Fred Norris
George Pruitt □ Gloria Putnam □ Jim Rice □ Klaus Ritter
Spencer Rogers □ Ryan Spidel □ Joshua Stoll □ Scott Taylor

North Carolina’s diverse coast offers countless interesting subjects.

The map indicates story settings in this issue — including Currituck and Carteret counties, the Neuse River and Durham.

