

The State of Sea Grant 2012: Impacts, Challenges and Opportunities

Biennial Report to Congress
by the National Sea Grant Advisory Board

Briefing: Science Advisory Board

Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Chair, National Sea Grant Advisory Board
Rear Admiral Dick West, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
November 15, 2012





THE STATE OF SEA GRANT 2010

State of Sea Grant 2012 Report



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Impacts, Challenges, Opportunities

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Sea Grant



October 2012

- Required by 2008 Sea Grant Act (PL110-394)
- Second biennial report

National Sea Grant Advisory Board

National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization, 2015

- Sea Grant will be prepared to assist Congress in developing proposed language.

National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act, 2008

- Sea Grant Review Panel **redesignated** as the **National Sea Grant Advisory Board**.
- The Board shall **report to the Congress every two years** on the state of the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP), and indicate progress toward meeting priorities in strategic plan.

National Sea Grant Advisory Board



National Sea Grant Advisory Board Members

- **Dr. Nancy N. Rabalais, Chair**, Executive Director and Professor, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
- **Frank Beal**, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolis 2020, former president, Ryerson International Inc.
- **Senator Patty Birkholz**, Former Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes, former MI State Senator
- **The Honorable Jeremy Harris**, Former Mayor, Honolulu, Hawaii; Member, National Academy of Science Adaptation to Climate Change Panel
- **Dr. Michael K. Orbach**, Professor of Marine Affairs, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University; Cultural Anthropologist
- **Rolland A. Schmitten, Vice-Chair**, Former Director, National Marine Fisheries Service (Ret.); former Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, NOAA
- **The Honorable Harry Q. Simmons, Jr.**, Mayor, Caswell Beach, North Carolina; President, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
- **The Honorable Dr. William L. Stubblefield**, Rear Admiral, NOAA (Ret.), former Director, Office of NOAA Corps Operations; former Executive Director, NOAA OAR
- **Richard Vortmann**, Past President, National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (Ret.); Chair, Scripps Health
- **Rear Admiral Richard D. West**, U.S. Navy (Ret.); President Emeritus, CORE; former Oceanographer of the Navy

What is Sea Grant?



- **“One Sea Grant”** – a federal-university partnership supporting NOAA’s mission
- National, regional and local priorities
- Local and regional implementation

Sea Grant's Mission

“Enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment”



