

**General Meeting Notes**  
**Southern Association of Marine Laboratories**  
**2008 Annual Meeting**  
**26-28 March 2008**

**Pritzker Marine Biology Research Center**  
**New College of Florida**  
**5800 Bay Shore Road**  
**Sarasota, Florida 34243**  
**(Local Hosts: Sandra Gilchrist and Leo Demski)**

**Introduction and Welcome:** W. Tunnell and S. Gilchrist

Thanks to Sandra for the wonderful reception, meal etc.

We introduced the board.

Sandra, introduced the Provost & VP Academic Affairs, Sam Savin, who welcomed the SAML participants and gave some background on New College.

<http://www.ncf.edu/index>

It was announced that Leo Demski will be honored by dedicating the main fish tank to him; plaque undercovered.

**SAML Laboratory Updates:**

<b>Boyer, Joseph</b>	<b>Florida International University</b>  Two facilities in sep locations trying to bring together under new dean; New dean; enviro res and forensics; looking to consolidate mar prg; many of faculty
<b>Buskey, Ed</b>	<b>University of Texas Marine Science Institute</b>  State incr to budget; new bldg funded coastal conserve org; raising mar larval fish; have new reserve; wetlands educ cntr; sold res vess Longhorn; 2 former dir passed away
<b>Coen, Loren</b>	<b>Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation</b>  Dir of one of the smaller labs; initiative 7 land-ocean observing systems, real-time sensors; bldg campaign looking for new site for destr bldg; have 3 phd staff and looking for phd GIS sci
<b>Coleman, Felicia</b>	<b>Florida State University</b>
<b>Demski, Leo</b>	<b>New College of Florida</b>
<b>Eggleston, David</b>	<b>North Carolina State University Center for Marine Sciences &amp; Technology</b>  Dir in 2006; located in Moorehead City; 51,000sqft 4 story bldg; partnership with community college; have NC ext agents and SG ext agents; share some facility with UNC; applied program have faculty scattered throughout various dept; industry and aquaria support important; environ toxicology; geoscie prgrm enhanced with new hires; funding outside 4KK/yr

Galloway, Sylvia	NOAA/NCCOS/CCEHBR
	New Coral Culture Facility coming online; NCCOS reorganization finalized with some changes in personnel assignments and the renaming of all the branches within CCEHBR; the renovation of the HAB research facilities is nearing completion; major effort underway to institute a NCCOS-wide formalized environmental Safety and Environmental Compliance Program.
Gilchrist, Sandra	New College of Florida
	Dir of New College Mar Lab; get non-recurring funds from St of FL last year...upgraded facilities esp wood to st st; reorganizing now assoc with environ sci program, to include economics; streaming video from aquaria; corals from FL Keys rescued and doing well; have water qual data assoc with aq avail to users; field test to disting white syndr and bl band
Gilligan, Matt	Savannah State
	Mar Scie Prg; have new pres & vp; univ took over apt complex for dorms; incr enroll to 5k; in mar sci prog have stud grad/undergr enroll; hired new faculty mar mammolgy; aq sci certif. progr looking for faculty to support GA aq in Atl; 2010 2.5kk addition and in 2013 a renovation to bldg;
Guinasso, Norman	Texas A&M University-Geochemical and Environmental Research Group College of Geosciences
	5 Res faculty; oceanogr grp; have state of tx buoy system for off-shore observ syst; Have hurr Katr info thru storm
Hawkins, William	University of Southern Mississippi
	Bill; 150 employees; scie staff 30; funding is level and has been for long time; may have reduction in next year; bldg campaign—master plan appr by College Bd; struggling with FEMA issues after Katrina; FEMA will replace the 5 bldgs lost at replacement cost; prog doing well; search 2 pos mar toxicol and mar educ
Highsmith, Raymond	National Undersea Institute for Science and Technology in Mississippi
	Pres of WAML 2x; U Miss and U So Miss partnership; 3 divisions; 1st biotechnol & nat cntr nat prod res; 2nd sea coast observ 1000ft depth study methane hydrate; undersea vehicle div; provided one-pager
Hobbs, Carl	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
	‘Woody’ Stud apps up 20% 100+ students enrolled; 5% state budget cut ~1KK; mostly moved into new lab/off bldg; have new bldg under construct; new concrete pier to be built; include sea water intakes; boat basin facility being expanded; making minor revisions to the vessel policy; Va SG hdqtr at VIMS; eastern shore lab doing wlll coastal climate change studies;
Johnson, David	NOAA/NCCOS Beaufort Laboratory
	Jeff Giovonni on telephone, NOS COFHR New construc proj – maintenance bldg; aqua wetlab facil; NOAA budgetary cuts and potential loss of contract employees; dept of def Camp LeJuenne wave-energy studies related to amphibious landing training; forcast of damage to wetlands assoc with trg;
Jordan, Steve	US EPA

