



FOCUS TEAMS

Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities
Sustainable Coastal Development
Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
Safe Sustainable Seafood Supply

Mission:
NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program enhances the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment.

In response to the recommendations put forth by the National Research Council "Evaluation of the Sea Grant Program Review Process" report, the National Sea Grant College Program developed a new national strategic plan, "NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Strategic Plan 2009-2013: Meeting the Challenge". All state program plans have since aligned to this national plan. Focus Teams were established as a new mechanism to enable Sea Grant to implement the national, regional and state plans in an effective, coordinated and collective manner.

PURPOSE

To advise the National Sea Grant College Program for the purpose of developing and accomplishing the goals and strategies outlined in the four focus areas described in the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program Strategic Plan.

MEMBERSHIP

Nominations for members from Sea Grant and the broader community were solicited from the Sea Grant network and its partners and recommendations were vetted with the leadership of the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) and Sea Grant Association (SGA). While mindful of geographic and functional (e.g. the networks) balance, the overarching objective is to appoint individuals who have a "big picture" perspective, are creative and innovative, and are recognized by peers as highly reputable experts within their focus area. The 9-12 members of each team include representatives from the National Sea Grant Office, the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, Sea Grant Directors and other networks (research, extension, education and communications) and outside expertise. Members function on behalf of the entire Sea Grant network, and not the individual programs or organizations they represent. Focus Team appointment is for the duration of the strategic planning period or through 2013.



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Facilitate planning, implementation, synthesis and reporting of Sea Grant activities and accomplishments.

-Responsibilities may include:

1. Participating in national level strategic planning
2. Assisting in the development of the Sea Grant National Implementation Plan
3. Reviewing annual reports and providing a coherent national story about Sea Grant contributions in the focus area annually.
4. Assess progress in achieving the outcomes identified in the national plan and recommend mid-course adjustments, if any.

- Identify new opportunities and directions for Sea Grant national and regional initiatives.

-Responsibilities may include:

1. Articulating and promoting the need for regional and national programming.
2. Assisting in the development and/or review of national and regional strategic investments.
3. Developing white papers or think pieces that convey new opportunities or approaches for Sea Grant relative to the focus area.
4. Reviewing regional research and information plans to identify new opportunities for national and/or regional initiatives.
5. Recommending new initiatives for funding in the NOAA budget process.

- Catalyze cooperative efforts among Sea Grant College Programs, the NGSO, NOAA, and other agencies and stakeholder organizations, including NGO's.

- Responsibilities may include:

1. Developing strategies and forming partnerships with other NOAA programs, agencies or NGOs.
2. Prioritizing and developing action plans for achieving partnership development.

- Provide a mechanism to further solidify Sea Grant's local, regional, and national identity.

- Responsibilities may include:

1. Organizing and/or sponsoring or co-sponsoring national level conferences, symposia and other educational initiatives.
2. Working with NSGO communications staff, developing news releases, media events, etc. that highlight Sea Grant impacts in the focus area.

