

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



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APRIL/MAY 2008

## Breaking News—

### Major Policy Updates and Information

*(Please read numbers 1-7 carefully and see full text attachments)*

- 1. National Strategic Plan** – The final draft of the National Sea Grant Strategic Plan 2009-2013, is attached. Currently, NOAA is reviewing this plan, and few, if any changes to this final draft plan are expected. Please continue to align your state plans to this national plan. Thank you for all of your help in completing this plan and making it a network-wide strategic plan, and a special thank you to the steering committee: John Byrne, Chair, Jonathan Pennock, David Kennedy, Peter Betzer, Sami Grimes and Jamie Krauk.
- 2. NSGCP Strategic Plan Alignment Memo** – Sea Grant programs will be expected to develop a brief alignment memo explaining how state strategic plans align to the new National Strategic Plan. Details about the alignment process will be sent to programs this summer. Alignment memos will be due to the NSGO in September 2008.
- 3. PIE Document** – The final draft of the Planning, Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) System document is attached. A final version will be sent out to the network as soon as NOAA completes its review of this document.
- 4. Focus Teams** – Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be a part of the new Sea Grant Focus Teams. Currently, the Chairs and Vice Chairs are contacting potential members. Once finalized, a list of individuals serving on each focus team will be distributed to the network.

**5. National Implementation Plan** – The first task for the four focus teams is to develop an implementation plan for their respective focus areas. A meeting has been scheduled for June 10-13<sup>th</sup> in the Washington, D.C. area for these focus teams to work together to complete this task. A final national implementation plan should be completed in early July.

**6. National Performance Measures** – The implementation plan will include new national performance measures. The focus teams request recommendations from the network prior to the focus team meeting in June. **The NSGO is looking for your best performance measures** (that could link with the goals/outcomes in the national plan) **that have worked well for your programs, or any ideas you may have regarding performance measures.** Definitions and examples are below. Please send your performance measures and ideas to [Kristin.Rasmussen@noaa.gov](mailto:Kristin.Rasmussen@noaa.gov) and to the appropriate focus team chairs:

A Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply - [Terry.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@noaa.gov);

Sustainable Coastal Development – [Jim.Hurley@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.Hurley@noaa.gov);

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems – [Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov](mailto:Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov);

Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities – [Michael.Liffmann@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Liffmann@noaa.gov)

The deadline is **COB Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. More details on this call are below.

- **Goal** – the desired and more general outcome to which the program contributes
- **Outcome** – a change in the audience or issue that follows as a result of program activities and outputs
- **Long-term outcome** – the program's intended ultimate change to social, economic or environmental conditions
- **Mid-term outcome** – the expected change to the audience's behavior because of the program
- **Short-term outcome** – the expected immediate change resulting from the program (knowledge, skills, abilities)
- **Performance measure** – objective, quantitative indicator of various aspects of the performance of programs and agencies. Measurable characteristic that helps tell how well the program is performing.

For example:

**Healthy coastal ecosystems**

**Outcome:** Coastal communities incorporate ecosystem-based management in resource management

**Performance measure:** The number of resource management issues addressed through collaboration across traditional geographic or governmental boundaries

Another example:

**Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities**

**Outcome:** Community capacity to prepare for and respond to hazardous events

**Performance measure:** Number of coastal communities with improved ability to reduce the adverse impacts of coastal natural hazards on people, structures and the environment

**7. Annual Reports** – Annual reports are due Friday, September 19, 2008. The guidance is attached. The NSGO is requesting the same information as last year’s annual report. Annual reports should be submitted into the NIMS system

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

If you have questions about the guidance, please contact your program officer for assistance.

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

#### **News Release (April 4): Commerce Secretary Appoints New Members to Sea Grant Panel**

Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez has formally appointed Terry Gardiner, Nancy Rabalais, and Rolland Schmitt to NOAA’s National Sea Grant Review Panel, which is responsible for advising the Commerce Secretary, NOAA administrator, and the director of the National Sea Grant College Program on scientific and administrative policy as it relates to the Sea Grant program. To read the full news release and to learn more about Gardiner, Rabalais and Schmitt, please visit:

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20080404\\_seagrants.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2008/20080404_seagrants.html)

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

#### **Update**

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.seagrants.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.

