

SAML ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

4-11-06 TO 4-13-06

4-12-06 Morning Session

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME: (M. Orbach & W. Tunnell)

Wes – Provided an overview of Corpus Christi area and the T A&M (started 1947, mid-90s became 4 year school). Mentioned several brochures available for participants.

Mike – Big thanks to Wes for organizing the meeting; wants to focus on bringing SAML to greater audience, e.g. via NAML.

Minutes of 5-05 meeting were discussed.

Motion to approve, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

LABORATORY UPDATES:

Anderson	Dr. Iris	Virginia Institute of Marine Science (started in 1940 as independent institution) School Marine Science affiliated w/ College of William & Mary also; 110-120 students, about ½ PhD students; staff 45-50; completed new 120,000 sqft research building; started construction on 1 acre aquatic sea water under roof building; hired or in process 3 positions; biological scientist; fishery scientist; director of development; anticipate significant # hires to research faculty; – opportunity to set vision of what VIMS should be in the next 20 yr; much research is international in nature; VA Sea Grant consortium in disarray; tuition challenge, decreasing numbers of faculty willing to fund students, since increase of 8%/yr; minority program going well, 10% student body = underrepresented minorities.
Bortone	Dr. Steve	Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory Formed in 2002; small non-profit lab; focus of research on sea-grass beds and mangroves; Lake Okeechobee research; emphasis on biotechnology.
Boyer	Dr. Joseph	Southeast Environmental Research Center at Florida International University 15 yr history; 14 faculty w/ joint appointments in other dept; all funding external; \$7KK; 7 faculty that are marine; 100 students and post docs; 11 boats in field operation; NELAP certified nutrient analysis lab; toxicology lab, trace organics lab, stable isotope lab; ecological focus; large water quality monitoring program; NSF coastal everglades LTER; funding from EPA, NSF, SF Water Management District, and NPS.
Brinkmeyer	Dr. Robin	TAMU, Galveston T&AM marine science at Galveston; shifting toward Coastal Environmental Health; interaction w/Researchers in Health; marine ship devastated – looking for new ship and partners for this purchase; recent hire for wetlands ecologist; seeking invertebrate specialist; seafood safety lab conducting oyster monitoring of Galveston Bay.
Burnett	Dr. Lou	Grice Marine Lab, College of Charleston (started in 1955) 2000 graduate students on main campus; Ft Johnson Grice Research Laboratory houses 9 Resident Faculty and 55 MS graduate students; 150 majors in BS Marine Biology Program; looking toward a new facility on campus - housing/conference/dining facility and (president seeking for\$4KK this project); renewed NSF REU site award – successful due to emphasis placed on minority issues ranking very high – SAML helpful in forming this decision process;

