Action Items from Panel Meeting held November 15 –16

- Dr. Stubblefield, serving as the Panel representative, should help develop a coordinated action plan for the NSGO, SGA and Panel regarding the budget.
- The Panel should take a role in finding strong leadership to replace Dr. Baird; Dr. Bell and Mr. Robinson to meet with Dr. Lautenbacher on November 28, 2005.
- Mr. Kudrna will align the response to the NRC Report in relationship to the PAT process and the Program Evaluation Committee Report.
- *Ad hoc* committee of Mr. Robinson, Drs. Woeste and Kramer was tasked to organize a summit of Presidents around the Ocean Commission (OC) Report to be held in conjunction with next year’s BOA meeting.
- Members of the Reauthorization Committee (Dr. Byrne, Dr. Duce, Mr. Kudrna, Dr. Weis) need to start working.
- The Panel should develop, adopt, and recommend specific guidelines and protocols concerning the re-certification and de-certification process.
- Dr. Bell will compile a summary of Sea Grant’s response to Hurricane Katrina with the help of Ms. Grimes.
- Dr. Weis will send Dr. Schuler names of potential Panel members with biographies.
- Dr. Schuler will forward potential Panel member names and bios to the full Panel for review.
- Panel members will rank the Panel member nominees for appropriateness in expertise and geographical representation.
Greetings (RADM West, CORE President)

RADM West welcomed Panel members to CORE headquarters.

Call to Order

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June meeting, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel.
- Agenda changes:
  - Dr. Woeste will speak on Tuesday before Dr. Baird.
  - Eric Webster will not be here Wednesday.
  - James Hurley will report Wednesday.
  - RADM West will speak Wednesday.
- Issues to be discussed today include:
  - Dr. Baird’s successor.
  - Report by the Program Evaluation Committee.

Program Evaluation Committee Report (Mr. Kudrna)

Clarification on recommendation number 6, category 3: It is recommended that Sea Grant Programs be re-certified or re-designated as a Sea Grant College or Institution, periodically, as part of Program Assessment Team Reviews (PATs). A significant factor in considering re-certification or re-designation shall be the PAT review. The Sea Grant Panel should develop, adopt, and recommend specific guidelines and protocols concerning the re-certification and de-certification process.

A motion was made to accept changes to the Kudrna Report, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt the full report with changes, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SGA will be able to review the report before it is implemented.

Report will not be implemented before the National Research Council (NRC) report is issued.

**Executive Committee Report (Dr. Schubel et al.)**

**Meeting with Dr. Richard Spinrad (Mr. Robinson and Mr. Kudrna)**
- Discussed Dr. Baird’s successor
- Provided Dr. Spinrad with names of potential candidates

**Meeting with VADM Lautenbacher (Dr. Schubel)**
- Meeting cancelled
- Rescheduled for November 28, may be able to meet that day with Dr. Spinrad

**Sea Grant’s Leadership Strategy Meeting (Drs. Schubel and Kramer, Mr. Kudrna)**
- Topics of focus
  - Transition plan to find successors for Drs. Baird and Schuler
  - Sea Grant International
  - Two initiatives
  - Engagement and use of Sea Grant constituents
- Heard “first person” accounts of Sea Grant activities during the recent hurricanes
- Coastal Hazards Specialist Sandy Bernard gave a presentation on hazard preparedness; she should be invited to address the Panel
- Dr. Bell will compile a summary of Sea Grant’s response to Katrina with the help of Ms. Grimes

**National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (Dr. Woeste)**
- The Panel and NSGO should work with NASULGC’s Board of Oceans and Atmosphere (BOA) to develop a vision for ocean research and education
- Sea Grant’s value to universities needs to be shown
- Sea Grant should organize a summit of Presidents around the Ocean Commission (OC) Report to be held in conjunction with next year’s BOA meeting
  - Sea Grant directors’ involvement in this effort is critical
- Dr. Byrne would be helpful as a negotiator
  - Dr. Schubel created an *ad hoc* committee to work on the summit meeting
    - Mr. Robinson
    - Dr. Woeste
    - Dr. Kramer
  - The Panel’s Executive Committee should institutionalize visits to NASULGC

