

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



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JUNE/JULY 2008

### Breaking News—

#### **Sea Grant Reauthorization Passes Full House of Representatives**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the Sea Grant legislation passed the full House of Representatives. See "Director's Office," below.

#### **Pennsylvania State University Awarded NOAA Sea Grant Institutional Program Designation**

NOAA's [National Sea Grant College Program](#) has designated Penn State University's Behrend College campus in Erie, Pa., as the Institutional Sea Grant Program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Through this designation, [Pennsylvania Sea Grant](#) becomes the hub for marine and coastal sciences for the state and is responsible for long-term investments consistent with NOAA's national Sea Grant goals of environmental stewardship and responsible resource use. Read the full news release:

[http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20080715\\_paseagrant.html](http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20080715_paseagrant.html)

#### **Evaluation Criteria Working Group Meets July 16-18**

An Evaluation Criteria Working Group will develop evaluation criteria options for two components of Sea Grant's new evaluation process (outlined in detail in the PIE document sent out with the April/May NSGO newsletter): 1) the Performance Review Panel (PRP); and, 2) site visits to Sea Grant programs. In addition, this working group will provide guidance on how the NSGO should form an overall rating based on these reviews, as well as options for translating these ratings into funding for the programs. **Members** of this working group include: Sami Grimes (NSGO), Jim Hurley (NSGO), Russ Moll (SGA), Chuck Hopkinson (SGA), Peter Bell (NSGRP), and Dick West (NSGRP).

Dr. Shelley Metzenbaum will serve as a consultant to the group. Metzenbaum is a senior research fellow at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, University of Massachusetts-Boston. The working group meets July 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Silver Spring, MD.

### **Focus Team & National Implementation Plan Update**

We are appreciative to the members of each Focus Team who participated in the Focus Team Workshop held in June. Team members made great strides in developing the framework for Sea Grant's National Implementation Plan. Focus Teams are currently working on drafts of the focus area sections of the National Implementation Plan. Once those drafts are complete, they will be placed in one document and edited by the NSGO Communications Team for clarity and grammatical errors. **Timeline:**

- A draft plan incorporating each focus area section will be sent to the entire Sea Grant network for comment (July 21-August 1<sup>st</sup>).
- Comments from the network will be directed to the appropriate Focus Team Chairs and Vice-Chairs who will then complete the final draft (August 1<sup>st</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>).
- The final draft of the implementation plan will be submitted to Leon (ideally, by August 8<sup>th</sup>).

Focus Team website: <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/input/focus/>

### **National Information Management System (NIMS) Update**

We would like to thank NIMS users throughout the network for providing us with valuable guidance and feedback and for working on your 2008 annual report information. We have been busy implementing your suggestions and are testing this new functionality at present before rolling out the enhancements. **Upcoming improvements:** The most significant change is the organization of projects by Award Number. This new organization will *not* change your entry screens or processes, but will alleviate confusion since project amendments are now listed under corresponding award numbers (rather than appearing as a list of repeating projects). We have also created a process for SG programs to enter new projects, and a screen to allow programs to move and better manage PD funds. In addition, we have enhanced the annual and progress report (generate reports) functionality and improved the Advanced Search. **Instructions are forthcoming** as soon as the NSGO completes its testing process. The NSGO will host several conference calls this summer (utilizing WebEx type of format) to walk NIMS users through the system and to answer your questions.

Please continue to view the system and to provide feedback in order to ensure that NIMS meets as many of your needs as possible. To view NIMS and to register, visit:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/nims/NimsHome/Default.aspx>

Use the **"Suggestions"** link in order to **share your comments** about the system, to identify problems, and to recommend enhancements.

### **Reminder: Annual Reports**

Annual reports are due Friday, September 19, 2008. Annual reports should be submitted into the NIMS system. Guidance can be found at:

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

To access NIMS, visit:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/nims/NimsHome/Default.aspx>

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

### **House Science Committee Marks Up Sea Grant Reauthorization Bill**

On Wednesday (June 25), the House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment (Chairman Nick Lampson, D-TX-22) marked up HR 5618, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008. HR 5618 would reauthorize Sea Grant and would promote integration among Sea Grant state programs, partners, and stakeholders; enhance opportunities for regional and national collaboration; and elevate the responsibilities of the National Sea Grant Review Panel. If the subcommittee reports out this legislation, the next step will be for the full committee to consider the legislation.