		Hollings Marine Laboratory – partnership institution – DNR, MUSC MBES Program, NOS, NIST, CoC Marine Biology: in process of finalizing NMR facility, 700 & 800 mHz , online later this summer; have two endowed chairs, in marine genomics (MUSC)and bioinformatics (CofC); HML just underwent a review of the management of the facility.
Clark	Dr. Kelton	Estuarine Research Center at Morgan State University
		Previously the Academy of Natural Sciences Benedict Laboratory moved to Univ of Maryland site; gave entire unit to MSU a historically black college in Baltimore.
Crozier	Dr. George	Dauphin Island Sea Lab
		50ft research vessel; completed 10,000 sqft research facility expansion, added to old research building; Americore team painted the old military dorms; received an earmark of \$5KK to develop a Center for Ecosystem based fishery management; construction to begin this year; working with LUMCON to build an estuarine observing system – put on hold since all partners were hurricane impacted, designed to link the NERRs programs in the Central Gulf; filled faculty position (15 research, 7 education faculty); 120 students in residence (undergraduate & graduate programs); 10 to 11 th yr of REU programs; have funding from Shell – recruiting minority students to teach in the summer program; hosted dialogue program over summer; received an increase from legislature – inherited people and money.
Demski	Dr. Leo	New College of Florida, Pritzker Marine Bio. Ctr.
		Liberal Arts Honors College; 750 students; operating for 3.5yr; completed most of the original 10 yr plan to develop program; teaching marine biology utilizing the captive environment...aquarium major focus; student run college; donations of collected antique marine biology art...historical expeditions of over 200 year old; association with Duke U – teach TIP weekend course and now teaching high school students – gifted; strong Caribbean program – Honduras and Panama coral research; major emphasis on undergraduate education.
Fuiman	Dr. Lee	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
		See Lanoux, Dr. Steve below
Galloway	Dr. Sylvia	NOAA/NOS/CCEHBR
		Lab (CCEHBR -- Ecosystem Health Risk Center) undergoing reorganization as part of the overall reorganization of NCCOS – Coastal Ecosystem Science Office within NOAA/NOS; means some changes in personnel assignments and realignment of divisions. Building a new coral culture facility to support our Coral Disease Research Program; Approx ¼ main building undergoing renovation to update labs for the HAB/Marine Toxins Program; Renovating portions of the Administration Building, enclosure of front portico – entranceway and common meeting rooms. Research focus: harmful algal blooms and toxin chemistry/physiology/toxicology, ecotoxicology of anthropogenic chemicals in coastal environment, benthic ecology of marine systems, marine mammal health, coral disease, marine forensics.
Gilligan	Dr. Matt	Savannah State University
		16 year history, have a new Marine Building; Center of Excellence at U; multi-ethnic students; students go onto graduate programs including PhD, encourages black students in Marine Science; thankful to the encouragement of SAML; initiated an Aquatic Science Certification Program (2 yr) in collaboration w/ new Atlanta GA Aquarium; Atlanta Aquarium offered 3 paid internships each semester including summer

		semesters; facilities – spread around campus; plan to renovate old residence hall (15,000sqft - \$5KK)
Hawkins	Dr. Bill	Gulf Coast Research Laboratory/ University of Southern Mississippi
		Represent marine interests of the University of Southern Mississippi; B.S. in marine biology offered through the Dept. of Biological Sciences; Dept. of Geology & Geography programs on the Hattiesburg campus; Dept. of Marine Science and hydrography programs housed at Stennis Space Center; Dept of Coastal Science programs and the Gulf Coast Research Lab in Ocean Springs; efforts underway to consolidate the units and programs into the School of Ocean & Earth Sciences.
Hockaday	Mr. Don	University of Texas-Pan Am Coastal Studies Laboratory
		Defer to Mike Nevarez
Johnson	Dr. David	NOAA/NOS&NMFS- Beaufort Lab
		Lab opened in 1899; mix of two NOAA groups; Programs included marine fisheries; marine mammals; HAB; coral reef fisheries; invasive lionfish; a large Florida Bay seagrass project; cruise to Navassa Is – assessment of marine resources around the Island; have funding & construction issues; newest building is 50 yr old; construction on a new building to be occupied by NOAA & NERR staff; responsible for only bridge NOAA owns; have hurricane concerns; plans to rebuild maintenance building and add new hazardous waste facility; working with Duke Marine Lab in planning.
Jordan	Dr. Steve	USEPA- Gulf Breeze Lab
		National Health and Environmental Effects Research Lab; physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of coastal systems; 65 EPA employees on site; Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Dennis did damage, we got \$3KK allotment to recover lab—about 90-95% recovery; modest improvements; field locker/dive locker; new GIS/IT center in-design; research emphasis – ecosystem services pilot in evaluation of coastal habitats; have hire out for quantitative ecologist; looking for data analyst; mentioned the inter-agency post-Katrina assessment they participated in.
Karel	Mr. Bill	Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station, TX Parks & Wildlife
		Life history & population genetics studies; isolated lab; directed studies related to state government needs; conservation biology focus.
Lacy	Dr. Eric	Mar. Biomedicine & Envir. Sciences at Medical University of South Carolina
		HML partner; res focus in chemistry and molecular biology; functional marine genomics; two endowed chairs in partnership w state.
Lanoux	Dr. Steve	University of Texas Marine Science Institute
		Visited by Texas legislative review committee, so Lee Fuiman couldn't be at meeting; celebrated 60 th anniversary by breaking ground for Wetlands Education Center; dedicating the 185,708-acre Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve on May 6; building a new mariculture and larval fish laboratory – expected completion next January; staffing is up to 15 faculty with an offer to another; trying to grow to 20 faculty; hosting biennial open house on May 27.
Main	Dr. Kevan	Mote Marine Laboratory
		Represented Kumar M.; Kevan is the Director of Aquatic Research, a new center started 5 yr ago; non-profit research lab; currently building a satellite field station – an Aquatic Center, dedicated in 2005 and is

