

General Meeting Notes
Southern Association of Marine Laboratories
2010 Annual Meeting
12-14 April 2010
USEPA, Gulf Ecology Division
1 Sabine Island Drive
Gulf Breeze FL 32561
(Local Host – Steve Jordan)

Tuesday 13 April 2010, morning – US EPA Lab

Introductions and Welcome - Shirley Pomponi and Steve Jordan

Shirley suggested that the focus of the updates should be on infrastructure, education, and regional relationships.

SAML Laboratory Updates:

Andrij Horodysky **Hampton University**

Waterfront infrastructure repairs made; NOAA funding has assisted in their education program (a NOAA EPP grant); aquarium; ASLO multi-cultural program ; complete freeze on expenditure of funds; freeze on hiring; complete audit underway.

Bill Hawkins **Gulf Coast Research Laboratory**

Expansion of campus – Cedar Point- \$40kk investment; Marine Education Center will be rebuilt at Cedar Pt. 35k sqft – preplanning process complete; looking to rebuild teaching laboratory on main campus; summer field program expects record number of students (24 different institutions represented); Budget – 10% cut in state funding since last year; insulated from faculty cuts; grants & contracts steady.

Bill Hogarth **USF College of Marine Science**

Dean search again, have 17 applicants; FIO search no applicants after 2 weeks disappointing; Advertising for fisheries scientist, new Marine Resource Assessment Program – hired one and seeking a second; NOAA is funding this program. Education: 5 PhD fellowships supported; University is wanting to cancel summer classes, but graduate students require classes or research time to maintain fellowships; not getting as much overhead and that was used to support summer classes; summer camp being threatened by same cuts due to loss of faculty; hired 6 faculty and 3 technicians in our COT program by fighting for funding; have gotten non-recurring funding for HVAC renovation; wet lab funding for renovation; Natinal Science Bowl will be held at USF; trying to develop an Ocean Team in local area of St Petersburg; Research vessel not fully scheduled.

Craig Plante for **Grice Marine Laboratory**

Lou Burnett

College of Charleston

Infrastructure – still working on building a new facility, have design, but also have a funding gap; potential sources of funds are: NIST rfp grant process/ donations to CoC; new boiler has been installed for heat/AC; education – have large increase in applications from 39 to 90 to the MS program; started new outreach program Communication/outreach, local elementary & middle schools; long running searches in Chair of Bioinformatics and Marine Genomics (remains unfilled); budget cuts, but not drastic; new president has new strategic plan, and new model of funding.

Eric Lacy

**Marine Biomedicine and Environmental Sciences Center
Oceans and Human Health Training Program
Medical University of South Carolina**

27% budget cuts; 4 yr search has culminated with the acceptance of endowed chair in Marine Genomics by Dr. Lou Guillette; graduate admissions: application numbers are up (received 5times the number of applications as the previous year). Outreach & education: we have a REU funded by NOAA Oceans & Human Health Program. We are partnering with Savannah State supporting 2 post doctoral & one doctoral students; We have initiated a web-based course in Oceans & Human Health; it is in the testing phase with Savannah State U.

Gil McRae

FWC

We are a Research Division within FWRI; the marine component is 2/3 of total; state marine research institute & cooperater of Keys Marine Laboratory; Ken Hadaad retired in December. Infrastructure: we operate 9 core facilities;– new facility, the Cooperative Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville Univ. on the St Johns river; at the center of the state on east coast trying to get more a more appropriate facility; replacing one of our HVAC units with a 20 year loan related to energy savings; Budget: in the 3rd yr of declining state funding; Have been able to forgo loss of positions by moving to soft positions and by relying on grants; shoreline fishing license was approved and is a source of generated funding; Obtained a \$10kk earmark with NMFS for monitoring of reef fish; data needed for regulation; NOAA section 6 funding for sea turtle work related to longline bycatch; enhanced funding for sawfish research; multistate funding for *Acropora* monitoring, FL, PR, VI; coral restoration funding – nursery 5 year grant. Environmental: 100 year event cold stunning of sea turtles (able to save 80% of the turtles and thus achieved an increased tagging rate), manatees highest annual count (surpassed the highest record year of manatee mortality); widespread fish kills. Regional Associations: GOMA, SAFA participation; marine spatial planning may be funded through regional associations; Education: we are not directly involved – developing program to keep youth connected to the wildlife/marine environment via Florida Youth Conservation Centers.

