

NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

NEWS



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NSGO Newsletter Archive

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

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

BREAKING NEWS—

Upcoming Deadlines

See our new **online calendar**:

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

- **May 8: Phase II Alignment documents due**; guidance and a template sent to directors on March 1. To view the Phase II alignment memo and template, visit:
<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo.html> (see documents under "Program Planning and Evaluation")
- **June 11 and 12: Review of state alignment plans** and documents will take place
- **August 28: Annual Reports** due. Structure will remain the same as last year
- **November 6: 2010 Omnibus proposals due** for all programs

Sea Grant's National Plan 2009-2013

The National Plan, comprised of the national strategic and implementation plans, is available online. Please visit:

http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/0209_StratPlan.pdf

http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/09_13_ImplementationPlan.pdf

Sea Grant Featured in Message from the Deputy Under Secretary
February 21 (Mary Glackin)—“Last week was a big week for the Sea Grant Program. This program administrated by NOAA Research is one of our most important partners in providing science based information to inform decisions in our coastal states. NOAA’s National Sea Grant Office brought together the Sea Grant Association, the Sea Grant Advisory Board, and the Sea Grant Academy for events in Washington, D.C. I addressed the Sea Grant Advisory Board during their meeting on Thursday. We discussed NOAA’s wide-ranging efforts to respond to national challenges and how Sea Grant might support new efforts in climate services. Thirty new Sea Grant extension specialists from around the U.S. along with one from Sea Grant International in Japan were enrolled in the Sea Grant Academy, which is run by the National Sea Grant Program office as an orientation for new extension agents. The new specialists will work on a variety of projects including marine education, K-12 education, and fisheries extension work. And, NOAA CFO Maureen Wylie discussed the ongoing transition to the new Administration with state Sea Grant representatives at the Sea Grant Association’s annual spring meeting.”

DIRECTOR’S OFFICE

LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR

March Priorities

1. Sea Grant’s Role in Climate Change
2. Collaboration with NOAA’s other Coastal Programs
3. FY2009 budget planning

Personnel Updates:

Our Heartfelt Thanks to Jim Hurley (WI SG)

As you are aware, Jim Hurley served as an IPA in the National Office for almost a year and a half, taking on a multitude of major tasks, including leading the Sustainable Coastal Development (SCD) Focus Team. Since returning to his Wisconsin Sea Grant home in December, Jim has been gracious enough to further assist the NSGO, continuing to lead the focus team. This assistance has been critical to us and we are very appreciative to Jim for his efforts and to Anders for allowing him to continue to work with us. However, it’s high time that we freed Jim to devote his full time and attention to his own program. Many thanks to Jim for his contributions to the national program.

I’ve asked **Mike Liffmann to step in as Acting Chair of SCD** (to work with Brian Miller as Vice-Chair) in addition to chairing the Hazards focus team. I have also asked Mike to become the climate change lead for the national office and to work with the Network to develop a white paper that will

expand on the climate extension white paper to outline Sea Grant's overall role in addressing climate change issues.

Welcome Gene Kim

It is my pleasure to welcome Gene Kim to the NSGO. Gene was selected from a list of top candidates to lead the Sea Grant Aquaculture Program, following in the footsteps of Jim McVey and Andy Lazur. He will direct the National Marine Aquaculture Initiative competitive grants program, collaborate with the NOAA-NMFS Aquaculture Program and coordinate activities with the network of aquaculture extension agents. This year, Gene will visit the regions to view and discuss ongoing marine aquaculture and fisheries activities. In addition to these duties, he will serve as program officer for at least three state Sea Grant programs (TBD). Gene earned his Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University, where his research focused on fisheries and aquaculture issues including invasive species introductions and dietary transfer of organic contaminants through the food web. His M.S. degree research at Auburn University examined larval fish recruitment dynamics. Gene has worked with NOAA since 2007 in the OAR Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, where his duties included managing the NOAA Ecosystem Research Program. In addition, Gene was a Sea Grant Knauss Legislative Fellow during 2005 with the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee's Fisheries Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee and Peer Review Coordinator for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission from 2006 to 2007. Gene may be contacted at: Gene.Kim@noaa.gov

