

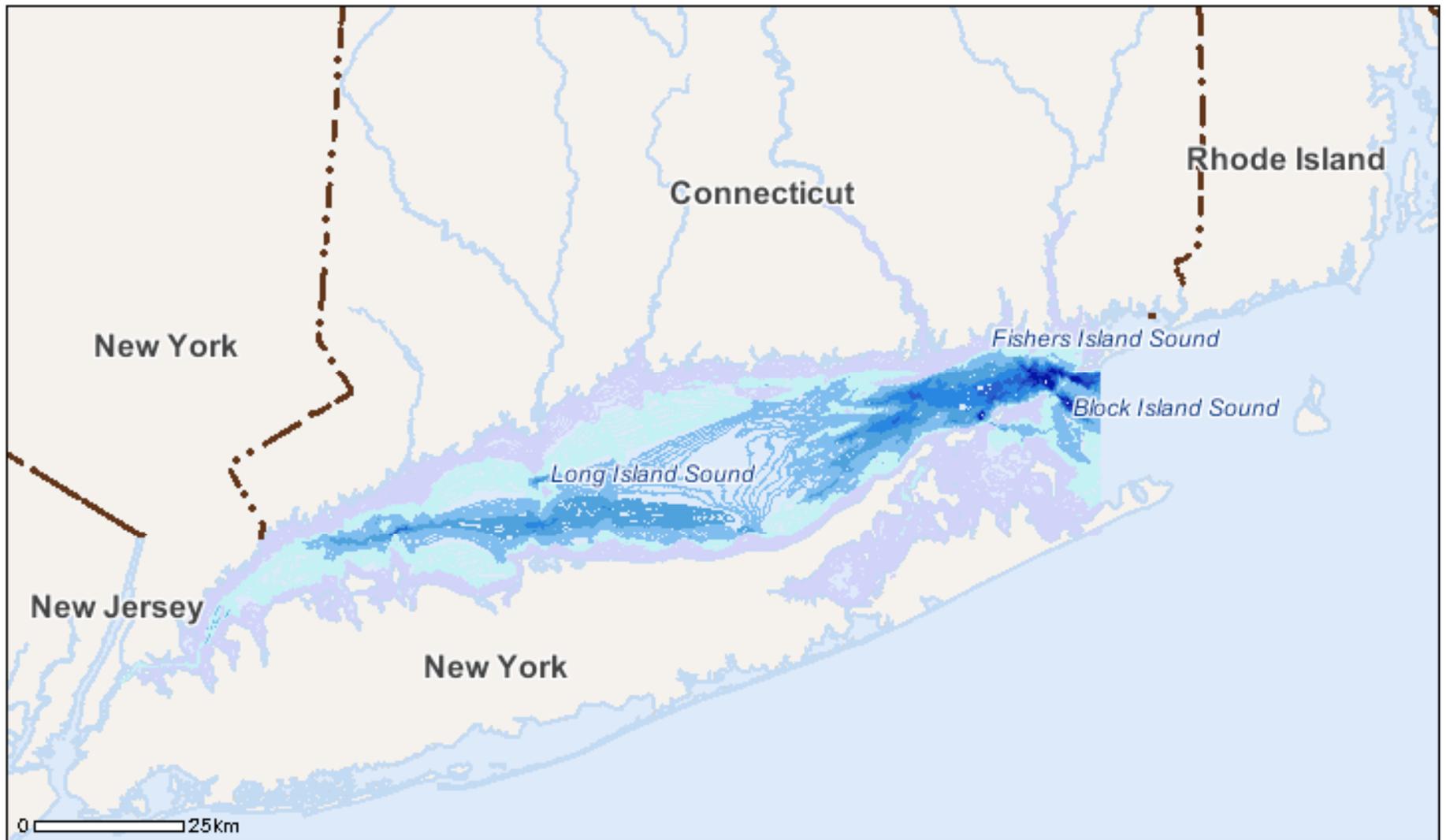
CONNECTICUT
SEA GRANT PROGRAM
2010 NSGO REVIEW

Sami Grimes – Program Officer

Connecticut

2

CT SG



Program Management

3

CT SG

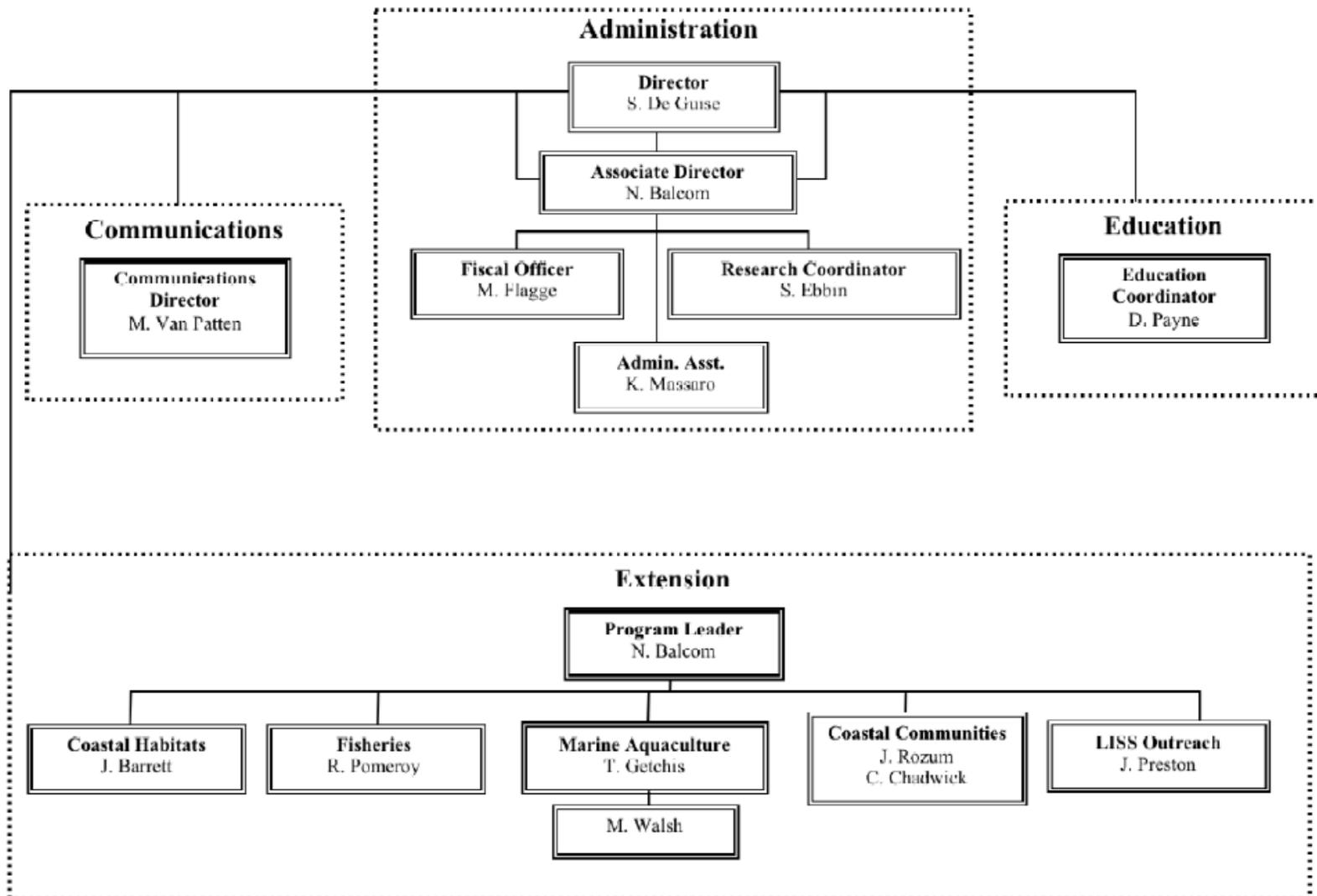
Management Team

- Director, Sylvain De Guise (.85 FTE)
- Associate Director, Nancy Balcom (.5 FTE)
- Extension Leader, Nancy Balcom (.5 FTE)
- Communicator, Margaret Van Patten (1.0 FTE)
 - Although only three staff members are formally designated as the management team, all staff members are consulted regarding major program initiatives and planning.
 - The program functions as a team with each member playing an integral part in all facets of program activity.
 - Management team meets as required (usually once a week or every other week); staff meetings are held once a month.