Iris Anderson

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

\$4kk cut from state; Increase in funding percentage from federal funding; stimulus funding gave an interim boost; laid off 17, some were picked up on grant funding; many permanent faculty that have retired have not been back-filled; \$3kk stimulus funding 2011 to be spent by July..limited as to how it can be used...probably will be used for infrastructure improvements; most of monitoring programs for state have been cut; Have built the largest ever research building (125k sqft) ...also have funding for eastern shore seawater lab; demolishing small white buildings around campus (75); Have seen an increase of applications to the graduate program (120) may have a class of 25 of very high quality, much higher percentage men (~40%) than seen in the recent past; K-12 education program very successful; marine science day attracted ~2000 citizens; Also have a long term REU program, ~20 students, very few minority though have worked to attract minorities; remembrance day for John Olney in May; new bioenergy program (Algal-biofuel project) – build flowways to grow algae living on nutrients in local waters.

James Morris

Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences

32% statewide decrease in funding-- anticipate 40% cut; managed by letting temporary teaching faculty go, no loss of tenure track faculty; Baruch only loss was one staff due to retirement – ¾ budget is supported by grant funding; stimulus funding helped with building upgrades; NOAA funded outreach center.

Jim Sanders

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

Infrastructure: new building fleet certified gold – solar heated; replacing main & fuel docks, new hoist (35' ft vessel drop); GA tech will place a linear flume at our site; we are participating in SECORA; Observing hi-frequency radar system; operating a UNOLS vessel, that is not fully scheduled; funding down 25% this year; ok on federal side; losses of faculty through retirements – 3 faculty searches are underway; IT networking infrastructure going well.

**John Valentine for
George Crozier**

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Down \$1.7k budgetwise; NEP program provided \$200k; downsized staff via attrition; shifted all staff, students to contractors; infrastructure in good shape; new vessel used as classroom; new mesocosm facility has the support of our senator; our new intake system is storm resistant; new 10k sqft building is being dedicated this Saturday; struck out on stimulus package; have \$2.5kk request in to renovate our main research facility; need new housing and K-12 program facility renovation; summer program is very strong, including natural history classes with waiting lists; We have re-established our REU program with 7 interns; We are down 4 faculty and will be issuing a search; research is going well.

Joseph Boyer

Florida International University

New University President, new Director of Sponsored Research and a new Financial Officer; In addition, we have a new strategic planning committee; in the midst of reorganizing the College of Arts & Sciences;

creating a School of Environment & Society; unclear how departments will be parsed out to the new college; have an exploratory grant working with socio-economic concerns involving the vulnerability of Miami to sea level rise...what should the urban area do to react to sea level rise; NOAA wants to enter CESU and this will allow funds to flow to FIU; replying to a rfp on goal setting for South Florida coastal areas, developing a conceptual model; nutrient requirements are being developed for SFL to assist EPA to meet mandate to set numerical parameters.

Kumar Mahadevan **Mote Marine Laboratory**

We have three programmatic themes; The search for new VP for Research resulted in the hire of Dr Michael Crosby; got \$600k for a 3-year environmental program; developing biomarkers related to fertility issues in marine mammals and sea turtles, have \$500k funding for 3years; USF affiliation strengthened by interacting with other schools, e.g. the business school (aquaculture program) and the engineering school to enhance energy technology; i.e., biofuels proposal being submitted to USDA; despite economy have large attendance at exhibits and aquarium; fossil creek panning for sharks teeth new exhibit – coupled with education on sharks reaching 24,000 kids; summer programs in Keys draws 6-7,000 students.

Nancy Rabalais **Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium**

Budget: Funded in new NOAA hypoxia program; continuing coastal restoration work; mariculture study funded; education programs are strong; University suffering cuts; Facilities: still repairing from several hurricanes; Research vessel Pelican doing well; it is newly updated and fully scheduled; lost one faculty and have 6 unfilled positions; not teaching summer school and closed a field camp; the library is becoming more virtual all due to budget cuts.

Ray Highsmith **University of Mississippi, National Institute for Undersea Science & Technology**

Noted that the Institute is not a mar lab and that they are funded by NOAA; don't have funding issues; have 3 div; undersea observing program – 100 miles offshore studying methane hydrothermal vents; looking at microbes ; undersea vehicles are chartered out – developing a mapping center; pharmaceuticals from the sea...expanded into coral ecology and ocean acidification; at the Mississippi Field station have developed combined administrative staff to save positions; new programs are tropical ecosystem science & technology – this is a joint program with MS & AL working at Lee Stocking Island –Perry Institute allows students to gain tropical experience; Regional activities, member of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Sea Grant; Pan-American Biotechnology Society; GCOOS.

