

Southern Association of Marine Laboratories

1-3 June 2011

General Meeting Minutes

Center for Marine Sciences & Technology (CMAST), NCSU
Morehead City, NC

and

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), NOS, NOAA
Beaufort, NC

Wednesday 1 June 2011 – CMAST

A welcome reception was held at CMAST; *Welcome remarks were given by Shirley Pomponi, David Eggleston, and NCSU Dean Dan Solomon.*

Subcommittee meetings were held following the reception; Executive, Audit (Joe Boyer, Mike Piehler, Rick DeVoe, Steve Jordan), and Nominating (Jim Sanders, Bill Hawkins, Lou Burnett, John Rummel) Committees met and prepared for the business meeting held the following day.

Thursday 2 June 2011 – NCCOS

A continental breakfast was provided at NCCOS preceding the first session of the General Meeting. Introductions and welcome were provided by Shirley Pomponi and David Johnson. Dave also provided an overview of the NCCOS Beaufort programs.

SAML Laboratory Updates, All Directors (3 min. each)

NAME	INSTITUTION
Nancy Rabalais	LUMCON
Major response to the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill, served as an Operation Center; MS is bone dry and have been responding to use of spillways to relieve inland flooding which is expected to exacerbate hypoxia issues in the GoM; under political pressure to reorganize; all dorms are now repaired from Katrina damage.	
David Johnson	CCFHR NOAA
Reported on Kasitsna Bay Lab an auxiliary to Beaufort Lab; had a PSP outbreak involving an Alaska response; conducting some research associated with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.	
Ray Highsmith	NIUST – Univ of Mississippi
Some of the lab activities involve Exxon Valdez response, pharmaceuticals from the sea; a response to the DWH oil spill involving mesophotic reefs; the MMS research reserve area; and under sea vehicle development.	
Steve Jordan	EPA – Gulf Ecology Division
Major DWH response; have several major programs: sustainable & healthy communities, integrated ecology into human side, sustainable water resources.	
Quinton White	Jacksonville Univ, Mar. Sci. Res. Inst.
Have built new buildings including one of 32,000sqft that is designed to harvest rainwater and solar hot-water heating; have an undergrad marine science program and	

will be starting a MS program; support the St John's Riverkeeper and have a public schools program.	
Gerald Plumley	BIOS
The Bermuda Inst. Ocean Sciences is a private institution; have suffered drastic cuts to their coral program; have a prediction initiative; involved in the Sargasso Sea Alliance (Mar. Protected Area); renovating facilities; have an international educational program with developing countries.	
John Wells	Virginia Institute of Marine Science; College of William & Mary
Passed on greetings from Iris Anderson and noted that there is an internal search for Dean; indicated that Linda Schafner will replace him as the SAML rep; they have suffered a permanent loss of education funds, VIMS funding emanates directly from Richmond, thus don't have pipeline via William & Mary so unable to replace reduced funding with increased tuition; Has four new faculty positions; indicated that they have converted a C3 non-profit to a marine foundation (501C3) that will support a variety of research projects.	
Joe Boyer	Florida International University
SE Environmental Research Center and Biscayne Bay Marine Station; they were reorganized within the School of Environmental Arts & Society; involved in DWH conducting ecotoxicology studies, a NEPA Certified lab receiving BP funding directly; conducting long-term ecological survey; keeping watch on Cuban oil development.	
John Rummel	East Carolina U-Institute for Coastal Science & Policy
Have a semester on the Sounds Program; significant budget reductions; res studies: spiny dogfish, coastal vegetation, sea-level rise; new 34' research vessel; have a Mexican visiting scholar program.	
Jim Sanders	SKIO
Challenging budgetary time being an independent institution – fourth year of cuts; staff morale unusually low due to lack of salary incr, health benefit decr and costs in general incr; added 3 faculty with new capabilities; GA Tech installing a linear flume; potential for hiring in the next 12 mo, position for Marine Superintendent for Ship Oper.	
Bill Hawkins	USM-GCRL
Is retiring June 30, 2011; Have been stable both fiscally and staff-wise; level funded for 25 yr; almost all staff involved in DWH activities/research; still recovering from Katrina and still negotiating with FEMA to replace losses; expanding Cedar Point aquaculture facilities, to double size of aquaculture research effort; 501C good thing for respond to NRDA – state not allowing them to recover funds for other than salary, through the 501C could charge consulting fees.	
Jeff Lotz	USM-GCRL
Will be replacing Bill Hawkins; have 58 graduate students; lost 17 tenured track faculty due to retirements, but may be able to replace some although limited by lack of the ability to offer a startup package.	
Rick DeVoe	SC Sea Grant Consortium
Fending off elimination via a merger-attempt; have had budget cuts of 50%. SCSG servers 33 State Colleges & Universities with interest in coastal & ocean issues; host SE CoSEE and OOS in the SEI administer S.Atl. Alliance; have a MOA w/	