		about 75% completed; have a staff of 25 & have donated land for the Aquatic Center --- 200acre; space issue will be helped by this acquisition; Mar Mammal Research & Conference Facility of 3 floors is nearly complete; 3 field stations in the Florida Keys hit by 3 Hurricanes; hiring experienced vice president for research – in search mode, been vacant for 7yr.
McRae	Dr. Gil	Fish & Wildlife Reseach Institute, FL Fish & Wildlife Conserv Commission
		Director; merged all fish & wildlife research into one division; separated policy making from research; marine work embedded in larger institute; 2/3 of facility is marine related – located on University of South Florida campus; share bldg; have NMFS and USGS also co-located in the area; marine activities– fish research/ monitoring; protected species; habitat – coral reefs & sea grasses. Hurricane hit pretty hard in Keys 2\$KK loss – much vehicle, docks, sea walls, some flooding, equipment loss; sediment sea grass debris filled boat basin. Under policy – created state analog to Federal Oceanic & Coastal Research Council: created committee with at least 5 SAML members on it; state priorities document was created; COOS related activities high on list.
Miller	Dr. Sharon	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
		Defer to Iris Anderson
Nevarez	Dr. Mike	University of Texas Pan Am Coastal Studies Lab
		Small facility 7500 sqft; hispanic student population on main campus; reviewing mission/vision/goals; ecosystem research; conducting a large restoration project at Bahia Grande; upgrading seawater system.
Orbach	Dr. Mike	Duke Marine Laboratory
		Full campus model; Cape Hatteras research program; largest number of MS & PhD students; focus work in marine conservation; finishing 3 rd of three new buildings...green building – open this summer; Mike announced his intention to step down from Directorship with target of Sept 07. His ten-yr plan is finished. Recruiting for position.
Pomponi	Dr. Shirley	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.
		Unable to attend.
Sanders	Dr. Jim	Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
		Doing well in budget; new bldg 15,000-20,000sqft in plans – goal for new facility is to embrace new technology and give room for new researchers; new chemist; in mid-search for environmental chemist; new focus coastal environmental health; deep ocean global processes a major focus; run UNOLS vessel, ship-use down, but doing ok; breaking ground on new housing unit for visitors and on-campus students; GA Sea Grant Director is stepping down.
Thompson	Dr. Joel	Galbraith Marine Science Laboratory, Ekerd College
		Have 4 tracks in marine science; new president is working on campaigning for new science building; ~140 freshman each year ~40 graduating seniors each year; seeking marine invertebrate physiologist; also offering a visiting position in same field; grown from 6 to10 faculty positions, maybe two more in future; coral reef/aquaculture; have environmental studies major with policy & humanities tracks.
Tunnell	Dr. Wes	HRI/CCS, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
		Center for Coastal Studies – focus on Texas coastal issues and contract work; involved in development of the Harte Research Institute; focus of research in the Institute is coastal ecological work and ecotoxicology. We moved into the new \$18KK, 57,000sqft building in

