

NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

NEWS



Inside:

Breaking News
Director's Office
National Information Management System, Grants & Budget
NOAA News
Research & Competitions
Outreach
Fellowships
Conferences/Meetings

NSGO Newsletter Archive

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

BREAKING NEWS—

Upcoming Deadlines

October 3 (today): Ship Time (see "Research and Competitions")

October 7: NIMS Annual Report (see "Grants and Budget")

October 14: Social Scientist/Program Officer Position Closes (see "Director's Office")

October 17: Implementation Plan Comments (see "Director's Office")

November 3: Omnibus Proposals (see guidance, attached)

November 21: Alignment Memo (see guidance, attached)

February 20: Knauss Fellowship Applications (see "Fellowships")

February 20: NMFS/Sea Grant Fellowship Applications (see "Fellowships")

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR

October/November Priorities

In anticipation of level funding and other resource limitations, the NSGO will identify the highest priorities for our office to accomplish each month. Other activities will receive less attention. The priorities for October/November are:

1. Omnibus Proposals

2. Implementation Plan
3. NIMS Annual Reporting

Congress Passes Sea Grant Reauthorization

Late on Friday, September 26th, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 (H.R. 5618) passed the Senate by unanimous consent. The House version of the bill was passed July 14. Sponsored by Del. Madeliene Bordallo (D-Guam), the Act reauthorizes the Sea Grant program and would promote further integration among Sea Grant state programs, partners, and stakeholders; enhance regional and national collaboration; elevate the role of the National Sea Grant Panel; and authorize increased funding for the program over the next five years. The reauthorization bill has been sent to the White House for consideration.

FY 2009 Appropriations Update

President Bush is expected to sign the FY09 Continuing Resolution (CR) passed by Congress over the weekend. The stopgap spending bill funds most of the federal government at FY08 enacted levels through March 6, 2009, while including full-year appropriations at increased levels for the Defense, Homeland Security, and Veteran's Affairs departments.

NSGO Social Scientist/Program Officer Position Open

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is advertising for a Social Scientist/Program Officer to work in the Silver Spring, MD, headquarters office. The position will serve as both a Program Officer and the National Sea Grant Social Science Specialist. To learn more about the National Sea Grant Office, please visit: <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/index.html>

If you are interested, please apply by Tuesday, October 14, 2008.

To learn more about the job, the qualifications, and to apply go to:

<http://www.usajobs.com/>

and search:

a) for Status Candidates: OAR-AA-2008-0012

b) All U.S. Citizens: OAR-AA-2008-0011

If you have any questions about this position, please contact Nikola Garber at 301-734-1079 or nikola.garber@noaa.gov.

National Implementation Plan: Comments Due October 17

A draft copy of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Implementation Plan 2009-2013: Meeting the Challenge, was sent out to the network for review on Sept. 5th. This new implementation plan complements Sea Grant's national strategic plan and is designed to serve as a national guide for the work of the state Sea Grant programs. Comments on this plan are due on Friday, October 17, 2008. Please **coordinate your comments through your Sea Grant Director**. The comments should be submitted to Sami Grimes (sami.grimes@noaa.gov).

FY 2009 Allocation Memo/Omnibus Guidance: Proposals Due November 3

The guidance for FY 2009 omnibus submissions is attached. Sea Grant Directors will receive an e-mail detailing budget information specific to each program.

Planning Alignment: Due November 21

The PIE system (available at the website, below) (http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/nsgonewsletters/integrated_planning_implementation_and_evaluation_system.pdf) requires Sea Grant programs to align their strategic plans to the national plan. We anticipate the completion of the national implementation plan at the end of October. Therefore, state programs will have until November 21st to align state plans to the national plan. Guidance is attached.

Evaluation Criteria Working Group

A preliminary report has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the working group. The working group is chaired by Sami Grimes (NSGO), and includes two Sea Grant Directors (Russ Moll and Chuck Hopkinson), two panel members (Dick West and Peter Bell), and one other NSGO member (Jim Hurley).

Sea Grant Meets with Delegate Bordallo and the University of Guam

On September 23rd, NSGO Deputy Director Dr. Jim Murray met with Guam Delegate, Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam) and the President of Guam University, Dr. Robert Underwood to discuss the status of NOAA's technical assistance to Guam and other Marine Resources Pacific Consortium (MAREPAC) institutions. Sea Grant is working with the University of Guam and others to establish a long-term Sea Grant presence in Guam.