NOAA/NOS/CCEHBR&HML for student support.	
Bob VanDolah	SC Dept Natural Resources - MRD
Have the Marine Resources Research Institute and a satellite aquaculture facility at Hilton Head; maintain 3 off-shore vessels; conduct fishery resource assessments; have completed 7 million building renovations to our 35 year-old building to bring it up to modern standards; significant budget cuts, such that only 10% of funds are state appropriations; major support from research grant programs including MARMAP and SEAMAP; new positions advertised are – replacement for benthic ecologist and a senior programmer; have a NSF funded summer internship program; unique study conducted - GIS based comparison of coastal area for human usage as influenced by the placement of wind turbines.	
Lou Burnett	College of Charleston /Grice Marine Laboratory
Have a MS program in marine biology with 50 grad students; support MES grad students and 900 biology majors at the CoC since many use the Grice Lab; have a revitalized REU program; expect to begin a new building in a year; Other Hat – Hollings Marine Laboratory, a 5 partner Lab housing the Center for Human Health Risk; Susan White is new Director; developing a strategic plan; have 2 new endowed chairs, Marine Genomics (Lou Gillette) and Bioinformatics (Gavin Nailer). The new office wing housing offices and IT support opened in Jan 2010 and closed in July 2010 due to construction faults requiring upgrades; scheduled to reopen 12/11.	
Matt Gilligan	Savannah State University
Faculty aren't state funded, most programs are run via grants & contracts; NOAA EPP program and DoE support the graduate program in Marine Science (3 yr); replaced their vessel with a brand new 36' vessel, Margaret C Robinson.	
Cindy VanDover	Duke Marine Laboratory
Finishing a 5-year term as director; replaced most of the faculty and has agreed to take on new 5-year term; Areas of concentration are Marine mammals, Ecological/Biological Conservation, Microbial ecology; initiatives – have full scholarship available for 2 undergraduate students and an international program supporting 11 summer students; have sent students to Costa Rica, Panama, France; Planning for new building, will complete design this year for a 10,00sqft marine conservation-molecular genetics building expected to start building 7/12.	
Aleta Hohn	NOAA/NMFS/SEFSC
Provided an overview of the NMFS programs at Beaufort; staff involved in the DWH response; conducting significant research out of the Pascagoula Lab, with a new building opened last year; have had budget cuts, but was able to secure some supplemental funding; stock assessments are a major activity.	
Dave Eggleston	CMAST/NCSU
Will discuss lab activities tomorrow on tour; their financial & administrative structure resides under the university, but have 5 sources to work through, several deans and administrative committees, making for a nightmare to resolve issues.	
Dennis Allen	Belle Baruch
Representing Jim Morris; currently they have 71 projects and 125 investigators from USC & 34 other institutions; local faculty include the addition of 2 new postdocs; lack of budget prevents replacement of equipment and facilities; they have a long-term (25-30 yr) series of chemical/physical measurements in North Inlet Estuary; benefit from	

