

**SAML Meeting Notes**  
**5-01-03**  
**Duke University Marine Laboratory**  
**Beaufort, NC**

Attachments:

General Meeting Agenda  
Business Meeting Agenda

Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Bob Van Dolah  
Welcome by Bob and Mike Orbach

**SAML Laboratory Updates**

Dan Baden – UNCW Center for Marine Science  
New PhD program; new core facility with NMR facility; adding 20,000sqft building to consolidate operation; increasing land acquisition; last year difficult spending situation.

Roger Zimmerman – NMFS Galveston, filling in for Alex Chester representing all SE labs for NMFS; seeking individual lab memberships; will be hosting the SAML meeting in Galveston; going through renovation – 60% phase; CESU cooperative ecosystems study unit—cooperative agreement, describe program that allows for cooperative interactions without MOAs, trade personnel and equipment - Gulf agreement via Texas A&M – federal partnership mainly with universities.

Sandra Vargo – FI Institute, Keys Marine Lab, Long Key  
Faced with budgetary issues; hired new lab coordinator; implementing a special projects lab; making facility available to test for contamination in the sites under study.

John Wells – UNC Chapel Hill Marine Sciences  
Budget issues – multiple cuts; state budget process is moving quickly – will have budget info earlier than usual, expecting a small budget cut; have a renovation underway; in-residence undergraduate environmental program including one of the multiple field sites set up by the University.

Madilyn Fletcher – Baruch Institute  
Officially changed name: Belle W. Baurch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences;  
Budget cuts also; new funding by moving into coastal observing systems two programs; Coastal ocean observing and predicting system, starting in June will be deploying buoys; SEACOOS, SE Atl Coastal Ocean Observing System; SC-GA winner placed in top four of competition sponsored by OSB competition.

Wes Tunnel – Center for Coastal Studies  
Continued to grow with influx of funding from state; 02 started budget slide; Institute is bringing in new funds; in building w/ ground breaking in mid May expect to move in '05.

Sylvia Galloway – NOS/CCEHBR – Sylvia to fill in.

David Johnson – NOS/CCFHR

New director as of December; funding up to last year growing, now have major cut of 40%; building new facility and renovating older facilities; responsible for the Kisitsna Katchamak Bay lab; building a new facility there. Expanding the habitat program to include rocky intertidal area; started an invasive species program – lionfish; started a program in ecological forecasting – pink shrimp abundance.

George Crozier – Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Up and down budget issues; campus is active, slight downturn in enrollment; new faculty, replacements for others left; Mobile Bay estuary program...moving to a bay observing system to coordinate with regional observing system, especially along the Gulf coast; Conducting some expanded Keys research...looking at impact of earthen structure that bisects Mobile Bay; moving studies more into the estuarine area.

Mike Orbach – DUMML

Two new endowed professorships; marine mammal and social scientist; both filled. Buying into the marine conservation arena; have full service campus – undergrad, MS and PhD students in residence; pointed out brochure provided by county that highlights all the marine activities associated with all the laboratories; budget – try to balance the budget and get negotiated subsidy...restructured, eliminated two staff positions; new links to Durham in terms of physical plant operation; Joe Rames is retiring and will need to be replaced.

Bob Van Dolah – SCDNR, MRD, MRRI

Severe budget cuts; taken aggressive approaches to solving problems, Paul Sandifer retired from SCDNR to take position with NOAA. John Frampton is new director. New initiatives in HML, SEAMAP and MARMAP programs still functioning and trying to expand to get into deeper areas. Initiated new Taxonomic Center, requested collaborations. New study of Hi resolution, low altitude telemetry, to assess shellfish areas. Expanding marine genomics area; red drum restocking program, using genetic tags to keep track; shrimp culture, with USDA initiative supporting high intensity culture. Replacing one of the vessels; plan to purchase.