	Gulf Ecol Div; res and devel div; part of national lab; undergone transition from investigator init progr to national res prog; 3 areas res – ecol (EMAP to ecsys serv, nat wetlands assmt, ecosys models), water qual , safe prod res; administer serv being consolidated; GIS IT centr; two ecologist pos open
Gil MacRae	
	Most of effort is marine, hdqtr in St Pete; mar lab has new sea wall; large programs in fisheries; in Habs; in coral reefs monitoring; water quality; has direct budget for res in all areas with no policy efforts; attempting not to expand; 650 staff 50kk budget
Mahadevan, Kumar	Mote Marine Laboratory
	Mar Policy Instit started; 300 external projects; recovering from fire at aq facili 3KK loss; prob being indep lab...soft money isn't dependable enuf; Mote has been talking to USF about uniting the research enterprises...Lab will be indepdt; asking 3\$KK for research; have aquar tht draws 400,000 visitors, got accreditation recently for next 5 yrs
Morris, James	University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences
	Replaced Madelyn; Barauch Inst; Dennis Allen director of lab on coast; funding stable; hiring a lot of new faculty replacing John Vernberg hires; most reside on main campus; new bldg at coast...discovery cntr, outreach-museum and NOAA central data ofc for NEER's program; phytoplankton ecologist search
Orbach, Michael	Duke University Marine Lab
	Cindy VanDorver new Dir; new dean at Duke; facility Oc Conserv Cntr successful; new initiative microbial and genetics initiative; working with Nicholas Inst policy solns...mtg of Oc advocates workshop initiatives to Wash; recruit for endow pos – jr level for biolog oceangr; prof mar conserve for technol jt w/ engr; Prof mar ecotoxicol; expanding phd – mar conserve focus
Pomponi, Shirley	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
	Became part of Florida Atlantic University, Dec 31 2007..res institute status rec'd \$8.5M recurring funding \$46M non-recurr, (for renovation and new construction of 40Ksqft bldg;Staff are State employees; faculty are research status (non-tenure earning).
Rabalais, Nancy	Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
	Dir; FEMA negoti underway; most facility under reconstruct; envir mon stat are still func; hired new facu nutr/carbon cycling; looking for wetland scie and photophycologist; 1.8kk enh res prog; much turnover on main campus univ makes negotiations challenging
Sanders, James	Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
	New bldg mar & coastal sci instruct cntr; non-degr mar instit; oceanogr & coastal res; working w/ GA tech Savannah to devel Oc/Eng doctoral degree progr;
Thompson, Joel	Eckerd College
	Priv lib arts college; mar sci progr about 1/3 of students; about to initiate new capital campaign and new scie bldg; next month celebr 50th anniv; hoping to dubl facili size; new hire from Duke Mar Lab; got nsf iris grant – 3 yr prgr exh with China;
Tunnell, Wes	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

	Dir ctr Coastal Studies & Harte Inst; funding for 5 res sci no faculty appt; Harte – 46kk endowmt, 18kk for bldg and to develop new phd progr; hired 5 of 6 chairs endowed, interdisciplinary faculty; most endow pos have been developing their programs; 3-4 Feb Gov Veracruz hosting Gulf of Mx mtg; workshop btwn cuban & US scientists in Cancun past year; Interviewing for Dir of Harte Institute – 4 candidates, Wes is one.
VanDolah, Bob	SCDNR, Marine Resources Research Institute 14kk staff 220; 2kk renovation of old mar inst and repair hidden infra-struct prob; new res vess 50'; rv Palmetto operating but trying to replace; number of staff retiring or moved on; number of positions will be open; HML 45kk 80ksqft facili addition of office space;
Vargo, Sandra	Florida Institute of Oceanography
	Oper Keys Mar Lab; don't have on-site res; hurr damage recovery is underway; now fully func conf, classroom, lab facility; sea wall and dock under construc; nsf supported purchas of 30' island hopper
Zimmerman, Roger	NOAA Fisheries, Galveston Lab
	Completed most of renovations of most bldg; has Flower G Mar Sanc office; also have NOAA ports staff; Nancy Th has moved to NE is Res Dir; Dep Dir Alex Chester retired; Bonnie C taken on Dep Dir job; Pasc facili has broken grd for new facility; Scott Nichols has retired and search is on. SE NOAA ecosystem assess...integrated throu out gulf

Wes introduced guests: Billy Causey NOAA/NOS NMS; Steve Sempier MS/SL SG; Bob Hueter, Ernie Estevaz and Rich Pierce from Mote Mar Lab.

