

DRAFT 9-7-07
National Sea Grant Strategic Planning Process
Major Tasks and Timetable

Steering Committee Initial Planning: April - May 2007

Steering Committee is appointed, planning consultant hired, and the Steering Committee clarifies the charge, roles and responsibilities, tasks and timetables.

Review of State and National Plans: June-July 2007

National Sea Grant office staff prepare a “top-down” review of relevant national plans and a “bottom-up” review of state and regional Sea Grant plans to capture national, state and regional priorities with regard to coastal, ocean and Great Lakes issues. The consultant prepares a synthesis paper that summarizes and integrates the findings from the top-down and bottom-up reviews. All three papers are shared with Sea Grant Program directors.

Stakeholder Input: June -August 2007

A stakeholder input process is designed to maximize breadth and depth of input in the relatively short time available. In addition to the stakeholder input reflected in the review of national and state plans, the Steering Committee asks state programs to share all recent state and regional stakeholder input from meetings, surveys, etc. and to poll their Advisory Committees on the critical needs and opportunities that should be addressed in the strategic plan. The Steering Committee convenes a national stakeholders workshop with representatives from NOAA programs and other federal agencies and non-profits with an interest in coastal related matters to seek their input and guidance on development of the plan. The committee reviews the outcomes of a series of coastal stakeholders workshops held around the country by the OCRM and the Coastal States Organization. A written summary of stakeholder input is prepared and made available on the National Sea Grant Office and Sea Grant Week websites.

Identification of Focus Areas: August-September 2007

The Steering Committee identifies a set of strategic focus areas, based on the driving trends, critical needs, gaps and opportunities identified during the plan review and stakeholder input processes. These focus areas, along with cross cutting themes and functional priorities will set the strategic directions for the Sea Grant Program for the next 3-5 years.

Sea Grant Week Input: September-October 2007

Focus areas and cross-cutting themes are posted on the National Office and Sea Grant Week websites in advance of the meeting. Plenary and facilitated small group discussions during Sea Grant Week are used to bring participants up to speed on the strategic planning work to date, get their reactions to the intent and rationales for the focus areas, and to seek their input on the specific goals and strategies Sea Grant should set in each of these focus areas and on other functional priorities that should be part of the national plan.

Preparation of Draft Plan: October – November 2007

The Steering Committee and consultant develop a draft plan built around the identified focus areas, cross-cutting themes and focus areas, using the input from Sea Grant Week sessions, state plans, and all of the other input received to date.

Draft Plan Completion: Early December 2007

The Steering Committee completes a draft plan that will be circulated for review and comment before being finalized.