



October 18, 2011

Michael Liffmann
National Sea Grant Office
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC-III, R/SG
Silver Spring, MD 20910-6233

Dear Mike:

I appreciate the effort the Site Review Team put into the MIT site visit and into the preparation of the SRT report. The recommendations and suggestions have been taken into consideration and I believe that in time all be addressed satisfactorily. As you know, there have recently been several major changes in staffing. The result has been more support for the goals we discussed and, as new staff settle into their roles, I expect significant progress.

As you know, there are certain parameters and constraints, both financial and related to MIT procedures and practices that I must consider when personnel issues or large expenditures are in question. The report suggested that we hire someone to assist the Director who “focuses on details and can integrate the various parts of the Program.” I can say that we have rearranged roles and redistributed responsibilities among the members of the management team in a way that should resolve the concerns that led to this recommendation.

In terms of our planning process: as a preliminary step, we have augmented the role of our standing supervisory Committee in overseeing program direction and minimized their time spent on project selection. In addition, Advisory Leader Judy Pederson has convened the Marine Advisory Services Review Panel, which includes representatives from state agencies, educational programs and the CEOs of local marine-related businesses. The MAS Panel will provide detailed guidance to our outreach efforts. A partial list of groups represented is:

- Massachusetts Bays Program
- Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
- Museum of Science
- Massachusetts State Legislature
- Northeast Fisheries Science Center
- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
- Salem Sound Coastwatch,

The Communications position has been filled, as recommended, by Nancy Adams. She has overhauled our website and increased press coverage for MIT Sea Grant activities. The successes of our outreach and advisory staff have a higher press profile by an order of magnitude.

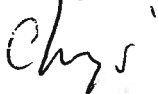
Judy McDowell from WHOI and I have always worked closely in administering the research projects. We are now moving to increase cooperation between MITSG Advisory Services (MAS) and Woods Hole Extension Services. The two groups held a joint meeting in the spring at MIT to discuss potential joint activities. As a result,

- Greg Berman (WH SG) and Juliet Simpson (MIT SG) are collaborating on several projects related to coastal processes and shoreline change, including Winthrop Beach, a coastal inundation project for Scituate Harbor, and climate adaption projects.
- Jeffrey Brodeur (WH SG) and Nancy Adams (MIT SG) have shared information on program news and electronic newsletters
- Judy McDowell (WH SG) and Judy Pederson (MIT SG) are developing a plan to engage Knauss Fellows with the Mass. Sea Grant Programs before they embark on their year in Washington.

Regarding our involvement with the Sea Grant Network: Electronic Sea Grant, (eSG) has been installed at Washington, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas and California Sea Grant Programs and Ben Bray of MIT SG has served on the IS subcommittee of the network Research Coordinators; this group has conducted a survey of the networks RFP and reporting systems and issued a report with recommendations. We are also gathering information on the use of MIT's Sea Perch by other educators in the network.

The suggestions for visiting artist residencies, increased undergraduate involvement and working with the Media Lab in social science research are all good. I expect MIT SG MAS staff will develop approaches to these in time and we will keep you posted as to any new initiatives, including those originating with SRT.

Sincerely,



Chrys Chryssostomidis