Sally Morehead **University of Texas; Mission Aransas NER**

Working on NIST grant; building 36k sqft facility to provide headquarters & research space as well as a resource center; due to

complete 1 year from now, funding via bond; building education outreach center (3400 Sq ft) that will contain educational displays; have a NSF REU program; hiring new education-outreach director and are searching for chair of the mariculture center; operating in GCOOS.

Sandra Vargo

Florida Institute of Oceanography

We are a full service marine laboratory with no onsite research staff; sustained heavy damage in 2005, 6ft storm surge; have rebuilt facility on waterfront; NSF funded education 30' vessel 15 students & instructors; water system restored; dry/wet labs restored; dorms not destroyed; education program is stand alone but is provided advice by lab staff; Students from the midwest & northeast are sources of students for the educational programs; Keys marine laboratory is one site for COOS provide data collection facility; we have a Director search underway, FIO – review process starts May 8th; applied for NSF funded dormitory building (16 persons) at Keys Marine Lab.

Shirley Pomponi

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University

Infrastructure upgrades: \$45kk in renovation, demolition, & new construction projects; main building has been vacated and is under renovation – engineering, library, classrooms, and administration (Link Engineering Building) have been displaced; marine mammal stranding center was destroyed and are occupying temporary facilities at Johnson House which should be functional within a month; Our research vessel has been withdrawn from UNOLS fleet, it has been chartered out to Brazil; An invitation to negotiate for the Johnson Research Vessel has been formally issued by the University; not sure about Johnson Sealink II; search for a new director will be initiated soon search committee is already in place; FAU just hired new President; currently there are many interim positions at FAU. Education: semester by the sea, an undergraduate program is a robust internship program funded by private dollars; We have 5 new post-doc positions and are recruiting currently, these will align with our research clusters. Staff: all faculty are research and are on soft dollars; we have observed that research faculty are reluctant to take on 3-5year graduate students, due to the insecure nature of the funding; We have a high school program with an integrated curriculum including marine courses with dedicated faculty.

Steve Jordan

USEPA, Gulf Ecology Division

Lost 10-12 research staff over 10years; lost clerical & administrative staff recently, services are now centralized in headquarters; Research programs will be discussed during the tour later today.

Sylvia Galloway

NOAA/NOS/NCCOS/CCEHBR

Our Center is one of four centers under NCCOS; we have had a change in leadership with Russell Callendar taking over for Gary Matlock. Lost 18 contract staff this year and approximately 30 over the past two years; one of the serious impacts of these losses was the loss of a large number of graduate student positions. From the infrastructure viewpoint, the

collaborative coral culture facility is fully operational with a full support laboratory and challenge facility; the HAB wing renovation in the main research facility is fully functional; during the past year the HVAC system was replaced, requiring the use of an external temporary system.

Wes Tunnell

**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Harte Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies and Center for Coastal Studies**

No infrastructure issues; have a new building full of staff; recently hired 6th of the endowed chairs; environmental economics has been very successful in obtaining grant funding; we are modeling our education-outreach after Gulf of Maine program; Our book series is part of our regular outreach; first two volumes of the seven book series are out, others in process; rfp will come out for next 5 year cycle in NOAA related sciences – Environmental cooperative centers with HBCU and Hispanic; PhD program is a big success with 17 applicants; Gulf of Mexico Alliance – EPA & NOAA contributed \$4kk each.

Regrets:

David Johnson

NOAA/NOS Beaufort Laboratory

Bob VanDolah

SC DNR/MRRI

Kelly Clark

Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center

Matt Gilligan

Savannah State University, Marine Sciences

Lee Fuiman

University of Texas, Marine Science Institute

Lisa Desfosse

NOAA/NMFS Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility

Loren Coen

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory

US EPA Gulf Ecology Division Programs Overview

S. Jordan

Rick Green is Acting Director

EPA research vessel – Bold

WebIce model for interspecies toxicity estimation –predictive toxicology

Ecosystem assessment – indicators of condition and function

Internal Issue I: How labs handle public access and tours

Discussion Leader:

S. Jordan

Steve J: How do you set parameters on access? Wondering if there is a SAML initiative that could be formed...Shirley P. asked Steve to lead an effort—maybe a survey of the membership. Develop key questions for the survey.

