

NOAA NATIONAL SEA GRANT

NEWS



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JANUARY 2008

Breaking News—

NIMS, Impacts & Annual Report Guidance Update and Training (April, Silver Spring, MD)

Fiscal Officers and others in the network are encouraged to attend this training. For those unable to attend, information will be posted online following the training. Please hold the week of April 21st, 2008. More details and agenda to come in mid-February.

NOAA to Initiate National Climate Service

NOAA is developing the concept for a new service (possibly at the line office level) to facilitate public knowledge of climate change. This effort is headed by Chet Koblinsky, Director of the NOAA Climate Office (NOAA Research). A number of NOAA offices and programs, including Sea Grant, will have input into the planning process. We will provide the network with updates on this process as it emerges.

Enhanced Sea Grant Visibility: Science and Outreach Features

In order to help enhance the visibility Sea Grant's science and outreach efforts, Derek Parks from NOAA Research's Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (PPE) would like to work with Sea Grant programs to create a detailed series of photographic documentaries that capture the breadth and variety of Sea Grant activities. These photo-journalistic features will be used in a wide range of media, such as websites, fact sheets, the NOAA photo library, and even the Smithsonian Ocean Hall to promote Sea Grant activities and accomplishments. Mr. Parks, who is also a professional photographer outside of NOAA, has offered to provide this service in his role as a Federal employee, so there will be no fee for his services. The images and stories will be fully available to NOAA for continued use. Initially, as part of the

pilot phase of his project, his work will be limited to the mid-Atlantic region. For interested mid-Atlantic programs, we propose scheduling 3-4 documentaries for production. This will help us assess the level of effort required and the utility of the end products. Programs interested in featuring their science and/or outreach efforts in a pilot production should send a short (no more than 1-page) proposal to Amy Painter at amy.painter@noaa.gov.

Sea Grant/NMFS Meeting

In January, members of the NMFS Science Board and Sea Grant leadership met to discuss the status of the NMFS-Sea Grant partnership at the national, regional and local levels. Participants discussed progress since the last bilateral meeting in 2003, with discussions focused on national level activities such as the NMFS-Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship programs in population dynamics and marine resource economics, and the biennial special fishery symposium series with the American Fisheries Society. Participants discussed how these activities might dovetail with new regional initiatives for NOAA and Sea Grant. The partnership has resulted in high quality, collaborative work around the country, including research projects, outreach and extension initiatives, and special local partnership projects. Periodic meetings will help further strengthen and enhance the long-standing partnership between NMFS and Sea Grant.

Sea Grant Recognition

Check Out the *Fall Wrap-Up/New Year E-Currents*

Read the latest news from each Sea Grant program in E-Currents

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

Weekly Reports to Admiral Lautenbacher and NOAA Leadership

Congratulations to three Sea Grant programs for submitting news stories that were accepted into December and January weekly *EMT Reports* to the Admiral.

- **New York Sea Grant** submitted, *Special Unit to Tackle Dramatic Rise in Invasive Species*;
- **Michigan Sea Grant** submitted, *Lake Erie's Water Level Could Plunge 3 to 6 Feet as Earth's Temperature Rises*; and,
- **Connecticut Sea Grant** submitted, *Pomeroy to Train World Bank Managers in Fisheries and Aquaculture Management*.

Please continue to send all program news and updates to oar.sg.news@noaa.gov.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

LEON CAMMEN, DIRECTOR

Strategic Planning Focus Teams

In the "Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process" Report, the National Research Council recommended that Sea Grant "Strengthen strategic planning at both the national and individual program level. The Strategic plans of the individual programs and the national program should represent a coordinated and collective effort to serve local, regional, and national needs." In response to this recommendation, the National Sea Grant College Program is developing a new national strategic action plan, "NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, Strategic Action Agenda 2009-2013: Meeting the Challenge." All state program plans will be expected to align to this national plan by summer 2008. The next step for Sea Grant is to develop a method for implementing the national, regional and state plans in an effective, coordinated and collective manner.

