

*Southern Association of Marine Laboratories 2001  
South Carolina Marine Resources Research Institute  
Charleston, South Carolina*

*Meeting Notes*

*April 7, 2001*

**Introductions**

SAML President Wes Tunnell called the 2001 meeting to order at 8:30 AM. He welcomed everyone and introduced SAML officers. Members then introduced themselves.

There was a brief discussion of the commemorative coffee mugs, which incorporated a minor change in the name of the organization. Only the Texas delegation was concerned.

Bob Van Dolah presented an overview of the Marine Center at Ft. Johnson. Partners at the Center include South Carolina DNR's Marine Resources Division, NOAA's Center for Ecosystem Health and Biomolecular Research, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the College of Charleston (Grice Marine Laboratory).

Wes Tunnell gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Business managers were excused to convene their meeting at another venue.

**Laboratory updates**

Directors gave brief summaries of current work and issues at their laboratories.

**External issues**

Sue Cook presented an overview of the Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE), an NSF initiative to address unmet needs and challenges in minority and K-12 education. There has been a lack of coordinated national leadership in ocean science education. A COSEE workshop was conducted in May, 2000; the workshop report was completed in September, 2000. Areas addressed included informal education, K-8, 9-12, undergraduate, teacher preparation and enhancement, the role of the research community and information technology needs. The report recommends: That COSEE serve as the national coordinator for Ocean Science Education, and that NSF should fund 20-25 regional centers (but start with a small core of sites). NSF will issue a program announcement in fall 2001. The workshop report and other COSEE materials are accessible on the web at <http://www.ocean.washington.edu/cosee/>

Sue's report was followed by a discussion of how COSEE will coordinate with ocean science education efforts in NOAA and EPA, etc. COSEE is having discussions with NOAA and ONR; proposals will be unlikely to be successful without connecting to other agency programs.

Kumar Mahadevan described the Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA), a newly organized non-profit of stakeholders with interests in marine issues, including industry, the cruise business, marine exhibitors, power plants, environmental groups, academia, etc. This group will provide lobbying

strength for ocean education and marine issues; these are not currently high priorities for state government.

Tom Malone mentioned that the U.S. Global Ocean Observing System constituency includes the same types of stakeholders as FOA. FOA could be a model for other groups and regions: consensus among these broad stakeholder groups on ocean issues could get legislators and state executives interested. SAML ruefully acknowledges that CEOs have more clout in the political arena than marine scientists.

### **SAML Business meeting**

The minutes of the spring 2000 meeting were accepted without amendment. Bob Van Dolah suggested that the minutes should be distributed shortly after each meeting, rather than shortly before the next meeting. Secretary Jordan agreed to get the minutes to members with greater dispatch, and has been working ever since on a suitable definition of "shortly." The Secretary also will include a list of action items with the minutes.

### *Financial report*

Treasurer Kumar Mahadevan presented the SAML financial report. There was a brief discussion of delinquent dues. There was a consensus that NOAA labs should hold individual, rather than joint memberships, and pay dues accordingly. Jay Grimes was able to recover the records of SAML incorporation in Mississippi. The question of SAML's corporate status in Florida is still under discussion. The financial report was approved by the members.

### *Audit Committee*

The Audit Committee approved SAML's financial records during the NAML Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. in February, 2001.

### *Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee presented James Sanders as the candidate for President-Elect and John Marr as the candidate for Member-at-Large. Both nominations were approved unanimously by voice vote.

### *President's report*

Wes Tunnell introduced the new SAML Handbook and the new SAML brochure.

### *President-elect's report*

Bob Van Dolah talked about problems with the database of SAML laboratories. The most difficult problem is getting consistent and correct nomenclature for some of the labs. The SAML list-serve and NAML web site have been updated. The SAML list-serve is maintained by Alan Kuzirian, Secretary of NAML, so updates need to be sent to him. It might be best for NAML to manage the SAML membership database, rather than maintaining it separately.

### *Upcoming SAML Meetings*

- NAML Biennial October 4 -5 at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon, hosted by Lavern Weber.
- SAML 2002 at Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota, Florida.
- SAML 2003 in Morehead City/Beaufort, North Carolina.

### *Education Committee*

Matt Gilligan reported on minority representation in marine science. It is necessary to increase the visibility of marine science to under-represented groups. The *ABridging the Gap* video (1997) had heroes, i.e. minority people as models and mentors. The video and DVD versions have become very popular. There is a new NOAA initiative to establish four centers at minority-serving institutions, in partnership with NOAA labs. Curriculum development in marine and atmospheric sciences for minority institutions is a high priority. The necessary partnerships depend on committed individuals in both marine labs and Historically Black Universities and Colleges.

