

**SAML Spring 2004 Meeting
Meeting Notes
Galveston, TX**

Thurs Morn:

Welcome by Roger Zimmerman, introduction to NMFS Galveston Laboratory; gave an overview of the history of the facility from the days of Ft. Crockett, through the years of shrimp culture research to the current efforts in coastal ecosystem restoration.

External Issue I – Sandy Eslinger SECOORA, SE Coastal Ocean Observations Regional Association; SCSG Program Coordinator

1. Developing the Regional Association
 - a. How the regional association fits in the National framework; NOAA funding 9 regional efforts, several operating independently but trying to develop plan for different efforts to work within the national framework.
 - b. Under grant SCSG developing program with goal of turning over to independent group of interested parties
2. Organizing Priorities
 - a. Organizational workshop to set governance priorities, broaden participation and to include stakeholder/user participation.
 - b. Establishing an interim operating structure; working on setting several advisory committees
3. Organizing Process
 - a. Pre-org workshop June 1-3, 2004 Jekyll Island GA; feedback and information sharing objectives; selected representative group of participants
 - b. Identify interim governance structure, potentially at the Summit to be held in the fall of 2004
 - c. Develop business plan
4. Ongoing Issues
 - a. Trying to keep up with National budget planning process without having consensus input
 - b. National priorities do not necessarily match regional priorities, tend to be broader
 - c. Wide variety of stakeholder groups
 - d. Communication; have early version of their website (? www.usnfra.org) to try to overcome some of the issues associated with conflicting acronyms...
 - e. Funding and political support; much being done behind the scene

Discussion: Questions on the private sector users; some being users and some providers of services. Education efforts as related to all the COOS programs...what are the job-related opportunities, how does the information reach minority programs, how do the marine-educators fit in providing information to the public? How will regional associations communicate between themselves? Problem becomes one of splitting stakeholders, e.g. Florida has both SE and Gulf RAs. Need for single portal for

information access by stakeholders important...but how the data are integrated is still a great problem. How can SAML assist SECOORA? Sandy suggested that one SAML lab could serve on the governance structure; other labs could serve on the current advisory groups or create another advisory group...Marine Biological Advisory Group.

SAML Laboratory Updates:

Duke Marine Lab (Mike Orbach)

2nd social scientist hired; finished new oceanography maintenance bldg; refitted res vessel; finished new student center; under construction on new bldg green construction; doing joint master plan with Beaufort NOAA Lab; external fund raising going well \$4KK; Karen & Scott Eckert joined lab; moving into large pelagics; marine space ecologist recruit; marine conservation technology recruit;

USEPA Gulf Breeze (Steve Jordan)

65 full time some contractors, students; focus on coastal ecology now; chief of ecosystem branch; involved in EMAP; closed 3 position announcements – chemist, ecologist, biology technologist in selection process; have 5 Post Doc announcements out see website; preannouncement for workshop held in Oct 2004, joint meeting of 2 regional chapters of Gulf estuarine research society; altered coastal habitats (see announcement);

U TX Marine Science Institute (Wayne Gardner)

Recruit new faculty, physical focus; ecosystems dynamics; biogeochemistry; fisheries physiology & ecology; graduate student in 3 general areas, core courses focus in these areas; developed a NERR program; artificial wetland education center in development, joint effort with Corps of Engineers and public; active K-12 programs funded via NSF; working on undergrad program in Austin; hydrothermal vents discovery in arctic ocean by researcher from lab; new endocrine transport system by researcher at lab; negotiated for several new positions

FL Marine Research Institute (Gil McRae)

Restructuring agency and institute; develop a management component and will be combined under a new institute; FL Fish & Wildlife Institute- will include land based animal issues; will combine all research related to land and marine resources associated programs; will develop two new centers – biostatistics/modeling; GIS.

Mote Marine Lab (Brad Robbins)

Kumar doing well; open marine education center (Keating); move toward greater education outreach, part of the immersion technologies for education; developing a larger marine mammal center; convened a blue ribbon education panel part of their 7 yr strategic planning; marine aquaculture park – consolidating all activities to this site; red tide program partnering with Rutgers COOL program coastal ocean observing lab; remote vehicles to look for red tides; listing of sawfish as endangered species; license plate coral reef research support for Florida institutions.

VIMS (Iris Anderson)

John Wells will become director; bldg campaign – Kauffman Aquatic Center \$20KK; bids for new 60k sq ft bldg; hurricane damage insurance will allow construction of services building; new vessel that can operate in surf zone; budget issues – VA passed tax increase – raise in salaries for faculty & staff; developing undergrad minor in marine science at W&M; closed position for fish modeler; minority education initiatives – 3 NSF REU, Dreams Program, Hall/Bonner Program to develop cohort of minority students.