GRANTS & BUDGET

National Information Management System (NIMS) Update

Highlights and enhancements are as follows:

- **New url:** NIMS can now be accessed at any of the following urls:
<http://www.seagrant.nims.noaa.gov>
<http://www.Seagrant.nims.noaa.gov/login/login.aspx>
<http://140.90.71.30/NIMS/login/login.aspx>
- **New web server:** The system is now on a new, more efficient server which has increased its speed and should reduce the number of error messages for users.
- **Annual Report deadline reminder:** Please input all of your 2008 Annual Report data by Tuesday, October 7th cob.
- **Generating the Correct Projects by Dates:** We have updated project start and end dates to coincide with your project grant number and fund records. This solution will adjust the project start and end dates to use the actual fund start and end dates for the corresponding award number. This should significantly reduce any time you need to edit historical project data (i.e. project start and end dates, thus reducing the need to add a no cost extension to adjust the project end dates). This solution

should also remove historical projects from appearing in current year searches (i.e. 2/1/2007-1/31/2008).

- **Help/Suggestions:** Use the “**Suggestions**” link in order to **share your comments** about the system, to identify problems, and to recommend enhancements.

Forms Approved

NOAA’s 90-2 and 90-4 were approved by OMB for 3 more years.

Fiscal Officer/NSGO Conference Call: September 25

Thanks to those of you who were able to join us last Thursday. We hope the call clarified some points of interest. If you missed the call or the email with answers to questions...you can find the information at:

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/fiscal/index.html>

Reminder: Grants Online Information

<http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~grantsonline/>

To provide guidance on how to access Grants Online, where to obtain help, and to answer questions, NOAA is hosting a conference call on **Wednesday, October 8, 2 p.m. EASTERN TIME**. If you are comfortable using Grants Online, there is no need for you to join the call. Access to a PC is not necessary during the call. These calls are held approximately every 7 weeks. The conference call number and access information is as follows:

Toll-free: 888-282-0379

Toll (for international callers): 1-212-287-1820

PASSCODE: NOAA GRANTS

The following information will be covered:

- General Helpdesk and Grants Online information including guidance regarding submitting Progress and Financial Reports via Grants Online
- How to Accept NOAA awards using Grants Online
- Question and Answer Session

PS. You will also find the Quick Reference Guide helpful. It is located at:

http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~grantsonline/gol_training_GRANTEE.htm

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 Administrator Announces Resignation

Retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator, announced his resignation effective Oct. 31. Lautenbacher served as NOAA’s eighth Administrator for nearly seven years. Under Lautenbacher’s leadership, NOAA was instrumental in the creation of the

Papahānauōmokuākea Marine National Monument, the second largest area in the world dedicated to marine preservation. Lautenbacher contributed to the President's landmark Ocean Initiative and worked with Congress to pass the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization, which requires overfishing end by 2011. In the international arena, Lautenbacher has led U.S. efforts to create a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), an effort that has been joined by more than 70 countries and 50 international organizations. Following the disastrous Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Lautenbacher led the development of a tsunami warning system in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and pushed for better warning capabilities in the Indian Ocean. Dr. William Brennan, currently deputy administrator, will serve as the acting administrator of NOAA.

NOAA Coastal Strategy Update/Coastal Integration Response to OMB

A draft of NOAA's coastal strategy paper is 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." Emerging Priorities for NOAA's Coastal Programs include: Coastal Hazards and Climate Change, Competing Coastal Uses and Habitat Loss, and Coastal Pollution and Human Health Effects. The partners have established a coordinated planning process among coastal programs for FY 2011. Leon Cammen and Sami Grimes will participate in an October 9th coastal integration retreat focused on training for the principles and staff and on the deliverables for OMB.

RESEARCH AND COMPETITIONS

Charter Ship Time: Due October 3rd

The call for FY 2009 requests for NOAA-OAR Charter Ship Time Support was sent to the Sea Grant network via e-mail by Jim Hurley on September 25th. Each project request needs to be submitted to Jim (jim.hurley@noaa.gov) by 5:00 EDT Friday, October 3rd. Note that there are 5 pages for each application but that pages 2-4 do not need to be fully completed. Also, **there are several important changes to this year's (FY09) application process** detailed in the e-mail from Jim. Lastly, if you received funding for charter ship time in FY 2008, you must provide a summary of last year's efforts and impacts before applying for FY09 funds.