On the topic of partnering and surviving the changing times Wes suggested that we remember: The 3C's - Cooperation, Communication, Collaboration and The 3P's - Patience, Persistence, Perseverance.

### External Issue I: "Islands in the Stream"

Billy Causey

#### A Concept for the G of M

Has provided numerous briefings on the concept.

Gave background in support of concept:

Network of marine protected areas. Provided broad definition of MPA;

Evidence of connectivity; used the fast movement of sea urchin deaths as example of connectivity, but made the case for understanding what was happening to them at all stages of affect. Used water circulation in gulf as evidence of connectivity; showed local scale, eg Tortugas gyre vs the whole gulf circulation; mentioned spiny lobster as evidence that there is need for an international MPA network; had *Acropora palmata* show up in Flower Gardens NMS for first time in centuries...must have come from wider gulf or Caribbean...showed potential sources; another example was tarpon tagged in Veracruz followed up the coast to TX.

Indicated that a public process for establishing the network is being pursued.

Consider other conservation efforts for inclusion potentially bring cohesion to disparate programs; consideration for recreational & fisheries uses; for energy industry;

Identified areas to be considered...numerous named banks off TX/LA/MS... Want to add the 'Alabama Alps' has beautiful corals; Madison Swanson; FL middle grounds; Flower Gardens is the centerpiece;

Showed pix of new research vessel R/V Manta, 90' cat, 30' beam, 14 scientists for 2wks capability; equipped for oceanographic work  
Mentioned held Science Forum at Mote Mar Lab---formed 6 Panels

**Discussion:**

Wes described for benefit of new members External (outside activities that might impact marine labs or their staff) vs Internal Issues (activities within laboratories of common interest) and the fact that the location for SAML meetings are rotated from Gulf to Atlantic and back annually.

Bob VD: Intent for recr & commerc fisheries on areas id'd. Billy: have only id'd areas already restricted in some way so far; more areas id'd after public process.

Mike O: what is the EO going to say about the areas and will there be international inclusion? Billy: the language would include id of areas already selected and with bridge language to legislation to support

Mike O: what about international ref? Billy: have to work with partnerships; maybe use some intent language.

Barbara: UNESCO language on reserves also includes transition zones. Can this effort compliment the UNESCO international effort? Billy: agrees it would be good.

Is the Dept of Interior supportive? Billy: no, concerns about energy activities

Matt G: who are the downstream partners (Atlantic area)? Billy: feel potential connectivity up the whole east coast to pt where Gulf Stream moves out from coast.

**External Issue II: Gulf of Mexico Research Plan (GMRP)** Steve Sempier MS/AL SG  
*GofM regional projects- see several summary sheets in folder*

One of 8 regional plans; not NOAA/SG plans

GoM SG Directors are co-PIs on plan

Service oriented; id'd stakeholders broad sweep:

Inclusive of all federal efforts and multi-entity efforts,

NOAA CI Northern Gulf Institute, mar labs/univ, state organiz, etc.

- Determine regional res priorities
- Held Workshops
- Analysis of Workshop results/Reports
- Formal review of strategic plan

*SAtl regional effort-see sheet in folder (SARRP)* contact: Christine LaPorte

Similar process, described on one-pager

**Internal Issue I: New NAML Direction**

Jim Sanders

Jim unable to attend due to death of his father. Provided 5 slides.

Discussion led by Wes and others who attended NAML meeting.