Leo Demski – Pritzker Marine Biol Center

Small honors college; 650 students; supporting under funded students – thus budget cuts have serious impacts; lab facility is incomplete, seeking federal funding; key feature of facility is an aquarium used for teaching tool needs completion; interested in working on exchange programs with Caribbean facilities, Honduran students have been a focus, seeking funding for this effort; working on a talent search program.

Sue Cook – NSF – Centers for Ocean Science Education Excell

Senior scientist at Harbor Branch; no current info; a lot of changes are happening.

Jim Sanders – Skidaway Institute of Ocean

Budget issues are small bites at a time, totaling about 10%; state funds are not a significant issue; have building in planning phase, state capital projects were severely limited; hoping to get building on priority list – will hire additional faculty when approved. Business officer is retiring and needs to be replaced. New coastal vessel working well, finished first year of voyages.

Sapelo Director search stalled; Laboratory – No representation; identified four candidates for director; some restructuring for running the lab.

Kumar Mahadevan – Mote Marine Laboratory

Biggest project 208 acre property to consolidate aquaculture programs; shark research consortium funded by congress \$1.8K; research partnership on HAB, manatees with UFL; distance learning program working well, including the JASON project; establishing small visitor centers in the Keys; building bigger immersion theater at main facility; have a great display, it is interactive, on the Nat Mar Sanctuaries; have partnering with aquarium going to be built in Atlanta, funded by Home Depot head (\$200K).

Lou Burnett – CoC, Grice Marine Laboratory, Marine Biology Program

Moved two additional faculty from downtown campus to HML, leading to 10 resident faculty on Ft Johnson campus; MS program thriving well; REU site award updated for another three years; funded by NSF to establish a molecular core facility; new dean of science and new president of University; pushing for new housing and conference facility, top priority of new president; still looking for Biology Dept. Chair.

HML

Multi-institutional 5 partner lab; 5 member ex bd; 5 member science board that make the facility operate; searching for a new director of HML; Paul Sandifer now residing in HML and will become an important support for the Science Board; additional funding has been secured for a NMR facility – 600 and 800 MHz nmrs – at 35% planning stage; moving scientists into building along with retrofitting to meet special needs; several inter-institutional proposals have been submitted by HML scientists.

Gil McRae – Dir FL Mar Res Inst

12 facilities, 470 staff; in facilities update mode; renovating the Jacksonville field facility; difficult budget year, several amendments to constitution affected budget leading to many cuts across agencies; looking at level funding; retirement of two senior members; Karen Steidiger will remain as a volunteer; Stew Kennedy, fisheries program; marine stock enhancement research project involving large scale activity related to redfish; HAB issue, puffer fish poisoning leading to expanded capabilities for detection and study of environment fates; involved in litigation relative to manatee – HAB issues; 70 mortalities associated with HABs.

Don Hockaday – Pan Am Coastal Studies Laboratory

New dean that is supportive; 4 on-site faculty newly placed; getting functional seawater system.

### **External Issues:**

Two commissions to re-look at coastal & ocean policies:

Private – PEW; Mike Orbach will comment on differences

Public – US Comm on Ocean Policy; Paul Sandifer

*Paul Sandifer perspective on US Committee on Ocean Policy:*

PS gave update on his status - 31 yrs at SCDNR, retired Mar. 30; started Apr. 15 at NOAA. Ocean Committee established by OC Act 2001; passed unanimously by Congress established 16 per comm. Committee has been meeting from Sep. 17; 14-15 public meetings to gather information.

Finished public meetings and are in deliberative phase; expect to have report by next fall.

*Governance recommendations:* All info provided today in draft phase, nothing voted on.

Creation by EO or by Act of Congress, Office in White House for Ocean Policy, form a National Ocean Council – Cabinet Secretaries and Stand alone Agency heads as members; there would be a council of advisors broadly representing activities around the country, including state and local governments, private sector and universities; intent is to develop a National Ocean Policy Act.

National Council proposed activities: implement and continuously improve Committee recommendations; assess status of the coastal ocean ecosystems; recommendations for ecosystem planning and implementation units.

Need National Ocean Research Agenda set by combined advisory groups.

