

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES

***Annual Meeting
Mote Marine Laboratory
Sarasota, Florida
May 17-19, 2002***

May 18 at Holiday Inn, Lido Beach

Introductions

President Bob Van Dolah called the 31st meeting of SAML to order. The host, Kumar Mahadevan, presented the history of Mote Marine Laboratory, and described its current and future activities. The major functions of the laboratory are research, education and the aquarium.

Laboratory updates

Representatives from 23 SAML laboratories reported briefly on developments and items of interest at their facilities.

U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy

President Van Dolah summarized the proceedings of the SAML region meetings of the Commission (Charleston, St. Petersburg, New Orleans). Madilyn Fletcher reminded members that the issue of improving and modernizing infrastructure at marine labs should be a message to the Commission from NAML, and that the Commission had asked about relationships between academic and government labs and coordination among funding agencies. Matt Gilligan reported to the Commission on the minority education issue, noting that the demography of the country, including legislatures, is changing.¹ Mike Orbach's message to the Commission was to be bold, and not to nibble around the edges of ocean and coastal issues.² SAML and NAML should submit organized statements to Commission, routed through their Science Advisory Committee, which includes Don Boesch and Mike Orbach from SAML institutions. Dennis Hanisak suggested that the message should include the need for better coordination between federal and state agencies in resource management, and for improving state-to-state consistency on cross-border issues such as ballast water management. A discussion of major issues followed, including restructuring of federal marine science programs, and facilitating partnerships between government and academic labs. Will the Commission's work be implemented by the Administration, or Congress? How can SAML help with this? Action Item: Bob Van Dolah and Mike Orbach will schedule an Ocean Commission update as a major external issue for discussion at the next SAML meeting.

Business meeting

Secretary's report

The minutes of the SAML 2001 annual meeting were approved without discussion.

Treasurer's report

¹http://www.oceancommission.gov/meetings/jan15_16_02/gilligan_statement.pdf

²http://www.oceancommission.gov/meetings/jan15_16_02/orbach_statement.pdf

Treasurer Mahadevan presented the 2001 annual financial report and a 2002 interim report. 21 labs have paid dues for 2002. There was a discussion of unpaid members. It was noted that all Federal labs need to be individual members, whether full members or associates. The Treasurer's report was approved by voice vote. The Audit Committee approved the 2001 financial report. Action item: Jim Sanders will get the list of delinquent labs from the Treasurer. Labs that have not paid dues for more than 2 years will be dropped from the list.

Nominating Committee

Madilyn Fletcher reported for the Nominating Committee in Wes Tunnell's absence. Dan Baden was nominated as member-at-large for the 2003-2005 term. Nominations were solicited from the floor. None were offered. Dan Baden was elected member-at-large for 2003-2005 by voice vote.

Membership

Marine laboratories at the New College of Florida, represented by Leo Demski, and Florida Atlantic University, represented by Guriman Roesijadi, were accepted as new members of SAML.

Action items

Bob van Dolah reported on progress toward completing action items from 2001.

Action item	Status
1. Distribute minutes of SAML meetings as soon as possible after the meeting.	Complete
2. Include a table of action items with the minutes.	Complete
3. Develop ideas for the minority panel at the 2001 NAML meeting, and ensure that it will be useful to NAML members.	Completed successfully; proceedings reported at SAML 2002 meeting.
4. Develop the ground rules for a student awards program at relevant professional meetings.	In progress
5. Encourage business managers to attend SAML meetings.	Modest but significant attendance at SAML 2002 meeting
6. Survey SAML business managers to compile a table of fees for small and large boats, vehicles, laboratory and dormitory space, along with indirect fees.	A survey was completed; the response rate was low. Summary report by Gus Mercanti at SAML 2001 meeting.
7. Invest SAML funds in a liquid, but interest-bearing account (e.g., money market account).	SAML funds have been invested in a money-market account.
8. Develop a proposal to extend HABSOS to	Discussions have been held, but actions are

the East Coast as a LabNet project.

pending better definition of the initiative.

President-Elect's report

The SAML Membership database is now linked to the NAML web site, including full contact listing. Members should update their information through the web site.

Meeting update

Madilyn reported on the NAML Board meeting, February 2002. Action items for NAML: Update printed NAML directory, including by-laws, history and other information. The NAML Board meeting will move to March each year for better coordination with other coastal organizations, e.g., Sea Grant.

The 2003 SAML meeting will not be held at the Institute of Marine Science in Morehead City, NC because of construction at the laboratory. Mike Orbach volunteered to host the 2003 meeting at the Duke University Marine Laboratory in the nearby and perhaps trendier town of Beaufort, North Carolina. The membership accepted this offer by unanimous vote.