### **Senate Commerce Subcommittee Marks Up Sea Grant Reauthorization Bill**

On Tuesday (June 24) the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Chairman Daniel Inouye, D-HI) marked up draft bill S. 2907 on the National Sea Grant College programs. The bill is the sister bill to the House bill, HR 5618.

### **NOAA Research Deputy Assistant Administrator Testifies Before House Science Committee on Sea Grant**

On Wednesday (May 21), Craig McLean, NOAA Research/OAR's Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration, testified before the House Science Committee (Chair Bart Gordon, D-TN-6) at a hearing on Sea Grant's reauthorization. McLean's testimony addressed Sea Grant's importance to the Nation, what lies ahead for the program, and the issues NOAA would like to see addressed in its upcoming reauthorization. This hearing follows the April 3 House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans (Chair Madeleine Bordallo, D-Guam) hearing on Sea Grant. The House Resources Committee has already reported out of Committee a Sea Grant reauthorization bill (HR 5618) introduced by Chairwoman Bordallo.

### **House Science Committee Staff Briefing**

On May 15, I updated Dr. Tara Rothschild, Minority Professional Staff of the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment (Chair Nick Lampson, D-TX-22). I discussed NOAA's views of H.R. 5618, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008, as well as

strategic planning for the program.

### **Guam/Western Pacific Update**

Jim Murray and I met with Robert Underwood (former Congressman from Guam) and the recently appointed President of the University of Guam regarding growing Sea Grant in Guam and the Western Pacific region. We also have a proposal under consideration by Hawaii Sea Grant to hire an extension specialist at the College of the Marshall Islands.

### **National Sea Grant Review Panel News**

The Panel's charter was successfully renewed. A special teleconference meeting was held on July 15. The major agenda item was the FEE report.

### **OMB Examiner Visits CT and RI Sea Grant Programs**

Jim Murray organized a trip to CT and RI with Dick West (Chair, Review Panel) Stuart Levenbach (NOAA examiner, Office of Management and Budget [OMB]) and two representatives from NOAA's budget office. The agenda focused on Sea Grant's critical and unique role that enables the federal government to achieve its national mission. Many thanks to Barry Costa-Pierce, Sylvain DeGuise and their staffs for their time and effort on behalf of the Sea Grant network.

### **Alaska Sea Grant Director Position**

Jim Murray, Kola Garber and I met with the Dean of the University of Alaska to discuss transition plans for the Sea Grant director position in Alaska. The \$273K red crab pass through project from NOAA Fisheries was successfully completed.

## **GRANTS & BUDGET**

### **NOAA FY 11-15 Budget Update**

NOAA's FY 11-15 Budget Planning process is complete at the program and goal levels. NOAA's decisions are pending.

### **Grants Update**

NOAA Sea Grant submitted all Sea Grant applications and pass through projects to the NOAA Grants Office by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Rich Fales is working diligently to process these awards quickly. We would like to thank the Sea Grant Fiscal Officers for your work in submitting more complete budget descriptions and for your quick responses to questions from the NSGO and NOAA Grants Office.

### **Reminder: NOAA Audit Information for Fiscal Officers**

Here is the link to the audit Power Point presentation for fiscal officers:  
<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/fiscalofficers.html>

## **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.

## **NOAA NEWS**

### **NOAA Coastal Strategy Update/Coastal Integration Response to OMB**

A draft of NOAA's coastal strategy paper is complete and currently going through the NOAA clearance process for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The document articulates NOAA's five-year coastal strategy with the goal of "Increasing the resilience of coastal environments and communities by protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems and their services and ensuring sustainable coastal communities." Currently, NOAA is developing national strategic deliverables for OMB to show how many of the Agency's coastal programs are working together.

## **RESEARCH AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Charter Ship Time**

Programs receiving FY08 funding are required to submit monthly activity reports of ship time usage. Beginning August 1, please send an e-mail to Jim Hurley ([jim.hurley@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.hurley@noaa.gov)) listing ship time activity for the previous month. Include vessel name and length, together with number of days funded by FY08 support. The NSGO is tracking the monthly Sea Grant usage data and forwarding it OAR. By mid to late summer, programs will be required to provide a short paragraph on the project results, or a description of the importance of this funding in carrying out project goals. Calls for FY09 charter ship proposals will be in late summer.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Extension**

#### **NOAA Climate Workshop**

Jim Hurley worked on the planning committee for the NOAA Climate and Coasts workshop, held June 19-20 at the AGU conference facility in DC. This was the second of two workshops focusing on coordination of NOAA's climate change efforts. MN Sea Grant's Jesse Schomberg served as a member of the practitioners' panel that gave advice to NOAA on local and regional needs. Sea Grant was represented at all four major breakouts (Severe Weather, Freshwater Inputs, Ocean Changes [temperature and chemistry] and Sea Level Change) by the NSGO. This workshop compliments the Climate and Living Marine Resources workshop held in May in Seattle.