### **DIRECTOR’S OFFICE**

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

#### **House Subcommittee Passes Sea Grant Reauthorization and Oceans 21 Legislation**

Last Wednesday, April 23, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans (Chair Madeleine Bordallo, D-Guam) consider separate legislation to reauthorize Sea Grant and broadly define a national ocean policy and NOAA. The subcommittee passed the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 by unanimous consent. The bill, HR 5618, would authorize a total of \$498 million through fiscal 2014 for the National Sea Grant College Program. The full House Resources Committee is scheduled to consider HR 5618 on Wednesday, April 30. The Senate is presently drafting companion legislation, but it is not known when the Senate language will be ready for introduction.

The subcommittee also passed [HR 21](#) (aka OCEANS-21), a bill that would formally authorize NOAA (NOAA Organic Act) and offer guidelines for regional coordination and ecosystem planning, among other actions. Chairwoman Bordallo offered a manager's amendment that streamlined a number of items in the bill, including amending the review process to require federal agencies to revise their existing regulations as necessary to ensure that they are carried out in a way that is consistent with oceans conservation policy.

Despite several attempts to make sweeping changes to the bill by Ranking Member Henry Brown (R-SC-1), the bill, as amended, was eventually reported to the full Committee. The bill passed with an 11-3 vote.

### **Sea Grant Reauthorization Hearing Held on April 3rd**

The Sea Grant reauthorization hearing in front of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans went well. The Subcommittee introduced a Sea Grant Bill, H.R. 5618. Congresswoman Bordallo (D-Guam) chaired the hearing which was also attended by Ranking Minority member Brown (R-SC) and Congressman Kildee (D-MI). In total, approximately 35-40 people attended. Five witnesses provided testimony including:

- Rick Spinrad, Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA
- M. Richard DeVoe, Executive Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
- John T. Woeste, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida
- Bill Dewey, Manager of Public Affairs, Taylor Shellfish Farms
- Robert Gagolian, Ph.D, President, Consortium of Ocean Leadership

Congressman Brown was impressed with Mr. Dewey's shellfish grow-out operation. Dr. Gagolian offered several new ideas for consideration in Sea Grant's legislation: extending the term of the Knauss fellowship to two years; advice on how Sea Grant can help implement the recommendations outlined in the Ocean Resources Research Plan; and, how Sea Grant can play a larger role in developing an international exchange and fellowship program. It is too early to determine whether these recommendations will find their way into the legislation. The ease and success of this hearing can be attributed to the positive discussions among the Panel, SGA and NSGO.

### **Administration Bill**

The administration's Sea Grant reauthorization bill has cleared NOAA and DOC and is currently at OMB for review. We will keep you posted as information emerges.

### **Hill Briefings**

On April 7, Sea Grant Director Dr. Leon Cammen provided Senate Commerce Committee (Chair Inouye, D-HI) staffer, Amanda Hallberg, with an update on Sea Grant. Dr. Cammen covered the development of Sea Grant's new strategic plan and discussed the issues Sea Grant would like to see addressed in its upcoming reauthorization. The Senate Commerce Committee is planning to draft a Sea Grant reauthorization bill over the next month, but has no plans to hold a hearing at this time. In the House, the House Resources Committee's Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee

(Chair Madeleine Bordallo, D-Guam) has already introduced a reauthorization bill (HR 5618)—see above.

Briefing with Senator Inouye (D-HI)

This Friday, May 2, OAR AA Dr. Richard Spinrad and Sea Grant Director Dr. Leon Cammen will update James Chang and Larissa Plants (formerly Nojek) from Sen. Inouye's office on the National Sea Grant College Program. James Chang is especially interested in Sea Grant's strategic planning and future priorities. Sen. Inouye is the Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which started drafting a Sea Grant reauthorization bill this month.

## GRANTS & BUDGET

### NOAA Audit Information for Fiscal Officers

Here is the link to the Audit powerpoint for fiscal officers:

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

### Reminder: Foreign Travel (Update for the Fiscal Officers following discussion in San Diego)

All travel deemed relevant by NOAA program officers will be approved by the NOAA Grants Officer regardless of the location (provided that there are no budgetary constraints). If foreign travel is not detailed in the award, then an Award Action Request must be initiated and approved prior to travel. Even if the travel is paid with the 10% of allowable re-budgeted funds, an Award Action Request will still need to be initiated, or GMD will consider this a change in scope and disallow the expense at closeout.