Shirley P: Harbor Branch used to have 3x daily paid tours— following hurricanes stopped program; ended up with homeland security issues (vessel visiting foreign ports and returning). Developed ‘Friends of Harbor Branch’ Program (paid membership \$75) can get behind scenes tours; have learning center; private tours on *ad hoc* basis – tours are up to individual person contacted. Head of external affairs arranges tours by appointment; the negative impact is that it takes him from lobbying effort.

Jim S: One alternative is to hold a ‘marine science day’; U GA has public aquarium on campus

– so they do public outreach and his faculty involved;

Kumar M: Private tours for members got out of hand; now have volunteers that do tours – give them specific training and the tours are by appointment; Do more tours targeting people to seek donors, cause this is life-blood of funding – have senior scientist involved in these tours. Have a develop office that schedules & arranges tours with scientist. School tours are paid for by schools. Aquarium handles 1500-2000 persons per day. Developed relationship with business community for sustainable aquaculture.

Gil M: Hdqtr in St pete—have once yr open house; do tours for groups using the conference facility; they declare that they don't offer public tours; 3 day open house, first two is aimed at schl children with stations –3rd open format.

SP: Part is outreach to public community, part is cultivating potential donors---some are manageable and some you must respond to on the spot.

Bill Hogarth: Has develpt person works thru foundation, coordinates with staff to organize visits. Decided to have a media day for local media to get familiar with activities. Students seem to like doing tours to show off what they do.

Nancy R: Handle via 3 educators; try to meet requests as they come in. Have an open house every other year. Provides teachers a handbook.

Sandra V: No public tours in Keys Lab; do a K-12 outreach program. Do tours for potential users of the facility.

Iris A: VIMS doesn't have public tours. NOAA has discovery prgr for kids; public lecture series; tours for public schools upon request. Dvept staff (3) takes care of potential donors. Trying to get an educator for their eastern shore campus.

Bill Hawkins: A business model never seemed to work for the mar educ center; generating revenues never covered the costs; establish residency programs that do generate funds; it is very important to educate many levels of community to understand the importance of work...need the support in hard times.

Joe B: Facility is diffuse..don't get tour requests, but need to engage community. Try to get Univ to sched outreach prgr.

John Ballentine: Do mobile tour, especially target towns with state representatives AL

Sally Moorhead: Hired a volunteer coordinator, helps with volunteers that do tours.

Leadership "Specific Area" mentioned by several folks, presentations at their meetings

Tuesday 13 April 2010, afternoon – US EPA Lab

Business Meeting (see separate minutes)

S. Pomponi

Internal Issue II: Increases in required cost-sharing/ decrease in allowable indirect rates

Discussion Leader:
B. Hawkins

One problem – faculty on soft money has been asked to come up with a 1:1 match of indirect cost; (extern prob)

Another problem - often the agency doing funding will cap indirect cost to very low level so that the portion that can be returned to the researcher is limited (extern prob)

Another problem – if funds come through consortial group then often no overhead comes to the institution (extern prob)

Another problem is that University taking greater percentage of indirect causing shortfalls in operational funds for research units – there are many items that cannot be purchased with grant funds, the Indirect is necessary to cover these costs (intern prob)

Another problem – can't hire administrative personnel to manage grant on IDC funds (intern prob)

Shirley P – two major issues, one internal, one external

Action? Doesn't appear to be a SAML issue, rather a university issue. Shirley is willing to take the issue to ORAP – Shirley will draft a proposal ORAP and send to SAML board for review.

Internal Issue III: SAML's role in NAML's education initiative

Discussion Leaders:
S. Pomponi & M. Gilligan

NAML & Consortium for Ocean Leadership have tried to work together on education issues – held an Ocean Science Educators Retreat; at NAML meeting this winter invited Ocean Leadership to have a discussion with NAML membership was whether they could work together.

Bottom line was Ocean Leadership role in education was to promote professional level development -- late graduate student, post-doctoral, and young faculty.

Shirley reviewed strategies discussed in NAML meeting:

- Better data and analysis – extent of under-representation
- Foster student & professional development
 - Student Awards
 - EE Just Award (Medal of Excellence)
 - Increase visibility of marine science at HABCU – visits, lectures, display materials
 - REU programs – other internship programs
 - Partner with aquariums
 - Work more closely with COSEE's
 - Develop means to connect NAML REU programs
 - Professional Development
- Develop regional approaches

Is there something that SAML can do on a formal level? Should we form a sub-committee of the education committee to develop a vision?

Data is available from several programs – need to get modest support from NSF to compile data?