Knauss Sea Grant 2009 Fellows at NSGO

We are pleased to welcome two fellows who will spend the next year working with the focus teams. Steven McMurray (NC Sea Grant) and Joshua Brown (OH Sea Grant) began working with our four focus teams in early February, and have already proven to be valuable assets. Steven is helping coordinate the activities of the natural resources focus areas (Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply and Healthy Coastal Ecosystems) while Joshua emphasizes the two focus areas that address the built environment (Sustainable Coastal Development and Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities.) They will work together on climate change impact issues. They can be contacted at: Steven.McMurray@noaa.gov and Joshua.Brown@noaa.gov

International - Indonesia

Mike Spranger (FL Sea Grant) and I met with a nine-member Indonesian delegation from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF). FL and NC Sea Grant have worked with Indonesia's Sea Partner Program (modeled after Sea Grant) and there is the possibility of extending that relationship to others in the Network. Following their visit to NOAA, the Indonesians headed to North Carolina where they met with Sea Grant and state officials, as well as with Ron Baird at UNC Wilmington.

2008 Omnibus Data in NIMS

Programs are responsible for entering all 2008 omnibus project information into NIMS. I would like to thank the programs who met our January deadline for entering 2008 projects. The programs who've had their 2008 projects approved have been notified. Programs not yet approved can expect to hear from Jon Eigen re. how to address budget discrepancies or other issues. As a reminder:

- 2008 project budget numbers entered into NIMS must match your Grants Online omnibus numbers.
- Once all 2008 projects are entered into NIMS and awaiting NSGO approval, please submit an e-mail through NIMS "Help/Suggestions" letting our office know that all of your 2008 projects have been submitted and are ready to be approved. The NSGO will then review and approve each project, thus completing your 2008 submissions. Once you receive notification that your 2008 projects are all approved, you will be approved to begin entering 2009 projects.
- 2009 projects (and all subsequent years) will be approved in NIMS once they are awarded in Grants Online.

Meetings

The **Sea Grant Advisory Board** met on February 11th and 12th in Washington, DC. Board members heard about regional collaboration and engagement in NOAA from Laura Furgione, Assistant Administrator, Office of Program Planning and Integration and discussed opportunities for Sea Grant in a changing landscape with Margaret Davidson, Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Other highlights included the following: Rick Spinrad, Assistant Administrator, Oceans and Atmospheric Research discussed the new Administration and Chet Koblinsky, Director, NOAA Climate Program Office discussed the pressing need to communicate climate information at the local and regional levels, noting the potential role for extension. Gordon Grau (SGA President) also met with the Board to discuss opportunities for closer collaboration.

The annual **Ocean and Coastal Program Managers' Meeting** was held in late February, as was the **NOAA-State Leadership Forum**, which I participated in. The Leadership Forum was an informal dialogue between NOAA and state executives. The primary objectives were to share key NOAA and state coastal climate priorities and to identify critical items for a high-level action agenda that will help inform NOAA's coastal and climate agenda, and around which NOAA and the state executives should commit to remain engaged in order to address mutual priorities.

I will be discussing the **Knauss** Sea Grant Marine Policy Fellowship Program at the 66th meeting of the **Ocean Studies Board** on March 18, and introducing the Sea Grant Program to the Washington Coastal Summit of the **American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)** on March 25. Harry Simmons, ASBPA President, has been nominated to join the Sea Grant Advisory Board.

NOAA NEWS

NOAA Seeking "Shovel-Ready" Habitat Restoration Proposals

NOAA announced on March 6th that it is seeking proposals for coastal habitat restoration projects under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* in an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the economy. The effort is designed to create resilient and healthy American communities by generating and saving jobs, employing several thousand people, and restoring valuable coastal and marine habitat. NOAA is formally seeking proposals for a variety of habitat restoration projects - including wetlands restoration, dam removals, shellfish restoration, and coral reef restoration. To ensure relevance, readiness and accountability to the American public, the 30-day solicitation requires that projects be "shovel-ready." Proposals are due by April 6, 2009. For more information about this federal funding opportunity, please visit: <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/recovery>.

