

# NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

## NEWS



### Inside:

Breaking News  
Director's Office  
Program Officer News  
Strategic Planning  
Grants & Budget  
NOAA News  
Research and Competitions

Outreach  
Fellowships  
Conferences

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

### Breaking News—

#### **Farewell to Ralph Rayburn**

The NSGO was deeply saddened by the passing of Texas Sea Grant extension leader, Ralph Rayburn earlier this month. Jim Murray represented the NSGO at Ralph's funeral. Ralph was a friend to every NSGO staff member and to many in the Sea Grant network and NOAA. He was a visionary and an entrepreneur who established the innovative Sea Grant Beltway Brown Bag Series (which will be formally named, the Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brown Bag Series) and forged many other forward-thinking regional and national partnerships and initiatives. Ralph was a friend to many and a rare person whose words and actions exemplified the Sea Grant spirit of collaboration and partnership. We, and all who had the pleasure of working with Ralph at NOAA, miss him very much. Ralph's spirit will be remembered by all those whose lives he touched and through the Beltway Brown Bag Series and other initiatives that bear his legacy.

#### **April Training and National Information Management System**

The NIMS/Annual Report/Fiscal Officer Training for week of April 20<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. Until the NIMS database has been migrated to a robust new server (pending OAR approval), which will allow for more reliable usage, we will not host a training and risk the likelihood of technical challenges. Presently, the NSGO is working with the SGA's Network Advisory Council in order to implement suggestions from the network.

Solution:

- 1) Fiscal Officer business meeting and Grants 101 training – NSGO is working with the fiscal officer network on future training needs and dates for a Silver Spring training.
- 2) Annual reporting guidance, how to write a good impact/performance measure –April/May – NSGO Program Officers will work with each Sea Grant program

to discuss last year's annual report, what can be done differently, enhanced, etc. via phone call.

- 3) NIMS training – Postponed until the database is migrated to a new server. We have been working steadily to enhance this system since beta testing commenced last fall. These changes are not yet reflected in the public version of the web-based NIMS system. However, OAR Information Technology staff will be working with NSGO staff to upgrade the NIMS server this spring. As soon as the new server is operational, we will alert the Sea Grant network— notifying you about changes and enhancements to the system, and encouraging you to register if you have not done so already. We are developing:
  - a. An in person training in Silver Spring, MD
  - b. An on-line tutorial (flash training)
  - c. Conference calls with interested members of the network utilizing a program such as “web-ex” to walk users through the NIMS system in real time.
  - d. One-on-one interaction with your program officer

In the meantime, 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. Or, please e-mail [Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov).

### **2008 Annual Report Guidance**

Guidance for Sea Grant program Annual Reports (due in September 2008) will match the 2007 guidance. We are developing the draft guidance and will send it to programs in April.

### **E-Mail Receipt and Spam Filtering**

It has come to our attention that recent DOC and NOAA-wide spam filter protocols are randomly “filtering” e-mails from Sea Grant programs, members of the Review Panel and others. Unfortunately, neither the sender nor our office receives any indication that a message was captured by the spam filter. Some messages, even those from the same e-mail account, transmit, while others do not. If you have sent e-mails to NSGO staff that were not responded to, please contact the staff member you are trying to reach immediately in order to ensure that we are aware. We regret the inconvenience and will continue to work with OAR IT staff to address this frustrating issue.

### **Sea Grant Recognition**

#### ***In the Spotlight***

Congratulations to California Sea Grant (Christina Johnson) for submitting the February feature article, “First Live-Attenuated Vaccine for *S. Iniae* in Development” Check it out on the web: <http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/>

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

Sea Grant was featured in the following reports:

**February 4 EMT: California Sea Grant** (two stories): "NOAA Demonstrates Easy-to-Administer Vaccine for Strep Infection in Fish" and "NOAA Funds Study on Squid and California Current Ecosystem."

**February 18 EMT: North Carolina Sea Grant (two stories):** "N.C. Sea Grant Receives State Conservation Honor" (North Carolina Sea Grant will receive the 2007 Natural Resources Agency of the Year Award as part of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards) and "Sea Grant Funds Emergency Communication Study."

## **Smithsonian Ocean Hall Display to feature Florida Sea Grant Project**

The new Smithsonian Ocean Hall display will include a feature on Florida Sea Grant shark DNA forensics research. A History Channel production crew filmed the researcher several weeks ago and is preparing footage for the display.