### 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.

### Reminder: Pass Through Policy

NSGO will assess an administrative fee for processing pass through awards through Grants Online: \$2,000.00 or 1 percent—whichever is greater—up to \$10,000.00 per grant.

## NOAA NEWS

### Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Integration Workshop Update

A two-day workshop was held in early April to begin working on the Coastal Hazard Resiliency Implementation Plan. The workshop focused on the Logic Model developed this summer by the OMB Integration Team, which includes programs such as the Office of Coastal Resource Management, Coastal

Services Center, Sea Grant, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Sanctuaries and the Habitat Program. The team expects to complete the implementation plan by the end of March. In April, the team will begin to work on the implementation plan for the land-use logic model.

### **Reminder: Marine Debris Grants Program Pre-Proposals Solicited**

The NOAA/NFWF 2008 Marine Debris Research and Technology Grants Program is now open for pre-proposal applications. Pre-proposals are due May 5, 2008. The RFP and more information can be found by going to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) website, [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org), and clicking on:

Grants

Special Grant Programs

Browse Special Grant Programs

Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program

Request for Proposal.

## **RESEARCH AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Charter Ship Time**

Programs receiving FY08 funding are required to submit monthly activity reports of ship time usage. Beginning May 1, programs must send email to Mary Robinson ([mary.robinson@noaa.gov](mailto:mary.robinson@noaa.gov)) listing ship time activity for the previous month. Include vessel name and length, together with number of days funded by FY08 support. NSGO will collate the monthly Sea Grant usage data and forward 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.

### **Aquaculture Competition**

NMAI proposal selection is nearing completion. We anticipate funding 24 proposals for 2008 at varied levels of funding. The NMFS aquaculture program is adding to the funds and will fund or partially fund five or six of the 24 projects.

### **Alternative Protein Feeds Initiative**

The aquaculture program is co-sponsoring an alternative protein feeds initiative with USDA. Sea Grant aquaculture specialist, Andy Lazur is on the steering panel and writing team. A public stakeholder workshop is scheduled for April 30; 11-5 p.m. in Silver Spring. Lazur attended the USDA Stakeholder Panel Meeting in Kansas City mid-April. Though this is a primary tool for USDA Agricultural Research Service to get feedback to establish research priorities for the next five years, Sea Grant is involved and will use this feedback to help guide NOAA's marine aquaculture research support/programs as well.

### **Good Aquaculture Practices Program**

Andy Lazur will be involved in a “train the trainer” Good Aquaculture Practices program designed to reduce the use of chemicals in shrimp culture and salmonella contamination. The training is also designed to improve the quality of exported products. The training will take place in Thailand the second week of May. Afterwards, Lazur will meet with Korean aquaculture officials and scientists and hold a bilateral Living Marine Resource meeting prior to the World Aquaculture Conference in Busan, Korea.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach Competition**

The AIS panels are scheduled to meet May 6, 7 and 8th. Peer reviews and signed conflict of interest forms were due to NSGO by April 15th. Questions, please email: [oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov)

### **Ballast Water Demonstration Program Competition**

The Ballast Water Management Demonstration Program (Technologies and Practices) FFO closed Thursday April 3, 2008. We have received twenty six proposals. The process to select reviewers has begun with a panel review to be held in early May.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Extension**

#### **Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brownbag Seminar to Feature “NOAA in the Carolinas”**

Two speakers will discuss “NOAA in the Carolinas” and some of its successes on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brown Bag seminar. Darrin Figursky, NWS MIC, Raleigh, NC will speak on Sea Grant’s role and relationship with the “NOAA in the Carolinas” effort and the initiative’s continued success, while Suzanne Van Cooten, NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) will discuss the development of the Coastal & Inland Flood Observation and Warning (CI-FLOW), which began after the massive flooding associated with Hurricane Floyd in North and South Carolina. The research staff at NSSL in Norman, Oklahoma, along with a Sea Grant network outreach team, began working on CI-FLOW in 2000 to create a “mountains to the sea” precipitation, flood and surge observing system to better monitor, model and ultimately forecast, in association with the NOAA NWS, inland flooding and storm surge often associated with tropical storm systems. As background, “NOAA in the Carolinas” was conceived in 2004 by the North Carolina Sea Grant program as a way to demonstrate NOAA’s presence in the state and highlight how NOAA offices cooperate and collaborate with each other across the region. Sea Grant has sponsored eight Beltway Brown Bag seminars to date. Plans are underway for the second event in June, 2008: Alaska Sea Grant will highlight its work with a professional fishing fleet.