Need National Ocean Data Management System; develop next generation coastal management system.

Will attempt to bring strength to many loose alliances, e.g. aquaculture groups will be brought together under a national focus.

Committee varies in opinion on need for framework to direct operations vs. a formal regulatory system.

Recommendation for National Agencies to realign their regional boundaries...working at local level would be streamlined...USGS, EPA, NOAA, Corps of Eng, DoI.

Recommend Regional Ocean Councils; suggestion for many panels, e.g. Federal agency panel, Fish management panel, coastal management panel, marine science panel, air & water quality panel, watershed-planning panel, offshore multiple use panel.

Issue of Federal agency reorganization and reshuffling...no final decision yet. Will look at issues/activities for this recommendation, e.g. estuary programs in several agencies rarely coordinate.

*Guiding Principles:*

Decision making on ecosystem-based management; spent much time on defining terms: management in terms of multi-species.

Geopolitical boundary definitions found in Magnuson Legislation worked best; needed to include Great Lakes.

Defined Precautionary Approach – 3 parts.

- Do science on the front end rather than back end of the decision process.
- Use a practical approach without experimental data and use reasonable judgment.
- Don't prevent activities just because there are no data; but re-evaluate on periodic basis as new information is obtained.

Discussed biodiversity and agreed that biodiversity is included in all decisions.

Academic Research – proposing a doubling of the academic research budget...not a very good accounting available (WAG \$630K)

Federal Research – develop 3-5 year plans that are supported with adequate funding.

Recommending a more unified research granting process.

Recommending a defined plan for moving research technology to an operational structure.  
Recommending that the ocean observing systems be integrated, expanded and also include biological sensors to reflect biological as well as physical data.

International leadership in Marine Research and Management of LMR.

Technology Development, recommend funding centers separate from the research funding, including UNOLS fleet, deep-sea submersibles.

(One of the requirements of the act is to do an infrastructure survey...expect that this discussion will take place and should include the marine laboratories; reminder, get SAML labs to provide this information to Comm)

*Research Issues viewed as highest priority:*

- Oceans and Human Health
- Ocean Exploration
- Satellite Remote Sensing separate from NASA etc, info – marine environment oriented
- Watershed Management, needed as part of the Ecosystems Management Approach, need revitalized monitoring strategy
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection, give the current CRTF more clout under council

*Timetable:*

Commissioners complete reviewing 36 elements of the report by mid-July; by mid-August a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft ready to send to coastal states governors; 30 day review period; need to include governor's responses; presentation to Congress by mid- late September. Public version will be produced approximately by Dec. 2003.

### **Mike Orbach, PEW Oceans Commission:**

PEW got tired of waiting for Congress to pass OC Act, so they started a Commission.

Membership is of a different composition, taking into socio-political approach to appointments, with a greater environmental bent.

Held regional workshops based on an invited approach; generally didn't debate in public; addressed a limited range of topics (see handout), aimed mainly at LMR and habitat questions. Recommendations will include some that are parallel to US OC Commission.

Worked through issuing a series of reports (contracted out as position papers; see handout); analyses in user friendly form and give hints to what Comm recommendations may make...although not known. Major difference will likely be in the issue of governance...i.e. a separate cabinet level department/agency.

Staff disbanded; report expected in June 2003 (see handout).

### **Business Meeting**

Secretary's Report:

Received report submitted by Steve Jordan and as revised by the SAML board. Jim moved to accept, and Wes 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted by acclamation.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Report submitted by Kumar Mahadevan; cash balance of \$63,737.75. Report approved.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Committee requested nominees; three positions open, board member at large, secretary, president-elect.

- Sylvia Galloway temporarily volunteered to assume secretary.
- Lou Burnett was nominated by Bob Van Dolah for Board Member at Large; Checked on issue of quorum and resolved that the quorum was met, greater than 1/3 of membership. Open floor for nominations for bmal...no other nominations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George, nomination by acclamation. Secretary nominations from the floor, Sylvia nominated and seconded, and approved. President-elect, nomination of Mike Orbach by Jim Sanders, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kumar Mahadevan, elected by acclamation.