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

**LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR**

### **Reauthorization Bill**

A reauthorization bill for Sea Grant was introduced on March 13th by the House Natural Resources Committee. There will be a hearing on April 3 with testimony from Rick Spinrad for NOAA, Rick DeVoe for the SGA and John Woeste for the Review Panel. Some highlights of the bill include:

- exempts up to 5% of appropriation from matching requirement (instead of the current 1%)
- transforms the Review Panel into the Advisory Board
- removes constraints on how we distribute funds above \$62M
- general authorization rises from \$66M in 2009 to \$100M in 2014 (old language was \$60M in 2003 to \$85M in 2008)
- administrative cap remains 5%

The administration bill has now cleared NOAA and been sent on to DOC, with OMB review yet to come.

### **Hill Briefings**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, following the Senior Research Council meeting, I met with several Congressional staffers, including Ben Kershaw (staff for Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-RI); Maya Hermann and Deborah Casteel (staff for Rep. Ruppertsberger, D-MD); and Averi Pakulis (staff for Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-CT) to provide them with an overview of the FY09 budget request for NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the National Sea Grant Program, and their state Sea Grant program's recent activities. This was a terrific opportunity to familiarize the staffers with Sea Grant's accomplishments at the national and state levels (for each of the three states).

## **Sea Grant's FY 2008 Budget Allocation Plan** (original memo from Leon Cammen to Sea Grant network, 2/11)

Although we have more funding this year than we have had over the past two years, overall Sea Grant is still down about 8% from the FY 2005 appropriation. Inflation makes the impact of the decrease even more apparent. For FY 2008, we have been able to restore core program budgets to the FY 2005 levels, but this required taking relatively large reductions from the rest of the Sea Grant budget. Funding for the remainder of the program is reduced by 31% compared with FY 2005 levels. As we move ahead with increasing Sea Grant's regional and national impact, we will need to pay close attention to maintaining a balance in all aspects of our budget. For details, please see Leon's e-mail sent to the Sea Grant Directors on 2/11/2008.

## **PROGRAM OFFICER NEWS**

### **Hill Meeting**

On Monday, January 28th, Sea Grant Deputy Director Jim Murray met with staff from the Fisheries Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee (Chair Bordallo, D-Guam) and from the personal office of Rep. Bordallo. Jim Murray provided an update on NOAA's technical assistance to Guam and other Marine Resources Pacific Consortium (MAREPAC) institutions, and the effort by these institutions to develop the capacity to become a Sea Grant consortium. He also provided a summary of the new initiatives in the western Pacific being performed in coordination with Hawaii Sea Grant and an update on the hiring of a Sea Grant extension agent at the University of Guam.

### **Hawaii Sea Grant Review**

Leon and Jim Murray participated via teleconference in a Hawaii Sea Grant update and review to the Dean at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawaii.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

### **National Sea Grant Strategic Plan and Focus Teams Update**

The National Sea Grant College Program has developed a new national strategic action plan, "NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Strategic Action Agenda 2009-2013: Meeting the Challenge." The final plan will soon be distributed to the network and made available on the NSGO website.

Since the new strategic plan is organized around **four focus areas** (Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply, Sustainable Coastal Development, Healthy Coastal Ecosystems and Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities) a new organizational structure, "focus teams," are being assembled to help accomplish the goals and strategies outlined in the national plan. Thank you for providing your team member nominations to Jim Murray. The focus team Chairs and Vice Chairs have developed a

short list of candidates that will be presented to SGA and NSGO leadership this month (late March) for endorsement and approval. The first meeting of the focus teams will take place the **second week of June in the Washington, D.C. area**. The agenda will focus almost entirely on developing a national implementation plan primarily through the construct of a logic model.

## **GRANTS & BUDGET**

### **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 to begin 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. Both of these plans will be part of the OMB Package that NOAA will submit this fall.