The Sea Grant Network

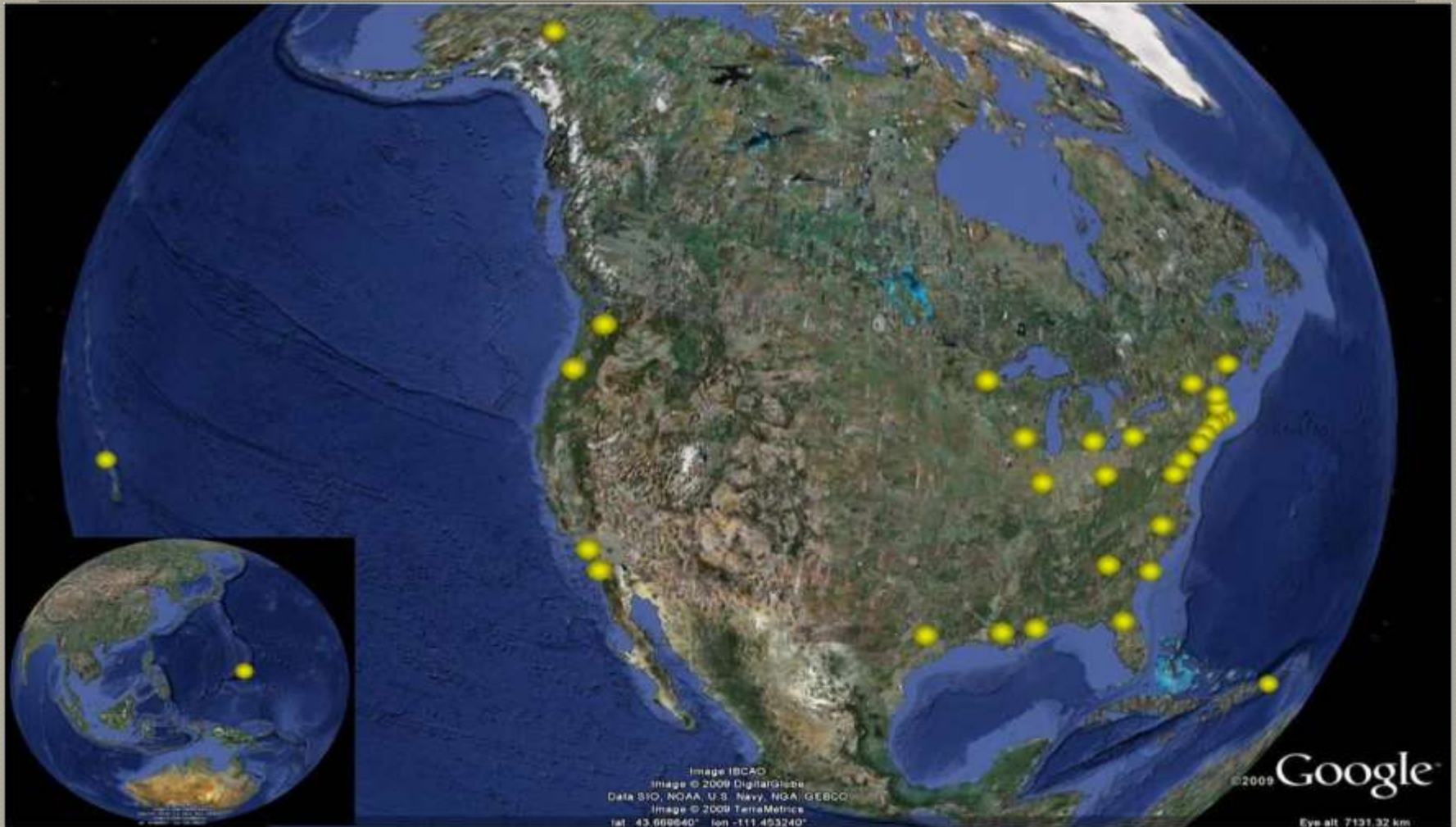


Image IBCAO
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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2009 TerraMetrics
lat: 43.699640° lon: -111.453240°

©2009 Google
Eye alt: 7131.32 km

Sea Grant's Niche

- **Conducts research on urgent coastal issues**
- **Provides trusted information to stakeholders**
- **In-place and respected**



Sea Grant and NOAA



- Engagement with over **300 renowned universities** providing access to oceans, coasts, Great Lakes R&D assets
- Stable national infrastructure of **600 university employees, 3,000 scientists, coastal experts, educators and students**
- Support for **350-400 research projects** annually and **400 graduate students**
- Connects **4500+ partners** each year

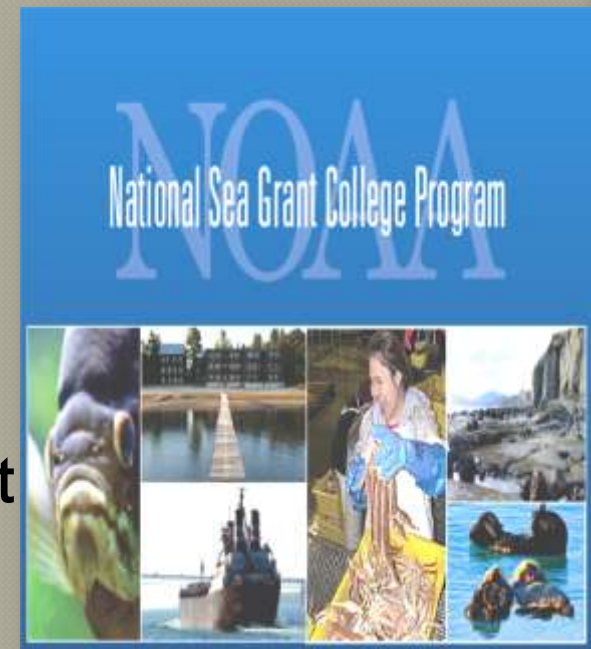
Sea Grant Program Focus Areas

Strategic Plans

- Program goals track to National Plan

National Focus Areas

- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Sustainable Coastal Development
- Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply
- Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities



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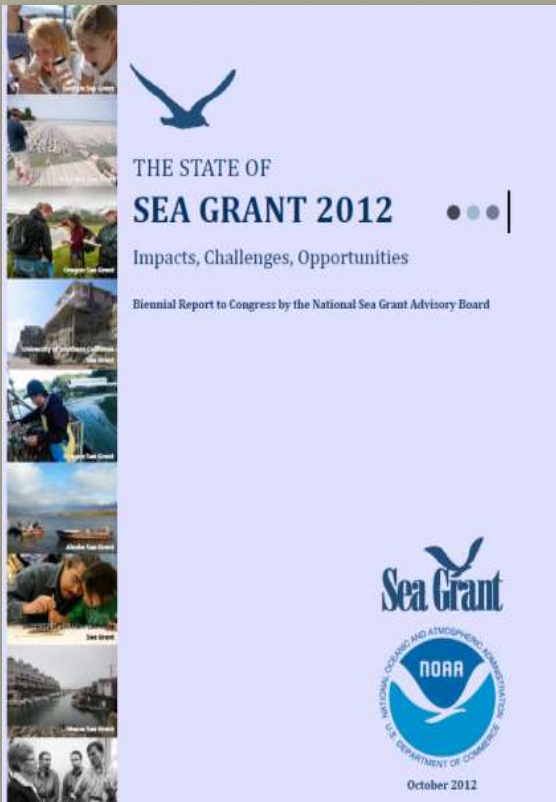
Biennial Report Committee Members

- Rear Admiral Richard D. West, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Committee Chair
- Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Professor, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
- Dr. Michael K. Orbach, Professor, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University
- Frank Beal, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolis 2020, former president, Ryerson International Inc.
- Dr. Gordon Grau, Sea Grant Association (SGA), Director, University of Hawai'i Sea Grant
- Dr. Nikola Garber, Acting Deputy Director, National Sea Grant Office (*ex officio*)



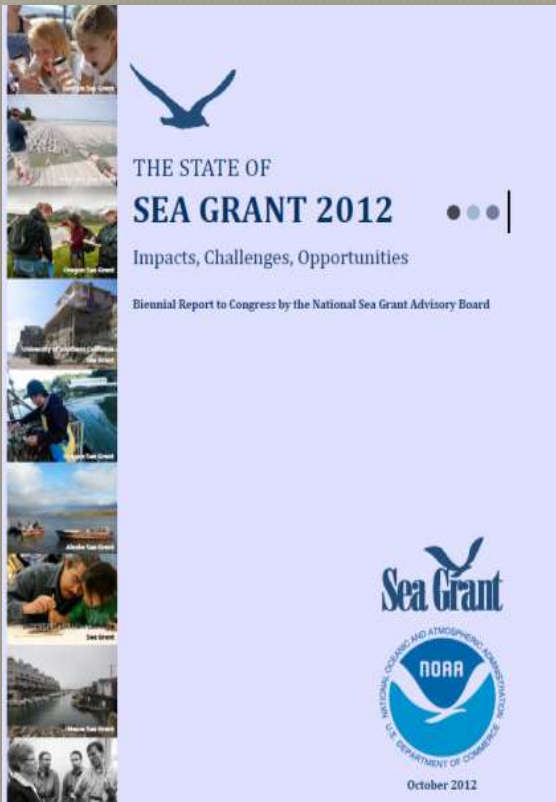
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Findings



- **Sea Grant is an effective, solid investment of public monies in responding to needs of coastal and Great Lakes communities.**
- **For the nation to achieve maximum benefit from Sea Grant, new resources are required.**

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Challenges

- **Five percent cap: negative impact on NSGO staffing and expertise.**
- **Funding: level funding over time has significantly decreased buying power.**

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Today



- **The nation, NOAA and Sea Grant face increasingly complex coastal issues.**
- **Documented need for Sea Grant expertise in coastal communities.**
- **Constrained fiscal environment.**
- **Need for effective integration & coordination of coastal programs and agencies.**

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Recommendations



1. **Sea Grant should continue to focus on advancing national priorities while remaining connected to local needs.**
2. **Continue to support tracking and reporting of cumulative, measurable impacts of activities toward national goals.**
3. **Continue to emphasize partnerships within network and with federal, regional, state and local organizations/agencies.**

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Recommendations



4. **Federal budget should allocate resources to reverse erosion of buying power.**
5. **The National Sea Grant Office should review base funding structure, including allocation and distribution of funds to state programs.**
6. **NOAA should continue integration of coastal programs to maximize capability to address coastal challenges.**

Outlook

Sea Grant is:

- ***Integral to NOAA's mission***
- ***Supporting implementation of National Ocean Policy***
- ***Preparing for reauthorization of the Sea Grant Act***
- ***Finalizing a new strategic plan***

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Thank you

Questions?