



FALL 2008  
National Sea  
Grant Advisory  
Board Meeting  
Baton Rouge,  
Louisiana

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**Fall 2008 National Sea Grant Advisory Board Meeting  
Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**Monday, Nov. 10**

Arrive in Baton Rouge

6PM, evening reception, Jim Murray's suite, Room # TBA

**Tuesday, Nov. 11, Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center**

8:30 – Welcome, review agenda, minutes, etc.

8:45 – Chair's report, R. West

9:15 – NSGO Director's report, L. Cammen

10:15 – Break

10:30 – SGA report, P. Anderson

11:00 – Report of the Research Review Committee, R. Duce

12:30 – Buffet Lunch, table held in the hotel's Kingfish restaurant

1:30 – Stakeholder's session - Kai D. Midboe, Milling Benson Woodward, L.L.P., Mr. Doug Drennan, Aquaculture Systems Tech, Timothy R. Osborn, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, all members of the LA SG advisory committee)

3:00 – Break

3:15 – NOAA's GOM regional efforts and role including follow-up to SAB Extension, Outreach and Education report – M. Croom, NOAA Regional Team

4:00 – Coastal Issues in Louisiana, G. Graves, C. Wilson and N. Rabalais

5:00 – Adjourn

5:30 – Reception & cash bar, Camelot Club

6:30 – Dinner, Camelot Club

**Wednesday, November 12, tour of coastal issues** (Bus transportation provided)

7:00 – Breakfast – on your own before leaving

8:00 – Leave Baton Rouge – LA Sea Grant en route commentary (Wilson/Liffmann)

9:30 – Katrina Impacts – Overview, Mark Schexnayder, LA SG  
Fisheries Infrastructure – Rex Caffey

10:30 – Tour of New Orleans City Park – Shirley Laska, University of New Orleans

12:00 – Lunch (Bucktown), Fishing community re-building with Sea Grant help, S. Laska

1:00 – Depart Bucktown

1:30 – St. Bernard Parish, assistance to Vietnamese fishing cooperative and local seafood processors, Rusty Gaude, LA SG

2:30 – Depart for Ycloskey, Marsh subsidence and Mississippi River Gulf outlet issues

3:30 – Depart for Baton Rouge

5:30 – Arrive Baton Rouge, dinner on your own

**Thursday, November 13**

7:45 – Van to LSU campus to view Ocean Commotion, an event organized by LA SG involving more than 3,000 students and teachers

9:00 - Follow-up on stakeholder's session and coastal tour, next steps?

9:15 - Discussion of the Board work plan for 2009, including organizing for the Board's role in PIE, TBA

10:00 – Break

10:15 – Administrative session (closed to public)

1) Procedures Manual Revision:

- a. Minimum participation to remain a member of the Board
- b. Limitations on Board member participation with individual Sea Grant programs
- c. Board assignments/diversity issues
- d. Nominations process/recruiting

2) Mission of an Advisory Board

1:00 Adjourn – Box lunch provided

## Sea Grant Review Panel Meeting

March 5, 2008

### CALL TO ORDER

- Add election of officers to the call to order
- Welcome to and swearing in of Terry Gardiner.

**Motion: Move that panel elect West Chair and Woeste vice chair until next regular election in 2009 (Stephen). Second: Heath. Accepted.**

- Panel thanks N. Robinson for his service to the panel.

### NSGO Director's Update – Leon Cammen

#### NIMS:

- SG looking for better ways to communicate within the network and to build a national picture of what the program does as a whole.
- NIMS will be used for reporting impacts, activities, etc. and data mining.
- The system is up and suggestions from the network are being looked into.
- Expect that programs will use NIMS for annual reporting this fall. Roughly half of the programs are using NIMS now.
- NIMS focuses more on accomplishments and impacts—past databases have focused mainly on budget tracking.
- Reports through NIMS will be the basis for the State of the Sea Grant.

#### *Discussion on NIMS:*

- Focus teams will be responsible for using NIMS info to paint a bigger picture for external use.
- Metrics are useful but impacts need to be upfront in any external document.

#### Coastal Integration Exercise:

- Huge opportunity for SG and for all NOAA coastal programs. SG is right in the middle of this process and we need to stay involved.
- Working relationships exist at the state level but are lacking at the national level.

#### Regionalization:

- Based on notion that NOAA wasn't connecting well with stakeholders (or internally)
- Everyone in NOAA should know about what other NOAA offices are doing in that region.
- SG should be highly involved and help other offices know how to use/involve SG.
- Regional research plans: 3 regions will start in a few months—proposals are being reviewed now.
- Reauthorization language emphasizes SG's responsibility to work regionally.
- PPI, Paul Doremus has the lead for this in NOAA.

### Reauthorization:

- In the final steps of the NOAA clearance process. From NOAA it goes to DoC and then to OMB (interagency review).
- Legislative side is going much more quickly. It then goes to the Science Committee in the House and Commerce in the Senate.
- No major issues have been identified within the administration.

### *Discussion on Reauthorization:*

- If there's a request for information, the panel should have enough information to respond.
- Suggestion of informational visits the hill and a report back to the Director.

### Staffing:

- NSGO staff size is decreasing.
- NSGO losing two IPAs in August—additional IPAs in the future will be dependent on funding availability.
- New hires: Extension Leader, Program Officer (social sciences, CCD) paid for out of SG appropriations. Aquaculture Manager will be funded out of NMAI funding.

### 2008 Budget:

- Core funding back to 2005 level (not in real dollars).
- From now on, funds that are de-obligated are not available.
- Everything else down 30%. A larger budget is necessary to build these areas back up.
- Regional planning was added to budget.

### Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation (PIE):

- NRC recommended improving national strategic planning and better integrating planning with evaluation process.
- RIT and COPE were still missing integrating planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- PIE requires programs to change but it's designed to facilitate collaboration. When complete, programs/projects will be on the same cycles.
- Implementation planning is the next step. More detailed performance measures, metrics, timeline, etc. This will be the first thing focus teams take on. We've never asked teams to track metrics (through NIMS).
- NSGO would like the panel to focus mainly on the national picture. Panel would be involved in evaluations, site visits, PRP (once every four years). This will help panel stay up to date on what programs are doing and give it a national perspective.
- PIE is ready to go into the NOAA approval system.

### *Discussion on PIE:*

- Suggestion that panel endorse PIE document but discuss importance of additional funding and expertise for NSGO for such changes with NOAA leadership.

**Motion: The panel endorses the integrated PIE principals in the PIE document (Bell). Second: Weis. Motion passes**

Knauss Fellows Update – Miguel Lugo

- Working on increasing fellows' knowledge of SG. SG 101 will be held later this month as a way to connect fellows to the network.

*Discussion on Knauss Fellowship:*

- Suggestion that fellows spend time in their host SG programs.
- NSGO is also looking into building a support network for fellows (particularly legislative) who might have questions and need local answers.

Panel's Annual Work Plan – R. Duce, R. Heath, and B. Stubblefield

- Survey responses to the panel's role in the new assessment process and ways to enhance future funding were rated priority A or B. Secondary actions were operational, evaluation of new SG programs and more strategic issues (aside from funding issue). Panel should review document and prioritize involvement.

*Discussion on Annual Work Plan:*

- Suggestion to pick one strategic issue in addition to the top two. First two are in same category. Perhaps select some out of the strategic category and some out of the operational category.
- Examination of declining research is probably a strategic priority (what should the SG do about it? What has the impact been? Should SG focus research on smaller areas, partner with others, only focus on outreach, etc?)
- Panel should put together a committee to look into declining research.
- Another timely, strategic issue is the role of SG in climate service. NOAA is developing a climate service. Panel could demonstrate what SG already does with climate, our expertise and linkages to universities who are already doing a lot of climate work.
- NSGO isn't looking to expand SG's mission, just highlight the work we're already doing. This needs to be done sooner than later. The most helpful thing the panel could do in regards to climate would be to outline the capabilities of SG that would be useful to climate service and what SG could do if it had the resources.
- Given time constraints, NSGO might want to provide information on what SG can do in terms of climate for the panel to package.
- Suggestion to appoint two panel members to create task force with SG directors to help Leon figure out how to demonstrate SG's role in climate services.
- Panel could utilize Jack Thigpen's climate retreat meeting as a resource. Conference call Friday 3pm EST to determine when/where they're having a meeting. Jim Hurley will send info on climate conference call to entire panel.
- Two assignments from the Chair: 1). What has SG's role been in climate change (near term); and 2) where could/should SG go from here?

- Request to establish a research committee as well and include SGA and outside experts. Could take 6 months or more.
- West and Woeste will take on the first two priorities with Leon (determining the future of regional collaboration and revising the SG charter and procedures manual). The other two (research and climate) should be handled by these committees.
- The climate change group should include people from inside beltway to help support SG's position, not just experts.
- Social science isn't as large a priority, but should be kept in the foreground. The panel could look into what kinds of social science SG should focus on, what is missing, and what mechanisms (matching incentives, NSIs, etc) should be used to encourage social science.
- Alden will write up a request/idea for the committee's charge.
- Duce will lead Research committee and define the scope of the committee. Alden will draft charge of the climate committee. Chair and vice chair will work with Leon on PIE.

#### NOAA Legislative Outlook – E. Webster (sent alternate)

- This is a historic budget request in that it's higher than what Congress did last year (\$3.9M last year and current request is \$4.1M). Part of this, however, goes to pay increases, inflation, building repairs, etc. Also increases for satellite sensors/development, Ocean Action Plan, Priority Plan, and Magnuson-Stevens.
- We expect congress to go into long-term CR.
- Aquaculture Act another priority—has come to a stand still.
- Bills that might move this year: Coral Reef Reauthorization, Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, SG reauthorization, CZM Act, smaller Climate Change bills (climate change science program which allows NOAA to start a national climate service; ocean acidification program, climate change adaptation programs, etc. all of which are NOAA related) (cap and trade systems and other big bills probably won't move this year though)—Congress wants to pass something on climate change this year.
- A plan on a national climate change service will probably come out soon.
- The Vice Admiral has supported expanding to a more comprehensive climate service and mentioned it at a hearing. Congressional staff put that in the bill on the senate side.
- Coral Reef reauthorization bill: Gives more authority to do restoration after ship strikes on reefs.
- SG reauthorization is on track to clear this year. It's a non-controversial bill.
- Nothing on Chesapeake Bay right now. Congressman Gilchrest won't be returning.

#### Outlook for Sea Grant Re-authorization – J. Hathaway, House Resources Staff

- Hopes to produce a bill that Panel will support and encourages panel input.
- Not sure how the cap will be evaluated. It's subject to further discussion.
- A draft should come out to the panel and NSGO soon.

- Input and testimony at a hearing is the start of what is needed from the panel. A characterization of some of the issues the panel would like us to focus on would be appreciated.
- This last year the Science committee was excited about energy, climate change, satellite oversight—the dry side of NOAA rather than the wet side.
- Professional staff contacts on the science committee: Jean Fruchie, staff director at science committee or Shameer Williams.

Other Business – Miguel Lugo

- Volunteers from panel are needed to review 2009 Knauss applications for final selection in April and 2-3 days (in person) the first week of May.
- West and Gardiner volunteer to serve on the selection committee.

**Motion to adjourn.**

**SG Panel Meeting**  
**March 6, 2008**

Overview of March 5:

- Hearing might occur April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the panel will be invited. John Woeste recommended to testify on behalf of the panel.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant Institutional Program Review – R. West

- PA was an extension program, then a coherent area program, and is now applying for institutional status.
- Site visit scheduled for March 31-April 2 and recommendation will be available soon after.

FEE Review – J. Woeste

- Committee members (Woeste, Jeff, Smitten) meeting April 21-23 in D.C.
- Coordinators within network have been preparing a briefing book for the review.

*Discussion on FEE Review:*

- Funding depends on NMFS support—we don't have any solid commitments yet.
- Report didn't ask programs for NMFS-specific partnerships/info—when reviewing you might want to try to highlight that.
- Suggestion that individual programs get local agencies to testify as to the benefits of FEE.
- FEE was NSI money not core. To continue FEE, SG won't have some other NSI.
- NSI is research. Giving NSI money to FEE adds to declining research.

NSGO Administrative Review – R. Heath

- Panel decided in the fall that they wanted an update of the Duce Report as to the appropriate level of support for the NSGO.
- West, Stubblefield, Stickney, Heath are on the committee—charged to determine NSGO needs, comparable programs, staffing history/budget, cap discussion, fees, etc.
- There are three areas that the NSGO focuses on:
  - National leadership/development: partnerships, new programs, etc to bring in new money.
  - Network leadership: looking at network research, extension, etc. and assessment.
  - Capacity building?
- Administrative review will be complete in about a month.

*Discussion of NSGO Review:*

- Decreasing funding is hindering the NSGO's ability to provide national leadership.
- Other programs operating on a 5 percent national office funding level are just passing the money through, not trying to lead a national program. They also aren't expanding.

- NOAA's 2011 budget is in the works—they're trying to cover the erosion of the base. Productivity is about the same, but there's substantial staff burnout. The budget office doesn't necessarily see this.
- The opportunity cost of not have a development effort deserves attention. The panel might want to look into what would be different if the cap were higher.

*Discussion of NSGO cap:*

- There might be other ways to get around the cap. Program roles might not need to come out of the cap. Perhaps such roles could be regionally based?
- NSF contracts out to keep costs down.
- Farming out leadership could be difficult. A central figure is necessary and that role is performed by the NSGO.

The New Sea Grant Strategic Plan – J. Byrne

- Gathered existing information, convened stakeholder meeting, SG week sessions. Draft received significant comments. The plan is now with the NSGO and has to go up through NOAA.
- Comments on first draft:
  - Not enough education or research, intro was too dire, etc.
- The revised report: Started with SG vision/mission, SG values, partnerships, integrated activities, unbiased, science-based organization, within NOAA it is one of few involved with users.
- Three cross-cutting goals and four focus areas.
- (Our goals are discrete objectives/nouns where strategies are actions/verbs): Goals include:
  - Research (research)
  - Informed public (education)
  - Decision-making processes that are inclusive (engagement)
- Plan sets direction and priorities. SGA doesn't have to line up perfectly with goals, just align in a significant way.

Discussion on Strategic Plan:

- SP and PIE will go up the NOAA chain together. PIE goes as a report to congress so it will have to be cleared by NOAA. NSGO will brief the Admiral. As for the SP, it gets endorsed/approved by NOAA line offices and eventually the goes to the Admiral. SP will be guidance for the next 5 years, and the framework for the focus teams' boundaries/priorities, plan for NSIs, etc. We already utilizing this document.
- SP could serve as a public relations tool.

The Role of Focus Teams – J. Murray

- Focus teams will develop detailed implementation plans, then programs will either align current SPs or create a new one by September 2008.
- Immediate task—developing the implementation plan (need to get national implementation plan to network by late June) for alignment in September (which will enable them to begin RFPs in November).

- Theme teams varied in roles and responsibilities. No real assigned tasks, uneven leadership, etc. Focus teams should be different.
- Overarching role: To help programs implement the SP. Focus teams will:
  - Include 7-10 members/team; chaired by someone in the NSGO. SGA will appoint Vice Chairs. Experts from outside the network will also be on the teams. This is 4-year commitment and will be functional and geographically balanced.
  - Create partnerships
  - Develop new initiatives
  - Facilitate planning and implementation
  - Synthesize and report on SG activities on an annual basis
  - Further solidify SG's identity, catalyze cooperative efforts among SG programs, NSGO, NOAA, and others.
- Chairs and vice chairs have been selected.
- Schedule:
  - March 10: Nominations are due.
  - March 17: Focus team chair and vice chair submit roster to NSGO
  - March 21: Invitations sent to focus team nominees
  - Week of June 9: Four focus teams meet to develop a national implementation plan.
- NSGO needs help from the panel to look at 31 alignment memos. Panel can endorse memos or ask director to amend it if it's not ambitious enough.
- Panel should think about which panel members should serve on the focus teams.

Discussion of Focus Teams:

- Concern that experts won't be experts in designing implementation plans.
- The NSGO and CSC will provide guidance throughout the process.
- Panel member assignments:
  - Healthy Coastal Ecosystems: J. Weis
  - Hazard Resiliency: J. Byrne
  - Sustainable Coastal Development: R. Heath
  - Safe and Sustainable Seafood: J. Stephan
    - (Possibly Nancy for Hazard Resiliency or SCD)

NOAA Coastal Integration Effort – S. Levenbach (OMB) and D. Kennedy

D. Kennedy:

- Pass back language has been incorporated into broader language throughout NOAA.
- OMB asked OCRM, CSC, NCCOS, and SG for a plan on how to better integrate and communicate. Tasked to identify a few priorities, budgets, investments, and how they line up across agencies.
- Submitted response in fall 2007 but OMB said it wasn't enough and requested a strategic plan for coasts. Offices also asked to identify redundancies and expand the coastal programs. New plan due by September of 2008.
- OMB wants to see roles and contributions of each program, metrics, and how to implement coordination, structure issues, redundancies, etc.

- Coastal Enterprise: NOAA selected coasts as a theme for a new administration. Builds on CZMA visioning. More challenges than strengths. Increasing pace/scale of impacts on coastal communities, lack of integrated coastal mission and mandates, increasing demand for services and products, limited capacity of coastal decision-makers to understand and use NOAA products. Also, limited long-term monitoring data, OMB/congressional lack of understanding as to NOAA's role, and a lack of high level performance measures.
- Next steps: NOAA HQ has appointed NOS to lead effort. Also trying to implement key strategies as part of fall 2007 response.
- To think about: How does the panel see SG contributing to NOAA's Coastal Enterprise activities?

#### S. Levenbach:

- OMB's goal is to improve performance and efficiency.
- For example, many of the coastal programs work in HABS—they could work together, focus on different aspects of extramural grants.
- Focusing on SG's strengths will help this process and make sure the coastal plan plays to those strengths.
- OMB's goal is to encourage offices to have a unified vision, and then go out and partner with other agencies.

#### *Discussion on Integration:*

- Panel requests copy of the fall 2007 integration response.
- "Coastal programs" include brown and blue water, but also coastal zoning issues.
- Main concern of OMB is both overlap and programming gaps. Originally the redundancy was the main concern, but in defining responsibilities, gaps will become more obvious.
- Enterprise team is looking for input, including the panel's view of SG's specific role, how you differentiate, etc.
- Emily's request is available on the OCRM website.
- SG's strengths are the network and brand recognition (Levenbach).
- There is some momentum around the idea that coastal issues are important in NOAA. This is an opportunity for everyone. Constituents need to help promote the idea that coastal issues are important to NOAA. Not just get more money, but help build momentum through support.
- D. Kennedy will get back to the panel with a timeline for when the team would like input on how SG fits into this effort.

#### SGA Update – P. Anderson

- Signatures from SG beneficiaries—strong testimony and letters to the hill.
- Pushing House and Senate to add SG to priority programmatic request list.
- Reauthorization: SGA working with panel and Joel Widder. SGA went to talk to authorizing committee in December. There's a lot of consensus on what needs to be included in the bill.

- SGA is preparing for focus teams and reviewing theme teams. SGA would like to see regional representation, expertise, mix of extension and research on the teams.
- Network Advisory Council (put together by John Kramer). Working to include all parts of the network. Council meets periodically to bring up issues of concern and do work for the SGA by supporting:
  - Research directors working with NSGO on NIMS.
  - Fiscal officers doing fact finding on match and leveraging to demonstrate value added.
- Next SGA meeting will be in New Orleans in the fall (overlaps with the panel meeting). Looking at November 18-21<sup>st</sup> right now.
- Areas the panel can help the SGA:
  - Working NOAA leadership
  - Participate in focus teams
  - Develop the State of the SG Report
  - Report on the issue of redundancy and coastal programs—the panel has a legitimate voice in crafting SG’s story. Other groups don’t have a FACA committee.
  - Building on NSGO national development.

*Discussion on SGA update:*

- R. Duce will follow up with P. Anderson regarding panel priorities.

Transition Planning and NOAA’s Regional Efforts – P. Doremus

- Responding to array of external drivers to help us adapt/react regionally.
- Service delivery is a key focus as is the ability to utilize and build existing partnerships.
- Not trying to transform current line office structure but rather to focus on a regionally-distinct mix of goals.
- Regional priorities:
  - Hazard resiliency
  - Integrated ecosystem assessments
  - Integrated water resource services, and
  - Regionally-distinct priorities and capabilities
- Strategic topics:
  - Consistency with NOAA strategy
  - Clear and persuasive societal demand
  - Clarifying NOAA’s role
- Possible themes (developing strategy papers on each of themes):
 

○ Climate	○ Transportation
○ Coasts	○ Ocean systems and marine life
○ Water quality	○ People and infrastructure
○ High impact weather	
- SG’s contribution on the coastal side and help with what a coastal strategy paper might look like would be valuable. SG should articulate societal needs and how it contributes to understanding provides linkages to end-users.

*Discussion of Regional Efforts:*

- Outreach is SG's strength even on climate and it needs to be realized as such within NOAA.
- NSGO has been involved in the discussions of a climate service. NOAA regional teams are still in the initial stages.

NOAA Engagement Report – J. Stephan and J. Byrne

- Extension Outreach and Education Working Group:
  - Charged to enhance extension, outreach and education activities
  - Funding was discussed: how to make NOAA seem more important to congress/public?
  - 8 findings and 34 recommendations.
- America Competes Act: Charges NOAA administrator to develop formal and informal education at all levels to educate public as to its science and what it does (with no additional resources provided).
- 3-year pilot project to coordinate NOAA-wide education/outreach project: Gulf region selected as the pilot. \$1.5m for 3-year project that places SG extension agents in NOAA line offices (including the weather service). This is a way of changing the culture whereby NOAA thinks extension is the go-to agency for engagement.
- Report goes to SAB next week.

Discussion of NOAA Engagement Report:

- Of the 34 recommendations, there is one (1.4) specific to SG, which states that SG should include a climate component.
- NOAA has an education council and there was a recommendation that the focus on engagement (10% of NOAA's budget should go to engagement). If this is implemented, it changes the nature of NOAA and moves it toward service and away from just data/fact finding. Need to watch to make sure SG's extension service isn't absorbed into NOAA.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

- No report

Nominations:

- Reported yesterday

Re-authorization

- Not yet come to a consensus on the cap.
- Contact committees about re-authorization.

Public Comments:

- None

Other Business

- Finalize dates of next panel meeting – semi-joint meeting in New Orleans with SGA suggest November 12-14.

**Motion: Hold November 12-14 meeting in New Orleans to coincide with the SGA meeting (Bell). Accepted**

- Interested in a tour by LASG.

**Motion: Spring meeting to occur February 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to coincide with the SGA meeting Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception for the Knauss Fellowship. Accepted.**

- R. West and J. Murray will meet with OMB.
- Suggestion to send out a one-page talking paper to S. Levenbacher as to why SG is important. Panel members will send out an email to J. Murray on this.

Procedures Manual:

- All suggestions were the same. There are four members of the exec. committee (chair, vice chair, and two past chairs)—suggestions were that there would be instead one panel member at large rather than a past chair on the committee.