### **Reminder: Fisheries Extension Enhancement Task Group Review**

Regional Coordinators attended and participated in a Fisheries Extension Enhancement (FEE) review on April 22-24 in Silver Spring. NSGRP members John Woeste and Jeff Stephan, along with former NMFS Administrator, Rollie Schmitt, comprise the Task Group that will advise NSGO Director Cammen on FEE's future beyond April 2009. The Task Group has been charged to determine the following: Has the FEE Initiative been effective at increasing extension capacity on a collective and national basis? How has the Initiative performed? Should the Initiative be continued beyond FY2009 and if so how? We will provide updates on the meeting and on the work of the Task Force in May.

## **Communications**

### **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.

### **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#>

### **Sea Grant Recognition:**

#### **NC Sea Grant Receives State Conservation Honor, Featured on *NOAA World***

North Carolina Sea Grant received the 2007 Natural Resources Agency of the Year Award as part of the 48th Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards presented February 23 in Research Triangle Park.

### **In the Spotlight**

Congratulations to WHOI Sea Grant (Jeffrey Brodeur) for submitting the April feature article, A River in the Sea: Sea Grant-Funded Researcher Takes New Look at Impact of Wintertime Coastal Currents

Check it out on the web:

[http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/2008/spot\\_seawater.html](http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/2008/spot_seawater.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, Hawaii Sea Grant, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Maryland Sea Grant, Maine 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, Rhode Island Sea Grant, South Carolina 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**

MIT Sea Grant was featured in the following report:

April 21 EMT: *Sea Grant-Funded Research Shows Promising New Method of Hurricane Monitoring*

### **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/>

### **Reminder: Mid-Atlantic Photo Documentary Update**

Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant programs wishing to participate in the pilot program should contact [Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov).

### **Education**

#### **National Ocean Science Bowl Finals**

Many Sea Grant Programs are involved with the 24 regional winners who competed in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Finals in Seward Alaska the week of April 21.

#### **SGEN Officers**

The 2008 SGEN Officers are: Chair-Diana Payne, CT; Chair-Elect-Vicki Clark, VA; Past-Chair-Steve Stewart, MI; Secretary-Christina Verlinde, FL; Members-at-Large: Robin Goettel, IL-IN and Nancee Hunter, OR.

#### **SGEN Survey**

The SGEN Executive Committee has developed a survey which will be taken online using Survey Money. This 20-question survey will provide data needed to strengthen the SGEN relative to "Who We Are, What We Do, and How We Align with NOAA, the National Sea Grant Office and Outreach and Extension?" It is anticipated that this survey will be distributed the week of April 21.

## FELLOWSHIPS

### Knauss

#### Applications Due: Class of 2009

Deadline for applications was April 10, 2008. We received a total of 73 applications.

#### Knauss Review Panel

The panel will meet to review applications for the Class of 2009 on May 6-8, 2008.

## CONFERENCES/MEETINGS (involving NSGO staff)

### April

- 14-16 NMFS-Sea Grant fellowship Annual meeting, NMFS' Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center, Honolulu, HI (Smith) & OHH initiative
- 22-24 Fisheries Extension review (Liffmann, Rasmussen, Smith)
- 30 Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brownbag, Silver Spring, MD (Liffmann)

### May

- 6-8 AIS proposal selection (Harmon, Carlson, Liffmann)
- 6-8 Knauss class of 2009 selection (Lugo)
- 15-16 Strategic Planning meeting Washington Sea Grant, Seattle, WA (Murray)

### June

- 2 NOAA Restoration Day (Lugo, Rasmussen)
- 10-13 Focus Teams (Focus Team leads, backup, and Grimes)
- 18 Ohio Sea Grant's State Legislature/Congressional Day on Lake Erie (Grimes)
- 23-27 OAR Management Conf, Kansas City (Murray/Garber/Eigen/Lugo)

### July

- 9-10 Delaware Sea Grant, Research Technical Review Panel (Hurley)

### August

- 10-17 Knauss Class Trip, LA (Lugo, Garber)

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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.seagrants.noaa.gov/other/sgofficestaffdirectory.html>

**Sea Grant News**  
**April/May 2008**  
**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](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)**