Form committee: Matt Gilligan, Andrij Horodysky, Eric Lacy

Tour of US EPA Laboratory Facilities by Steve Jordan

Wednesday 14 April 2010, morning – US EPA Lab

External Issue I: The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance and the South Atlantic Regional Research Project

Discussion Leader:
Rick Devoe
SC Sea Grant Consortium

GSAA members - NC, SC GA and all of FL; signed by governors; web site: <http://www.southatlanticalliance.org>; recognizes SE challenges, supports regionally-based actions and solutions. Mission statement, goals, and structure were outlined. Not a governing body. Issue area technical teams were identified: Disaster resilient communities, Working Waterfronts, Clean Coastal & Ocean Waters, Healthy Ecosystems. A draft Action Plan is expected to be finalized by Summer 2010.

SARRP – NOAA, NCSG, SCSG, GASG, FLSG, GCRC (GA coastal research council) – developing regional research plan; large planning group including reps from federal, state agencies and organizations; 4000 cc survey was conducted; large number of documents examined and analyzed for research needs.

www.gcrc.uga.edu site has planning documents at www.gcrc.uga.edu/sarrp/Documents/SARRP_Research_Plan_2010.pdf

External Issue II: Observing System Regional Associations Update:

• **SECOORA**

Rick Devoe

Organizational membership (paid dues) has all FL, all NC, GA, SC; one of 11 Regional Associations. Integration of existing data observing systems; outreach/education; 23 Board members; policy and program committees. Website: <http://www.secoora.org/> There is a priorities plan in draft: <http://secoora.org/documents/Strategic%20Priorities-Draft-20100204.pdf/view>

Issue areas: ecosystems, coastal hazards, marine operations, climate change.

• **GCOOS**

Gil MacRae

Element of US IOOS Coastal Module; regional assoc; developing common image of a regional system; FL, AL MS, LA, TX members; seeking funding sources; have educational/outreach component; website: www.gcoos.org has listing of all workshops held. Data portal is available via RSMAS: <http://gcoos.rsmas.miami.edu/> Not well funded by NOAA.

External Issue III: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning and the Role of Marine Labs

Gil MacRae

South Atlantic Issues: Offshore energy facility siting; sand mining, military exercises, navigation/marine transportation, marine protected areas, etc.

FL Oceans & Coastal Council re: coastal & marine spatial plan; co-chair by DEP & FWC; MSP should be integrated with plans for adjoining coastal areas, with terrestrial land-use plans, with coastal watershed plans; while waiting on the legal authority and political support, develop

sound information base – natural & social science; website: www.floridaoceancouncil.org
metadata from 600 + projects. Marine laboratories can provide data for MSP and validate data that goes into local planning efforts.

Informal Discussion Topic: ‘Export Control’

It was pointed out by several members that prosecution for violating ‘export control’ rules can be at the individual and institutional level. Areas impacted by ‘export control’ include: Computers, Technology, Chemicals/biologicals, Ships, Visiting scientists.

Membership Request

Rick DeVoe asked if SC Sea Grant could be a member of SAML; after a short discussion, there was general agreement that they could become a member. A motion was made to approve SCSG as a member of SAML by Nancy Rabalais; the motion was seconded by Wes Tunnel; The vote to accept SCSG as a SAML member carried unanimously.

Review of Action Items

- Check on location for Spring 2011 (Dave Johnson & Dave Eggleston, alternate VIMS) and Spring 2012 meetings (Felecia Coleman)
- SP send letter of acceptance into SAML to SCSG.
- SP send letter of acceptance into SAML to Jacksonville U.
- NR to check into sponsoring round table at CERF
- SJ volunteered to survey SAML membership on public access
- SP ORAP memo concerns on IDC rates; informal discussion with chair of ORAP
- Matt Gilligan developing a diversity and education action plan (Iris, Andrij, Eric)
- Meeting presentations on pdfs should be sent to SP for distribution to SAML

Gil M. made a motion to close the meeting. Nancy R. seconded the motion. Motion approved by acclamation.

Adjourned meeting at 11:05am

2010 SAML Executive Committee

President – Shirley Pomponi	(2010-2011)
President-elect – Nancy Rabalais	(2010-2011)
Past President – Wes Tunnell	(2010-2011)
Secretary – Sylvia Galloway	Continuous
Treasurer – Kumar Mahadevan	Continuous
Board Members at Large:	
Kelly Clark	(2009-2011)
Jim Morris	(2010-2012)
Eric Lacy	(2008-2010)