Members discussed changing the traditional weekend meeting format to a weekday or Friday-Saturday schedule. Members generally thought that meeting schedules should be flexible, but should be firmed up as early as possible for planning purposes. The 2004 SAML meeting will tentatively be held in Galveston, Texas, hosted by the NMFS laboratory. Action Item: Alex Chester will confirm with the local host.

Education Committee

Matt Gilligan drafted a letter to the Presidents of ASLO and ERF relating to student awards at their meetings. Bob Van Dolah discussed the awards with Dennis Allen, ERF President, who expressed the need for flexibility and discretion on the part of meeting organizers in administering these awards. Decisions: the ERF award will be available to any student. For the ASLO award, decisions will be left to the discretion of meeting organizers; SAML will not put restrictions on regions or disciplines. The awards will be reviewed after two years to determine how they are being used and their effectiveness in representing SAML interests. Action: Bob Van Dolah will circulate the draft letter to SAML for review before sending it to ASLO and ERF.

LABNET update

Ken Tenore reviewed LabNet history and current status. HABSOS (Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System) currently is the major LABNET project. CASTNET is a SAML initiative to improve information technology at under-served marine laboratories in the SAML region.

HABSOS - Karen Steidinger, FMRI

Dr. Steidinger briefed members on HABSOS. The system is focused on observing and predicting red tide (*Karenia brevis*) events in the Gulf of Mexico.³

CASTNET - Madilyn Fletcher

³<http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/habsos>

CASTNET is focusing on improving connectivity at the personnel level (scientists and data managers). The emphasis is on metadata. CASTNET has developed user-friendly web-based data entry tools that generate FGDC-compliant metadata (FGDC is the Federal Geographic Data Committee).

Internet 2

Bill Kearns from the University of South Florida briefed SAML on Internet 2 technology. He demonstrated real-time video through an Internet 2 connection.

Business managers' report - Gus Mercanti

Twelve SAML labs responded to the survey of fees at marine labs. Fee structures were very diverse, with no clear patterns in this small data set.

The business managers also discussed problems with purchasing cards, automating the proposal submission and approval process, administrative staffing problems, a need for information on fund-raising and volunteers, and how to increase participation in the business managers' group.

The group henceforth will be named "Business and Financial Administrators (BFA)."

Action item: SAML members will update their BFA information on the NAML web site.

Sunday, May 18, 2002

Report on the Diversity Panel at the NAML 2001 meeting in Newport, Oregon - Matt Gilligan

Matt presented a summary of the panel proceedings. A written report from the panel is being drafted from the recorded transcript. There was an extended discussion of how to move minority participation forward.

Observing systems - Madilyn Fletcher

A national ocean observing system is gathering momentum. Legislation authorizing \$125-500 million is in Congress.

Caro-COOPS (Carolinas Coastal Ocean Observation and Prediction System). The major purpose of the system is to predict storm surges, but it can serve other purposes, e.g., HABs, hypoxia, fish habitat, etc. Caro-COOPS includes moorings, data management and modeling components.

Action item: Eric Lacy will provide a NSF-NIEHS white paper on oceans and human health for distribution to SAML members.

HABSOS follow-up discussion

Should there be an East Coast version of HABSOS? Madilyn will determine NCDDC interest in expanding HABSOS. It should be broader than just HAB, including resource impacts, environmental correlates, etc.

Future internal issues

Action item: Bob Van Dolah: will contact SAML members about fees and other issues relevant to dormitory space and conference facilities at their laboratories. This information will be directed to a subcommittee chaired by Lou Burnett and including Jim Sanders and Junda Lin. Indirect rates and user fees are other individual items that need detailed attention. The 2001 survey was too broad for synthesis, so these issues will be put into smaller packets for easier handling. Indirect rates and user fees will be the primary focus of the next survey effort by the BFA. SAML will continue discussions about HABSOS, LabNet and CASTNET.

Future external issues

SAML will prepare a response to the Oceans Commission report when it is available for review.

Legislative outreach initiative

Kumar Mahadevan suggested that SAML and NAML are not getting their messages across to legislators. The idea of a SAML legislative intern, stationed at one of the facilities, was discussed. The SAML budget could not support a full-time intern, but might provide part-time support for someone in a graduate program. An ad hoc committee was appointed to work on this issue: Kumar Mahadevan (Chair), Mike Orbach, Dan Baden, and Bob Van Dolah. Action item: Bob Van Dolah will send an email to members to find out which labs have policy or legislative outreach programs where a student or post-doc could be supported.

The 31st meeting of SAML was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM, May 19, 2002.