		October 2005, and we have hired two of our six endowed chairs to date (biodiversity and policy/law). We will be hiring two more this year and the last two next year. The State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit was a huge success.
Van Dolah	Dr. Bob	SCDNR-MRRI
		Original member of SAML; DNR staff numbers 220, 120 who are in the Marine Resources Research Institute; 20 PhD. Recent hires include fishery scientis, benthic ecologist, genetistl; most funding is external; State has provided \$400K to renovate the Waddell Mariculture Center and \$2KK renovate MRRI – including a new research vessel for offshore work; had lots of problems with RV Palmetto...recently renovated.
Zimmerman	Dr. Roger	NOAA/NMFS- Galveston Lab
		Representative for all NMFS labs within SEFSC, Alex Chester is the Deputy Director; issues in fisheries are large and include stock assessment evaluations, regulation recommendations to Fishery Management Councils, by-catch of fish resources, all with a living marine resources focus, especially issues relevant to threatened & endangered species, e.g. coral listing. Working currently on Ecosystem Management; in Galveston our focus is on the shrimp industry, sea turtles, wetland restoration; we are bringing in the Flower Gardens Sanctuary group; looking for other agency occupants to enhance multi-agency interaction; SEFSC lost the lab at Pascagoula; have Congressional funding to replace lab. Promoting offshore aquaculture.

INTERNAL ISSUE I: Hurricane Preparation and aftermath (B. Hawkins)

Mike Orbach – reminded us that WAML gave SAML \$5K to deal with Katrina issues.

Bill Hawkins – Commonality that all labs are vulnerable to Hurricanes. Several Gulf Labs and staffs have ‘survivor guilt’.

Lessons Learned

- SAML was great support to all impacted labs.
- Infrastructure was devastated and communication nil...provision of cash was extremely helpful.
- Debris in marsh habitat..how to clean up without further damage to environment?
- How do you protect valuable ‘brood stock’ held for many years...e.g. striped bass 15 yr; what kind of protocol should be developed?
- What protocols should be developed to protect Library Holdings?
- What protocols should be developed for Toxicology Programs – Labs – Bldg..release of toxics?
- Are current vehicle protocols adequate? Clustering on high ground...lose all or none; only ones that survived were taken home with staff with goal of early return.
- Aquariums containing non-indigenous fish/species; what is protocol to protect local environment against accidental release during hurricane destruction?
- What are the protocols to take care of marine species in aquaria when power cannot be readily reinstated and fuel for generators is not available? How are animals transported or destroyed to prevent ‘inhumane’ treatment?

- How do Labs negotiate with FEMA about the type of destruction...water driven waves, water driven objects that destroy standing facilities in path, vs rising water, vs wind damage, vs rain generated water damage? May need forensic investigator with destructive forces damage...i.e., like forensic fire investigators.
- How do you evaluate the \$\$\$ worth of marine collections...tissues, specimen, etc.?
- How do you evaluate and recover costs for loss of time (research & grant writing time) of investigators while bringing the lab back?
- Loss of facilities and equipment --- Physical Plant for example, required \$500K deductible took FEMA estimate of \$670K to \$74K; vehicles are replaced on basis of the standing value of the vehicle prior to storm.
- Preparation: lost only one boat; no personnel loss; vehicle plan fell apart; authority – need to clarify due to communication problems; power return is incredibly valuable, but should have power companies in charge right up to the building; storage of water, gasoline, cash; include media in hurricane plan; need to get excellent communication about real vs perceived damage; security becomes real problem – may be on own, first responders may not be able to cover your needs; Coast Guard/EPA personnel took over removing and securing toxic materials; managing on behalf of staff with severe damage is serious issue; repair takes time, but restoring mission is very important.
- Communication – when phones out? Via local papers (daily update), TV media, local radio stations...potentially set a local site to meet one-day following hurricane to update all staff and management on impacts/needs.