## **Outreach Training Modules**

Jim Hurley and Mike Liffmann will visit the NWS-UCAR COMET program in Boulder, CO in late August for possible development of training modules for Sea Grant extension, communications and education.

## **Communications**

### **2007 Sea Grant Knauss Fellow Featured in *Nature Magazine***

In his article (NATURE Vol 454|3 July 2008), "Getting it Across," David Goldston discusses the need for scientists to devise well thought out strategies to capture the attention of lawmakers. He writes, "In this instance, the issue (ocean acidification) was also promoted by staff with scientific training. The bill that moved last month was first drafted by a scientist (Knauss Fellow, Martha McConnell from the University of South Carolina) working for Senator Frank Lautenberg (Democrat, New Jersey) under the Sea Grant Fellowship programme. The programme, run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, brings graduate students and recent PhDs in marine and aquatic fields to Washington for one-year placements on Capitol Hill or federal agencies. Science fellows, in effect, increase the permeability of that congressional 'membrane' by offering more sites for binding."

Sea Grant Recognition:

### **NOAA World Website Features Hawai`i Sea Grant:**

#### **"Two UH Sea Grant Publications Win Prestigious Book Awards"**

At the Ka Palapala Po'okela book awards, which honored the finest books published in Hawai'i in 2007, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program captured both awards given in the Natural Science category.

[http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/aroundnoaa/jun2008\\_around\\_2.html](http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/aroundnoaa/jun2008_around_2.html)

### **NOAA Research In the Spotlight Feature**

Maryland Sea Grant contributed the July feature (coming out later this month) titled, "Scientists join forces for regional fisheries research," and featuring a regional project funded by the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Sea Grant programs. To read the article (on or after July 28<sup>th</sup>), please visit:

[http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/2008/spot\\_communication.html](http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/2008/spot_communication.html)

**Hot Items:** Thank you to all of those who have sent their news, articles and stories to [oar.sg.news@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.news@noaa.gov) (Note: Hot Items is not available to the public, but is read throughout NOAA Headquarters.) Those whose stories have been featured recently include: Alaska Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, Delaware Sea Grant, Florida Sea Grant, Hawai`i Sea Grant, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, Maryland Sea Grant, Maine Sea Grant, Maryland Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, Minnesota Sea Grant, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, New Jersey Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Ohio Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant, South Carolina Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant and Washington 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.

### **Weekly Executive Management Team (EMT) Reports to Admiral Lautenbacher and NOAA/DOC Leadership**

CA Sea Grant's rip current awareness effort was featured in May. This summer, nearly 2,000 signs, in English and Spanish, warning of rip currents and steep beaches will be posted along public access points of California beaches; and flyers explaining what to do if caught in a rip current will be distributed to beach goers in central and northern California.

### **Reminder: Bilingual Rip Current Signs Now Available**

A new bilingual rip current sign (English and Spanish on one sign) is available on the [www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov) website. Visit:

<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov/signs-brochures.shtml>

We are grateful to several Sea Grant programs for their assistance with the translation and terminology.

### **Reminder: Rip Current Training Modules**

In partnership with National Weather Service, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research offers online training modules known as COMET in a variety of topical areas, including rip currents—e.g. rip current nearshore training fundamentals. To access the COMET training modules, visit:

<https://www.meted.ucar.edu/loginForm.php?urlPath=marine/ripcurrents/intro#>

### **Reminder: Ocean Today Kiosk**

Smithsonian Ocean Hall coordinators are seeking visual content for two kiosks that will be placed at the entrance to the Ocean Hall. They are seeking story ideas that may be depicted through photographs and video footage. Smithsonian will do the AV work if you provide the raw materials (i.e. video, photos, sounds, etc). If you're interested in submitting a proposal, please visit the Ocean Today Kiosk website link below, to learn more. Your proposals (the filled out OTK\_Proposal Form) should be sent to [Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov). Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis (since Smithsonian will change the kiosk content periodically).