UNC-Wilmington (Ron Sizemore)

Dan Baden and James Merritt couldn't attend send regrets; 140 people, 40 faculty and about 40 students; MS in Marine Science Program 35 students; start construction of operational wing 25K sq ft; hired 2nd endowed chair; re-establishing program in marine biotechnology.

NOS CCEHBR (Sylvia Galloway)

HML NMR facility well underway; two research efforts underway of interest – Jeff Hyland chief scientist on cruise in Olympic Coast MS to check for fisheries impacts on bottom resources; deep-sea corals one focus. –Pat Fair conducting a multi-investigator assessment of health in bottlenose dolphins at two sites in the SE, Indian

Skidaway (Jim Sanders)

3 new faculty, phys oceanog, biogeochem, boil oceg. – prokary algae; inc fed supported budget while state has financial issues; RV Sav 140 d at sea; still have time available...20 bunks so serves as good educational platform; new funding ROC to get students at sea; have serious infrastruc issues ('40s); trying to incr visibility in region;

SCDNR- MRRI (Bob VanDolah)

Massive budget cuts; 300 person shortfall in agency; Robert Boyles permanent Dep Dir; MRRI budget higher from outside funding, so have staff of 105-110; new director trying to move facility into a Nat Resources Res Instit; establ new lab in ACE basin; educ facility on Edisto Isl; expanded oc monitoring prg;

Savannah St U (Matt Gilligan)

Mar Sci prg has faired well compared to other programs; expd from 1 faculty to 5 faculty; Adjunct faculty from Skidaway; estab nar sci collab center with Dionne Hoskins leading it out of Miami NMFS; full undergrad prg helped substantially by Skidaway.

TAMU – Corpus Christi Center for Coastal Studies (Wes Tunnell)

Representing two inst, new Harte Institute and TAMU; first of several buildings underway; volunteering for SAML meeting in 2006; GulfBase 1400 scientists listed in this database; GoM updating old database under Harte.

RSMAS (Frank Millero)

10 faculty hired – 110 total; over 100 grad stud; over 230d for RV; Pew Foundation providing support; OHH funding; plans to build a floating seawater processing facility; have active double major undergrad program w/ ~100 students; grad applications were down 17%; most applicants were foreign students (~30 stud); usually take in 30-35 grad stud, now have 20 accepted; pool ~60% female; have plans to jointly construct a facility w/NOAA.

CofC-Grice (Lou Burnett)

30th ann Grad Prg; hired (10 res faculty) replac for mar ecology; looking for invert boil. next yr. ; will be seeking lab mngr.; college president has hi priority for conf/ stud facility at Ft J; RSU funding successful and recruitment of minority students successful.

HML (Lou Burnett represent 5 partners)

95% occupation; renovations being undertaken; bldg changes almost complete; 7 challenge labs will be available; 4 BSL3 facilities; placed proposal for OHH initiative.

PanAm (Don Hockaday)

Developing new seawater system; improving computer lines in facility.

NCF (Leo Demski) “Director of the World’s smallest marine lab”

Mar lab about 3 yr old; developing aquarium with focus on ecosystem teaching facility; NOAA grant to assist in developing displays and internal cameras for webcam; living Caribbean coral reef display is next goal; short of staff; utilizing talented students; increasing community interactions; hosted manatee biology workshop; number of students have received Fulbright scholarships.

Galveston Lab NMFS (Roger Zimmerman)

SEFSC – id the recognition that fisheries mgt should be elevated to an ecosystem level.

Thursday afternoon, May 13, 2004

Business Meeting:

Jim S mentioned that he thought we don't have a quorum, so no motions may be voted upon; it was pointed out by Mike O. that by the by-laws it is 1/3 of paid members constitutes a quorum thus we have 41 paid members through 2003 and the quorum is 14 members.

Minutes of Spring 2003 Meeting:

Minutes were circulated last fall to the entire membership and copies provided at the meeting.

Motion to approve; seconded.

Approved by acclamation (17 votes)

Lou B. noted that the housing report should be attached

Treasurer's Report:

Brad; money in bank acct;

Report one: 12-31-02 balance 63,737.75; 12-31-03 balance \$82,604.67;

Report two: 12-31-03 balance; 4-30-04 balance \$65,688.74. Discussion diverted to Financial Committee Audit.

Motion to approve; seconded.

Report accepted by acclamation (17 votes)

Financial Committee Audit Report:

Audit comm. met and reviewed paperwork; copies of checks for dispersal and check register. The committee recommends approval of financial report without alteration.

Nominating committee:

(vote for Board Member at Large, 2005-2007)

Tabling the discussion and vote until Friday morning.