Steve Bortone:

- His laboratory research group used mangroves as gauge of hurricane damage.
- Need to determine long-term damage on living marine resources...approach from a disturbance impact program; just studying before & after impacts is not adequate.
- Suggested that the NAML – SAML labs (he showed the array of labs around the coasts, indicating coverage is very complete); he suggested that SAML should set a plan for assessing disturbance from extreme impacts

Mike O.:

- WAML \$\$\$ - what should the \$5K be used for? Jim S. asked whether there were students or staff for whom \$5K would make a difference? Gil suggested that \$300.00 was given as quick help – like providing tarps for roofs for heavily damaged homes. Jim suggested it might be a question of practical detail of getting out \$\$ to the right people. Bob VD feels that staff impacts, especially those at lower end of pay scale, might be important to help some that were totally devastated...thinks maybe SAML could add to the current fund and set up a committee to decide on who gets it and what are the [Mike] decision criteria --- most needy at the time ---potential future investment (like a small scholarship to student of impacted family) --- [Steve] enhance communication system via preparation for worst case scenario --- economics of local areas change, e.g. rents increase due to lack of available units --- need to make it easy for alumni and

friends of institute to contribute to a hurricane emergency fund --- [Bob] mentioned the server with available opportunities for students and staff to move to other labs questioned whether these opportunities were taken advantage of --- [George] wants to encourage humanitarian efforts, thinks other issues are really institutional and should be dealt with by them (communication, scholarships, etc) --- **[Mike] suggested that SAML form a sub-committee to consider options** --- need to refine the network (web-based communication put up by Lee F.) that came about in response to the needs of impacted SAML labs [Gil] there is a process to make decision of how to distribute funds to needs, establish set of criteria, goal was immediate action to prevent further loss and especially health needs --- [Bill H] counseling is very important, professional in post-traumatic stress (some who need this counseling most, least likely to solicit help, need sensitive staff to support).

MINUTES SAML ANNUAL MEETING 4-11-06 TO 4-13-06 4-12-06 Afternoon Session

BUSINESS MEETING: See Business Meeting Agenda and Notes in separate file.

INTERNAL ISSUE II: Vessel policies, Training, and Safety

(I. Anderson & S. Miller)

Vessel Operations Package handout attached.

Safety and training foci; last meeting a training manual was presented; have now explored the liability issues and developed a CFR Compliance Vessel Operations Manual for VIMS; recognize that laws may be different in the local/regional area. Provided definitions of ORV and compliance under this designation and information on the status of scientific personnel...including facts that they are neither passengers nor seamen.

NOTE:

- Trailorable vessels may be exposed to liability without designation as ORV in that the vessel might be interpreted as a pleasure vessel and therefore not qualify as exclusive use as research/educational vessel.
- Students are viewed as scientific personnel, even though they pay tuition (not consideration for passage).
- See list of questions and answers to US Coast Guard

EXTERNAL ISSUE I: Ocean Commission Update

(M. Orbach)

JSOST Plan available on the website: <http://www.naml.org>

Exercises at the meeting will be organized around 7 societal themes and 3 cross-cut themes. For each theme: vision, rationale, challenges, research needs, infrastructure & technology needs, outcomes.

Marching orders to facilitators: not a detailed plan but a set major strategies and goals

Nothing regionalized as yet.

All comments will go back to several committees and then to the (FSTT) FedStTaskTeam.

Mike asked for SAML comments:

Jim indicated that NAML has taken on this meeting as a major task. NAML created draft document talking points relative to the Plan; public policy conference call will be held this Friday and would like comments from SAML; the draft will be available to all SAML members tonight or tomorrow.

Asked that SAML members to send their comments to the public comment area of the NAML website, cc to Mike Orbach. Matt G. liked the first draft, since it included education across all of the themes.

George commented that he feels that this meeting is too broad and will not lead to a plan that will guide the individual labs in developing their research programs. Mike and Jim suggested that the meeting is focused on bringing the whole 'marine community' together and demonstrate that there can be a unified front and able to cross-talk.