### **Membership:**

Gaining new members, and have lost a couple. New members: SE Environmental Research Center and the Smithsonian Marine Station. Motion to accept by George and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wes T. Lost Labs: U of Tx Mar Sci Instit; Tx Parks; Tx Marine lab at Seabrook; several NMFS labs SEFSC.

### **President's report:**

1. SAML handbook and brochure are available.
2. SAML members responsibility to change their information on the NAML website.
3. Bob reviewed the action items list attached to the Secretary's report.
  - List of delinquent labs; Bob sent letter to labs indicating that they would be dropped; will remove labs if dues are not paid up to date by June. NMFS SEFSC labs may remain under the umbrella of the Center SAML membership; some individual labs may participate individually.
  - Update Business and Financial Admin. Info on the NAML website: can edit all information related to business manager and educator etc. Jim S. volunteered to remind all SAML members to update their information via the NAML webpage; he will update the access database also.
  - Several items were completed and are listed at the end of the Secretary's report.

### **President-Elect's report:**

Will be checking on the database information. NAML meeting will be in our region. Jim is interested to see if the membership is still interested in keeping one meeting with NAML and one meeting in the spring.

### **Meeting Updates:**

SAML 2004 spring meeting site is confirmed to be at Galveston, NMFS Laboratory.  
SAML 2005 spring meeting not identified yet.  
NAML fall meeting Oct 15-17, 2003.

### *NAML Meeting report, Madilyn Fletcher*

Annual board meeting was in March in Washington DC. The board meeting was in the morning and the national staffers meeting was in the afternoon; trying to reinforce image as honest broker of marine information; dynamic forum presented (organized by Margaret Davidson) theme, coastal ocean observations; series of speakers including organizational and research aspects, as well as users of the data and economic impacts. Check the NAML website for the PowerPoint

presentations. Only 8 staffers showed. Joined with other coastal state organizations for the reception, so NAML didn't get much visibility. Next morning a joint forum with other coastal organizations...NAML not really included in the planning for this, but in the end served to represent marine science in the working groups. NAML business meeting discussed what they needed to do to make an impact; question of lobbying led to consensus on the need for funding for infrastructure; decided that maybe rather than a direct approach, put emphasis on other activities/programs that build infrastructure pushing for enhancement in the marine arena. In debriefing discussion, they decided to take an immediate action by making the NAML website searchable and to identify hot-topics that could be listed on the NAML webpage and link to appropriate laboratories within NAML.

*NAML Discussion:* Staffers are most interested in their own delegation and highly focused presentations are desirable; might want to return to evening receptions for garnering more interest across the board. Need to have issues to focus on that all members can relate to.

*SAML meeting time discussion:* weekends vs. weekdays; keep the experiment of weekdays for next meeting. Early April works best for Roger Zimmerman.

*SAML meeting attendance discussion:* Bob asked how can we improve the percentage of attendees; is there anything we can do to help defray costs for some? Kumar doesn't believe the cost is an issue, rather conflicting schedules. He suggested that SAML request that a representative for the director attend these meetings. Roger suggested that hot-topics need to be focused on, things that are important to the Labs. Suggestion that some of the Congressional committee members could present interesting information on new legislation. Developing a plan to implement Ocean Policy as it affects the Laboratories...i.e. respond to the US Comm recommendations, suggesting how implementation may be made, especially as it impacts the SAML member laboratories.

### **New Business**

The question of how to spend some of the SAML funds to enhance SAML activities will be discussed further during wrap-up.

Kumar Motion, as incentive to attract membership attendance provide free housing for attending directors at the next SAML meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Baden; motion approved by acclamation. [Sidebar: there will be no registration fee.]