Presidents' Report:

(SAML action items)

Bob VD suggested that the student awards were successful. The question remains why is the attendance at the SAML mtg so low—one experiment was to offer to cover meeting registration and housing of this meeting to improve attendance. It appears that this didn't help improve the attendance. Concerned that some were still unaware of the offer to assist financially. Bob feels we need to make a personal effort to telephone others in SAML to encourage attendance. One change was made to move mtg from

weekend to weekdays; also moved from Mar to May. Annual meeting vs two per year; budget issues. Question remains do these changes have an impact on attendance.

Jim Sanders: Question as to whether email information is reaching the new leadership of the labs. Apparently some are not receiving information. Jim got a poor response to his requests for planning Spring meeting. Jim plans to call all member institutions to determine why our attendance is falling.

Discussion as to value of holding meetings; not only to meet folks personally, but developing contacts so that when issues arise one feels comfortable in reaching out for supportive information. Bob pointed out several instances where labs found that they were not consistent in fees charged or how vessel costs were handled, ie, some facilities were undercharging. He feels that internal issues may be more important to the business/lab managers.

Suggestion that some involvement of non-members (ie. Some of the researchers in the labs) could lead to an interest in what SAML does and can do for their facilities. "If you don't have an alternate, would you identify one so that your facility always has a representative?" Question could be added to interviews. Jim brought up the issue assoc with alternates vs the director. Another suggestion is not to underestimate the power of a letter to folks. The meeting announcement should be sent both routes...thus those that don't respond to email will still be reached.

Jim suggested that one major issue in SAML is poor communications; he will place a copy of the database info for address etc.

President elect: Mike Orbach thinks that there will be a natural re-growth of SAML; especially things like the OHH solicitation. More permutations for external topics to bring to the meetings.

Meeting Updates:

NAML Fall Meeting; NAML Winter meeting reviewed. Concern expressed over access to NAML webpage and making corrections to individual lab pages. User name 'NAML' and password 'ch@nge'; email address for each director on NAML Board will be firstnameinitial.lastname@NAML.org

Spring 2005 SAML meeting location; question of Wilmington, maybe Savannah as site; should we set the time then look for a lab to host? Potential date in early to mid April.

Spring 2006 meeting location at TAMU- Corpus Christi Center for Coastal Studies, at the new Harte Research Institute

Spring 2007 East Coast (Potentially Savannah State U/Skidaway to joint host)

Spring 2008 West Coast Florida

Other items:

Discussion on course requirements, with focus on whether a curriculum that drops invertebrate zoology is creating a problem.

New Business:

Leo Demski brought up the issue of animal rights and animal care. Perhaps SAML could provide a statement on the guidelines that are followed by marine laboratories. Jim

suggested that this might be put on the business meeting next time so that Leo can describe his lab's issues on this topic.

Internal Issue – SAML Education Committee

Matt Gilligan, Bob Van Dolah, Don Hockaday, Kevin Summers, Wes Tunnell, Jim Sanders, Gil McRae, Leo Demski
new volunteer -Iris Anderson

Matt printed NAML webpage with the MEDRR Report highlighted, in the upper left corner. Matt searched web for Marine Educ. and came up with the CORE Graduate Education Retreat. Pointed out that major presentations from the Retreat are provided as ppt presentations. The SAML report relates to this retreat and was listed on their webpage. See handout.

Awards summary provided in handout.

Matt has visited several HBCU facilities and found a lack of awareness of marine labs and their educational programs. The committee has recommended conducting a workshop in the SE to explore increasing collaborations between MSIs and marine laboratories. Noted that many schools would like to develop capabilities on own campuses so that students get exposure to marine research within own institution. Observed that if the demand existed the universities would probably already have started developing programs.

Matt is proposing that SAML support the workshop concept proposed by the EDCOM committee. He suggested that the workshop would form the basis for developing proposals from several collaborating groups to NSF. Proof of concept workshop. Jim suggested that the workshops should be limited in scope...involving just a few MSIs and a few interested SAML institutions; utilize the early effort to serve as a model.

Agreement under discussion that increasing marine experiences for undergraduate and even high school students in field situations. There is concern about encouraging students to participate in undergraduate marine biology programs, since there are not the slots in the graduate programs for them to enter.

Question is whether the Education committee should go back to drawing board and develop a cost assessment for developing the workshops? Matt suggested that maybe SAML members should set an upper limit or endorse the possibility of developing several workshops. Several members agree that working on developing two workshops, one each on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, where real planning for developing a proposal to NSF that would involve collaborations between MSIs and SAML labs. Question of which MSIs should be invited to participate and who from these institutions. Jim suggested maybe 5 or 6 pairs to participate in first workshop...set goal to develop proposal to NSF, whether it is successful or not the first time through. Maybe running the workshop coincident with the SAML meeting would foster a stronger effort.