**Motion: The panel endorses the DRAFT procedures manual as presented by the panel procedures manual committee (Bell & Stephan) on a “provisional” basis until the November 2008, panel meeting. The panel procedures manual committee will incorporate relevant elements of the planning, implementations and evaluation system, and other proposed revisions that might appear to be relevant into a DRAFT procedures manual that will be presented to the panel for final approval at the November 2008 panel meeting. Second: Duce Unanimous approval.**

Climate Committee:

- R. Alden drafted language. Chair will appoint a task force
- J. Hurley will take the lead on the climate issue and involve the panel as needed. He will also contact panel after his climate retreat call tomorrow for an update.

New FACA Stationary:

- Panel would like electronic version.

Charter:

- One change by lawyers was to item 7 to say NOAA may establish sub-committees not the panel.

Research Committee:

- Chaired by R. Duce.
- B. Stubblefield, J. Weis, and R. Alden (and possibly N. Rabalais) will assist.
- Committee would like at least one SG director. Possibly Kramer, Grau, or and Andren?
- Once terms of membership are settled, R. Duce can start work upon return in June. Meeting in July or August?

**Adjourn public session.**

# National Sea Grant Review Panel

*Meeting April 29, 2008*

Ms. Robin Alden

Dr. Peter Bell

Dr. John Byrne

Dr. Robert Duce

Dr. Ross Heath

Mr. Jeffrey Stephan

Dr. William Stubblefield

Dr. Judith Weis

Dr. Frank Kudrna

Dr. John Woeste

Rear Admiral Richard West

Dr. Leon Cammen

Dr. Jim Murray

## **MOTION: Approval of minutes (Judy and Robin seconded)**

Correction: Leon and the staff will give Duce an idea of what was needed as far as the scope of the research committee. Jim Murray has already drafted for Leon a charge letter regarding this committee and we expect to distribute it shortly.

## Administrative Review Report – R. Heath

- Concern was expressed over the administrative cap and the need for and underlying rationale for budget and staffing levels. The committee also believed that a definition of the functions of the NSGO was necessary.
- Four things were described that needed to be done (listed in the report). The report is a strategic level view. Next step is to demonstrate what would happen if the cap was removed and articulate which of the priorities will have to be placed on the back burner.
- If the cap is removed, the NSGO should develop an implementation plan and success measures for what will be done with the increased funds.
- Suggestion that the information in the attachments (excel file) be summarized in the report itself. Might also mention exactly how much staff and skill level has been lost over the years to remain within budget. Also, the report should highlight the fact that a certain level of skill is needed to fulfill the NRC recommendations.
- Heath will do the wordsmithing (and correct third bullet on page 2) and bring it back to the panel. Concern was expressed about putting too many figures into the report and becoming too quantitative.
- Once report is complete, Murray will provide a copy to Paul Doremus.
- Aspects of the report have already been incorporated in responses to congressional questions and in talks with OMB.
- **MOTION: Approve report with subsequent revisions by R. Heath. Accepted.**

## Pennsylvania Sea Grant - R. West

- Site committee recommended to the NSGO that PA SG be approved for institutional status.
- Change shouldn't have much impact on the budget over the next year because some money has already been allocated and will be available for them over the next 12 months.

- As soon as approved by the Director, the NSGO will provide a bump in PA SG's funding.
- **MOTION: Approve committee's recommendations (Woeste) Second (Byrne) Accepted.**

Response to House Committee Questions:

- J. Woeste did a great job with his testimony. The Panel appreciates his work.
- Panel testimony: Tried to keep things direct and not get into too much detail. Suggestions on how to shorten future response would be appreciated.
- The House Natural Resources Committee was complementary of the SG program. Chair was very interested in the program and seemed supportive of quick reauthorization. Hoping the House Science Committee would move the bill this year. There were some questions about Sea Grant's international presence and a possible 2-year Knauss fellowship.
- Not a lot of discussion about the reauthorization level. There's a full mark-up tomorrow (4/30) by House Resources Committee. Not sure if something will change there or not. May 21<sup>st</sup>, we were asked to provide more stakeholder names. Senate might want to do the hearing differently than the house did.
- Comment about written responses:
  - Top of page 5 (Question 7) and last page regarding why the panel recommends increasing authorized amount: Panel should add the opportunity costs of not acting given the challenges facing U.S. coasts. Show what SG could do with more money. We need to highlight that we want to do more than get funding back to its previous level.
- Panel might not want to make detailed budget advice.
- Highlight that increased authorization/funding is necessary to address the Ocean Committee's/NRC's recommendations.
- P. Bell will send grammatical changes to Murray and Woeste.
- The bill did make some mention of regional work, but not about any regional efforts that don't require match. Not sure why they didn't include this.
- Woeste will have to go back to written submission to see if testimony addressed the non-match issue. It wasn't part of the oral testimony. If it wasn't addressed in the testimony, we shouldn't address it here.
- Request that NSGO share congressional Q&As and Dr. Spinrad's answers with the panel.
- Suggestion that the panel consider taking submitted comments to the Senate Committee with modifications and adding the no-match regional component. The panel, however, didn't have a specific recommendation. It was left as a non-issue. Cammen asked to take this on and provide panel with an outline of the issue and give talking point to West. West will talk to Julian about how to move this along. Panel needs to explain why requiring match would be a problem. The panel should also follow up with the House Resources Committee and Paul Doremus on this point. West will work with Murray and Cammen on this next week.

**MOTION: Approve question responses with incorporation of modifications discussed here (Stephan). Second (Byrne). Accepted.**

Public Comments:

- None.

*Closed session begins*

Overview of New Orleans meeting: - Murray

- Nov. 12-14 was originally set for fall meeting. In March panel decided to keep these dates but meet in New Orleans and add a field trip.
- SGA has moved meeting to 13-14<sup>th</sup> because the entire city is booked for another convention.
- Due to reduced availability, the best the panel might have to move meeting to Baton Rouge.
- Possible options:
  - Move panel meeting back a day, arrive on the 10<sup>th</sup>, full session on 11<sup>th</sup>, field trip on 12<sup>th</sup> and conclude on 13<sup>th</sup> mid-day. Some could then attend the SGA meeting.
  - Get rooms for Nov. 12-15. Arrive on 12<sup>th</sup> and have meetings coincide with SGA meeting.
  - Nov. 10-13 in Baton Rouge and some could go to New Orleans for SGA meeting.
  - Have panel meeting after SGA, arrive Nov. 16, meet 17, 18 field trip, 19 finish mid-day.
- It would be ideal to meet before the SGA and report out.
- Murray will find out availability in Baton Rouge. Might want to ask Nancy Rabalais about where to stay
- **Panel decides to arrive Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, meeting November 11-13 (with field trip on the 12).**
- Backup plan: Move meeting to New Orleans to coincide with SGA meeting.
- Three options for field trips:
  - New Orleans east to Empire and Venice. Look at disaster and recovery work and SG's planning activities.
  - Southwest to Huma. Same hurricane issues, longer drive, could see Nancy's lab. There's a little less to see there.
  - Fort Fushon and energy industry, fisheries disaster, SG's response. This needs to be worked out with LASG.

Fall Meeting:

- Panel should look at Knauss 2-year option and international aspect.

Other Business:

- Panel needs one new member to serve on NSGO's evaluation criteria working group. Peter Bell is already on the committee.

- Murray and West will approach new members who might participate. Schmitten has already been approached by Murray.
- Panel should support national academy review of education program. Sharon Walker is taking lead. Doremus should also be engaged. Request that the NSGO keep the panel informed.

#### Monthly update – West

- First monthly email newsletter (with activities, due dates, etc.) will be out by May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- It would be helpful if committee reps (FEE, SAB, etc) would provide an update for this monthly email.

#### Panel recruiting – West

- Recruiting needs to be stepped up. The panel needs to take a more active role in this.

#### Follow up with Stewart Levenbach on Coastal integration issue:

- West is going to reschedule with Levenbach. We're well prepared for the meeting and will report back to the panel.
- Next step is to look at overlap, redundancies, niches. Some people think specialization is necessary and SG is an end to end program.

#### Climate Service:

- Probably best to wait on this for the next administration. West will get a feel from Mary Glackin about where this is going.

#### Ocean Bill:

- Law Center did a review of the Oceans Bill. Murray will forward this review along to the panel.

#### Cammen's update:

- We're still working on getting legislation approved. Panel will see a copy when it's done.

#### FEE report:

- Hope to get panel's report to Cammen by the later part of June.
- Programs need answer by July 1, 2008. We will probably need to set up a conference call for the panel to approve the report.
- Woeste will find a date for this conference call.

#### Focus Teams:

- Focus team meeting is in June. Panel members will receive instructions on this process next week.

#### **Adjourn.**

# NSGRP Meeting

Conference Call

July 15, 2008

## Attendees:

Peter Bell  
John Byrne  
Robert Duce  
Nancy Rabalais  
Jeffrey Stephan  
Rolland Schmitten  
Judith Weis  
Bill Stubblefield

Frank Kudrna  
John Woeste  
Richard West  
Jim Murray  
Leon Cammen  
Paul Anderson  
Robin Alden

- **FEE Committee Report – J. Woeste, J. Stephan, R. Schmitten**
  - Tasks Group's report: The FEE committee was impressed by relationships that were developed, the positive impacts achieved, the demonstration of the integrated research/extension model, and the ability of FEE personnel to leverage and work with other NOAA agencies. However, there is no congressional mandate or additional funding and it is unlikely there will be any in the foreseeable future. Because there are many other deserving programs initiatives, the committee concluded it is best to phase-out FEE through an orderly transition. There is a strong possibility that the current 18 FEE FTEs could continue by funding from other sources.
  - Recommendation: To approve the recommendations in the report including phasing-out the FEE program over a two-year period.
    - **Motion to approve report (Byrne).**
    - **Second (Stubblefield).**
    - **Approved unanimously**

## Discussion:

- NMFS was a player in the initiative but there is also potential for additional national/regional collaborative work between NMFS and Sea Grant in fisheries extension in the future.
- What are the merits of competitive vs. non-competitive approaches for future initiatives? Competitive programs that have a "sunset" might not be as sustainable or generate as many partnerships as programs like the non-competitive CCD program.
- Whether future programs are competitive or non-competitive, there needs to be a built-in evaluation and implementation plan at the very beginning of the project as well as a phase-out plan.
- There also needs to be a program review mechanism built into each initiative, even for shorter-term programs to provide feedback.
- There needs to be a strategy developed for how to capitalize on the many FEE achievements and partnerships.

- Now that the report has been approved and is public, the NSGO Director should have a decision on how to proceed with the program by the end of August.

- **Update on the November Panel Meeting in Baton Rouge – J. Murray**

- Hotel will be downtown Baton Rouge.

Members arrive Monday for evening reception. Asked Panel to provide comments on speakers and agenda details ASAP. Tuesday night, there will be a reception at the Camelot club next door. There will also be an LA stakeholder session that day. Wednesday is the field trip, which Mike Liffmann will help organize. Thursday morning there will be a wrap-up and a closed administrative session.

Discussion:

- Other attendees? Regional coordinator, Buck Sutter has accepted an invitation to attend. He will also be invited to attend the field trip. Nancy Rabalais will request a presentation on LA coastal issues by the coastal affairs representative from the LA Governor's Office.
- Nancy Rabalais and Chuck Wilson should coordinate their (with the Governor's Office if needed, regarding the important coastal issues facing LA.
- Suggestion for a report from LaDon Swann or Buck Sutter on LASG's extension/outreach conference (Aug. 12-13).
- Paul Anderson will attempt to be at the meeting all day Tuesday and can put Dick West on SGA meeting schedule that Thursday.
  - It might also be nice to have an update from the Assembly.

- **Update on Sea Grant Re-authorization**

- House version. Approved July 14. Senate still needs to take it up. House and Senate staffers are getting together today.
- Senate added language eliminating funding for Knauss class trip. Language on cap remains at 5%.

- **Other**

- **Procedures manual:**
  - Procedures manual should address two issues:
    - Definition of minimal active participation.
    - Direct relationship with a single SG program by a Panel member.

Discussion

- In the past, formal Panel participation with a single Sea Grant program was allowed with certain caveats, but the issue deserves another look.
- Bell and Stephan will work on draft guidelines over the next few weeks with feedback from the Panel. The final draft should be available for consideration at the November meeting. Might be better for a small group to handle this and then make suggestions.
- Murray will look into what the Panel had previously decided on this issue.

- **Focus team updates:**
  - Heath and Stephan sent out updates on the focus team meeting, which was a productive and useful exercise. Teams are now working to refine performance measures and strategies.

Discussion:

- Concern over whether Sea Grant can afford focus teams.
- Weis (Healthy Coastal Ecosystems) is taking the lead on having a presence at the International Marine Conservation Congress at George Mason University in spring 2009 to present on Eco-system-Based Management in Sea Grant and at the Coastal and Estuarine Research Foundation in Portland, OR in the fall of 2009. A call has gone out to the network for research and extension projects that might be considered for participation in these conferences. Responses have not been overwhelming.
  - Panel members are asked to present 10 minute update on their focus team at the November meeting as well as periodic updates on progress for the newsletter.
- **Murray and West's visit with Stu Levenbach to CT and RI Sea Grant Programs**
  - OAR will have a different examiner.
  - It is clear that Sea Grant is competing for a very small pool of funds. There is a lot of focus on consolidation of coastal issues within OMB.
  - Good experience for program directors to hear about OMB and the challenges they face.
  - Levenbach encouraged Sea Grant to better articulate how it is crucial to federal government's mission. Panel could provide advice on how to articulate this message.
  - Levenbach also expressed interest in Sea Grant's new implementation plan and performance measures. As soon as these documents are finalized in August, a copy needs to go to OMB.

Discussion:

- Sea Grant should be clear in answering OMB's questions—this exercise should be more than just protecting turf. Kudrna will bring up the issue with the SAB.
- Anderson will ask RI and CT to report back to the board. This issue will be discussed at the retreat (how to craft message for OMB and Congress). The network might also want to focus on how Sea Grant collaborates with other offices rather than overlaps. Anderson will try to gather a few stories that might be of use in D.C.

- **Panel assignments and liaison roles need to be reviewed and determined (perhaps at the next meeting?)**
  - **Motion that Woeste, Byrne, and Rabalais will review NOAA Education Plan and submit review to Panel August 28<sup>th</sup> for approval via email (hopefully by the middle of August) (Woeste).**
  - **Second: Byrne**
- SAB discussed setting up an evaluation of the state of NOAA research. The reviews of the various parts of NOAA have been very diverse. There will probably be some discussion as to uniformity of metrics.
- **Adjourn**

**NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2009–2013: MEETING THE CHALLENGE**

## INTRODUCTION

America's coasts are invaluable economic, cultural and environmental resources that are at risk in this first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Increased rates of climate-related environmental changes have made coastal communities vulnerable in ways never before imagined. Overfishing and habitat degradation have contributed to declines in many U.S. fisheries. Heightened concerns about human health and safety are bringing greater attention to port security, coastal infrastructure deterioration, and seafood safety. As hundreds of thousands more Americans move to the coast every year, it is increasingly important that we find adequate ways to balance human social and economic activities. America must use its coastal land, water, energy, and other natural resources in ways that preserve the health and productivity of coastal ecosystems and optimize benefits to U.S. citizens.

According to the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy report, the U. S. coastal zone contributed \$4.5 trillion to the U. S. economy in 2005. The challenges we face on our coasts have significant implications for the nation as a whole, as well as for the people who live and work in coastal communities. Leaders at all levels—national, state, and local—must work with citizens, private sector businesses, and other organizations to utilize our intelligence, ingenuity, and financial resources to turn a time of potential crisis into a time of opportunity. As individuals and as a nation we must take immediate steps to educate ourselves about the magnitude of the threats we face and respond to these in bold and creative ways.

The world around us is changing. Globalization of technology, people, finance, products, and decision-making means factors beyond our national borders are affecting the vitality of U.S. coastal communities and economies. Businesses are functioning in an increasingly competitive global economy and many policy decisions are taking place at an international level. The need for collaborative problem-solving at the state, regional, national, and international levels has never been greater.

Severe challenges present the greatest opportunities for change, and Sea Grant is prepared to respond. One of the demonstrated strengths of individual Sea Grant programs is the ability to move rapidly to mobilize universities and other partners to address challenges across the country and around the world. Likewise, one of the strengths of the Sea Grant network is the ability, through the organization's coordinated state and regional structures, to implement the national goals of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at local, state, and regional levels.

At this time of great risk and opportunity, the Sea Grant network and its individual programs will address the goals set forth in this plan with innovation and creativity, reflecting the particular needs of their own states and communities, as well as the nation as a whole.

## **SEA GRANT VISION AND MISSION**

*The National Sea Grant College Program envisions a future where people live along our coasts in harmony with the natural resources that attracted and sustain them. This is a vision of coastal America where we use our natural resources in ways that capture the economic and recreational benefits they offer, while preserving their quality and abundance for future generations.*

This vision reinforces the vision articulated in NOAA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan: ". . . an informed society that uses a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts, and atmosphere in the global ecosystem to make the best social and economic decisions."

*Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension and education activities that increase citizens' understanding and responsible use of the nation's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and support the informed personal, policy and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision.*

Sea Grant advances NOAA's mission ". . . to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs."

## **ESSENCE OF SEA GRANT**

Sea Grant was created almost 42 years ago to unite the academic power of the nation's universities with a wide range of public and private sector partners. Through these partnerships, Sea Grant provides integrated research, outreach, and education programs aimed at creating tangible benefits for ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments and communities. Located within NOAA, Sea Grant brings together government, universities, and citizens living and working in America's coastal and Great Lakes states to use their resources to respond to problems and opportunities in these complex and dynamic environments.

Sea Grant is a national network comprised of the National Sea Grant Office, 32 university-based state programs, the National Sea Grant Review Panel, a National Law Center, a National Sea Grant Library, and hundreds of participating institutions. This network enables NOAA and the nation to harness the best science, technology, and human expertise to balance human and environmental needs in coastal communities. Sea Grant's alliance with major research universities provides access to more than 3,000 scientists, outreach specialists, educators, and students. Sea Grant's university-based programs are fundamental to the development of the future scientists and managers needed to conduct research and to guide the responsible use and conservation of our nation's coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. With its strong research capabilities, local knowledge, and on-the-ground workforce, Sea Grant offers NOAA and this country an unmatched ability to identify and capitalize on opportunities, and, to generate practical solutions to real problems in real places.

Sea Grant is required to match every \$2 of federal funding with \$1 of non-federal funds; many state programs far exceed this match. By leveraging additional money, Sea Grant expands the reach and effectiveness of NOAA and other partners in planning for and managing the future of

America's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The match required for federal funding also ensures that this country receives the maximum benefit from each dollar invested in Sea Grant.

## **SEA GRANT CORE VALUES**

A strong set of core values has been the foundation of Sea Grant's work from its inception. Sea Grant was founded on a belief in the critical importance of strong partnerships. The organization's partnerships with leading research universities, with other NOAA programs, and with a wide range of public and private partners at the federal, state, and local levels, have proven to be a highly effective way to solve problems and create opportunities. In addition, Sea Grant's integration of research, extension, and education activities is at the heart of its mission. As a pioneer in what is referred to as "translational research: from discovery to application," Sea Grant ensures that unbiased, science-based information is accessible to all.

The diverse capabilities of Sea Grant's state programs enable the organization to be creative and responsive in generating policy-relevant research and in disseminating scientific and technological discoveries to a wide array of audiences. Because it is science-based, non-regulatory, and has an established presence in local communities, Sea Grant is a trusted broker, working to increase coastal, ocean and Great Lakes literacy among decision-makers and the public as a whole. Sea Grant's commitment to these core values is vital to achieving the goals set forth in this plan.

## **SEA GRANT IN NOAA**

The goals and strategies outlined in this plan incorporate many NOAA priorities: promoting the health of coastal ecosystems; increasing the accessibility and application of quality research to support wise decision-making; increasing the number of fish stocks managed at sustainable levels; and, expanding literacy about coastal ecosystems.

The urgent need for practical solutions to coastal problems requires coordination, cooperation, partnerships, and effective investment. Sea Grant provides NOAA with access to Sea Grant's university-based capabilities in order to achieve shared goals. The National Marine Fisheries Service-Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship, with its programs in population dynamics and marine resource economics, is just one example of the importance and effectiveness of this partnership. Sea Grant also works closely with National Ocean Service coastal programs to set national priorities for coastal management and to ensure closer coordination of coastal activities. Numerous partnerships exist between Sea Grant and the National Weather Service on subjects such as climate change, ocean and coastal observing, and rip currents.

NOAA's Coastal Services Center, the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, and Sea Grant, are working to integrate their efforts more effectively. The purpose of collaborative planning among these programs is to ensure that NOAA's coastal programs are focused on national priorities, and that their work is coordinated, outcome-oriented, and built around each program's strengths. Additional NOAA programs will be brought into this effort to create a more inclusive coastal enterprise. Two of the focus areas of

this plan, sustainable coastal development and hazard resilience in coastal communities, are designed to advance these integration efforts.

## **PLANNING PROCESS AND STRATEGIC APPROACH**

This five-year strategic plan establishes direction for the Sea Grant network to address critical national needs in coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments. The plan capitalizes on Sea Grant's unique capacities and strengths, allows for flexibility and creativity on the part of state Sea Grant programs, and supports many of the priorities in NOAA's strategic plan.

The collective Sea Grant network brought its wealth of experience to the task of creating this plan. The planning process began with a review of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, the NOAA Strategic Plan, the Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy, the NOAA 5-Year Research Plan, Sea Grant state strategic plans, and other recent coastal/ocean plans and reports that set national, state and regional priorities. To elicit input and guidance, a national stakeholder's workshop was convened in Washington, DC in July 2007, with representatives from NOAA programs, other federal agencies, and non-profit organizations that focus on coastal, ocean and Great Lakes issues. In addition, to obtain the benefit of a wide range of stakeholder viewpoints, state Sea Grant programs were asked to share the outcomes of recent stakeholder meetings, surveys, and regional research agendas and initiatives, and to poll their advisory committees. The Sea Grant network convened for Sea Grant Week in San Diego, CA in October 2007 to identify priority goals and strategies for this strategic plan.

Three cross-cutting goals and four specific focus areas emerged from the strategic planning process. These goals and focus areas reflect America's most urgent needs in the coastal, ocean and Great Lakes arenas, NOAA priorities, and Sea Grant's strengths and core values. This strategic plan provides a national guide for the work of the state Sea Grant programs. The state programs will also develop their own strategic plans that contribute to the realization of national goals, while reflecting the specific needs and priorities of their states and regions. In addition, all parts of the Sea Grant network will work together to create a national implementation plan to accompany this document, establishing measurable objectives that will be used to evaluate progress in achieving the national strategic goals.