**National Sea Grant Office, Director’s Update (Dr. Baird)**

- Reasons for Sea Grant’s loss of Congressional support need to be identified
- Critical issues the Panel should work on after Dr. Baird retires include
  - Selecting a new NSGO director (highest person in the Agency should call the person selected)
  - Institutionalizing visits to DOC and OMB
- Sea Grant’s reporting level strongly affects its internal leverage in the Agency
- The NSGO staff is overworked with non-Sea Grant duties
- The admin cap should be increased to 6 percent of the appropriation
- NOAA overhead and indirects should be limited to 15 percent of the cap
- NRC Report may make some recommendations concerning the cap
- Cap issue needs to be addressed in the reauthorizing legislation
- NRC Report timing will not be good
  - Implementation will be a major task for the new director
  - SGA and Panel will need to catalyze implementation
- Brief look at the future
  - Leadership team of Drs. Spinrad and Hayes is excellent
  - Value of the matrix is in helping set the agenda for NOAA
  - OC Report outlines a role for Sea Grant in the U.S. policy domain
    - Sea Grant mentioned 50 times
    - Wise to organize Sea Grant’s role around the report
    - Meta Themes of Observations and Coastal Communities are relevant
- Appropriation increases are constituent driven
- Sea Grant needs to aggregate its accomplishments into national ones
- SGA can lead in developing Sea Grant performance measures
- Recommendations Dr. Baird will make to Dr. Spinrad
  - Names for an Acting Sea Grant Director
  - New people should be elevated to permanent staff
- Sea Grant’s regional and international programs are high profile
- Thanked everyone in the room for their support

**Sea Grant Association President’s Report (Dr. Kramer)**

- Budget cuts by Congress seem to be an assault on “wet” NOAA programs
- Cuts in the FY07 budget may be daunting
- SGA activities concerning budget cuts
  - Presenting a stronger case for Sea Grant’s value locally and nationally
Working with the NSGO and Panel to develop impact statements
- Engaging constituents to express their concerns
- Engaging the presidents of universities
- Contacting VADM Lautenbacher

**SGA Meeting in Dearborn**
- Held to build the SGA as an organization
- Big issue was how to empower the network to work with the SGA
- Discussed using constituents in new ways

**Leadership Meeting in Charleston**
- Developed two initiatives
  - Bundle #1: Disaster Reduction through Community Planning and Hazard Mitigation
  - Bundle #2: Seafood Safety Industry, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Support for Vital Coastal Industries
- Other developments
  - Formed an International Subcommittee
  - Named new theme team chairs

- SGA will meet with VADM on November 28 to discuss Dr. Baird’s successor
- The SGA is grateful to Dr. Baird for his leadership and thanks him

**NOAA Research Update (Dr. Hayes, OAR Deputy Assistant Administrator)**
- Came to OAR from NOS where he served as Deputy AA to Dr. Spinrad
- Dr. Hayes’ expertise is atmosphere; Dr. Spinrad’s is oceans
- Their vision is to make OAR an international leader in research
- They both feel strongly about partnerships and leveraging ideas
- A Gulf Summit is planned for March 28, 2006 to
  - Discuss how to best respond to the needs of states
  - Integrate Sea Grant into the Gulf Alliance Plan
- Five labs in Boulder merged into one, the Earth System Research Laboratory
- FY 2006 budget situation
  - Hard budget decisions were made in a hurry
  - Programs need to use fewer resources to do what needs to be done
  - A targeted sector of NOAA for budget cuts was not obvious
  - Some funds perhaps can be reprogrammed
  - Envisions Sea Grant as a NOAA resource
- Ways in which Sea Grant can help NOAA and OAR include
  - Making its outreach component available
  - Getting involved with place-based ecosystem management
  - Starting a pilot project
    - choose an area (invasive species for example)
    - craft a vision
    - create partnerships
  - Making ocean data easier for users to understand
- An open competition will be held for Dr. Baird’s position
Committee Updates