Mike asked are there special issues that SAML should highlight:

Bob VD suggested NAML should make the point the 'one size doesn't fit all'. Question if this is related only to the EEZ, or does it cover broad oceanic issues as well as the coastal land-water interface? Also comment on OOS systems that look outward...only land effects on water vs water effects on land. Are studies of physiology/biochemistry of marine organisms being considered? Mike thinks the goal is to attempt to obtain new resources to promote wider and better ocean science for a wide-variety of efforts. Roger commented that setting priorities depends on a process and that this meeting will begin this process for the broader marine community and will be reiterated over many times. Deadline is soon.

Harte Research Institute - tour

Wes provided some background on the Harte Research Institute prior to a guided tour of the facility.

MINUTES SAML ANNUAL MEETING 4-11-06 TO 4-13-06
4-13-06 Morning Session

Election for Representatives to NAML: Based on discussion & approved motion from yesterday, the three presidents (current, elect and past) and an elected representative from the remaining SAML board will serve as NAML representatives; a second representative should be chosen since Jim S. is NAML president-elect as well as SAML past president. Kumar M, Madilyn F and Matt G are willing to serve. Jim asked for nominations from the floor – none were offered. Jim handed out paper ballots and asked that two of the three be selected.

Election Results: Matt Gilligan and Kumar Mahadevan were elected by ballot.

Hurricane Relief Funding Subcommittee – David Johnson, Kelly Clark, George Crozier volunteered to develop a draft plan for providing hurricane relief with SAML funds.

INTERNAL ISSUE III: Education Committee Issues (M. Gilligan & D. Hockaday)
See submitted report.

Two graduate students and six undergraduates received SAML awards at the ASLO meeting in Honolulu in Feb 2006(see attached handout); the ASLOMP minority program is only place students present papers together. The poster \$500 award was not given out at the poster session this year since organizer couldn't handle the selection process, so Matt proposes to give it out next year at ASLO poster session.

Motion to continue funding of awards to ASLO with current cap, seconded, approved by acclamation.

Award title: SAML Outstanding Student Presentation

Matt suggested that we list all of the award recipients on the webpage – he has the entire list that we have given.

ERF didn't want the SAML award to be more than the ERF award so it was reduced.

Question was posed by Leo Demski to check into a 'fish' meeting to see if they would entertain the idea of having an award from SAML for student presentations (oral & poster).

Mike O: suggested that SAML needs a policy to decide how we are going forward with awards; suggested that any proposal for awards should go to Mike and the executive committee since they are empowered to make the decision. Items that need consideration in setting up a process: advertising the award, process for reviewing the requests for awards, and willingness of proposer of an award to work at the meeting to advertise SAML, etc.

Webpage discussion: need separate webpage for SAML; **Joe Boyer offered to host SAML webpage on their server;** Mike deferred webpage discussion.

Motion to approve \$1000 for student awards to the ASLO meeting passed by acclamation.

Spin-off of the Ocean Action Plan: ORPP (a Federal Advisory Council member group) membership has led to Matt being chair of the education committee (see attached handout). Ocean Literacy Conference [CoOL] (NOAA initiative thru Office of Education – trying to network the networks) will be a two-day forum in June 2006; sponsored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation --- bottom line is ocean awareness. Matt suggested that he be contacted if anyone wanted to attend this forum, since space is limited. Matt encourages SAML/NAML to embrace the COSEE networks; the SE network located in Charleston has started to incorporate minority issues.

Matt brought up the question of whether the term ‘minority’ should be retired...same discussion on the forefront of many fora...Kelie suggested that ‘underrepresented’ might be more appropriate. Matt also pointed out that MSI (minority serving institution) might be inappropriate at this point (institutions that enroll large numbers of students from under-represented groups)...he suggested that ‘cultural competency’ is an important facet of successful communication.