There was a discussion of the need for and efficacy of SAML sponsoring a minority panel at the NAML 2001 meeting. The Education Committee was charged to continue developing ideas for the minority panel, and to ensure that it would be useful to NAML members. All SAML members were asked to provide input. Ken Tenore moved that SAML should provide up to \$5000 to support the minority panel; the motion was seconded by Tom Malone and approved.

### *Priorities for SAML expenditures*

Several ideas were discussed. The most popular of these was to sponsor awards for student papers at professional meetings such as ERF and ASLO. Members favored a single \$1000 award for each meeting, or \$500 each for best poster and best oral presentation. ASLO has a structure for targeting the award to minority students; ERF would be a general award. The Education Committee was charged to work out the details. The membership approved a \$2000 budget for 2001. Awards should not necessarily be limited to ERF and ASLO.

### *Business managers' report*

Gus Mercanti reported that he was developing a database of SAML laboratory business managers, and asked for help from SAML members to get business managers to meetings. The managers are comparing indirect costs among labs. Information on rules for grants and regulations for various funding agencies will be summarized and distributed. Spring is not the best time for managers to meet. Suggestions included a separately scheduled meeting, or having business managers meet in conjunction with the NAML Board meetings. Bob Van Dolah suggested a discussion of fee structures and indirect charges as an internal item for the next SAML meeting, with a report from business managers. Representation in the managers club could be more inclusive. Grants administrators, etc. in addition to chief financial officers, might benefit from participation.

### *Data management*

Ken Tenore gave an overview of LabNet. The Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System (HABSOS) is the first pilot and demonstration project for LabNet. Tom Malone gave an overview of HABSOS. The initial focus is on the dinoflagellate formerly known as *Gymnodinium breve* in the Gulf of Mexico. LabNet needs to be linked with GMNET (Gulf of Mexico Mortality Network). Gulf laboratories are enthusiastic about HABSOS, especially the state labs.

Dave Remsen briefed members on LabNet structure and mechanisms. The individual steps toward a distributed database are simple; commitment to documentation of data by the labs is the most important element.

Madilyn Fletcher described the EPSCoR (**Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, NSF**) project to improve linkages and integrated observational power at labs (CastNet). The obstacles are more often cultural and institutional policies and practices than infrastructure. SURA and SAML are partners in the project. There was a discussion of the need for better coordination between groups that are working on connectivity projects.

*April 8, 2001*

### **Ecological Forecasting**

Don Scavia (NOAA-NCCOS) described an interagency initiative to build ecological forecasts from integrated assessments. Examples given were: predicting harmful algal bloom trajectories (land fall); Gulf of Mexico hypoxia as a function of nitrogen loading from the watershed; forecast of oyster mortality based on freshwater diversion scenarios; Asian long-horned beetle invasion. Knowledge of the native Asian habitat of the beetle was projected to North America to predict where successful invasions might occur. It is important to sell the idea of ecological forecasting to policy makers. Forecasting can identify data gaps, and therefore justify relevant data collection.

### **Business meeting wrap-up**

Wes Tunnell gave a gracious thank you to Nancy Marcus for her long and effective service to SAML. She will be stepping down as Director of the Florida State University Marine Laboratory.

There was a vigorous discussion of strategy for the proposed student awards program. Questions included: Was there to be a focus on minority students? Should the program be limited to ASLO and ERF, or open to other societies; limited only to the SAML region? Some members were interested in stimulating students in the field of marine molecular biology. These questions were referred to the Education Committee for resolution.

There was a discussion of investing SAML funds in a liquid, but interest-bearing account (e.g., money market account). James Sanders introduced a resolution that the SAML Board should take action on this matter; the resolution was seconded and approved.

### **Fee structures at SAML labs**

SAML business managers will be surveyed to compile a table of fees for small and large boats, vehicles, laboratory and dormitory space, along with indirect fees. Actual cost estimates are needed to make the data comparable.

### **Data management revisited**

There was a discussion of extending HABSOS to the East Coast as a LabNet project (species other than *G. breve* would be the targets). It was suggested that SAML submit a proposal to a federal agency, with SAML providing some matching funds. Kumar Mahadevan moved that

SAML offer up to \$10,000 (at the discretion of the Board) as matching funds for a proposal, possibly to the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The motion was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.