Ocean Today Website

<http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/oceannewskiosk/>

## **Education**

### **National Academy Reviews NOAA's Education Programs**

Leon Cammen and Sharon Walker were invited to present to the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC) on May 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of its review of the Agency's education portfolio. The review comes at a critical juncture for NOAA, following the America COMPETES Act, which calls for NOAA to develop a 20-year science education plan. The NRC review will guide NOAA in developing that plan. The presentations are available on the web: <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo.html>

(Scroll down to the "Sea Grant Presentations" heading)

### **National Marine Educators Association Meeting**

Many members of the SGEN will present at the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) Annual Conference in Savannah, GA July 21-24, 2008. The SGEN will hold its Annual Meeting at the NMEA Conference on Saturday, July 19, 2008 from 8 a.m-5 p.m. with a professional development program in the afternoon. The SGEN holds this meeting at the NMEA Conference each year.

### **Sea Grant Education Survey**

The SGEN has completed its survey calling for updates on each Sea Grant program's education activities. Diana Payne (CT), SGEN Chair, is currently analyzing and interpreting the SGEN Survey which was sent to 57 individuals listed on the SGEN Directory. 44 individuals responded. Even though 57 individuals are listed within the SGEN Directory, not all of Sea Grant's 32 programs have full-time educators. The findings of the SGEN Survey will be reported at the NMEA Conference in Savannah, GA in mid-July and an Executive Summary is being developed for dissemination within the Sea Grant community.

### **NOAA Education Plan**

Sharon Walker, Miguel Lugo and others are helping develop the *2009-2014 NOAA Education Strategic Plan* which was distributed for comment this week. Comments are due by August 28, 2008. To see the plan, visit: [http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/draft\\_ed\\_plan.html](http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/draft_ed_plan.html)

### **NOAA Education B-Wet Competition**

Several Sea Grant programs were involved in recent B-WET grant submissions. The results will be formally announced within the next two to four weeks.

### **COSEE and Sea Grant**

Sea Grant is now involved in all 12 of the 12 existing regional Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence, and 18 of 25 regional, National Ocean Science Bowls.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

### **Knauss**

- 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 are 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.

- The 2008 Knauss Fellowship 6-month reviews have started and will extend through the summer.

### **NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship**

- The 2009 grants opportunity for the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship on Marine Resource Economics has been published and can be accessed at: <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/funding/rfp.html>  
Applications from prospective fellows to the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) are due at 4:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) February 20, 2009.
- The 2009 grants opportunity for the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship on Population Dynamics has been published and can be accessed at: <http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/funding/rfp.html>  
Applications from prospective fellows to the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) are due at 4:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) February 20, 2009.

### **CONFERENCES/MEETINGS (involving NSGO staff)**

#### July

- 14-18 Hazards Conference, Boulder, CO (Liffmann)
- 15-17 NJ SG visit (Carlson)
- 15 NSGRP public meeting to discuss and approve the FEE committee report
- 16-18 Evaluation committee working group meeting, Silver Spring, MD (Grimes, Hurley)
- 17-18 OH SG Legislative Day (Garber)
- 24 MD Sea Grant Program Technical Review (Grimes)

#### August

- 10-17 Knauss Class Trip, New Orleans and Grand Isle, LA (Lugo, Garber, Knauss Fellows)
- 12-13 Gulf of Mexico Extension, Outreach and Education (EOE) Workshop, Mobile, AL (Liffmann, Kudrna)
- ? NWS-UCAR COMET meeting, Boulder, CO (Hurley, Liffmann)
- 18-22 California TRP (Murray)
- 19 NY Sea Grant Program Technical Review (Grimes)

#### September

- 9-12 Assembly and Communications meeting, Seattle (Liffmann, Murray, Painter)
- 16-18 FL SG strategic planning (Garber)

#### October

- TBA Strategic Plan alignment memo review (NSGRP)
- 28-30 Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant Meeting (Grimes)

30-3 Hawaii TRP (Murray)

November

11-13 NSGRP meeting in Baton Rouge, LA (Cammen, Murray)

13-14 SGA meeting in New Orleans, LA (Cammen, Murray)

19-23 Alaska strategic planning (Murray)

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**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.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/sgofficestaffdirectory.html>

**Sea Grant News**

**June/July 2008**

**National Sea Grant College Program**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

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