Since the new strategic plan will be organized around focus areas, I am proposing that a new organizational structure, "focus teams," be established to help Sea Grant accomplish the goals and strategies outlined in the national plan. Although focus teams will be similar to theme teams (which they will replace), the new focus teams will have an expanded role — including responsibility for drafting an implementation plan for the new national strategic plan. More generally, focus teams will help lead and coordinate Sea Grant's activities in the focus areas described in the national plan. In the current strategic plan draft, these focus areas include: Safe and Sustainable Seafood, Sustainable Use of Coastal Resources, Healthy Coastal Ecosystems and Coastal Hazard Resiliency. Focus teams will be charged with organizing and mobilizing the Sea Grant network to address the goals and objectives defined for each focus area in the national plan. The focus area teams will be responsible for:

- Facilitating planning, implementation, synthesizing and reporting of Sea Grant activities and accomplishments in the identified focus areas;
- Identifying new opportunities and directions for national and regional initiatives;
- Catalyzing cooperative efforts among Sea Grant College Programs, the NSGO, NOAA, other agencies and NGOs; and
- Providing a mechanism to further solidify Sea Grant's local, regional and national identity.

The focus teams will be in place for the duration of the national strategic plan (2009-2013). Members of the teams will include representatives from the National Sea Grant Office, the National Sea Grant Review Panel, Sea Grant Directors and other network (research, extension, education and communications) and outside expertise (including NOAA), as appropriate. Ideally, a focus team will consist of 7-10 members; and, members would agree to commit a portion of their time to focus team activities for the duration of the four-year strategic planning cycle.

To initiate this process, I propose to appoint an NSGO staff member to serve as Chair and be responsible for each of the focus teams. I suggest the President of the SGA appoint a Sea Grant Director Co-chair who will work with the Chair to organize and initiate the focus team duties and procedures. Other focus team members will be appointed by the Chairs in consultation with the NSGCP Director, SGA President and the Chair of the Sea Grant Review Panel.

The first task for the focus teams will be to draft a national implementation plan based on the focus areas articulated in the national strategic plan. The focus teams will be expected to develop national performance measures and objectives, expected outcomes and performance milestones for each focus area. Focus area performance measures will be used to determine how well each individual Sea Grant program contributes to the goals and objectives of NSGCP plan, which in turn, will help articulate Sea Grant's overall contribution to the Nation's ocean and coastal agenda. To successfully develop these measures, specialized expertise is required which can be provided by the focus teams. I will ask the teams to develop focus-specific implementation plans this spring. To support the activities of the focus teams, we will set aside \$100K in the FY '08 budget.

I have asked Jim Murray to lead this effort. It is important that decisions be made as soon as possible. Comments on this proposal are welcome and should be sent to Jim (jim.d.murray@noaa.gov) by Thursday, January 31. I plan to discuss the focus team concept at the February 12 & 13 SGA meeting and at the March 6 & 7 Panel meeting.

PROGRAM OFFICER NEWS

Pennsylvania Sea Grant Application for Institutional Program

The National Sea Grant Review Panel has begun efforts to review the Pennsylvania Sea Grant application for institutional status. The Panel hopes to have a recommendation to the NSGCP Director by the March '08 Panel Meeting.

Federal Advisory Committee Act Update

Deputy Director, Jim Murray attended the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) training conference to learn more about FACA committee management, required for his role as DFO (Designated Federal Official) for the National Sea Grant Review Panel. More than 70,000 individuals provide advice to the federal government through nearly 1,000 FACA committees.

NOAA Research/OAR Senior Research Council Meeting

Jim Murray represented Sea Grant at the OAR Senior Research Council meeting.

Sea Grant/National Science Foundation (NSF) Report

Along with staff at NSF and NOAA's National Center for Coastal Ocean Science, Jim Murray organized a draft report on interagency activities in ocean and coastal research in FY 2008. The report is legislatively mandated by Congress.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

National Sea Grant College Program Draft Strategic Plan

Comments were due from the Network on Friday, January 4, 2008. The steering committee discussed the comments on January 14, 2008 and is working to incorporate them into the next draft. Thanks to all who provided feedback.

OMB Integration Efforts

In February, the OMB integration team will meet for a two-day workshop to expand the Coastal Resiliency Logic Model.

GRANTS & BUDGET

Grants Online Update

A new function available in Grants Online allows for a recipient who completes work early or doesn't need the full one-year no-cost extension available under expanded authorities to "Terminate for Convenience" any award that is current on its reporting requirements. Once the request is approved by the Grants Officer, the reporting requirements change to reflect the new ending date. This is one of several new "Award Actions Requests" available to recipients. Please read the Guidance available under the Award Action Request Index. Recipients are reminded that requests must be done separately and can not be co-mingled.

