

October 4, 2011,

From: John T Woeste
Chair, National Sea Grant Advisory Board

To: Leon Cammen
Director, National Sea Grant College Program

Re: Recommended Allocation Principles and Framework

As requested in your letter dated March 2011 to the National Sea Grant Advisory Board for a strategy to maintain a viable national Sea Grant program, the Board unanimously recommends the following allocation principles and framework.

The principles are:

- Maintain the national network
- Preserve Sea Grant Model
- Funding to State Programs:
 - Need-driven
 - Competitive
 - Merit-based
 - Stable funding to manage program
 - Institutionalizes regional research
 - Program Director retains discretion within program, helps set regional priorities
- Funding for National Programs:
 - National Strategic Investments: competitively available to programs
 - Fund a functional national office
- Phase in new policy
 - Not to exceed two 4-yr planning cycles (8yrs)
 - Adhere to statutory limit of 15 % per state.

Building upon these principles, the Board recommends the following framework:

- State (75% Federal Funds)
 - Base to program (50% Federal Funds)
 - Administration/Extension/Education/Communication/ Research
 - Fair and equitable needs-based distribution of funds to state programs
 - Regional Competitive Research (15% Federal Funds)
 - Regionally funded NSIs; competitive among states
 - Total funding determined by need-based allocation to the states.
 - Merit Pool (10% Federal Funds)

- Administration/Extension/Education/Communication/ Research
 - Competitive
 - Performance based
- Total state budgets should strive for 40-60% research
- National (25% Federal Funds)
 - Competitive National Programs
 - Fellowships
 - National Strategic Investments
 - National Sea Grant Office-
Program leadership, evaluation, and accountability

The Board recommends continued use of the Board as you develop a detailed allocation policy for the future.