OUTREACH

Extension

2008 William Q. Wick Awards

At its biennial meeting held in September in Seattle, the Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Leaders (Assembly) recognized five individuals for their

visionary career leadership in programming and administration: Texas' Ralph Rayburn (administration), Virginia's Bill DuPaul (administration), New York's Dale Baker (administration), California's Chris Dewees (administration and programming), and Sarah Peck (programming).

Responding to Climate Change Training Needs

Sea Grant Extension agents and specialists need additional training to help them address new and emerging climate issues. The greatest near-term priority is climate change and its likely socioeconomic and ecological implications. At this time, we are exploring using existing as well as developing new online training modules with COMET (Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training) which was established in 1989 by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and the National Weather Service: <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/> It is likely that other NOAA and federal agency partners, as well as nongovernmental organizations, will be involved in this effort.

National Sea Grant Extension Academy 2009

Following the successful training of 30 Sea Grant extension professionals representing 21 Sea Grant Programs at the 2005 National Sea Grant Extension Academy, Florida's Mike Spranger has agreed to organize a second training program beginning in February 2009. More than 20 programs have pledged to send one or more of their agents/specialists. The Academy's primary training objective is to ensure that extension professionals are "...technically trained to design, implement, and evaluate effective extension, technology transfer, and education programs that meet the needs of the marine and coastal clientele groups that they serve."

Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brown Bag Presentation: December 4

Stephanie Showalter, Director, National Sea Grant Law Center, will present a talk titled, "Reducing Barriers and Conflicts through Legal Extension." The talk will be held at the NOAA Library in Silver Spring, MD. For details, please contact Mike Liffmann (Mike.Liffmann@noaa.gov). To learn about upcoming Brown Bag seminars at the NOAA Library, please visit: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/about/news/brownbagseminars.html>

Communications

FY 2008 Sea Grant Stories Appearing in NOAA Publications & Outreach

Here are just some of the ways we've targeted your Sea Grant news submissions and impacts within NOAA for FY 2008. Please continue sending your information to: oar.sg.news@noaa.gov:

NOAA Home Page: Total = 4 stories & news releases

(the first year for us—a big deal) Visit:

http://www.noaa.gov/features/resources_0908/marinedebris.html

NOAA World Stories: Total = 14

(The first *NOAA World* came out in April & we have been included in all but 1 issue) Visit: <http://www.noaaworld.noaa.gov/>

Executive Management Team Report (EMT) to VADM: Total = 20

VADM Lautenbacher Newsletters/Updates: Total = 3

Hot Items submissions: Total = 326

Sea Grant is #1 by far.

NOAA Research *In the Spotlight*: Connecticut and Maryland Featured

September: **Connecticut Sea Grant's Peg Van Patten** contributed "*Project Limulus* Bringing Insights to Horseshoe Crab Conservation and Sustainable Harvest." The article discusses research and volunteer efforts to track the crabs in Connecticut and the Long Island Sound.

Please visit: <http://www.research.noaa.gov/spotlite/>

July: **Maryland Sea Grant's Jessica Smitts** contributed "Scientists join forces for regional fisheries research," featuring a regional project funded by the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Sea Grant programs. Please visit:

http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/2008/spot_communication.html

Smithsonian Ocean Hall Opens: Hawai'i & Florida Featured

Since it opened last week, the Ocean Hall has received praise and accolades from visitors and [the press](#). Congratulations to **Florida Sea Grant** whose work is featured in the Ocean Hall and to **Hawai'i Sea Grant** (Cindy Knapman) for a winning Ocean Hall Kiosk submission that was selected by Smithsonian to be featured for the opening. The kiosk is a multimedia interactive display which carries content also being featured in museums and aquaria nationwide.

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, Maryland Sea Grant, Maine Sea Grant, MIT 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, 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.

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 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#>

Education

Sea Grant Educators' Network (SGEN) Survey

Diana Payne recently interpreted and broadly disseminated this survey within the NOAA family and to NMEA.

Implementation Plan

The SGEN is finalizing its "DRAFT Implementation Plan."

NOAA Education Plan Comments

Members of the SGEN have commented on the NOAA Education Strategic Plan.

NOAA Education Review

The SGEN is providing the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council, with the Sea Grant Programs' latest omnibus-education components and excerpts from the latest PATs/TATs to help document the positive impact Sea Grant has on marine and aquatic education in this country.