International Committee (Dr. Hernandez)
- There is great interest in an international program
- The program needs a champion now that Dr. Baird is leaving

Diversity Committee (Dr. Woeste)
- Diversity Committee members were appointed two years ago
- The Committee submitted a draft statement on diversity to the Panel
  - Panel suggestions were incorporated in a revised statement
  - That statement was submitted to the Panel for approval
- A motion was made to adopt the revised “Panel Statement on Diversity,” the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel

Membership Committee (Dr. Weis)
- The committee has names of six potential Panel members
  - These names with biographies will be sent to Dr. Schuler
  - Dr. Schuler will forward the names and bios to the full Panel for review
  - Panel members will rank the nominees for appropriateness in expertise and geographical representation
- RADM West has been asked to replace Dr. Friday who has left the Panel
- Panel members should be notified of new members before Panel meetings

TATS
- Law Center Review (Mr. Stephan)
  - Review of the Law Center was delayed by Hurricane Katrina
  - It is rescheduled for March 20, 2006
  - The review committee has developed an agenda
  - Stephanie Showater, Law Center Director, welcomes the review
  - An advisory board and outsiders are tasked to develop a plan to spend the $1M awarded the Center by legislation

Coastal Communities Development Program Review (Dr. Woeste)
- An agenda has been developed
- The review committee will meet December 6-8, 2005, in Silver Spring

National Ports and Harbors Extension Program Review (Mr. Kudrna)
- The review committee will meet December 14-15, 2005
- The committee is looking for a coordinated approach with Margaret Davidson
  - Establish a Ports and Harbor national leader
  - Leader to be housed at the American Ports Association in Alexandria, VA
- Cost sharing is an important issue to DOC

Extension Academy (Dr. Woeste)
- The idea for an Extension Academy came from the Bryne Report
• 28 agents and specialists graduated from the first session of the Academy
• Participants were enthusiastic about the entire program
• A motion was made that the Panel extend its appreciation to the Academy faculty and encourage continuation of the program, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel

Theme Teams
• Panel members were assigned to theme teams
  – Dr. Alden – Fisheries
  – Dr. Bell – Digital Ocean
  – Dr. Duce – Biotechnology
  – Dr. Hernandez – Coastal Natural Hazards
  – Dr. Kudrna – Urban Ocean
  – Mr. Robinson – Literacy, Urban Ocean, Coastal Natural Hazards
  – Mr. Stephan – Seafood Science & Technology
  – Dr. Weis – Aquaculture, Aquatic Invasive Species, Ecosystems & Habitats
  – Dr. Woeste – Coastal Communities & Economies

Panel Business Practices (Mr. Robinson)

Report Commissioning
• The draft paper, “A Suggested Protocol for Commissioning Fact-finding Reviews and Special Studies,” is a compilation of suggestions from the Panel
• It provides two options for adopting a report issued by a Panel committee
• After a discussion, the following wording was suggested for issuing committee reports: The committee should submit its report to the full Panel for review and suggestions. It is the committee’s decision as to whether to include in its report the full Panel’s suggestions. A cover letter should be included in the bound report indicating the full Panel’s differences from the committee.
• A motion was made to accept the new wording for issuing committee reports, the motion was seconded and passed by the Panel

Panel Communications Policy
• The draft paper, “Improved Panel Communications,” recommends the following two items as policy (excludes PATS and TATs)
  – Within 30 days of an official event, all Panel committees and individual Panel members report activities, actions, and related official functions to all other Panel members
  – That such reports be sent directly to the full Panel oar.sg.review@noaa.gov with cc’s to the NSGO Director and Executive Director
• After a discussion, the following wording was suggested for communications policy item number two: That such reports be “made available” to the full Panel oar.sg.review@noaa.gov with cc’s to the NSGO Director and Executive Director
• A motion was made to accept the paper, “Improved Panel Communications” with the suggested revisions, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel
Open Discussion on Panel Priorities for the Next Two Years (Dr. Schubel)