## CROSS-CUTTING GOALS

Managing coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources in ways that balance human needs with environmental health requires progress in three fundamental areas:

- We need better information about how coastal, ocean and Great Lakes ecosystems function and how human activities affect coastal, ocean and Great Lakes habitats and living resources;
- We need citizens who understand the complexities of coastal environments and the interactions between human use and the health of coastal ecosystems;
- We need management and decision-making processes that are based on sound information, involve everyone who benefits from the beauty and bounty of America's coastal resources, and include mechanisms to evaluate trade-offs between human and environmental needs.

To facilitate progress in these areas and to help the nation understand, manage, and use its coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources wisely, Sea Grant has identified three cross-cutting goals central to all that Sea Grant does. The three goals reflect the value of Sea Grant's integrated approach to research, extension, and education. They provide the foundation of Sea Grant's work and are integral to the success of this five-year plan.

**Goal: Sound scientific information to advance understanding of the nature and value of our coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources; to identify new ways to conserve and use these resources; and to support evaluation of the environmental impacts and socio-economic trade-offs involved in coastal decision-making.**

Short-term economics often influence coastal decision-makers to make their decisions without understanding the long-term social, environmental, and economic consequences of their decisions. Ecosystem functioning and values, emerging economic opportunities, and the social and economic costs and benefits of various human activities need to be translated into factors understood by the general public in order for sustainable uses of coastal environments to become a reality. Sea Grant has a long history of generating cutting-edge research and supporting technological innovations related to informed conservation and use of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources.

### Strategies

- Support research to generate the scientific, technical, and legal information needed to increase understanding of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes processes; support the development of new businesses, products, tools, and technologies; and answer the most pressing questions related to coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resource conservation, use, and management at the state and regional levels.

- Play a leadership role within and outside of the Sea Grant network in increasing the amount of socio-economic research available to help decision-makers evaluate socio-economic trade-offs and assess risks to the future health and productivity of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources.
- Integrate, translate, and disseminate research findings and technological discoveries to the citizens, industries, and leaders who need them to capitalize on opportunities and make wise management decisions.

**Goal: An informed public that understands the value and vulnerability of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources, and demands informed science-based decisions about the conservation, use, and management of these resources, and a well-trained workforce that will make this a reality.**

The 2004 U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report emphasized that restoring and sustaining our coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments requires an informed citizenry that understands the value and vulnerability of these resources. We also need scientists, planners, developers, engineers, and people involved in all water-related enterprises who understand the interactions between human activities and ecosystem health. NOAA has made ocean and aquatic literacy a strategic priority. Sea Grant has been a leader in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, professional, and technical education in coastal, ocean and Great Lakes-related areas for decades. Sea Grant is committed to playing a leadership role in partnership with the NOAA Office of Education and others to advance coastal, ocean and Great Lakes literacy. This can be done by capitalizing on Sea Grant's strong university partnerships, and by using its education and extension capacities to develop educational programs for schools, professional education, and workforce training.

### **Strategies**

- Advance coastal, ocean and Great Lakes literacy through formal and informal learning opportunities in our schools, museums, aquariums, and other educational forums, such as the on-line, digital collections of the Aquatic Commons and the National Sea Grant Library.
- Use Sea Grant's strong university partnerships to create new research and education opportunities in marine and aquatic science for undergraduate and graduate students and to develop information products and training opportunities that will help build the workforce capacity for coastal-related jobs and professions.
- Collaborate within NOAA and with other partners to build public awareness about critical ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues, using the integrated research, extension, education, and communication capacities of the entire Sea Grant network.

**Goal: Decision-making processes that involve the full-range of coastal interests, that integrate efforts of public and private partners at the federal, regional, state, and local**

**levels, and provide mechanisms for establishing common understandings and generating outcomes that balance multiple interests.**

The continued migration of people to our coastal areas increases the complexity of coastal decision-making and creates greater potential conflict among users at a time when coastal decision-making remains fragmented and narrowly focused. Sea Grant's long-standing relationships with a wide variety of stakeholders in coastal communities and its reputation as a source of unbiased information enable the organization to play a leadership role in promoting effective information sharing, consensus building, and integration of efforts in the coastal arena. Sea Grant can enhance its effectiveness by working closely with other NOAA coastal programs through regional research alliances and by employing international, national, and regional ocean observation systems.

### **Strategies**

- Use Sea Grant's research, extension, and education capabilities to encourage and support the creation of public decision-making processes that minimize overlap, maximize effectiveness, and provide an integrated response to coastal problems and opportunities.
- Build consensus on complex issues such as coastal land use, energy development, public access, invasive species control, and climate change impacts by supporting cutting-edge research, building broader understanding among various constituency groups, and convening diverse groups of stakeholders to work together to find common solutions.
- Strengthen partnerships to promote national, regional, and issue-related collaboration among federal and state programs and other partners in order to support more effective and integrated coastal decision-making.

These three cross-cutting goals have been a foundation of Sea Grant's work since it was established, and they are fundamental to success in the focus areas outlined in this plan. The more specific goals and strategies outlined in the focus areas build on these cross-cutting goals, generating the knowledge and creative solutions needed to address challenges and opportunities related to healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable coastal development, a safe and sustainable seafood supply, and hazard resilience in coastal communities.

## FOCUS AREAS

Over the next five years, Sea Grant will concentrate effort in four areas: healthy coastal ecosystems; sustainable coastal development; a safe and sustainable seafood supply; and hazard resilience in coastal communities. These four interrelated focus areas emerged from the strategic planning process as areas of critical importance to the health and vitality of the nation's coastal resources and communities. They respond to issues of major importance to NOAA, are consistent with the work of the NOAA coastal program integration effort, and are topical areas in which Sea Grant has made substantial contributions in the past and is positioned to make significant contributions in the future.

In each of the four focus areas, Sea Grant has identified goals to pursue and strategies designed to take advantage of its strengths in integrated research, outreach, and education, and its established presence in coastal communities. Understanding relationships and synergies across focus areas is vital to achieving the focus area goals. Sea Grant is one of many partners working to address these complex and interrelated issues. Understanding how activities in one area can support and complement other activities, and using partnerships to accomplish shared goals, are strategies inherent to Sea Grant, and will be central to achieving the goals outlined in this plan.

### HEALTHY COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Healthy coastal ecosystems are the foundation for life along the coast. However, increasingly rapid coastal development, global overfishing, and other human activities are leading to water quality degradation, decline of fisheries, wetlands loss, proliferation of invasive species, and a host of other challenges that need to be understood in order to restore and maintain these ecosystems. Ecosystem functioning does not respect traditional political boundaries, and responsible management of ecosystems requires new kinds of thinking and actions. Sea Grant is a leader in regional approaches to understanding and maintaining healthy ecosystems, with planning efforts underway across the country to identify information gaps, set research priorities, and coordinate information and technology transfer to those who need it. Sea Grant has fostered efforts to address widespread problems such as invasive species that are found in geographically-dispersed areas, and has hired staff, shared among several state programs, to tackle these problems. Sea Grant's regional consortia, nationwide networks, and international contacts are particularly well-suited to helping the nation address ecosystem health at the appropriate local, state, regional, national and global levels.

#### **Goal: Sound scientific information to support ecosystem-based approaches to managing the coastal environment.**

To realize the full potential of ecosystem-based management approaches, we need research that will lead to better understanding of present day conditions, basic ecosystem processes, the impacts of coastal and upland land uses on the health of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments, and the importance of healthy ecosystems to healthy fisheries. We also need to know more about how to transform our new knowledge and understandings into sound management principles and practices. Sea Grant will continue to build the scientific foundation

needed by supporting research that provides accurate information related to ecosystem health and by accelerating the transfer of this information to coastal residents, resource managers, businesses and industries.

### **Strategies**

- Conduct research on ecosystem processes, the relationships between coastal stressors—water quality degradation, contaminants, harmful algal blooms, invasive species, and wetlands loss—and long-term human and ecosystem health, and communicate this information to public and private planners, decision-makers and managers.
- Contribute to the development of baseline data, standards, and indicators to support ecosystem-based approaches to land use, water, fisheries, and other resource management, working with programs such as NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, ocean observing programs, and others.
- Develop methodologies that can be used to evaluate ecosystem-based management approaches to assess their effectiveness once they are in place, and to guide future management efforts, working with the National Marine Fisheries Service and other federal, state and local partners.

### **Goal: Widespread use of ecosystem-based approaches to managing land, water and living resources in coastal areas.**

Achieving widespread use of ecosystem-based management approaches will require extensive efforts to communicate the effects of ecosystem degradation on natural resources, local economies, and human health to a wide range of audiences in ways that motivate them to respond. Sea Grant's strong research and extension capabilities provide scientific information and technical assistance on ecosystem-based management approaches. At the same time, the organization's outreach and education capabilities engage citizens in stewardship activities that promote healthy ecosystems. All these programs can result in regional and other collaborative approaches to address problems that extend beyond traditional geographic or governmental boundaries.

### **Strategies**

- Work with partners within and outside of NOAA to develop data, models, and training activities that support ecosystem-based planning and management approaches, and share these with a wide variety of constituencies.
- Support the development of regional coastal observation systems and other collaborative efforts that advance our capability to predict the effects of human activities and environmental changes on coastal resources in order to take steps to mitigate their effects.

- Provide life-long learning programs for people of all ages that enhance understanding of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments and promote stewardship of healthy ecosystems.

**Goal: Restored function and productivity of degraded ecosystems.**

Past activities and events have led to deterioration of nursery areas for wild fish populations, loss of wetlands, closure of beaches and shellfish beds, and proliferation of invasive species. Sea Grant will help reverse these trends by identifying and assessing impaired ecosystems, and supporting the development of new policies, technologies, and processes that promote restoration of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems in ways that balance the needs of the natural systems with the needs of the humans who inhabit them. Sea Grant will use its nationwide network of extension, education and communication specialists to provide the technical assistance needed, and to share new information and technologies with local, state, regional, national, and international partners.

**Strategies**

- Support research to improve the effectiveness of ecosystem restoration and identify promising new restoration approaches and technologies.
- Invest in the development and dissemination of new information, policies, technologies and methods to address water quality degradation, prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic non-native species, and minimize the negative impacts of these on coastal, ocean and Great Lakes food webs.
- Provide technical support for citizens and businesses that need help with specific mitigation/restoration problems, giving them access to the latest information and techniques.

**SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**

Coastal communities in America provide vital economic, social, and recreational opportunities for millions of Americans, but decades of population migration have transformed our coastal landscapes and intensified demand on finite coastal resources. The increase in population has resulted in new housing developments and recreation facilities, a new generation of energy development activities, port expansions, and other business activities. These changes are placing tremendous pressure on coastal lands, water supplies, and traditional ways of life. To accommodate more people and activity, and to balance growing demands on coastal resources, we must develop new policies, institutional capacities, and management approaches to guide the preservation and use of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. Sea Grant will engage a diverse and growing coastal population in applying the best available scientific knowledge, and use its extension and education capabilities to support the development of healthy coastal communities that are economically and socially inclusive, are supported by diverse and vibrant economies, and function within the carrying capacity of their ecosystems.

**Goal: Healthy coastal economies that include working waterfronts, an abundance of recreation and tourism opportunities, and coastal access for all citizens.**

Marine resources and coastal amenities sustain local and national economies through fisheries and aquaculture, seafood processing, trade, energy production, tourism, and recreation enterprises. Urban ports and waterways continue to accommodate expanding international trade, staging areas for off-shore industries, growth in tourism and recreational boating, and changes in fishing fleets. At the same time, changing development patterns along the coast are threatening to displace traditional water-dependent industries and cut off water and beach access for coastal residents. Vacant industrial buildings and obsolete infrastructure facilities can be recaptured for new marine enterprises, public access, and planned mixed-use developments that bring enjoyment to residents and visitors alike. Sea Grant's long-standing relationships with coastal communities and industries make it ideally suited to provide information, tools, and techniques to support working waterfronts, responsible energy development, the development of accessible recreation and tourism activities, and adoption of sustainable development practices.

**Strategies**

- Support research and outreach activities that provide local communities with information and techniques to help them enhance their waterfront-related economic activities such as commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, tourism, and energy and port development, without diminishing the long-term health of the natural coastal environment.
- Support local, regional, and national efforts to preserve and increase public access to the nation's beaches and waterfronts through assessment of access needs, analysis of legal issues, and technical assistance.
- Use Sea Grant extension and education capabilities to engage coastal communities in planning processes that support the efforts of community leaders to identify and pursue sustainable economic development policies and programs.

**Goal: Coastal communities that make efficient use of land, energy and water resources and protect the resources needed to sustain coastal ecosystems and quality of life.**

The biggest challenge facing many coastal cities and towns today is how to manage growth in ways that do not diminish the health of the ecosystems these communities depend on. One way this is reflected nationally and internationally is in the high-level of concern about climate change and its associated effects. To respond to the challenges of growth at a local and regional level, communities are looking for ways to use land and water, generate energy, and dispose of waste that will preserve environmental health and economic vitality. Determining the amount of the land, water, and other natural resources needed to sustain healthy communities is an essential first step in establishing sustainable policies and growth practices. Only when the dimensions of this environmental footprint are identified can coastal communities understand what their carrying capacity is and what will be needed for generations to come. Sea Grant and its

university partners are in a unique position to conduct research and develop models and forecasts that will help communities with this process.

### **Strategies**

- Strengthen Sea Grant’s research activities and extension capacity to help coastal communities determine the sustainable carrying capacity of their land, water, and other resources through resource assessments, scenario building, modeling, and other techniques.
- Support innovative research on land-use practices and building designs that promote energy and water conservation, coastal-ocean related renewable energy technologies, and the creation of other tools to help communities grow in sustainable ways.
- Work with NOAA’s Climate Program Office, coastal programs, and other partners to help communities evaluate their ecological footprints and grow in environmentally sustainable ways.

**Goal: Coastal citizens, community leaders, and industries that recognize the complex inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental values in coastal areas and work together to balance multiple uses and optimize environmental sustainability.**

According to NOAA’s “Population Trends Along the Coastal United States: 1980-2008,” coastal counties constitute only 17 percent of the land area of the U.S. (not including Alaska) but account for 53% of the population and are among the most rapidly growing areas in the country. The pressures on our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources continue to grow. Citizens and decision-makers have an urgent need for tools that will help them evaluate the implications of land-use changes, coastal development pressures, and increased resource use in approaching the policy and management decisions they face. Regional cooperation and coordinated land-use and watershed planning are essential. Sea Grant’s well-established role as a trusted broker among a wide range of interests makes it a key player in providing sound information for decision-makers, convening stakeholders to seek common ground, and facilitating the development and implementation of new coastal policies, plans, management approaches, and consensus-building strategies.

### **Strategies**

- Work with NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and Coastal Services Center, EPA’s Offices of Smart Growth, and other federal, state and local partners to disseminate assessment tools, model plans and ordinances, best management practices, alternative development approaches, and other techniques that will enable the citizens of our coastal zones to develop their coastal economies in environmentally-sound ways.

- Build local capacity to evaluate cost-benefit trade-offs in the coastal zone through a greater emphasis on socio-economic research, impact studies, and other methods of evaluating alternative future scenarios for coastal communities.
- Foster regional cooperation and partnerships among local government officials, community stakeholders, and regional planning organizations to promote sustainable growth plans and strategies that protect local and regional natural resources that will ensure an abundance of these resources is available to serve future generations.

## **SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SUPPLY**

The U.S. has witnessed the decline of many of its major fisheries while seafood consumption is on the rise, resulting in a seafood trade deficit of \$8 billion per year, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service statistics. At the same time, Sea Grant, through its research, extension, and education activities, and work with partners, has produced important discoveries that have aided the stabilization and recovery of many endangered fisheries. According to the NOAA Aquaculture Program, aquaculture is in its infancy in the U.S., amounting to just over \$1 billion of a \$70 billion worldwide industry. Aquaculture creates important new opportunities to meet the increased demand for seafood, but a number of questions need to be addressed for its full potential to be realized. Seafood safety is a growing concern as international trade increases and fish diseases and contamination become bigger problems. Sea Grant has key roles to play in advancing public understanding of the nature of these problems and opportunities. Through the use of its research, extension, and education capacities, Sea Grant will support the kind of informed public and private decision-making that will lead to a sustainable supply of safe seafood long into the future.

### **Goal: A sustainable supply of safe seafood to meet public demand.**

Ensuring a sustainable supply of safe seafood requires an understanding of the effects of overfishing, past management decisions, and climate change on U.S. wild fish populations as well as the role ecosystem-based fisheries management can play. It also requires better understanding of the range of complex issues related to developing the domestic aquaculture industry. Sea Grant will make major contributions by supporting research that provides the knowledge needed to understand the factors stressing fisheries and the complexities of aquaculture development. Sea Grant will also translate and transfer useful research findings through extension and education activities to ensure responsible and productive use of these resources in the future.

### **Strategies**

- Use Sea Grant's research, extension, education, and communication capabilities to develop and disseminate essential knowledge about natural and human threats to the long-term viability of wild fish populations, to identify ways to minimize these threats, and to use ecosystem-based fisheries management and other innovative approaches to accomplish this.

- Conduct integrated research, education, and outreach activities to support a viable domestic aquaculture industry with acceptable environmental impacts, in ways that are consistent with national objectives, building on the leadership role Sea Grant plays in this area.
- Work with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Program, other federal and state partners, and the seafood industry to enhance the management and productivity of wild fisheries.

**Goal: A healthy domestic seafood industry that harvests, produces, processes, and markets seafood responsibly and efficiently.**

A healthy seafood industry requires harvesting techniques that minimize by-catch and damage to marine habitats. It requires development of value-added products, enhanced quality assurance, and education about how to market under-utilized species. Sea Grant will involve harvesters, recreational fishermen, producers and managers in being responsible stewards as well as successful entrepreneurs. Sea Grant will support development of new technologies and participate in collaborative efforts to increase the range of seafood products produced, enhancing American competitiveness in global markets.

### **Strategies**

- Engage harvesters, recreational fisherman, producers and managers in the development of research and management innovations related to the condition, use, and conservation of the natural resources they depend on.
- Support research, development, and transfer of new technologies to keep the domestic seafood industry financially competitive and environmentally responsible.
- Work with the seafood industry to develop new products and innovative marketing approaches to increase seafood availability and profitability.

**Goal: Informed consumers who understand the importance of ecosystem health and sustainable harvesting practices to the future of our domestic fisheries, who appreciate the health benefits of seafood consumption, and who understand how to evaluate the safety of the seafood products they buy.**

Increased attention to the safety of domestic and international seafood has created an urgent need for rapid assessment techniques, certification programs, and standards for domestic and international seafood products, so consumers will have reliable information to inform their buying decisions. Sea Grant will involve industry representatives in the application of seafood safety standards, train inspectors and wholesalers in how to assess seafood quality, and develop educational materials related to seafood safety, quality, and security and make these materials readily available to consumers.

## **Strategies**

- Enhance training and technical assistance programs related to the application of standards for safe domestic and imported seafood.
- Develop educational programs and materials that enhance the American public's understanding of what is required to maintain sustainable domestic fisheries and to build the public's awareness of differences in the quality, safety, and nutritional benefits of different seafood products so they will be informed advocates and consumers.
- Work in close coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and other federal partners to develop information portals that give access to factual information on seafood safety.

## **HAZARD RESILIENCE IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

Sea level rise, the increased number and intensity of coastal storms, the ongoing threat of oil spills, and other natural and human hazards are putting more people and property at risk along the nation's coasts, with major implications for human safety and the economic and environmental health of coastal areas. It is essential that residents of coastal communities understand these risks and learn what they can do to reduce their vulnerability and respond quickly and effectively when events occur. Sea Grant will use its integrated research, training, and technical assistance capabilities, and its presence in coastal communities to play a major role in helping local citizens, decision-makers, and industries plan for hazardous events and optimize the ability of their communities to respond and rebuild.

**Goal: Widespread understanding of the risks associated with living, working, and doing business along the nation's coasts.**

Communities and businesses are increasingly vulnerable to hazardous events brought on by climate-related changes, land-use changes, and increased economic activity in coastal and Great Lakes waters. There is a great need for information and tools to help communities assess the risks they face and identify the options available to them to minimize those risks. Sea Grant will support the work of NOAA's Climate Program Office and its climate impact and adaptation-related activities. Sea Grant will work with other federal, state, and local partners, the banking and insurance industries, and others to develop forecasting and risk assessment tools, economic and environmental impact models, and other mechanisms that will help families, businesses, communities, and regions understand their risks and take them into account in making personal, business, and community-related decisions.

## **Strategies**

- Conduct research to assess hazard-related risks and increase the availability and usefulness of hazard-related information and forecasting for citizens, industries, and decision-makers in coastal communities.

- Work with marine commercial enterprises to assess the risks associated with doing business in coastal areas in the context of hurricanes and other coastal storms, climate-related changes, and dramatic changes in port and international trade activities.
- Work with the NOAA Climate Change Program, NOAA's National Weather Service and other public and private sector partners to develop comprehensive education/literacy programs focused on the immediate and long-term effects of climate-related changes and other hazardous events on human safety and coastal property, and how to prepare for and survive those hazards.

**Goal: Community capacity to prepare for and respond to hazardous events.**

It is not enough for communities and businesses to understand their vulnerabilities, they must act on this knowledge and become more resilient or the human and economic losses will continue to mount. Individuals, businesses, and communities need to develop comprehensive emergency preparedness and response plans that increase their resiliency and enable them to respond effectively. Sea Grant will contribute to this by building a sound knowledge base to improve forecasting capabilities, by identifying development and best management practices that reduce the vulnerability of people, buildings and businesses to coastal hazards, and by advancing ways communities can manage and recover from these events when they occur.

**Strategies**

- Help public and private decision-makers create and adopt policies, plans, and ordinances to reduce risks, manage catastrophic events and speed recovery.
- Create and disseminate, in partnership with NOAA's National Weather Service and other entities, integrated demographic and coastal hazard information databases that help measure human vulnerability in specific coastal regions, support hazard-related planning activities, and facilitate disaster relief efforts.
- Conduct research and communicate information on how the use of natural features and new technologies can help communities prepare for and mitigate the impacts of hazardous events.

**Goal: Effective response to coastal catastrophes.**

Coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes catastrophes require the nation to mobilize a full-range of public and private partners and resources to mount an effective response. Sea Grant is supporting the development of linked regional, national, and international coastal observation networks, thereby improving the availability of information needed to respond to crises as they unfold. Sea Grant's knowledge of local contexts and communities can optimize response effectiveness by facilitating immediate links to local partners and capabilities. Sea Grant has a national network of scientists and outreach workers with broad knowledge and experience, and it will provide multi-

disciplinary technical assistance to first responders, helping to minimize damage and promote recovery.

### **Strategies**

- Work with NOAA's National Weather Service and the National Ocean Service, regional ocean observation systems, and other partners to make hazard-related data and data-derived products available and relevant to support decision-making during crisis events.
- Contribute to the nation's rapid response capability by developing ways to mobilize Sea Grant's national network of scientific and technical expertise to inform response strategies and activities.
- Make Sea Grant's local knowledge and contacts available to work with federal, state, regional, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners that have hazardous event responsibilities, to facilitate the speed and quality of response to these crises.