RESEARCH AND COMPETITIONS

Reminder: Knauss Applications

The 2010 grants opportunity for the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (Knauss Fellowship Program) has been published and can be accessed at: <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/rfp.html>

Applications from prospective fellows to the state Sea Grant programs were due February 20, 2009. Selected applications from the sponsoring state Sea Grant program are to be received in the National Sea Grant Office through Grants.gov no later than 5 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on April 3, 2009.

OUTREACH

Extension

Sea Grant Academy

During the week of February 9-13, the first of two sessions of the 2009 National Sea Grant Extension Academy was held in the Washington D.C. area. The Academy is organized and conducted by FL Sea Grant's Mike Spranger with instructional assistance from Ann Weaver of NOAA's Coastal Service Center. Jim Hurley (WI), Doug Lipton (MD), Brian Miller (IL-IN) and Vicky Carrasco (MD) also gave lectures and responded to numerous questions. The 32 new (typically, less than five years on the job) agents and specialists from around the country also had an opportunity to visit NOAA in Silver Spring and heard from several high ranking officials. Funding for this capacity-building effort was provided by the NSGO, the Assembly of Sea

Grant Extension Leaders, and the participating state Sea Grant programs. The second session will take place near Niceville, FL in October of 2009.

Sustainable Coastal Community Development Network Meeting— Coastal Zone 09

Sea Grant's Sustainable Coastal Community Development extension network (SCCD) will gather in Boston in conjunction with Coastal Zone 09, July 18-23. Douglas Farr, a national expert on sustainable urbanism, will offer a one-day workshop for the SCCD on the "Techniques and Metrics of Sustainable Urbanism." Sea Grant coastal community development agents and specialists are strongly encouraged to attend this training. SCCD will also hold a business meeting to discuss future training and organizational issues, and is presenting a full session on how Sea Grant can engage its coastal partners in coastal community issues. For more information, contact Kristen Grant (ME) at knggrant@maine.edu or Vicky Carrasco (MD) at vcarrasco@arec.umd.edu

Is there interest in the formation of a (Sea Grant) Water Resources Network?

It may come as a surprise to some that 15 of the 32 agents and specialists who participated in the 2009 Academy are involved in watershed and water quality issues. If you are interested in helping Sea Grant plan for the February 2010 Land Grant and Sea Grant National Water Conference in Hilton Head, SC, planning will begin this spring and input is requested. Sea Grant's Land Grant colleagues have proposed that conference themes include "climate change, water availability, ecosystem services, and coastal resource management." For more information about establishing a water resources network and/or about conference planning, please contact the NSGO's Steven McMurray steven.mcmurray@noaa.gov

Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brown Bag (BBB) Series—2009

The NSGO would like to host three BBBs in the spring, summer and fall of this year. Suggestions for topics and speakers are welcome and should be submitted to Darren Okimoto, the BBB liaison between the NSGO and the Assembly for the Ralph Rayburn series. Please e-mail: okimotod@hawaii.edu

Communications

NOAA Research *In the Spotlight*

Irene Miles from IL-IN Sea Grant contributed Sea Grant's latest article titled, "Local Decision Maker: Helping Indiana Communities Plan Their Future." To read the story, visit:

http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/archive/2009/articles/helpding_indiana.html

NOAA World Features RI Sea Grant Tribute to Senator Pell

Congratulations to Barry Costa-Pierce, Monica Allard Cox and RI SG for this story on/tribute to Senator Claiborne Pell featured in NOAA World.

http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/people/feb2009_people_2.html

Executive Management Team (EMT) Report Highlights OR Sea Grant Project

Congratulations to Joe Cone and OR Sea Grant for submitting a story on a highly innovative project called Pacific Fish Trax. The project enables shoppers who purchase albacore tuna fillets at New Seasons Market stores to scan the product's bar code at a specially-designed kiosk which then introduces them to the local fisherman who caught the fish, the boat from which it was caught and the processor who packaged it.