Friday Morning May 14, 2004

Election of member at large: one volunteer Wes Tunnell; request for nominations from the floor, none being made, nominations were closed. Vote for Wes by acclimation of the members present.

External Issue II: Ocean Commission report and possible SAML response (Jim Sanders)

Jim handed out a possible draft of a letter from SAML to the Ocean Commission; the draft is different from the one handed out last evening and is a draft of the letter being sent from NAML. Also included were remarks from Madilyn Fletcher indicating that the letter should be short and address the pertinent points of the report. Bob VD suggested that he supports SAML in sending a letter. Steve Jordan and Matt Gilligan agreed with the concept of sending a letter. No-one disagreed with the concept of sending a letter.

Given the general acceptance of the concept of sending a letter from SAML, Jim asked how we should accomplish the task of preparing a letter. Matt pointed out that his proposal document contains the points that he found important to respond to the Ocean Commission Report. Mike O indicated he thinks that we should emphasize the importance of dispersed but integrated marine research represented by the various members in SAML. Jim indicated that his letter could be enhanced by explaining what SAML is as an organization. Wes supports the short and pointed format of Jim's letter. Bob VD suggested that Jim's letter may have missed a few important points. Wayne G suggested that we need to emphasize how important coastal oceans are to the SE economy and that science is important to dealing with the ecosystems of the SE. Wayne also suggested that we get rid of the -ly words! Sylvia suggested that the report represent the common goals of SAML and avoid the differences between laboratories that should be expressed in individual letters. Jim and Bob indicated that it is important to highlight the regional nature of our joint research efforts. The question of whether a statement should be made on the organization of federal agencies should be included. Bob indicated that the letter should include the near coast as an emphasis so that it is not lost in a blue water focus. Some discussion was conducted about the role of states in fisheries management...several folks were not sure how to incorporate these points in the letter. Jim was given many detailed phraseology suggestions.

There was general agreement that Jim should draft a letter based on the morning's discussion and circulate it to the Executive Board for editing. Letter due in one week to Commission.

The question arose is whether SAML should develop a strategy now, as how to respond to changes brought about by Congressional actions based on the Ocean Commission Report. Mike Orbach suggested this could be the focus of the next SAML meeting. Jim asked Mike if he would lead this effort and potentially bring in an outside speaker. Brad R suggested that 'ecosystem science' may be a new concept to Congress and maybe a role for SAML would be to define this term in the context of SE marine resources vs the

'70s' version of the definition. Wes T indicated that he has a strong, effective definition and will provide it to SAML.

Internal Issue II: (see attachment)

Bob Van Dolah presented information from the National Salary Survey (2002) 'Compensation of Life Scientists in the USA', sponsored by AIBS and The Scientist. Bob's presentation pointed out the importance of completing the SAML survey, due to the fact that it is apparent that the AIBS survey appeared to under-represent SAML directors, for instance. Jim surveyed SAML for salary information, but only received about 12 replies. He plans to do this again with a longer lead time. Jim indicated that with limited data it appears that the data is consistent with the national survey. Jim plans to send the handout to those institutions that replied. The question of how institutions that do not have the Professorial set of categories should reply. Jim will work on reconfiguring the salaries. Question of what the graduate fellowship levels would be arose. It was pointed out by several members that CORE has excellent data on this topic.

Wrap-up:

- ASLO awards (Matt G): ASLO will not do the directed poster awards this year; they do not have a special student session. They don't want to administer the awards under the original constraints. Matt recommends that we accept their request to administer their poster award, \$500.00, without constraint by SAML. The award will be a SAML award that can be broken up into as many awards as ASLO chooses. Members accepted Matt's recommendation by acclamation.
- Mike Orbach has offered to organize the focus of the next meeting including bringing in an external speaker.
- SAML finds it timely to address issues of Safety; boating safety and training of students was a requested focus by several members present. Jim asked Iris J. to lead this discussion and to include input from Roger Z.
- Bob VanDolah's request to have more connection with outside groups that could provide information on collaborations and funding within new programs associated with the Ocean Commission Report.
- Jim asked whether the group would like an update on COOSY issues? What about Labnet? What other issues need to be discussed? Small boat fees?
- Jim will survey the SAML membership about agenda items.
- Jim will contact every member (ex. States: Wes – TX; Bob – SC; Mike – NC; Leo – AL,MS; Iris - VA) to find out why low attendance in SAML; has standard set of questions he will discuss with each.
- Should we update the SAML Handbook; Sylvia volunteered to update.

Thanks was given to Roger for his gracious hosting of the meeting!

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