Reauthorization
- Panel members named to the Reauthorization Committee are
  - Dr. Bryne (Chair)
  - Dr. Duce
  - Mr. Stephan
  - Dr. Weis
- A motion was made to accept the Panel members named to the Reauthorization Committee, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel

Regional Sea Grant (Dr. Baird)
- RFP issued to start regional Sea Grant programs that will coordinate regional research and outreach
- Four proposals will be will be competitively selected for funding

International Sea Grant (Drs. Baird and Hernandez)
- Global capacity is a real issue
- Outside sponsors such as the World Bank need to be engaged
- Sea Grant has responsibilities in the western Pacific
- The SGA, Panel Committee, and Dr. Baird should develop guiding principles for an International Sea Grant
- The Sea Grant concept should be funded by other countries

Report of the Nominations Committee (Dr. Schubel)
- Panel members nominated for office are
  - Mr. Robinson (Chair)
  - Dr. Heath (Vice Chair)
  - Dr. Weis (Member at Large)
- A motion was made to accept all members nominated for office, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel

- Remarks by Newly Elected Officers
  - Mr. Robinson
    - The Panel owes a debt to past Chairs
    - He has a positive outlook for the future of Sea Grant
  - Dr. Heath
    - Seconds Mr. Robinson’s sentiments
    - Panel needs to get better at time management in interacting with the Hill
  - Dr. Weis
    - Suggested the Executive Committee use the last ½ day of Panel meetings to visit the Hill
    - Promised to communicate the Executive Committee’s activities to Panel’s grassroots
A Motion for the Record (Dr. Baird)

- Dr. Baird introduced the following motion: The Panel hereby acknowledges the outstanding contribution to the National Sea Grant College Program and its mission goals by Jerry Schubel during his term as Chair of the National Sea Grant Review Panel
- Dr. Baird’s motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel

Panel Meeting Adjourned (Dr. Schubel)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and passed

Wednesday November 16, 2005

Panel Members Present: Peter Bell, Robert Duce, Ross Heath, Manuel Hernandez-Avila, Frank Kudrna, Nathaniel Robinson (Vice Chair), Jerry Schubel (Chair), Jeffrey Stephan, Judith Weis, John Woeste

Panel Members Absent: Robin Alden, Geraldine Knatz

Ex-Officio Panel Members: (NSGO) Ronald Baird; Francis Schuler (designated Federal official); (SGA) Jonathan Kramer

NSGO Staff: Megan Agy, Susan Borda, Leon Cammen, Madeline Carter, Jonathan Eigen, Jamie Krauk, Jim Murray, Melissa Pearson, Terry Smith

Other Attendees:
CORE: Richard West
Georgia Sea Grant: Edward Chin (former Director)
SGA: Jennifer Greenamoyer
Wisconsin Sea Grant: James Hurley, Robert Ragotzkie (former Director)

Panel Business (Dr. Schubel)

- Panel members attending the NSGO Review 1/30 – 2/3, 2006, will be
  - Mr. Robinson
  - Dr. Heath
- Dr. Schubel passed the Panel Chair to Mr. Robinson

Founders’ Report (Drs. Chin and Ragotzkie)

- Dr. Abel was unable to attend the Panel meeting
- The report was compiled from a questionnaire sent to ex-directors
- Dr. Abel wrote the Founder’s Report; Mr. Robinson and Dr. Schuler edited it
Comments concerning the report follow
- Disagreed with the recommendation that new Sea Grant directors spend time at the NSGO; they should visit other directors instead
- An NSGO rating of Sea Grant directors is not needed; the rating from the NSGO program review indicates the effectiveness of the director
- It is important to examine small business incubator programs at universities
- Sea Grant directors represent the epitome of the partnership concept
- The International Program should not siphon funds from the programs
- When dealing with a foreign country, note its customs and mores before establishing a Sea Grant Program
- Comments on the “Funding” section of the report
  - The new budget cuts are serious
  - Urged Sea Grant director involvement in developing the FY07 budget
  - Program state funding may decrease since many states are in fiscal trouble
  - Private donors support specific ideas and goals, not national networks
  - A minimum floor for funding the smallest programs is a necessity
- Comments on the “Future” section of the report
  - Sea Grant should look at regional fisheries management councils to see if they have been successful and can be improved
  - Informal mechanisms for regional projects worked well in the past
  - The NSGO director must have access to the NOAA Administrator
  - After 40 years, it is time to reinvent the Sea Grant Program
- A motion was made that the Panel accept the Founders’ Report, “A Special Report of the Sea Grant Plankowners,” the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel
- A motion was made to empower the NSGO to recognize Dr. Abel for his work on behalf of the Panel, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel

Insights of the CORE President (RADM West)

- CORE’s top priorities in the Federal budget are
  - NSF (received a slight plus)
  - Navy (receives supplemental)
  - NOAA (level funded for the first time)
  - NASA (did ok, relatively speaking, flat funding)
- There is turmoil in the ocean budget
- NOAA has little funding to move around
- VADM Lautenbacher can ask for a supplement but won’t receive one
- The oceans have no champions in Congress
- This year is important for the FY08 budget; the FY07 budget is done
- NOAA is extremely important to the oceans
- NOAA should get more involved in ocean observing
- Advice to the Panel
  - Need to get the message out that Sea Grant is a good investment in public money
- Sea Grant is viewed as a closed program
- Two big issues to attack are
  - budget growth
  - program review process
- Get involved in ocean education/literacy so constituents care about the oceans
- Teachers need to be educated about ocean science
  - The OC recommended that $1.3B be invested in ocean research
  - The FY06 budget provided a total of $630M for ocean research

NSGO Staff Updates

National Media Relations Center (Ms. Krauk)
  - A Media Relations position description has been drafted
  - Under a cooperative agreement, NASULGC will host the Media Relations office
  - The position was supposed to be filled in 2006; it is now on hold
  - Filling this position is critically important to the network

Panel Website (Ms. Krauk)
  - The Panel pages of the Sea Grant Website were added April 2005
  - Ms. Bucci, a part time Webmaster, was hired in October 2005
  - “Green Book” information is now on the Website
  - The Panel suggested that the Biennial Report be put online
  - Publication of the 2004-2005 Biennial Report is projected for next summer

Regional NSI (Dr. Cammen)
  - Funding will probably not be available for the Regional NSI
  - NSI was initiated to develop a regional NOAA agenda for ecosystem research
  - Regions were derived from the Regional Marine Research Program
  - Sea Grant programs within each region were asked to work together to submit two to five year proposals by February 9, 2006

Partnership NSI (Dr. Cammen)
  - $1.5M of Sea Grant funds are not available for the Partnership NSI
  - $1M in funds committed from other NOAA programs will be lost
  - Loss of the Partnership NSI is setting the Sea Grant Program back

Performance Measures (Dr. Cammen)
  - OMB and Congress requested measures to show the return on their investment in the Sea Grant Program
  - Measures will
    - feed into the budget process
    - be annually reported with future targets (one to five years)
  - Programs are asked to include measures in their Annual Reports
  - NSGO will develop guidance for programs to report measures
EPA/SG Sustainability Teams (Dr. Murray)

- NSGO and EPA issued a request for applications
- Programs were asked to
  - work with local communities
  - develop smart growth projects for implementation
- Three smart growth projects were selected for inclusion in the 2006 omnibus
  - Depot Brook Smart Development Project (Maine Sea Grant)
  - Implementing Smart Growth Principles along the Highway 55 Corridor in Pamlico County (North Carolina Sea Grant)
  - Houston’s Midtown: A Transit-oriented Community (Texas Sea Grant)
- Funding may be withdrawn for a second request for applications

FY06 Budget (Mr. Eigen)

- No shortfalls anticipated for FY06 funding of Sea Grant programs because national programs were eliminated
- If the budget remains level, there will be a shortfall of $3.8M in FY07
- The real issue is the FY07 budget, which OMB could make even lower