Program Organizational Chart

4

CT



Extension Program

5

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- SGEP is administered through the University of Connecticut as part of the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program.
- With the exception of Rozum and Chadwick, who are based in a county extension office in south central Connecticut, all SGEP personnel are housed with the University of Connecticut's marine science campus in southeastern Connecticut, within the main Sea Grant office.
- All SGEP faculty and professional staff have statewide programmatic responsibilities.
- All extension agents have a joint appointment within the University.

Program Management – Advisory Board

6

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□ Advisory Boards

- Connecticut Sea Grant has several advisory groups to guide its direction, policies, and focus:
 - The primary advisory board: The Senior Advisory Board
 - Meets 3 times per year to review program activities and decisions
 - Board receives regular updates via email
 - Smaller advisory groups include an Outreach Advisory Board and a Research Review Panel.
 - These advisory groups ensure that Sea Grant gets input and feedback on its activities from diverse stakeholders and partners, and that its research is relevant to citizens of Connecticut and beyond.

Program Management – Advisory Board (con't)

7

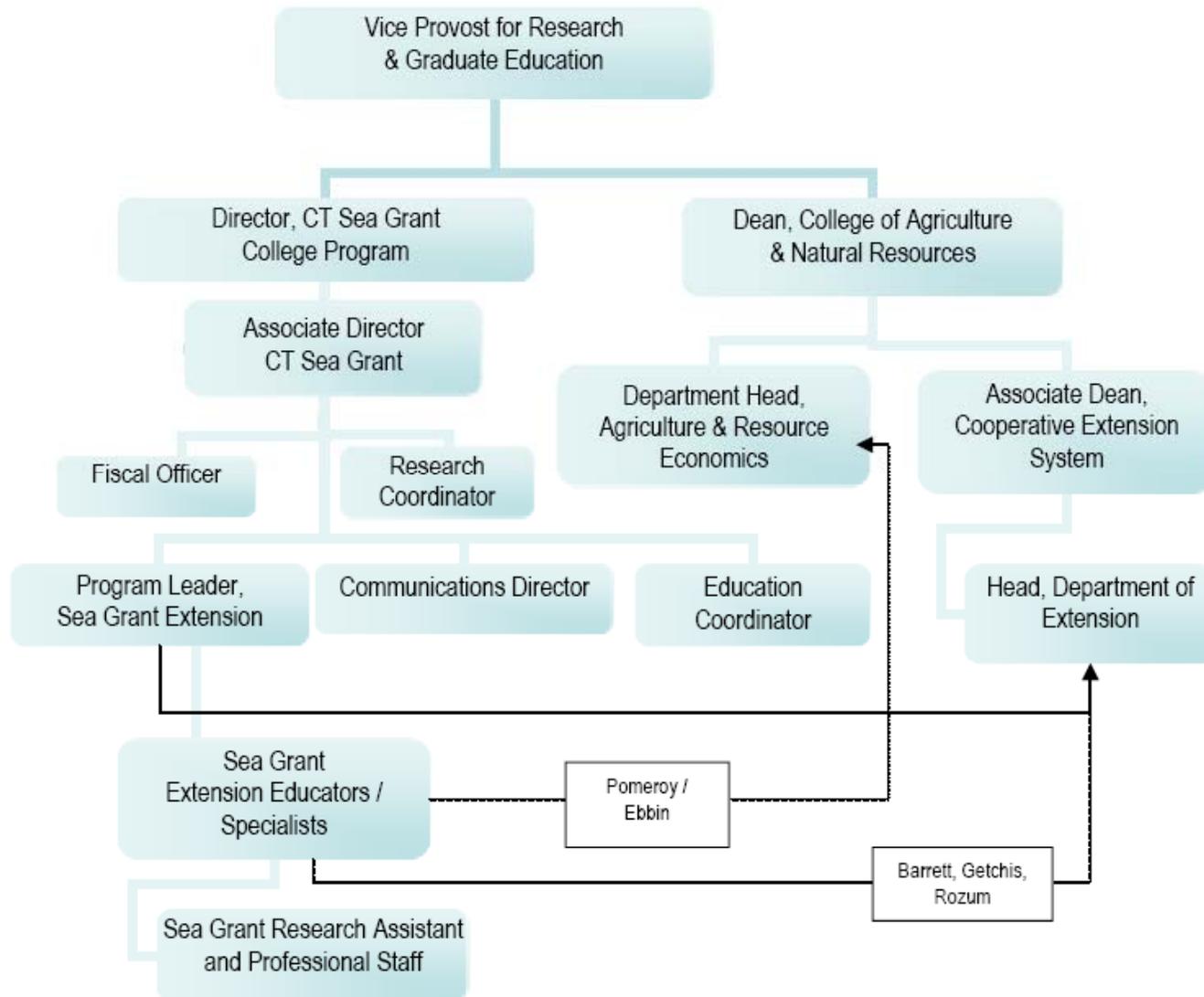
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Senior Advisory Board Members