## **Afternoon Session:**

### **Internal Issue I – “Marine lab budgeting in tight fiscal times” Wes Tunnel**

*Summary Budget Cuts at SAML Labs prepared by Wes Tunnel was provided to members*

Corrections to budget summary should be given or sent to Wes and he will redistribute. Trends observed: 7 of 10 states in SAML reported, and numerous reported cuts; range of cuts 1-13% over a single year. Pattern of response tried to avoid hurting people first; transfer of people from hard to soft money.

SCMMRI has had a significant loss, but it is a percentage of state funds, that represent only 1 of 3 funding sources. Moved staff to soft funds, and increased their vessel hourly rates to levels comparable to others throughout SAML; increased grant writing activity; mandatory cut in travel by Agency head; cut support to student stipends.

Jim Sanders targeted emergencies and issues like salaries that were lower than the rest of the system to solicit for assistance from Univ. system. Small organization has little buffer to cut; taking out 50% of telephones, 50% of Xerox costs, and some of the student stipends; don't have the opportunity to write grants, since the institutional goal is teaching.

Moral becomes an issue under budget reduction and need to find ways to assist staff by saving money or giving them bonuses on a one-time basis.

Another way to enhance effectiveness by using volunteers; can offer special lectures and a few luncheons to draw volunteers.

Observation:

- Public is not always aware of the loss of operational funds when they see new buildings rising.
- In Universities, there is always money available, need to get creative to find the pockets of money; because of differences in University systems, may not be able to apply common strategies to find funds.
- It is important to keep on carrying the message to the power structure of what your program does, why it is important...most effective message will have best opportunity to reap limited funds. Wes recommends that the labs diversify.

### **Internal Issue II - Minority Education Activities report – Jim Sanders**

SAML Awards at ASLO Discussion

See attachment outlining the awards presented at the 2002 ASLO meeting.

Appears to be a success, with 3 awards made for presentations and 3 made for poster presentations.

SAML Awards at ERF Discussion

Awards not given as of yet; will be given September 2003; focus cannot be on minority students as in ASLO. ERF wanted to cap award amount and to use the rest to support meeting costs; SAML board agreed that this did not meet the original intent of the funding and withdrew that portion of the funding and was held back for meeting costs.

*Discussion of SAML awards:* Mat suggested that plaques be made to recognize the student winners and include SAML identity. Madilyn suggested a certificate as an alternate. Mike



indicated that we are doing this to get SAML recognition and therefore a plaque is more desirable. Plaques could be sent after the fact. Suggestion is that Mat should be volunteered to organize the purchase of the plaques.

*Motion:* George – SAML should provide a plaque to recognize the winners of the ASLO-ERF awards via the standing education committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wes, passed by acclamation.

*Motion* by Jim to continue the SAML ASLO-ERF awards through 2005, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan B, passed by acclamation.

*Discussion of focus of SAML awards:* Bob suggested that if possible awards should be made to students conducting research in SE; Madilyn suggested that we need to recognize good science no matter where the science was conducted or where the student is from. Jim indicated that the consensus is to keep the award national in recognition.

*What other activities can be supported:* Suggestion to support ongoing REU programs with one internship each. Madilyn suggested that SAML could coach minority teams for the OSB competition; maybe funding for 2-3 graduate students to support this effort or even faculty. George gave an example of how to set up activity to coach students to participate in the OSB competition. Another suggestion was to develop a mini-bridge program to ready minority students for the REU programs.

**Friday Morning, May 2, 2003**

**External Issue III – Status of LABNET, CASTNET, HABSOS - Madilyn Fletcher**

IOOS – International Ocean Observing System.

SAML can take a leadership role in IOOS. Very large datasets will be generated with varied types of data. There are a large number of observing systems in the SE developed for many purposes. Making these data sets widely available (ready open access to the public) in a user-friendly format will be a challenge, one that might be met by activities like CASTNET and LABNET. Madilyn posed the question, does SAML have a role to play in the regional organization of observing systems? Stated goals for the regional organization of observing systems appears to describe SAML in part – engaging stakeholders, develop collaborative partnerships among data collectors, data managers, and users of data.