NERRS program support; just finished their summer-Maymester course.	
Wes Tunnell	HRI/TAMUCC
Representing Larry McCain; benefactor, Ed Harte, passed away 2 weeks ago; hired 6 Endowed Chairs, with emphasis on a mix of hard & social sciences; have a good flow of contracts and grants although the state of Texas is having difficult times; DWH response strong due to the experience of the endowed chairs. The published GoM book is now available online with a GIS based system; personally has conducted research in Cuba since 2003 and currently is supporting Cuban lionfish research; involved in the Gulf Restoration Program, including an Ecosystem Report Card for the Gulf.	
Aswani Volety	Florida Gulf Coast University
Since 1997 gone from zero to 3000 students; building a 62,000sqft Platinum (?) building with a 17 acre solar farm; still have budget problems, have increased tuition to assist meeting budget needs; BS Marine Science and MS Marine Mammal; desire to develop a marine field station and have obtained property owned by a resort for conversion into a functional field station; focus on Everglades restoration, freshwater flow into estuaries, nutrient flux and macroalgae studies, habitat restoration – with focus on mangrove canopy.	
Mike Piehler	UNC/IMS
Have had budget cuts; individual laboratories & staff are successful at obtaining funding; have 60 faculty-staff-students; 12 faculty involved in a suite of conventional research projects – focusing on multi-organizational funding and alternative energy sources; students are primarily graduate; have an REU with Camp LeJeune.	
Kumar Mahadevan	Mote Marine Laboratory
Hosted several major meetings - Cuba/Mexico/US and Marine Protected Area Meeting; working on new strategic plan; as independent lab have great challenge in finding financial resources; have agreement with NSF – REU.	
Sylvia Galloway	NOAA/NOS/CCEHBR
Also have budget problems, but after 7 months of uncertainty and near shut-down was level funded, greatest impact being severe cuts to student support; staff participated in a record 7 cruises, most in support of DWH activities; majority of staff participated in activities associated with DWH; Mesocosm study ongoing in support of DWH info needs; Numerous external grants support research including a 5 year DoD study of impact of munitions on corals. Minor renovations are ongoing on our 33 year old facility; Marine mammal research is being supported by Navy; Benthic surveys continue as does our HAB program; very active coral health & disease and ecotoxicology research efforts.	
Shirley Pomponi	Harbor Branch, Florida Atlantic University
Funding is via state to University; license plate program has provided \$3KK in marine mammal support; coral reef research supported by endowments; activities and research fall under 7 theme areas; part of a NOAA Cooperative Institute; HB has a new director – Margaret Leinen; development of a strategic plan is in progress; renovation & construction of 30,000 sqft research building expected to be complete late 2011; last research vessel sold; the <i>Johnson Sea Link</i> is in Brazil but there are plans to bring it back to HBOI; refurbishing two (1-man) deep sea subs to be sited in Australia; have a Brazil initiative working with company that bought the research vessel Seward Johnson giving us 30d/yr shiptime; have undergrads participating in Semester-by the Sea; grad students	

and summer interns.

External Issue I: Mexican Marine Research Programs; BiNational Agreements

*Integrated assessment & management of the GoM
Transboundary diagnostic analysis – goal of economic development based on sustainability*

Presentation: Porfirio Alvarez, GoM-LME/UNIDO
Institute of Marine Science & Fisheries (ICIMAP) – potential to develop a consortium of Marine Laboratories based on SAML model

Presentation: Eduardo Morteo, Universidad Veracruzana.

Internal Issue I: the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

*Lessons learned re: rapid, coordinated responses to disasters
Regional assets available for shared use, including east coast lab assets*

Discussion leaders: N. Rabalais, W. Tunnell, W. Hawkins, K. Mahadevan

External Issue II: Regional Program Briefings (10 min each):

- GCOOS-Nancy Rabalais*
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance-Steve Jordan*
- SECOORA and South Atlantic Alliance – Rick DeVoe*
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance-Steve Jordan*
- TAMU CESU-Wes Tunnell*
- CIOERT-Shirley Pomponi*

Tour of NCCOS Lab David Johnson

Friday, 3 June 2011 CMAST, Morehead City
Continental breakfast provided by CMAST

CMAST programs & tour of CMAST David Eggleston

External & Internal Issue: Educational partnerships

SAML's role in NAML's education initiative: development of an action plan: Matt Gilligan
The COSEE network: COSEE-Southeast, Lundie Spence (invited)
COSEE-Florida, Sue Cook

Review of action items S. Pomponi
Adjourn

2011 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)

Ray Highsmith

(2011-2013)