### **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.

### **Reminder: NOAA Marine Debris Forum**

*Advancing Science through Information Sharing*

The NOAA Marine Debris Program's "NOAA Marine Debris Forum 2008," in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, is being held April 1-3, 2008 in Bethesda, Maryland. This information forum has been developed specifically to provide Principal Project Investigators the opportunity to present the results of their studies and to share valuable information with other researchers and interested parties. Invites include NOAA and non-NOAA partners involved in marine debris related activities around the country. Potential session titles include: Derelict gear/obstruction mapping and identification, Removal techniques, Outreach/education, Debris impacts and Prevention. To learn more, contact [Sarah.Morison@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Morison@noaa.gov)

## **RESEARCH AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Charter Ship Time Allocation and Reporting**

Funding should be released shortly for charter ship funds once all omnibus packages have been awarded. It is important to note that OAR makes monthly requests for tracking charter ship usage. We have assumed, based on the request narrative in ship time proposals, that programs have not used ship days prior to February 1, 2008. If your program has already used any charter ship days, please contact [jim.hurley@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.hurley@noaa.gov). We will soon send out a spreadsheet with monthly proposed and used ship days for you to review and update.

### **Aquaculture Competition**

The panel met last week in Silver Spring to review full proposals. We will provide details next month.

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

Twenty-two full proposals have been received for this competition. Proposal packages will be available to the Outreach and Research review panels by March 24th. Currently, the panels are scheduled to meet May 6, 7 and 8th. Peer reviews and signed conflict of interest forms are due to NSGO by April 15th. Please email to [oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.hq.nsgo.competitions@noaa.gov)

## **OUTREACH**

### **Extension**

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

Regional Coordinators have been invited to attend and participate 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, will 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.

### **Ralph Rayburn Beltway Brown Bag Seminars**

Sea Grant has sponsored eight Beltway Brown Bag seminars to date. Plans are underway for two events in 2008. North and South Carolina Sea Grant are helping organize a "NOAA in the Carolinas" presentation in April 30<sup>th</sup> in Silver Spring, and Alaska Sea Grant will highlight its work with a professional fishing fleet in June.

### **Coastal Community Development Meeting Update**

The Sustainable Coastal Communities Development Committee (SCCD)—the committee formerly known as Coastal Community Development—met in Washington, DC on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and chose its regional leaders. Twenty one states were represented by 45 attendees. The regional leaders are John Jacob (Gulf of Mexico); Peter Rappa (Pacific); Lisa Schiavinato (Southeast); Kristen Whiting-Grant (Northeast); Jesse Schomberg (Great Lakes) and Vicky Carrasco (Mid-Atlantic). Jim Falk represents the Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Leaders on the SCCD and Mike Liffmann is an ex-officio member representing the NSGO. An Executive Group will be selected soon and the notes of the meeting have been compiled by Pam Rubinoff.

### **Communications**

#### **Ocean Today Kiosk**

So far, two Sea Grant programs have submitted proposals. Thank you! As per Amy Painter's e-mail to communicators on 2/20, the 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 (ie. 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/>

Background Documents

[http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/oceannewskiosk/background\\_docs.html](http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/oceannewskiosk/background_docs.html)

Ocean Today Kiosk Contributor Kit

[http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/oceannewskiosk/contributor\\_kit.html](http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/oceannewskiosk/contributor_kit.html)

### **Winter E-Currents Coming Soon**

The upcoming quarterly issue will feature impacts from your 2007 Annual Reports. We have mined your reports for impacts, accomplishments, metrics and other information that are collected and reported on for the NOAA Annual Operating Plan, a new forthcoming Sea Grant Annual Report, Ecosystem Research Program reports, and other OMB, DOC and NOAA reports and data calls.

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

Derek Parks will begin this mid-Atlantic pilot project with a visit to Delaware Sea Grant. We are grateful to Ron Ohrel for submitting a proposal. The photos will also be submitted to the Smithsonian's Ocean Today Kiosk (see above).

### **Reminder: Sea Grant *Media Experts' Guide* and Address Directory Available Online**

**Media Experts' Guide** <http://experts.seagrants.noaa.gov/>

Contact information is updated by each Sea Grant program. To update your directory, go to this link: (<http://experts.seagrants.noaa.gov/>) Choose "Update your entry." Type in your username (Program name) i.e. *name of state* and password *news* – these are case sensitive.

### **National Address Book/Sea Grant Directory**

This is the web-based, searchable address book/staff directory that is accessed from the NSGO website and updated by each program as needed.