NAML developing a committee to address issues that should be passed on to the transition team; budget issues for FY2009, but feeling nothing will happen; declared war on earmarks—called add-ons;

NAML developed a legislative agenda with Joel Widder's help; Ocean Leadership have put together slick brochure; Nancy suggested that NAML may need to start considering more global issues...climate change impacts on ocean and coastal issues from global perspective; Mike O questions whether we should be looking from high tide line inland...how will sea water rise impact estuary restructuring and impact on existing land structures/population or inundation of saltwater into freshwater systems; Kumar indicated that issues important to SAML specific areas ought to be passed on to Jim so that can be incorporated into NAML policy comm. agenda; Kumar reminded the group that we need to feed Joel information on the contacts to the Congressional District's Office in your area. Mike suggested that Joel attend next year's SAML meeting to brief on the results of the election and potential impacts to SAML. Joel's plan is to have materials ready by June to brief the transition teams for both parties. Mary Glacken will fill in when Adm. Lautenbacher leaves. EPA would like NAML to address some of their technology needs especially via the budget, Asst Admins for Water Issues as well as Res & Devel potential contact for Joel. Wes id'd SAML issues for NAML Policy Comm: sea level rise, hypoxia/HABs

Announcement by Steve Jordan: open access journal – Marine and Coastal Fisheries

Other Discussion: Kelly Clark drafted a 'SAML Disaster Relief Fund Criteria'; when it is edited and revamped it will be circulated to SAML. Wes described how the fund came about.

Woody (Carl Hobbs) mentioned Cheseapeake facilities/agencies have put together an Event Response Plan to coordinate response in the event of a natural disaster, or major change to environment, etc.

### **Tour of Pritzker Biology Research Center (map of campus provided in folder)**

*.....Friday Morning.....*

#### **Mote Marine Laboratory**

Welcome by Kumar Mahadevan, Executive Director

#### **Internal Issue II: Education Committee**

Matt Gilligan

(See Education Comm Report Summary attached; full report was circulated to full SAML membership in an email)

Provided briefing on NAML's education and diversity activities. Recommendation for an Ecological Award based on the Ernest E. Just life story. NOAA reviewed the proposal and turned down the opportunity. The committee has concluded that the means for funding this award is an endowment...establish a \$100K fund that will earn interest that can be used to fund the award in perpetuity. NOAA is establishing a study committee to develop a major ocean education effort. Included in the full report from the SAML Ed Comm there is a listing of the ASLO Education sessions. Matt reviewed his presentation

at ASLO focused on the under-representation of minorities in marine science and technology. Matt indicated that in his review of graduates from HBCUs he noted that there were few programs available to the undergraduate students in marine sciences, geosciences and oceanography. Matt discussed the concept that SAML initiate a proposal to NSF for expanding diversity in the Geosciences (see the full report for a draft of the proposal). Wes asked how will SAML do this? Matt will get together a committee to draft a proposal to be submitted to NSF; Kumar suggested that it be submitted via NAML because of the current fiscal situation. David E requested what is the measurable outcome...number of NSF submitted proposals from minority serving institutions - SAML marine lab collaborations. Goal is more MS/PhD degrees in the specific science areas that will support research at SAML labs. General agreement of SAML members to go forward with proposal.

### **Internal Issue III: Marine Policy at Marine Labs**

K. Mahadevan  
M. Orbach

K.M. Research in high public profile areas; get a lot of good communication of research results including in public forums; recognize that we don't translate information into forms that can help shape policy; Mote created a Marine Policy Institute as result of a 5-year external review in collaboration with New College.

M. O. new paradigm; what is this thing called conservation? Redefining the term 'ecology' in terms of biophysical ecology, human ecology, institutional ecology...boundaries can be variously defined...total ecology

Ecosystem management is essentially the management of people within institutional bounds overlaid on a physical system.

Discussion: DE what are the sources of funding? Some outside sources are available, endowments, social science funding. May have some reprogramming within entities from physical science to social science.

### **External Issue III: GCOOS Engagement**

Nancy Rabalais  
Mark Luther

Integrated ocean observing system. [www.ocean.us](http://www.ocean.us)  
Estuarine to global scales.

### **Wrap up and Adjourn.**

- Future issue...relationships between SAML labs and local entities (user community – Mike O), David Eggleston
- SAML concern for coastal zone future including population impacts Bob VD; shifting shorelines and people impacts Nancy R suggestion
- Invite retiree geophysicist Richard who has written many books on sea-level rise, Wes T
- Reminder: update NAML website and SAML handbook

## **Tour of Mote Marine Laboratory.**

### **2008 SAML Executive Committee**

President – Wes Tunnell	(2008-2009)
President-elect – Shirley Pomponi	(2008-2009)
Past President – Mike Orbach	(2006-2007)
Secretary – Sylvia Galloway	Continuous
Treasurer – Kumar Mahadevan	Continuous
Board Members at Large:	
Matt Gilligan	(2006-2008)
Bob Van Dolah	(2007-2009)
Nancy Rabalais	(2008-2010)