- Suman Singha (Chair), Vice President, Research & Graduate Education University of Connecticut
- Malayna Bomster, seafood harvest/wholesale/retail, Stonington Seafood Harvesters
- Bonnie Burr, Agriculture, USDA Farm Service Agency
- Thomas Halavik, Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Don Murphy, municipal commissions, Stonington Shellfish Commission
- Tracy Romano, Vice-President of Research, Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration
- Mark Tedesco, LIS management, Long Island Sound Study (EPA)
- Thaxter Tewksbury, Marine education, Project Oceanology
- Scott Warren, Wetland preservation, Connecticut College (professor emeritus)
- Adam Whelchel, Conservation, The Nature Conservancy
- Betsey Wingfield, CT environment, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, CT DEP

Institutional Setting

8



State Sea Grant Program Plan – Estimated 4-yr Budget Allocation by Focus Area

9

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National Focus Area	Focus Area from Program Strategic Plan	Estimated Level of Effort of Federal, Match and Leveraged (%)	Estimated Level of Effort of Federal and Match (\$)	Estimated Level of Effort of Leveraged (\$)
Safe & Sustainable Seafood Supply	(1) Marine aquaculture and biotechnology; (2) Use and conservation of marine resources, ecosystems and habitats	18%	\$ 1,220,567	\$ 500,000
Sustainable Coastal Development	(2) Use and conservation of marine resources, ecosystems and habitats	17%	\$ 998,480	\$ 600,000
Healthy Coastal Ecosystems	(2) Use and conservation of marine resources, ecosystems and habitats	53%	\$ 3,077,336	\$ 2,000,000
Hazard Resiliency in Coastal Communities		0%		
	(3) Marine and aquatic science literacy	12%	\$ 943,357	\$ 250,000
Total		100%	\$ 6,239,740.00	\$ 3,350,000.00

Performance Measure/Outcome

Highlights

10

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- HCE: By 2013, CTSG-supported research will develop methods to identify the origin and consequences of physical, chemical or biological stressors of importance to marine and coastal ecosystems of Long Island Sound ecosystems.
- SCD: By 2011, CTSG will assist towns, NGO's and individuals with planning, management, acquisition of funding and monitoring of at least 4 coastal restoration projects.
- SSSS: By 2013, the annual value of aquaculture production in Connecticut will have increased by 25% compared to the 2007 level (\$24.7M) with the help of CTSG programs and activities.
- M&A Literacy: By 2013, CTSG-supported professional development opportunities for educators will have reached at least 500 educators, and through them at least 12,000 students, and 30% of school districts in Connecticut. By 2013, at least four resources will be developed or revised by CTSG for use in classrooms.

Major Partners

- **Long Island Sound Study (LISS):** a partnership between EPA and the States of Connecticut and New York.
 - CTSG and NYSG were selected to jointly administer the EPA Long Island Sound Study external research program, a \$900,000 initiative in 2008-09, with plans to continue the arrangement in the future.
 - This is in addition to LISS funding for CTSG efforts in specific scientific, education and outreach activities, such as the newly funded Long Island Sound Outreach Coordinator position.

- **NOAA Oceans and Human Health Traineeship Grant:** In partnership with several UConn departments and external partners, CTSG has led a multidisciplinary NOAA Oceans and Human Health Traineeship Grant in support of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in disciplines related to the relationships between oceans and ecosystem and human health.
 - This proposal was one of only five in the nation funded.
 - CTSG awarded a graduate student summer fellowship in support of the initiative in both the summers of 2008 and 2009, and will continue to be active in this initiative.