Fiscal Officer Reminder: Financial Forms

Recipients have 90 days after an award ends to draw down funds and to submit final financial forms (SF-269 and SF-272). If a recipient needs more time, you may submit an extension to the closeout period *before* the closeout period ends. This extension is done through an award action request in Grants Online. This extension does not extend the award, just the closeout period. The extension can be for 30, 60 or 90 days, but is solely for the purposes of reconciling accounts and will not be granted solely because funds remain. Only closeout-related work may be performed during this period. The Grants Officer has discretion as to whether or not to allow the extension, and the request must be justified in detail. Retroactive extensions cost NOAA time and money and will not be granted in the future. If you have questions, please e-mail Rich.Fales@noaa.gov

National Information Management (NIMS) System

To view the system, visit:

<http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/nims/NimsHome/Default2.aspx>

We invite programs to take a look at the system. Note that you do not need to log in to the system in order to use many of the features (e.g. Advanced Search).

Please do not yet enter 2008 project information. We will create a formal link from our website once further modifications have been made to the system.

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

NOAA Science Advisory Board (Extension, Outreach and Education Working Group) Draft Report Available for Review

The NOAA Science Advisory Board's Extension, Outreach and Education Working Group has released a draft report, "Engaging NOAA's Constituents: A Report to the NOAA Science Advisory Board" that is available for public comment. The report and Federal Register Notice (FRN) can be found on the SAB website at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Reports/Reports.html>.

Please follow the instructions outlined in the FRN. The FRN was released on 16 January and the comment period will end 15 February. The Final Report to the SAB will be presented at the next meeting on 12-13 March 2008 in Silver Spring, MD.

NOAA Announces New Funding For Environmental Literacy Projects

NOAA's Office of Education (OED) is requesting applications for environmental literacy projects in support of K-12 education. Funded projects will be between 1 and 5 years in duration and will promote changes in K-12 education to expand the amount of Earth System Science taught in the classroom and improve student learning and application of that subject. Successful projects will catalyze change in K-12 education through development of new programs and materials and/or revision of existing programs and materials and/or by supporting transformative methods that expand or lead to the expansion of the use of Earth System Science in K-12 classrooms. Successful projects will not just increase knowledge of scientific phenomena but will also provide opportunities for the application of that knowledge to environmental issues relevant to the target audience. Projects are encouraged to incorporate NOAA data, data visualizations, and resources and to further the use of Earth System Science concepts related to NOAA's mission goals. Projects are also encouraged to collaborate with NOAA entities as partners and/or connect to projects previously funded by NOAA's Environmental Literacy Grants. A list of previously funded projects is available at www.oesd.noaa.gov/elg_projects.html. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made by September 15, 2008, and that projects funded under this announcement

will have a start date no earlier than November 1, 2008. **Pre-proposals are REQUIRED and are due Wednesday, February 20, 2008.** Full proposals are due Wednesday, June 25, 2008. Please visit http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/funding_opps.html for the full announcement and additional information. This funding opportunity's ID on grants.gov (www.grants.gov) is SEC-OED-2009-2001282.

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

RESEARCH AND COMPETITIONS

Shiptime Awards

Shiptime awards are being processed as amendments to the omnibus award for the 11 programs receiving funds. The total allocation for Sea Grant was \$253K of the \$1.9M available to support NOAA-OAR charter ship time. NOAA Research/OAR has requested monthly updates for the use of these funds. We will begin tracking the ship days in April (earliest request for a cruise in the package) and continue to track through September 2008 for this year's funds. It is also imperative that we report progress on these funded efforts prior to applying for FY09 support. More details to follow on reporting.

Sea Grant Regional Research Planning Grants

The announcement for the 2008 Sea Grant Regional Research Planning Grants competition for the New York Bight, Mid-Atlantic, and Caribbean Regions was published in the Federal Register on December 27. The full announcement can be found on Grants.Gov by searching for opportunity number OAR-SG-2008-2001255. Note, the deadline for submission of proposals is Feb. 5, 2008. Please contact Dorn Carlson (Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov) or the NSGO staff member responsible for your Region (New York Bight-Dorn Carlson; Mid-Atlantic-Sami Grimes; Caribbean-Terry Smith), with questions or comments.

FY'08 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) National Strategic Investment Competition

Sea Grant Directors and research coordinators were sent notification and have received evaluation comments. We received 137 preproposals requesting about \$23M in funds. About 10% of the 137 preproposals were encouraged to submit full proposals. This works out to at least one encouragement for each of the regional panels of the ANSTF (a programmatic priority for this competition) and at least one encouragement for each of the following Programs - CA, ILIN, LC, MD, MI, MIT, MN, NC, OR, and WHOI. Full proposals are due to the state programs on Feb 14th and to NSGO on March 13th.

OUTREACH

Extension

Meeting of Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Leaders, September 2008

Planning is underway for the biennial meeting of the Sea Grant Extension Leaders. The meeting will take place in Seattle, WA between September 9 and 12. Pete Granger, Program Leader for Marine Advisory Services at Washington Sea Grant, chairs the Planning Committee on behalf of the Assembly.