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

This strategic plan is designed to harness Sea Grant's unique combination of research, extension, and education capabilities with its strong federal-university-private sector partnerships to respond to the challenges inherent in the conservation and use of our nation's complex coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments. The plan outlines ways to discover and grasp opportunities that will enhance the lives of Americans and people throughout the world. The National Sea Grant Office will initiate full network participation in the development of an implementation plan to accompany this Strategic Plan. The implementation plan will identify measurable outcomes by which to assess progress.

All state Sea Grant programs will align their own strategic plans with the national strategic and implementation plans so the energy, diversity, and creativity of individual Sea Grant programs and university partnerships may be mobilized to achieve these national goals. State plans will align with the strategic directions set forth in this plan and identify how state programs will contribute to the realization of the national goals in measurable ways. At the same time, these plans will respond to unique challenges and needs in the particular states and regions they serve.

The National Sea Grant Office will track and coordinate state-level accomplishments and impacts to highlight Sea Grant's contributions to achieving national goals. The National Sea Grant Office will also track and disseminate success stories so they can be replicated throughout the Sea Grant network and beyond. The National Sea Grant Review Panel will continue in its advisory role to help state programs and the National Sea Grant Office advance Sea Grant's goals.

Effective implementation of this plan will require additional resources for state Sea Grant programs to provide the integrated research, extension, and education activities needed now. Also, effective plan implementation will require an enhanced National Office that can provide strong national leadership and support the state programs in achieving their objectives.

Sea Grant will revisit this plan and its priorities often to ensure that the organization is maintaining focus, staying alert to new trends and opportunities, and accomplishing its five-year goals. The coordinated planning and implementation processes set in motion by this plan position Sea Grant to play a leadership role in responding to the urgent challenges facing this country and its ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes states and communities. Sea Grant is dedicated to working with a wide array of NOAA programs and other partners to transform a time of crisis in this country into a new era of opportunity in coastal resource protection, management, and use that will serve the nation well into this new century and beyond.

# **The National Sea Grant College Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation System**

## **About Sea Grant**

A partnership between universities and the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Sea Grant College Program directs federal resources to pressing problems in local communities. For more than 40 years, the National Sea Grant College program has worked to create and maintain a healthy coastal environment and economy. The Sea Grant network includes more than 30 programs based at top universities in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The programs of the Sea Grant network work together to help citizens understand, conserve, and better utilize America's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources. By drawing on the experience of more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students from more than 300 institutions, Sea Grant is able to make an impact at local and state levels, and serve as a powerful national force for change.

Sea Grant invests in high-priority research, addressing issues such as population growth and development in coastal communities; preparation and response to hurricanes, coastal storms, and tsunamis; understanding our interactions with the marine environment; fish and shellfish farming; seafood safety; and, fisheries management. The results of this research are shared with the public through Sea Grant's integrated outreach program, which brings together the collective expertise of on-the-ground extension agents, educators, and communications specialists. The goal is to ensure that vital research results are shared with those who need it most and in ways that are timely, relevant, and meaningful.

The National Sea Grant College Program has developed a new five-year strategic plan, which is attached, in conjunction with an enhanced Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation system, which is described below, by which the Sea Grant programs will be evaluated. Both the plan and the new evaluation model respond to recommendations made by the National Research Council (NRC). Background on the NRC report is detailed below.

## **Background**

In 1994, the NRC reviewed the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP). In its *Review of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program* report, the NRC recommended several actions, including systematic, periodic reviews of each Sea Grant program. In response to the NRC, NSGCP developed a program review and evaluation process to which the Sea Grant programs were reviewed by an external Program Assessment Team every four years since in 1998.

The National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 (P.L. 107–299) directed NOAA to contract with the NRC a second time to review the evaluation process and make recommendations to improve its effectiveness.

The resulting NRC report, *Evaluation of the Sea Grant Review Process* (2006), included a total of 24 recommendations in the following categories: strategic planning; evaluation; periodic

assessment and performance criteria; program assessment teams and site visits; and, improving program cohesion, coordination, and oversight.

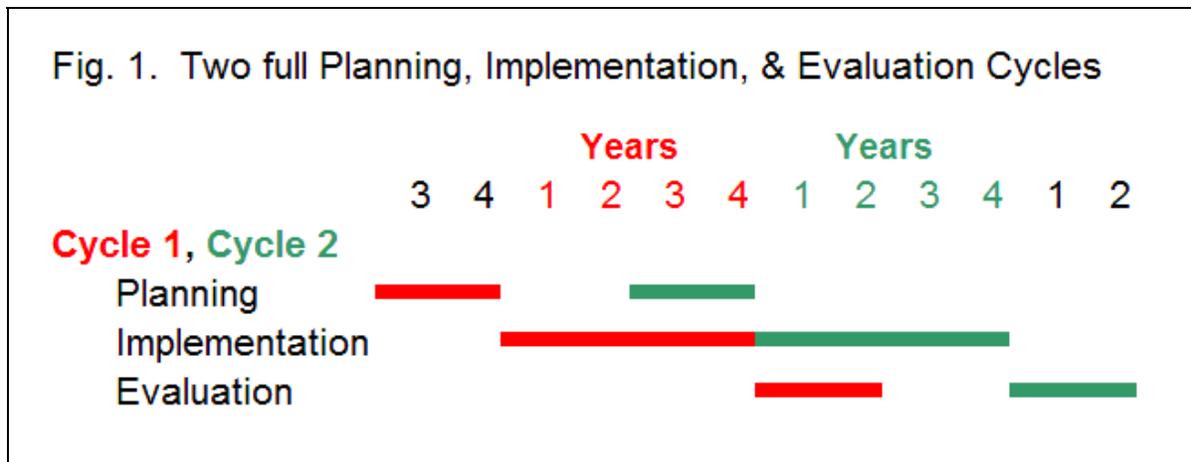
In order to address the NRC recommendations, the Director of the NSGCP sought advice from two sources: a Response Integration Team (RIT) and the National Sea Grant Review Panel (Review Panel). The RIT was comprised of representatives from the state Sea Grant programs and the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), and was formed specifically to address the NRC recommendations and to provide guidance to the Director. The Review Panel is a Federal Advisory Committee comprised of 15 individuals who advise the NSGCP Director on scientific and administrative policy. Following careful deliberation, each group produced a report; the RIT report was entitled, *An Enhanced and Integrated Strategic Planning and Program Assessment Strategy for the National Sea Grant College Program* and the Review Panels' report was entitled, *A Comprehensive Program Evaluation (COPE) Model for the National Sea Grant College Program*.

Here, we present a new, integrated model for strategic planning, implementation and evaluation that was developed based on the recommendations of the NRC along with those outlined in the RIT and Panel reports. The integrated planning and evaluation system outlined here is consistent with needs articulated by Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and NOAA. It extends NOAA's Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System to the program level and ensures that Sea Grant's activities will support NOAA's mission as well as meeting local, state, and regional needs. As the implementation process begins, there will be a transition period which is discussed in the appendix of this document.

### **An Integrated Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation (PIE) System**

The NSGCP places a premium on careful planning and rigorous evaluation at both the state program level and the national level to ensure that the program has both localized and broader impacts. Better integration of planning, implementation, and evaluation activities will maximize Sea Grant's efficiency and effectiveness at both levels and make the best use of limited resources.

The PIE system begins with rigorous strategic planning at both the national and state levels that lasts two years. The plans are then implemented with coordinated and collaborative research, outreach and education activities at the state level for four years. Once the activities are completed, there is an evaluation of the success of those efforts in meeting the objectives set forth in the strategic/implementation plans. The complete cycle, including planning, implementation, and evaluation will take eight years to complete (Fig. 1).



Sections I, II, and III, below, describe each component of the integrated PIE system—Planning, Implementation and Evaluation.

## I. Planning

**National Strategic/Implementation Plans (every four years):** Every four years, the NSGCP will develop a new national strategic plan (the 2009-2013 national plan accompanies this document). Sea Grant’s national plan will be done in concert with the development of strategic plans for the state programs in order to ensure that the state strategic plans reflect national priorities. Likewise, stakeholder input collected for state Sea Grant planning efforts will be included with other relevant local and regional plans to inform the national planning process. NOAA’s strategic plan and NOAA’s 5-year Research Plan will provide the national framework for Sea Grant’s planning effort together with the Ocean Research Priorities Plan (and its successors) Sea Grant’s national plan will identify a limited set of priorities that will help NOAA to achieve its strategic outcomes and will serve as the foci for Sea Grant’s next four-year implementation cycle. Once the national strategic plan is completed, an implementation plan will be developed to provide more detail for each of the national priority areas and show how Sea Grant will work with other NOAA programs and local, regional, and national partners to achieve its mission.

**Individual Sea Grant Program Strategic/Implementation Plans (every four years):** The national strategic and implementation plans will serve as the basis for the states to complete the development of their four-year strategic plans. The state plans will include metrics and performance measures that align with and support national measures and metrics for the national priority areas. Since each state has its own unique set of local and regional stakeholders, partners and priorities, the individual program plans will not necessarily address all of the national priority areas; and, the plans may include additional emphases as appropriate. State plans will be developed with the federal program officer and reviewed and approved by the NSGO, in consultation with the Review Panel. Sea Grant programs will use their plans to guide and inform requests for proposals. In addition, these plans will be used as the basis for subsequent program evaluation. With the understanding that these plans are living documents, programs may make

changes to their plans, subject to approval by the federal program officer, so the changes are documented for eventual evaluation purposes.

## **II. Implementation**

Sea Grant programs will consider the local, regional, and national priorities identified during the planning process as they implement their research, outreach and education activities. Each program will retain the authority to implement its program as it sees fit in order to achieve optimal results.

The PIE system and subsequent changes to program implementation will make it easier for programs to plan and act on a regional and national scale. For instance, project competitions, omnibus grant applications and awards will be synchronized to facilitate collaborative efforts among programs. There will be a common format for annual reports so that accomplishments of individual projects and state programs can more easily be synthesized into national impacts.

## **III. Evaluation**

**Goal:** Sea Grant's program evaluation process will show how its research, outreach and education capabilities have local, regional and national impacts. Program evaluation also provides the opportunity to discover means by which the state programs, and in turn the National Program, can improve. The performance of state programs will be evaluated according to the priorities set forth in the national plan and the individual state plans, and programs will be held accountable for meeting the metrics and performance measures established in those plans. Evaluation will be a continual process, both internal and external, and will involve all facets of the Sea Grant network. Programs will be evaluated in three general areas: 1) on their approach to management; 2) on the scope and success of their engagement with stakeholders; and, 3) on the impact their program has on society from both an environmental and a socio-economic perspective. Evaluation is based on the metrics and performance measures established in the national plan and reflected in their state plans, but the process is also intended to recognize that unplanned or rapid-response activities may also have significant impact.

The Office of Management and Budget, the Review Panel and other entities have recommended that the Sea Grant programs be recertified on a reasonable and regular schedule. The PIE system will serve as the recertification process for the programs.

**Annual Reports/Self-Evaluation:** Annual reports will be used by programs to evaluate progress against their strategic plans, national performance measures, and metrics over a one-year period. These reports will be used by the NSGO and programs to track and report progress. The individual programs' progress in meeting goals set forth in their plans and in producing accomplishments relative to those goals contributes to the Sea Grant network's progress toward meeting national goals set forth in the national strategic and implementation plan.

**Site Visits (every four years, beginning in FY2010):** Once every four years, a review team will visit each Sea Grant program. The review teams will be chaired by the NSGO program

officer and co-chaired by a member of the Review Panel with a Sea Grant Director as a review team member. Additional members of the teams may be drawn from the Review Panel and/or outside experts as needed. The review team will meet with the program management team, advisory committees, and university administration to review and discuss broad issues related to two of the three evaluation components: 1) program management and organization; and, 2) stakeholder engagement. The team will be provided with a limited and focused set of briefing materials. The team will prepare a site visit report with findings and recommendations to improve the Sea Grant program's performance but will not be responsible for rating the program.

**Performance Review Panel (every four years, beginning in FY2011):** Every four years, following the completion of all Sea Grant program site visits, a Performance Review Panel (PRP) will conduct a retrospective evaluation of the impact of the programs relative to their four-year strategic plans. The PRP will evaluate the programs' overall impact on society from both an environmental and a socio-economic perspective. Annual reports, combined with a brief four-year summary document prepared by the programs, will provide the basis for the review. The PRP will be composed of 15 members with approximately half of the members drawn from the Review Panel and the remainder drawn from senior-level academia, government, and industry.

**State Program Response Memorandum (once every four years):** State programs will have the opportunity to submit a memorandum to the NSGO responding to findings in both the site visit and PRP reports. This information will be used as part of the NSGO fall review.

**Annual NSGO Fall Review (beginning in FY 2009):** The NSGO will meet in the fall of each year to discuss the progress of each state program relative to its plan, and to identify potential areas for improvement.

Once every four years, starting in 2011, the fall review will be expanded to include a performance evaluation and rating of all programs based upon the PRP Reports, the site visit reports, and the state programs' response memoranda. Programs will have the opportunity to appeal their rating two years later during the NSGO fall review by submitting a report to the NSGO of actions taken to improve the program since the previous four-year review.

**Topical Assistance Team (TAT) Reviews (optional):** At any time, programs and the NSGO may agree to conduct a TAT, which is an ad hoc program review of limited scope. The purpose of TAT reviews is for program improvement, either to address issues identified by previous reviews or to help the program identify and respond to new opportunities.

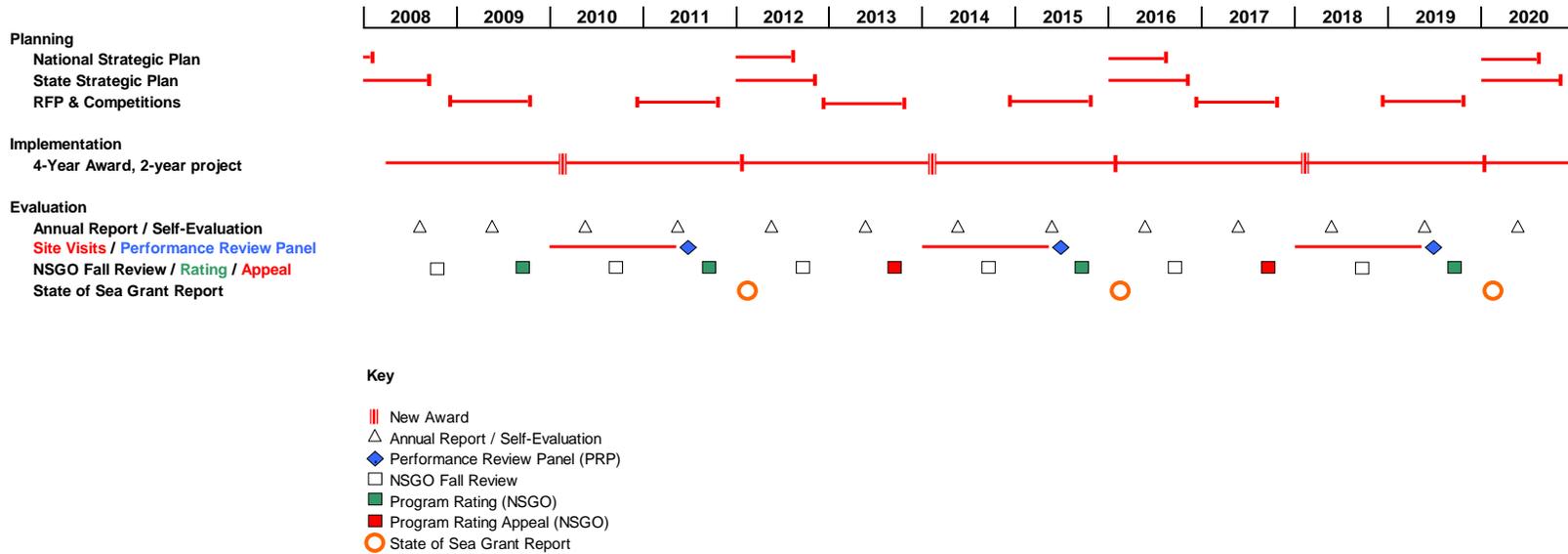
**Recertification:** The four-year reviews will constitute a recertification process. A successful review will result in recertification of a state program. If a program receives an unsuccessful rating, the program will be placed on a probationary period for at least two years. During the fall review of the second probationary year, the NSGO will assess the program's progress in addressing the issues that led to the unsuccessful rating based on the appeal issued by the state Sea Grant program in question. If the program has made satisfactory progress, the program will be allowed to continue on probation for the remaining two years. If the program then receives a successful rating during the next four-year review, the program will be recertified. However, if

progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory after two years, or if a program receives a second consecutive unsuccessful rating during the four-year review, the program will be referred to the Review Panel for possible decertification.

**National “State of Sea Grant Program” Review (once every four years, beginning in 2012):**

Once every four years, the Review Panel will provide a review of the “State of the Sea Grant Program.” This review will assess the progress of the Sea Grant College Program in addressing the priority areas highlighted in the national plan, analogous to the manner in which state programs will be evaluated in addressing their respective plans. This review will rely extensively on information collected from state program reports and reviews, and will give an analysis that will help inform the subsequent national strategic planning process. This national program review is central to the PIE system and will provide an assessment of the overall performance of the entire Sea Grant College Program, including the National Sea Grant Office, in achieving its local, regional, and national objectives while supporting NOAA’s mission.

**Fig. 2 Transition and first full Planning, Implementation, & Evaluation Cycle**





October 3, 2008

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Sea Grant Directors

**FROM:** Leon M. Cammen   
Director

**SUBJECT:** State Plan Alignment

Thanks to the combined hard work of the entire Sea Grant Network, we have finalized the National Strategic Plan and have distributed for review a draft of the National Implementation Plan. Together these documents will constitute Sea Grant's National Program Plan for 2009-2013. These collective planning efforts are essential in order to fully implement the new Planning, Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) system, respond to recommendations of the National Review Council, and position Sea Grant as a critical national program that supports the federal ocean, coastal and Great Lakes mission. The next step in the PIE process is for each program to align its planning with the national plans. There are two phases to this process:

- (1) Align your Sea Grant Program plan's goals and strategies with the goals and strategies in the National Strategic Plan (due November 21, 2008); and
- (2) Identify which national performance measures your program will be supporting and the targets relating to them. (due March 2009)

This memo provides guidance for the alignment process: it describes what is being asked of the programs; it provides instructions for preparing the alignment documents; and it explains the approval process.

#### WHAT IS THE ALIGNMENT PROCESS, AND WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO TAKE PART?

The alignment process concept was proposed by a team of representatives from the Sea Grant network as the primary tool to document and evaluate the relationships between the national plans and individual Program strategic plans. The National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) is a national program, thus all of its component Programs are expected to support the national strategic goals and strategies. Each Program is not expected to support *every* national goal and strategy. Programs have the flexibility and latitude to work in areas not included in the national plans, but a significant portion of your efforts should support the focus areas of the national plans.

The purpose of the alignment process is:

- (1) To assure all Program plans align with the national plans – documenting current and future plans used by all Programs and how they support the national plans.



(2) To assure from the outset of the PIE implementation that Program plans are ambitious with challenging goals and milestones, while meeting benchmarks of effective planning documents.

(3) To establish at the outset of the planning cycle a formal agreement between the Program and the NSGO that the Plan is acceptable and meets Sea Grant national planning criteria and standards.

## HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE ALIGNMENT PROCESS AND WHEN ARE MATERIALS DUE?

The first phase requires Programs to work with their program officers to align their plan goals and strategies with the goals and strategies in the National Strategic Plan, and to estimate the percentage of resources/effort that will go towards each focus area. This portion of the alignment process is due November 21, 2008.

The second phase is to determine which national performance measures your Program will support, and to align your Program's performance measures with the national measures (if they differ) and the targets relating to them. Since the National Implementation Plan is not yet complete, this phase of the alignment process will not be due until March 2009.

### **Phase I**

The first phase of the planning alignment process is prepared in two parts: a cover letter, and a completed alignment template (attached) detailing focus areas, goals, and strategies. Along with the cover letter and alignment template, please also include a copy of your most recent (operative) strategic plan. Programs should coordinate closely with their NSGO Program Officer when preparing these alignment materials.

The cover letter should include: the term of the Program's current plan, how it was created, and a general summary of the extent of alignment between the national plans and the state plan, including proposed actions, if any, to better align the two plans. Examples of actions include additional input from stakeholder groups and advisory committees.

The attached alignment template is an Excel spreadsheet. Tab 1 lists the focus areas, goals and strategies in the national plan and has spaces for Programs to insert the corresponding focus areas, goals and strategies from their own plans. Nomenclature used to develop state plans often differs from the language used in the national plan. The national plan refers to "focus areas, goals, and strategies," while states often use terms such as "issues, sub-goals, objectives, approaches, and action items." State Programs need to compare the language of their current plan with that of the national plans to make a determination as to how the nomenclature corresponds.

In order to show where Sea Grant is allocating funding within the strategic plan nationally, we are requesting the estimated percentage of federal dollars each Program will spend in 2009 per focus area in Tab 2. This information will be useful in telling the national story, highlighting how

our investments span across the four focus areas. There will be an opportunity to update this information during the second portion of the alignment process, as mentioned above.

Upon completion of the final draft of the National Implementation Plan (anticipated in November 2008), additional tabs will be added to the template to complete the second phase of this process, which will include information regarding outcomes, performance measures and targets. The National Implementation Plan will not be finalized until all state Program information is gathered and targets can be summed to provide the national measures and targets.

#### HOW WILL THE ALIGNMENT OF MY PLANS BE EVALUATED AND APPROVED?

For the first phase, Program Officers will work with the Program Directors to ensure that the state plan's goals and strategies align with those in the national plan. During the second phase of the alignment process, all alignment documents will be reviewed by a small team of SG Review Panel members, who will convene in early spring 2009 to recommend acceptance, or needed modifications to the NSGCP Director, based on the following questions:

- (1) Does the Program adequately support the national plan?
- (2) Is the Program devoting a significant portion of its resources towards supporting one or more of the focus areas of the national plan?
- (3) Relative to other Programs, is this plan ambitious—does the plan set challenging goals and ambitious milestones given the amount of resources dedicated to the overall program?

If the answer to these three questions is yes, the review team will issue a finding that the alignment between the state and national plans is sufficient and recommend that the NSGCP Director approve the state plan. In addition, the review team will provide beneficial and useful observations and comments resulting from the alignment process review to the Programs through the NSGCP Director.

Given the active participation of all Programs in the creation of the national plan, it seems unlikely that any Program's strategic plan does not already adequately support the national plans. In the unlikely event that a Program strategic plan does not adequately support the national plan, the Program will be asked to develop a strategy for adapting its plan to support the national plan, before its plan will be approved.