Discussion: Bob indicated that resource agencies see a large need to marry disparate data sets to assist in decision-making. Mike asked about linkages between land-based observing systems and near shore observing systems. Kumar asked who would lead the coordination of many data generators that are not included in making their data readily available? Consensus that SAML could serve a unifying role to create the regional organization, but not necessarily serve as lead on pilot project proposals.

Background info on development of various network databases:

LABNET – connect all labs with means to locate, retrieve and process data; never was really funded, so progress is slow. NET idea funded by NSF-EPSCOR to locate and retrieve data, include metadata, process, make retrievable; not a very flexible system focused on a specific problem; sponsoring partners SURA (SE Univ. Res. Assn.) and SAML; project goals were to share connectivity at the personnel level as well as data level.

CASTNET – goal is to create tools to make sharing assets easier. They have developed an on-line metadata entry tool (ACET); established SQL servers for relational metadata and data bases at 4 partner sites; concept envisioned a system that people could easily locate data via a metadata entry point on-line; FGDC (Fed. Geographic Data Comm.) standard was used for data entry; how will CASTNET continue effectively? Possibilities:

- Broader dissemination and incorporation of additional enhancements through meshing with NAML's LabNet
- Enhancements, e.g. biological data, freeware, streamlining data entry, increasing redundancy

Support from CSC not available, other funding sources are being sought. Madilyn and Ken will be submitting a proposal to a recent RFP. Interested SAML members should identify other sources of funding.

Discussion: What is the advantage of CASTNET to other SAML members not currently involved? Provides means to bring large databases into the proper format with metadata under the FGDC standard.

**External Issue IV – COSEE Program Update – Sue Cook**

Handout was provided covering COSEE centers. Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence Initiative.

- Funding to develop partnerships between ocean science researchers and educators.

- Promote improved communication and coordination amongst ocean science education programs.
- Promote ocean education as exciting vehicle to interest students in science.

[www.cosee.net](http://www.cosee.net) website describing program, 7 centers, etc. over 118 institutions involved in the entire partnership; each center is unique; most are organizing workshops to bring scientists and educators together. Centers coordinate via a council with one representative from each Center. Funding sources: NSF, NOAA, ONR, etc. Future: solicitation in 05 and funding in 06. Will be opening at NSF for COSEE coordinator in about one year.

### **Internal Issue III – Housing Survey Summary – Lou Burnett**

SAML Housing Survey Summary was provided to the members.

Members found the information very helpful and suggested that Lou might try to get additional responses to enhance the data set.

### **Wrap-up:**

1. SAML funding initiatives review: Continue ASLO awards and initiate ERF awards; education committee will bring ideas to Board meeting in fall, i.e. bridge programs; defray housing and registration costs for next Spring meeting. Other idea from previous meetings was to partially fund HABSOS; not moving currently.

Discussion: Madilyn suggested that SAML consider being proactive in facilitating the development of the regional observing system organization ...maybe by sponsoring a forum to create a regional association that would represent groups from Md to Tx; this might be accomplished by using SAML match to respond to NOAA RFP with deadline in the end of May; Madilyn indicated that we need to make sure that there is only one proposal going in from SAML participants. If SAML were to do this independently from proposal process, not sure how can draw in participants. George mentioned the national council on undergraduate research competition as needing funding for students to compete at the annual meeting; education committee will consider.

2. Suggested topics for next two meetings:

- Salary survey of SAML member labs (Bob mentioned survey published of salary survey for staff involved in life sciences, broken out by many categories)
- Follow-up on PEW and Ocean Commission reports Fall Meeting
- Invited talk by a congressional staffer like Margaret Spring at Fall Meeting
- New initiatives being offered by funding agencies, Spring Meeting
- OOS discussion for Spring Meeting
- Survey of respective budgets with respect to sources of funds – endowments, federal funding, institution funding, revenues (tuition, fees); \$ vs. %
- CoE plan for re-diversion of Mississippi; invite someone to discuss the process of how the plan evolved; Roger could arrange for a presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.