Please Update the Online Sea Grant Address Book and Experts Guide

You are now free to search, update/edit and delete information for your program. Each Sea Grant program is responsible for managing the names and contact information of staff members and experts listed in both the Address Book and Experts Guide. We recommend that you register and begin making updates soon. Ideally, **please assign only one or two users from your program to make your staff entries and updates.** In the near future, **e-mails from the NSGO to the Sea Grant network will be generated from names/e-mail addresses in the online Address Book.** Please ensure that all Sea Grant staff members are included in the Address Book. Instructions for registering and using the system are below:

How to Update/Edit the Online Sea Grant Address Book & Experts Guide

To Add, Delete or Update Names and Addresses for Your Program:

1. **Visit:** <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/database/AB/Default.aspx>
2. **Register/Login:** Click on the Login button (upper right hand corner of screen)
3. **Create a Username and Password** and click on Register
4. **Once registered**, you will see this message: Your registration is successful however your account will remain in-active until Sea Grant Admin has approved your account. You will receive an email once your account has been approved.
5. **Approval:** NSGO will approve your registration and e-mail you notification that you may access the system. You may not add or update names until you receive this e-mail notification that you are approved as a user.
6. **Login:** Once approved, you will login and make any updates, additions or changes you wish to make for your program in the Address Book and/or Experts Guide.
7. **Add, Delete or Update Names:** Once you are logged in, you will come to a screen that allows you to search by name, program, region, etc. Call up the name of an individual, or enter your program name to see a list of all staff. This will call up a screen with the name or names of staff members in your program. Click on an individual name to call up the specific record and then click the Edit/Update button (upper right-hand side of

screen) to change or delete information in the record.

DO NOT HIT THE ENTER BUTTON after making your entry or change.

Instead, please use the buttons in the system, e.g. Search or Save, or you will receive an error message.

8. **Problems or Questions:** Write to amy.painter@noaa.gov

Hot Items: Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to oar.sg.news@noaa.gov (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Programs whose stories have been featured over the past two months include: Alaska Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, Hawai`i Sea Grant, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, Maine Sea Grant, MIT Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, Minnesota Sea Grant, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Ohio Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant, South Carolina Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant, Washington Sea Grant and Wisconsin Sea Grant. Again, thank you for your stories. Your news and successes are shared with NOAA leadership and other decision-makers, and gain valuable recognition for our overall program.

Education

National Ocean Science Bowl

19 the Sea Grant Programs have been involved in implementing the 25 Regional, National Ocean Sciences Bowls held around the country.

Smithsonian Ocean Hall Educator Hired

Ms. Elizabeth Ban began her position as a Senior Educator at the Smithsonian Institution's (SI) Sant Ocean Hall (SOH) earlier this month. This will be a collaborative position between the SI-SOH, the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE), and NOAA's National Sea Grant Office and Office of Exploration and Research. Ms. Ban may be contacted by e-mail: BanE@si.edu; or, by phone at 202-633-1087.

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Meeting

Many SGEN members will attend and present at the NSTA Conference March 18-22 in New Orleans, LA.

Education Implementation Plan

The SGEN is continuing development of its Education Implementation Plan to complement the National Sea Grant Strategic Plan's four focus areas and the NOAA Education Strategic Plan.

FELLOWSHIPS

Knauss

Applications Due to NSGO

Applications for the 2010 Knauss class are due to the NSGO by April 3, 2009. Each program may select and forward to the NSGO no more than six applicants to the national competition

Final Selection

The 2010 Knauss final selection is scheduled for May 12-14, 2009.