<http://experts.seagrants.noaa.gov/sea-bin/SGDirsearch.pl>

Contact information (including address, phone and e-mail) is updated by each Sea Grant program. To update your directory, go to this link:

<http://experts.seagrants.noaa.gov/SGDirectory/>

Under the Sea Grant Programs, click on the link (underlined blue text that says "this section") which will take you to the interface for updating. Type in your username (Program name) i.e. *name of state* and password *nsgo* - these are case sensitive.

### ***E-Currents***

<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/newsletter/2007/fall/>

### **Network E-Mail Lists**

This e-mail list, [oar.sg.network@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.network@noaa.gov) was established by the NSGO, and can be used by members of the network. The list includes the following sub-groups:

- Sea Grant CCD Extension
- Sea Grant Communicators (leaders)
- OAD Sea Grant Directors
- OAD Sea Grant Educators
- OAD Sea Grant Extension (leaders)
- OAD Sea Grant Fiscal Officers
- OAD Sea Grant Research Coordinators
- OAD Sea Grant Review Panel
- NSGO Staff

**To Join:** If you do not currently receive e-mails directed to [oar.sg.network@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.network@noaa.gov), and would like to be added, please specify which sub-group, and e-mail [Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov)

**To Change or Delete an E-mail Address:** Please e-mail [Amy.Painter@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Painter@noaa.gov) Specify which sub-group you are a part of, so we are able to locate and then delete or change your e-mail address.

**To Send Messages to this List:** Members of the network may use the [oar.sg.network@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.network@noaa.gov) list to distribute e-mails to the network.

**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, 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, Ohio Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Rhode Island 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.

## Education

### NOAA Education Strategic Plan

Miguel Lugo, Mike Liffman and Sami Grimes attended a two-day Bennett Model Workshop on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, which is a first step in developing NOAA's Education Strategic Plan. Each of the working groups (engagement, workforce and environmental literacy) will meet to begin drafting their sections of the strategic plan.

## FELLOWSHIPS

### Knauss

#### Application Deadline, Class of 2009

February 29, 2008 was the deadline for applications submitted to the state Sea Grant Programs for the 2009 Knauss Fellowship Class. All applications need to be updated into [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) by 5 p.m. on April 10, 2008.

#### "NOAA 101," Class of 2008

On March 4, 2008, the Knauss Class attended the "NOAA 101" seminar at the Herbert C. Hoover Building, U.S. Department of Commerce.

## CONFERENCES/MEETINGS (involving NSGO staff)

### Sea Grant Association Meeting

The Sea Grant Association took place in Washington, DC on February 12-13, 2008.

## Sea Grant Review Panel Meeting

The Sea Grant Review Panel will meet in Washington, DC on March 6-7, 2008.

### Feb-08

- 12-13 SGA meeting (All)
- 21-22 Indianapolis meeting (Hurley)
- 25-29 Gulf Research & Information Planning workshop, Baton Rouge, LA and Galveston, TX (Garber)

### March-08

- 4 Knauss Class of 2008, NOAA 101, HCHB, Washington, DC (Lugo)
- 5-6 National Sea Grant Review Panel meeting, DC (All)
- 11-13 National Marine Aquaculture Initiative Proposal Review, Silver Spring, MD (Lazur, Hurley, Rasmussen)
- 10-11 OAR Senior Research Council (SRC) (Cammen)
- 13 MD SG Outreach Review of Preproposals (Grimes)
- 20 Knauss Class of 2008, Sea Grant 101, Silver Spring, MD (Lugo and staff)

### April-08

- 8-9 NY SG Preproposal and program visit (Grimes)
- 14-16 NMFS-Sea Grant fellowship Annual meeting, NMFS' Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center, Honolulu, HI (Smith)

### May-08

- 1<sup>st</sup> wk AIS proposal selection (Harmon, Carlson, Liffmann)
- Mid-month Knauss class of 2009 selection (Lugo)

### June-08

- 18 Ohio Sea Grant's State Legislature/Congressional Day on Lake Erie (Grimes)
- 23-27 OAR Management Conference, Kansas City, Kansas;

Murray/Garber/Eigen

### August-08

- 10-17 Knauss Class Trip, TBD (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.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/sgofficestaffdirectory.html>

## Sea Grant News

February/March 2008

National Sea Grant College Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

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Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

Questions: contact [amy.painter@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.painter@noaa.gov)