NOAA-Grants-Online (Mr. Eigen)

- The new grants-online system is working relatively well
- Within a year, all of NOAA grants will be online using no paper
- Thanked Dr. Kramer for his fiscal officer’s involvement in the online pilot project

Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders Report (Dr. Hurley)

- The Assembly’s Extension Executive Committee is attempting to develop a more active and organized organization through
  - Holding one meeting annually in conjunction with the SGA
  - Expanding conference call participation to include
    ▪ coordinators from each Sea Grant region
    ▪ NSGO, SGA, and Panel liaisons
  - Continuing to support the Beltway Brown Bag initiative
  - Supporting the development of the Sea Grant Extension Academy
  - Having the Assembly Chair serve concurrently with SGA Chair
- Panel members were invited to attend the Assembly meeting in Puerto Rico, May 23-25, 2006

Panel Wrap-up

Summary of Action Items

- Develop a coordinated action plan for the NSGO, SGA and Panel regarding the budget with Dr. Stubblefield serving as the Panel representative
- Find strong leadership to replace Dr. Baird: Dr. Bell and Mr. Robinson to meet with Dr. Lautenbacher on November 28, 2005
- Align the response to the NRC Report in relationship to the PAT process and the Kudrna Report
• Reauthorization Committee needs to start working

2006 Meeting Dates
• The spring Panel meeting will be held March 7-8, 2006 (overlaps SGA meeting)
• The fall Panel meeting will be held November 13-15, 2006

Formal Panel Resolutions
• Dr. Kudrna proposed the following resolution for Dr. Schuler

  WHEREAS, Francis Schuler has provided over 30 years of exemplary service to the National Sea Grant College Program, and

  WHEREAS, Francis Schuler has been a necessary and invaluable member of the National Sea Grant Office Senior Management Team, and

  WHEREAS, in the role of Executive Director, Francis Schuler ensured the reliable and effective management of the National Sea Grant Office, and

  WHEREAS, Francis Schuler’s leadership, integrity, and professionalism have brought noteworthy recognition to the National Sea Grant Office, and

  WHEREAS, Francis Schuler’s administrative skills, economic knowledge and overall expertise have served to create a talented cadre of staff and efficient program operations, and

  WHEREAS, Francis Schuler’s leadership in the development of the Program Assessment Team process, and his Program Officer’s role for numerous Sea Grant Programs set the highest achievable standards, and

  WHEREAS, Francis Schuler provided exceptional executive-level support to the National Sea Grant Review Panel that will be sorely missed, and

  NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the National Sea Grant Review Panel bestows its heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Dr. Francis Schuler for his immeasurable contributions to the National Sea Grant Review Panel and the entire Sea Grant Network.

• A motion was made to adopt Dr. Kudrna’s resolution, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel
• Dr. Heath proposed the following resolution for Dr. Baird

  WHEREAS, Ronald Baird has served with distinction as Director of the National Sea Grant College Program for the past nine years, and

  WHEREAS, Ronald Baird has guided the Program on a course of enhanced growth, including navigating successfully through stormy waters on the way, and
WHEREAS, Ronald Baird has strengthened relations between the Program and other components of NOAA, and

WHEREAS, Ronald Baird has built and sustained a staff of unparalleled quality, and

WHEREAS, Ronald Baird has built relationships with the Sea Grant community and its supporters based on mutual respect and shared values, and

WHEREAS, Ronald Baird has developed and promoted a vision for the future of Sea Grant that will allow the Program to achieve its potential as the keystone national activity to ensure the sustainable health of coastal America and the sustainable quality of life of its inhabitants,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Sea Grant Review Panel records its admiration for Ronald Baird’s accomplishments and expresses its profound thanks for his remarkable contributions to the Sea Grant Program.

- A motion was made to adopt Dr. Heath’s resolution, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Panel
- The Panel thanked Dr. Schubel for his work as Panel Chair
- Ms. Pearson will be in charge of the Panel after Dr. Schuler retires

Panel Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and passed