# United States Code Provisions Affecting the National Sea Grant College Program

- [United States Codes](#)
  - [TITLE 33 - NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS](#)
    - [CHAPTER 22 - SEA GRANT COLLEGES AND MARINE SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT](#)
      - [SUBCHAPTER II - NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM](#)
        - [Section 1121.](#) Congressional Declaration Of Policy
        - [Section 1122.](#) Definitions
        - [Section 1123.](#) National Sea Grant College Program
        - [Section 1124.](#) Program Or Project Grants And Contracts
        - [Section 1124a.](#) Repealed. Pub. L. 105-160, Sec. 6, Mar. 6, 1998, 112 Stat. 24
        - [Section 1125.](#) Repealed. Pub. L. 102-186, Sec. 4(A), Dec. 4, 1991, 105 Stat. 1283
        - [Section 1126.](#) Sea Grant Colleges And Sea Grant Institutes
        - [Section 1127.](#) Fellowships
        - [Section 1128.](#) Sea Grant Review Panel
        - [Section 1129.](#) Interagency Cooperation
        - [Section 1130.](#) Repealed. Pub. L. 102-186, Sec. 5(A), Dec. 4, 1991, 105 Stat. 1283
        - [Section 1131.](#) Authorization Of Appropriations
        - [Subchapter Notes](#)

## Section 1121. Congressional declaration of policy

### (a) Findings

The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The national interest requires a strategy to -

(A) provide for the understanding and wise use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the environment;

(B) foster economic competitiveness;

(C) promote public stewardship and wise economic development of the coastal ocean and its margins, the Great Lakes, and the exclusive economic zone;

(D) encourage the development of forecast and analysis systems for coastal hazards;

(E) understand global environmental processes; and

(F) promote domestic and international cooperative solutions to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues.

(2) Investment in a strong program of research, education, training, technology transfer, and public service is essential for this strategy.

(3) The expanding use and development of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources resulting from growing coastal area populations and the increasing pressures on the coastal and Great Lakes environment challenge the ability of the United States to manage such resources wisely.

(4) The vitality of the Nation and the quality of life of its citizens depend increasingly on the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. These resources supply food, energy, and minerals and contribute to human health, the quality of the environment, national security, and the enhancement of commerce.

(5) The understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of such resources require a broad commitment and an intense involvement on the part of the Federal Government in continuing partnership with State and local governments, private industry, universities, organizations, and individuals concerned with or affected by ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

(6) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through the national sea grant college program, offers the most suitable locus and means for such commitment and involvement through the promotion of activities that will result in greater such understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation. The most cost-effective way to promote such activities is through continued and increased Federal support of the establishment, development, and operation of programs and projects by sea grant colleges, sea grant institutes, and other institutions, including strong collaborations between Administration scientists and scientists at academic institutions.

### (b) Objective

The objective of this subchapter is to increase the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources by providing assistance to promote a strong educational base, responsive research and training activities, broad and prompt dissemination of knowledge and techniques, and multidisciplinary approaches to environmental problems.

(c) Purpose

It is the purpose of the Congress to achieve the objective of this subchapter by extending and strengthening the national sea grant program, initially established in 1966, to promote research, education, training, and advisory service activities in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

## Section 1122. Definitions

As used in this subchapter -

(1) The term ''Administration'' means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) The term ''Director'' means the Director of the national sea grant college program, appointed pursuant to section 1123(b) (FOOTNOTE 1) of this title.

(FOOTNOTE 1) See References in Text note below.

(3) the (FOOTNOTE 2) term ''director of a sea grant college'' means a person designated by his or her institution to direct a sea grant college or sea grant institute.

(FOOTNOTE 2) So in original. Probably should be capitalized.

(4) The term ''field related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources'' means any discipline or field, including marine affairs, resource management, technology, education, or science, which is concerned with or likely to improve the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources.

(5) The term ''institution'' means any public or private institution of higher education, institute, laboratory, or State or local agency.

(6) The term ''includes'' and variants thereof should be read as if the phrase ''but is not limited to'' were also set forth.

(7) The term ''ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources'' means the resources that are located in, derived from, or traceable to, the seabed, subsoil, and waters of -

(A) the coastal zone, as defined in section 1453(1) of title 16;

(B) the Great Lakes;

(C) Lake Champlain (to the extent that such resources have hydrological, biological, physical, or geological characteristics and problems similar or related to those of the Great Lakes);

(D) the territorial sea;

(E) the exclusive economic zone;

(F) the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(G) the high seas.

(8) The term ''resource'' means -

(A) living resources (including natural and cultured plant life, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and wildlife);

(B) nonliving resources (including energy sources, minerals, and chemical substances);

(C) the habitat of a living resource, the coastal space, the ecosystems, the nutrient-rich areas, and the other components of the marine environment that contribute to or provide (or which are capable of contributing to or providing) recreational, scenic, esthetic, biological, habitational, commercial, economic, or conservation values; and

(D) man-made, tangible, intangible, actual, or potential resources.

(9) The term ''panel'' means the sea grant review panel established under section 1128 of this title.

(10) The term ''person'' means any individual; any public or private corporation, partnership, or other association or entity (including any sea grant college, sea grant institute or other institution); or any State, political subdivision of a State, or agency or officer thereof.

(11) The term ''project'' means any individually described activity in a field related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources involving research, education, training, or advisory services administered by a person with expertise in such a field.

(12) The term ''sea grant college'' means any institution, or any association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as such by the Secretary under section 1126 of this title.

(13) The term ''sea grant institute'' means any institution, or any association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as such by the Secretary under section 1126 of this title.

(14) The term ''sea grant program'' means a program of research and outreach which is administered by one or more sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes.

(15) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(16) The term ''State'' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

### **Section 1123. National sea grant college program**

(a) Program maintenance

The Secretary shall maintain within the Administration a program to be known as the national sea grant college program. The national sea grant college program shall be administered by a national sea grant office within the Administration.

(b) Program elements

The national sea grant college program shall consist of the financial assistance and other activities authorized in this subchapter, and shall provide support for the following elements -

(1) sea grant programs which comprise a national sea grant college program network, including international projects conducted within such programs;

(2) administration of the national sea grant college program and this subchapter by the national sea grant office, the Administration, and the panel;

(3) the fellowship program under section 1127 of this title; and

(4) any national strategic investments in fields relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources developed with the approval of the panel, the sea grant colleges, and the sea grant institutes.

(c) Responsibilities of Secretary

(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall develop at least every 4 years a strategic plan that establishes priorities for the national sea grant college program, provides an appropriately balanced response to local, regional, and national needs, and is reflective of integration with the relevant portions of the strategic plans of the Department of Commerce and of the Administration.

(2) Within 6 months of March 6, 1998, the Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall establish guidelines related to the activities and responsibilities of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes. Such guidelines shall include requirements for the conduct of merit review by the sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes of proposals for grants and contracts to be awarded under section 1124 of this title, providing, at a minimum, for standardized documentation of such proposals and peer review of all research projects.

(3) The Secretary shall by regulation prescribe the qualifications required for designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes under section 1126 of this title.

(4) To carry out the provisions of this subchapter, the Secretary may-

(A) appoint, assign the duties, transfer, and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary, in accordance with civil service laws;

(B) make appointments with respect to temporary and intermittent services to the extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5;

(C) publish or arrange for the publication of, and otherwise disseminate, in cooperation with other offices and programs in the Administration and without regard to section 501 of title 44, any information of research, educational, training or other value in fields related to ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources;

(D) enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions without regard to section 5 of title 41;

(E) notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, accept donations and voluntary and uncompensated services;

(F) accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies, including agencies within the Administration, to pay for and add to grants made and contracts entered into by the Secretary; and

(G) promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate.

(d) Director of National Sea Grant College Program

(1) The Secretary shall appoint, as the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, a qualified individual who has appropriate administrative experience and knowledge or expertise in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The Director shall be appointed and compensated, without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service, at a rate payable under section 5376 of title 5.

(2) Subject to the supervision of the Secretary, the Director shall administer the national sea grant college program and oversee the operation of the national sea grant office. In addition to any other duty prescribed by law or assigned by the Secretary, the Director shall -

(A) facilitate and coordinate the development of a long-range

strategic plan under subsection (c)(1) of this section;

(B) advise the Secretary with respect to the expertise and capabilities which are available within or through the national sea grant college program and encourage the use of such expertise and capabilities, on a cooperative or other basis, by other offices and activities within the Administration, and other Federal departments and agencies;

(C) advise the Secretary on the designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, and, if appropriate, on the termination or suspension of any such designation; and

(D) encourage the establishment and growth of sea grant programs, and cooperation and coordination with other Federal activities in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

(3) With respect to sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, the Director shall -

(A)(i) evaluate the performance of the programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, using the priorities, guidelines, and qualifications established by the Secretary under subsection (c), and determine which of the programs are the best managed and carry out the highest quality research, education, extension, and training activities; and

(ii) rate the programs according to their relative performance (as determined under clause (i) into no less than 5 categories, with each of the 2 best-performing categories containing no more than 25 percent of the programs;

(B) subject to the availability of appropriations, allocate funding among sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes so as to -

(i) promote healthy competition among sea grant colleges and institutes;

(ii) encourage successful implementation of sea grant programs;

(iii) to the maximum extent consistent with other provisions of this subchapter, provide a stable base of funding for sea grant colleges and institutes; and

(iv) encourage and promote coordination and cooperation between the research, education, and outreach programs of the Administration and those of academic institutions; and

(C) ensure compliance with the guidelines for merit review under subsection (c)(2) of this section.

## **Section 1124. Program or project grants and contracts**

(a) Authorization; purposes; limitation on amount

The Secretary may make grants and enter into contracts under this subsection to assist any sea grant program or project if the Secretary finds that such program or project will -

(1) implement the objective set forth in section 1121(b) of this title; and

(2) be responsive to the needs or problems of individual States or regions.

The total amount paid pursuant to any such grant or contract may equal  $66 \frac{2}{3}$  percent, or any lesser percent, of the total cost of the sea grant program or project involved; except that this limitation shall not apply in the case of grants or contracts paid

for with funds accepted by the Secretary under section 1123(d)(6) (FOOTNOTE 1) of this title.

(FOOTNOTE 1) See References in Text note below.

(b) Special grants; maximum amount; prerequisites

The Secretary may make special grants under this subsection to implement the objective set forth in section 1121(b) of this title. The amount of any such grant may equal 100 percent, or any lesser percent, of the total cost of the project involved. No grant may be made under this subsection unless the Secretary finds that -

- (1) no reasonable means is available through which the applicant can meet the matching requirement for a grant under subsection (a) of this section;
- (2) the probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement; and
- (3) the same or equivalent benefit cannot be obtained through the award of a contract or grant under subsection (a) of this section.

The total amount which may be provided for grants under this subsection during any fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 1 percent of the total funds appropriated for such year pursuant to section 1131 of this title.

(c) Eligibility and procedure

Any person may apply to the Secretary for a grant or contract under this section. Application shall be made in such form and manner, and with such content and other submissions, as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe. The Secretary shall act upon each such application within 6 months after the date on which all required information is received.

(d) Terms and conditions

(1) Any grant made, or contract entered into, under this section shall be subject to the limitations and provisions set forth in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) and to such other terms, conditions, and requirements as the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate. Terms, conditions, and requirements imposed by the Secretary under this paragraph shall minimize any requirement of prior Federal approval.

(2) No payment under any grant or contract under this section may be applied to -

- (A) the purchase or rental of any land; or
- (B) the purchase, rental, construction, preservation, or repair of any building, dock, or vessel;

except that payment under any such grant or contract may be applied to the short-term rental of buildings or facilities for meetings which are in direct support of any sea grant program or project and may, if approved by the Secretary, be applied to the purchase, rental, construction, preservation, or repair of non-self-propelled habitats, buoys, platforms, and other similar devices or structures, or to the rental of any research vessel which is used in direct support of activities under any sea grant program or project.

(3) The total amount which may be obligated for payment pursuant to grants made to, and contracts entered into with, persons under this section within any one State in any fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 15 percent of the total funds appropriated for such year pursuant to section 1131 of this title.

(4) Any person who receives or utilizes any proceeds of any grant

or contract under this section shall keep such records as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe as being necessary and appropriate to facilitate effective audit and evaluation, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of such proceeds, the total cost of the program or project in connection with which such proceeds were used, and the amount, if any, of such cost which was provided through other sources. Such records shall be maintained for 3 years after the completion of such a program or project. The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access, for the purpose of audit and evaluation, to any books, documents, papers, and records of receipts which, in the opinion of the Secretary or of the Comptroller General, may be related or pertinent to such grants and contracts.

**Section 1124a. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-160, Sec. 6, Mar. 6, 1998, 112 Stat. 24**

**Section 1125. Repealed. Pub. L. 102-186, Sec. 4(a), Dec. 4, 1991, 105 Stat. 1283**

**Section 1126. Sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes**

(a) Designation

(1) A sea grant college or sea grant institute shall meet the following qualifications -

(A) have an existing broad base of competence in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

(B) make a long-term commitment to the objective in section 1121(b) of this title, as determined by the Secretary;

(C) cooperate with other sea grant colleges and institutes and other persons to solve problems or meet needs relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

(D) have received financial assistance under section 1124 of this title;

(E) be recognized for excellence in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources (including marine resources management and science), as determined by the Secretary; and

(F) meet such other qualifications as the Secretary, in consultation with the panel, considers necessary or appropriate.

(2) The Secretary may designate an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant college if the institution, association, or alliance -

(A) meets the qualifications in paragraph (1); and

(B) maintains a program of research, advisory services, training, and education in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

(3) The Secretary may designate an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant institute if the institution, association, or alliance -

(A) meets the qualifications in paragraph (1); and

(B) maintains a program which includes, at a minimum, research and advisory services.

(b) Existing designees

Any institution, or association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as a sea grant college or awarded institutional program status by the Director prior to March 6,

1998, shall not have to reapply for designation as a sea grant college or sea grant institute, respectively, after March 6, 1998, if the Director determines that the institution, or association or alliance of institutions, meets the qualifications in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Suspension or termination of designation

The Secretary may, for cause and after an opportunity for hearing, suspend or terminate any designation under subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Duties

Subject to any regulations prescribed or guidelines established by the Secretary, it shall be the responsibility of each sea grant college and sea grant institute -

(1) to develop and implement, in consultation with the Secretary and the panel, a program that is consistent with the guidelines and priorities established under section 1123(c) of this title; and

(2) to conduct a merit review of all proposals for grants and contracts to be awarded under section 1124 of this title.

(e) Annual Report on Progress

(1) Report requirement.--The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, on efforts and progress made by colleges, universities, institutions, associations, and alliances to become designated under this section as sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes, including efforts and progress made by sea grant institutes in being designated as sea grant colleges.

(2) Territories and freely associated states.--The report shall include descriptions of -

(A) efforts made by colleges, universities, associations, institutions, and alliances in United States territories and freely associated States to develop the expertise necessary to be designated as a sea grant college;

(B) the administrative, technical, and financial assistance provided by the Secretary to those entities seeking to be designated; and

(C) the additional actions or activities necessary for those entities to meet the qualifications for such designation under subsection (a)(1).

## **Section 1127. Fellowships**

(a) In general

To carry out the educational and training objectives of this subchapter, the Secretary shall support a program of fellowships for qualified individuals at the graduate and post-graduate level. The fellowships shall be related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and awarded pursuant to guidelines established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall strive to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to the program carried out under this subsection. Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress describing the efforts by the

Secretary to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to the program carried out under this subsection, and the results of such efforts.

(b) Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship

The Secretary may award marine policy fellowships to support the placement of individuals at the graduate level of education in fields related to ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources in positions with the executive and legislative branches of the United States Government. A fellowship awarded under this subsection shall be for a period of not more than 1 year.

## **Section 1128. Sea grant review panel**

(a) Establishment

There shall be established an independent committee to be known as the sea grant review panel.

(b) Duties

The panel shall advise the Secretary and the Director concerning

-

- (1) applications or proposals for, and performance under, grants and contracts awarded under section 1124 of this title;
- (2) the sea grant fellowship program;
- (3) the designation and operation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, and the operation of sea grant programs;
- (4) the formulation and application of the planning guidelines and priorities under section 1123(a) and (c)(1) of this title; and
- (5) such other matters as the Secretary refers to the panel for review and advice.

The Secretary shall make available to the panel such information, personnel, and administrative services and assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out its duties.

(c) Membership, terms, and powers

(1) The panel shall consist of 15 voting members who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Director and a director of a sea grant program who is elected by the various directors of sea grant programs shall serve as nonvoting members of the panel. Not less than 8 of the voting members of the panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other voting members shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, marine affairs and resource management, extension services, State government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. No individual is eligible to be a voting member of the panel if the individual is (A) the director of a sea grant college or sea grant institute; (B) an applicant for, or beneficiary (as determined by the Secretary) of, any grant or contract under section 1124 of this title; or (C) a full-time officer or employee of the United States.

(2) The term of office of a voting member of the panel shall be 3 years for a member appointed before the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, and 4

years for a member appointed or reappointed after the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002. The Director may extend the term of office of a voting member of the panel appointed before the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 by up to 1 year. At least once each year, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the panel.

(3) Any individual appointed to a partial or full term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve after the date of the expiration of the term of office for which appointed until his or her successor has taken office.

(4) The panel shall select one voting member to serve as the Chairman and another voting member to serve as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman.

(5) Voting members of the panel shall -

(A) receive compensation at a rate established by the Secretary, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, when actually engaged in the performance of duties for such panel; and

(B) be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

(6) The panel shall meet on a biannual basis and, at any other time, at the call of the Chairman or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Director.

(7) The panel may exercise such powers as are reasonably necessary in order to carry out its duties under subsection (b) of this section.

## **Section 1129. Interagency cooperation**

Each department, agency, or other instrumentality of the Federal Government which is engaged in or concerned with, or which has authority over, matters relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources -

(1) may, upon a written request from the Secretary, make available, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise any personnel (with their consent and without prejudice to their position and rating), service, or facility which the Secretary deems necessary to carry out any provision of this subchapter;

(2) shall, upon a written request from the Secretary, furnish any available data or other information which the Secretary deems necessary to carry out any provision of this subchapter; and

(3) shall cooperate with the Administration and duly authorized officials thereof.

## **Section 1130. Repealed. Pub. L. 102-186, Sec. 5(a), Dec. 4, 1991, 105 Stat. 1283**

## **Section 1131. Authorization of appropriations**

(a) Authorization--

(1) In general--There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title--  
subchapter -

(A) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

- (B) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;
- (C) \$77,500,000 for fiscal year 2005;
- (D) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
- (E) \$82,500,000 for fiscal year 2007; and
- (F) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(2) Priority activities.--in addition to the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2008--

- (A) \$5,000,000 for competitive grants for university research on the biology and control of zebra mussels and other important aquatic nonnative species;
- (B) \$5,000,000 for competitive grant for university research on oyster diseases, oyster restoration, and oyster-related human health risks;
- (C) \$5,000,000 for competitive grants for university research on the biology, prevention, and forecasting of harmful algal blooms, including *Pfiesteria piscicida*; and
- (D) \$3,000,000 for competitive grants for fishery extension activities conducted by sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes to enhance, and not supplant, existing core program funding.

(b) Limitations.--

(1) Administration.--There may not be used for administration of programs under this title in a fiscal year more than 5 percent of the lesser of--

- (A) the amount authorized to be appropriated under this title for the fiscal year; or
- (B) the amount appropriated under this title for the fiscal year.

(2) Use for other offices or programs.--Sums appropriated under the authority of subsection (a)(2) shall not be available for administration of this title by the National Sea Grant Office, for any other Administration or department program, or for any other administrative expenses.

(c) Distribution of Funds.--In any fiscal year in which the appropriations made under subsection (a)(1) exceed the amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2003 for the purposes described in such subsection, the Secretary shall distribute any excess amounts (except amounts used for the administration of the sea grant program) to any combination of the following:

- (1) sea grant programs, according to their rating under section 204(d)(3)(A);
- (2) national strategic investments authorized under section 204(b)(4);
- (3) a college, university, institution, association, or alliance for activities that are necessary for it to be designated as a sea grant college or sea grant institute
- (4) a sea grant college or sea grant institute designated after the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 but not yet evaluated under section 204(d)(3)(A).

(d) Availability of sums

Sums appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

(e) Reversion of unobligated amounts

The amount of any grant, or portion of a grant, made to a person under any section of this subchapter that is not obligated by that

person during the first fiscal year for which it was authorized to be obligated or during the next fiscal year thereafter shall revert to the Secretary. The Secretary shall add that reverted amount to the funds available for grants under the section for which the reverted amount was originally made available.

**Section 9: COORDINATION**

*(This section has not yet been placed in the text sequence above.)*

Not later than February 15 of each year, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall jointly submit to the Committees on Resources and Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on how the oceans and coastal research activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including the Coastal Ocean Program and the National Sea Grant College Program, and of the National Science Foundation will be coordinated during the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the report is submitted. The report shall describe in detail any overlapping ocean and coastal research interests between the agencies and specify how such research interests will be pursued by the programs in a complementary manner.