Beltway Brown Bags

Sea Grant has sponsored eight Beltway Brown Bag seminars to date and plans are underway for two events so far in 2008. North and South Carolina Sea Grant are helping organize a "NOAA in the Carolinas" presentation in March, and Alaska Sea Grant will highlight its work with the professional fishing fleet in June.

Coastal Community Development (CCD) Meeting, February 6-7

About 40 CCD agents and specialists, and several Sea Grant Extension program leaders will attend a two-day meeting to exchange information, build capacity and improve linkages both within and outside the growing network. The meeting will take place at the Marriott Park Wardman Hotel in Washington DC and will precede this year's Smart Growth conference. For more information about the CCD meeting contact Peter Rappa at Hawaii Sea Grant (rappa@hawaii.edu).

Communications

Fall Wrap-Up/New Year E-Currents

Read the latest news from each Sea Grant program in E-Currents

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

Communications Network Chair and NSGO Communications Leader to Meet

Elizabeth LaPorte, Chair of the Communicators' Network and Amy Painter, NSGO, will meet in February prior to the Sea Grant Association meeting to discuss national communications priorities and projects over the next year+.

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Please do not yet enter 2008 project information. We will create a formal link from our website once further modifications have been made to the system.

See also, **Enhanced Sea Grant Visibility: Science and Outreach Features** and, **Weekly Reports to Admiral Lautenbacher and NOAA Leadership**, above, under "Breaking News."

Reminder: Request for Submissions on International Activities

Thank you for sending information about Sea Grant international activities. We would like to highlight these experiences in *E-currents* and through other communications outlets. Please continue to send us stories or information about the types of activities, focus of the work, location, and outcomes of your program's international involvement. This information can be submitted via our news list: oar.sg.news@noaa.gov, or to Kristin.Rasmussen@noaa.gov

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

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

Contact information is updated by each Sea Grant program. To update your directory, go to this link: (<http://experts.seagrant.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.seagrant.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.seagrant.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.

Network E-Mail Lists

This e-mail list, 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)
- OAR Sea Grant Directors
- OAR Sea Grant Educators
- OAR Sea Grant Extension (leaders)
- OAR Sea Grant Fiscal Officers
- OAR Sea Grant Research Coordinators
- OAR Sea Grant Review Panel
- NSGO Staff

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

To Change or Delete an E-mail Address: Please e-mail 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 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

(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, Connecticut Sea Grant, Hawaii Sea Grant, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Louisiana Sea Grant, Maine Sea Grant, Maryland Sea Grant, Michigan Sea Grant, Minnesota Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, New Jersey Sea Grant, New York Sea Grant, North Carolina Sea Grant, Ohio Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Puerto Rico Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, Virginia 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's Education Strategic Plan

The Education Council met on Friday, December 14th to discuss goals and strategies within the current strategic plan. Three working groups were formed: (1) engagement working group; (2) literacy working group, and (3) workforce working group.

See **NOAA Announces New Funding For Environmental Literacy Projects**, under "NOAA News," above.

FELLOWSHIPS

Knauss

Application Deadline for Class of 2009

Applications for the Knauss Class of 2009 are due to the State Sea Grant Programs February 29, 2008.

Sea Grant Welcomes Class of 2008

The National Sea Grant Office is pleased to welcome the incoming Knauss Fellowship Class of 2008.

Sea Grant Bids Farewell to Class of 2007

The 2007 class will complete its year-long tenure in Washington, DC on January 31st. Congratulations to each of the outgoing fellows.

Knauss Reception

The Knauss reception will be held in Washington, DC on February 12, 2008.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS (involving NSGO staff)

Sea Grant Association Meeting

The Sea Grant Association will meet 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.

Jan-08

- 24-25 Risk-Wise meeting, New Orleans, LA (Hurley/Liffmann)
- 28-2 UNIDO-GESAMP meeting, Bangkok (Hurley)
- 30-31 Ann Arbor, MI (Liffmann)

Feb-08

- 5-9 Smart Growth Activities
- 12-13 SGA meeting (All)
- 25-28 Gulf Research & Information Planning workshop, Baton Rouge, LA & Galveston, TX (Garber)

March-08

- 6-7 National Sea Grant Review Panel meeting, DC (All)
- ? National Marine Aquaculture Initiative Proposal Review, Silver Spring, MD (Lazur, Hurley, Rasmussen)

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

January 2007

National Sea Grant College Program

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