Discussion: What should **SAML** do in support of marine education? The SAML Education Program is not what the individual labs do...each lab has made an enhanced effort to support marine education of under-represented groups (at a variety of levels and in different approaches). It was suggested that SAML as an organization could serve as a source of applicants to the various lab programs...enhance the applicant pool...specifically by sending out a SAML representative to undergraduate programs with targeted recruitment as goal. Mike mentioned a discussion that indicated that marine labs are particularly attractive to all who are interested in science, not just marine biology majors. Mike suggested that **Matt and Don develop one-page concept paper about marine labs as attractors to those interested in marine science** for SAML; what can SAML do to promote recruitment of students for science education. Leo pointed out that student opinions are formed in HS as to their goals in higher education...not sure that SAML can take on the huge effort involved in reaching K-12 students. Iris reported that one outcome of ?ORRAP education committee was to increase Training Grants. Mike suggested there are other sources of funds than Washington, e.g., philanthropic. Develop something specific to SAML to promote science education broadly with focus on the under-represented populations. Steve J reminded us that SAML is a network of labs and that SAML has come a long ways in fostering marine education of under-represented groups.

SEERS (SE Estuarine Research Society) requested student travel assistance from SAML; it is in Savannah this year. It was pointed out that there are two other Estuarine Research Societys in our area. Kelie suggested that SAML develop a travel grant program; **Mike asked Kelie to consider developing a program for SAML.**

Matt taking sabbatical year 2007-2008 would like to focus on enhancing under-represented groups in marine education; goal should be in connecting specific disciplines to assist MMIs (majority-minority institutions) in building their undergraduate program.

INTERNAL ISSUE IV: NAML New Direction (J. Sanders, NAML president-elect, chair of the NAML-Public Policy Committee)

Jim mentioned that Tony Michaels desired (along with numerous NAML Board members) to make the organization more meaningful to its members and to have a greater voice in government decisions related to funding marine activities. He hired a consultant and started to develop clear mission statement and goals. Jim gave a tour of the NAML webpage including the Public Policy information: Username – NAMLPPC and Password - 1chance2. Strongly recommended that all SAML members review all the documents related to the NAML Public Policy Comm. and provide input...the committee is not exclusive and would encourage participation by all SAML members. Jim pointed out specific activities currently underway. Reminded the SAML members are a broad community and therefore the NAML-PPC needs a broad input from its membership. He mentioned the structure change within NAML and the related dues changes within the NAML-SAML board. NAML should have a stronger voice than CORE due to the broad nature of its membership...CORE represents about 30 labs while NAML represents over 100 labs. The ocean community should speak with a single voice. Jim sent NAML talking points to all SAML members that will be used by NAML members at the JSOST meeting; please review and send your comments to Jim before his conference call 2p EST. Not trying to stifle disagreement, but are attempting to reach a consensus opinion to put out publicly. Jim heartily advocated that all SAML members to attend the winter business meeting...not the board alone now; good schooling on the federal entry, included in the briefing book prepared for this past winter meeting 2006, found on the NAML webpage. Joel Widder offered a spare office to any NAML member on a temporary basis when visiting DC. *Jim mentioned the Leadership Summit (workshop) that Tony has been advocating and sent an email on earlier this week.*

WRAP UP: Mike O. reminded everyone that the opportunity is available for all to participate in all activities within SAML/NAML; not trying to increase work burden but encouraging broad participation and comments.

2006 SAML Executive Committee:

President – Mike Orbach (2006-2007)

President-elect – Wes Tunnell (2006-2007)

Past President – Jim Sanders (2006-2007, NAML president-elect)

Secretary – Sylvia Galloway (Continuous)

Treasurer – Kumar Mahadevan (Continuous)

Board Members at Large –

Lou Burnett (2004-2006) replaced by Madilyn Fletcher (2007-2009)

Wes Tunnell (2005- 2007) replaced by Bill Hawkins (2005-2007)

Matt Gilligan (2006-2008)
SAML representatives to NAML (2006-2007) --
Mike Orbach, Wes Tunnell, Matt Gilligan, Kumar Mahadevan.

Attachments: *Business Meeting Minutes; Attendee List; 2006 Meeting Agendas, Vessels Operations Package.*