**SGA Advocacy Activities and Tactics  
FY 2003-09**

	<b>FY 2003</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>
Final Appropriation	\$60.4	\$62.6	\$62.75	\$55.5	\$55	\$57.1	TBD
Approp One-pagers	House = \$68.8 Senate = \$68.8	House = \$68.41 Senate = \$68.41	House = \$68.4 Senate = \$68.4	House = \$68.4 Senate = \$74.25	House = \$72 Senate = \$72	Joint = \$72	Joint = \$72
Dear Colleague	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House=\$68.41M includes initiatives</li> <li>▪ Senate=\$68.41M includes initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House=\$68.4M includes initiatives</li> <li>▪ Senate=\$68.4M includes initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House=\$68.4M includes initiatives</li> <li>▪ Senate=\$74.25M includes initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House=None</li> <li>▪ Senate=\$72M includes initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House=\$72M includes initiatives</li> <li>▪ Senate=\$72M includes initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House=\$72M</li> <li>▪ Senate=\$72M</li> </ul> <p>No initiatives</p>
Written Testimony					House & Senate	House & Senate	House & Senate
Oral Testimony						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House CJS public witness testimony delivered by Paul</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ House CJS public witness testimony delivered by Rick</li> </ul>
Conference Activities				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SGA, CORE, NASULGC letter to House and Senate conferees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SGA letter to conferees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activate delegates</li> <li>▪ Letter signed by 300 stakeholders</li> <li>▪ SGA letter to conferees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Possibly activate delegates</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Possible SGA letter</i></li> </ul>
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Stakeholder Activities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ask stakeholders to reach out to delegations re: \$72 M for FY07</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Letter signed by stakeholders sent to House and Senate CJS</li> <li>▪ Letter signed by stakeholders sent to conferees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Letters signed by stakeholders sent to OMB and Commerce</li> </ul>
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**SGA Advocacy Activities and Tactics  
FY 2003-09**

					Senate CJS re: FY07 request, impacts of yearlong CR and conference	Senate CJS, OMB, Commerce, and White House	
Hill Briefings/ Meetings					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hill briefing on coastal resiliency</li> </ul>		
OMB							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting with Emily Woglom re: FY 09</li> <li>▪ Joint meeting with NSGO and NSGRP with Stu Levenbach</li> </ul>
Other activities			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long Beach retreat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Houston retreat</li> <li>▪ Dearborn, MI retreat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hired LBA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MDSG send letter to House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Portland retreat</li> </ul>

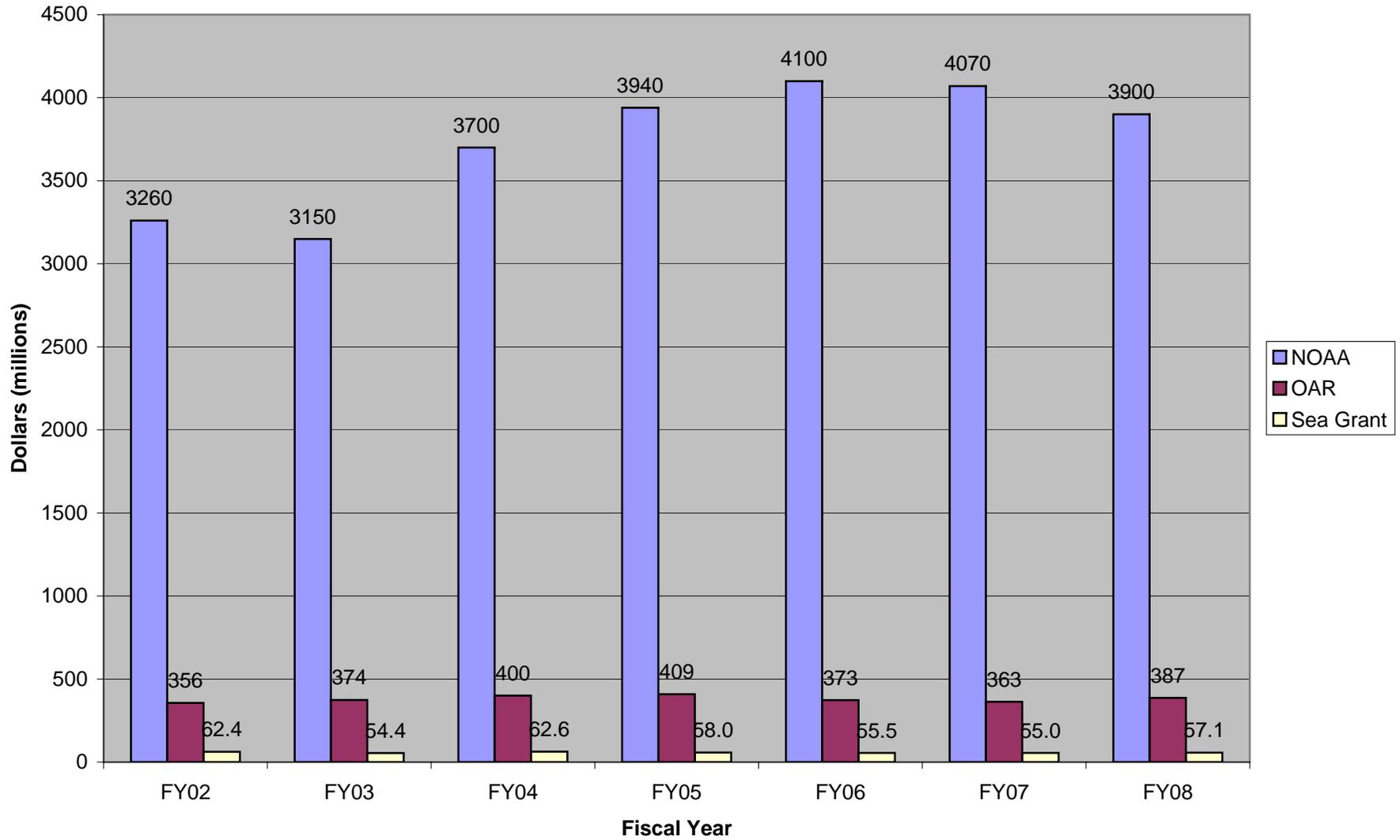
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Sea Grant funding compared to NOAA and OAR (FY 2002-08)



## **Sea Grant “elevator messages”**

November 2008 draft

**Sea Grant:** Enhancing the value and sustainability of our nation’s coastal resources through university-based research, education and outreach programs.

### **Paragraph version:**

The National **Sea Grant** College Program engages citizens, scientists, organizations and governments to sustain and enhance the vitality, value and wise use of the nation’s coastal resources. The **Sea Grant** Program is national, regional and local in scope. Administered by NOAA and implemented through leading universities in 32 island, coastal and Great Lakes states, **Sea Grant** provides unique access to research-based knowledge and expertise. Through its researchers, educators and outreach specialists, **Sea Grant** generates, translates and delivers cutting-edge unbiased information to help address the most complex coastal issues and the most promising coastal opportunities.

## NOAA DOCUMENT: 2008

### ENGAGEMENT OF SEA GRANT BY NOAA REGIONAL COLLABORATION TEAMS

**QUESTION:** How does engagement of Sea Grant vary among NOAA regions?

**PPI RESPONSE:**

**Alaska Regional Team:**

Alaska Sea Grant is an external partner and contributed to our Integrated Services Assessment. We have future plans to include them in additional activities particularly as they relate to outreach and education. **UPDATE:** Alaska Team Lead inquired at the 5 March 2008 O&C PATT call about adding Alaska Sea Grant to their regional team. The AK Sea Grant lead was added to the ARCTic team.

**Central Regional Team:**

A Sea Grant extension agent is stationed at NOAA/OAR National Severe Storms Laboratory, but is not a member of the team to date. We are working together on our joint Gulf of Mexico region/Central region project.

**Great Lakes Regional Team:**

A Sea Grant director (elected by the 7 Great Lakes Sea Grant directors) is a formal member of the team.

**Gulf of Mexico Regional Team:**

Sea Grant is a critical partner for the Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration team. We are engaged with them on education opportunities, as well as the Gulf Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Project. Sea Grant regional leaders regularly attend regional team meetings.

**North Atlantic Regional Team:**

NART considers Sea Grant one of many important stakeholders in its region. Sea Grant representatives were invited to the NOAA-in-the-Mid-Atlantic meeting - a subregion of NART - held in October of 2007. In addition, a Sea Grant representative has agreed to be part of the steering committee for Mid-Atlantic regional collaboration. NART hopes all Sea Grant programs in its region participate in stakeholder meetings the Team anticipates holding in 2008. **UPDATE:** At the face-to-face team meeting in April 2008, NART agreed to add a Sea Grant representative, chosen by the Sea Grant directors in the region, to the team and invite them to meetings.

**Pacific Islands Regional Team:**

The Sea Grant College Program and other extramural NOAA partners are engaged in NOAA regional collaboration in the Pacific in terms of awareness, project-level collaboration, and mutually beneficial partnerships. However, neither Sea Grant nor our extramural NOAA partners are directly involved in a formal relationship with either the Pacific Regional Team or the Pacific Region Executive Board (PREB). That being said, Sea Grant is regularly involved in discussions on regional approaches to marine managed areas as well as the bigger picture of environmental literacy. Most recently, Sea Grant was involved with the Pacific Regional Team and the PREB in

a congressional briefing on NOAA programs recently hosted by the NOAA Pacific Services Center. Sea Grant also continues to be a partner in the regional Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana (PRiMO), a Pacific regional body of risk management providers, partners, clients and stakeholders. The more formal involvement of Sea Grant and other state/extramural partners has been a part of past discussions with the PREB and Regional Team.

**South East Caribbean Regional Team (SECART):**

Sea Grant and other NOAA extramural partners are engaged in NOAA regional collaboration in the Southeast and Caribbean from the standpoint of both awareness and some project-level collaboration. For example, there is close collaboration among Sea Grant and SECART in the development and prioritization of the regional research needs of stakeholders. In fact, the SECART lead is a formal member of the advisory committee for the Sea Grant South Atlantic Regional Research Project. Sea Grant is a regular participant in related regional collaboration efforts in which SECART is also a strong partner such as the emerging South Atlantic Alliance and the on-going NOAA-in-the-Carolinas partnership. However, strictly from a SECART team perspective, none of these state partners are directly involved, as of yet, in what I would characterize as a sustained, clear, and formal relationship that invites them into regular SECART activities in ways that I believe they would describe as truly meaningful. This is an outstanding need, but one which I have communicated to these partners as a strong intention for this 2nd year of regional collaboration development.

**Western Regional Team:**

NOAA West as a team has not had much interaction with Sea Grant at this point. However, last week we did in invite the 4 west coast directors to become part of the team. They are meeting in DC this week and they will discuss how this will be done. **UPDATE:** As of Feb. 26, 2008, Sea Grant directors of the western coastal states have selected a leader and a back-up person to attend meetings as members of the NOAA West team.

# **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS AND KEY POINTS FROM THE SEA GRANT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

September 18-19, 2008  
Portland, Maine

## **SUMMARY**

The Sea Grant Association leadership and key players from throughout the network, including the National Sea Grant Office, the National Sea Grant Review Panel, and the Network Advisory Committee, convened in Portland, Maine for a two day retreat on September 18-19, 2008. The purpose of the retreat was to develop a strategy for short and long term Sea Grant advocacy in light of the many shifts that are happening with the program, with the development of the national strategic plan and performance assessment process, and on the national stage, with a new Administration and Congress on the horizon. The overarching goal of the retreat was to develop a multi-pronged approach to the external relations activities by identifying and discussing the necessary audiences, messages, and approaches that will help the program to grow.

Below are major action items that were identified at the retreat, followed by a brief synopsis of the discussion on the identification of key audiences and messages. Minutes of the retreat are appended to the end of this document.

### **Short Term Action Items:**

- ERC and Lewis-Burke will draft a transition document to the next Administration.
- ERC and Lewis-Burke will draft a strategy for the 2010 appropriations request for discussion at the fall SGA meeting.
- Lewis-Burke will work with the ERC in developing short and longer term advocacy plans. The plans will include a calendar identifying opportune moments for delegates to engage in grassroots activities and a menu of activities in which to engage, such as meetings in state congressional offices, meetings in Washington, hosting events on campus, Dear Colleague letters, etc. The plan will also provide guidance on how specific initiatives and/or the four focus areas may be used in advocacy efforts. This plan will be presented to the delegates at the November meeting for discussion and endorsement.

### **Longer Term/Ongoing Action Items:**

- ERC, PMC and Lewis-Burke will come up with ways in which to engage the entire network (extension, education, communications and research coordinators) in its advocacy activities.
- The SGA leadership and Lewis-Burke will identify ways to promote Sea Grant with the various levels in NOAA.
- The SGA leadership will look at how to retool the ERC and PMC given this new environment.

## **Identification of Key Audiences and Messages**

Messages and tactics differ across the various audiences. It is important to gain an understanding of the audiences we are looking to engage and to be thoughtful of the issues, questions, and initiatives that concern them.

**(1) *The Administration (NOAA, Commerce and OMB)***—The Administration consists of audiences at various levels: NOAA, the Department of Commerce, and OMB. In addition, there are distinct audiences within NOAA itself. The first level is made up of the program offices, such as NSGO and its sister programs. This is where the major budgeting and priority decisions are made in NOAA. The next level consists of the NOAA leadership. This includes Dr. Spinrad (OAR) and the other line offices as well as the NOAA administrator and other front office officials. In order to successfully influence the Administration, Sea Grant has to be seen as an asset to NOAA at all levels. The program needs to be thinking about what it can do to help make OAR successful and address NOAA's mission, while also showing that Sea Grant can and will engage with other NOAA programs. In addition, the new National Sea Grant Strategic Plan should be promoted as a tool that more closely links Sea Grant to NOAA's mission and goals, while remaining true to the principles that make Sea Grant unique.

A few key messages for the Administration are below:

- Successes must be looped back to the federal/national benefit. It is not a compelling message that Sea Grant findings and tech transfer only benefit states or localities.
- The message that annual appropriations have not kept pace with Sea Grant's authorization levels is not compelling to OMB. Instead, the program needs to talk about the demand for Sea Grant resources and how it has been successful.
- Anecdotes are not helpful to OMB.
- A short elevator message is needed that explains that Sea Grant is part of NOAA, it supports NOAA's mission, and it is a focused national program.
- The program should be able to clearly articulate how it can grow with more resources and how it can be innovative and address the important issues of today, such as climate change.
- Sea Grant is unique in that it is already on the ground, it's credible and responsive, and it has an extensive network. No other part of NOAA can say that.
- Sea Grant is the right tool for an important job. The "job" has to be what is on the Administration's mind at that point and time, be it the economy (jobs), climate change or energy.
- The Review Panel (advisory board) should be utilized as a credible advocate for Sea Grant within the Administration. It should have a role to play in the Sea Grant budget making process.

**(2) *Congress (Individual Members and Committees)***—

- The authorization and appropriations committees in the Congress are similar audiences as OMB in that they want to understand what Sea Grant is doing to meet the Congressional mandate for the program and whether the federal investment is being well-managed and well-spent.
- The parochial side of Congress—the individual Members—wants to know how the state programs are addressing the constituents' needs.
- Though the anecdotes may need to be slightly different depending on the Congressional audience, every message should have a local and national angle. This will make

champions of the individual Members while at the same time equipping them with a national message that they can carry to the relevant committees.

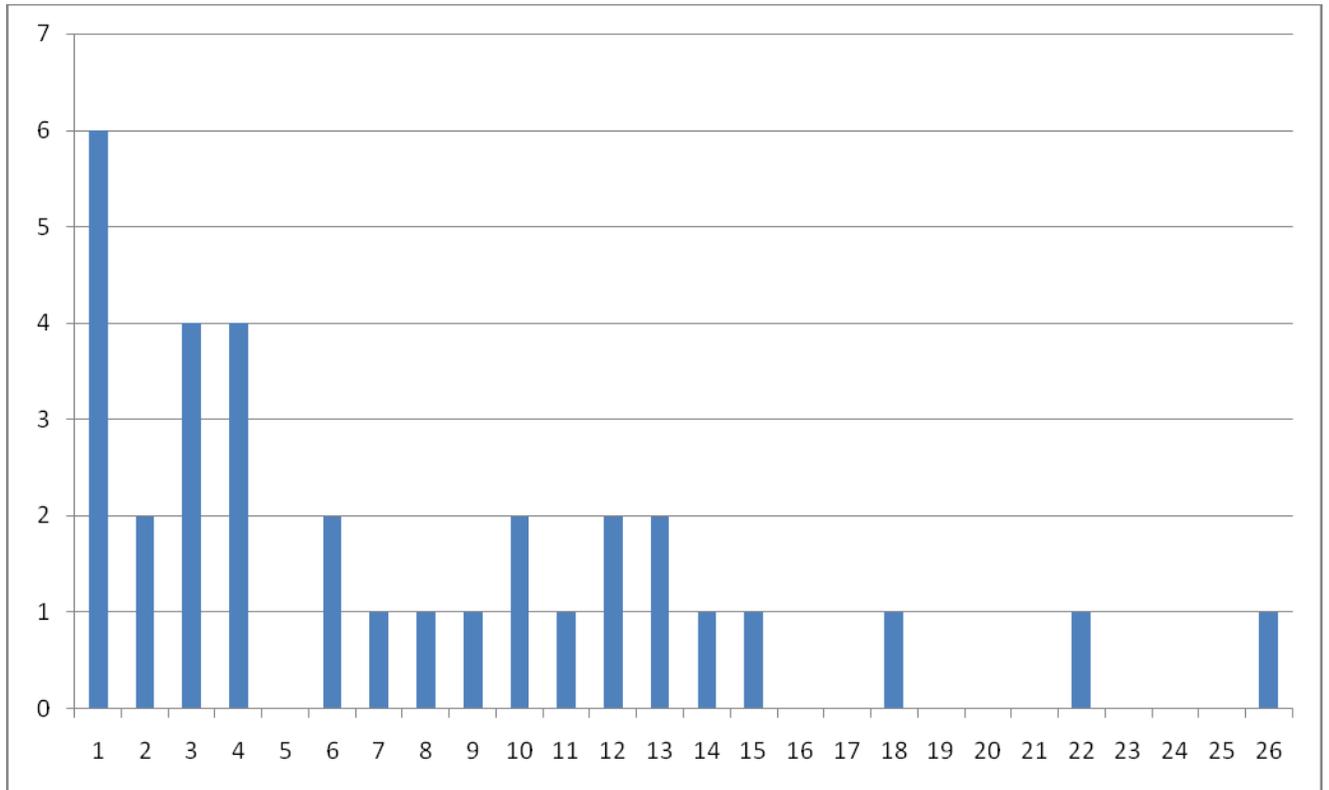
- Stakeholders are an important tool for advocacy on Capitol Hill. It is often better for stakeholders to engage Members of Congress than Sea Grant directors since they have no direct vested interest. Third party validation is important for the program.

The below chart provides additional information regarding possible messages and tactics across the different audiences. Please note that the chart also identifies stakeholders as a key audience. While stakeholders were discussed at the retreat, the conversation focused primarily on how best to use stakeholders in advocacy with the Administration and Congress.

	Executive Branch (Commerce, NOAA, OMB)	Congress	Stakeholders
What do they want to hear?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOAA performance metrics</li> <li>• Measure objectives</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> <li>• PART process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly visible issues</li> <li>• Constituent needs</li> <li>• Emerging priority issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tangible deliverables</li> <li>• Practical solutions</li> </ul>
What we need to say	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Network</li> <li>• Contribution to NOAA’s mission goals</li> <li>• National impact statements</li> <li>• Accountability and performances</li> <li>• Complimentary and not duplicative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue status</li> <li>• Need for science and information</li> <li>• Need for public engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Societal benefits</li> <li>• Change behaviors</li> <li>• Science-based solutions</li> <li>• New technologies</li> <li>• New methods for natural resource mgmt</li> </ul>
Language/jargon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals</li> <li>• Objectives</li> <li>• Benchmarks</li> <li>• ORPP</li> <li>• JSOST</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimonials</li> <li>• Success stories</li> <li>• “Human” stories</li> <li>• Outcomes and impacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions</li> <li>• Information</li> <li>• Economic opportunities</li> <li>• Ecological sustainability</li> </ul>
Opportunities to convey the message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct interactions</li> <li>• Visits to local programs</li> <li>• Topical briefings</li> <li>• Annual reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hill visits</li> <li>• Topical briefings</li> <li>• State office visits</li> <li>• Local events</li> <li>• Publications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Advisory committees</li> <li>• Programming</li> <li>• Testimony</li> <li>• Media</li> </ul>
Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NSGO</li> <li>2. NSGRP</li> <li>3. SGA</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SGA</li> <li>2. NSGRP</li> <li>3. NSGO</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SGA</li> <li>2. Networks</li> <li>3. NSGO</li> </ol>

Sea Grant Directors – Years of service  
Compiled November, 2008

Median = 6 years  
Average = 7.6 years



28 August 2008

**Charge to the National Sea Grant Review Panel's Committee to Review Sea Grant Research**

**Purpose:** To review various aspects of Sea Grant's research in order to examine why funding has declined in real dollars for the past several years. This review hopefully will provide the Sea Grant network with strategies, guidance and recommendations for maximizing the impact of Sea Grant research over the next 10 years with a corresponding increase in available resources.

**Background:** Over the past decade, research funding within Sea Grant has declined markedly both in buying power and as a percentage of Sea Grant's overall funding. Over the 10-year period from 1997-2007, core research funding declined only slightly from \$19.8M to \$19.4M, but that represents about a 25% decrease in buying power as shown by a marked decline in the number of projects that could be supported (from 397 in 1997 to 297 in 2007). The decline in research supported by National Strategic Investments (NSIs) was even steeper going from \$5.7M with 67 projects in 1997 to only \$2.5M with 39 projects in 2007. Overall, during that 10-year interval, Sea Grant-supported research funding declined by \$3.6M and supported almost 30% fewer projects.

Over the same 10-year period, the percentage of core funding that went to support research declined from 50% to 40%. While two-thirds of the Sea Grant programs spent more than 45% of their core funding on research in 1995-96, by 2005-06 only one-third of the programs were spending that much on research. Overall, the combination of core plus National Strategic Investment research funding has also declined, from 55% in 1995-96 to 42% in 2005-06. This decline in research funding has occurred despite an operational guideline that was in effect during most of this period that "not less than 45% or more than 65% (ca. 50%), of base plus merit funding (federal portion) will be distributed for research and education projects awarded by an open peer-review competition process."

The implications of this trend are serious, and if continued it will undermine Sea Grant's ability to provide science-based solutions to address important coastal issues. Science is the engine that drives Sea Grant and being able to support our own high-quality research has served this Program well. A diminished research program would mean less science support for other Sea Grant activities (extension, education and communications) and that in turn would impact Sea Grant's ability to serve its stakeholders. Extension agents and specialists would be forced to rely more heavily on potentially less relevant research supported by others or to spend more of their own time conducting applied research to meet the needs of their stakeholders. On the other hand, retention of these same extension staff, as well as other program staff, has been possible in many programs only by the diminution of the core research allocation.

An important and related issue is the perception, both within NOAA and the outside research community, of the overall value of Sea Grant research. This does not refer to traditional benchmarks such as number of publications, number of graduate students, etc., but rather the question of whether or not the research carried out within the Sea Grant program complements and enhances that in other NOAA programs or is seen as a

competitor to those programs. An assessment of the value and impact of Sea Grant research should be an important component in evaluating the reasons for the funding decrease in the Sea Grant research effort.

A review would be very useful and should address several related issues, including the following:

- 1) Why has there been a decline in research funding, and what are the long-term implications? Has the decline been across the board, or has it affected some programs or some programmatic areas more than others?
- 2) What is the perceived impact and value of Sea Grant research relative to research in other NOAA programs, and what effect has this had on the decline in Sea Grant Research funding? In what way should the Sea Grant research portfolio complement, and be distinguished from, NOAA's portfolio, and with the portfolios of other coastal and marine funding agencies?
- 3) What can Programs do to maximize the value of their research effort and support the best university scientists? What can Directors do to engage the best talent? Is there a role for the National Office in this effort? What are the manpower implications of actually managing an effective research effort, both for the Programs, and for the National Office?
- 4) Is the continuation of the percentage guidelines for funding devoted to research still warranted? If so, should the percentage directed toward research vary between large or small Programs? What is the appropriate balance between research and outreach?
- 5) On what basis should research performance within the Sea Grant Program be evaluated and measured in the future? Should state and other research support for individual Sea Grant Programs be considered when evaluating the overall research effort?
- 6) Can the decline in research funding be reversed? If so, how? What pathways can be explored to expand a Program's research portfolio?

**Participants:** This review will be led by a committee of the National Sea Grant Review Panel. This committee can include any individuals who could provide useful perspective both from within and external to the Sea Grant network. The National Office is prepared to provide staff support and travel funds to support the review.

