

**Subject: Draft Report of the Response Integration Team**  
**From: Jim.D.Murray@noaa.gov**  
**Date: 9/14/2007 6:21 PM**  
**To: oar.sg.network@noaa.gov**

To the Sea Grant Network:

On behalf of the Sea Grant Response Integration Team (RIT), it is my pleasure to provide you our draft report, "Defining an Enhanced and Integrated Strategic Planning and Program Assessment Strategy for the National Sea Grant College Program." The report responds to the National Research Council (Ocean Studies Board) Committee on the Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process. The report presents the RIT's analysis, and offers guidance that will be useful for both the NSGO and the university-based Sea Grant programs as the Sea Grant network implements measures to improve its strategic planning and evaluation process.

The RIT was charged by Leon Cammen, Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, to develop a comprehensive and practical response to the NRC recommendations. The Director will make the final decision about a revised Sea Grant planning and evaluation system. Our primary objective was to provide advice to the Director on how best to respond to the NRC recommendations.

In developing our response, the RIT sought to utilize a transparent process involving balanced input from the Sea Grant network. The RIT benefited from the intellectual talent of a number of people with significant Sea Grant experience. Major contributions were provided from representatives of the Sea Grant Association, National Sea Grant Office and National Sea Grant Review Panel. In particular, we acknowledge the significant contributions from the three Sub-Teams (Strategic Planning Process Sub-Team, Performance Assessment Sub-Team and National Sea Grant Operations Sub-Team) appointed by the RIT to help conceptualize and formulate its response.

The RIT will make a series of presentations about the report at the Sea Grant gathering in San Diego. Our intent is to clarify major questions and to hear concerns from those assembled at that time. Because the focus of that meeting is strategic planning we will limit discussions in San Diego to major issues and questions. However, we strongly encourage you to make detailed comments on this report and to send them to the RIT by email. Comments will be accepted from the Network until October 15, 2007. The RIT will consider all input it receives from the discussions in San Diego and the written comments it receives by October 15 before finalizing our report to the Director on November 1, 2007. As a draft report, we hope and expect that our final product will be improved by the Network's input.

Please provide your comments to Jim Murray, [jim.d.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.d.murray@noaa.gov) and Jon Kramer, [kramer@mdsg.umd.edu](mailto:kramer@mdsg.umd.edu) by October 15.

Sincerely,

Jim Murray  
Paul Anderson  
Kola Garber  
Jon Kramer