GRANTS, BUDGET & NATIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

Fiscal Officer Training

The fiscal officers' (FO) network and NSGO are examining efficient, cost-effective ways to host trainings that will focus on staff development and technical assistance for grants preparation and management. The proposed format is a series of weekly or bi-monthly "Sea Grant Staff Development Seminar" conference calls scheduled for May, June and possibly July. The calls would be held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm EST to accommodate both East Coast and West Coast staff. Each session would cover a different topic, and others in the network would be welcome to participate. Does this format work for you? What questions and topics would you like to see addressed? If you have thoughts on scheduling, process or delivery of the seminar series, we'd like to hear from you. As a starting point, below is a list of possible topics:

Knauss Fellowships – Miguel Lugo

Budget Development- Jon Eigen, Kola Garber

Electronic Systems –Amy Painter, Kola Garber

Omnibus Guidance (What makes a good Omnibus) – Kola, Rich Fales

Grants Management – Kola, Rich Fales

Your ideas and input should be sent to Evelyn Paret (FO network Chair, OR Sea Grant) at evelyn.paret@oregonstate.edu

Draw Down Spent Funds

As discussed with Fiscal Officers in the past, funds spent on awards need to continually be drawn down with no more than three days' cash on hand. New reporting mechanisms will allow greater fiscal transparency and tracking.

2009 Budget

Congress signed the FY 2009 omnibus appropriation bill on March 11th. Sea Grant's appropriation level is \$55M, a \$2M decrease from the last year's funding. The FY 2009 budget plan will be sent out from the NSGO shortly.

National Information Management System (NIMS)

Update

See "2008 Omnibus Data in NIMS," above, in the Director's Report for information on 2008 project entries.

- NIMS may be accessed at the following urls. If one url no longer works for you, please try the other two:
<http://www.seagrant.nims.noaa.gov>
<http://www.Seagrant.nims.noaa.gov/login/login.aspx>
<http://140.90.71.30/NIMS/login/login.aspx>
- **Recent enhancements include:**
 - Advanced Search working faster and more efficiently
 - Advanced Search keyword search capabilities
 - “Add Project” capability from the Home page (see left hand navigation)
 - Easy ways to call up existing projects—e.g., by Award Number, Project Status, Project Number, Federal Year and/or Date Range

Reminder: Grants Web Site

The Acquisition and Grants Office launched a re-designed web site, <http://www.ago.noaa.gov>. The web site includes information about NOAA’s acquisition and grants. Content is organized by type of user and subject. The web site will be regularly updated to keep information current and to make users aware of emerging changes in the acquisition and grants functions government-wide. This launch is the first phase of the re-design.

Reminder: New Financial Form: SF-425 (replaces SF-272 and SF-269 forms)

This form is coming in the spring. More details to come.

Reminder: Grants Online Help Desk

A toll free number for the Grants Online Helpdesk is available for users outside the Washington Metro region: The phone number is 1-877-NOAA-GRT or 1.877.662.2478.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS (involving NSGO staff)

March

- 4-5 Liffmann and Carlson - NJ Planning Workshop
- 5 Knauss NOAA 101
- 18 Ballast Water meeting, Washington, DC (Carlson, Pearson)
- 18 Ocean Studies Board (Cammen)
- 22 Ecosystem Based management meeting, Baltimore, MD (McMurray)
- 25 ASBPA (Cammen—see Director’s Report for details)

April

- 3 Knauss Sea Grant 101
- 14-15 NMFS - Sea Grant Fellows Annual Meeting (Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole) (Smith)

May

- 12-14 Review and selection of the 2010 Knauss Fellowship Class

25 Memorial Day (all)

June

10-12 Alignment meeting (All Program Officers)

19ish Louisiana Sea Grant Technical Review Panel (Garber)

30 All Grants due to GMD

July

4 Independence Day (all)

21-22 Texas Sea Grant Technical Review Panel (Garber)

August

10-12 Florida Sea Grant Technical Review Panel (Garber)

13-14ish Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Technical Review Panel
(Garber)

August

Fall Advisory Board Meeting - *West Coast*

Phone Numbers at NSGO

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

Sea Grant News

February/March 2009

National Sea Grant College Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301/734-1066/1077

fax 301/713-0799

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

Questions: contact amy.painter@noaa.gov