**Potential Schedule:** The agenda laid out here for the review is broad and far-reaching. The current situation has evolved over many years and to move in any new direction will also take time. Therefore, the findings and recommendations are not overly time sensitive. However, since this issue is of critical importance to the future of the Program, a preliminary report of the Committee's activities will be given at the November Panel meeting, with near-final recommendations from the Committee to be presented at the spring 2009 Panel meeting.

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## SEA GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

### Procedures Manual

#### Preamble

The Advisory Board consists of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The process of selecting new members begins in part with approved proposals of the Advisory Board's Membership Committee being submitted to the National Sea Grant Program Director, National Sea Grant Office (NSGO).

The Director of the National Sea Grant College Program and a Director of a Sea Grant program who is elected by the various directors of Sea Grant Programs [usually the Sea Grant Association (SGA) Chairman] serve as nonvoting members of the Advisory Board. The Board meets twice a year, a minimum requirement of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as a Full Advisory Board. The Board can meet in additional sessions as required and announced in the Federal Registry. Members with various subcommittee assignments and responsibilities participate in activities through the year that do not require announcement in the Federal Registry.

The Advisory Board's general responsibilities include advising the Secretary of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program in reference to various aspects of the Program, in addition to conducting reviews and evaluations.

The Advisory Board takes an active role in the Sea Grant Community that includes the Sea Grant Association (SGA), and individual Sea Grant programs, by means of recommendations made to and assignments from the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). The Advisory Board may also participate in activities such as Sea Grant Week, Leadership Retreats, Focus Teams, the Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders, the National Sea Grant

Communications Network and other similar activities approved by the National Sea Grant Office.

As specified by Congressional authorization, Advisory Board members are to serve for a 4-year term, renewable for an additional 4 years. This term is in addition to time served on the Executive Committee. Beyond the first or second term, an Advisory Board member may be requested to continue service until a replacement is confirmed.

At a minimum, Board members are expected to attend and participate in at least one full Board meeting per year. Barring extenuating circumstances, consideration will be given to requesting the resignation of any Board member who does not attend and participate in at least one full Board meeting per year

Board members will follow the guidelines and requirements that are stipulated in the standard Conflict of Interest Statement that is signed by Board members, and any other guidelines and requirements that are based upon a statute, regulation or official agency policy that are required for FACA committees.

A Board member may not participate in a Performance Review Panel (PRP) if such Board member serves on an advisory or similar committee that is associated with an individual Sea Grant Program or a Consortium Sea Grant Program. Board members who serve on an advisory or similar committee for an individual Sea Grant Program or a Consortium Sea Grant Program, or who are otherwise similarly associated, must resign from such committee or association prior to participation in a PRP.

A Board member may not participate in, or be otherwise involved or associated with, or be a beneficiary of, financial or otherwise, a research project that involves Sea Grant funds. However, a Board member who, on the date on which the Board takes official action to adopt this provision, participates in, or is otherwise involved or associated with, or is a beneficiary of, financial or otherwise, a research project that involves Sea Grant funds, must discontinue such participation, involvement or association

no later than one year from the date on which the Board takes official action to adopt this provision.

## Board Internal Procedures

### A. Officers

The Advisory Board elects two officers, a Chair and a Vice-Chair (or Chair Elect). The Chair and Vice-Chair serve for a period of two years. The Chair also chairs the Executive Committee and represents the Advisory Board in making recommendations to the Executive Committee for actions by the Advisory Board when the Full Advisory Board is not engaged. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected by the body as a whole from a list submitted by the Nominating Committee.

### B. Standing Advisory Board Committees

Executive Committee - The Executive Committee is to consist of 4 members, the Advisory Board Chair, Vice Chair (Chair Elect), the most recent Past Chair, and a Member-at-Large from the Advisory Board. The terms of office on the Executive Committee membership shall be for two years in each position. The Advisory Board Chair may add advisory members from the Advisory Board to the Executive Committee for one year appointments as circumstances require. The Member-at-Large reports monthly by email to the Advisory Board on all Executive Committee activities during that month.

Under no circumstances shall the Executive Committee or other committees vote on any issue, this power being the exclusive responsibility of the Full Advisory Board. The Advisory Board may vote to Authorize the Executive Committee to conduct assignments to represent the Full Advisory Board (but not voting itself) as required.

It is recognized that conference calls severely restrict discussion of important matters and issues by large groups. Nonetheless, it is also noted that matters and issues sometimes must be voted on a critical time scale that would not allow a full Advisory Board meeting in person. The following rules and guidelines for Advisory Board conference calls are to be followed if such circumstances occur.

1. When such a topic must be decided by vote of the Full Advisory Board on a conference call, an outline of the matter or issue(s) must be provided sufficiently in advance to the Advisory Board members by email, mail, or individually.
  
2. After appropriate procedures (FACA) are followed to make a conference call become an official Advisory Board meeting, the call will be conducted as though it were a normal Advisory Board meeting. The Chair shall conduct the meeting in a formal sense according to Roberts Rules to the extent possible. Any discussion by Advisory Board members shall be by request to and designation by the Chair. All Advisory Board members on the conference call will be asked individually by the Chair for comments or discussion, and all discussion shall be recorded or noted by a person acting as Secretary.

Nominating Committee: - Nominations for Board Officers are proposed to the full Advisory Board by a Nominating Committee consisting of the Advisory Board Chair and two members of the Advisory Board chosen as result of an Advisory Board voted motion. No member of the Nominating Committee may be considered for re-nomination unless any such member (including the current Chair) shall be recused from the Committee during such considerations. The Nominating Committee composes a proposed slate at some time other than during a Full Advisory Board or Executive Committee meeting, and circulates the proposed slate in advance of the election of officers. The slate normally includes the current Chair Elect as incoming Chair. Election of the Advisory Board Chair, Vice Chair (Chair Elect), and member at large is usually conducted every two years at the Advisory Board's fall meeting, the new officers to begin official duties on Jan 1st. of the following year. The Vice Chair assumes the responsibilities of the Chair in the event of premature resignation or unavailability of the Chair.

Advisory Board Membership Committee - Periodically, as requested by the National Sea Grant Director, an Advisory Board Membership Committee is formed consisting of no less than three Advisory Board Members appointed by the Chair. The Advisory Board Membership Committee solicits nominations and reviews those nominations to determine if the qualifications of the nominees generally satisfy the legislative requirements for Advisory Board membership. Names of all qualified nominees from the Advisory Board Membership Committee are submitted by the Advisory Board to the Director of the National Office for consideration.

Minority Serving Institution Committee - The Minority Serving Institution Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Advisory Board concerning increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions within the Sea Grant program and within NOAA as a whole.

Topical Advisory Teams (TATs). A visit by a Topical Advisory Team can be requested by any party (within the Sea Grant Program, , ), but because TAT visits are not mandatory, both the director of the host Sea Grant program and the Director of the NSGO must mutually agree to conduct a TAT visit.

Other Reviews. The Advisory Board can elect to review other elements of the Sea Grant program (e.g., extension, administration, communications, etc.).

Position Papers: The Advisory Board may request members to develop white papers or other positions as needed. Advisory Board decisions are normally made by consensus and where votes are necessary, the majority will govern. Roberts Rules of Order are used.

National Sea Grant Advisory Board: Assignments (10.15.2008)		Alden	Bell	Byrne	Duce	Heath	Kudrna	Rabalais	Robinson	Schmitt	Stephan	Stubblefield	Weis	West	Woeste
Panel Committees	Executive		X			X	X		X				X	CH	
	Nominating														
	Panel Membership												Ch		X
	Science & Technology				X(?)	Ch							X		
	Program Evaluation				X		Ch				X				
	Minority Serving Institutions														
	Technology Transfer														
	Reauthorization	X		X		X					X		X		Ch
	International Diversity										X				Ch
Representation	National Office														
	Annual PAT Review					X									
	Extension Assembly														X
	Communicators Assembly									X					
	Senior Research Council		X												
	NOAA SAB		X				X								
Focus Teams	Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities			X											
	Healthy Coastal Ecosystems												X		
	Safe Sustainable Seafood Supply									X					
	Sustainable Coastal Development					X									

**DRAFT**

National Sea Grant Advisory Board: Composition (10.15.2008)		Current Members													Incoming				Departed							
		Alden	Bell	Byrne	Duce	Heath	Kudrna	Rabalais	Robinson	Schmitt	Stephan	Stublefield	Weis	West	Woeste	Harris	Orbach	Simmons	Vortmann	Arrington	Friday	Gardiner	Hernandez-Avila	Knauss	Knatz	Schubel
Appointment Date		8-00	7-98	4-06	8-00	10-01	4-93	3-08	8-00	3-08	4-93	3-06	7-98	1-07	11-02											
Expertise Area: (Statutory Language)	Marine Science (≥8X)		X <sup>a</sup>	X <sup>a</sup>	X <sup>b</sup>	X <sup>c</sup>					X <sup>c</sup>	X <sup>d</sup>							X <sup>d</sup>	X <sup>b</sup>		X <sup>c</sup>	X <sup>c</sup>	X <sup>d</sup>	X <sup>c</sup>	
	Education		X	X	X	X					X	X							X	X		X	X		X	
	Marine Affairs & Resource Management	X		X		X	X				X	X								X		X		X		
	Extension Services	X																							X	
	State Government	X		X			X		X																	
	Industry	X	X								X														X	
	Economics	X									X														X	
	Planning						X																		X	
Other Appropriate Areas*	X <sup>3,4</sup>					X <sup>2,3</sup>				X <sup>3,4,5</sup>													X <sup>1</sup>			
Geographic	North East / Mid Atlantic	X	X								X	X	X							X			X			
	Great Lakes						X		X																	
	S.E. / Caribbean																			X						
	Pacific Southwest																							X		
	Pacific Northwest			X		X					X															
	South Central / Gulf States				X																					
Gender	Male		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Female	X						X				X											X			
Ethnicity	Native American																									
	Asian / Pacific Islander																									
	African American								X																	
	Hispanic																					X				
	Caucasian	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X					X			X	X	X	X

Other Areas:

- 1 Ports and Harbors
- 2 Civil Engineering / Water Resources
- 3 Business
- 4 Fisheries / Aquaculture
- 5 Local Government

Marine Science Expertise:

- a Geophysics
- b Atmospheric Sciences
- c Oceanography
- d Biological Sciences

# DRAFT

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**National Sea Grant Review Panel**  
*A Federal Advisory Committee*

**August 2008**

## **Current Activities**

### **Sea Grant Reauthorization**

- The House passed their version but the Senate's attempt to 'bundle bills' for passage did not reach the required 60 days. The bill could be taken up again after recess but most likely it will have to wait for the next Congress. This delay should allow more Sea Grant team discussion and agreement on the specific language.

### **Coastal Integration**

- The West and Murray visit with OMB to the Rhode Island and Connecticut Sea Grant programs highlighted three issues; 1) OMB is looking for cooperation/integration between NOAA funded programs in the region, 2) Sea Grant needs to tell its story better [a challenge our Panel/Board should help the national office with] and 3) there is no substitute for a visit to a program to show the importance of Sea Grant to the nation.

### **November Baton Rouge , LA - Meeting Logistics**

- For transportation, four major airlines offer service to Baton Rouge. The Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center has free shuttle service from the Baton Rouge airport to the hotel. There is no airport shuttle service from the New Orleans airport to Baton Rouge (one hour and fifteen minutes drive time). One limo service, Shannon's Town Car Service (225) 300-7363, charges \$165 one-way from the New Orleans airport to Baton Rouge. If you need to travel from New Orleans, a car rental is your best option and car pooling is encouraged, which the NSGO can help organize.
- Reserve your hotel room by **October 1, 2008** by calling the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center at 225-344-5866 and reserving a room under your name. Ask for hotel reservations and use the group code (NSG) or the group name (National Sea Grant). The rooms rates are \$99/night + tax for November 10, 11, and 12. You can view the amenities at the Hilton Baton Rouge at their web site [http://www1.hilton.com/en\\_US/hi/hotel/BTRCPHF-Hilton-Baton-Rouge-Capitol-Center-Louisiana/index](http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/BTRCPHF-Hilton-Baton-Rouge-Capitol-Center-Louisiana/index).
- Book your flight/transportation through the government's travel contractor, Adtrav, by calling (301) 713-2407.
- Email Gina Barrera at [Gina.Barrera@noaa.gov](mailto:Gina.Barrera@noaa.gov) with your travel information so she can process your reservations and provide to you a government travel order.

## **Procedures Manual**

- Peter Bell and Jeff Stephan are preparing a revised manual for approval at our Nov '08 meeting. Please send your inputs on the two issues we agreed on during our conference call; 1) minimum Panel/Board participation and 2) restrictions on Panel/Board member participation with a single Sea Grant program.

## **Future Business**

### **November 10-13, 2008 - Baton Rouge , LA - Meeting Agenda**

- Nancy Rabalais, Chuck Wilson, and a representative from the Louisiana Governor's office will discuss important coastal issues facing the state
  - Day 1: Stakeholder's panel, NOAA regional coordination in the Gulf (Buck Sutter), Research Committee report
  - Day 2: Day tour featuring coastal issues
  - Day 3: Procedures Manual revisions (modified, based on new PIE document)

### **Other Business**

- Miguel Lugo, Knauss Fellowship Program Manager, is still looking for one Panel volunteer for the Knauss 30th anniversary and Sea Grant 40th anniversary celebration planning committee.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

### **NOAA Education Plan Review Committee (Woeste, Byrne, Rabalais)**

- John Woeste, John Byrne, and Nancy Rabalais will review the NOAA Education Plan and submit remarks to the Panel by August 28<sup>th</sup> to be
- approved by email.

### **Research Committee (Duce, Weis, Stubblefield, Rabalais)**

- Bob Duce (Chair), Judy Weis, Bill Stubblefield, and Nancy Rabalais will serve on the Research Committee along with SGA representative, Gordon Grau and outside member, Scott Nixon.
- Dorn Carlson, NSGO Research Director, will be the focal point for committee interaction within the NSGO.
- 

### **Fisheries Extension Enhancement Review Committee (Woeste/Stephan/Schmitt)**

- Approved by Panel/Board on our July 15 conference call and forwarded to Leon for review. Leon will announce the future of the program in the next 60 days.

### **Senior Research Council (SRC) Committee (Kudrna)**

- Kudnra reported the June meeting in an email [ dated 6/19/2008 ]

### **Climate Service Committee (On hold)**

### **Strategic Planning Process (West/Bell)**

- Dick West and Peter Bell met as part of the Evaluation Criteria Working Group on July 16-18. A draft report along with a shortened PIE Manual will go back to the Working Group sometime in August for review. Once the report is complete, it will go to Leon for final approval and then out to the Panel and Directors in preparation for the PIE presentation at the SGA meeting/Panel meeting in November.

### **Sea Grant Focus Teams**

- Focus Team Members, please prepare to present a 10min update on your team's activities at the November meeting.
- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems Focus Team: Judy Weis will attend a conference for the International Marine Conservation Congress at George Mason in May 2009 to present on Ecosystem-based Management in Sea Grant. At the fall 2009 meeting of the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation in Portland OR, the team is planning to have a regular oral presentation session featuring SG people working on restoration projects and the estuarine research foundation . A call out to network for research and extension projects that might be considered for participation in these conferences.

### **Chairman's Message**

- **Please respond on the proposed additions to our Procedures Manual ASAP so Peter and Jeff can get a consensus version out for review in September and an updated draft Procedures Manual in October.**
- **With a significant funding problem for the Program Office, we are trying to document our Panel/Board commitments and expenses. We may have to do some 'belt-tightening'. Please respond to the question below directly to Kristin, Jim Murray, John Woeste and me ASAP; [1] As a member of our Panel/Board, do you currently, or have in the past, served in a liaison role to another board/committee/agency? What was your level of effort, was it worthwhile and should we continue providing a liaison ?**
- **We need to assist the national office in maintaining a list of potential**

**Panel/Board members, please forward you recommendations.**

## **Calendar of Events**

### **August**

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—  
28 NOAA Education Plan Review Committee reports back to Panel (preferably earlier--sometime mid-August).

### **September**

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—  
18-19 SGA Retreat - *Portland, ME* (West)

### **October**

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—  
TBA Strategic Plan alignment memo review

### **November**

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—  
10-13 Fall Panel Meeting – *Baton Rouge, LA*  
13-14 SGA Meeting – *New Orleans, LA*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## National Sea Grant Review Panel

*A Federal Advisory Committee*

September 2008

2008 Issue 3

### Current Activities

#### Sea Grant Reauthorization

- Congress is back in session, but there has been no movement on the Sea Grant Reauthorization bill.

#### Procedures Manual

- Peter Bell and Jeff Stephan are putting the final touches on a revised draft to be sent to the Panel / Board in mid-October for review. This document is slated for vote at the November '08 meeting.
- 

#### Subcommittee Updates:

- **Research Review Subcommittee (Duce, Weis, Stubblefield, Rabalais, plus non-members Gordon Grau and Scott Nixon)**  
The NSGRP's Committee to Review Sea Grant Research had held one conference call and will be meeting in Washington, DC on 22-23 September 2008. The committee will be reviewing various aspects of Sea Grant's research portfolio including the implications of declining funding over the past decade. The purpose of this review is to provide the Sea Grant network with strategies, guidance and recommendations for maximizing the impact of Sea Grant research.
- **Senior Research Council (SRC) Committee (Kudrna)**  
Kudrna will attend the next SRC meeting scheduled for December in Washington, DC
- **Evaluation Criteria Working Group (West/Bell)**  
A draft Preliminary Report is complete and under review by the working group.
- **Climate Service Committee (on hold)**

#### Sea Grant Focus Teams

- The draft implementation plan, developed by the focus teams, was distributed to the network for comment.

#### Review of Panel Roles

- West and Woeste are working with Murray to review the current roles of the Panel and to establish guidance for setting priorities and assigning future roles.

### **Panel Nominations**

- The following 3 individuals have been nominated for the Panel and are currently being screened in the clearance process:
- **Jeremy Harris**, born December 7, 1950 in Wilmington, Delaware, served as Mayor of Honolulu from 1994 to 2004. A biologist by training, Harris started his political career as a delegate to the 1978 Hawai'i State Constitutional Convention. As chief executive of the City & County of Honolulu, the city was named "America's Greatest City" by the official American governance journal, *Governing Magazine*. Harris is the founder of the China-U.S. Conference of Mayors and Business Leaders and Japan-American Conference of Mayors and Chamber of Commerce Presidents. He is married to Ramona Sachiko Akui Harris and lives in Kalihi Valley on the Island of O'ahu. Early in his career, Harris served as a Sea Grant Extension agent for Hawaii Sea Grant.
- Mayor **Harry Simmons** is in his 8<sup>th</sup> year as Mayor of the Town of Caswell Beach, North Carolina, and in 2007 was named "Elected Official of the Year" by Cape Fear Council of Government. He currently serves as a member of North Carolina's Coastal Resources Advisory Council, chairman of the Brunswick Beaches Consortium, as executive director of North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association, as President of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association. Previously, Mayor Simmons also served on the Board of Directors for the NC League of Municipalities, and on the National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. Prior to working on coastal policy issues, Harry Simmons owned a music management firm and was primarily involved with managing the careers of record producers. He is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & sciences which gives him a vote for the Grammy Awards each year.
- **Richard H. Vortmann** recently retired after a 30 year career with National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) based in San Diego, California where he served as President for 22 years. He also retired after six years as Vice President of General Dynamics (GD). He most recently completed an assignment as Interim President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is currently Chairman of Scripps Health, a \$1.8 billion San Diego hospital system; Vice Chairman of the National Academies of Science Marine Board and a member of Council, American Bureau of Shipping.

## **Future Activities**

**November 10-13, 2008 - Baton Rouge, LA**

- Latest [Agenda](#) (follow the link, or go directly to [http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/leadership/reviewpanel/agenda\\_1108.pdf](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/leadership/reviewpanel/agenda_1108.pdf)).
- While staying in Baton Rouge, one of the dinners will be held at the Camelot Club downtown. Listed below are the choices of entrées available for the dinner. Please send an email to Teri Hock at [seagstudents@lsu.edu](mailto:seagstudents@lsu.edu) with your preferred meal choice as soon as possible. All entrees will include a salad and dessert. A vegetarian dish is also available. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Hock or Katie Lea at (225) 578-6445.
  - *Pan-sauteed Fresh Fish with Crabmeat, Button Mushrooms & Green Onion Meuniere*
  - *Grilled Pork Tenderloin Medallions with Blackened Crawfish Tails and a Creole Tomato Sauce*
  - *8 oz. Prime Filet Mignon topped with a Portabella Mushroom Demi-glance*
- Please note that the Camelot Club requires jackets after 6:00PM, so please pack accordingly.

## Completed Activities

### Coastal Integration

- As follow-up to the coastal integration discussion at the spring Panel meeting, West and Murray hosted the NOAA OMB examiner and two representative of the NOAA budget office at a tour of the RI and CT Sea Grant Programs. Details of the tours were discussed at the Panel's July teleconference meeting.

### NOAA Education Plan Review Committee (Woeste, Byrne, Rabalais)

- Remarks submitted to NOAA Education Office August 28th, 2008

### Fisheries Extension Enhancement Review Committee (Woeste/Stephan/Schmitt)

- The Fisheries Extension Enhancement Report was adopted by a consensus vote of the Panel at a special teleconference meeting on July 25, 2008. Director Leon Cammen will announce his decision on the future of the FEE after he has met with the Leadership of NMFS to determine NMFS interest in funding the program.

### General Business Items

- The Panel Charter was renewed as of 8/11/08.

## Chairman's Message

- We are working an aggressive agenda for our November meeting. The field trip and

panel discussions should be more timely in view of Gustav. There is an update on the agenda in this newsletter. Our 'closed session' will be short the last day so Jim and I will try to get as much out to you in advance as possible. The three nominees to the Panel/Board (identified above) who have committed to serving but have not yet received the prolonged blessing thru Commerce, have accepted the invitation to join our November meeting.

- It is likely there will be a CR thru most if not all of '09, so we will have to work with the '08 appropriation. The National Office is developing a 'belt-tightening' discretionary budget as will we. We are required by law to have two meetings a year and we concentrate making these brief get-togethers as valuable as possible. Our next priority is specific requests on behalf of Sea Grant, FEE, research review - Evaluation Committee, focus teams are examples, our next priority will be liaison roles with other agencies/committees. Jim and I will present our thoughts on how to manage our funding at the Nov. If you have comments on this general spending priority, please forward them.
- I will attend the SGA Executive committee retreat later this month.

## Calendar of Events

### September

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18-19 SGA Retreat - *Portland, ME* (West)

### October

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TBA Strategic Plan alignment memo review

### November

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10-13 Fall Panel Meeting – *Baton Rouge, LA*

13-14 SGA Meeting – *New Orleans, LA*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# National Sea Grant Advisory Board

*A Federal Advisory Committee*

October 2008

2008 Issue 4

## Current Activities

### Sea Grant Reauthorization

- On Monday, October 13, 2008 President Bush signed the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008, which reauthorizes the Sea Grant Program from 2009 through 2014. The bill passed both houses of Congress without opposition. We are now the 'National Sea Grant Advisory Board'. The current and past legislation is available on the Administrative Information page of the Sea Grant website (<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/other/admininfo.html>)

### November Meeting

- Please see 'Future Activities' section below for detailed information.