Network Activities - 2009

12

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- Regional Activities:
 - CTSG leads the regional planning efforts for the New York Bight region, involving Sea Grant programs from Maine to New Jersey.
 - CTSG participated in the negotiation of a MOU creating the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium to facilitate regional collaborations between the programs from Maine to New York.
 - Continued participation to the Gulf of Maine regional planning grant.
 - De Guise was appointed as Sea Grant representative and full member of the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team (serving as the liaison for the Sea Grant programs from Maine to North Carolina).
- Sea Grant Network Activities:
 - De Guise was elected as chair of the Sea Grant Association Program Mission Committee and member of the Sea Grant Association Board of Directors.
 - Diana Payne served as Past Chair of the Sea Grant Educators Network.
 - Payne now chair of the Network Advisory Council to inform the SGA Board on behalf of the different networks of the Sea Grant Association.

2010 RFP Process

13

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- Proposals were evaluated on the basis of the following three criteria:
 - Technical Merit - encompassing the novelty/originality; conceptual adequacy of hypotheses or research questions; clarity of objectives; adequacy/feasibility of methodologies; probability of success
 - Project Relevance - pre-proposal relevance for improved understanding, assessment, use, management, conservation, or restoration of marine and coastal resources, also considering relevance in relation to CTSG primary theme areas detailed in the CTSG Strategic Plan and the 2010-2012 RFP; and
 - Overall Priority - considering both merit and relevance, an assessment of the priority of the proposal.
- An External Users and Stakeholders Panel was conducted to validate that all proposals fit within the strategic priorities of CTSG. No pre-proposal recommended for the solicitation of a full proposals submission received significant concern from the majority of the members of this panel.
- Composition of review panels
 - Peer reviewers included international scientists
 - Full proposal reviewers – from NE region

2008/2009 Program Metrics – Awards and Honors

14

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Please list any awards and honors the program received in 2008

- Ebbin, S. 2009. 2008-2009 Environmental Leadership Award (Team category), awarded to Avery Point Environmental Awareness Team, University of Connecticut and the Environmental Policy Advisory Council
- National NEMO Network. 2008 Outstanding Integrated Program Award, Water Resources Team Award, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Getchis, T. 2009. Gamma Sigma Delta, The Honor Society of Agriculture
- Pomeroy, R. 2009. Excellence in Outreach Award, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut
- Van Patten, M. 2008 Apex Award for Excellence in Publication (Wrack Lines Magazine and UConn Department of Marine Sciences Annual Report 2007)
- 2009 FOX 61 Student News Award for Best Environmental Story, High School Division: Connecticut River (submitted by Ari Vassallo and Kelsey Murphy of Valley Regional High School, Deep River CT)

2008/2009 Highlights of Metrics

15

CT SG

- ❑ CT SG Leveraged \$1.5M dollars covering 27 different projects
- ❑ In their 2008/09 omnibus year, CT ST partnered with 136 agencies, universities, organizations, SG programs, and businesses
- ❑ CT SG assisted/informed the general public, local officials, decision makers through 72 meetings, conferences, and workshops
- ❑ Nearly 1,000 high school students were involved in CT SG projects
- ❑ Developed 9 different types of educational resources

2008/2009 Program Impacts

16

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Over the past year, CT SG has:

- ❑ Fostered habitat-based management planning among land stewards
- ❑ Helped modify regulations and plans in 20 towns through the use of Sea Grant/NEMO tools
- ❑ Contributed to the growth and diversity of CT aquaculture industry
- ❑ Used remote sensing technology and LiDAR data to inform invasive species eradication efforts
- ❑ Sea Grant training leads to opening of 1219 acres of shellfish grounds

2008/2009 Research Accomplishments

17

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- Findings of CTSG researchers investigating sudden vegetation dieback (SVD) are among the first to show a possible interaction between the epiphytic fungus *Fusarium* and the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne spartinae*, in a natural ecosystem. Their on-going study suggests plant pathogens may contribute to SVD but are not the cause.
- A CTSG-supported study of tissues from recreationally-caught blue sharks has led to an improved understanding of carcinogenesis by showing shared molecular characteristics of neoplastic cells in sharks and in higher vertebrates.

Best Management Practices

18

CT SG

- Creating a MOU - creating the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium to facilitate regional collaborations between the programs from Maine to New York
 - ▣ Involvement in the Gulf of Maine Regional Planning efforts
- Extension and education staff members are required to bring in 25% of their salary through grants
 - ▣ grant funding that covers a proportion of a staff salary can be used to fund summer salary (up to a month for those on an 11-month appointment, up to 3 months for those on a 9-month appointment)
 - ▣ grant funds can be used to “buy back” a proportion of your salary in excess of the targeted 25%