FELLOWSHIPS

Knauss

Job Workshop

Sea Grant has organized a "Jobs Workshop" for the 2008 Knauss Class on Thursday October 2, 2008. The goal of the workshop is to discuss different aspects of the transition from the fellowship to the workforce.

Conflict Management Workshop

Sea Grant has organized a "Public Issues and Conflict Management" for the 2008 Knauss Class for the first week of November 2008. The goal of this workshop is to provide conflict management training to the fellows.

Placement Week Information

The Knauss website has been updated to reflect the information for this year's placement week. New information will start flowing to all the programs starting in October in preparation for the incoming the 2009 John A. Knauss Class.

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 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.

NOAA Fisheries-Sea Grant Fellowship Announces 2008 Fellows

We are proud to announce the 2008 selections for these multi-year Ph.D. fellowships. Six fellows have been selected for the incoming class: four in population dynamics and two in marine resource economics. This year's finalists were chosen from very competitive pools of applicants reviewed by two technical panels of experts (one for each discipline). There are currently 12 fellows. Since 2000, 45 graduate students have been selected for fellowships. More than half of those who have completed their degree now work for NOAA.

Selected for 2008 three-year population dynamics fellowships were **Brandon Puckett**, North Carolina State University (Major professor – David Eggleston; NMFS mentor – Kyle Schertzer, SEFSC, Beaufort; *“Designing marine reserve networks for oyster restoration: a metapopulation and graph-theoretic approach”*);

Kevin See, University of Washington (Major professor – Jennifer Ruesink; NMFS mentor – Elizabeth Holmes, NWFSC, Seattle; *“Estimating population growth and interspecies interaction parameters with spatial replication”*);

Taylor Chapple, University of California, Davis (Major professor – Louis Bottsford; NMFS mentor – Suzanne Kohin, SWFSC, La Jolla, *“Determination of the current status of two shark species, the great white shark Carcharodon carcharias and the common thresher shark Alopias vulpinus off the coast of California*), and

Steven Saul, University of Miami (RSMAS) (Major professor – David Die; NMFS mentor – Elizabeth Brooks, NEFSC, Woods Hole, *“The development and use of an agent-based model to evaluate the effect of effort redistribution due to fleet heterogeneity and policy implementation on estimating a standardized catch per unit effort index of abundance”*).

Selected for 2008 two-year marine resource economics fellowships were **Teresa Stafford**, University of Texas (Major professor – Robertson Williams III; NMFS mentor – Jim Waters, SEFSC, Beaufort, *“Developing and estimating a comprehensive model of commercial fishing effort”*) and

Stephen Kasperski, University of Maryland (Major professor – Lars Olson; NMFS mentor – Michael Dalton, AFSC, Seattle, *“Economics and fisheries policy for multi-species fisheries with biological and technological interdependence”*)

The award for each Fellowship will be in the form of a cooperative agreement (between NMFS and the Sea Grant university/college) of \$38,500 per year.

For more information on the program, fellows or future applications contact the NOAA Fisheries/Sea Grant liaison, Terry Smith (Terry.Smith@noaa.gov).

Reminder: 2009 Applications

The 2009 grants opportunities for the NOAA Fisheries-Sea Grant Fellowships on Marine Resource Economics and Population Dynamics have been published and can be accessed at:

<http://www.seagrant.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)

September

- 4: Legislative day (Knauss Marine Policy lecture series, Silver Spring, MD)
- 9-12 Assembly and Communications meeting, Seattle (Liffmann, Murray, Cammen, Painter)
- 15-19 AISP retreat, California (Carlson, Harmon, Primo, Pace)
- 16-18 FL SG strategic planning (Garber)
- 17-18 SGA leadership retreat, Portland, Maine (Cammen, Murray)
- 18 Corals/Marine Protected Areas (Knauss Marine Policy lecture series, Silver Spring, MD)
- 26-29 - Ballast Water workshop, Florida (Carlson)
- 30-3 Hawaii TRP (Murray)

October

- 19-22 NEMO University training workshop in Monterey, CA (Hurley)
- 28-30 Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant Meeting (Grimes)

November

- 11-13 NSGRP meeting in Baton Rouge, LA (Cammen, Murray, Rasmussen)
- 13-14 SGA meeting in New Orleans, LA (Cammen, Murray)
- 19-23 Alaska strategic planning (Murray)

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

September/October 2008

National Sea Grant College Program

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