### Procedures Manual

- Peter Bell and Jeff Stephan have produced a draft revised procedures manual which will be included in the briefing book. There have been several opportunities to submit comments, thanks to all. The only issue that will need some discussion at the November meeting prior to a vote for approval is specific wording on 'conflict of interest' for Board members. The new reauthorization bill is very specific: Section 1128 (c) (1) states: "No individual is eligible to be a voting member of the board if the individual is (A) the director of a sea grant college or institute; (B) an applicant for, or beneficiary (as determined by the Secretary) of, any grant or contract under section 1124 of the title; or (C) a full-time officer or employee of the United States." The 'as determined by the Secretary' allows us to make a recommendation on section {B}.

### Sea Grant Focus Teams

- The focus teams have produced a draft national implementation plan which is currently out for comment. At the request of the programs, the deadline for comments on the draft implementation plan was extended to October 24. It is anticipated that a revised draft national implementation plan will be available by mid-November.

### Board Nominations

- Dr. Michael Orbach has accepted an invitation to join the board, and will enter the official nomination process shortly.
- Dr. Orbach is a Professor of the Practice of Marine Affairs and Policy in the Division of Marine Science Conservation at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He has performed research and has been involved in coastal and marine policy on all coasts of the U.S. and in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Alaska and the Pacific, and has published widely on social science and policy in coastal and marine environments. He has worked as a Cultural Anthropologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and has held several Governor's appointments to environmental Boards and Commissions as well as appointments to National Academy of Sciences Boards and Committees. He has been the President of The Coastal Society, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Surfrider Foundation.

### Subcommittee Updates:

- **Research Review Subcommittee (Duce, Weis, Stubblefield, Rabalais, plus non-members Gordon Grau and Scott Nixon)**  
The committee held its first meeting in Silver Spring, MD on September 22-23. A status report on the committee's work will be provided at the November meeting.
- **Senior Research Council (SRC) Committee (Kudrna)**  
Frank Kudrna attended the SRC meeting in Silver Spring, MD on September 23-24. The next meeting is scheduled for December in Washington, DC. A summary of the Sep meeting was provided by Frank in an October 2 email to the Board. (This email is available on the Members Only section of the Board site.)
- **Evaluation Criteria Working Group (West/Bell)**  
A conference call was held on Oct. 17th to discuss the first draft of the evaluation criteria report. Suggestions were made and a second draft was produced and is being reviewed by the working group. Another conference call is scheduled for Oct. 31st. The working group plans on transmitting the report to Leon by the first of Nov.
- **Climate Service Committee (on hold)**

## Future Activities:

### Fall Advisory Board Meeting

November 10-13, 2008 - *Baton Rouge, LA*

#### Logistics

- Latest [Agenda](#) (follow the link, or go directly to [http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/leadership/advisoryboard/agenda\\_1108.pdf](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/leadership/advisoryboard/agenda_1108.pdf)).
- This meeting requires a registration fee of approximately \$290 (exact amount TBD by Louisiana Sea Grant.) Please bring a checkbook in order to pay this fee –

credit cards will **not** be accepted. This fee will be reimbursed along with your other travel expenses.

- Briefing books for the meeting will be provided electronically within a week on the 'Members Only' section of the website (access information below). A 'posted' email will be sent. Should you desire a hardcopy version of the briefing book, please request this directly from Gina Barrera ([gina.barrera@noaa.gov](mailto:gina.barrera@noaa.gov), 301-734-1077).

### Access to Members Only section of website

- Please note that the address for the Advisory Board site has changed to reflect the name change – please update your bookmarks accordingly. The new address is: [http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/leadership/advisory\\_board.html](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/leadership/advisory_board.html)
- To access the Members Only pages, please click on the 'Members Only' link in the top right corner of the page.
- A box should pop up asking for username and password (these are case sensitive)  
Username: sgleader  
Password: leader@oarsg
- Please contact Melissa Pearson ([melissa.pearson@noaa.gov](mailto:melissa.pearson@noaa.gov)) if you have trouble accessing the site.

### Camelot Club Dinner

- **If you have not already done so, please send an email to Teri Hock at [seagstudents@lsu.edu](mailto:seagstudents@lsu.edu) with your preferred meal choice as soon as possible.**
- Listed below are the choices of entrées available for the dinner. All entrees will include a salad and dessert. A vegetarian dish is also available. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Hock or Katie Lea at (225) 578-6445.
  - *Pan-sauteed Fresh Fish with Crabmeat, Button Mushrooms & Green Onion Meuniere*
  - *Grilled Pork Tenderloin Medallions with Blackened Crawfish Tails and a Creole Tomato Sauce*
  - *8 oz. Prime Filet Mignon topped with a Portabella Mushroom Demi-glace*
- Please note that the Camelot Club requires jackets after 6:00PM, so please pack accordingly.

### Completed Activities

- Nothing to report

### Chairman's Message

- Thanks to Peter and Jeff for their work on the Procedures Manual. This Manual

allows us to establish Board operating procedures that are consistent with but more specific than what is authorized in the FACA Bill and the Sea Grant Bill.

- A key topic for my presentation to the SGA conference the day after our Nov meeting is what the change to 'Advisory Board' means for the mission of our FACA Committee. I'll prepare some talking points for discussion during our closed session 13 Nov.
- Paul Anderson completes his tenure as Chair of the SGA and will present a state of the program at the SGA meeting. Paul will share his presentation at our meeting.
- Thanks to Jim, Kola, Melissa, Kristin and Gina in the NSGO for their work in coordinating our Nov meeting, a lot of work!
- Looking forward to seeing you all in November.

## Calendar of Events

### November

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10-13 Fall Advisory Board Meeting – *Baton Rouge, LA*

13-14 SGA Meeting – *New Orleans, LA*

### December

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7-12 2009 John A. Knauss Placement Week

Senior Research Council Meeting (Kudrna) – *Washington, DC*

### 2009

### January

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19-21 Research Committee meeting – *Honolulu, HA*

### February

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10-11 Spring Advisory Board Meeting – *Washington, DC*

10 SGA meeting – *Washington, DC*

10 Knauss 30th Anniversary Celebration – *Washington, DC*

# Sea Grant Advisory Board Directory

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## Ex-Officio Members

### National Sea Grant Office

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### Sea Grant Association (SGA), President

#### **Mr. Paul Anderson**

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## New Nominations

#### **Joseph "Jeremy" Harris**

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#### **Dr. Michael K. Orbach**

Professor of the Practice of Marine Affairs and Policy  
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#### **Richard Vortmann**

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# Sea Grant Advisory Board Members

## **Peter M. Bell (Past Chair)**

Galesville, Maryland

Dr. Peter M. Bell is a consultant in the fields of geophysics and material science and is adjunct senior research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Geophysical Laboratory. In addition, he serves on the Advisory Board of the Materials Processing Center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before his retirement, Dr. Bell was the vice president and chief scientist of St. Gobain Corporation and Norton Company. He has served on the Board of Directors of Cerbec Corporation and KuriNorton Company. Dr. Bell has taught at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, the California Institute of Technology and the State University of New York. Dr. Bell was awarded the Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1976, the Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 1981, and the Guinness Foundation Award in 1981. He was named the Fairchild Distinguished Scholar by the California Institute of Technology in 1983. Dr. Bell received his Ph.D. in geophysics at Harvard University.

## **John V. Byrne**

Corvallis, Oregon

Dr. John V. Byrne is President Emeritus of Oregon State University (OSU), where he served as president for eleven years (1984 - 1995). During his 35 year tenure at OSU, Byrne served for sixteen years in OSU's Oceanography program as faculty member, department chair, and dean. Subsequently he was OSU's Dean of Research, Graduate Dean, and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. He has also served the United States government in Washington, D.C. as a program director for oceanography at the National Science Foundation, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce, and as the United States commissioner to the International Whaling Commission. Since retiring from OSU's presidency, Dr. Byrne has served as Executive Director of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities, as a consultant on various aspects of higher education to more than a dozen major public universities, and has assisted university governing boards with board-president relations, presidential assessments, and presidential searches. He currently serves as an advisor to K-12 education in the state of Oregon, and has served on several corporate and non-profit boards as well. Dr. Byrne received his Ph.D. in Geology at the University of Southern California.

## **Robert Duce**

College Station, Texas

Dr. Robert Duce is currently Distinguished Professor of Oceanography and Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University (TAMU) and a former Dean of the College of Geosciences and Maritime Studies at TAMU. From 1987-1991, Dr. Duce served as Dean of the Graduate School of Oceanography and Vice Provost for Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island where he was a member of the oceanography faculty since 1970. His many professional achievements include past President of the Oceanography Society and the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences, and recipient of the Rosenstiel Award in marine and atmospheric chemistry. He is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, The Oceanography Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Meteorological Society. He recently completed his term as the President of Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and is currently a Member of the National Research Council's Ocean Studies Board. Dr. Duce has

over 270 scientific publications in journals, books, and proceedings. He received his Ph.D. in inorganic and nuclear chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Jeremy Harris**  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Jeremy Harris served as Mayor of Honolulu from 1994 to 2004. A biologist by training, Harris started his political career as a delegate to the 1978 Hawai'i State Constitutional Convention. As chief executive of the City & County of Honolulu, the city was named "America's Greatest City" by the official American governance journal, *Governing Magazine*. Harris is the founder of the China-U.S. Conference of Mayors and Business Leaders and Japan-American Conference of Mayors and Chamber of Commerce Presidents. He is married to Ramona Sachiko Akui Harris and lives in Kalihi Valley on the Island of O'ahu. Early in his career, Harris served as a Sea Grant Extension agent for Hawaii Sea Grant.

**G. Ross Heath**  
Seattle, Washington

Dr. G. Ross Heath is Dean Emeritus of the College of the Ocean and Fishery Sciences and Professor of Oceanography at the University of Washington. His research in marine geology has focused on deep-sea manganese nodules, the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, and paleoceanography, resulting in more than a hundred publications. He has served on numerous panels and committees of the National Academy of Sciences, NASULGC, JOI, and CORE. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1993 he served as an environmental analyst for KIRO TV (the CBS affiliate in Seattle). He is a member of the National Sea Grant Review Panel. He grew up in Adelaide, Australia where he earned his bachelors degree and worked as a geologist for several years before moving to the U.S. In 1993 he came to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to study for a Ph.D. in Oceanography, which he obtained in 1968. His subsequent career has included faculty appointments at Oregon State University (including Dean of Oceanography from 1978 to 1984), the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Washington (including dean from 1984 to 1996) as well as two years as president and CEO of MBARI, prior to his present position.

**Frank Kudrna, Jr. (Past Chair)**  
Clarendon Hills, Illinois

Dr. Frank Kudrna is the chief executive office of Kudrna & Associates, Ltd., a Chicago civil engineering consulting firm. Formerly he was president of Epstein Civil Engineering Company, and prior to that, he was director of the Illinois Division of Water Resources and supervising engineer of flood control and planning with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Dr. Kudrna has served for over 25 years on the Great Lakes Commission. He is former vice-chairman of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission and the Ohio River Basin Commission. Dr. Kudrna holds a Ph.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of Chicago. During 2000, Dr. Kudrna served on the eight-member team that conducted an intensive review of the National Sea Grant College Program's extension efforts that resulted in the report [A Mandate to Engage Coastal Users](#).

**Dr. Michel Orbach**

North Carolina

Dr. Michel Orbach is a Professor of the Practice of Marine Affairs and Policy in the Division of Marine Science Conservation at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He has performed research and has been involved in coastal and marine policy on all coasts of the U.S. and in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Alaska and the Pacific, and has published widely on social science and policy in coastal and marine environments. He has worked as a Cultural Anthropologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and has held several Governor's appointments to environmental Boards and Commissions as well as appointments to National Academy of Sciences Boards and Committees. He has been the President of The Coastal Society, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Surfrider Foundation.

**Nancy Rabalais**

Chauvin, Louisiana

Nancy Rabalais is a Professor at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. Dr. Rabalais' research interests include the dynamics of hypoxic environments, interactions of large rivers with the coastal ocean, estuarine and coastal eutrophication, benthic ecology, and environmental effects of habitat alterations and contaminants. Dr. Rabalais is an AAAS Fellow, an Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Fellow, a Past President of the Estuarine Research Federation, a National Associate of the National Academies of Science, a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of LOICZ/IGBP, and currently is Chair of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Science. She received the 2002 Bostwick H. Ketchum Award for coastal research from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and was the Ian Morris Scholar in Residence at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies in 2004. Her work on the causes and consequences of Gulf hypoxia have garnered several citations—the Blasker award shared with R.E. Turner, and a NOAA Environmental Hero, Clean Water Act Hero, and Gulf Guardian award. She earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983, and her B.S and M.S. in Biology from Texas A&I University, Kingsville.

**Nathaniel E. Robinson**

Madison, Wisconsin

Mr. Nathaniel Robinson is a gubernatorially-appointed senior executive in Wisconsin's state government, currently serving as special assistant to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration. From 1992-1999, Mr. Robinson managed the department's Division of Energy and Intergovernmental Relations and served as the governor's representative on coastal and related environmental issues. For nearly two decades, he served the state in the administration of public safety through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. Mr. Robinson has represented the Wisconsin governor on many boards and commissions, including the Great Lakes Commission, which he currently Chairs, the Coastal States Organization, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Council, and the Acid Deposition Research Council.

**Rolland A. (Rollie) Schmitten**

Leavenworth, Washington

Rolland A. (Rollie) Schmitten has been a natural resources manager for the past 38 years; focusing on marine fish and mammals for the last 25 years. He has served as the Washington State Director of Fisheries. The federal (National Marine Fisheries Service) West Coast Regional Director of 6 states; the National Director of Marine Fisheries; the US Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs (NOAA), and the National Director of Marine Habitat Conservation. During his career he served 4 presidents with Presidential appointments as the: US Tuna Commissioner, US Atlantic Salmon Commissioner, and served 10 years as the US International Whaling Commissioner. Among his many awards and recognitions include: Presidential Merit Award, Trout Unlimited Washington Sportsman of the Year, Presidential award for outstanding achievement of a Vietnam veteran, and the Department of Transportation (USCG) Commandant's Award for Meritorious Public Service. In 2005, Mr. Schmitten retired and moved back to Sockeye Point Lodge in Washington State where he continues to work on marine and fresh water resource issues.

**Mayor Harry Simmons**

North Carolina

Mayor Harry Simmons is in his 8th year as Mayor of the Town of Caswell Beach, North Carolina, and in 2007 was named "Elected Official of the Year" by Cape Fear Council of Government. He currently serves as a member of North Carolina's Coastal Resources Advisory Council, chairman of the Brunswick Beaches Consortium, as executive director of North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association, as President of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association. Previously, Mayor Simmons also served on the Board of Directors for the NC League of Municipalities, and on the National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. Prior to working on coastal policy issues, Harry Simmons owned a music management firm and was primarily involved with managing the careers of record producers. He is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts & sciences which gives him a vote for the Grammy Awards each year.

**Jeffrey R. Stephan**

Kodiak, Alaska

Mr. Jeffrey Stephan is manager of the United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc., (UFMA) in Kodiak, Alaska. UFMA is a multi-species, multi-gear-type commercial fishermen's organization whose members conduct fishing operations throughout the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. A former member of the Kodiak City Council, Mr. Stephan has served on the Department of Commerce North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. In addition, he has served as vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI). Presently, Mr. Stephan is a member of the Board of Education of the Kodiak Island Borough School District, the Board of Directors of the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, and the Policy Committee of the Fishery Industrial Technology Center of the University of Alaska/Fairbanks. A founding member of the Oil/Fisheries Group of Alaska, Mr. Stephan graduated with a B.A. in economics from the State University of New York at Plattsburg. After graduation, he worked for Eastman Kodiak Company in sales and marketing and, prior to taking his current position, worked as a commercial fisherman.

**William L. Stubblefield (Member-At-Large)**

Martinsburg, West Virginia

In 1999 Rear Admiral Stubblefield retired from his position as the Director of the Office of NOAA Corps Operations. Prior positions include Executive Director of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; Special Assistant, Office of the Chief Scientist, where he received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal; Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship SURVEYOR; Chief Scientist for NOAA's Undersea Research Program; Program Monitor within the Office of Sea Grant; Deputy Director for Marine Geology and Geophysics Laboratory of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML); research oceanographer in coastal processes at AOML; and 5 years of active service in the U.S. Navy. Rear Admiral Stubblefield has served as an advisor to the Department of Geology, University of Iowa, and is/was a member of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Association for Advancement of Science, and the Geological Society of Washington. Rear Admiral Stubblefield is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Military Officers Association of America; Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Public Service Commission Water District, Berkeley County, West Virginia; co-chair for Berkeley County's Source Water Protection Study; member of Virginia-West Virginia Regional Water Policy Committee; Chairman of the Berkeley County Comprehensive Plan, and founder and President of Berkeley Community Pride (a county beautification non-profit organization). He is a candidate for the Berkeley County Commission. Rear Admiral Stubblefield received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in geology.

**Richard H. Vortmann**

La Jolla, California

Richard H. Vortmann recently retired after a 30 year career with National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) based in San Diego, California where he served as President for 22 years. He also retired after six years as Vice President of General Dynamics (GD). He most recently completed an assignment as Interim President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is currently Chairman of Scripps Health, a \$1.8 billion San Diego hospital system; Vice Chairman of the National Academies of Science Marine Board and a member of Council, American Bureau of Shipping.

**Judith Weis**

Newark, New Jersey

Dr. Judith Weis is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University where her research focuses on estuarine ecology and ecotoxicology and where she has served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. During 2001, Dr. Weis served as the President of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. She has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), served as chair of its biology section, and held an AAAS/American Society of Zoologists Congressional Science Fellowship with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Dr. Weis has been a program director at the National Science Foundation, a visiting scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a research scientist at Operation Wallacea in Indonesia. She has served as a member of the Marine Board of the National Research Council, on the board of directors of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and the Board of Directors of the Association of Women in Science (AWIS). The author of about 170 refereed papers, Dr. Weis received her B.A. from Cornell University and Ph.D. from New York University.

**Richard D. West (Chairman)**

Washington, DC

Rear Admiral West comes to CORE from the Department of the Navy where he served as Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy where he managed a \$400 million program providing oceanographic, meteorological, geospatial information and navigation support to the US Navy. Prior to serving as Oceanographer, he was the Deputy Director for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. Other shore assignments include Director, Surface Combat Systems Division on the CNO's Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations CINCSOUTH Naples Italy and on the staff of the Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force. From 1992-1993, as Commanding Officer of the Surface Warfare Officers School, he directed an advanced studies academic institution, which provides a continuum of professional education and training to prepare naval officers to serve at sea. Admiral West served in Vietnam with the riverine forces and commanded ships during hostilities in the Arabian Gulf. He has commanded three ships, USS OPPORTUNE (ARS-41), USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8), and USS LEAHY (CG-16). A native of the Finger Lakes region of New York State, West has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (three awards), Meritorious Service Medal, NOAA Administrator's Award Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and various service and campaign medals. West graduated from the University of Rochester, receiving his commission through the ROTC program. He holds Master's degrees in management and national security.

**John T. Woeste (Vice Chairman)**

Gainesville, Florida

Dr. John T. Woeste is professor emeritus and retired Dean of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences. From 1976 to 1995 he served as Director of Extension and the Florida Sea Grant Marine Extension Program. He was frequently recognized for his leadership of both agriculture and marine resource extension programs. In 1987 he received the USDA "Unit Award for Distinguished Service". In 1992, Dr. Woeste won the Mary Nell Greenwood Award from the American Evaluation Association for his sustained commitment to public accountability. In 1997, he was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame and in 2002 was elected to the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame. He was recognized by the National FFA with an "Honorary American FFA Degree" and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity with a "Brother of Distinction" award. Woeste has served on boards for the Southern region aquaculture center and the Sustainable agriculture program. He chaired the national Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP), and Co-chaired the Legislative committee for the Agriculture division of the Land Grant University Association while a member of the board of Directors. His international experience includes advisory visits and consulting trips to Ecuador, Cameroon and Israel addressing agriculture education and technology transfer. Currently, he is president of the Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corp, Inc., Director of the National NARRC, President of the Alpha Gamma AGR educational foundation, and a member of the SHARE-UF Foundation board executive committee. He is a retiring director and past president of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. In 2002 he was appointed to the National Sea Grant Review panel.

November 3, 2008

## **BIOS – Stakeholder’s Panel**

### **Mr. Kai D. Midboe**

(Sea Grant Legal Advisory Panel)  
Milling Benson Woodward, L.L.P.  
Baton Rouge, LA

Kai Midboe is currently a managing partner in the law firms of Midboe, Guirard, Davis, Melton, Tarpley and Brinkso and the Slater-Midboe Law Group. He devoted many years to government service involving environmental and maritime issues and programs. He served the State of Louisiana as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Federal and Environmental Affairs, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, and Assistant Attorney General for Lands and Natural Resources. At the federal level he was Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation and Counsel to the Maritime and International Law Division of the U.S. Coast Guard. Midboe served as Director of Maritime Law Studies at the Louisiana State University Sea Grant Legal Program from 1975-77. He is a founding and current alumni member of the Environmental Council of States (ECOS).

### **Mr. Doug Drennan**

Managing Director  
Aquaculture Systems Tech.  
Jefferson LA

Douglas Drennan is the Managing Director of Aquaculture Systems Technologies, LLC, a New Orleans company that was established in 1995 to manufacture and market floating bead filters. These proprietary devices were initially developed in the laboratory of Dr. Ron Malone, LSU Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, to perform nitrification of fish wastes, an essential biofiltration function in the operation of closed, recirculating aquaculture systems. Drennan assisted in the testing and development of the prototype bead filter systems. Thus, he recognized the latent business opportunity and acted promptly to acquire manufacturing rights and commercialize the new technology. The company has subsequently diversified its product line and expanded to serve international markets as a leading purveyor of closed, recirculating systems for the intensive culture of aquatic animals.

### **Timothy R. Osborn**

Regional Navigation Manager  
NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey

Tim Osborn is the Regional Navigation Manager, for the Eastern Gulf Region. Tim has a Bachelors degree in Marine Biology, and Masters degrees in Marine Science and Public Administration from Louisiana State University. Tim began his career at NOAA in 1992. As Regional Navigation Manager, Tim’s primary responsibility is the implementation of Coast Survey’s charting and navigation programs and projects. His duties include oversight of

surveying and mapping of Gulf Coast waters, navigation channels, ports, and waterways; coordination of NOAA OCS response activities during hurricanes and severe incidents; and assisting with the planning and implementation of new programs such as densification of NOAA's tides and water level programs and installations (including PORTS, and IOOS related activities) along the eastern Gulf. Tim works with local state and coastal communities on coastal projects including restoration projects, artificial reef programs, new navigation and port installations and the surveying and mapping of marine debris.